

Eighth South Asia Economic Summit:  
**Regional Cooperation for Sustainable Development in South Asia**

7 – 8 December 2015



**CONFERENCE PROGRAMME**

(Updated: 6 December 2015)

**Organised by:**

Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Islamabad, Pakistan

**NOTE:** The Eighteenth SDC2015 and the Eighth SAES is open to all, except for the SDC 2015 Opening Plenary, *Opening Plenary: Securing Peace and Prosperity* (8 December 2015, 8:45am-10:15am)

## 7 DECEMBER 2015

**Monday, 07 December 2015**

**Day One**

**Inaugural Session**

**8:45 am – 11:30 am**

**8:45am – Guests to be seated**

**Welcome Address:** Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Islamabad, Pakistan

**Introduction:** Vaqar Ahmed, Deputy Executive Director, SDPI, Islamabad, Pakistan

**Remarks by the Chief Guest**

**Inaugural Remarks:**

Rajan Bhattarai, Member, Constituent Assembly and Legislative Parliament, Government of Nepal

Suraj Vaidya, President-In-Charge SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Nepal

**Launch of Publications**

- Making Growth Inclusive, Just and Sustainable in South Asia
- Towards South Asia Economic Union
- Special Issue of South Asia Economic Journal (SAEJ)
- Towards Regional Integration in South Asia: Promoting Trade Facilitation and Connectivity

**Plenary Title:** 10 Years of SAFTA and Way Forward

**Chair:**

M. Syeduzzaman, Former Finance Minister, Bangladesh

**Speakers:**

- Saman Kelegama, Executive Director, Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Sri Lanka
- Martin Rama, Chief Economist, South Asia Region, The World Bank, India Office
- Jyotsna Suri, President, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), India
- Sonam Tashi, Policy and Planning Division, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Bhutan
- Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Economic Affairs Officer, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Bangkok, Thailand

**Refreshments**

**11:30 am – 12 noon**

<b>Monday, 07 December 2015</b>		<b>Day One</b>
<b>Concurrent Panel A-1</b>	<b>12 noon – 2:00 pm</b>	
<b>Title:</b> Corridors for Development		
<b>Chair:</b> Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms, Government of Pakistan		
<b>Panel Organisers:</b> Abid Q. Suleri, SDPI, Islamabad, Pakistan; and Tahir Saeed, SDPI, Islamabad, Pakistan		
<b>Distinguished Speakers</b>		
H.E. Sapar Berdiniyazov, Ambassador, Turkmenistan Embassy, Islamabad, Pakistan		
H.E. Jononov Sherali, The Ambassador of Extradordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Tajikistan to the Islamic Republic Of Pakistan, Islamabad, Pakistan		
H.E. Mr. Bakhitbek Shabarbayev, Ambassador, Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Islamabad		
H.E. Sagynbek Ibraev, Charge d' Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Islamabad, Pakistan		
H.E. Mr. Zhao Lijian, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of China in Pakistan		
Ambassador Halil İbrahim Akça, Secretary General, Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Tehran, Iran		
Nagesh Kumar, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), India		
Haroon Sharif, The World Bank, Islamabad, Pakistan		
Mr. Ali Haider Altaf, Director Pakistan, SAARC Secretariat, Nepal		
Safdar A. Sohail, Minister (Economic), Embassy of Pakistan, Brussels, Belgium		
Khalida Ghaus, Social Policy and Development Centre, Karachi, Pakistan		
<b>Discussion</b>		
<b>Lunch</b>	<b>2:00 pm - 3:00 pm</b>	

<b>Monday, 07 December 2015</b>	<b>Day One</b>
<b>Concurrent Panel A-2</b>	<b>12 noon – 2:00 pm</b>
<p><b>Title:</b> Critical Challenges of Trade Promotion in South Asia and Way Forward</p> <p><b>Chair:</b> S. M. Munir, Chief Executive, Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), Islamabad, Pakistan</p> <p><b>Special Remarks:</b> Rajan Bhattarai, Member of Constituent Assembly and Legislative Parliament, Government of Nepal</p> <p><b>Moderator and Panel Organiser:</b> Vaqar Ahmed, Deputy Executive Director, SDPI, Islamabad, Pakistan</p>	
<b>Speakers</b>	
Shafquat Haider, Director, Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), Bangladesh	
Nisha Taneja, Professor, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), India	
Suraj Vaidya, President-In-Charge SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Nepal	
Shaista Pervaiz Malik, Chairperson, SAARC Chamber Women Entrepreneurs Council, Pakistan	
Zubair Ahmed Malik, Executive Member, SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Pakistan	
Subhashini Abeysinghe, Senior Analyst and Head of Economics, Verite' Research Pvt. Ltd, Sri Lanka	
<b>Discussion</b>	
<b>Lunch</b>	<b>2:00 pm – 3:00 pm</b>

