

**19<sup>th</sup> South Asian Economics Students' Meet (SAESM)**  
**22 – 27 January 2024 | Colombo, Sri Lanka**

**Building Resilient Economies:  
South Asia's Green Transition to a Sustainable  
Tomorrow**



**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS  
FOR THE PARTICIPATION FROM BANGLADESH**

**Coordinating Institution from Bangladesh**



**Hosted by the  
Department of Economics, University of Colombo  
in collaboration with the World Bank and the UNDP**



**Department of Economics  
University of Colombo**

# CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

**Theme: Building Resilient Economies: South Asia's Green Transition to a Sustainable Tomorrow**

Sub-themes	
1. Promoting Sustainable Technologies in South Asia	2. Opportunities to Shift to a Circular Economy in South Asia
3. Promoting Sustainable Infrastructure in South Asia	4. Collaborations for Green Energy Options in South Asia
5. Green Financing Solutions for South Asia	6. Sustainable Livelihoods and well being
7. Encouraging Green Tourism and Green Transportation in South Asia	8. Economics of Biodiversity in South Asia
9. Climate change and a risk-resilient South Asia: promising minimizing vulnerabilities in the future	10. Facilitating Green and Decent jobs and skills in the South Asian Region

The meet will comprise the following events:

**Research Paper Presentations:** Participants will have to write and present a paper on one of the sub-themes listed below

**Budding Economist:** Participants will be tested on their knowledge of well-known economic theories, concepts, and ideas across subfields along with their creativity to apply those concepts to real world problems. Students have to go through a series of selection processes that includes writing an essay and attending usual and interview rounds.

**Quizonomics:** Cross-country teams will participate in an economics quiz.

**Policy Presentation:** Two students will work as a team to identify a policy-relevant environmental issue specific to their respective countries looking at the nature of the issue, its impact on society at large, and the policy requirements necessary for addressing it effectively. The team will deliver a 10-minute presentation during the conference.

Details on the themes and the event **along with the selection criteria** for each event are available on: [www.saesm.net](http://www.saesm.net) or [SANEM](http://SANEM)

## **GUIDELINES FOR THE INTERESTED PARTICIPANTS FROM BANGLADESH**

Students from universities in Bangladesh must be enrolled in a bachelor's programme in economics and possess a passport valid until **July 31, 2024**.

1. Every participant must write a research paper and take part in an additional event (Budding Economist / Economics Quiz / Policy Presentation) which is mandatory. Details on the additional events are described below.
2. Ten students, one for each subtheme, will be selected to represent Bangladesh at SAESM 2024.
3. From the ten selected students, four will be nominated for Budding Economist, two for the Economics Quiz, and two for Policy Presentation.
4. To apply, applicants must attach the following in the email-
  - Research paper proposal
  - CV
  - Transcript/ mark-sheet of undergraduate study
  - University ID proof which shows that the applicant is currently an undergraduate student of the university
  - Scanned copy of the bio-page of the passport (valid until at least to July 31, 2024).

**Please indicate your preference for Budding Economist, Quiz or Policy Presentation in the email. The deadline for submission of all relevant materials for selection is **August 31, 2023**. Email address for all submissions and other correspondence: [sanem.conference@gmail.com](mailto:sanem.conference@gmail.com). The subject of the email should be **"Applying for the 19<sup>th</sup> SAESM"**.**

**Research proposal:** You have to apply with a research paper proposal on any of the above-mentioned **ten themes** which should include an abstract of what you intend to write in the paper (approximately 500 words), the structure of the paper and an indicative bibliography. Papers may be an evaluation of issues related to Bangladesh economy (kindly refer to the ten themes mentioned above), a comparison of Bangladesh with other countries, or South Asia as a whole. Papers can be written using primary survey data / case study / review of the issue / modelling economic theory / econometric tools. The expected standard of the presentations takes into account that the delegates are undergraduates and hence the expected academic excellence and competency is of normal academic standards at the undergraduate level. Thus, while any of the above methodologies may be used, the papers must demonstrate the application of economics knowledge and analysis in addressing the chosen issue.

- The proposal/paper must be written in English, and the applicant must be fluent in English to present the paper.
- Co-authored papers will not be accepted.

**Selection Criteria:** Selection will be based on the research paper proposal, CV, and an additional online interview to check English fluency and presentation skills. Online interviews of the shortlisted candidates will be held in the first/second week of September.

