



PROGRAMME

Day 1: Saturday, 9 December 2023	
16:30 – 17:30 (Venue: Diwan-I-Khas)	<p style="text-align: center;">Interaction with the Founding Team of RIS</p> <p><i>RIS@40: Insights from the Past and Paving the Way for the Future</i></p> <p><i>Introductory Remarks: Professor Sachin Chaturvedi</i></p> <p><i>Interaction with:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor V. R. Panchamukhi • Professor Nagesh Kumar • Professor R.G. Nambiar • Professor K.C. Reddy • Professor Mahendra P Lama • Professor S.K.Mohanty <p>Rapporteurs: Dr Namrata Pathak and Ms Chandni Sharma</p>
17:30 – 18:00	Tea Break



PROGRAMME

Day 1: Saturday, 9 December 2023	
<p>18.00 – 19.00 (Venue: Diwan-I-Am)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Inaugural Session</u></p> <p>Welcome Remarks: Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, India</p> <p>Chair: Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture, Government of India</p> <p>Special Remarks:</p> <p>Dr Fahmida Khatun, Executive Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh</p> <p>Dr Paras Kharel, Executive Director, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Nepal</p> <p>Keynote Address: Professor Tetsuya Watanabe, President, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Jakarta</p> <p>Launch of RIS@40 commemorative volumes Launch of RIS – UNICEF Volume</p> <p>Guest: Ms. Cynthia McCaffrey, UNICEF Representative to India</p> <p>Felicitation Ceremony</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs and Dr Mohan Kumar, Former Chairman, RIS • Mrs and Professor Muchkund Dubey, Former Vice-Chairman, RIS • Mrs and Ambassador Sudhir T. Devare, Former Vice-Chairman, RIS • Mrs and Professor V. R. Panchamukhi, Former Director General, RIS • Mrs and Professor Nagesh Kumar, Former Director General, RIS • Mrs and Mr M.C. Arora, Former Director, Admin and Finance, RIS <p>Vote of thanks: Dr Sabyasachi Saha, Associate Professor, RIS, India</p> <p>Rapporteur: Dr Sampa Kundu and Dr Sayantan Ghoshal</p>
<p>19.00 Onwards</p>	<p>Dinner</p>

Day 2: Sunday, 10 December 2023	
09.00 – 10.30 (Venue: Diwan-I-Am) Aim of the session is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflect on and analyse recent economic growth performance of South Asian nations and the quality of economic growth • Bring out key lessons from recent macro-economic shocks, mitigation and future strategies • Identify specific monetary and fiscal policy options • Explore scope for policy coordination and creating long term resilience 	<p style="text-align: center;">Plenary Session I: Macro-economy and Economic Resilience in South Asia</p> <p>Chair: Dr Nagesh Kumar, Director and Chief Executive, Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID), India</p> <p>Keynote Address: Dr Surjit Bhalla, Former Executive Director, IMF (India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Bhutan)</p> <p>Special Remarks: Shri Dammu Ravi, Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Fahmida Khatun, Executive Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh • Dr Swarnim Wagle, Member of Federal Parliament, Nepal • Professor Amita Batra, Professor, Centre for South Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), India • Mr Bipul Chattopadhyay, Executive Director, Consumer, Utility and Trust Society (CUTS) & Head, CUTS CITEE, India <p>Rapporteur: Dr Rohit Saini and Ms Neha Gupta</p>
10.30 – 10.45	Tea Break
10.45 – 12.00 (Venue: Diwan-I-Am) Aim of the session is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To share experiences in regional, sub-regional and bilateral cooperation • Assess emerging challenges and new opportunities including GVCs • Discuss global uncertainties and implications for South Asia • Explore opportunities for cooperation and partnerships 	<p style="text-align: center;">Plenary Session II: Trends in Trade and Investment Integration in South Asia</p> <p>Chair: Professor Saroj Kumar Mohanty, Professor, RIS, India</p> <p>Keynote Address: Professor Mustafizur Rahman, Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Posh Raj Pandey, Senior Economic Advisor, Ministry of Finance, Government of Nepal, Nepal • Professor Nisha Taneja, Professor, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), India • Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Pakistan (online) • Professor C. Veeramani, Director, Centre for Development Studies (CDS), India • Professor Shahid Ahmed, Professor, Jamia Millia Islamia, India <p>Rapporteur: Ms Divyanjana and Ms Twinkle Gupta</p>

<p>12.00 – 13.30 (Venue: Diwan-I-Am)</p> <p>Perspectives from Eminent Persons on regional integration in South Asia</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Special Session: Evolution and Experiences of Regional Cooperation in South Asia</p> <p>Chair: Professor Deepak Nayyar, Emeritus Professor of Economics, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), India</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Rehman Sobhan, Chairman, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh • Professor Muchkund Dubey, President, Council for Social Development (CSD), and Former Vice-Chairman, RIS, India • Professor V. R. Panchamukhi, Former Director General, RIS, India • Ambassador Shyam Saran, President, India International Centre (IIC) and Former Chairman, RIS, India <p>Rapporteur: Dr Sneha Sinha and Ms Rana Amanat Singh</p>	
<p>13.30-14.30</p>	<p>Lunch</p>	
 <p>South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS)</p>	<p>Lunch-eon meeting of SACEPS Board 13.30-14.20 (Diwan-I-Khas)</p>	