<b>Monday, 07 December 2015</b>	<b>Day One</b>
<b>Concurrent Panel A-3</b>	<b>12 noon – 2:00 pm</b>
<p><b>Title:</b> Leadership for Sustainable Development: Role of Private Sector</p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Ehsan Ali Malik, Former Chairman and CEO, Unilever Pakistan</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Iqbal Tabish, Secretary General, SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Islamabad, Pakistan</p> <p><b>Panel Organiser:</b> Anam Khan, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Islamabad, Pakistan</p>	
<b>Speakers</b>	
Adil Khattak, CEO, Attock Refinery, Pakistan	
M.A. Jabbar, CEO Qaim Filters, Karachi, Pakistan	
Majyd Aziz, Former Chairman, Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Karachi, Pakistan	
Iftikhar Ali Malik, Vice President, SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Islamabad, Pakistan	
Muhammad Akram Farid, Vice President, Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry	
<b>Discussion</b>	
<b>Lunch</b>	<b>2:00 pm – 3:00 pm</b>

<b>Monday, 07 December 2015</b>	<b>Day One</b>
<b>Concurrent Panel A-4</b>	<b>12 noon – 2:00 pm</b>
<p><b>Title:</b> Regional Cooperation for Energy Security</p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Mohammad Younus Dagha, Secretary, Ministry of Water and Power, Government of Pakistan</p> <p><b>Panel Organiser:</b> Shehryar Khan, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Islamabad, Pakistan</p>	
<b>Speakers</b>	
Alias Wardak, Managing Director, New Beginning Network, Afghanistan Branch	
Pradeep S. Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS International, India	
Abid Q. Suleri, Executive Director, SDPI, Islamabad, Pakistan	
Muhammad Naeem Malik, Director, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Energy Centre, Pakistan	
Arshad S. Abbasi, Senior Advisor, SDPI, Islamabad, Pakistan	
Selina Irfan, Coordinator-Energy and Low-Carbon Initiatives Programme Development Department, LEAD Pakistan, Islamabad, Pakistan	
<b>Discussion</b>	
<b>Lunch</b>	<b>2:00 pm – 3:00 pm</b>

<b>Monday, 07 December 2015</b>	<b>Day One</b>
<b>Concurrent Panel A-5</b>	<b>3:00 pm – 5:00 pm</b>
<p><b>Title:</b> Sustainable Transportation and Logistics Corridors in South Asia</p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Syed Naveed Qamar, Chair, National Assembly Standing Committee on Railways, Pakistan</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ali Khizar, Head of Research, Business Recorder, Karachi, Pakistan</p> <p><b>Panel Organiser:</b> Muhammad Adnan, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Islamabad, Pakistan</p>	
<b>Speakers</b>	
Mustafizur Rahman, Executive Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Dhaka, Bangladesh	
Prabir De, Professor (Senior Fellow), Research and Information System for Developing Countries, India	
R.B. Rauniyar, Managing Director, Interstate Multi-Modal Transport, Nepal	
Nadia Tahir, Bahria University, Islamabad, Pakistan	
Ajith Wattuhewa, President, Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Sri Lanka	
Joseph George, Consultant, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), South and South-West Asia Office, New Delhi, India	
<b>Discussion</b>	

