

Editor's Desk

This March 2018 issue of *Thinking Aloud* has been dedicated to cover the news of the 3rd SANEM Annual Economists' Conference (SAEC) 2018 on 'Leave no one behind in South Asia'. This year's conference was dedicated to the memory of Late Dr. Saman Kelegama, who served as the Executive Director of Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Sri Lanka. The first page article on "In pursuit of a South Asian development model", analyzing the East and Southeast Asian development models, raises the question whether there is any 'South Asian development model'. The article suggests that there is a much weaker convergence of economic and development policies, related to trade openness, foreign investment, macroeconomic management and social policies, in South Asia, which have led to the divergence in their development outcomes too. All these show the absence of any 'South Asian development model' yet. The pursuit of a 'South Asian development model' will, therefore, require countries of this region to get their domestic policies 'right'. The second and third pages present brief overviews of the different sessions of the conference. The conference started with the keynote speeches by Prof. Kunal Sen and Dr. K.A.S. Murshid, and launching of a book, which was followed by six breakout sessions on Economic Growth & Productivity, Investment & Capital Market, Strong Institution & Good Governance, Social Inclusion, Health & Nutrition and Gender Equality & Education. In addition, to the sessions on different contemporary issues, the pages also include the special session titled "Honoring Economists of Influence", SANEM-IGC, SANEM-BIGD organized sessions, an inter disciplinary session, and also covers the session for budding researchers. The fourth page provides short descriptions of special lectures by Dr. Martin Rama and Dr. Selim Jahan. It includes SANEM-ESID organized session- A South Asian panel discussion in memory of Dr. Saman Kelegama, and SANEM-MCCI and SANEM-DECCMA organized sessions. The fourth page also includes snapshots of the 3rd SAEC.

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In pursuit of a 'South Asian development model'

Selim Raihan

Remarkable growth experience and development of the East Asian countries (South Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, and Hong Kong) during the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s led to the emergence of the discourse of 'East Asian development model'. A similar development model during the 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s amongst the Southeast Asian countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam) is also observed. One important aspect of the East and Southeast Asian development models is that most of the countries in those regions witnessed a convergence of their economic and development policies, related to trade openness, foreign investment, macroeconomic management and social policies, which led to the convergence of their development outcomes too. The East Asian as well as Southeast Asian experience illustrates economic development models with clear policy objectives and institutional arrangements at each stage. These 'development models' also suggest judicious balancing of the use of market mechanism and government interventions in the development process. When we look at the South Asian experience of development, one obvious question comes to our mind - whether there is any 'South Asian development model'. To answer this question, at first, we have looked at the convergence of per capita GDPs (gross domestic products) of the South Asian countries, and have also conducted a similar exercise for the Southeast Asian countries. The graphs, presented here, show the pattern of convergence of per capita GDPs in these two regions.

For the analysis on South Asia, we have dropped the Maldives as an outlier and have considered Sri Lanka as the benchmark. In 1980, Sri Lanka had a per capita GDP of US\$ 909, which increased to US\$ 3832 by 2016. For the Southeast Asian countries, we have dropped Singapore and Brunei as outliers and have considered Malaysia as the benchmark. In 1980, Malaysia had a per capita GDP of US\$ 3317, which increased to US\$ 11031 by 2016. It is clearly visible from the graph for Southeast Asian countries that all the other seven countries in that region demonstrated a gradual convergence towards the level of per capita GDP of Malaysia, and the convergence intensified since 2000. However, despite the rise in per capita GDPs in all South Asian countries since 1980, there seems to be a very weak convergence among these countries with respect to their per capita GDPs. As we make the comparison with respect to Sri Lanka's per capita GDP, only India and Bhutan since 1980 and Bangladesh since 2000 have been able to demonstrate some convergence, while Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Nepal have been sliding down continuously.

South Asian countries have strong divergence in trade policy and trade outcomes too. In the case of trade orientation, between 1980 and 2016, while Bangladesh, India, and Nepal

experienced considerable increase in the trade to GDP ratio (in 2016, the ratio was 38%, 40% and 49% for Bangladesh, India, and Nepal respectively), and Sri Lanka experienced a downward trend but still maintained a ratio of over 50% in 2016, Pakistan encountered a drastic fall in the ratio from around 37% in 1980 to 25% in 2016. Such diverse trade policies have led to diverse experience in the export performance too. One indicator of the performance of the export sector is the ratio of exports to imports which suggests the extent by which country's exports can finance imports. Only Bangladesh has been able to gradually and consistently increase this ratio from 27% in 1980 to 80% in 2016. While India maintained a rate of over 90% in 2016, Nepal had the least ratio of only 21% and both Pakistan and Sri Lanka had ratios of around 60% in that year. In contrast, all Southeast Asian countries, except the Philippines, demonstrated rapid convergences towards both high degrees of trade orientation and performance of their exports in financing imports.

