

# 6th SAARC Business Leaders Conclave

**Concept Note**



## **INTRODUCTION OF SAARC CCI**

The SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry recognized as a Regional Apex Body by South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation is a constellation of the National Chambers/Federations of SAARC member states and is mandated to promote economic cooperation in South Asia. Established in early 1992, the SAARC CCI was given official recognition in the 6<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Round held in Dhaka in December 1992 and approved its constitution with permanent Secretariat to be located in Pakistan. The SAARC CCI has under its umbrella; National Federations/Chambers of Commerce and Industry from all South Asian countries which include 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 (FCCI,SL) as its founder member in addition to Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

Since its inception, SAARC CCI has been serving as bridge between public and the private sector of South and has been involved in policy making process 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 since signing of SAPTA in 1993, the first official document, aiming at promotion of economic cooperation in South Asia.

## **SAARC BUSINESS LEADERS CONCLAVE (SBLC): BRIEF OVERVIEW**

The Heads of States of South Asian countries at the 11<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> SAARC Business Leaders Conclave. The idea of convening SAARC Business Leaders Conclave was put-forth by Mr. Macky 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.

### Over view of previous editions of SBLC

SBLC	Date	venue	Theme	Inaugurated by
1st	Nov 17-18 2015	New Delhi, India	South Asia in Global Economy: Regional and Global Integration	Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister
2 <sup>nd</sup>	17-18Feb, 2007	Mumbai India	Regional Trade, Investment & Employment Generation: Creating an Enabling Policy Environment	Pranab Mukherjee, Foreign Minister of India.
3 <sup>rd</sup>	22-23 Nov, 2009,	Colombo, Sri Lanka	Regional Cooperation: A Catalyst for Socio Economic Growth in South Asia	Hon'ble Ratanasiri Wickremanayake, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka,
4 <sup>th</sup>	Sep 20-22, 2011	Kathmandu, Nepal	Peace and Prosperity through Regional Connectivity	Hon'ble Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, President of Nepal
5 <sup>th</sup>	Jan 16-17 2014	NewDelhi, India.	South Asian Century: Progressing towards Regional Integration	Hon'ble Anand Sharma, Minister for Commerce and his counterpart from S.Asia

### 6th Edition of SBLC

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, plan to organize the 6th edition of this prestigious event 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

### **Perceived Outcome**

“To collect set of policy recommendation worked out by various sessions and to present as a fresh input on behalf of the Private Sector to Government and SAARC Secretariat for consideration in the 19<sup>th</sup> SAARC Summit”

### **Focused Segments:**

- Shared Prosperity: Unleashing Investment In South Asia
- Connectivity: The Answer To Regional Integration And Economic
- Growth.
- Panel Discussion Of Ministers Of Commerce Of All Member Countries
- Investment Partners In The Region: A Reality Check

- Tourism& Hospitality: Trends, Challenges& Prospects
- Agribusiness To Double In South Asia By 2030
- Investment In Infrastructure
- Connectivity
- Social Entrepreneurship- A Tool For Regional Integration
- Digital South Asia:
- Women Empowering South Asia
- Building Partnerships For Investment

### **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

### **THREADS OF HOPE- FASHION EVENT**

The love for fashion, fabrics and colors is an important part of human culture and identity. Fashion is a global business conservatively estimated at over US\$1.3 trillion or approximately 2% of the value of the world economy. The South Asian bridal fashion market including jewelry is alone estimated to be approx. \$100 billion. South Asia is renowned for its weaving and exquisite craftsmanship. For the region, the fashion business is a life changing economic development. South Asia is today home to some of the finest artisans, designers and creative and business people in the global space.

At the SAARC Business Summit 2018, Threads of Hope fashion event will bring a collaborative collection that draws from the region's collective history, the contemporary influences and the culture of humanity. The garments are interpretations of exploring hope and a medium of expression in the wider world of the fashion business. In the discourse of humanity, ultimately fashion is a conversation about who we are... fashion is a beautiful thing.

## **MUSIC BEYOND BORDERS**

The South Asian nations are bounded together by geography, culture and centuries of flowering of arts and many manifestation of human creativity. The hearts of the people of South Asia are hemmed in shared values, harmonious music and diverse culture, and overshadows the conflicts and difference. Music being the voice of Angels has always been the stimulus of harmony and the art that can calm the agitations of the souls and has sooths conflicts. Be it the, Risgars of Bhutan, the melodious songs of India, the minstrel of Afghanistan or Sufi Music of Pakistan, music knows no boundaries, is enjoyed and heeded without any discrimination and difference.

A musical evening under the theme of Music beyond Borders: Unleashing Harmony, with the objective to celebrate the different musical heritage and cultures in South Asia. The creative notion for this occasion is based on organizing a musical event that will feature some of the finest musicians and singers of the SAARC region to perform folk and contemporary music.

## **SAARC Bazar**

The SAARC Bazar a showcase trade exhibition will be organized by SAARC CCI to bring the unique industrial and commercial products and services of each country of SAARC into lime light. Limited number of exhibitors from the SAARC countries will be showcasing their products in the SAARC Bazar ranging from Machinery, Handicraft, Textile & Readymade Garments, Household & Kitchen Appliances, Electronic & Electrical Items, Carpet & Rugs, Health & Fitness Items, Gift Items, Ceramic & Sanitary Fittings, Food & Processed Foods, Auto Parts & Vehicles, Gem & Jewellery and Other Items.