<b>Monday, 07 December 2015</b>	<b>Day One</b>
<b>Concurrent Panel A-6</b>	<b>3:00 pm – 5:00 pm</b>
<p><b>Title:</b> Macroeconomic Stability and Sustainable Growth: Perspectives from South Asia</p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Aisha Ghaus Pasha, Finance Minister, Government of Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan</p> <p><b>Panel Organiser:</b> Dr. Vaqar Ahmed, Deputy Executive Director, SDPI, Islamabad, Pakistan</p>	
<b>Speakers</b>	
Deepak Nayyar, Co-Chair, South Asia Centre for Policy Studies, India	
Shahid Ahmed, Head, Department of Economics, Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi, India	
Ahmed Mujuthaba, Member, SAARC CCI, Maldives	
Sakib Sherani, Former Principal Economic Advisor, Government of Pakistan	
Akmal Hussain, Distinguished Fellow, Beaconhouse National Univeristy, Lahore, Pakistan	
Anjum Assad Amin, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Pakistan	
Michael Dauderstädt, Freelance Writer and Commentator, Germany	
<b>Discussion</b>	



<b>Monday, 07 December 2015</b>	<b>Day One</b>
<b>Concurrent Panel A-7</b>	<b>3:00 pm – 5:00 pm</b>
<p><b>Title:</b> Intra-regional Investment and Supply Chains in South Asia</p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Miftah Ismail, Chairman, Board of Investment, Pakistan</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Farrukh Khan Pitafi, Host-Current Affairs Programme, PTV News, Islamabad, Pakistan</p> <p><b>Panel Organiser:</b> Samavia Batool, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Islamabad, Pakistan</p>	
<b>Speakers</b>	
<p>Mohammad Yonass Hossain, Vice President, Afghanistan, Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce &amp; Industry</p>	
<p>Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Additional Research Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Dhaka, Bangladesh</p>	
<p>Sanjay Kathuria, Lead Economist, South Asia Regional Cooperation and Integration Unit, The World Bank, USA</p>	
<p>Samir S. Amir, Director Research, Pakistan Business Council, Karachi, Pakistan</p>	
<b>Discussion</b>	

<b>Monday, 07 December 2015</b>	<b>Day One</b>
<b>Concurrent Panel A-8</b>	<b>3:00 pm – 5:00 pm</b>
<b>Title:</b> Services Trade in South Asia	
<b>Chair:</b> Nasreen Mahmud Kasuri, Founder and Chairperson, Beaconhouse School Systems, Pakistan	
<b>Panel Organiser:</b> Sajid Amin, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Islamabad, Pakistan	
<b>Speakers</b>	
Thinley Lham, EC SAARC CCI (Bhutan Chapter) & EC, Bhutan Chamber of Commerce & Industry	
Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Economic Affairs Officer, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Bangkok, Thailand	
Subhashini Abeysinghe, Senior Analyst and Head of Economics, Verite' Research Pvt. Ltd, Sri Lanka	
Pashupati Murarka, President, Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI), Kathmandu, Nepal	
Khalid Malik, Former, Director of the Human Development Report, United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Lahore, Pakistan	
Sajid Amin, Research Fellow, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Islamabad, Pakistan	
<b>Discussion</b>	

## 8 DECEMBER 2015

Tuesday, 08 December 2015	Day Two
<b>Opening Plenary: Securing Peace and Prosperity</b>	<b>8:45am-10:15am</b>
<p><b>8:45am – Guests to be seated</b></p> <p><b>Welcome Address:</b> Ambassador Shafqat Kakakhel, Chairperson Board of Governors, SDPI, Islamabad, Pakistan</p> <p><b>Introduction:</b> Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director, SDPI, Islamabad, Pakistan</p> <p><b>Remarks by the Guest of Honour:</b> Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms, Government of Pakistan</p> <p><b>Remarks by the Chief Guest</b></p> <p><b>Launch of SDPI Publications:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>SDC Anthology: Pathways to Sustainable Development</i></li> <li>2. <i>Annual Report 2014-2015</i></li> </ol>	
<b>Refreshments</b>	<b>10:15am – 10:45am</b>

<b>Keynote Plenary:</b>	<b>10:45am-11:45am</b>
<p><b>Title:</b> Revisiting South Asian Cooperative Relationship through the Prism of 2030 Global Agenda of Sustainable Development</p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Ambassador Shafqat Kakakhel, Chairperson Board of Governors, SDPI, Islamabad, Pakistan</p> <p><b>Keynote Speaker:</b>            Dr. Debapriya Bhattacharya, Senior Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh</p>	

