

6TH SOUTH ASIAN BUSINESS LEADERS CONCLAVE

# South Asia in New Economic Order: Accelerating Inclusive Economic Growth



SAARC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY



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## SAARC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, recognized as a Regional Apex Body by SAARC and by all the governments of the SAARC member countries is a constellation of the eight National Federations of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the member states of SAARC. SAARC CCI acts as an institutional framework for promoting economic and regional cooperation in South Asia.

The SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry is truly known as "VOICE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR" across the region. SAARC Secretariat is a permanent and active invitee to the Executive Committee and General Assembly meetings of SAARC CCI. The President of SAARC CCI is also a regular invitee to the Committee on Economic Cooperation (CEC) of SAARC.

The constitution of SAARC CCI was given official recognition by SAARC in 1993. The permanent Secretariat of SAARC CCI is located in Islamabad, Pakistan.

The SAARC CCI consists of the following National Federations/Chambers of Commerce and Industry as members:

- Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI)
- Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FBCCI)
- Bhutan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCCI)
- Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)
- Maldives National Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MNCCI)
- Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FNCCI)
- Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI)
- Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Sri Lanka (FCCISL)

Since its inception, SAARC CCI has been involved in creating awareness among the private sector of the region through workshops and studies as well as conducting interactive sessions, seminars and roundtables for the government and the business sector aiming at providing pertinent input to the process of regional economic cooperation and

has always strived to disseminate the vision of fair, equitable, inclusive and sustainable growth of the South Asian economies.

Over the past decades, SAARC CCI has been organizing numerous seminars, conferences, roundtable discussions and training programs within and outside Pakistan which includes China, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, London and Switzerland for economic growth and sustainable development of the SAARC economies while focusing on issues related to economic reforms, trade liberalization, investments, Women Entrepreneurs, SMEs and regional cooperation.

## SAARC BUSINESS LEADERS CONCLAVE

The main obstacle in the promotion of regional cooperation and economic ties to improve connectivity among SAARC countries so far remains political and despite the potential, opportunities and resources to emerge as a strong regional group, South Asia still is least integrated region and is home to major chunk of poor population across the globe. The prevailing barriers to the cross-border movements make neither commercial nor logistical sense and originate in the pathologies of inter-state, as well as domestic politics. Therefore to unleash the dynamic socio-economic potentials of the South Asian region the political leaders of South Asia should, dismantle the political barriers to regional integration, and the business leaders being the drivers of socio political change should be vocal in advocacy and fine tuning of the policies. SAARC Business Leaders Conclave is truly the ideal and only podium that articulates and intone the voices of private sector to the public sector in the region.

The Heads of States, at the 11th SAARC Summit held at Katmandu, Nepal in 2002, renewed their commitment to encourage participation of the private sector and assured full support for their economic initiatives. Their reaffirmation of the commitment culminated in to 1st SAARC Business Leaders Conclave. The idea of convening SAARC Business Leaders Conclave was put-forth by Mr. Mackey Hashim, former President of the SAARC CCI Chamber of Commerce & Industry in the year 2004, which was materialized on November 17-18, 2005 when the First SBLC was organized in New Delhi, India. The first SBLC emerged as the most prestigious event of the SAARC CCI and DAVOS of South Asian Community.

