SAARC CCI 77th Executive Committee Meeting and 23rd General Assembly Meeting

2-5 May, 2019, Kathmandu, Nepal
Pakistan to participate in SAARC CCI 3-day 77th EC meeting

ISLAMABAD, Apr 26 (APP): Pakistan will participate in 3-day SAARC chamber 77th Executive Committee and 23rd GA Meetings schedule to be held on May 2 in Kathmandu to materialize the vision of 2030 in regard of transforming SAARC chamber into one of the best chambers across the globe.

Talking to media on Friday, SAARC CCI Senior Vice President Iftikhar Ali Malik said policy guidelines and recommendations will be chalked out to give impetus to private sector for enhancing business cooperation in South Asian region,” says a press release issued here today.

“It will also facilitate the leadership to discuss the weaknesses and challenges facing SAARC and SAARC CCI and discuss a way forward,” adding he said the workshop will pave the way forward for executing vision 2018-2019 in an effective manner.

https://www.app.com.pk/pakistan-to-participate-in-saarc-cci-3-day-77th-ec-meeting/
Series of SAARC CCI meetings successfully concluded in Kathmandu

The 77th Executive Committee (EC) Meeting and 23rd General Assembly (GA) Meeting of SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) were successfully held on 2 May at Chandragiri Hills, Kathmandu, Nepal. The meetings were organised by the SAARC CCI in collaboration with Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI).

The 77th EC and 23rd GA Meetings were chaired by SAARC CCI President Ruwan Edirisinghe. The EC and GA members from South Asian countries gathered in Nepal to take significant decisions in terms of taking SAARC CCI into new heights. Eminent business leaders from Afghanistan, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka actively took part at the meetings scheduled in Kathmandu from 2 to 4 May.

Nepal Federal Parliament House of Representatives Speaker Krishna Bahadur Mahara was invited as the chief guest at the inaugural session of 77th EC and 23rd GA Meetings of SAARC CCI.

Executive Committee (EC), GA Meetings Of SAARC Chamber Of Commerce And Industry (SCCI) Conclude

The 77th Executive Committee (EC) Meeting and 23rd General Assembly (GA) Meeting of SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) concluded successfully at Chandragiri Hills, Kathmandu, Nepal.

ISLAMABAD, May 9 (UrduPoint / Pakistan Point News - APP - 9th May, 2019 ) : The 77th Executive Committee (EC) Meeting and 23rd General Assembly (GA) Meeting of SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) concluded successfully at Chandragiri Hills, Kathmandu, Nepal.

The meetings were organized by the SCCI in collaboration with Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI), a SCCI press release Thursday said.

The 77th EC and 23rd GA Meetings were chaired by President of SAARC CCI Ruwan Edirisinghe and were participated by representative members from South Asian countries including eminent business leaders from Afghanistan, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Speaking on the occasion, Ruwan advocated that the main aim of the organization was to improve intra-trade in the SAARC region, connectivity and socioeconomic cooperation for the benefit of people in South Asia.

"We are a private sector organization and all of us should understand that we represent private sector, so that we should not go behind political agendas which give numerous drawbacks to our organization," he said adding it was their duty to represent SAARC countries for the benefit of economic integration and to sustain the economic growth in the region.

Senior Vice President of SAARC CCI, Iftikhar Ali Malik, shared his views on behalf of Pakistan delegation and reinforced the commitment of Pakistan business community to the process of economic integration in South Asia.

Private sector urges SAARC nations to invest in Nepal

May 4, 2019

The country’s private sector on Thursday urged the business fraternity from SAARC member nations to invest in Nepal, saying that the government has adopted lenient policies to boost investment in the country.

They came up with the call during 77th executive meeting and 23rd general assembly of SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry that kicked off in Kathmandu. The three day general assembly will discuss various challenges faced by the SAARC region to achieve economic growth.

Speaking at the programme, Chandi Raj Dhakal, vice president of SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, urged the private sectors of the region to invest in various potential sectors of Nepal including cement, agriculture and education.

"With the government considering ways to welcome foreign direct investment with the amendment of investment and trade related policies, it is the right time for investors to ensure high rate of return," Dhakal said.

