



**SAARC CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE & INDUSTRY**
APEX BUSINESS ORGANIZATION OF SAARC

Press Coverage

“6th SAARC Business Leader’s Conclave”

March 16-18, 2018, Kathmandu, Nepal



اتاق تجارت و صنایع افغانستان



افغانیستان د سوداګرۍ او صنایعو اتاق
Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce & Industries
اتاق تجارت و صنایع افغانستان

ششمین گردهمایی رهبران تجارتي سارک برگزار گردید

یکشنبه، 18 مارچ 2018، 11:06



ششمین گردهمایی رهبران تجارتي سارک از تاريخ 25 الی 27 حوت 1396 مصادف به 16 الی 18 مارچ سال روان میلادی با حضور داشت صدر اعظم جمهوری دموکراتیک فدرال نیپال، مقامات عالی رتبه این کشور، وزرای تجارت و صنایع کشور های عضو سارک، رؤسا و نمایندگان ادارات دولتی و غیر دولتی، رؤسا، معاونین و نماینده گان اتاق های تجارت و صنایع کشور های عضو و رسانه ها برگزار گردید.

در این گردهمایی، طی نشست های متعدد، پیرامون مسائل اقتصادی و سیاسی کشور های عضو سارک شامل موضوعات: یکپارچگی اقتصادی، همکاری سیاسی و اقتصادی برای رشد منطقه، ایجاد مشارکت در اقتصاد جهانی، کسب موفقیت از طریق مساعی مشترک و همکاری های منطوقی، ارتقاء بخشیدن به صنعت گردشگری، افزایش دوبرابر تجارت تولیدات زراعتی تا سال 2030، میکانیزه ساختن اقتصاد دیجیتال در منطقه، ازیاد نقش سکتور خصوصی کشور های عضو سارک در تقویت و توسعه ارتباطات و اتصالات در جنوب آسیا، فراهم سازی زمینه های لازم جهت جلب سرمایه گذاری های خارجی در قسمت زیر ساخت ها، تشویق و توانمند سازی زنان جهت مشارکت هر چه بیشتر آنان در مسائل اقتصادی و تجارتي بحث صورت گرفته و همچنان در نشست مشترک وزرای کشور های عضو سارک، جهت فراهم آوری تسهیلات لازم برای سرمایه گذاری، صحبت به عمل آمد.

هدف از این گردهمایی مهم، تشویق سکتور خصوصی و حمایت کامل از ابتکارات و نوآوری های اقتصادی در کشور های عضو بوده و کشور های عضو تعهد کردند تا یک خط مشی تجارتي منظم و واحد را برای کشور های عضو سارک ایجاد نمایند.

اهداف دیگر این گردهمایی، ایجاد مکانیزم همکاری برای ادغام و همکاری های منطوقی از طریق شبکه های مؤثر از جمله انجمن های تجارتي در جنوب آسیا، کمک به اقتصاد جنوب آسیا از طریق ساده سازی مقررات، رفع محدودیت ها و تقویت مشارکت جمعی برای رونق اقتصادی در منطقه، افزایش تجارت و سرمایه گذاری منطوقی در جنوب آسیا، بررسی فرصت های بالقوه و کار روی ایجاد مکانیزم های جدید جهت رشد و توسعه تجارت در کشورهای سارک، افزایش مشارکت کشور های غرب آسیا برای تقویت همکاری های منطوقی، تشویق مشارکت سکتور خصوصی و دولتی برای تبادل سیاست های مثبت اقتصادی، حمایت از تسهیل و آزاد سازی تجارت و سرمایه گذاری و بهره برداری از فرصت های موجود در کشور های عضو سارک بودند.

در این گردهمایی، ریاست هیئت افغانی را جلالتمآب همایون رسا وزیر تجارت و صنایع افغانستان به عهده داشت و محترم الحاج محمد یونس مومند معاون تجارتي هیئت مدیره اتاق تجارت و صنایع افغانستان و همچنان معاون اتاق سارک، محترم جلال الدین سعید رئیس شرکت کندا فروت و عضو کمیته اجراییه سارک، محترم رامین رئیس همکاری های منطوقی وزرات امور خارجه ج.ا.ا و عبدالمتین غالب کارمند سازمان های بین المللی اتاق ایشان را در این سفر همراهی نمودند.