1st SBLC	Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh State Minister for Finance and Planning Hon'able Shah Mohammad Abul Hossain	November, 17-18, 2005 New Delhi, India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improving Competitiveness and Growth in South Asia</li> <li>South Asia in Global Economy: Regional and Global Integration</li> <li>Doing Business in South Asia</li> <li>Investment Climate in South Asia</li> <li>How to Improve Technology Skills and Innovation in South Asia</li> <li>Strengthening Co-operation on Infrastructure and Development</li> <li>SAARC Melting Pot: South Asia Soft Power</li> </ul>	1st SAARC BLC Declaration stressed upon integration of regional infrastructure to facilitate the movement of goods, services and people across the region for road, port and rail connectivity and open sky policy for air travel. Resolved to work together trade facilitation, by harmonizing the custom regulations, quality standards, open visa regimes and dispute settlement mechanism.
2nd SBLC	Pranab Mukherjee, Foreign Minister of India, H.E Mr. Chenkyab Dorji, Secretary General SAARC, Panel of Ministers from SAARC Nations. Praful Park, Vice President World Bank, Prof. Paul Volcker, Former Chairman Federal Reserve of USA Sultan Hafeez Rehman, DDG-Asian Development Bank, Dr. Wolfgang Gerhardt, Chairman FNST	17-18 February, 2007, Mumbai, India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Trade, Investment &amp; Employment Generation: Creating an Enabling Policy Environment</li> <li>Shaping Sustainable Regional Development through Capacity Building, Infrastructure and Connectivity</li> <li>Creating Peace Constituencies for Regional Development: Role of Second Track Diplomacy</li> <li>Harnessing Benefits of Regional Development for Economic Transformation of Small Nations in South Asia</li> <li>South Asia Economic Union: Necessary for Economic Growth in South Asia</li> </ul>	Adopted 13 Point Policy Reforms Agenda aimed at enhancing intra-regional trade that encompassed, implementation of SAFTA in letter and spirit, reducing cost of business in the region, adoption of cross border water cooperation, promotion of cooperation in energy sector and adoption of Regional Environment Treaty.
3rd SBLC	Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Hon'ble Ratanasiri Wickremanayake, Muhammad Azam Khan Swati, Minister for Science and Technology, Pakistan, Dr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque, Minister for Food and Disaster Management, Bangladesh, Mr. Amer Zafar Durrani, Trade & Transport Facilitation Specialist, World Bank-Pakistan, Dr. Ahmed Ali Sawad, Minister, Tourism, Arts and Culture, Maldives	22-23 November, 2009, Colombo, Sri Lanka	<p>Regional Cooperation: A Catalyst for Socio Economic Growth in South Asia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Global Financial Crisis: Impact On South Asian Economies</li> <li>Addressing Climate Change &amp; Food Security Challenges In South Asia</li> <li>B-2-B Meetings – A Pragmatic Approach For Trade Promotion</li> <li>Trade Facilitation: An Enabler Of Regional Connectivity In South Asia</li> <li>Trade In Services: Prospects And Challenges For Regional Integration</li> <li>Promoting Cooperation In Media, Entertainment And Tourism : Fostering Socio-cultural Ties In South Asia</li> <li>Valedictory Session: Creating Synergies For Enhanced Regional Cooperation</li> </ul>	Adopted Colombo Declaration focusing coordinated initiatives to overcome the global financial recession, recognized Climate Change, Food, Water and Energy Security as the serious challenge for the region, and urged for implementation of Regional Environment Treaty and recommended the conclusion of Services and Investments in SAFTA.
4th SBLC	Hon'ble Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, President of Nepal, Hon'ble Mr. Ratnasiri Wickramanayake Former Prime Minister, Sri Lanka, Mr. Tariq Sayeed, Past President, SAARC CCI Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Former Finance & Foreign Minister of Pakistan Dr. Hasan Mahmud, MP, Hon'ble Minister of Environment and Forest, Bangladesh, Dr. Arzu Rana Deuba, Former First Lady and Hon'ble Member of Constituent Assembly Nepal, Ms. Manisha Koirala, Nepali-Indian Actress, Entrepreneur and Social Activist- Nepal, Mr. Mahesh K. Saharia, CEO, Saharia Group of Companies, India, Dr. Saman Kelegama - Executive Director - IPS, Sri Lanka Mr. Sarat Singh Bhandari, Minister of Defense, Nepal, Mr. Kumar Mallimaratchi, President FCCISL, Sri Lanka	20-22 September, 2011, Kathmandu, Nepal	<p>Peace and Prosperity through Regional Connectivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministerial Round: Generating Political will for Regional Economic Integration</li> <li>Water, Energy, Climate Change and Food security</li> <li>Women Leadership for Regional Business Opportunities</li> <li>Business Leaders Session Contemporary Issues &amp; Commercial Connectivity in South Asia</li> <li>Trade and Investments in South Asia: Challenges and Opportunities</li> <li>Youth Development and Leadership: Promising prosperous Future of South Asia</li> <li>Connectivity through Tourism, Cultural Exchange and Media</li> <li>Valedictory Session &amp; Adoption of Kathmandu Declaration</li> </ul>	Adoption of Kathmandu Declaration that stressed unanimously on the governments of SAARC member countries to engage seriously in connectivity to achieve Peace and Prosperity. Deliberated upon generating political will for regional economic integration and recommended resolution of core issues through bold initiatives and exhibiting greater political will. Urged for utilization of geographical proximity and increase sea, land and air connectivity. Focused upon economic empowerment of women in the region, and advocated the governments to take proactive initiatives to encourage and promote women entrepreneurs. Entreated the activation of SAARC Food Bank and proposed SAARC Disaster management Institute to minimize the impact of natural calamities and climate change.

