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SANEM
Thinking Aloud

Editor's Desk

This August, 2018 issue of Thinking Aloud focuses on "Emerging challenges in the global trade regime". The first article on "Can the world afford a full-scale trade war?" presents an analysis using the GTAP model, where a scenario of a large scale trade war between the USA and China would result in export losses for all major economies in the world. The largest loss in exports would be for China as its exports would decline by 2.7%, which is equivalent to US$ 61 billion. In the case of the USA, the export loss would be 2%, which is equivalent to US$ 31 billion. Four major economies in South Asia, i.e. Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, would also experience a decline in exports. The article highlights the necessity to reemphasize the importance of a rules-based global trade regime and re-energize the WTO. The second page article titled "Is trade policy in South Asia in the right direction?" highlights the need for re-thinking in the trade policies in the South Asian countries in three major areas. First, the effort for further trade liberalization needs to be continued with the aim of effective integration with the regional and global value chains. Second, the trade policy needs to present an action plan to deal with the non-tariff barriers, trade facilitation and supply side issues both at home and in export destination countries. And, third, the trade policy needs to be pro-active to effectively engage with multilateral, regional and bilateral trading arrangements. The third page contains two articles focusing on the trade scenario in Bangladesh and the global context. The article titled "Overwhelming concentration of the export basket in Bangladesh" argues that in the context of rising export concentration in Bangladesh, appropriate sector-specific policy support should be provided for the export-oriented sectors with potential for greater export diversification, specially agro-processing, leather and footwear, electronics, pharmaceuticals, and ICT sectors. The article titled "WTO in the new trade policy crisis" highlights that the escalation of trade tensions would have damaging knock-on effects in today's interconnected economy which would reach every economy and it would not spare the LDCs. The final page draws attention to the events that took place in the month of July.

Inside this issue

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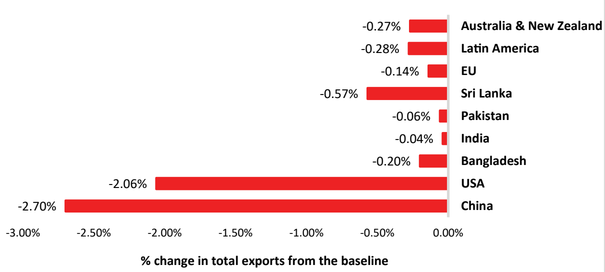
Can the world afford a full-scale trade war?

Selim Raihan

The idea of globalization and free trade has gained prominence in the world over the past there decades. Despite some limitations, globalization and free trade regime are seen as beneficial for economic development, poverty reduction, and enhanced integration among countries. Recently, with the emergence of the trade war between the USA and its lead trading partners, especially China, the question appears whether globalization has started walking in the opposite direction. It is true that until very recently nobody had anticipated such an unprecedented trade war. After the formation of the GATT in 1948 and eventually with the emergence of the WTO in 1995, trade agreements and rules have prevented such trade war. It is also important to mention that WTO rules have compelled even powerful countries to honor international agreements on trade rules. Needless to say that such trade war is not consistent with the global development initiatives, such as the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

What would be the effect of the trade war between the USA and its lead trading partners in the global market? The effect depends on how long this trade war will last and how intense it can be. Its effect can be both short and medium to long-term. In the short-term, due to the imposition of substantial additional tariffs by the USA on imports from its lead trading partners and vice versa will significantly affect the volume of bilateral trade between the USA and its lead trading partners, especially China. This may lead to a rise in exports from some countries to the USA, as the USA would then seek cheaper imports from those countries. If this trade war continues in the medium to long-term and intensifies, as more countries get involved, there is a high risk of a global economic recession as the trade war would affect consumer demand in the major economies of the world, especially in North America and European Union.