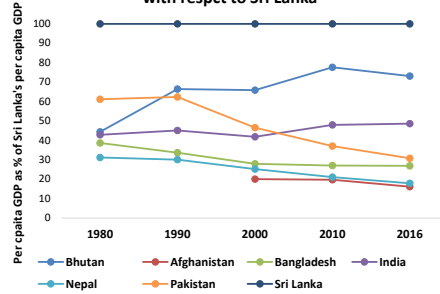
South Asian countries have diverse experience in the structural transformation of their economies too. Except for Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, all other South Asian countries confronted declining trend in the share of manufacturing value-added in GDP, which raises the concern of the phenomenon of 'premature deindustrialization'. Actually, such phenomenon is very prominent in both Pakistan and Nepal. Interestingly, such 'pre-mature deindustrialization' is not observed in most of the Southeast Asian countries.

With respect to attracting foreign direct investment (FDI), the experience in South Asia is quite diverse and poor. Except for India, FDI orientation (the ratio of FDI to GDP) is very low in South Asian countries. Especially, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal, the three least developed countries, have not been able to improve their FDI status significantly over the past couple of decades. In contrast, we can see a nice convergence in Southeast Asia in terms of high degree of FDI-orientation, and lagging countries like Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Vietnam, are now taking the lead.

Finally, looking at the trend in human capital development, we see a weak convergence in South Asia. While all South Asian countries have been able to increase their average years of schooling between 1990 and 2015, the progress has been rather slow. One of the striking differences between the East and Southeast Asian development models and development experiences in South Asia is the much higher emphasis on human capital development in East and Southeast Asia. Many of the poorer outcomes in this respect in South Asia can be attributed to low public spending on health, education and social protection in countries in this region.

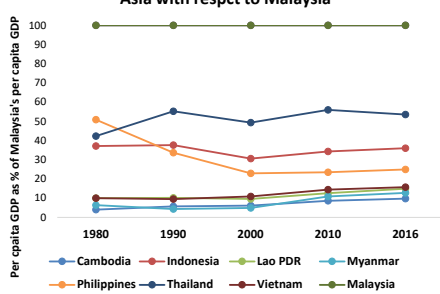
Above mentioned analysis points to the absence of any 'South Asian development model' yet. The weak convergence of domestic development policies of the countries in South Asia is a major restraining factor for a deeper integration in this region. The pursuit of a 'South Asian development model' will, therefore, require countries of this region to get their domestic policies 'right'.

Convergence in per capita GDPs in South Asia with respect to Sri Lanka



Data source: World Bank, WDI

Convergence in per capita GDPs in Southeast Asia with respect to Malaysia



Data source: World Bank, WDI

"LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND IN SOUTH ASIA"

Inaugural Session and Keynote Speeches



The inaugural session of 3rd SANEM Annual Economists' Conference (SAEC) 2018 was chaired by Dr. Bazlul Haque Khondker, Chairman, SANEM and Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka. In his opening remarks, Dr. Selim Raihan, Executive Director, SANEM and Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka stated the objective of the conference as to promote quality economic research and provide a platform to young as well as experienced researchers to exchange views. Dr. Raihan also declared that 3rd SAEC is dedicated to the memory of Late Dr. Saman Kelegama, who served as the Executive Director of Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Sri Lanka, and was a leading thinker and pioneer of economic research, especially in the area of trade and regional integration in South Asia.



Professor Kunal Sen

The two keynote speakers of the conference were Professor Kunal Sen, Global Development Institute, University of Manchester, United Kingdom, and Dr. Khan Ahmed Sayeed Murshid, Director General, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), Dhaka.

