Regional Connectivity: Transport and Logistics Corridors in South Asia

For any successful regional trade regime a seamless network of transportation as well as synchronized trade facilitation measures are essential. Currently, border-related trade infrastructure is found to be in a bad shape across South Asia. Despite several agreements at the SAARC level, bilateral negotiations, and resolutions by civil society organisations many hurdles remain in improving transport and trade related logistics.

South Asia’s dream of a seamless network still remains to be fulfilled. The key areas that require further work revolve around easing of procedures that could facilitate movement of goods and people. In case of the former customs and quality standards procedures need greater harmony. The lack of connectivity is no more limited to road, railways, aviation and port networks in South Asia (which have greatly improved over the last few years) but calls for a deeper understanding between governments for conducive procedures in place.

This panel will address the questions such as:

1. What are the possible regional cooperation venues in transport, logistics and communications sectors?
2. What are the current constraints to regional connectivity between people and places in South Asia and how can these constraints be removed?
3. How can efficient transport and communications connectivity be developed within South Asia?
4. How far is the regional cooperation in transport, logistics and communications sectors hindered by low quality endowment and governance of infrastructure in South Asian countries?

This panel will take a stock of the current state of play in this sector across South Asia as well as update the recommendations for SAARC Secretariat and national governments.

Panel Organisers:

**Mr. Muhammad Adnan**  
Research Analyst  
Economic Growth Unit  
SDPI Islamabad  
Email: madnan@sdpi.org

**Dr. Vaqar Ahmed**  
Deputy Executive Director