SAARC Women Parliamentarians pay courtesy call to SAARC CCI Secretariat

A 10-member group of SAARC Women Parliamentarians paid a courtesy call to SAARC CCI Secretariat in Islamabad on 25th May 2010. The delegation included Ms. Fawzia Koofi (Afghanistan), Mrs Thewang Lahmo (Bhutan), Shawket Ara Begum (Bangladesh), Ranee Narah (India), Ms Mohammadi Siddiqui MP/Chairperson Women’s Parliamentary Caucus (Nepal), Ms. Beelam Hussain, Tasnim Siddiqui and Shakila Khanum (Pakistan) and Ms. Rosy Senanayake (Sri Lanka). The delegation was accompanied by Ms. Ayesha Zaeer, Vice Chairperson, SAARC Chamber Women Entrepreneurs Council (SCWEC), Pakistan Chapter and Ms. Shireen Khan, Parliamentarian (Pakistan) and Executive Member of SCWEC.

Mr. Iqbal Tabish, Secretary General, SAARC CCI welcomed the delegation and briefly enlightened them about scope and nature of activities of SAARC CCI and its role towards promotion of economic liberalization in South Asia. He said that the region had enormous potential of intra-regional trade to the tune of $ 50 billion in 2009, however, due to non-cooperation; the member nations could tap only 24% of its indicative potential. He urged upon the Women Parliamentarians to play their due role towards promoting economic ties in the region, which was annually bearing loss of $ 72 billion as the cost of non-cooperation mainly linked to political issues, hampering growth of the region.

He further elaborated that women’s role in socio-economic activities of SAARC nations is vital as their participation is more than 50% in small businesses and 70% in agricultural activities.

Mr. Zubair A. Malik, former Executive Committee Member, SAARC CCI regarded political bottlenecks and mindset as the biggest hurdles in smooth functioning of SAFTA, the only document which provides the region an excellent opportunities for regional economic development. He further added that since parliamentarians are directly involved in policy-making process, they can play greater role toward resolution of political issues.

The parliamentarians exchanged views on socio-economic issues and assured all possible cooperation to SAARC CCI to voice the concerns of business community on appropriate fora. They were of the opinion that the socio-political stability and social security was must for regional economic integration of South Asia.
SCWEC Workshop on Brand Building for Handicrafts and Agro-products.

The workshop was organized by SAARC Chamber of Women Entrepreneurs Council (SCWEC), India on March 09 - 11, 2010, in cooperation with InWent, Germany. Experts from India conducted the workshop to identify brand building in the handicrafts and agro-products sector. It was like a pilot exercise for the Nepali women entrepreneurs to identify their problems in product development and brand building. It focused on brand building, technical knowhow and development of quality products. It was a three day workshop.

Three months Italian Lace making training program at Ungutoor village, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh. Italian Lace Making training program was inaugurated at Ungutoor village, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh for 50 rural women. The workshop designed for agriculture labourers was sponsored by Mr. Vamshi, Trustee of Smt. Vallabaneni Aruna Memorial Trust, Ungutoor (Village and Mandal), Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh. The training program will be for 3 months.

### Calendar of Events

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<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Conference on Tourism in South Asia &amp; - B2B meetings</td>
<td>Colombo, Sri Lanka</td>
<td>July 8, 2010</td>
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<td>1st SAARC CCI Young Entrepreneur Forum: Vision 2020</td>
<td>Lahore, Pakistan</td>
<td>July 20, 2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>50th EC Meeting of SAARC CCI - Seminar on Economic Freedom in South Asia &amp; Activity of Council on Trade Facilitation</td>
<td>Goa, India</td>
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Petrobangla said drilling of the well in the block would cost more than $20 million and the oil firms planned to drill two more wells there if the first produced positive results.

Steve Wilson, president of Chevron in Bangladesh, said last December the firm completed a seismic data acquisition program for the block and evaluation and data processing were under way. "An exploration well is planned to be completed by 2011," he said in a statement. G S Caltex owns a 45 percent stake while Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company Limited, a subsidiary of Petrobangla, holds 10 percent carried over interest in this block.