Impact of trade war between USA and China on exports of countries



Source: GTAP model simulation

In order to explore the effects of a large scale trade war between the USA and China, we have simulated a scenario using the global general equilibrium model, namely the GTAP model. This scenario considers a targeted 10% tariff on USA's imports from China and a targeted 25% tariff on China's import from the USA. The simulation results related to changes in exports of countries are reported in the figure. The simulation results show that all major economies in the world would suffer export losses. The largest loss in exports would be for China as its exports would decline by 2.7%, which is equivalent to US$ 61 billion. In the case of the USA, the export loss would be 2%, which is equivalent to US$ 31 billion. EU's export loss would be 0.14%, which is equal to US$ 27 billion. Four major economies in South Asia would also experience a decline in exports. Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka would encounter loss in their exports by 0.2%, 0.04%, 0.06% and 0.57%, which are equivalent to US$ 72 million, US$ 120 million, US$ 13 million and US$ 63 million respectively. It can be mentioned here that the sizes of the aforementioned losses can be escalated as more countries are engaged in an intensified trade war. All these might contribute to a prolonged global recession, which is not conducive for the attainment of SDGs by 2030.

It is, however, important to note that the length and depth of the trade war are yet to be clear, which is creating a lot of uncertainties in the global trade regime. An uncertain trade regime is not conducive to developing countries like Bangladesh who have become trade-dependent over the years. When the global trade regime is guided by some rules and principles, as those rules and principles have been achieved over the past six decades through the GATT and WTO processes, all countries in general and developing countries, in particular, are benefited from those rules and principles. However, with the escalation of the on-going unprecedented trade war, the effectiveness of those rules and principles are at stake now. In particular, the role of WTO is now fatally undermined, which can lead us to an uncertain global trade regime. If the USA pulls out itself from the WTO, the global trade regime will probably face the biggest challenge after the Second World War.

During the trade war, some other parallel scenarios can emerge too. For example, since Chinese exports to the USA's market are facing escalated tariffs, Chinese firms may consider relocating their factories to other countries to avoid the additional tariff burden. This may lead to soared foreign direct investment (FDI) from China to other developing countries. The major contenders of this FDI would be countries from South Asia and Southeast Asia. However, much of the success in attracting those Chinese FDI would depend on the status of the domestic business environment, infrastructural constraints, and several political economy issues which include quality of intuitions in the host country and geopolitical relations the host country has with China and other neighboring countries.

Another worrying scenario could emerge if the USA, as it imposes additional tariffs on imports from China based on the logic of a huge negative trade imbalance, also imposes additional tariffs on imports from developing countries like Bangladesh based on the similar logic. This will certainly have a shocking effect on those developing countries' exports to the USA.

The world cannot afford a full-scale trade war. It is now essential to reemphasize the importance of a rules-based global trade regime. The need for re-energizing the WTO is much more than ever under the emerging challenges and complexities in the global trading regime.

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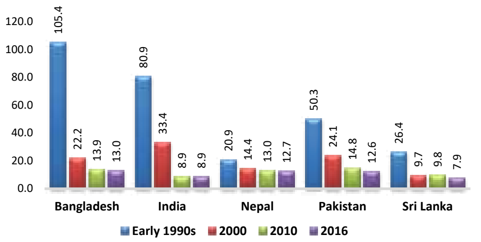
Is trade policy in South Asia in the right direction?

Selim Raihan and Sunera Saba Khan

Trade policies comprise of the standards, goals, rules, and regulations which guide trade relations among countries. Trade policies involve taxes imposed on import and export, inspection regulations, and different non-tariff issues. Trade brings the efficiency of the global economy by ensuring different economies specialize in areas of their relative strengths, instead of producing all goods. Trade is also argued to be a means for ensuring sustainable and inclusive development. Trade liberalization, in general, is argued to have positive effects on economic growth. Trade liberalization may boost technical progress which, in turn, may enhance long-run growth prospects. Technical progress can be achieved through a rise in capital goods imports, improvements in the transfer of technology, and increased foreign direct investment. However, there are now strong arguments that trade liberalization is effective in boosting economic growth when it comes hand in hand with other complementary policies directed towards the financing of new investment and raising the quality of institutions.

