



**Seminar on**  
**ADB-UNCTAD STUDY ON REGIONAL COOPERATION IN**  
**SOUTH ASIA: BENEFITS FROM SAFTA AND THE WAY AHEAD**

*Crystal Room Upper, Taj Samudra Hotel, Colombo*  
*13 March, 2008*

*Organized by*  
**Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka**  
*in collaboration with*  
**Asian Development Bank (ADB)-India**  
*and*  
**United Nations Conference on Trade & Development (UNCTAD)-India**

**---- Tentative Agenda ----**

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March**

**8:30 – 9:00**      **Registration**

**9:00 – 9:30**      **Inauguration**

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

**Inaugural Address:**      **Nihal Rodrigo**, *Advisor to His Excellency the President*  
*& Former Secretary General of SAARC*

**9:30 – 10:30**      **SESSION I:      PRESENTATION OF RESULTS FROM BENEFITS FROM**  
**TRADE AND INVESTMENT IN SAFTA**

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

**Presentation by:**      **Abhijit Das**, *Senior Trade Commissioner,*  
*UNCTAD, India*

**Presentation by:**      **Rashmi Banga**, *Economist,*  
*UNCTAD, India*

- 10:30 – 10:45**      **TEA/COFFEE Break**
- 10:45– 11:30**      **PANEL DISCUSSION**
- Panellists:**    **Subhashini Abeysinghe**, *Economist,*  
*Ceylon Chamber of Commerce*
- Janaka Wijayasiri**, *Research Economist,*  
*Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka*
- Upali Wickremasinghe**, *Professor of Economics,*  
*University of Sri Jayawardhanapura*
- 11:30 – 12:00**      **FLOOR DISCUSSION**
- 12:00 – 13:30**      **LUNCH**
- 13:30 – 14:30**      **SESSION II:            PRESENTATION OF RESULTS OF BENEFITS FROM**  
**TRANSPORT FACILITATION AND TRADE IN SERVICES**
- Chairperson:**    **Willie Mendis**, *Senior Professor of Town & Country Planning,*  
*University of Moratuwa*
- Presentation by:**    **Kavita Iyengar**, *Regional Cooperation Specialist (Consultant),*  
*Asian Development Bank, India Resident Mission*
- Presentation by:**    **Rashmi Banga**, *Economist,*  
*UNCTAD, India*
- 14:30 – 15:15**      **PANEL DISCUSSION**
- Panellists:**    **Amal Kumarage**, *Professor of Civil Engineering, Department of Transport*  
*& Logistics Management, University of Moratuwa*
- Deshal De Mel**, *Research Officer,*  
*Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka*
- Macky Hashim**, *Former President,*  
*Federation of Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Sri Lanka (FCCISL)*
- 15:15 – 15:45**      **FLOOR DISCUSSION**
- 15:45 – 16:00**      **CONCLUDING REMARKS & VOTE OF THANKS**
- Deshal De Mel**, *Research Officer,*  
*Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka*
- 16:00 – 16:15**      **TEA/COFFEE Break**