<b>Tuesday, 08 December 2015</b>	<b>Day Two</b>
<b>Concurrent Panel B-1</b>	<b>12 noon – 2:00 pm</b>
<p><b>Title:</b> SDGs and South Asia: Key Priorities and Implementation Challenges</p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Hafiz A. Pasha, Former Federal Minister of Finance, Government of Pakistan</p> <p><b>Panel Organiser:</b> Sajid Amin, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Islamabad, Pakistan</p>	
<p><b>Speakers</b></p>	
<p>Nagesh Kumar, Head, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific: Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia (ESCAP-SSWA), India</p>	
<p>Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, Research and Information System for Developing Countries, India</p>	
<p>Habil Christian Wagner, Senior Fellow, German Institute for International and Security Affairs, Berlin, Germany</p>	
<p>Rajan Bhattarai, Member Constituent Assembly and Legislative Parliament, Government of Nepal</p>	
<p>Abid Q. Suleri, Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Islamabad, Pakistan</p>	
<p>Dushni Weerakoon, Deputy Director, Institute of Policy Studies, Sri Lanka</p>	
<b>Lunch</b>	<b>2:00 pm – 3:00 pm</b>

<b>Tuesday, 08 December 2015</b>	<b>Day Two</b>
<b>Concurrent Panel B-2</b>	<b>12:00 noon – 2:00 pm</b>
<p><b>Title:</b> Role of Media in Regional Cooperation</p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Nisar Memon, Former Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Government of Pakistan</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Asma Shirazi, Analyst &amp; Anchor Person, 92 News Channel, Islamabad, Pakistan</p> <p><b>Panel Organiser:</b> Junaid Zahid, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Islamabad, Pakistan</p>	
<b>Speakers</b>	
Naseem Zehra, Channel 24, Islamabad, Pakistan	
Shobha Shrestha, Nepal TV, Nepal	
Kumar Ketkar, Chief Editor, Dainik Divya Marathi of Dainik Bhaskar Group, Mumbai, India	
Rinzin Wangchuk, Journalist, Kuensel Corporation Ltd, Bhutan	
Umashankar Singh, Foreign Affairs Editor NDTV, India	
Nur ul Kabir, Editor, The Daily New Age, Bangladesh	
<b>Discussion</b>	
<b>Lunch</b>	<b>2:00 pm – 3:00 pm</b>

<b>Tuesday, 08 December 2015</b>	<b>Day Two</b>
<b>Concurrent Panel B-3</b>	<b>12:00 noon – 2:00 pm</b>
<b>Title:</b> Role of Women Entrepreneurs in Sustainable Development of South Asia	
<b>Chair:</b> Shaista Pervaiz Malik, Chairperson, SAARC Chamber women Entrepreneurs Council, Pakistan	
<b>Panel Organiser:</b> Vaqar Ahmed, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Islamabad, Pakistan	
<b>Speakers</b>	
Yumiko Yamamoto, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Bangkok, Thailand	
Sunil Motiwal, Chief Executive Officer, SAARC Development Fund, Thimpu, Bhutan	
Pramila Acharya Rijal, Chairperson, SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry Women Entrepreneurs Council (SCWEC), Nepal	
Hiramani Ghimire, Executive Director, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics & Environment (SAWTEE), Nepal	
Roubina Taufiq Shah, Director General, Trade Dispute Resolution Organization (TDRO), Pakistan	
Fayyaz Yasin, Visiting Researcher, SDPI, Islamabad, Pakistan	
<b>Discussion</b>	
<b>Lunch</b>	<b>2:00 pm – 3:00 pm</b>

<b>Tuesday, 08 December 2015</b>	<b>Day Two</b>
<b>Concurrent Panel B-4</b>	<b>12:00 noon– 2:00 pm</b>
<p><b>Title:</b> Competition Reforms and Sustainable Development</p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Ahmed Qadir, Director General, Competition Commission of Pakistan</p> <p><b>Special Remarks:</b> Asad Umar, Member, National Assembly (MNA), Government of Pakistan</p> <p><b>Panel Organiser:</b> Anam Khan, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Islamabad, Pakistan</p>	
<b>Speakers</b>	
Syed Munir Khasru, Chairman, Institute for Policy, Advocacy, and Governance, Bangladesh	
Pradeep S. Mehta, Secretary General, Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS) International, India	
Ashfaq H. Khan, Principal and Dean School of Social Sciences & Humanities, National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), Islamabad, Pakistan	
Aneel Salman, In-Charge Business Programme, COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Islamabad, Pakistan	
Nadeem Iqbal, Executive Director, The Network For Consumer Protection, Islamabad, Pakistan.	
Muhammad Adnan, Research Associate, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan	
<b>Discussion</b>	
<b>Lunch</b>	<b>2:00 pm – 3:00 pm</b>