Last month, the government conducted the third edition of Nepal Investment Summit to attract foreign investment. The government has introduced three vital legislations—foreign Investment and Technology Transfer Act, Public-Private Partnership and Investment Act, and Special Economic Zone Act for the purpose. Similarly, it is in process of revising the Intellectual Property Act.

Bhawani Rana, president of Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry said SAARC countries have to step forward to cater to the high potential of natural resources and youth manpower. "The optimum use of these resources can contribute in achieving economic growth and prosperity in the region," said Rana.

Prime Minister Oli Calls On SAARC Business Community To Invest In Nepal

KATHMANDU: Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli has called on SAARC region investors to confidently invest in Nepal as the country offered an investment-friendly atmosphere.

During his meeting today with a delegation from the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the central capital today, the Prime Minister said the government had built a favourable atmosphere for direct foreign investment in the country. The meeting was held at the Prime Minister’s official residence Baluwatar. The delegation is in Kathmandu in course of taking part in the Chamber’s 77th meeting.

There is a guarantee of security of foreign investment and provision to take profits back to home, he apprised the delegation, adding that the private sector had always been motivated to make a headway towards industrial elevation. Underlining the need of accepting economic development and progress as the common agenda by the entire South Asian countries, the prime minister interpreted the present time as an appropriate time for toiling for prosperity in the entire region.

“Arable land, availability of abundant natural resources and energetic youth population are favourable conditions for advancing towards the property,” he said, insisting on the need of cooperation and partnership among the SAARC region for the achievement of common goals and objectives.

He apprised the delegation that good governance and development were the top priorities of the present government, adding that there was no alternative to clearing obstacles such as political instability and lack of peace to prosperity.

PM Oli took time to denounce the recent terrorist several attacks in Sri Lanka, citing that there was no word to criticize...
KATHMANDU, May 3: The 77th meeting of the executive committee and 23rd general assembly of SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SAARC CCI) has kicked off in Kathmandu. Krishna Bahadur Mahara, speaker of the Federal Parliament, inaugurated the meeting amid a ceremony held at Chandragiri Hills.

Addressing the inaugural session, Mahara said that the initiatives taken by chamber for prosperity of the region would help to achieve the objectives of the SAARC. Commending the role of the SAARC CCI for working toward strengthening business and economic ties of SAARC members, he also said that it should help in attracting and promoting foreign direct investment in the region.

"There is a need for joint efforts to uplift economic conditions of this region by fostering their economic, social and cultural ties," he added.

SAARC CCI, recognized as a regional apex trade body by SAARC, is a group of eight national federation chambers of commerce and industry of the member states of SAARC. Among others, SAARC CCI makes recommendations to safeguard the economic and business interests of the SAARC and serves as a consultative body of the private sector of the region to provide input and feedback on regional economic issues.
Lack of connectivity is the main difficulty

Ruwang Ediris Inghe
President, SAARC CCI

Please tell us about SAARC CCI?

Nepal is also a member of the SAARC CCI. In 1985, when SAARC was founded, the governments of the member countries decided that business activities cannot be carried out by the governments alone. They realized that this is something that private sector should do. Thus SAARC CCI was formed in 1993. Over the past 25 years, all South Asian countries fought together and helped in strengthening the interconnectedness for the business between us and beyond us.

What are the difficulties the private sector has been facing in South Asia?

The main difficulty that we have faced for trade is lack of connectivity. Nepal – a landlocked country – is a good example. When you look into economic development, connectivity is one of the main barriers. Once we remove the connectivity barrier, mainly in the transportation sector, economic development will come up with that. It is the duty of the governments as well as the private sector to come together and make sure that the connectivity is happening at the earliest.

There are many organizations that have been working in SAARC. However, the economic linkage has not strengthened much in the region. What do you say?

There are different organizations into business activity. You can’t expect one organization to do everything. If you go to Europe, there are so many business organizations. In South Asia, SAARC CCI is one organization which has blessing of all political leadings. If you are expecting development within us, blessing of the government is also with us.
Private sector should be taken into confidence

Iftikhar Ali Malik
Senior Vice President, SAARC CCI

What is being discussed in this gathering of business leaders of SAARC?

