



# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TRADE-POVERTY NEXUS IN SOUTH ASIA

*Earl's Court, Trans Asia Hotel, Colombo  
28 – 29 May, 2008*

*Organized by*

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

## **---- Programme ----**

### **Day I: Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> May**

**8:30 – 9:00**    **Registration**

**9:00 – 10:30**    **Inauguration**

**9:00 – 9:15**    **Welcome Address:**                    **Joachim Schluetter**, *Resident Director,  
Friedrich Ebert Stiftung*

**9:15 – 9:35**    **Introduction to the Conference:**    **Saman Kelegama**, *Executive Director,  
Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka*

**9:35 – 10:00**    **Address by the Guest of Honour:**    **Ravi Ratnayake**, *Director, Poverty & Development  
Division & Coordinator, Poverty Theme Group,  
UNESCAP*

**10:00 – 10:30**    **Address by the Chief Guest:**            **Muchkund Dubey**, *Co-Chairman,  
South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS)*

**10:30 – 11:00**    **TEA/COFFEE**

**11:00–12:30    SESSION I:    TRADE-POVERTY NEXUS IN PAKISTAN**

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

11:00 – 11:45    **Speaker:**    **Rehana Siddiqui**, *Chief of Research,  
Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE)*

11:45 – 12:00    **Discussant:**    **Premachandra Athukorala**, *Professor of Economics,  
Research School of Pacific & Asian Studies, Australian National  
University*

12:00 – 12:30    **Discussion**

**12:30 – 14:00    LUNCH**

**14:00–15:00    SESSION II:    TRADE-POVERTY NEXUS IN MALDIVES**

**Chairperson:** **Ibrahim Zaki**, *Former Secretary General,  
SAARC*

14:00 – 14:30    **Speaker:**    **Jagath Dissanayake**, *Research Assistant,*  
**Suwendrani Jayaratne**, *Research Assistant,*  
*Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka*

14:30 – 14:45    **Discussant:**    **Sunil Chandrasiri**, *Professor of Economics,  
Department of Economics, University of Colombo*

14:45 – 15:00    **Discussion**

**15:00–16:00    SESSION III:    TRADE-POVERTY NEXUS IN BHUTAN**

**Chairperson:** **T. Palanivel**, *Regional Programme Coordinator & Team Leader,  
UNDP Regional Centre in Colombo*

15:00 – 15:30    **Speaker:**    **Chencho Dorji**, *Research & Statistics Officer,  
Research & Statistics Division, Royal Monetary Authority of Bhutan*

15:30 – 15:45    **Discussant:**    **Selim Raihan**, *Executive Director,  
South Asian Network on Economic Modelling (SANEM), Bangladesh*

15:45 – 16:00    **Discussion**

**16:00 – 16:15    TEA/COFFEE**

**16:15–17:30    SESSION IV:    TRADE-POVERTY NEXUS IN SRI LANKA**

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

16:15 – 17:00    **Speakers:**    *Deshal De Mel, Research Officer  
Ruwan Jayathilaka, Research Officer  
Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka*

17:00 – 17:15    **Discussant:**    *Ramani Gunatilaka, Freelance Consultant*

17:15 – 17:30    **Discussion**

**Day II: Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May**

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**9:00–10:15    SESSION V:    TRADE-POVERTY NEXUS IN INDIA**

**Chairperson:** *Muchkund Dubey, Co-Chairman,  
South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS)*

9:00 – 9:45    **Speaker:**    *Rashmi Banga, Senior Economist,  
UNCTAD India*

9:45 – 10:00    **Discussant:**    *I.N. Mukherji, Professor, School of International Studies,  
Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi*

10:00 – 10:15    **Discussion**

**10:15 – 10:45    TEA/COFFEE**

**10:45–12:00    SESSION VI:    TRADE-POVERTY NEXUS IN NEPAL**

**Chairperson:** *Sridhar Khatri, Executive Director,  
South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS)*

10:45 – 11:30    **Speaker:**    *Yuba Raj Khatiwada, Senior Economist- MDGI,  
UNDP Regional Centre in Colombo*

11:30 – 11:45    **Discussant:**    *Shiva Sharma, General Secretary  
National Labour Academy (NLA), Nepal*

11:45 – 12:00    **Discussion**

**12:00–13:00    SESSION VII:            TRADE-POVERTY NEXUS IN AFGHANISTAN**

**Chairperson:** **Biplove Choudhary**, *Trade Specialist,  
UNDP Regional Centre in Colombo*

12:00 – 12:30    **Speaker:**            **Sanath Jayanetti**, *Trade Policy Advisor, BearingPoint/USAID  
Government of Afghanistan*

12:30 – 12:45    **Discussant:**        **Deshal De Mel**, *Research Officer,  
Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka*

12:45 – 13:00    **Discussion**

**13:00 – 14:00    LUNCH**

**14:00–15:15    SESSION VIII:            TRADE-POVERTY NEXUS IN BANGLADESH**

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

14:00 – 14:45    **Speaker:**            **Selim Raihan**, *Executive Director,  
South Asian Network on Economic Modelling (SANEM), Bangladesh*

14:45 – 15:00    **Discussant:**        **Ananya Raihan**, *Executive Director,  
Development Research Network (D.Net), Bangladesh*

15:00 – 15:15    **Discussion**

**15:15 – 15:30    TEA/COFFEE**

**15:30–16:45    SESSION IX:            TRADE-POVERTY NEXUS IN SOUTH ASIA**

**Chairperson:**        **Premachandra Athukorala**, *Professor of Economics,  
Research School of Pacific & Asian Studies, Australian National  
University*

15:30 – 16:15    **Speaker:**            **Jay Bandaralage**, *Associate Professor, Department of Accounting,  
Finance & Economics, University of Griffith, Australia*

16:15 – 16:30    **Discussant:**        **Biplove Choudhary**, *Trade Specialist,  
UNDP Regional Centre in Colombo*

16:30 – 16:45    **Discussion**

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