آقای همایون رسا در نشست مورخ 18 مارچ این گردهمایی، ضمن سیاستگذاری از مهمان نوازی گرم کشور میزبان گفت: «چاک افتخار است که امروز با سایر اعضای خانواده سارک یکجا شده ایم تا روی مسائل همکاری های اقتصادی و تجارتي میان این کشور ها، صحبت نمایم. افغانستان برای اتصال کشور های جنوب آسیا و آسیای مرکزی منبخت بل ارتباط قرار داشته و تبدیل شدن این کشور به چارهای ترانزیت کشور های منطقه از اولویت های کاری رهبری دولت جمهوری اسلامی افغانستان می باشد.» وی افزود که موافقتنامه چاپهار یکی از مثال های برجسته برای همکاری منطوقی و توسعه تجارت و ترانزیت میان افغانستان و کشور های آسیایی جنوبی و غربی می باشد.

آقای رسا، در صحبت های خود روی همکاری های منطوقی تاکید نموده بیان داشت که کشور ها باید همکاری های اقتصادی را از مسائل سیاسی جدا ساخته و جهت نائل شدن به یک اقتصاد پویا باید تمام کشور های سارک دست در دست هم داده و برای رسیدن به این هدف مشترک از هیچ گونه تلاش دریغ نوزند.



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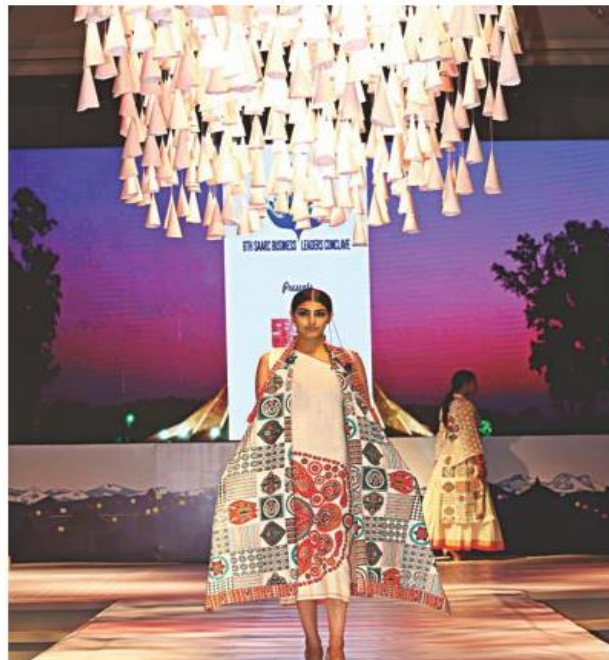
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Fashion show held at 6th SAARC Business Leaders Conclave

Recently in Kathmandu, Nepal, between March 16 to March 18, 2018, the 6th SAARC Business Leaders Conclave took place. During the event, on March 17, a colourful fashion show titled 'Threads of Hope' was held where the seven SAARC countries participated. The Bangladesh team consisted of seven members and was lead by Divine Beauty Lounge's Sangeeta Khan. The team also included Bapon Rahman, Makeup artist and partner of Divine Beauty Lounge.

Bibiana's fashion designer Lipi Khandaker incorporated rickshaw art motifs on khadi as part of



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SAARC nations' business leaders discuss regional economic integration in Nepal

At the conclave, SAARC Secretary General Amjad Hussain Sial highlighted the importance of regional economic integration.