**Bhutan:**

Bhutan chamber of commerce and industry organized construction expo competes with the numerous shops
Toward Free Trade in South Asia: Political and Economic Dimensions

After more than a decade of negotiation, the Heads of State of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) signed the Framework Agreement on South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) at the twelfth SAARC Summit at Islamabad in January 2004. The signing of the Framework Agreement on South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA), represented a major pragmatic initiative by the South Asian leaders to address the issues of trade and development in the region. However, the slow process and limited progress of SAFTA has led some scholars to argue that SAFTA is unlikely to succeed. Instead, these scholars argue that SAFTA is hardly beneficial for its member states and will mostly lead to trade diversion and the slowing down of unilateral trade liberalization in South Asia (Panagariya 1999; Bandara and Yu, 2003; Bhagawati 2008). The supporters of SAFTA, however, argue that despite the potential for trade diversion, SAFTA would bring significant benefits to small countries in the region and would facilitate unilateral trade liberalization in South Asia (Srinivasan and Canonero, 1995; Srinivasan, 1998; Pigato et al., 1997; Kemal, 2004; Mukherji, 2004; Newfarmer, 2004). What lies ahead of SAFTA? What are the prospects of SAFTA? Will SAFTA agreement drive South Asian countries toward deeper regional economic cooperation? The answer to these questions requires an extensive examination of a broader question about Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs); that is, once launched, what forces drive RTAs further and determine the chance of success? The literature on RTAs suggests three "facilitating" conditions to explain the growth of RTAs. First, regional trading arrangements operating with the presence of a benevolent hegemonic power are more likely to experience growth than are RTAs without a benevolent hegemonic power (Crone 1993; Hurrell 1992). Second, political actors will be more motivated to pursue RTA policies if such trade arrangements serve their power-retaining goals by improving their country's overall economic conditions (Grossman and Helpman 1995; Milner 1997; Haggard 1997). Further, growing literature suggests that political leaders of strong ruling coalitions are likely to be more willing to pursue RTAs than political leaders of weak coalitions (Huelshoff 1994; Solingen 1997). Third, for sustained success of RTAs, strong support from business groups (market actors) is necessary (Martin, 1992; Milner 1997; Chase 2003). Business groups will show preferences for RTAs when there is potential for significant market gain from such trading arrangements. Significant market gain in a region is possible when there are regional economic complementarities or large size of regional markets (Mattli 1999; Chase 2005). Given the above conditions, this study examines several key questions: (1) How has India's hegemonic status affected regional trading arrangements in South Asia? (2) How has the strength of South Asian ruling coalitions affected the process of regional trading arrangements? (3) Is there potential for market gain in terms of regional economic complementarities or large size of regional markets in South Asia? And (4) How has this economic dynamic shaped the preferences of business actors toward regional trading arrangements in South Asia?

The findings of this study suggest that the three above conditions identified in the literature as facilitating conditions for the growth of RTAs have produced three different dynamics in South Asia that have diminished policy-makers' enthusiasm for regional trading arrangements. Despite India's hegemonic position, there is no consensus among South Asian countries to recognize India as the region's undisputed leader. Additionally, most South Asian countries share a distrust of India's economic and military domination in the region. This distrust makes it difficult for South Asian countries to work toward common regional economic and security strategies. In particular, Pakistan continues to challenge India's leadership in the region. The lack of consensus about India's leadership within SAFTA has two important implications. First, India shows unwillingness to assume the role of a regional "paymaster" who can ease distributional problems associated with free trade practices for small countries in South Asia. Second, India's reluctance to assume leadership has also made coordination of rules, regulations, and policies regarding free trade issues difficult and time-consuming. Thus, individual countries continue to undermine free-trade principles by excluding numerous products from tariff cuts by keeping them under the sensitive lists.

Although South Asian countries have pursued selling toys, leather goods, handicrafts and a stall selling "magic cloth" there is everything at the ongoing construction expo for somebody, who is planning to construct a house. From heavy earth moving machinery to dig foundations to brick making machines and fancy colorful bathroom tiles and brass doorknobs, the expo has it all. The exhibition highlights the latest building and construction technologies and materials.

For interiors, there are air conditioning and ventilation equipment, marble and paints, insulation material, security, safety and lighting systems. These materials were showcased in big exhibitions around the globe. Exhibition also provides the best platform for individuals or companies to capitalize on the active and promising housing market, specifically by facilitating productive interaction between suppliers and manufacturers from Bhutan and India.