Most of the South Asian countries followed inward-looking trade policies during the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s. The inward-looking trade policies aimed at protecting domestic industries through import-substitution strategies with the hope of rapid industrialization, growth and job creation. Export controls, tariffs and quantitative restrictions (QRs) on

Figure 1: Evolution of average applied tariff rate in South Asia (%)



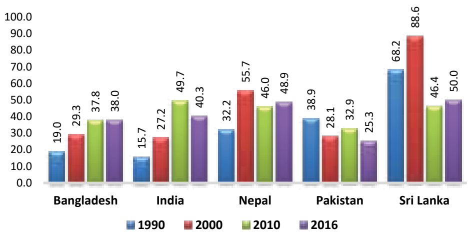
Data from World Bank

imports, and overvalued exchange rates were put in place. Since the late 1980s, most of the countries in South Asia had embarked on employing different trade policy reforms, though Sri Lanka was the exception who set sail for it in the late 1970s. Figure 1 presents the evolution of the average tariff rate in South Asia since the early 1990s to 2016. Among the South Asian countries, during the early 1990s, Bangladesh had the highest average tariff rate of more than 100%, followed by India's average tariff rate of over 80%. During that time, the lowest average tariff was of Nepal's (around 21%). Pakistan's and Sri Lanka's average tariff rates were 50% and 26.4% respectively. In 2016, Sri Lanka had the lowest average tariff rate of 7.9% followed by India's 8.9%. The corresponding figures for Bangladesh, Nepal, and Pakistan in 2016 were 13%, 12.7%, and 12.6%. In general, it seems that despite a rapid reduction in tariff rates during the 1990s, the pace of tariff liberalization slowed down quite significantly in all these countries over the past one decade or so.

Figure 2 illustrates the evolution of trade orientation (trade GDP ratio) of five South Asian countries over the period between 1990 and 2016. Both in 1990 and 2016, Sri Lanka had the highest trade-GDP ratio among the five countries. However, in general, Bangladesh is the only country in South Asia who has been able to consistently raise the trade-GDP ratio since 1990, whereas all other South Asian countries experienced significant fluctuations. In 2016, Sri Lanka had the highest trade-GDP ratio of 50% followed by Nepal's 48.9%. In contrast, Pakistan had the lowest trade-GDP ratio of 25.3%. India's and Bangladesh's trade-GDP ratios in 2016 were 40.3% and 38% respectively.

However, one major concern is that, in recent years, most of the South Asian countries have been experiencing a falling trade-GDP ratio (Figure 3). Especially, for Bangladesh and India, the fall in trade-GDP ratio has been much sharper than other countries. It is

Figure 2: Evolution of trade-GDP ratio in South Asia (%)



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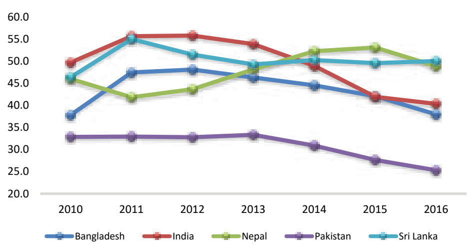
important to mention here that, given the on-going crisis in the global trade regime, associated with the escalated trade war between USA and China, the risk of a forthcoming depressed global trade regime is high, which can further affect South Asian countries trade-orientation in the days to come.

We have explored the economy-wide effects of unilateral trade liberalization in five South Asian countries (Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) using Social Accounting Matrices (SAM) and the Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) models of these countries. The CGE framework captures the impact of unilateral trade liberalization on macro-economy, trade, employment and household welfare in the selected countries by tracing the price effects of exogenous shocks, where the variations in prices lead to the re-allocation of resources among competing activities, which may alter the factorial income and, hence, the distribution of household income. The macroeconomic effects of the tariff liberalization simulation for the five South Asian countries suggest (Table 1) that the price of imports in local currency falls by larger margins in Bangladesh and Nepal. Bangladesh experiences the largest rise in total demand for imports followed by India. Total domestic demand increases most in Bangladesh, followed by Pakistan. The average cost of domestic production increases in all countries due to the rise in primary factor costs. India has the highest rise in nominal return to capital, followed by Bangladesh. The real exchange rate depreciates in all countries with the largest depreciation in Bangladesh. The real exchange rate depreciation makes exports more competitive in the world market. Hence, exports expand and the largest positive effect on exports is found in Bangladesh. Higher exports pull up economy-wide gross production for all five countries with the largest positive effect on Bangladesh. The largest positive effect on real GDP is seen for Bangladesh and the least for Sri Lanka. Also, the largest positive effect on employment is observed for Bangladesh.