The first keynote address on "Leaving No One Behind in South Asia: What Can States Do?" was delivered by Professor Kunal Sen. Dr. Sen proclaimed that South Asian states are struggling to ensure effectiveness of public spending and are performing poorly particularly in the area of government effectiveness and state capacity compared to East Asian and Latin American countries. Asserting that South Asian countries lack the capacity to make big bang reforms successful, Dr. Sen suggested that they should opt to find and nurture pockets of effectiveness and start with small reforms rather than going for big bang reforms to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He also emphasized that while top down reforms do not seem to work very well, bottom up processes might have more success in countries like Bangladesh where there is strong presence of NGOs and civil society.

In the second keynote address on "Addressing Inequality", Dr. Khan Ahmed Sayeed Murshid raised his concern that amidst all the focus given to outcomes, the discussion of the ways and means to attain those outcomes are largely missing. In his speech, Dr. Murshid asserted that the role of agriculture is weakening in Bangladesh, and the relationship between growth and poverty has already weakened. Dr. Murshid pointed out that people are much more affected by inequality of 'process' rather than inequality in outcomes, and if the 'processes' are fair, people have less problem with outcomes. Therefore, greater focus should be given to making economic, political and social systems fairer, and making the institutions in the key sectors (including health, education, public services, judiciary etc. more inclusive.



The inaugural session included the launching of the book titled "Deals and Development: The Political Dynamics of Growth Episodes", edited by Lant Pritchett, Kunal Sen and Eric Werker.

Breakout Session 1 Economic Growth & Productivity



Breakout Session 1 of the 3rd SAEC focused on "Economic Growth and Productivity". Dr. Fahmida Khatun, Executive Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka chaired the session where four papers were presented. Mr. Maruf Ahmed, Research Associate, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), Dhaka presented the first paper titled "Total Factor Productivity in Bangladesh: Impacts and Determinants" and Mr. Suvajit Banerjee, PhD Scholar, Visva Bharati, Santiniketan, India presented on "Carbon Emission from India and the role of Exports: An Autoregressive Distribution Lag Analysis". Mr. S. M. Abdullah, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka presented his paper on "Budget Deficit and Growth: In Search of Ceiling for Bangladesh" and Md. Rezwani Hoque, Deputy Director, Bangladesh Bank presented the fourth and final paper titled "An Analysis of Expenditure Behavior of Remittances Receiving Household in Bangladesh: Evidence from Propensity Score Matching Method". The designated discussant of the session was Dr. Kazi Iqbal, Senior Research Fellow, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), Dhaka. The session concluded with an interactive open discussion and remarks by the chair.

Breakout Session 2 Investment & Capital Market



Breakout Session 2 of the 3rd SAEC was on "Investment and Capital Market". Four papers were presented in the session chaired by Dr. Faisal Ahmed, Chief Economist, Bangladesh Bank. The first paper on "Movable Assets as Collateral Against Loans in Bangladesh: A Discussion Outline" was presented by Mr. Asjadul Kibria, Planning Editor, The Financial Express, followed by the second paper on "The Effect of Non-Performing Loans on the LMICs with a Focus on the Macro Economy and Institutional Quality", presented by Mr. K Suranjit, Deputy Director, Banking Regulation and Policy Department, Bangladesh Bank. Mr. Mohammad Iqbal Hossain, Research Associate, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) presented his paper on "Stylized Facts of the Statistical Properties of Risk and Return of the Dhaka Stock Exchange: 1990-2015", and Dr. Mehdi Chowdhury, Senior Lecturer in Economics, Bournemouth University, United Kingdom presented a paper titled "Remittances and Asset Accumulation in Bangladesh: A Study using Generalized Propensity Score". Dr. Monzur Hossain, Senior Research Fellow, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), Dhaka was the designated discussant of the session. A lively open discussion was followed by valuable remarks from the chair during the end of the session.

Breakout Session 3 Strong Institution & Good Governance



Breakout Session 3 of the 3rd SAEC concentrated on "Strong Institution & Good Governance". The session was chaired by Dr. Kazi Ali Toufique, Research Director, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), Dhaka. The three papers presented in the session were: "Distributional Impact of Political Violence: Evidence from Differential Impacts on Commodity Price" by Dr. Md. Mainul Hoque, Research Fellow, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), Dhaka; "An Empirical Investigation

of Corruption and Sustainable Development: A Simultaneous Equations Model Estimation Approach" by Mr. Muntasir Murshed, Programme Associate, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka; and "The Missing Middle in the Developing Countries: The Role of Corruption and Tax Regulation" by Mr. Shafiu Nahin Shimul, Assistant Professor, Institute of Health Economics (IHE), University of Dhaka. Dr. Kazi Ali Toufique provided his valuable comments on the papers before opening the floor for discussion.