BUSINESS Updated: Mar 17, 2018 21:11 IST

Press Trust of India, Kathmandu



India's Ambassador to Nepal Manjeev Singh Puri participates in the inaugural panel discussion on 'Unleashing South Asia: A Mantra for Shared Economic Prosperity' of the 6th SAARC Business Leaders Conclave being held in Kathmandu, on Saturday. (India in Nepal/ Twitter)



Prominent business leaders from the SAARC countries gathered here and discussed the role private sector can play in early and effective regional economic integration.



Addressing the inaugural session of the 6th SAARC Business Leaders' Conclave here on Friday, SAARC Secretary General Amjad Hussain Sial lauded the role being played by the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry in promoting economic relations among the member states.



South Asian nations can piggyback on India's high growth rate: Indian envoy to Nepal

Nations part of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) should take advantage of India's growth rate of 7-7.5 per cent through increased economic cooperation, and enhance the geographical connectivity amongst themselves, Indian Ambassador to Nepal Manjeev Singh Puri said on Saturday.

"We will have to see how SAARC nations can benefit from India's 7-7.5 per cent gross domestic product growth. For that, they will have to increase connectivity among themselves. I feel all other nations in South Asia can piggyback on India's high growth rate and this can be an advan-

tage plus for all countries. It will be a win-win situation for all," Puri said. He was speaking on the sidelines of the 6th SAARC Business Conclave 2018 organised by SAARC in Kathmandu. Improving regional connectivity is an important objective for India, he said. Puri said in terms of Nepal, India was acting as an integrated checkpost at Birpur, which was inaugurated soon.

He said the motor vehicle Act of Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal, India (BBIM) worked upon and there were efforts to develop a rail network among them.

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Saarc leaders for more connectivity

Kathmandu: Saarc business leaders on Friday pitched for a greater regional connectivity to unleash shared prosperity through economic cooperation amid growing protectionism across the world. At a time when the world economy is getting back to protectionism and is looking inward, the ways to grow regional connectivity among Saarc nations is of great importance, Saarc CII president Suraj Vaidya said at the Saarc Business Leaders Conclave here. He said the industry body is working closely with all South Asian countries to enhance regional connectivity. — PTI

एशियाई देशों को भारत की वृद्धि का लाभ उठाना चाहिए

काठमांडू, दक्षिण एशियाई क्षेत्रीय सहयोग संघ (दक्षेस) देशों को आर्थिक सहयोग और एक-दूसरे के बीच भौगोलिक संपर्क बढ़ाकर भारत की 7 से 7.5 प्रतिशत की उच्च आर्थिक वृद्धि का लाभ उठाना चाहिए। नेपाल में भारत के राजदूत मंजीव सिंह पुरी ने आज यह बात कही। पुरी ने यहां कहा, हमें यह देखना चाहिए कि भारत की 7-7.5 प्रतिशत सकल घरेलू उत्पाद (जीडीपी) वृद्धि का दक्षेस देशों को कैसे लाभ हो सकता है। इसके लिए दक्षेस के सभी देशों को अपने बीच संपर्क बढ़ाना होगा। मेरा मानना है कि दक्षिण एशिया के अन्य देश भारत की उच्च आर्थिक वृद्धि का फायदा उठा सकते हैं यह सभी देशों के लिए लाभदायक होगा। यह सभीके लिये फायदे की बात होगी। वह दक्षेस सीआईआई (एससीआईआई) द्वारा आयोजित छठवें दक्षेस उद्यमियों के सम्मेलन 2018 के मौके पर अलग से बातचीत कर रहे थे। पुरी ने कहा कि क्षेत्रीय संपर्क में सुधार भारत के लिए बेहद महत्वपूर्ण उद्देश्य है। नेपाल के संदर्भ में भारत बीरपुर में एक एकीकृत चौकी (चेक पोस्ट) बना रहा है, जिसका काम करीब-करीब तैयार है और जल्द की इसका उद्घाटन किया जाएगा। भूटान, बांग्लादेश, नेपाल और भारत (बीबीआईएन) के बीच मोटर वाहन अधिनियम पर काम चल रहा है और इनके बीच रेल तंत्र को फिर से शुरू किया जाने का प्रयास भी किया जा रहा है। राजदूत ने कहा, हम नेपाल के साथ दृढ़ता से बात कर रहे हैं और कई परियोजनाओं को आगे बढ़ाने का प्रयास कर रहे हैं।

'South Asian nations can piggyback on India's high growth rate'

KALPANA MANDAL

KATHMANDU: SAARC nations should take benefit of India's growth rate of 7-7.5 per cent through increased economic cooperation, and by enhancing the geographical connectivity amongst themselves, Indian Ambassador to Nepal Manjeev Singh Puri said on Saturday.

