

are facing two confronting mechanisms, the notions of globalization and regionalization. He said that regional trade provides the countries opportunities to cope with the fierce global competitiveness. "The regional countries could build their muscles together to battle globalization" he added. He said that we have failed to make any significant progress in intra- regional trade and it remains much low though we have a remarkable intra-regional trade potential. He emphasized over bringing the people of region together through dialogue and peace to create a regional competitiveness, and to bring together the nations to strive poverty and disease as we are one most poverty inflicted region. He mentioned that the region is still lagging behind in terms of Human Development, he stressed upon ensuring trickle-down effect of economic growth.

"About 80 percent of the South Asia are India and Pakistan, they can trigger the regional trade and businesses" Mr. Iqbal said. He said that we need to overcome the challenges to reap common benefits. He opined that people of the region could be brought near for people to people cooperation through a liberal visa regime. He mentioned that lack of trust and confidence over each other make the businesses and businessmen suffer. "We need to make efforts to bridge the gap of trust by dialogue". "We need to embrace the openness of economies by hearts and minds" he added. He said that now is the time for action, every second we waste will be a crime against people of South Asia, we need to move with great speed and pace, else we would be left behind.

Mr. Kunwar Qutubuddin Khan GA Member SAARC CCI offered vote of thanks and appreciated presence of Federal Ministers in the occasion and regarded it as proof of political will of the government. An MoU was signed between SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industries and AHAN. The participant also cut a cake to mark the occasion of 28th SAARC Charter day.

The seminar brought together representatives from Public and Private Sector, diplomatic corps, CSOs, NGOs and various walks of life.

GLIMPSES



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29th SAARC Charter Day Celebrations

South Asia: Back to Future

09th December, 2013, Islamabad, Pakistan

SAARC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

In partnership with:

Friedrich Naumann
STIFTUNG **FÜR DIE FREIHEIT**



The SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SAARC CCI) organised a seminar entitled "South Asia Back to Future" to commemorate the 29th Charter Day of SAARC in partnership with Friedrich Naumann Foundation on December 9th 2013. The day was celebrated to venerate the day SAARC Charter, which was signed in the first Summit of SAARC on 8th December 1985 at Dhaka. The seminar was aimed at promoting cause of SAARC as an organisation as well as a mechanism, working for socio-economic uplift of the South Asian community.

H.E Dr. T.C Raghvan High Commissioner of India to Pakistan was Guest of Honour, while Professor Ahsan Iqbal Federal Minister for Planning and Development was the Chief Guest while Mr. Ghulam Minister of Industries and Production, Pakistan delivered special address.

In his introductory remarks **Mr. Iqbal Tabish**, Secretary General SAARC CCI said that the region has been leading economy from the 1st to 18th century in the world, other nations and regions have built their economies and industrialized themselves from the diaspora of resources and knowledge. Identifying the economic potential Mr. Tabish said " We have not only the natural resources but have the knowledge based economies as today India stands as the largest IT exporter in the world". He added that he region has multi-faceted economic competitiveness; we have the 33% of world population, the 45% of the population comprises of youth, every member of SAARC has unique topographic and demographic characteristics, but we are contributing only 2% of the Worlds GDP. He called upon sharing knowledge and expertise and stressed upon making efforts to bring economic integrity in the region by social harmony, for a prosperous South Asia.



Cake Cutting Ceremony while celebrating 29th SAARC Charter Day

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In his welcome remarks **Mr. Iftikhar Malik** Vice President SAARC CCI felicitated all the members on the occasion of SAARC Charter Day. While addressing the

occasion he said "We have potential to grow together by sharing the knowledge and increasing interaction at grass root level". He proposed the member countries to share the delegates of scholars, exchange exposure visits of students to increase social harmony. He mentioned that private sector has made significant efforts for economic and social integrity in the region, however lack of political will stands as the biggest hurdle in promoting intra-SAARC economic cooperation.

Mr. Ghulam Murtaza Khan Jatoi Federal Minister of Industries and Production, Pakistan in his inaugural address said "The signing of SAARC Charter in Dhaka 28 years ago paved path to greater prosperity and opened new avenues of integrity and harmony". SAARC has faced many challenges and obstacles but succeeded in strengthening social harmony and is striving for economic integrity, and it has to go long. He said that SAARC will not make the region a hub of growth but it will continue its effort to social prosperity and human development. He hailed the SAARC Chamber of Commerce for supporting AHAN (SAARC Handicrafts Village) and hoped that AHAN will grow vertically and horizontally in no time.

Mr. Aftab Chaudary Secretary General, South Asian Federation of Exchanges made a presentation on Capital Market in South Asia and role towards regional integration. In his presentation Mr. Chudary highlighted the potential of investments from regional capital markets in the region. He said that Common rule book is being developed to lay down regulations for capital mobility, in case of non-availability of investment from west, or crash of any capital market the capital mobility will ensure flow of intra-regional investments. In his message, Mr. Ahmed Saleem, Secretary General, SAARC, in his message said that "SAARC launched in 1985, is manifestation of regional countries for human development, trade and economic prosperity". SAARC has kept delivering it output through institutions and mechanism to solve together the common problems his message acknowledged. His message emphasized increasing efficiency and effectiveness of the institutions.



Mrs Shireen Arshad Khan, Chairperson, AHAN, Ministry of Commerce, Govt of Pakistan

While addressing at the occasion, **H.E. Dr. T.C Raghvan**, High Commissioner of India to Pakistan said that we stand at junction of evolution of regional cooperation. "Occasions like this, and events as today provide us great opportunity to sit together and deliberate on the issues and make efforts for the prosperity of the people of the region". He identified that there is much scope for SAFTA and there is much rom for bilateral trade, however we have faced challenge of making the friendly neighborhood and making the environment more conducive for regional trade. He stressed upon development of infrastructure and transportation and urged the member nations to deliver on vision of common peace, shared prosperity and cooperation.

Professor Ahsan Iqbal Federal Minister for Planning and Development, Pakistan while addressing the seminar extended compliments on the Charter Day of SARRC. He said that in 21st century we



Mr. Iqbal Tabish
Secretary General
SAARC CCI



Mr. Iftikhar Malik
Vice President
SAARC CCI



Mr. Ghulam Murtaza Khan Jatoi
Federal Minister of Industries
and Production, Pakistan



Professor Ahsan Iqbal
Federal Minister for Planning
and Development, Pakistan



H.E. Dr. T.C Raghvan
High Commissioner of
India to Pakistan



Mr. Aftab Chaudary
Secretary General, South Asian
Federation of Exchanges



Mr. Kunwar Qutubuddin Khan
GA Member SAARC CCI