Public Policy Coherence or Conundrum: Reflections from South Asia

Public policies serve as crucial tools in fortifying the relationship between the state and its citizens. Through these policies, the state fulfills its obligations to its populace. When public policies are people-centric, crafted through the engagement of key stakeholders, and tailored to address the concerns of the general public, they garner significant public ownership. Consequently, their likelihood of success increases. On the other hand, if public policies are top-down, formulated by a handful of bureaucrats and technocrats without engaging peoples’ representatives, chance of failure are high. Hence, this panel will examine the process, practices and structures of public policymaking in South Asia.

Public policymakers and policy planners from South Asian counties will be invited to share their experiences, success stories and lessons learnt in this panel. The following are some of the key questions to be discussed:

1. How are public policies understood, interpreted and practiced by political leadership?
2. How does state bureaucracy understand public policies and translate them into action?
3. How participatory is public policymaking?
4. What is the role of parliaments in public policy decisions?
5. How are public policies and laws integrated to complement each other?
6. To what extent do international development partners influence domestic public policy processes and how?
7. What lessons can South Asian countries can learn from each other about public policy processes?

Panel Organisers

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