"We will have to see how SAARC nations can benefit from India's 7-7.5 per cent GDP growth. For that they will have to increase connectivity amongst themselves. I feel all other nations in South Asia can piggyback on India's high growth rate and this can be an advantage plus for all countries. It will be a win win situation for all," Puri said here. He was speaking on the sidelines of 6th SAARC business leaders Conclave 2018 organised by SAARC CII (SCII) here.

Improving regional connectivity is very important objective for India, he said.

In terms of Nepal, India is making an integrated check post at Birpur which is almost



Indian Ambassador to Nepal Manjeev Singh Puri

ready and will be inaugurated soon, Puri said.

The motor vehicle act between Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal, India (BBIN) is being worked upon and there are efforts to revive the rail network amongst them also.

"We are interacting strongly with Nepal and looking forward in taking ahead many projects. For example, the 900 megawatt Arun III project is perhaps the largest hydro electric project in Nepal. "We are looking at some other critical projects, including rail networks, road links," he said.

Puri also said boosting connectivity and ease of doing business are very serious

endeavours of both the countries and a major objective of India-Nepal partnership.

Indo-Nepal trade has been growing rapidly over the years, Puri said. Earlier during a session on Unleashing South Asia, he pitched for granting of most favoured nation (MFN) status to each other amongst the eight SAARC countries. On India Pakistan relations, the Indian Ambassador said that dialogue between the two nations should be in sync with actions.

Terrorism should not be allowed to thrive and India has taken the initiative on the matter many times, but they should shun terrorism as it does not benefit anybody, he added. PTI

6TH SAARC BUSINESS LEADERS' CONCLAVE

Regional economic integration discussed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KATHMANDU, MARCH 17

PROMINENT BUSINESS leaders from the SAARC countries gathered here and discussed the role private sector can play in early and effective regional economic integration.

Addressing the inaugural session of the 6th SAARC Business Leaders' Conclave here on Friday, SAARC Secretary General Amjad Hussain Sial lauded the role being played by the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry in promoting economic relations among the member states.

In conclave, inaugurated by Nepal Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli, Sial highlighted the importance of regional economic integration. He said the concept of SAARC Energy Ring is high on the agenda of SAARC.

'S Asian nations can piggyback on India's growth'

Kathmandu: SAARC nations should take benefit of India's growth rate of 7-7.5 per cent through increased economic cooperation, and by enhancing the geographical connectivity amongst themselves, Indian Ambassador to Nepal Manjeev Singh Puri said on Saturday. PTI

In order to develop a SAARC market for electricity, the SAARC Framework Agreement for Energy Cooperation has been signed and its ratification process is underway, said the Secretary General.

“It is imperative that they stay healthy and are eligible for jobs

CII president **Shobana Kamineni** on the young population in Saarc region



‘South Asia can ride on India’s high growth’

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Indian Ambassador to
Nepal

SAARC corporate leaders pitch for more regional connectivity

Kathmandu, Mar 18: SAARC business leaders today pitched for a greater regional connectivity to unleash shared prosperity through economic cooperation amid growing protectionism across the world.

At a time when the world economy is getting back to protectionism and is looking inward, the ways to grow regional connectivity among SAARC nations is of great importance, SAARC CII (SCCI) president Suraj Vaidya said at the SAARC Business Leaders Conclave here.

He said the industry body is working closely with all South Asian countries to enhance regional connectivity both through road and rail link and work is

afoot to bring together on common energy market in terms of trade of electricity.