Figure 3: Trade-GDP ratio (%) in South Asia since 2010



Data from World Bank

It should, however, be mentioned that the aforementioned gains of trade liberalization, as reported by the CGE model simulations, can be substantially undermined by a number of supply-side and institutional constraints in the South Asian countries. These constraints are directly associated with the domestic production and investment environment and include weak physical infrastructure, access to finance, inefficient ports, high transport costs, shortage of skilled workers, technological bottlenecks, and high costs of doing business. Furthermore, domestic capacities of the exporters in most of the South Asian countries, need to be improved to meet different international standard requirements in the form of non-tariff measures. This is important to diversify exports and become competitive in the regional and international markets.

Despite a strong demand for a deeper regional integration in South Asia, progress has been slow. The implementation of agreements often does not match the declared ambitions, and in this context, tariff and non-tariff barriers, lack of political will and leadership, institutional weaknesses and low capacity, and resource constraints have been argued to be the major impeding factors. Non-tariff barriers and associated procedural obstacles are exacerbated further by lack of trade facilitation and cumbersome customs procedures at the land border ports. The largest export market in South Asia is the Indian market, followed by Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. However, while India has already provided almost full duty-free, quota-free market access to exports from South Asian least developed countries (LDCs), Bangladesh, Nepal, and Bhutan are facing escalating challenges to secure and increase their exports to India. These challenges are related to their limited export capacities, lack of diversification of their export baskets, and various non-tariff barriers and procedural obstacles they face both at home and in the Indian market. To address these challenges related to tariff and non-tariff barriers and

Table 1: Macro-economic effects of trade liberalization in South Asia (% change from base)

	Bangladesh	India	Nepal	Pakistan	Sri Lanka
Import price	-4.43	-0.09	-4.70	-3.27	-0.81
Exchange rate	8.51	8.29	4.21	3.51	1.94
Domestic production cost	0.58	0.54	0.24	0.10	0.24
Primary factor costs	1.80	1.64	1.65	0.91	0.70
Exports supply	13.07	8.38	5.46	3.58	1.65
Import demand	8.87	4.63	4.09	4.58	2.04
Real GDP	1.44	1.29	0.41	0.65	0.21
Domestic demand	2.43	1.53	1.59	0.62	0.36
Gross production	3.36	2.37	1.90	0.78	0.61
Aggregate employment	6.16	4.83	4.81	2.22	1.45

Source: CGE simulations for Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka

lack of trade facilitation in South Asia, there is a need to re-orient the trade policies of the South Asian countries. Deeper regional integration in South Asia also requires clear and visible leadership from the political elites in the region, especially from India, to move the regional integration agenda forward.

One important drawback of trade policies of most of the South Asian countries is the failure to promote trade and foreign direct investment (FDI) nexus. Promotion of intra-regional investments and attracting extra-regional FDI in the goods and services sectors in general, and energy and infrastructural sectors in particular, should be closely linked to the trade policies. Failure to do so results in the weak integration of South Asian countries in the regional and global value-chains.

In sum, given the emerging challenges and complexities in the global trading regime, there is a need for re-thinking in the trade policies in the South Asian countries. Three major areas need to be focused on. First, the effort for further trade liberalization needs to be continued with the aim of effective integration with the regional and global value chains. Second, the trade policy needs to present an action plan to deal with the non-tariff barriers, trade facilitation and supply side issues both at home and in export destination countries. And, third, the trade policy needs to be pro-active to effectively engage with multilateral, regional and bilateral trading arrangements.