- The SANEM team will have the final authority to select the participants. The decision of the SANEM team will be final and binding.
- The result of the final selection of candidates from Bangladesh will be declared by **September 20, 2023**.
- Submission of final paper: **November 15, 2023**

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

1. All selected candidates will have to pay a registration fee of **USD 200**.
2. The selected participants may have to **pay a partial amount** to the airfare of Dhaka-Colombo-Dhaka.
3. The organizers will provide meals and stay in Colombo during the conference days.

## About SAESM

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The South Asian Economics Students' Meet (SAESM) is a long-standing undergraduate Economics students' annual meet in South Asia. This event provides an opportunity for students to develop academic papers on various issues of regional importance, present the papers, and learn from each other. The annual meeting is usually a conference followed by a quiz contest, a policy presentation session, and a competition for budding economists. The conference is followed by a retreat for the participants, generally sightseeing at some of the cultural and natural heritage sites, marking the conclusion of the meet.

## SAESM Design

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The SAESM runs as a regional network. A team of dedicated faculty members representing various academic institutions in South Asia facilitate the network. Its governing council, the apex advisory body, provides vision, guidelines, and a framework for the smooth functioning of SAESM. The organizing committee works hard on logistics to ensure that this annual gathering provides an opportunity to undergraduate students to share their knowledge and research findings, while the scientific committee takes care of the academic merits of the conference.

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### Coordinating Institutions

### Governing Council

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Afghanistan: Kabul University, Faculty of Economics

Prof. Dr. Bishwambher Pyakuryal,  
Chairperson (Nepal)

Bangladesh: South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM)

Dr. Mihir Pandey, Member (Department of Economics, Ramjas College, University of Delhi, India)

Bhutan: Royal University of Bhutan, Sherubste College

India: SAESM India (Association of South Asian Scholars)

Prof. Dr. Selim Raihan, Member (Department of Economics, Dhaka University- Bangladesh & Executive Director, SANEM)

Nepal: Tribhuvan University, Central Department of Economics

Pakistan: Lahore University of Management Sciences, Pakistan

Prof. Dr. Sirimal Abayaratne, Member (Department of Economics, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka)

Sri Lanka: University of Colombo, Department of Economics

Dr. Syed Turab Hussain- Member (Department of Economics, Lahore University of Management Sciences- Pakistan)

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## *Roadmap of SAESM from 2004 to 2023*

	<i>Year</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Theme</i>	<i>Main Partner</i>
1 <sup>st</sup>	2004	New Delhi	Economic Developments in South Asia: Which Way Ahead	National Foundation of India
2 <sup>nd</sup>	2005	Lahore	Issues for South Asian Development	Syed Babar Ali Foundation
3 <sup>rd</sup>	2006	Dhaka	Sharing Ideas for a Better Understanding of South Asian Development	Prime Bank
4 <sup>th</sup>	2007	Colombo	Economic Development and Regional Cooperation in South Asia	The World Bank
5 <sup>th</sup>	2008	New Delhi	Economic Challenges to Make South Asia Free from Poverty and Deprivation	The World Bank
6 <sup>th</sup>	2009	Dhaka	Young Economists for an Integrated South Asia	National Bank
7 <sup>th</sup>	2010	Colombo	Economic Freedom and Poverty Reduction in South Asia	Friedrich Naumann Stiftung
8 <sup>th</sup>	2011	New Delhi	Development Alternatives in South Asia	Institute for Financial Management and Research
9 <sup>th</sup>	2012	Kathmandu	Towards a Green South Asia	The World Bank
10 <sup>th</sup>	2013	Lahore	The Political Economy of South Asia	The World Bank
11 <sup>th</sup>	2014	Thimphu	South Asian Integration: Prospects and Challenges	The World Bank
12 <sup>th</sup>	2016	Colombo	South Asia in the Asian Century	The World Bank
13 <sup>th</sup>	2017	Kathmandu	One South Asia	The World Bank
14 <sup>th</sup>	2018	Chittagong	Sustaining South Asian Integration	The World Bank
15 <sup>th</sup>	2019	Colombo	Development in South Asia: Challenges and Opportunities	The World Bank
16 <sup>th</sup>	2020	Kathmandu	Toward prosperous South Asia	The World Bank, UNDP Nepal
17 <sup>th</sup>	2022	Lahore	Equitable, Inclusive, and Sustainable South Asian Cities	LUMS (Virtual)
18 <sup>th</sup>	2023	Kathmandu	Towards Resilient South Asian Economies	The World Bank
19 <sup>th</sup>	2024	Colombo	Building Resilient Economies: South Asia's Green Transition to a Sustainable Tomorrow	The World Bank, UNDP Sri Lanka