Business leaders of eight countries are here in Kathmandu. We will be discussing more on how to bring this family closer and develop economic relations. We have to tell the next generations the importance of SAARC countries. We have to live together as we are good neighbors. We strongly condemn whatever terrorist activities are happening around. They have disturbed our economic activities. The purpose of SAARC Chamber is to bring the private sector of the region closer.

What needs to be done for strengthening regional economic integration?

We have to live as good neighbors as you cannot change your neighbors. There should be joint ventures, the new generation should join together, and there should be technical cooperation among members. These initiatives will help in creating strong business linkages. The private sector should be taken into confidence at every level.
Important to open doors for more people-to-people contact

Ilina Saeed
Secretary General, SAARC CCI

What are the challenges to creating strong economic and business linkages among SAARC members?

There is immense business potential in South Asia. The SAARC Chamber believes that the challenges the entire region face are unemployment and poverty. These can be addressed if we trade amongst us. Look at the European Union where 65 percent trade is within the region, ASEAN is younger than the SAARC. But they are way ahead of us. So we feel it is important to open doors for more people to people contact. There should be more trade between these member countries for the benefit of the people and prosperity of the region.

What roles can SAARC CCI play for deeper economic integration?

Integration is possible if we have favorable policies. We need support from the governments. We need flexible visa regime. South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) is a great instrument. But there are also border and non-tariff barriers that are hindering trade. So we need to address those. SAARC Chamber is holding a series of dialogues on border. We had one recently in Peshawar which is the border area for Afghanistan and Pakistan. We got traders from these countries and they had a good dialogue on ways to address non-tariff barriers. We need to make the border easier to trade. Trading between India and Bangladesh is costlier than trading with EU. So, we have to facilitate trade with favorable policies, flexible visa regime and by addressing non-tariff measures.

Isn’t political tension between some SAARC members also a barrier for realizing business potential of the region?

We believe that politics is not our business. We represent business community. So, political issues aside, trade must go on.
SAARC CCI’s executive committee meeting, general assembly kick off

Business leaders call for more cooperation for economic development of the region

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Also addressing the inaugural session, Bhawani Bista, president of the Federation of Nepal Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI), said that Nepal was becoming an attractive destination for investment in South Asia. She said that the recently concluded Nepal Investment Summit has sent a message to the world that Nepal was creating environment conducive for investment.

She was of the view that the private sector can play a crucial role in forging economic and business linkages in the SAARC region.

Similarly, Muzafar Javed, ambassador of Pakistan to Nepal, opined that business organizations like SAARC CCI should play a lead role in transforming prosperous region and happy people’s slogan into practice in the whole SAARC region.

“Public sector leaders of South Asia have understood the need for deeper integration in the region. However, if things go on, it seems that regional cooperation, connectivity and free flow of people are must for economic development of the region. “We should work collectively for deepening the integration of the region,” he added.

Also speaking at the inaugural session, Chand Ballav Dhakal, distinguished member of the FNCCI, said that the chamber should move ahead by identifying areas of mutual cooperation. He also pointed out infrastructure development, energy, technology and tourism, among others, as areas for cooperation and investment.
SAARC Chamber South Asia Vision 2030 to usher an era of prosperity

The proposed South Asia Vision 2030 of SAARC Chamber is poised to usher an era of prosperity, progress, development and welfare of the people in the region which mainly aimed at accelerating the pace of economic activities in all state member countries.

Leader of Pakistan delegation, SAARC Chamber Senior Vice President Iftikhar Ali Malik Thursday said that all due efforts would be initiated to materialize the vision of 2030 besides accelerating our efforts towards forging closer bilateral and regional partnerships and economic integration within the subcontinent and beyond.

According to a message received here from Kathmandu, Nepal, he expressed these views while addressing inaugural session of 3-day SAARC chamber 77th Executive Committee and 23rd GA Meetings commenced today.

Iftikhar Malik said the agenda of these meeting were focused on enhancing trade among all the SAARC countries: Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal, Maldives, and Afghanistan.

The matters pertaining to free trade in the SAARC region, the proposal of harmonization of customs procedures and documentations in the region to facilitate movement of goods across the borders are also under discussion.