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**Research and Information System
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विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली

South-South Cooperation: Exploring Possibilities

DAKSHIN's Consultations with its LoA Partners

6, 7 and 11 August 2026

Report

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Executive Summary

DAKSHIN has created a network of 164 think tanks from the Global South in view of its mandate to promote South-South exchange of best practices, knowledge sharing and enabling successful Global South cooperation. Thus, with the objectives of deepening the relationship with its think tank partners and strengthening collaboration for meeting its objectives, DAKSHIN organized a series of region-wide consultations on South-South Cooperation: Exploring Possibilities DAKSHIN's Consultations with its LoA Partners" on 6, 7 and 11 August 2026, with its network of think tanks from East Africa, Central Asia, Europe, South Asia, Southeast Asia, the Pacific Islands, West Africa, and Latin America. By fostering stronger institutional partnerships, DAKSHIN seeks to advance practical, collaborative, and scalable solutions to accelerate the development priorities of the Global South.

Across the three consultations, Dr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Coordinator, and his colleagues at DAKSHIN presented a short formal introduction of their work at DAKSHIN. The LoA partners were then invited to share their views on the shared proposed plans and on the future activities of DAKSHIN identified for further collaboration. Partners broadly welcomed the proposed network and knowledge-sharing mechanisms while emphasising the need to move beyond information exchange towards a structured, substantive and mutually beneficial collaboration. The discussions generated specific suggestions for strengthening institutional participation, connecting existing initiatives and knowledge products, and developing collaborative activities across areas such as rural development, agriculture, health and telemedicine, digital solutions, climate and environment, energy, connectivity, industry and commerce.

The consultations emphasised DAKSHIN's ongoing initiatives and explored opportunities for joint activities covering research, publications, policy dialogue, capacity building, and knowledge-sharing activities. Further, the discussions highlighted opportunities for training programmes and institutional networks, while developing cross-regional initiatives that allow tested practices and expertise to be shared across the Global South. Overall, the consultations reflected strong interest in developing practical mechanisms for sustained engagement and in strengthening DAKSHIN's role as a platform for connecting institutions, expertise and development experiences across regions of the Global South.

Consolidated Key Points Emerging from the Consultations

- Ensure tangible benefits for LoA partners through substantive joint research, publications, capacity building, and collaborative projects, rather than limiting engagement to information sharing or participation in events.
- Develop the proposed Global South think-tank dashboard as a functional networking platform, linking institutions, areas of expertise, subject experts, research outputs and potential collaborators.
- Strengthen regular interaction among partner institutions, including periodic knowledge-sharing sessions and opportunities for young researchers, fellows and interns to undertake joint research and publications.
- Expand and institutionalise ITEC and training opportunities for LoA partners, including regular nominations from partner-country networks and programmes in areas such as rural development, health, telemedicine and other thematic fields.
- Develop the best-practices repository as a diverse and context-sensitive platform, avoiding a “one-size-fits-all” approach and recognising the varied experiences and development contexts across the Global South.
- Use the network to identify and advance a limited number of globally relevant priorities, enabling Global South institutions to build common positions and contribute collectively to international debates, including on technology, future skills, food and oceans.
- Promote cross-regional collaboration on priority sectors, particularly agriculture and rural development, education, digital solutions and AI, health and telemedicine, climate and environment, connectivity, energy, governance and South-South/triangular cooperation.
- Facilitate direct matchmaking between LoA partners and relevant Indian institutions and experts, particularly for specific capacity-building and technology-transfer requirements in areas such as agriculture and digital solutions.
- Explore opportunities for deeper bilateral engagement with LoA partners through focused research, knowledge exchange and other mutually beneficial activities.

The following sections separately capture the key points that were highlighted during the three respective consultations that DAKSHIN had with its LoA partners across the Global South.

South South Cooperation: Exploring Possibilities

(Region: East Africa, Central Asia, Europe)

Thursday, 6 August 2026 | 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm IST | Online

Key points Emerging from LoA Partners

- Explore deeper bilateral engagement with LoA partners through focused joint research and other mutually beneficial activities.
- Assess existing Global South think-tank networks and collaborations to identify gaps and determine the value addition of a proposed DAKSHIN network.
- Consider developing the proposed network as a platform that can generate useful knowledge and inputs for policymakers, thereby strengthening Global South cooperation.
- Explore joint research on AI-powered digital solutions for healthcare and agriculture.
- Expand opportunities for partner institutions to participate in DAKSHIN's internships, educational and capacity-building programmes.
- Strengthen collaboration among young researchers and experts, including through existing partner-led international programmes.
- Explore using the wider network to build a collective Global South voice on issues of global importance, including future skills and jobs, food systems and oceans.
- Pursue more concrete joint academic and research activities, including conferences, publications, analytical studies, co-authored studies, and collaborative agenda-setting.