India:

The economy grew at its fastest pace in six months in the quarter through March 2010, fuelled mainly by government and consumer spending, which is expected to allow policymakers to focus on anchoring inflation that is hovering near 10 per cent. The 8.6 per cent expansion in the fourth quarter of the fiscal year 2009/10 was broadly in line with a median forecast of 8.7 per cent in a Reuters poll and lifted the annual average

Conti...
economic liberalization policies in the early 1990s, these policies have not led to deeper regional economic cooperation. One important reason for South Asian political leaders' lack of deep commitment toward regional trade is limited potential of economic benefits from SAFTA arrangements. South Asian leaders remain largely unconvinced that SAFTA would facilitate their power-retaining objective. Instead, perceived inequity—that is, larger economies like India would benefit more from SAFTA arrangement—is widespread among smaller South Asian countries. Another important reason is the emergence of weak ruling coalitions in South Asian countries. Weak strength of ruling coalitions throughout South Asia has made the leaders of these countries critically dependent on the support of important domestic groups. The leaders' need for domestic support for political survival have led them to pursue populist, nationalist, and self-reliant policies. While these policies may have brought short-term political payoffs to the ruling elites in South Asia, they have become enormously counterproductive for the growth of free trade. Given the unlikely scenario of any significant change in South Asia's current political and economic landscape, the stop-and-go pattern of regional trade policy that South Asian leaders have pursued so far is likely to continue for the foreseeable future.

As examined in this study, with the exception of India, the economies of SAARC members are not complementary. Since SAARC countries export the bulk of their primary commodities and manufactured goods to the same world markets, they tend to compete in the same industrial sectors with each other. Indeed, most of SAARC members' trade is with the United States and Europe rather than with their neighbors. Given the small size of markets of South Asian countries with India as an exception, there is limited scope for mutually beneficial market exchange among South Asian countries. Thus, South Asian business groups have no powerful incentives to seek regional trade liberalization. Consequently, demand for SAFTA by business groups is weak.

The rivalry between India and Pakistan signifies trouble for SAFTA's future. Already, the policy differences of India and Pakistan have driven these two countries to engage in several transregional, bilateral, and subregional trading arrangements. While India's transregional trading arrangements include India-ASEAN FTA, BIMSTEC-FTA, and Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IORARC), Pakistan remains actively involved in Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC). India's involvement in a "noodle bowl" of bilateral trade agreements with Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Japan, China, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh, and her initiatives for the "spoke-spoke" pattern of economic cooperation among subgroups of South Asian countries—for example, the creation of South Asian Growth Quadrangle (SAGQ) with India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal—are motivated in part by Pakistan's unwillingness to increase the speed of free trade negotiation with India. While such transregional and "spoke-spoke" pattern of trade cooperation may provide some short-term solutions to India's need for trade expansion and market access, given their lack of commonality and different rules of origin, it is not clear as to what extent these type of trade agreements will facilitate deeper economic cooperation. SAFTA would make a great deal more sense and would be an essential underpinning of an emerging regionalism in South Asia. But the level of regional economic interdependence achieved so far and the pace at which South Asian countries are progressing in their negotiation for free trade arrangements will leave South Asian countries at an appreciable distance from the goal of SAFTA, even after a decade. Any substantially faster rate of progress on free trade arrangements would be a desirable goal. But that would require a substantially greater political effort from South Asian political leaders, specifically Indian and Pakistani leaders.

Source:
KISHORE DASH, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Global Studies,
Thunderbird School of Global Management
Kerala, India

Kerala, situated on the lush and tropical Malabar Coast, is one of the most popular tourist destinations in India. Named as one of the "ten paradises of the world" and "50 places of a lifetime" by the National Geographic Traveler magazine, Kerala is especially known for its ecotourism initiatives. Its unique culture and traditions, coupled with its varied demographics, has made Kerala one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world. Growing at a rate of 13.31%, the state's tourism industry is a major contributor to the state's economy. Kerala is unique in India for its diverse mix of religions. According to Census of India figures, 56% of Kerala residents are Hindus, 24% are Muslims, 19% are Christians, and the remaining 1% follow other religions including Sikhism, Jainism, Buddhism, Judaism. Hinduism has undoubtedly shaped Kerala, and Kerala has in turn left its mark on Hinduism. With the Arabian Sea in the west, the Western Ghats towering 500-2700 ms in the east and networked by 44 rivers, Kerala enjoys unique geographical features that have made it one of the most sought after tourist destinations in Asia. An equable climate. A long shoreline with serene beaches. Tranquil stretches of emerald backwaters. Lush hill stations and exotic wildlife. Waterfalls. Sprawling plantations and paddy fields. Ayurvedic health holidays. Enchanting art forms. Magical festivals. Historic and cultural monuments. An exotic cuisine... All of which offer you a unique experience. And what's more, every one of these charming destinations is only a two hour drive from the other. A singular advantage no other destination offers.