Speaking on the occasion, Nepalese Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli expressed hope that the regional cooperation among the South Asian nations will boost further with the hill nation now getting a stable government.

“Our political transition is complete, we are now in transitional phase for economic development. Our slogan is development and prosperity for which the private and public sector has to work together. My government is very clear about that,” Sharma said.

Delivering his address on ‘Unleashing Shared Prosperity through Economic

Integration, he said the Nepalese government is very clear about its policy to promote the business community by inviting private sector for investment.

Talking about the potential of Nepal, he said around 15 per cent of its population is working outside the country which shows how energetic they are and also reflective of the fact that Nepalese population is very young.

The three-day SCCI event will see participation from business thinkers, doers and change makers on a common platform to discuss debate and create solutions and opportunities to take South Asia on the path of shared prosperity through economic integration.

India

More regional connectivity must: Saarc Inc

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बांग्लादेशी उद्यम के जरिए टाटा एस का म्यांमार को होगा निर्यात

अभिषेक रक्षित
कोलकाता, 18 मार्च

बांग्लादेश में टाटा मोटर्स का संयुक्त उद्यम छोटे वाणिज्यिक वाहन टाटा एस का निर्यात म्यांमार व भारत के उत्तर पूर्वी राज्यों को करने पर विचार कर रहा है। टाटा मोटर्स का हालांकि अभी असेंबलिंग प्लांट म्यांमार में है, जिसके

पास छोटे वाणिज्यिक वाहन के विनिर्माण की क्षमता है और कंपनी अभी भारतीय संयंत्रों से उत्तर पूर्वी राज्यों की मांग पूरी कर रही है। बांग्लादेश से निर्यात उस क्षेत्र के लिए ज्यादा उपयुक्त माना जा रहा है और भारत के मुकाबले निर्यात सस्ता भी हो सकता है।

निर्टॉल-निलॉय ग्रुप के चेयरमैन अब्दुल मतलुब अहमद (टाटा मोटर्स के साथ संयुक्त उद्यम में इसकी 60 फीसदी हिस्सेदारी है) ने कहा, अभी टाटा एस का निर्यात बांग्लादेश से करने के लिए भारतीय



कार निर्माता के साथ बातचीत चल रही है।

अगर ऐसा होता है तो अहमद को बांग्लादेश में यह वाहन बनाने के लिए स्थापित क्षमता बढ़ानी होगी। बांग्लादेश में अभी चलने वाले ज्यादातर टाटा एस का निर्यात भारत से हुआ है।

अभी इस संयंत्र की क्षमता 10 वाहन रोजाना है, जिसे बढ़ाकर 50,000 वाहन सालाना करना होगा। बांग्लादेश में छोटे वाणिज्यिक वाहन क्षेत्र में टाटा एस की बाजार हिस्सेदारी 85 फीसदी है और कंपनी हर महीने करीब 600-1,000 वाहन का विनिर्माण कर रही है।

संयुक्त उद्यम में सबसे बड़ी हिस्सेदार होने के नाते इसके लिए जरूरी ज्यादातर निवेश निर्टॉल-निलॉय समूह को करना होगा।

सीआईआई के एक कार्यक्रम में शामिल होने के बाद अहमद ने कहा, भारत समेत 39 देशों के साथ शुल्क मुक्त निर्यात की व्यवस्था है। लंबे समय तक हम इसकी पूरी क्षमता का इस्तेमाल नहीं कर पाए, लेकिन अब चीजें बदल रही हैं।

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Business · Diplomacy

SAARC Business Leaders Conclave begins in Nepal

March 18, 2018 · Add Comment · 35 Views · 2 min read



The 6th SAARC Business Leaders Conclave was inaugurated at Kathmandu, Nepal, last Friday evening.

The conclave was inaugurated by Prime Minister of Nepal, Khadga Prasad Oli.

The SAARC Business Leaders Conclave, organized by the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, will continue until March 18.