14.30 – 15.30		South Asia Policy Forums	
SDGs and Social Sector (Venue: Diwan-I-Am)		Agriculture Value Chains (Venue: Diwan-I-Khas)	Women-Led Development (Venue: Aftab-Mahtab)
Key Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tackling Multidimensional poverty Strengthening Health systems and minimizing inequities Harnessing demography through skills 		Key Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of Agri-Value Chains and trade linkages Policy interventions, infrastructure development and facilitation Competitiveness, institutions and entrepreneurship 	Key Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in decision-making and leadership positions Inclusive access to employment opportunities Digital skills and financial literacy Investment in Care Infrastructure
Chair			
Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem , Research Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh		Dr Shahidur Rashid , Director for South Asia, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), India	Professor Rounaq Jahan , Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh
Keynote Speaker			
Professor Thakur S Powdyel , Former Minister of Education, Royal Government of Bhutan.		Ms Sabnam Shivakoti , Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock Development, Nepal	Professor Pam Rajput , Professor Emeritus, Panjab University, India
Speakers			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr Rajan Ratna, Deputy Head, UN-ESCAP SSWA, India Professor Jyoti Chandiramani, Director, Symbiosis School of Economics, India Professor Arjuna Parakrama, Course Director, Bandarnaike Academy for Leadership and Public Policy (BALPP), Sri Lanka Professor Sanjeev Mehta, Professor, Royal Thimphu College, Bhutan Professor V. N. Attri, Director, International Centre for Indo-Pacific Studies, Kurukshetra University, India Dr Nitya Nanda, Director, Council for Social Development, India Rapporteur: Dr Deependra and Mr Arpit Barman		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr Mahfuz Kabir, Research Director, Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS), Bangladesh Dr Moushumi Shrestha, Director, Shreenagar Agro Group, Nepal Dr Asanka Wijesinghe, Research Fellow, Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS), Sri Lanka Dr Pankhuri Gaur, Assistant Professor, RIS, India Rapporteur: Dr P Srinivas Rao and Dr Anuj Dwivedi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Hyun Hee Ban, Chief, Social Policy, UNICEF India Ms Palden Ongmo, Programme Officer, Tarayana Foundation, Bhutan Ms Mitali Nikore, Consultant, World Bank Ms Monica Raina, Advisor, Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) Bharat, India Dr Beena Pandey, Assistant Professor, RIS, India Rapporteur: Ms Chandni Sharma and Mr Pushpak Kumar

15.30 – 17.00 (Venue: Diwan-I-Am) This session aims to discuss the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates across modalities and new opportunities • Progress in trade facilitation, mandates, and opportunities • Financing of connectivity and infrastructure projects and major concerns • New initiatives and impact • Existing gaps, mitigation strategy, and way forward 	<p style="text-align: center;">Plenary Session III: Connectivity and Trade Facilitation for an Integrated South Asia</p> <p>Chair: Professor Prabir De, Professor, Centre for Maritime Economy and Connectivity (CMEC), RIS, India</p> <p>Keynote Address: Professor Sanjay Kathuria, Visiting Faculty, Ashoka University, India</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Mahendra P Lama, Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), India • Mr Achyut Bhandari, Co-Founder, Centre for Research on Bhutanese Society (CRBS), Thimphu, Bhutan • Dr Dayaratna Silva, Executive Director, Pathfinder, Sri Lanka • Mr Syed Munir Khasru, Chairman, The Institute for Policy, Advocacy, and Governance (IPAG), Bangladesh • Dr Paras Kharel, Executive Director, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Nepal <p>Rapporteur: Mr Sukrit Joshi and Ms Anushka Tripathi</p>
17:00 – 17:15	Tea
17:15 – 18:30 (Venue: Diwan-I-Am) This session shall discuss: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growing importance of financial sector cooperation and new opportunities • Recent initiatives in this area in the region • Stability of the banking and financial sectors in the region • Role in promoting inclusive development and new instruments and technology 	<p style="text-align: center;">Roundtable on Financial Sector Cooperation in South Asia</p> <p>Chair: Ms Shyamala Gopinath, Former Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India</p> <p>Keynote Address: Shri T. Rabi Sankar, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Yuba Raj Khatiwada, Former Finance Minister of Nepal and Former Governor, Nepal Rastra Bank, Nepal • Dr Atiur Rahman, Former Governor, Bangladesh Bank, Bangladesh • Mr Ashok Bhattacharya, Editorial Director, Business Standard, India <p>Rapporteur: Mr Syed Arslan Ali and Mr Kartik Kishore</p>
18.30 – 19.30 (Venue: Diwan-I-Am)	<p style="text-align: center;">RIS@40 - Reflections and Way Forward</p> <p>Chair: Ambassador Sudhir T. Devare, Chairman, RAC, RIS, India</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Pulin Nayak, Former Director, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi and Member, RAC, RIS, India • Ms Sindushree Khullar, Formerly CEO, NITI Aayog and Member, Research Advisory Council, RIS, India • Professor Amrita Narlikar, President, German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA), Germany • Mr Raghuram S., Joint Secretary, Policy Planning & Research, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India • Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, India <p>Rapporteur: Ms Niyathi Singh and Dr Digvijay</p>
19:30 onwards	Dinner