## Call for Participation

On behalf of the Department of Economics, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka, SAESM Bangladesh cordially announces this call for participation of students from Bangladesh in the 19<sup>th</sup> round of the South Asian Economics Students' Meet (SAESM). The Meet will be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from January 22<sup>nd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The theme of this year's meet is "Building Resilient Economies : South Asia's Green Transition to a Sustainable Tomorrow " which aims to foster intellectual discussions among young individuals to contribute to a more sustainable and improved South Asia.

### *Structure of SAESM 2024*

The participation of students in different categories will be as follows:

Country	Number of students	Paper Presentation	Budding Economist	Quizonomics	Policy presentation
Bangladesh	10	All participating students should participate in subtheme paper presentation category.	Four Students (4)	Four Students (4)	Two Students (2)
Bhutan	10				
India	10				
Nepal	10				
Pakistan	10				
Sri Lanka	20				

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Ten students, one for each sub-theme, will be selected to represent Bangladesh at SAESM 2024.

<sup>2</sup> From the ten selected students, four will be nominated for Budding Economist, two for Quizonomics, and two for policy presentations.

### *Paper Presentations*

All eligible students are invited to submit papers focusing on the themes listed below. A total of 10 students from Bangladesh will be selected by the country coordinators. Students are required to write a research paper according to the prescribed format and make a presentation based on the

paper at the conference. 60% of the total marks will be given to the research paper and the remainder will be allocated to the presentation.

### Theme 1: Promoting Sustainable Technologies in South Asia

This theme focuses on the promotion and adoption of sustainable technologies in South Asia. It involves exploring innovative solutions and practices that contribute to environmental sustainability, resource efficiency, and clean energy. Research areas could include the economic impact of adopting sustainable technologies, cost-benefit analysis of renewable energy systems, and evaluation of the role of policy frameworks in promoting sustainable technology adoption.

### Theme 2: Opportunities to shift to a Circular Economy in South Asia

The theme of shifting to a circular economy in South Asia explores the potential for transitioning from a linear "take-make-dispose" model to one that emphasizes resource efficiency, recycling, and waste reduction. Research areas could include economic implications of circular economic practices, business models for circularity, and assessing the feasibility of implementing circular economic principles in different sectors of South Asian economies. It could also focus on lifestyle changes and consumer preferences in moving towards a circular economy.

### Theme 3: Promoting Sustainable Infrastructure in South Asia

This theme focuses on developing sustainable infrastructure in South Asia, encompassing areas such as transportation, energy, and urban planning. It involves studying the economic viability of sustainable infrastructure projects, assessing their long-term benefits, and exploring financing mechanisms. Research areas could include the economic impact of sustainable infrastructure development, cost-benefit analysis of green transportation systems, and exploring public-private partnerships for sustainable infrastructure projects.

### Theme 4: Collaborations for Green Energy Options in South Asia

This theme emphasizes collaboration within and among South Asian countries to promote green energy options. It involves exploring opportunities for national level collaborations among firms, community and public-private collaborations and cross-border energy sharing, joint research and development efforts, and policy coordination. Research areas could include the economic implications of national and regional energy collaborations, assessing the potential for renewable energy integration, and analyzing the cost-effectiveness of shared energy infrastructure.

### Theme 5: Green Financing Solutions for South Asia

The theme of green financing focuses on identifying and developing financial mechanisms to support sustainable development projects in South Asia. South Asia faces significant environmental challenges and sustainable development goals that require substantial financial resources. It involves exploring innovative funding models, financial mechanisms, and collaborative efforts that can facilitate the flow of green finance and investments towards sustainable projects in the region through incentivizing private sector participation. Research areas could include analyzing the economic viability of green financing mechanisms, assessing the effectiveness of sustainable investment policies, and exploring the role of financial institutions in promoting green finance alongside the economics of bio financing.

### Theme 6: Sustainable Livelihoods and well being

This theme centers around promoting sustainable livelihoods and well-being in South Asia. It involves examining the economic aspects of sustainable agriculture, social entrepreneurship, and inclusive development. Research areas could include analyzing the economic impact of sustainable farming practices, economics of ensuring food security in South Asia, evaluating the business models of social enterprises, examining sustainable practices in natural resource management and assessing the relationship between sustainable development and human well-being.