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HIMALAYAN NEWS SERVICE



Kathmandu, March 16

The SAARC Business Leaders' Conclave 2018 has begun in the Capital from today with an objective to promote investment, innovation and entrepreneurship in the region by unleashing shared prosperity through economic integration.

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6TH SAARC BUSINESS LEADERS' CONCLAVE IN THE OFFING

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By Our Reporter

With the theme of eight nations one objective, the 6th SAARC business leaders' conclave is scheduled to kick-off tomorrow at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Kathmandu. The 16-18 March conclave will be attended by above 200 foreign dignitaries including commerce ministers and business leaders from all eight SAARC member countries, according to the organisers.

Unleashing shared prosperity through economic integration is the motto of the 6th SAARC business leaders' conclave, said Suraj Vaidya, President, SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industries (SCCI).

"It is set to be a three day event that brings together the region's economic and business thinkers, doers and change makers on a common platform to discuss, debate and create solutions and opportunities to take South Asia on the path of shared prosperity through economic integration", said President Vaidya.

Although the SAARC Summit scheduled to be held in Pakistan has been postponed and there are doubts on the future of SAARC, Vaidya is very optimistic on economic evolution in the region nations through inter-regional cooperation.

"We are talking about new regional organisations but first of all we

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₹ Nepalese Rupee Exchange Rate

	In NPR
Australian Dollar	79.9
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With the theme of eight nations one objective, the 6th SAARC business leaders' conclave is scheduled to kickoff tomorrow at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Kathmandu. The 1618 March conclave will be attended by above 200 foreign dignitaries including commerce ministers and business leaders from all eight SAARC member countries, according to the organisers. Unleashing shared prosperity through economic integration is the motto of the 6th SAARC business leaders' conclave, said Suraj Vaidya, President, SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industries (SCCI). "It is set to be a three day event that brings to-

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assuming as the president of SCCI, me, along with my team had visited from Afghanistan to Sri Lanka, everywhere, people were enthusiastic for economic prosperity in the region, unfortunately, leaderships have been failed to understand the mindset of the people", Vaidya said. Vaidya expressed his hope that the conclave

In Kathmandu will be a milestone in bringing economic prosperity in the region. He described eight goals of the conclave, such as, peace and prosperity, economic growth, increasing trade, increasing investment, women and youth empowerment. In the meantime, Vaidya explained significance of Motor Vehicle Agreement initiated by SCCI for Nepal like a land-locked country. After endorsement of the agreement by SAARC, Nepal will enjoy vehicle link with Bangladesh and it will also pave the way for connecting SAARC countries including Bangladesh with electricity transmission line. "South Asia is doing well in the economic sector as there is 6 percent growth rate in the region", Vaidya described. Talking about the conclave to be started from tomorrow, Vaidya said that

MONEY

Frost & Sullivan partners with Saarc CCI

- Post Report, Kathmandu

Apr 4, 2018-

Frost & Sullivan signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Saarc's Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) at the 6th Saarc Business Leaders Conclave in Kathmandu.

Frost & Sullivan partners with SAARC CCI



The company will develop a quarterly economic tracker that will be published in conjunction with Saarc CCI. The 'Emerging Market Innovation' team at Frost & Sullivan will cover key macroeconomic indicators for Saarc countries, reads the press release. The data will be updated every quarter to help stay users stay updated with the highly dynamic economic environment and on how business results correlate to economic indicators.

Global President and Managing Partner at Frost & Sullivan Aroop Zutshi said, "Updates developed through our proprietary research methodology will provide overall perspective on various economies in Saarc countries, not just to governments and industry leaders but to enterprises and companies across sectors. This will help them stay on course with the changing scenarios. Our association with Saarc CCI couldn't have come at a better time since South Asian countries are witnessing new growth avenues and potential investment opportunities."

The move was also praised by the President of Saarc CCI, Suraj Vaidya. He said, "I believe that by partnering with Frost & Sullivan, Saarc CCI will bridge the communication gap between the public and private sectors and will advocate economic cooperation through trade liberation among the Saarc member states more effectively."