Kerala, India's most advanced society: A hundred percent literate people. World-class health care systems. India's lowest infant mortality and highest life expectancy rates. The highest physical quality of life in India. Peaceful and pristine, Kerala is also India's cleanest state. For administrative purpose, the state of Kerala is divided into fourteen districts. Most of these districts offer all the tourism products typical of the State.

Popular attractions in the state include the beaches at Kovalam, Cherai and Varkala; the hill stations of Munnar, Nelliampathi, Ponmudi and Wayanad; and national parks and wildlife sanctuaries at Periyar and Eravikulam National Park. The "backwaters" region, which comprises an extensive network of interlocking rivers, lakes, and canals that centre on Alleppey, Kollam, Kumarakom, and Punnamada (where the annual Nehru Trophy Boat Race is held in August), also see heavy tourist traffic.

**Visa**
We request you to carry your visa for entry to India/Kerala on your holiday. For clarification please contact the Indian High Commission/Embassy. For visa registration and extension details please visit http://www.keralatourism.org/visa-requirement.php

**Money**
There is no limit to the amount of foreign currency that visitors can bring.

**Banks**
Banks are open for transaction from 10:00 - 14:00 hrs on week days and from 10:00 - 12:00 hrs on Saturdays.

**Credit cards**
Main hotels, restaurants and shopping centers honor major credit cards.

**Food**
All standard restaurants offer a variety of cuisines including Continental, Chinese, Indian and typical Kerala fare.
## BANGLADESH
- **Grand Media Mela**
  - Date: 01-JUL-10 to 03-JUL-10
  - Venue: Maulana Vasavi Novo Theater, Dhaka, Bangladesh
  - Web: http://www.biztradeshows.com/bangladesh/

- **Textech International Expo**
  - Date: 28-JUL-10 to 31-JUL-10
  - Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre, Dhaka, Bangladesh
  - Web: http://www.biztradeshows.com/bangladesh/

- **ELPROTECH Bangladesh**
  - Date: 22-SEP-10 to 25-SEP-10
  - Venue: Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, Dhaka, Bangladesh
  - Web: http://www.biztradeshows.com/bangladesh/

- **Bangladesh Architectural Construction & Engineering Industry TradeShow**
  - Date: 22-SEP-10 to 25-SEP-10
  - Venue: Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, Dhaka, Bangladesh
  - Web: http://www.biztradeshows.com/bangladesh/

## INDIA
- **SOUTHPACK**
  - Date: 09-JUL-10 to 11-JUL-10
  - Venue: Chennai Trade & Convention Centre, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India
  - Web: http://www.biztradeshows.com/india/?p=4

- **Industrial Expo-Ludhiana**
  - Date: 09-JUL-10 to 12-JUL-10
  - Venue: Punjab Trade Centre, Ludhiana, Punjab, India
  - Web: http://www.biztradeshows.com/india/?p=4

- **Outbound Travel Mart - Kolkata**
  - Date: 31-JUL-10 to 02-AUG-10
  - Venue: Netaji Indoor Stadium, Kolkata, West Bengal, India
  - Web: http://www.biztradeshows.com/india/?p=4

- **Rakhi Fest The Club**
  - Date: 03-AUG-10 to 03-AUG-10
  - Venue: The Club, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
  - Web: http://www.biztradeshows.com/india/?p=4

- **Womens Shopping Carnival**
  - Date: 05-AUG-10 to 05-AUG-10
  - Venue: Blue Sea, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
  - Web: http://www.biztradeshows.com/india/?p=4

## MALDIVES
- **Hotel Asia Exhibition & Culinary Challenge**
  - Date: 05-JUL-10 to 07-JUL-10
  - Venue: Dharubaaruge Exhibition Hall, Male, Maldives
  - Web: http://www.biztradeshows.com/maldives/