### Theme 7: Encouraging Green Tourism and Green Transportation in South Asia

The theme of green tourism and transportation focuses on promoting environmentally friendly practices in the tourism and transportation sectors of South Asia to promote sustainable and resilient travel systems. The tourism sector plays a vital role in the region's economic development, but it also poses significant environmental challenges. It can involve studying sustainable tourism development, low-carbon transportation options, and promoting eco-tourism. Research areas could include assessing the economic benefits of sustainable tourism, promoting community engagement and empowerment in the tourism sector, analyzing the potential for electric vehicles in transportation systems, and evaluating the economic feasibility of green transportation infrastructure.



### Theme 8: Economics of Biodiversity in South Asia

This theme explores the economic value and management of biodiversity in South Asia as a means to value and protect natural ecosystems for sustainable development. South Asia, with its rich biodiversity and diverse ecosystems, is facing significant environmental challenges, including habitat loss, species extinction, and ecosystem degradation. It involves assessing the economic benefits of biodiversity conservation, exploring the potential for nature-based solutions, and exploring strategies to integrate nature's value into economic decision-making processes. Research areas could include valuing and payment mechanism for ecosystem services, analyzing the economic impact of biodiversity-based industries, and evaluating the effectiveness of biodiversity conservation policies.

### Theme 9: Climate change and a risk-resilient South Asia: promising minimizing vulnerabilities in the future

Theme 9 focuses on the urgent need to address climate change and build a risk-resilient South Asia to minimize vulnerabilities in the face of climate-related challenges. South Asia is highly susceptible to the impacts of climate change, including extreme weather events, rising temperatures, sea-level rise, and changing precipitation patterns. Research areas include economic analysis of climate change impacts, climate risk assessment and management, socio-economic implications of climate change, and policy frameworks, and technological innovations for climate resilience. The objective is to develop strategies and policies to foster resilience, minimize vulnerabilities, and create a promising future for South Asia in the face of climate change.

### Theme 10: Facilitating Green and Decent Jobs and skills in the South Asian Region

The theme of facilitating green and decent jobs and skills in the South Asian region emphasizes the transition towards sustainable employment opportunities that promote environmental protection, social well-being, and inclusive growth. It involves identifying and developing skills required for green sectors, promoting entrepreneurship in sustainable industries, and ensuring decent working conditions. Research areas could include assessing the economic potential of green job creation, analyzing the skill gaps and training needs for green sectors, and evaluating the socio-economic impacts of green employment on local communities. Additionally, examining the role of government policies, public-private partnerships, and stakeholder

engagement in facilitating the transition to green and decent jobs could provide valuable research area. Furthermore, exploring the linkages between green job creation and poverty reduction, as well as studying the economic feasibility of green job programs and their impact on income distribution, could contribute to a comprehensive understanding of this theme.

### ***Format of Research Paper***

The research paper should follow a standard format that is commonly practiced in writing a research article or discussion paper. You can use either MS Word or LaTeX to produce your article and should submit a PDF document.

It should consist of the following components:

- Preliminaries (Front page, Abstract, Keywords, Name of the author and the affiliation, Acknowledgement, Table of content, List of figures, List of tables),
- Main body (Background and rationale, Research questions and objectives, Review of Literature, Methodology, Results, and Discussion and Conclusions)
- Annexures (References, Appendices, Big tables, or Maps, etc.).

The researcher may decide about sub-headings as per his/her requirements. However, chapter divisions of the paper is not recommended.

- a) Frontpage: Title of the paper, name of candidates and representing the institution, date of submission (center aligned)
- b) Abstract: Maximum 200 words.
- c) Keywords: Maximum up to 5, Alphabetically ordered and separated by a semicolon.
- d) Main body: 1-inch margin on all sides, 1.5-line space, Font: Times New Roman or Arial (applicable for all pages of the paper), Size 11. The main body of the paper should not exceed 5000 words (Excluding tables, figures, references, and appendices)
- e) Referencing and in-text citation: APA style, 6th edition

### ***Budding Economist Competition***

Four students will be nominated (from among the ten students) for the Budding Economist category. Following traditions, this Meet too will declare the Budding Economist of the region for the year 2024, in honor of the contribution by Prof. Deb Kusum Das to SAESM and the

South Asian Economics fraternity. The winner will be conferred with DKD Budding Economist of South Asia Award for 2024. The students will undergo a very tight selection process that includes a written examination comprising core courses in undergraduate economics, economic interpretation of visual information, and an interview round.