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Overwhelming concentration of the export basket in Bangladesh

Iffat Anjum

Although export has been one of the key growth drivers of Bangladesh, the contribution of export to GDP has exhibited a declining trend over the past few years. The export-GDP ratio reached its peak in FY2011-12 at 20.16%, and has been declining since then. The export of goods and services as percentage of GDP was 19.54% in FY2012-13, which declined to 18.99% in FY2013-14 and further to 17.34% in FY2014-15. In the last fiscal year (FY2016-17), export-GDP ratio went down to 15.04%, which was 1.61 percentage-points lower than that in FY2015-16. This declining trend is thought to continue in the current fiscal year, with a provisional estimate of 14.36% of GDP attributed to export. Although export growth continued at an annual average rate of 7% during FY13-17, the gradual decline in the contribution of export to GDP indicates the weakening of this key driver of growth.

The growth of exports of 1.7% in FY2016-17 was the lowest since FY2001-02. However, during the July-May period of current fiscal year, total exports rose to US$ 33.72 billion, registering a 6.66% growth rate over the same period of previous fiscal year. In this context, RMG exports grew by 9.77% earning US$ 28.12 billion, with export of knitwear and woven garments experiencing growth of 11.48% and 8.15% respectively. Also, agricultural products export earnings was US$ 609.01 million, which was 18.09% higher than that in the previous fiscal year. Pharmaceuticals sector, jute and jute goods, and bicycle sectors also exhibited positive growth. On the other hand, export earnings from leather, leather goods and footwear was US$ 999.07 million, which was 11.08% lower than that in the previous fiscal year. Exports of frozen and live fish stood at US$ 465.32 million, marking a 1.59% negative growth over this period.

The export trend in past few years points out the rising dominance of the RMG in the export basket of the country while the export share of non-RMG products have continued to decline. Lack of export diversification is one of the major challenges of Bangladesh economy. Bangladesh's export has remained largely concentrated in the labor-intensive garments sector for the past few decades. Before the emergence of the RMG sector, jute and jute products dominated the export sector occupying around 70% share during the 1970s and early 1980s. With the rapid expansion of the RMG exports, in the early 1990's, more than 50% of the country's total export comprised of RMG exports. Within a decade, by the late 1990's, the percentage share of RMG export in total export rose to more than 75%. This trend continued and by FY2016-17, the share of RMG in total exports rose to 81.23%. This overwhelming dominance of the RMG sector in the export basket illustrates the mounting concentration of the export basket.

It is also important to mention that the gap between the growth rate of RMG export and non-RMG export has been on the rise over the past one decade. Between FY2007-08 and FY2016-17, the annual average growth rate of RMG exports was 11.6% against only 6.5% export growth of non-RMG, indicating that the export concentration is in fact intensifying.

The major reasons behind the slow growth of non-RMG exports are the weak policy support and several supply-side bottlenecks. A study on "Bangladesh Sectoral Growth Diagnostic" by Raihan et al (2016) suggested that, apart from RMG, the manufacturing sub-sectors with potential for greater export diversification are agro-processing, leather and footwear, electronics, pharmaceuticals, and ICT. Both the agro-processing and leather sectors have the scopes for high domestic value addition and the potential for generating large employment opportunities. However, problems in market access, inadequate infrastructure, lack of access to finance, lack of skilled labor, institutional inefficiency, lack of supportive govt. policies, and high cost of doing business act as constraints for expansion of these sectors. In addition, the slow progress of the relocation of the tanneries from Hazaribagh to Savar, followed by the inability to start production quickly after relocation have contributed to the sluggish growth of leather sector. The health and environmental hazards associated with the production of leather and leather goods also appear as one of the major constraints for leather sector's growth. The electronics, pharmaceuticals and ICT sectors also have their own sector specific challenges. Appropriate sector specific policy support is therefore needed to address the challenges in these potential export-oriented sectors. Moreover, to achieve momentum in export growth, private sector investment needs to be increased. Sluggish private sector investment during the past decade at around 21-22% of GDP has also been contributing to the slow growth of the aforementioned sectors. In order to attract greater private sector investment and foreign direct investment for the growth of export-oriented non-RMG sectors, policy attention is needed to reduce the high cost of doing business.