- **Maldives Hotel & Trade Exhibition**
  - Date: 21-SEP-10 to 23-SEP-10
  - Venue: Dharubaaruge Exhibition Hall, Male, Maldives
  - Web: http://www.biztradeshows.com/maldives/

## NEPAL
- **CAREER FAIR-Nepal**
  - Date: 25-JUN-10 to 27-JUN-10
  - Venue: BHRIKUTI MANDAP EXHIBITION HALL, Kathmandu, Nepal
  - Web: http://www.biztradeshows.com/nepal/

- **Education Worldwide India-Kathmandu**
  - Date: 27-NOV-10 to 28-NOV-10
  - Venue: Everest Hotel, Kathmandu, Nepal
  - Web: http://www.biztradeshows.com/nepal/

## PAKISTAN
- **International Education Exhibition-Karachi**
  - Date: 03-JUL-10 to 04-JUL-10
  - Venue: Karachi Expo Center, Karachi, Sindh, Pakistan
  - Web: http://www.biztradeshows.com/pakistan/

- **Furniture Asia**
  - Date: 27-JUL-10 to 29-JUL-10
  - Venue: Karachi Expo Center, Karachi, Sindh, Pakistan
  - Web: http://www.biztradeshows.com/pakistan/

- **ITCN Asia**
  - Date: 03-AUG-10 to 05-AUG-10
  - Venue: Karachi Expo Center, Karachi, Sindh, Pakistan
  - Web: http://www.biztradeshows.com/pakistan/

- **Finance Expo Pakistan**
  - Date: 03-AUG-10 to 05-AUG-10
  - Venue: Karachi Expo Center, Karachi, Sindh, Pakistan
  - Web: http://www.biztradeshows.com/pakistan/

- **Electrofair**
  - Date: 21-SEP-10 to 23-SEP-10
  - Venue: Karachi Expo Center, Karachi, Sindh, Pakistan
  - Web: http://www.biztradeshows.com/pakistan/

## SRI LANKA
- **The Bridal Fair**
  - Date: 09-JUL-10 to 11-JUL-10
  - Venue: Sri Lanka Exhibition & Convention Centre, Colombo, Sri Lanka
  - Web: http://www.biztradeshows.com/sri-lanka/

- **Index Sri Lanka**
  - Date: 15-JUL-10 to 18-JUL-10
  - Venue: Sri Lanka Exhibition & Convention Centre, Colombo, Sri Lanka
  - Web: http://www.biztradeshows.com/sri-lanka/

- **Indian Trade Fair**
  - Date: 12-AUG-10 to 15-AUG-10
  - Venue: Sri Lanka Exhibition & Convention Centre, Colombo, Sri Lanka
  - Web: http://www.biztradeshows.com/sri-lanka/

- **Construct Exhibition**
  - Date: 13-AUG-10 to 15-AUG-10
  - Venue: Sri Lanka Exhibition & Convention Centre, Colombo, Sri Lanka
  - Web: http://www.biztradeshows.com/sri-lanka/

- **Pro Food/Pro pack**
  - Date: 20-AUG-10 to 22-AUG-10
  - Venue: Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall, Colombo, Sri Lanka
  - Web: http://www.biztradeshows.com/sri-lanka/
Agriculture and Rural Sector of South Asia

Agriculture is critical to South Asia’s development. Rural areas in the region are home to more than 70 percent of its population, and agriculture is the region’s principal occupation, employing more than 60 percent of the labor force. More than 75 percent of the region’s poor live in rural areas and depend on rainfed agriculture, livestock, and fragile forests for their livelihoods. Agricultural and rural nonfarm growth will be critical to reaching the Millennium Development Goal of halving the number of poor people by 2015. Meeting this challenge calls for growth that stems from agricultural productivity and raises the incomes of small-scale farmers and landless laborers. The Green Revolution of the 1970s and 1980s substantially increased food grain productivity and improved food security and rural wages. Consequently, those dramatic leaps in agricultural production raised farmer incomes, bringing a significant reduction in rural poverty. In India, for example, the rural poverty rate declined from about 53 percent in 1977/1978 to 26 percent in 1999/2000. The challenge is to replicate and sustain these achievements during the future with a more variable and unpredictable climate.