Breakout Session 4 Social Inclusion



Breakout Session 4 of the 3rd SAEC facilitated three paper presentations under the title "Social Inclusion". Dr. Mustafa K. Mujeri, Executive Director, Institute for Inclusive Finance and Development (InM), Dhaka chaired the session. The first paper was presented by Dr. Akhilesh Kumar Sharma, Associate Fellow, Institute for Human Development, India on "Differential Impact of Social Security Programmes on Income Generation". Mr. Muhammad Moshir Rahman, Research Associate, UNDP Bangladesh presented a paper on "An Effective Use of Human Capital: Using NTA Analysis", and Ms. Sarah Sabin Khan, Research Associate, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka presented on "Interpreting 'Leave No One Behind' in the context of Bangladesh". Dr. Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Research Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka discussed on the three papers. The session included an interactive open discussion.

Breakout Session 5 Health & Nutrition



Breakout Session 5 of the 3rd SAEC focused on "Health & Nutrition". The session, chaired by Dr. Rumana Huque, Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka, facilitated three paper presentations. Mr. Md. Hafiz Iqbal, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Govt. Edward College, Pabna, Bangladesh presented on "Determinants of Universal Health Coverage for Climate Induced Diseases in the Coastal Bangladesh: Approach of Gravity Model" and Mr. Istihak Rayhan, Department of Economics, Jahangirnagar University, Dhaka presented on "Modeling Life Expectancy for the South Asian Countries". The third and final paper of the session was titled "Who raises livestock and why?" which was presented by Mr. Wahid Ferdous Ibon, Research Associate, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS). Ms. Tahmina Begum, National Health Accounts Expert provided valuable insights on the papers, followed by a lively open discussion.

Breakout Session 6 Gender Equality & Education



Breakout Session 6 of the 3rd SAEC concentrated on "Gender Equality & Education". Dr. Rushidan Islam Rahman, Executive Chairperson, Centre for Development and Employment Research (CDER), Dhaka chaired the session. The first of the three papers presented in the session was titled "Unpaid Family Labour: A Hidden Form of Labour Market Discrimination of Women in Bangladesh" by Dr. Sayema Haque Bidisha, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka. Mr. Md. Al Hasan, Research Associate, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka presented a paper on "Male-Female Wage Gap and Informal Employment in Bangladesh: A Quantile Regression Approach" and Mr. Nobinkhor Kundu, Assistant Professor,

Department of Economics, Comilla University, Bangladesh presented on "Indispensable to Factors Affecting Quality of Universal Primary Education: A Case of Comilla". Dr. Nazneen Ahmed, Senior Research Fellow, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), Dhaka discussed on the three papers before the floor was open for discussion.

Inter Disciplinary Session Social Science & Human Behavior



An Inter Disciplinary session on "Social Science and Human Behavior" was held in the afternoon of second day of 3rd SAEC. In the session, chaired by Dr. Minhaj Mahmud, Senior Research Fellow, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), four papers were presented by researchers from various disciplines. Dr. Mohammad Mainul Islam, Professor, Department of Population Sciences, University of Dhaka presented a paper on "Factors Influencing Rising C-section Delivery in Bangladesh", followed by a paper titled "Health Shocks and Preference Instability: Assessing Health-State Dependency of Willingness-to-Pay for Corrective Eyeglasses", presented by Mr. Muhammed Nazmul Islam, Senior Research Associate, BRAC School of Public Health. The third paper presented in the session was titled "Masculinity Norm Conformity and Risky Sexual Behavior among Young Men in Urban Dhaka Slum" presented by Dr. Atonu Rabbani, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka. The fourth paper was presented by Dr. David Jackman, Effective States and Inclusive Development (ESID) Research Centre, University of Manchester, UK, titled "Saving money and flexing muscle: capital and political factions in a Bangladeshi bazar". Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Professor, BRAC School of Public Health and Ms. Serena Cocciolo, Institute for International Economic Studies (IIES), Stockholm University were present in the session as designated discussants. The session concluded with an interactive open discussion.