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WTO in the new trade policy crisis

Md. Jahid Ebn Jalal

World Trade Organization (WTO) started its journey in 1995 to promote free trade by lowering tariffs and other barriers. It has been doing this through agreements negotiated and signed by most of the world's trading nations. The WTO then polices these agreements to make sure all nations stick to the rules. Recently WTO has published the monitoring report on trade-related developments which reveals a number of important trends in the global trade policy making. While the members of the WTO continue to implement the trade-facilitating measures, the more worrying trend in this period appears in the form of increased trade-restrictions.

The monitoring report, 2018 of WTO shows that during the review period (mid-October 2017 to mid-May 2018), WTO members applied 75 new trade-restrictive measures, including tariff increases, quantitative restrictions, imposition of import taxes and stricter customs regulations, amounting to a monthly average of almost 11 new measures per month. This is higher than the average of nine measures recorded in the previous period. Also, a total of 39 new trade-restrictive measures were applied by G20 economies during the review period. This equates to an average of almost six restrictive measures per month, which is significantly higher than the three measures recorded during the previous review period.

Therefore the deterioration in trade relations is going to be worse with an imminent threat of global trade war. Regardless of warnings by the economists, the USA and China have fired the largest trade war in history. In March 2018, US President Donald Trump signed two proclamations that levied 25 percent tariff on steel and 10 percent tariff on aluminium imported from all countries except Canada and Mexico. The decision of USA affects the export of these products and the global trade. The USA has further imposed tariffs on a number of products and raw materials from countries like Canada, Mexico, the European Union and Japan. In response to the additional duties imposed by the USA, five WTO members Canada, China, the European Union, Mexico and Turkey imposed additional duties on imports of certain US products which ultimately resulted an economic conflicts.

Experts have already mentioned that this trade war will have an impact on US consumers and companies as well as the global trade. Du Wanhua, Deputy Director of an advisory committee to the Supreme People's Court of China said that if the USA imposes tariffs on Chinese imports following an order of $60 billion, $200 billion, or even $500 billion, many Chinese companies will go bankrupt.

By this time, India, Switzerland, and Russia has requested World Trade Organization dispute consultations with the USA regarding US duties on certain imported steel and aluminium products. Russia claims the US duties of 25 percent and 10 percent on imports of steel and aluminium products respectively are inconsistent with provisions of the WTO's General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994 and the Agreement on Safeguards. Conversely, The United States has requested WTO dispute consultations with the five WTO members regarding additional duties imposed on imports of certain US products. USA President Donald Trump claims that the WTO body is biased against the USA and is facing a growing serious crisis.

In a meeting of the full WTO membership on July 24 2018, Director General Roberto Azevêdo outlined the economic and systemic threats posed by the growing tensions in global trade and called on "everyone who believes in trade as a force for good" to speak up in its defence. The Director General of WTO thinks the situation requires an urgent response and WTO have been consulting with members on these issues and to alert people to the potential risks and consequences. The director-General of WTO have been meeting with leaders and ministers – urging dialogue and exploring steps to resolve the current situation.

If the trade policy environment is aligned to the aforementioned scenario, the world will be facing not only the obvious economic risks, but also major systemic risks. Addressing a meeting of the LDCs Group on June 28 2018, Director General of WTO said that the escalation of trade tensions will have damaging knock-on effects in today's interconnected economy which would reach every economy and it would not spare LDCs. Moreover, he added that the potential threats to the future of the trading system should be a concern for all and continued escalation would risk a major economic impact, which would pose a serious threat to jobs, growth and overall macroeconomic context. Realizing the jeopardy of the situation, all the members of WTO should come to the table and work to resolve these issues with great urgency.

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Thinking Aloud

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4th SANEM Annual Economists' Conference (SAEC) 2019 "Governing New Challenges: Inclusive Development, Trade, and Finance" February 16-17, 2019, BRAC Centre Inn, Mohakhali, Dhaka

SANEM invites its competitive call for papers and participation for the 4th SANEM Annual Economists' Conference (SAEC) 2019 on "Governing New Challenges: Inclusive Development, Trade, and Finance".

SANEM aims to promote quality economic research among academicians, researchers, policy advocates, students and young aspiring economists.