South South Cooperation: Exploring Possibilities

(Region: South Asia, South East Asia, Pacific Islands)

Friday, 7 August 2026 | 9:00 am – 10:30 am IST | Online

Key points Emerging from LoA Partners

- Support the creation of a Global South network of think tanks as a platform for collaboration and joint research, particularly across industry, commerce and energy-related issues.
- Explore an institutional mechanism for regular participation in ITEC programmes, including structured nominations from partner countries and regional organisations.
- Share existing partner knowledge products and development models through the proposed best-practices platform, including experiences in integrated rural development in the Asia-Pacific region.
- Explore joint online capacity-building programmes, particularly in rural development and health diplomacy, building on existing institutional expertise and training programmes.
- Strengthen regular knowledge-sharing through joint webinars, including opportunities for partner institutions and their experts to contribute to DAKSHIN programmes and for DAKSHIN experts to participate in partner-led webinars, including sharing recent research, policy developments and country experiences to keep the proposed network active.
- Explore connecting young researchers, interns and fellows across partner institutions for joint research and publications, while creating opportunities for cross-regional exposure and professional networks.
- Explore collaboration on digital and technology-driven solutions, including the role of industry and entrepreneurship in addressing climate-related challenges in Southeast Asia.
- Explore knowledge exchange and capacity building in health and telemedicine, including through existing partner training programmes and experiences in mobile healthcare.
- Explore opportunities for collaboration across key sectors including agriculture, energy and mining, industry and commerce, connectivity, and resilient supply chains, drawing on the respective expertise and priorities of partner institutions.

South South Cooperation: Exploring Possibilities

(Region: West Africa, Latin America)

Tuesday, 11 August 2026 | 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm IST | Online

Key points Emerging from LoA Partners

- Explore cooperation in education and skills development, including STEM education, artificial intelligence, teacher training, research and capacity building, drawing on relevant experiences and proven approaches across the Global South.
- Promote technology-enabled solutions for inclusive public service delivery, particularly in education, healthcare and governance, including digital approaches to improve transparency, administrative efficiency and access to identity, documentation and other essential public services at the local level.
- Explore knowledge exchange and technical cooperation on development priorities, including security, governance, justice, public finance, connectivity, energy, education, health, financial inclusion and employment, with an emphasis on innovative and context-specific solutions and longer-term development planning.
- Strengthen collaboration in agriculture and climate-resilient production, including water-efficient agriculture, micro-irrigation, digital agricultural services, productivity enhancement and responsible tourism, as well as stronger linkages among farmers, fishers, local enterprises and markets.
- Expand agricultural capacity building and technology exchange, including connecting practitioners with relevant experts and institutions, sharing best practices and technologies, and exploring online training, expert exchanges and ITEC-supported programmes, with appropriate attention to linguistic accessibility.
- Explore a Global South development barometer and knowledge platform, building on the proposed DAKSHIN network, to facilitate the sharing of development indicators, successful experiences, knowledge resources and good practices, while enabling countries to learn from one another.
- Explore collaborative research on migration and related governance challenges, including mechanisms to improve access to identity and official documentation and strengthen the delivery of essential services to vulnerable and underserved populations.

- Strengthen cooperation on environment, natural resources and climate resilience, including knowledge exchange on natural disasters, floods, early-warning systems, climate adaptation and institutional capacity building, drawing on relevant experiences from across the Global South.
- Explore health-sector collaboration for vulnerable and underserved communities, including telehealth, primary healthcare, community-based health services, female health cadres and bridge training for paramedical personnel, alongside opportunities for health-diplomacy and capacity-building programmes.
- Facilitate joint research, knowledge exchange and networking across health, social and environmental issues and connectivity, leveraging the complementary expertise of DAKSHIN/RIS and its Global South partners.
- Explore collaboration on postgraduate education and capacity building in South-South and Triangular Cooperation, including the possible expansion of existing programmes to a wider Global South audience and their availability in Spanish, Portuguese and English.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTSs

