



REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON STRENGTHENING ECONOMIC & SOCIAL INTEGRATION IN SOUTH ASIA

*Crystal Room – Upper, Taj Samudra Hotel, Colombo
30–31 May, 2008*

Organized by

**South Asia Centre for Policy Studies
and
Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka**

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Day I: Friday 30th May

9:15 – 9:45	Registration	
9:45 – 10:30	Inauguration	
9:45 – 9:50	Welcome Address:	Saman Kelegama , <i>Executive Director, Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS)</i>
9:50 – 9:55	Introductory Remarks:	Sridhar Khatri , <i>Executive Director, South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS)</i>
9:55 – 10:10	Address by the Guest of Honour:	Nihal Rodrigo , <i>Advisor to H.E. the President & Former Secretary General of SAARC</i>
10:10 – 10:30	Address by the Chief Guest:	
10:30–10:45	TEA/COFFEE Break	
10:45–12:15	SESSION I:	DEEPENING ECONOMIC INTEGRATION IN SAFTA
	Chairperson:	Muchkund Dubey , <i>Co-Chairman, SACEPS & President, Council for Social Development</i>
10:45 – 11:25	Speakers:	Ram Upendra Das , <i>Fellow, Research & Information Systems for Developing Countries (RIS)</i> Deshal De Mel , <i>Research Officer, IPS</i>
11:25 – 11:45	Discussants:	Rajiv Kumar , <i>Director & Chief Executive, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER)</i> Mahendra Lama , <i>Vice Chancellor, Sikkim University</i>
11:45 – 12:15	Floor Discussion	

12:15–13:15 LUNCH

13:15–14:45 SESSION II: ROAD MAP FOR SOUTH ASIA

Chairperson: **Ibrahim Zaki**, *Former Secretary General of SAARC, Republic of Maldives*

13:15 – 13:55 **Speakers:** **Muchkund Dubey**, *Co-Chairman, SACEPS & President, Council for Social Development*
Janaka Wijayasiri, *Research Economist, IPS*

13:55 – 14:15 **Discussants:** **Farooq Sobhan**, *President, Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI)*
Nihal Rodrigo, *Advisor to H.E. the President & Former Secretary General of SAARC*

14:15 – 14:45 **Floor Discussion**

14:45–15:45 SESSION III: MONITORING SAARC POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

Chairperson: **Sridhar Khatri**, *Executive Director, SACEPS*

14:45 – 15:05 **Speaker:** **Mahendra Lama**, *Vice Chancellor, Sikkim University*

15:05 – 15:25 **Discussants:** **Ibrahim Zaki**, *Former Secretary General of SAARC, Republic of Maldives*
N. Navaratnarajah, *Former Country Director, SAARC Secretariat*

15:25 – 15:45 **Floor Discussion**

15:45–16:00 TEA/COFFEE Break

16:00–17:30 SESSION IV: IMPLEMENTING THE SAARC AND CITIZEN'S SOCIAL CHARTER FOR SOUTH ASIA: THE WORK AHEAD

Chairperson: **Mohan Man Sainju**, *Former Vice-Chairperson, National Planning Commission of Nepal*

16:00 – 16:40 **Speakers:** **Godfrey Gunatilleke**, *Chief Executive, Marga Institute*
Muchkund Dubey, *Co-Chairman, SACEPS & President, Council for Social Development*

16:40 – 17:00 **Discussants:** **Nihal Rodrigo**, *Advisor to H.E. the President & Former Secretary General of SAARC*
Akmal Hussain, *Senior Fellow Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE)*

17:00 – 17:30 **Floor Discussion**

Day II: Saturday 31st May

9:00–10:30 SESSION V: LABOUR MIGRATION & EMPLOYMENT: ISSUES FOR SAARC

Chairperson: *Farooq Sobhan, President,
Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI)*

9:00 – 9:30 **Speaker:** *Sridhar Khatri, Executive Director, SACEPS*

9:30 – 10:00 **Discussants:** *R.B.M. Korale, Former Director - General, Department of Census &
Statistics of Sri Lanka and Labour Specialist*
Athula Ranasinghe, Department of Economics, University of Colombo

10:00 – 10:30 **Floor Discussion**

10:30 – 10:45 TEA/COFFEE Break

10:45–12:00 SESSION VI: ADVOCACY PAPER ON ENERGY

Chairperson: *Tilak Siyambalapatiya, Energy Consultant, Sri Lanka &
Director, Resource Management Associates (Pvt) Limited*

10:45 – 11:15 **Speaker:** *Mohan Man Sainju, Former Vice-Chairperson, National Planning
Commission of Nepal*
**[Paper prepared by Shankar Krishna Malla, Former Member
Secretary, National Planning Commission of Nepal]**

11:15 – 11:30 **Discussant:** *Upali Wickremasinghe, Professor of Economics,
University of Sri Jayawardhanapura*

11:30 – 12:00 **Floor Discussion**

12:00–13:00 SESSION VII: FOOD PRICE ESCALATION & CLIMATE CHANGE: SOUTH ASIAN RESPONSE

Chairperson: *Akmal Hussain, Senior Fellow,
Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE)*

12:00 – 12:30 **Speaker:** *Richard Vokes, Country Director, ADB Resident Mission, Sri Lanka*

12:30 – 12:45 **Discussant:** *Muchkund Dubey, Co-Chairman, SACEPS*

12:45 – 13:00 **Floor Discussion**

13:00 – 14:00 LUNCH

--END OF PROGRAMME--