Themes:

Papers should be relevant to any of the following categories:

- Emerging global challenges in inclusive development
- Making trade an engine of inclusive growth
- Challenges of financing inclusive development
- Structural transformation in the developing countries
- Challenges for industrialization
- Labor market and employment challenges
- Macroeconomic policies
- Social policies
- Poverty, inequality
- Environment and climate change

It is expected that the paper will have some relevance to South Asia and/or Bangladesh. The paper should be submitted following the format provided below. Any reproduction/extension of the previous study is eligible for submission. However, in the case of pre-published papers, consent of the publishers should be provided.

Important Dates:

- Last date for abstract submission : 15 August, 2018
- Selection of abstracts : 30 August, 2018
- Last date of first draft submission : 30 November, 2018
- Feedback by SANEM : 31 December, 2018
- Revised/final paper submission : 31 January, 2019
- Power-point presentation submission : 10 February, 2019
- Conference : 16-17 February, 2019

Submission of the Abstract:

The abstract with an updated CV should be sent to sanem.conference@gmail.com

Eligibility for Paper Submission:

- People engaged in academics/economic research/policy advocacy with an educational background in economics or related fields.
- Masters/4th year students majoring in economics or related fields.

Funding:

Small partial funding is available for selected paper presenters from outside of Bangladesh.

SANEM encourages young researchers and students to submit their papers. There will be a separate session for the students/young researchers in this conference.

Application for Registration for Conference Participation:

Interested participants are requested to apply for registration. The application form can be downloaded from http://sanemnet.org or by emailing at sanem.conference@gmail.com

The last date to register: 31 January, 2019

No registration fee is required for the participation in the conference.

e-version: http://sanemnet.org/thinking-aloud/

Tariff Commission Training

The training program for Bangladesh Tariff Commission officials on Trade Policy, Research Techniques and Analysis has been designed in 3 modules, spread over in 3 months. This first module of the program was held from 10-12 July and 15-16 July, 2018 at the Meeting Room of SANEM office. The second module was held from 22-26 July, 2018 and the final module of the workshop will be held from 29-30 August and 2-3 September, 2018. The training program will equip the participants with a compact knowledge on international trade, research techniques to formulate trade policies and conduct empirical trade policy analysis. In this regard, recent trade issues and modern theoretical frameworks have been discussed and the participants have also been introduced to Gravity model analysis, SMART and CGE modeling.

Media Dialogue on Inclusive Growth in Bangladesh

Media Dialogue on Inclusive Growth in Bangladesh was held on Wednesday, July 25, 2018 at the National Press Club Conference Room, Dhaka. Dr. Selim Raihan, Executive Director, SANEM and Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka was a discussant at this event. The program was organized by The Economic Dialogue on Inclusive Growth (EDIG) project, EDIG is a DFID-funded project which is being implemented by the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) and The Asia Foundation. EDIG shared its findings on inclusive growth at this dialogue program.

UNCTAD/ESCAP- ARTNeT Capacity Building Workshop

UNCTAD/ESCAP- ARTNeT Capacity Building Workshop on "Non-Tariff Measures: economic assessment and policy options for development" was held at UNESCAP in Bangkok, Thailand on July 3–6, 2018. Mr. Zubayer Hossen, Senior Research Associate, SANEM participated in this workshop. In the first two days, the workshop provided participants with a better understanding of the evolving role of NTMs in international trade. Next, the workshop provided an overview of the methods for assessing the implications of NTMs. The workshop also presented a number of case studies that analyze the implications of various forms of NTMs for developing countries' trade. The participants were also introduced to R and learned how to use it to analyze NTMs, and their impact on trade and trade costs. On the final day, participants used World Bank's SMART modelling tool to conduct partial equilibrium analysis.

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SANEM is a non-profit research organization registered with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms in Bangladesh. Launched in January 2007 in Dhaka, it is a network of economists and policy makers in South Asia with a special emphasis on economic modeling. The organization seeks to produce objective, high quality, country- and South Asian region-specific policy and thematic research. SANEM contributes in governments' policy-making by providing research supports both at individual and organizational capacities. SANEM has maintained strong research collaboration with global, regional and local think-tanks, research and development organizations, universities and individual researchers.

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