



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
**TRADE IN SERVICES IN SOUTH ASIA: OPPORTUNITIES AND
RISKS IN LIBERALIZATION**

*Cedar Room, Cinnamon Grand, Colombo
4 – 5 April, 2007*

Organized by

**Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka
and
Friedrich Ebert Stiftung**

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Day I: Wednesday 4th April

8:30 – 9:00 Registration

9:00 – 10:30 Inauguration

9:00 – 9:15 **Welcome Address:** *Astrid Becker, Resident Director,
Friedrich Ebert Stiftung*

9:15 – 9:30 **Introduction to the Seminar:** *Saman Kelegama, Executive Director,
Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka*

9:30 – 10:00 **Address by the Chief Guest:** *Hon. Prof. G.L. Peiris, Minister of Export
Development & International Trade*

10:00 – 10:30 - *Introduction and Presentation of the “WORLD TRADE & DEVELOPMENT
REPORT, 2007” prepared by the RIS and published by OUP-India to the Hon.
Minister by Pooja Sharma of the RIS*

- *Introduction and Presentation of the “SOUTH ASIA YEAR BOOK OF TRADE &
DEVELOPMENT, 2006” prepared by the CENTAD and published by Willey-India to
the Hon. Minister by Parashar Kulkarni of the CENTAD*

- *Introduction and Presentation of (a) “UTILIZATION OF PREFERENTIAL TRADE
ARRANGEMENTS: SRI LANKA’S EXPERIENCE WITH EU & US GSP
SCHEMES” authored by Janaka Wijayasiri and published by the IPS and (b) “INDIA-
SRI LANKA BILATERAL FREE TRADE AGREEMENT: SIX YEARS
PERFORMANCE & BEYOND” authored by Saman Kelegama and Indra Nath
Mukherji, published by RIS, to the Hon. Minister by Janaka Wijayasiri of the IPS*

10:30 – 11:00 Tea

11:00 – 12:30	SESSION I: SERVICES LIBERALIZATION IN BANGLADESH
	Chairperson: Manzur Ahmed , <i>Advisor, Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry</i>
<i>11:00 – 11:45</i>	Speaker: Ananya Raihan , <i>Executive Director, Development Research Network (D.Net), Bangladesh</i>
<i>11:45 – 12:00</i>	Discussant: Selim Raihan , <i>Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh</i>
<i>12:00 – 12:30</i>	Discussion
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch [ATRIUM CAFÉ]
14:00 – 15:00	SESSION II: SERVICES LIBERALIZATION IN BHUTAN
	Chairperson: Upali Wickremasinghe , <i>Professor of Economics, University of Sri Jayawardhanapura, Sri Lanka</i>
<i>14:00 – 14:30</i>	Speaker: Pema Rinchen , <i>Senior Trade Policy Analyst, Ministry of Trade & Industry, Royal Government of Bhutan</i>
<i>14:30 – 14:45</i>	Discussant: Sonam Tobgay , <i>Agriculture Trade Policy Specialist, Ministry of Agriculture, Royal Government of Bhutan</i>
<i>14:45 – 15:00</i>	Discussion
15:00 – 16:30	SESSION III: SERVICES LIBERALIZATION IN INDIA
	Chairperson: Parashar Kulkarni , <i>Research Officer, Centre for Trade & Development (CENTAD), India</i>
<i>15:00 – 15:45</i>	Speaker: Rupa Chanda , <i>Professor of Economics, Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB), India</i>
<i>15:45 – 16:00</i>	Discussant: Pooja Sharma , <i>Fellow, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), India</i>
<i>16:00 – 16:30</i>	Discussion
16:30 – 16:45	Tea

- 16:45 – 17:45** **SESSION IV: SERVICES LIBERALIZATION IN MALDIVES**
- Chairperson:** **Ahmed Sareer**, *Counsellor & Deputy Head of Mission, High Commission of Maldives in Sri Lanka*
- 16:45 – 17:15** **Speaker:** **Abdulla Thawfeeq**, *Deputy Director, International Trade Policy, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, Republic of Maldives*
- 17:15 – 17:30** **Discussant:** **Ali Hashim**, *Director Human Resources, Lintel Investments & Management Services (Pot) Ltd., Republic of Maldives*
- 17:30 – 17:45** **Discussion**

Day II: Thursday 5th April

- 9:00 – 10:30** **SESSION V: SERVICES LIBERALIZATION IN NEPAL**
- Chairperson:** **Minendra Rijal**, *Chairperson, Apex College, Nepal*
- 9:00 – 9:45** **Speaker:** **Navin Dahal**, *Executive Director, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics & Environment (SAWTEE), Nepal*
- 9:45 – 10:00** **Discussant:** **Nephil Matangi Maskay**, *Deputy Director, Nepal Rastra Bank, Nepal*
- 10:00 – 10:30** **Discussion**
- 10:30 – 11:00** **Tea**
- 11:00 – 12:30** **SESSION VI: SERVICES LIBERALIZATION IN PAKISTAN**
- Chairperson:** **M.A. Jabbar**, *Former Vice President, Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry*
- 11:00 – 11:45** **Speaker:** **Fasih Uddin**, *Chairman, Working Group on WTO, Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad*
- 11:45 – 12:00** **Discussant:** **Zubair Faisal Abbasi**, *National Project Manager, United Nations Development Programme, Pakistan Secretariat*
- 12:00 – 12:30** **Discussion**
- 12:30 – 14:00** **Lunch [ATRIUM CAFÉ]**

14:00 – 15:30 SESSION VII: SERVICES LIBERALIZATION IN SRI LANKA

Chairperson: **Dushni Weerakoon**, *Deputy Director,
Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka*

14:00 – 14:45 Speaker: **Deshal De Mel**, *Research Officer,
Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka*

14:45 – 15:00 Discussant: **Sonali Wijeratne**, *Deputy Director of Commerce,
Department of Commerce, Sri Lanka*

15:00 – 15:30 Discussion

15:30 – 15:45 Tea

15:45 – 17:15 SESSION VIII: SERVICES LIBERALIZATION IN SOUTH ASIA

Chairperson: **Saman Kelegama**, *Executive Director,
Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka*

15:45 – 16:30 Speaker: **Parashar Kulkarni**, *Research Officer,
Centre for Trade & Development (CENTAD), India*

16:30 – 16:45 Discussant: **Pranav Kumar**, *Policy Analyst,
Consumer Unity & Trust Society [CUTS-CITEE], Jaipur*

16:45 – 17:15 Discussion