Honoring Economists of Influence



On the occasion of 3rd SANEM Annual Economists' Conference 2018, SANEM organized a special session titled "Honoring Economists of Influence" to celebrate the lives and works of two of the most influential economists of Bangladesh- Dr. Quazi Shahabuddin, Former Director General, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), and Professor Shamsul Alam, Member, General Economics Division, Planning Commission, GoB. On behalf of SANEM, Dr. Bazlul Haque Khondker, Chairman, SANEM, and Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka presented honoring crests to the two 'Guests of Honor'. Dr. Selim Raihan, Executive Director, SANEM and Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka and Dr. Sayema Haque Bidisha, Research Director, SANEM and Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka were present as the distinguished guests.

SANEM-IGC Organized Session Leadership & Participatory Processes



SANEM-IGC organized session on "Leadership and Participatory Processes" was held on the second day of 3rd SAEC. The session was chaired by Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Executive Director, BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University and Country Director, International Growth Centre (IGC), Bangladesh. Two papers were presented during the session. Ms. Serena Cocciolo, Institute for International Economic Studies (IIES), Stockholm University presented the first paper on "Mechanisms of Participatory Development: Fairness Norms and Value of Participation". The second paper on "Female Leadership in the Bangladeshi Garment Industry: Views from RMG Productivity Projects" was presented by Dr. Atonu Rabbani, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka. The designated discussants of the session- Ms. Anna Minj, Director, Community Empowerment, BRAC Integrated Development, BRAC Gender Justice & Diversity, BRAC and Dr. Sayema Haque Bidisha, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka and Research Director, SANEM discussed on the two papers, followed by an interactive open discussion.

SANEM-BIGD Organized Session Reflections on Citizens' Engagement in Development Processes



SANEM-BIGD round-table discussion on "Reflections on Citizens' Engagement in Development Processes in Bangladesh" was held on the second day of 3rd SAEC. The session was chaired by Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Executive Director, BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University and Country Director, International Growth Centre (IGC), Bangladesh. In the session, Dr. Mirza M. Hassan, BRAC Institute of Governance and Development, BRAC University, Dhaka made a presentation on "Institutionalizing Deliberative Democracy in a Patron Clientelistic Setting". Professor Rounaq Jahan, Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka; Dr. Kazi Maruful Islam, Professor, Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka; Ms. Syeda Salina Aziz, Senior Research Associate, BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University, Dhaka; and Mr. Sultan M. Zakaria, Senior Research Associate, BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University, Dhaka were the distinguished panelists for this session. The session concluded with a lively open discussion and remarks from the chair.

A Session For Budding Researchers



SANEM arranged a special session for the budding researchers on the first day of 3rd SAEC. The session followed a panel discussion format and showcased seven students Ms. Avinno Faruk, Ms. Tamanna Tabassum, Mr. Wasik Sajid Khan, Ms. Semab Rahman, Ms. Farhana Kabir, Mr. Md. Raied Arman and Ms. Ayesha Ahmed from Department of Economics, University of Dhaka. Each of them discussed their respective papers, which they had previously presented at the 14th (South Asian Economics Students' Meet (SAESM) earlier this year, regarding various aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals. The session was chaired by Dr. Selim Raihan, Executive Director, SANEM and Dr. Martin Rama, Chief Economist, South Asia, The World Bank graced the occasion with his presence.

Special Lectures

Growth Out of the Blue: Nightlight and Economic Activity



Dr. Martin Rama

Dr. Martin Rama, Chief Economist, South Asia, The World Bank conducted a special lecture titled Growth Out of the Blue: Nightlight and Economic Activity. The lecture was dedicated to how nightlight and economic activities surrounding cities generate economic growth. Dr. Rama used the data of eight SAARC countries and showed that GDP levels and nightlight intensity are correlated and particularly stronger for poorer countries. Nightlight intensity shows weak relationship with GDP levels in countries where power infrastructure is limited. Dr. Rama claimed that nightlight intensity to GDP levels is strong in the manufacturing and service sector but weak for the agricultural sector. Moreover, relationship between GDP growth rates and nightlight intensity are stronger in South Asia than any other parts of the world. Dr. Rama asserted that nightlight can also be used to predict GDP. Dr. Rama related nightlight to some of the recent incidences in South Asia. For Nepal, trade disruption has greater impact on economic activities than earthquakes. The deadly attack on Kunduz had a much larger lasting impact on nightlight intensity.