### ***Submission of an opinion essay***

Students nominated for the Budding Economist category will be required submit an opinion essay on "*Unleashing Economic Potential through South Asia's Green Transition: A Path to Resilient and Sustainable Economies*". This will be an opinion or perspective essay. No sub-headings or abstracts should be presented. This essay carries 10% of the weight of the Budding Economist competition. The length of the paper (main body) should not exceed 3 pages (with 1.5-line space). The applicable formatting details will be the same as that for the research paper.

### ***Written Exams***

Budding economist participants will sit for two rounds of written exams. The first paper will cover Mathematical methods, Statistical methods, and Basic econometrics. The second paper will be a mixture of Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, and Development issues in South Asia. Further details regarding the content will be shared in due course. This will carry 50 % of the total marks in this competition.

### ***Visual Round***

All students vying for the Budding Economist must participate in the visual round. Instantaneous comment(s) on audio-visual materials played/displayed involving valid economic ways of thinking will be evaluated in this round. This will carry 15% of the total marks.

### ***Interview Round***

The top five students based on the score from written exams and the visual round will be included for this round. This will carry 25% of the total marks. The student with the highest overall score will be declared the "SAESM Budding Economist 2024" of the region.

### ***Quizonomics***

A group of seven teams, each team comprising four members from four different nations will participate in the quiz competition. Four students from Bangladesh will be nominated to participate in this segment. The names of the members in the six teams will be announced in due course. The selection of students for each team will be based on a lottery method. The content or coverage of the quiz will be shared in due course.

### ***Policy Presentation***

Two students will be nominated for participation in the Policy Presentation category. These students will collaborate as a team and their performance will be evaluated based on the quality of the outcomes they produce. The primary task for the team will be to identify a policy-relevant environmental issue specific to their respective countries. They must conduct a comprehensive foundational study on the nature of the issue, its impact on society at large, and the policy requirements necessary for addressing it effectively. The identified issue can either be one that has already been addressed or an issue that needs immediate attention.

To conduct an in-depth investigation, the team is encouraged to engage in Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with experts. The coordination of these interviews can be overseen by the country coordinators from each respective country. Based on the findings, the team must prepare a concise policy brief, limited to a maximum of 5 pages, which should be submitted along with their research articles. The formatting guidelines for the research papers provided earlier should be followed for the policy brief as well.

Furthermore, the team is required to deliver a 10-minute presentation, followed by a 5-minute question and answer session, during the conference. The presentation can take various formats, such as a general talk, slide presentation, documentary or video clip, or poster presentation. Each component of the team's performance will be equally weighted during the evaluation process.

## Awards and Honor

- a) "Amartya Sen - Mahbub Ul Haq" Best of the Best Research Paper Award
- b) "Best Paper Award" under each Theme
- c) "DKD Budding Economist Award-2024" for the winner of the Budding Economist category
- d) "Best Quiz Team Award" for the winning quiz team
- e) "Best Policy Analysis Award" for the best policy presentation

## Eligibility for Bangladeshi Participants

The student must be studying at an undergraduate level in Bangladesh. Students must be citizens and residents of Bangladesh. The age of the students should not exceed 26 years at the time of application. The other eligibility criteria will be as per the guidelines issued by the country coordinators.

## Other Information

### *Tentative Agenda*

Day	Date	Main Events (Proposed)
1	22.01.2024	The arrival of the foreign participants Budding Economist test Inaugural ceremony followed by Welcome dinner
2	23.01.2024	Paper presentations Budding Economist visual round
3	24.01.2024	Quizonomics Policy presentation Budding economist final round (Hot seat) Closing ceremony & Cultural night
4	25.01.2024	Retreat : Tour around Colombo city Travel to down-south
5	26.01.2024	Retreat or Departure to home country
6	27.01.2024	Departure of all foreign participants

### *Retreat*

A Two-day retreat will be organized for participants around the down-south. The venue for the retreat will be announced later.

### *Conference Registration*

Each participating student/faculties must register for the conference. A registration fee of USD 200 is compulsory for all participating students/faculties. The organizer will provide all the meals and accommodation (on shared basis) during the conference period. The conference venue will be announced later.

**SEE YOU IN COLOMBO, SRI LANKA**