The growth of agricultural productivity has slowed down and the sector now languishes behind the other dynamic growth drivers in the region. Per capita growth in agricultural productivity in South Asia (less than 2 percent) has barely kept pace with population growth; it is also lower than that of East Asia and the Pacific (3.1 percent) and Latin America (2.8 percent). Several problems have emerged that have constrained growth: deteriorating soil fertility and declining quality of inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides; reduced water availability; lack of access to credit; suboptimal farming practices; and lack of investment in new technologies. As a result, there is a large gap between actual yields and technologically feasible yields.

While there are many impediments to agricultural growth in South Asia, the one that threatens the economy most is the rapidly deteriorating water situation. Many parts of South Asia face growing water scarcity due to increasing water demands driven by high population growth, urbanization, agricultural needs, and industrial growth. This situation poses a particular threat to agriculture, which uses the largest share of the water consumed in South Asia. Recent work in India, for instance, demonstrates that many of the major river basins in the country will face a water deficit in the future by 2050 (Garg and Hassan 2007). This increased pressure on water availability, combined with increasing land and soil degradation, makes rational and efficient utilization of water, and related policy options that promote economic and environmental sustainability of water use, essential to long-term food security in South Asia. The problem is further compounded by the nature of small and marginal landholdings, which are characterized by highly unequal ownership of and access to productive assets such as land and water. Moreover, new challenging demands are being placed on the agricultural sector that add pressure to an already strained sector. These include compliance with sanitary and phytosanitary standards; meeting the growth needs of the biofuels industry; and addressing emerging health epidemics linked to the sector (e.g., avian flu). Addressing these challenges is important to reversing the prolonged slowdown in the agricultural sector, which is in turn essential for inclusive growth.
Climate Variability and Change:
Climate change poses a particular challenge to the agricultural sector. Of all potential impacts stemming from climate change, those to the agricultural sector stand out as among the most important. Long-term changes in temperatures and precipitation have direct implications on evaporative demands and agricultural yields. It is true that, in some areas, some reduction in yields may be offset by carbon fertilization and increased precipitation. However, this opportunity is likely to be limited in scope and only applicable to certain species. A large portion of the population in the region is already vulnerable to a range of natural hazards and extreme weather events (e.g., floods or droughts). The changing hydrological characteristics of these extreme events, in relation to the onset, duration, and magnitude of the yearly monsoon season, will affect agricultural production significantly. The combined effects could be devastating for tropical agriculture. In Bangladesh alone, between 1991 and 2000, 93 major natural disasters were recorded, with the agricultural sector suffering the bulk of the losses. Finally, sea-level rise could have important implications for the availability of land for agriculture. Inundation and changes in the sediment balance and salinity profile of coastal areas could affect large areas of fertile arable land across much of the region.

Climate change may stress rural livelihoods beyond agriculture alone. Climate-induced changes to resource flows (e.g., natural resources, water, and biomass) can fundamentally affect the viability of the livelihoods of the rural poor. Resilience is typically low in rural areas as the existing asset base is weak (natural, human, physical, financial, social) and services provided by infrastructure and institutions are often insufficient. Thus, the rural poor are chronically vulnerable to climatic conditions beyond direct agriculture production impacts. This is especially true during natural disasters and in existing climate sensitive areas (e.g., drought-prone and flood-affected areas) where the ability to cope with current climate variability is low. The prospect of increasing climate risks underscores the importance of a more integrated and holistic approach to development in the rural areas. For instance, in addition to undertaken against the background of a volatile global food supply and demand system that is affected by changing socioeconomic conditions, such as population growth, increasing urbanization, changing patterns in consumption and trade, and technology development. These future Socioeconomic uncertainties may in fact dominant most impact assessments.

Region in brief
stability would be at risk if fiscal deficit continued to increase. “The SBP estimates for fiscal deficit have been revised upward - from 5.1 to 5.6 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP),” said a third-quarter report of the central bank. The SBP had said the government might miss the revised fiscal deficit target of 5.1 per cent. The report said the impact of fiscal deficit was compounded by a substantial increase in quasi-fiscal activities in recent years, which has not only contributed to the build-up of interlocking debt chains (circular debt) in energy and agriculture commodity sectors, but also raised financial costs for borrowers in the economy, restricting output growth.

If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart.
Nelson Mandela (1918)