SAARC-CCI and Glocal to work together

Nepali Times
March 22, 2018

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On 6th SAARC Business Leaders Conclave 2018 hosted by SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industries, SAARC-CCI & Glocal signed a MoU to together work on providing opportunities and exposures to youth on skills, entrepreneurship and education.

The MoU was signed by the President of SARRC-CCI, Suraj Vaidya and Executive Director of Glocal Pvt. Ltd., Asish Thakur on 18 March, in presence of Matrika Prasad Yadav, Minister for Commerce and Supplies, Nepal, Humyoon Rasaw, Minister for Commerce and Industries, Afghanistan, and Lyonpo Lekey Dorji, Minister for Economic Affairs, Bhutan.





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6th SAARC Business Leaders Conclave to be held in Kathmandu

Last Updated On 02 February, 2018 07:12 pm

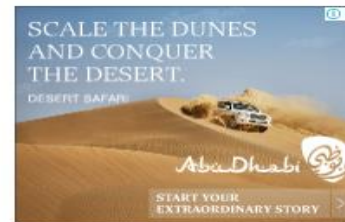


Event will be organized under the theme 'Unleashing Shared Prosperity through Economic Integration'.

KATHMANDU (Dunya News) - SAARC Chamber of Commerce & Industry in collaboration with Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FNCCI), in partnership with Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF) and with support of Government of Nepal is set to organize 6th SAARC Business Leaders Conclave, in Kathmandu, Nepal on March 16-18, 2018.

The conclave will be organized under the theme "Unleashing Shared Prosperity through Economic Integration". It will host business delegates, governments and ministers from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry has been facilitating and promoting trade, service, industry, Small and Medium Enterprise, agriculture in the SAARC region through creating strong business linkages among the entrepreneurs of the of South Asia. SAARC CCI aims to provide a platform to the



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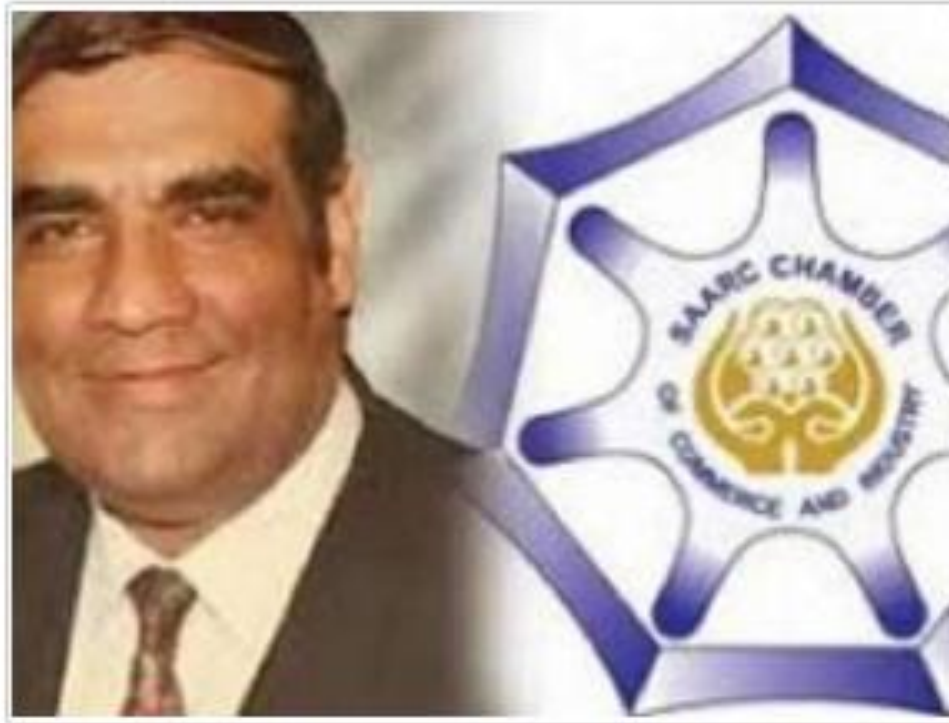
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SAARC Chamber Calls For Urgent Need To Work Together For A Strong Business Agenda In South Asia

Umer Jamshaid · 28 days ago · Wed 21st March 2018 | 07:01 PM



SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CII) Vice President Iftikhar Ali Malik Wednesday said South Asian countries need to work together with a "strong business agenda" in services trade as the SAARC region has a huge potential.

