CONCEPT NOTE

THE 7th SAARC BUSINESS LEADERS CONCLAVE

INTRODUCTION OF SAARC CCI

The SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry recognized as a Regional Apex Body by South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation is a constellation of the National Chambers/Federations of SAARC member states and is mandated to promote economic cooperation in South Asia. Established in early 1992, the SAARC CCI was given official recognition in the 6th Ministerial Round held in Dhaka in December 1992 and approved its constitution with permanent Secretariat to be located in Pakistan.

The SAARC CCI has under its umbrella; National Federations/Chambers of Commerce and Industry from all South Asian countries which include Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FBCCI), Bhutan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCCI), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), Maldives National Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MNCCI), Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FNCCI), Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI), Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Sri Lanka (FCCI,SL) as its founder member in addition to Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

Since its inception, SAARC CCI has been serving as bridge between public and the private sector of South and has been involved in policy making process to the process of regional economic cooperation and has always strived to disseminate the vision of fair, equitable, inclusive and sustainable growth of the South Asian economies since signing of SAPTA in 1993, the first official document, aiming at promotion of economic cooperation in South Asia.

SAARC BUSINESS LEADERS CONCLAVE

The Heads of States of South Asian countries at the 11th SAARC Summit held at Katmandu, Nepal in 2002, renewed their commitment to encourage participation of the private sector and assured full support for their economic initiatives. Their reaffirmation of the commitment culminated in to 1st SAARC Business Leaders Conclave. The idea of convening SAARC Business Leaders Conclave was put-forth by Mr. Macky Hashim, former President of the SAARC CCI Chamber of
Commerce & Industry in the year 2004, which was materialized on November 17-18, 2005 when the First SBLC was organized in New Delhi, India. The first SBLC emerged as the most prestigious event of the SAARC CCI and DAVOS of South Asian Community.

**PREVIOUS SBLCs**

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<th>SBLC</th>
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<td>1st</td>
<td>Nov 17-18, 2015</td>
<td>New Delhi, India</td>
<td>South Asia in Global Economy: Regional and Global Integration</td>
<td>Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India.</td>
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<td>2nd</td>
<td>17-18Feb, 2007</td>
<td>Mumbai, India</td>
<td>Regional Trade, Investment &amp; Employment Generation: Creating an Enabling Policy Environment</td>
<td>Pranab Mukherjee, Foreign Minister of India.</td>
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<td>4th</td>
<td>Sep 20-22, 2011</td>
<td>Kathmandu, Nepal</td>
<td>Peace and Prosperity through Regional Connectivity</td>
<td>Hon’ble Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, President of Nepal</td>
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<td>5th</td>
<td>Jan 16-17 2014</td>
<td>New Delhi, India</td>
<td>South Asian Century: Progressing towards Regional Integration</td>
<td>Hon’ble Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce, India</td>
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<td>6th</td>
<td>March 16-18, 2018</td>
<td>Kathmandu, Nepal</td>
<td>Unleashing Shared Prosperity. Through Economic Integration</td>
<td>Rt. Hon. KP Sharma Oli, Prime Minister of Nepal</td>
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**7th EDITION OF SBLC**

The successful conclusion of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th SBLCs in 2005, 2006, 2009, 2011, 2014 and 2018 have provided the right platform for arrayed, intense and broader engagement
between the member governments and Business community of South Asian region, emphasizing deeper public-private partnership and arranging diverse and dynamic complementarities to address common challenges.

SBLC has been a meaningful opportunity for the South Asian Business Community for striking new partnerships, sharing best practices and exploring virgin business opportunities. SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry is to keep on contributing for the promotion of economic cooperation among SAARC countries and will continue SBLC, providing a distinctive platform to discourse and narrate issues and prospects much acquired in regional cooperation.

The SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, persuaded by the efficacious and meaningful conclusion of the past six SAARC Business Leaders Conclaves, plan to organize the 7th edition of this prestigious event. The 7th SBLC shall provide an opportunity to engage both the political and business leaders to confer together on deeper economic integration and explore new paths of sustained and inclusive economic growth for a prosperous and peaceful South Asia

**OBJECTIVES**

- To create synergies for regional integration and cooperation through effective networking of Business Community within South Asia.
- To contribute to South Asian Economies by liberalizing them from regulations, restrictions and strengthening collective self-reliance for economic prosperity within the region.
- To enhance regional trade and investments in South Asia
- To cultivate potential opportunities and explore new business avenues in SAARC countries
- To identify and develop neglected sectors of diligence which have the potential of growth.
- To increase Involvement of South Asian diasporas to enhance regional cooperation
- To encourage private-public sector partnership for positive economic policy exchange and reforms supporting trade facilitation and trade liberalization
- To exploit existing synergies and share/develop best practices
PROPOSED THEME
UNITY IN DIVERSITY, OUR PEOPLE OUR FUTURE TOGETHER

PROPOSED DATES AND VENUE

- 18-20 January, 2020
- Hotel Galle Face, Colombo Sri Lanka.

SPEAKERS PROFILE
- Head of States/Governments of SAARC Member Countries
- Ministers of SAARC Member Countries
- Prominent Scholars/Statesmen from and outside of the SAARC region
- Top Corporate Leaders of SAARC Member Countries
- Media & Entertainment Representatives
- NGOs and Development Activists
- Academic Researchers from various sectors

DELEGATES PROFILE
- Diplomats and senior government officials
- Elite of the business community
- Renowned entrepreneurs
- Media representatives
- Social activists & cultural ambassadors
- Analysts
- Academicians and researchers

PERCEIVED OUTCOME
To collect set of policy recommendation worked out by various sessions and to present as a fresh input on behalf of the Private Sector to Government and SAARC Secretariat for consideration in the 19th SAARC Summit.
PARTNERS OF THE CONCLAVE
1- National Chambers/ Federations (Member bodies of SAARC CCI)
2- Allied and Apex Bodies of SAARC
3- International Development Partners
4- Corporate and Business Entities

PROPOSED ALLIED EVENTS
- Cultural Show/ Musical Concert
- Trade Fair
- Artisan Bazar

ESTIMATED BUDGET
- US $ 3 Million