5th SBLC	Mr Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce and Industry, India, H.E. Mr Ahmed Saleem, Secretary General, SAARC, Mr Siegfried Herzog, Regional Director, Friedrich Naumann Foundation, Mr. Madhav Prasad Regmi, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Supplies, Nepal, Mr Mohammad Ibrahim Tamil, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Commerce & Industries, Afghanistan, Dasho Ugen Tsechup Dorji, Chairman, Singye Group of Companies, Bhutan, Mr. Hilal A Raza, Director, SAARC Energy Center, Dr Mussadik Malik, Special Assistant to Prime Minister of Pakistan on Energy Ms Sujatha Singh, Foreign Secretary, Government of India, H E Major GenL V Namgyel, Ambassador, Royal Bhutanese Embassy	16-17 Jan 2014, New Delhi, India.	South Asian Century: Progressing towards Regional Integration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministerial Panel Discussion: Taking Stock of the South Asian Economic Integration Process</li> <li>• Public-Private Dialogue on Regional Integration of South Asia</li> <li>• The Entrepreneurs of South Asia: Sharing Experiences</li> <li>• Youth in Asian Century: New Challenges and Dimensions</li> <li>• Prospects for Regional Energy Cooperation</li> </ul>	The 5th SBLC adopted the Conclave Declaration, with the policy reform agenda that urged the governments of SAARC Nations to take appropriate urgent measures for deeper integration of South Asian region and advocated enhancing connectivity through road, rail, air, sea communication, exchange of people and to facilitate the private sector for investment in the area of tourism, health, culture, education, banking and finance. Strongly recommended a common SAARC energy policy and SAARC Energy Grid. Considered socio-economic empowerment of the Youth in region inevitable for development of the Region and advocated proactive initiatives to engage young business leaders in futuristic development plans
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The successful conclusion of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th SBLCs in 2005, 2006, 2009, 2011 and 2014 have provided the right platform for arrayed, intense and broader engagement between the member governments and Business community of South Asian region, emphasizing deeper public-private partnership and arranging diverse and dynamic complementarities to address common challenges. SBLC has been a meaningful opportunity for the South Asian Business Community for striking new partnerships, sharing best practices and exploring virgin business opportunities. SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry is to keep on contributing for the promotion of economic cooperation among SAARC countries and will continue SBLC, providing a distinctive platform to discourse and narrate issues and prospects much acquired in regional cooperation.

The SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, persuaded by the efficacious and meaningful conclusion of the past five SAARC Business Leaders Conclaves, aims to organize the 6th SBLC with the theme of "South Asia in New Economic Order: Accelerating Inclusive Economic Growth" on November, 2016 in Islamabad, Pakistan, on a high time when the political leadership from the South Asian Region will gather for the 19th SAARC Summit in Islamabad, Pakistan, providing an opportunity to engage both the political and business leaders to confer together on deeper economic integration and explore new paths of sustained and inclusive economic growth for a prosperous and peaceful South Asia.

**Objectives:**

- To create synergies for regional integration and cooperation through effective networking of Business Community within South Asia.
- To contribute to South Asian Economies by liberalizing them from regulations, restrictions and strengthening collective self-reliance for economic prosperity within the region.
- To enhance regional trade and investments in South Asia
- To cultivate potential opportunities and explore new business avenues in SAARC countries
- To identify and develop neglected sectors of diligence which have the potential of growth.
- To increase Involvement of South Asian diasporas to

- enhance regional cooperation
- To encourage private-public sector partnership for positive economic policy exchange and reforms supporting trade facilitation and trade liberalization
- To exploit existing synergies and share/ develop best practices

**SBLC's Schema:**

- SAARC: Transforming Political Visions to Economic Realities
- SAARC Rail Agreement
- Green Energy: From Evolution to Revolution
- Conflicts and Confidence Building Measures
- Unleashing trade Investments
- Redressal Mechanism for Trade Barriers
- Liberal Aspects of Trade and Services
- Climate Change
- Youth and Gender

**Focused Segments**

- Leading Entrepreneurs from South Asia and beyond
- Parliamentarians and Government functionaries
- Intellectuals
- Professionals and experts
- Development partners

**Speakers Profile**

- Head of States/Governments of SAARC Member Countries
- Ministers of SAARC Member Countries
- Prominent Scholars/Statesmen from and outside of the SAARC region
- Top Corporate Leaders of SAARC Member Countries
- Media & Entertainment Representatives
- NGOs and Development Activists
- Academic Researchers from various sectors

**Delegates Profile**

- Diplomats and senior government officials
- Elite of the business community
- Renowned entrepreneurs
- Media representatives
- Social activists & cultural ambassadors
- Analysts
- Academicians and researchers



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