Economy Watch

SAARC Business leaders conclave from March 16 to 18 in Nepal

February 3, 2018

107

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6TH SAARC BUSINESS LEADERS CONCLAVE

6th SAARC Business Leaders Conclave

"Unleashing Shared Prosperity through Economic Integration"

March 16-18, 2018, Kathmandu, Nepal

In partnership with

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Muhammad Arshad

Islamabad

Under the theme "Unleashing Shared Prosperity through Economic Integration" 6th SAARC Business Leaders Conclave will be held from March 16 to 18 in Kathmandu, Nepal. Conclave will host business delegates, governments and ministers from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

This auspicious event is likely to be inaugurated by the Honorable Prime Minister of Nepal and all ministers. The inaugural session will be followed by Ministerial Round and Technical sessions, colorful musical and cultural evenings, aimed at promoting people to people and cultural connectivity in the region. Conclave will witness the largest gathering of 500-750 private sectors representatives of South Asia.

SAARC Business leaders conclave from March 16 to 18 in Nepal



WILAT SL SHOWCASES POC AS A CASE STUDY FOR “MEANINGFUL PROGRESS ON GENDER DIVERSITY RESULTS IN SUSTAINABLE COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGES” AT THE 6TH SAARC BUSINESS LEADERS CONCLAVE 2018

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WiLAT SL showcases POC as a case study for “Meaningful progress on Gender Diversity results in sustainable Competitive advantages” at the 6th SAARC Business Leaders Conclave 2018

Friday, April 6th, 2018

The 6th SAARC Business Leaders Conclave 2018; commenced on 16th March 2018 in Kathmandu, Nepal under the theme UNLEASHING SHARED PROSPERITY THROUGH ECONOMIC INTEGRATION. This three day Biennial event brought together the region’s economic and business thinkers, doers and change makers on a common platform to discuss debate, share best practices and create opportunities to take South Asia on the path of shared prosperity through economic integration.

The event was inaugurated by Rt. Hon. K. P Charma Oli, Prime Minister of Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal amid a grand ceremony held at Hotel Hyatt Regency, Kathmandu. Speaking at the event Prime Minister Oli said that there was a need to foster partnership among South Asian countries for their development and prosperity.

The highlight of the event, was indeed the Plenary session on Strengthening Connectivity and Trade in South Asia; the case for Gender Responsive Logistics; which was Co-incidentally an all women panel. The session was jointly organized by the World Bank Group and Australia’s Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and was headed by Ms Mandhakini Kaul; Senior Regional Cooperation Specialist, World Bank.

HE Peter Budd Ambassador of Australia to Nepal; in his opening remarks stated that even though 49% of the population of South Asia are women, the corresponding representation in the labour force is only 36% and further went on to say that the Government of Australia through the World Bank – DFAT partnership in South Asia for trade and connectivity and gender is committed to empower women in the region

Speaking at the session; Ms Dhashma Karunaratne; Chairperson of WiLAT Sri Lanka showcased the achievements of the Port of Colombo and stated that “ Port of Colombo is complementary to the growth aspirations of the region, it is strategically positioned astride the main east-west sea route to serve as the primary gateway to the Indian Sub-Continent; including the Bay of Bengal”. She went on to highlight that POC is the only Port in South Asia to be ranked among the top 25 ports; ranked 23rd POC is growing at a compound annual growth rate of 10% and is ranked as the 4th fastest growing port in the world.

With much appreciation she commented “The gender Responsiveness of each of the terminals operating at POC is exceptional”.