<b>Tuesday, 08 December 2015</b>	<b>Day Two</b>
<b>Concurrent Panel B-5</b>	<b>3:00 pm – 5:00 pm</b>
<b>Title:</b> Investment in Agriculture in South Asia and Scope for Regional Cooperation	
<b>Chair:</b> Mustafizur Rahman, Executive Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka, Bangladesh	
<b>Special Remarks:</b> Mr. Seerat Asghar, Federal Secretary, Ministry of National Food Security and Research, Government of Pakistan	
<b>Panel Organiser:</b> Huma Khan, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Islamabad, Pakistan	
<b>Speakers</b>	
Hiramani Ghimire, Executive Director, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics & Environment (SAWTEE), Nepal	
Simrit Kaur, Professor of Public Policy, University of Delhi, India	
Dinushika Dissanayake, Executive Director, Law & Society Trust (LST), Sri Lanka	
Shakeel A. Ramay, Senior Research Associate, SDPI, Islamabad, Pakistan	
<b>Discussion</b>	



**Tuesday, 08 December 2015**
**Day Two**
**Concurrent Panel B-6**
**3:00 pm – 5:00 pm**
**Title:** Political Economy of Transit Trade in South Asia

**Chair:** Ishrat Hussain, Dean & Director, Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Karachi, Pakistan

**Special Remarks:** Robina Ather, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Government of Pakistan

**Panel Organiser:** Vaqar Ahmed, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Islamabad, Pakistan

**Speakers**

Nazir Kabiri, Advisor, Ministry of Finance, Afghanistan

Prabir De, Professor (Senior Fellow), Research and Information System for Developing Countries, India

Rameshore Prasad Khanal, Former Finance Secretary, Government of Nepal

Haroon Sharif, Advisor, Regional Economic Cooperation (South Asia), The World Bank, Islamabad, Pakistan

Brendan Vickers, Economic Advisor, Commonwealth Secretariat, UK

Salamat Ali, Senior Research Associate, Commonwealth Secretariat, UK

**Discussion**

<b>Tuesday, 08 December 2015</b>	<b>Day Two</b>
<b>Concurrent Panel B-7</b>	<b>3:00 pm – 5:00 pm</b>
<p><b>Title:</b> Achieving Gender Equality and Empowering Women in South Asia</p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Khadija Haq, President Mahbub-ul-Haq Human Development Centre, Islamabad, Pakistan</p> <p><b>Panel Organiser:</b> Rabia Manzoor, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Islamabad, Pakistan</p>	
<b>Speakers</b>	
Thinley Lham, EC Member, SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry , Bhutan	
Shaista Pervaiz Malik, Chairperson, SAARC Chamber Women Entrepreneurs Council, Pakistan	
Marvi Memon, Member National Assembly (PML-N), Pakistan	
Dharshani Premaratne, Researcher, Institute of Policy Studies, Sri Lanka	
Aisha Anees Malik, Associate Professor, Quaid-i-Azam University, Pakistan	
Rabia Manzoor, Research Associate, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Islamabad, Pakistan	
<b>Discussion</b>	

<b>Tuesday, 08 December 2015</b>	<b>Day Two</b>
<b>Concurrent Panel B-8</b>	<b>3:00 pm – 5:00 pm</b>
<p><b>Title:</b> Regional Cooperation on Disaster Risk Management in South Asia</p> <p><b>Panel Organiser and Moderator:</b> Shakeel A. Ramay, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Islamabad, Pakistan</p>	
<b>Speakers</b>	
Santosh Kumar, Director, SAARC Disaster Management Centre, India	
Kamble Mahesh, Assistant Professor, TATA Institute of Social Science, India	
Ali Kamal, Member, National Disaster Management Authority, Islamabad, Pakistan	
Asish Subedi, Research Officer, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics & Environment (SAWTEE), Nepal	
Usman Mustafa, Professor, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Islamabad, Pakistan	
Athula Senaratne, Research Fellow, Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Sri Lanka	
<b>Discussion</b>	