Human Development for Everyone



Dr. Selim Jahan

Dr. Selim Jahan, Director, Human Development Report Office, UNDP delivered a speech on Human Development for Everyone. Globally there are impressive achievements in the context of human development but the progress has been accompanied by severe deprivations; some are lingering- like poverty, deepening- like inequalities and emerging- like climate change. Over the years, there has been systematic and systemic biases against specific groups, certain countries and regions and as a result they have been pushed further from the center of development debate, policies and outcomes. Human development surrounds around individual choice. However, the issue of collective choice is more important for marginalized people. Human development has to move from quantitative to qualitative wellbeing. Dr. Jahan discusses that disaggregated data will show the clear picture of reality and national averages should be unbundled. Without ensuring quality, human development will not be uniform. He recommended overall comprehensive policies, specific targeted policies, capacity of the institutions to formulate, implement and monitor the policies and finally reforms in the governance structure.

SANEM-ESID Organized Session

A South Asian Panel Discussion in Memory of Dr. Saman Kelegama



The SANEM-ESID organized panel discussion session on "Institutions, Governance and Trade in the Context of Emerging Global and Regional Challenges" was dedicated to the memory of Dr. Saman Kelegama. Professor Rehman Sobhan, Chairman, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) graced the session as chief guest and Ambassador M Shahidul Islam, Secretary General, Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) was present as the special guest. Dr. Selim Raihan, Executive Director, SANEM gave the trigger presentation and moderated the session. The panel of discussants exhibited some of the brilliant minds of South Asia: Professor Kunal Sen, Global Development Institute, University of Manchester, United Kingdom; Dr. Dushni Weerakoon, Executive Director, Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Sri Lanka; Professor Mustafizur Rahman, Distinguished Fellow, Center for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka; Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Pakistan (through skype); Dr. Posh Raj Pandey, Chairman, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Nepal and Dr. Prabir De, Professor, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), India. The session explored South Asia's position in the global value chain, political security and relationships between countries and institutions, challenges towards an integrated market and the necessity of permanent dispute management bodies in the region. Ambassador M Shahidul Islam mentioned the need for an integrated capital and labor market, alongside remembering Dr. Kelegama for his contribution in Sri Lanka's trade facilitation. Prof. Sobhan stated that appropriate structural symmetry between trading partners is crucial to creating successful value chain. He also stressed on the urgency of exporting services instead of exporting independent vulnerable people by creating large institutions.

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SANEM-MCCI Organized Session

Reforms Need to Facilitate Private Sector Engagement for SDG Achievement



SANEM-MCCI organized session on "Reforms Need to Facilitate Private Sector Engagement for SDG Achievement in Bangladesh" was held on the second day of 3rd SAEC. The session was chaired by Dr. Debapriya Bhattacharya, Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), and Dr. Ahsan H. Mansur, Executive Director, Policy Research Institute (PRI) made the keynote presentation on "SDGs: Growth, Jobs and Sustainable Industrialization". The distinguished panelists of the session included Mr. Habibullah N. Karim, MCCI Board Member and Managing Director, Technohaven Company Limited; Mr. Asif Ibrahim, Vice Chairman, New Age Garments Limited; Ms. Farzana Chowdhury, Managing Director, Green Delta Insurance Limited and Dr. M. Masrur Reaz, Senior Economist and Program Manager, Finance, Competitiveness, Innovation Global Practice, World Bank Group. The audience and panelists engaged in a lively open discussion.

SANEM-DECCMA Organized Session

Climate Change, Migration & Adaptation Challenges and Way Forward



SANEM-DECCMA organized session on "Climate Change, Migration and Adaptation Challenges and Way Forward for Bangladesh" was held in the afternoon of day 2 of 3rd SAEC. Dr. Mashfiqus Salehin, Professor, Institute of Water and Flood Management (IWFM), Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), and Co-PI, DECCMA Project Bangladesh chaired the session. Dr. Salehin along with Dr. Bazlul Haque Khondker, Chairman, SANEM and Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka and Mr. Zubayer Hossen, Senior Research Associate, SANEM, made presentations during the session. The distinguished panelists for the session were Dr. Anwara Begum, Senior Research Fellow, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) and Mr. Saiful Alam, Research into Use Officer, DECCMA, Bangladesh. The session concluded with an open discussion.

Snapshots of 3rd SAEC-2018