DAKSHIN Regional Consultation Meetings with LoA Partners

(August 2026)

DAKSHIN Regional Consultation Meetings with LoA Partners (August 2026)

Thursday, 6 Aug 2026

3:00 pm – 4:30 pm IST (Online)

Region: East Africa, Central Asia, Europe

1. Dr Abla Abdel Latif, Executive Director and Director of Research, The Egyptian Center for Economic Studies (ECES), Egypt
2. Dr Ana Jović-Lazić, Senior Research Associate, Institute of International Politics and Economics (IIPE), Serbia
3. Ms Aniouta Cotegah, Editorial Assistant, The Charles Telfair Centre, Charles Telfair Education, Mauritius
4. Ms Hillary Youssef, Political Researcher, Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs (ECFA), Egypt
5. Dr Irina Rusak, Analyst (Economic Issues, BISR Academic Secretary; Mr Dzmitry V. Halubnichiy Analyst (EU, US, Strategic Stability); Mr Andrei I. Rzhessky Analyst (Asia, Africa, Latin America), Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Belarus to India (2018-2024) and Mr Yury M. Yarmolinsky, Deputy Head of the Foreign Policy Department (Multilateral Cooperation, SCO & BRICS, South Asia), Belarusian Institute for Strategic Research (BISR), Belarus
6. Ms Irma Qehajaj, Communications Manager, Cooperation and Development Institute (CDI), Albania
7. Ms Marija Bashevska, Director of Research and Policy Impact, Reactor – Research in Action, North Macedonia

8. Mr Michael Owuor, Research Fellow, The Global Centre for Policy and Strategy (GLOCEPS), Kenya
9. Mr Vova Abednigo Chikanda, Chairperson, Zimbabwe Institute of Diplomacy (ZID), Zimbabwe
10. Mr Vusal Guliyev, Leading Advisor, Center of Analysis of International Relations (AIR Center), Azerbaijan
11. Dr Zolboo Dashnyam, Director, Institute of International Studies, Mongolian Academy of Sciences, Mongolia

Friday, 7 Aug 2026

9:00 am – 10:30 am IST (Online)

Region: South Asia, South East Asia, Pacific Islands

1. Ms Dana Eunice Dinsay, Chief of Staff and Ms. Venice Isabelle Rañosa, Research Director and Member of the Editorial Board, Stratbase ADR Institute for Strategic and International Studies (ADRI), Philippines
2. Ms Inoshini Perera, Corporate Director - Strategic Planning, Verité Research, Sri Lanka
3. Mr Kyaw Nyunt Lwin, Senior Researcher, Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS), Myanmar
4. Ms. Neha Bansal, Senior Policy Fellow – Inclusion and Innovation, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Indonesia
5. Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, Director General and Dr Mahadeb Prasad Poudel, Programme Officer (Research); Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP), Bangladesh
6. Dr Ramendra Prasad, Associate Professor and Head of the Science Department, School of Science and Technology, University of Fiji
7. Ms Salina Kafle, People and Programs Coordinator, Nepal Economic Forum (NEF), Nepal
8. Ms Shayani Jayasinghe, Senior Researcher and Ms. Aeshani Pereira, Chief Operating Officer, Bandaranaike Academy for Leadership & Public Policy (BALPP), Sri Lanka
9. Dr So Umezaki, Director, Development Studies Center and Mr. Toshihisa Nakamura, Research Management Officer, IDE-JETRO, Japan
10. Dr. Somdeth Bodhisane, Director of Industry and Handicraft Research Center and Dr Viengsavang Thipphavong, Deputy Director General, Institute for Industry, Commerce,

and Energy (IICE); Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MoIC); Lao PDR

11. Dr. Titipol Phakdeewanich, Director, Regional Center for Human Rights Study and Coordination, Faculty of Political Science, Ubon Ratchathani University, Thailand

Tuesday, 11 Aug 2026

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm IST (Online)

Region: West Africa, Latin America

1. Ms Iara Choi, Institutional Development Assistant, Centro de Implementación de Políticas Públicas para la Equidad y el Crecimiento (CIPPEC) [Center for the Implementation of Public Policies Promoting Equity and Growth (CIPPEC)], Argentina
2. Mr Jean-Paul Faubert, Executive Director and Ms Marie-Claude Vorbe, Senior Program Manager, Institut Macaya, Haiti
3. Mr Jibril Barry, Manager of Information Technology (and IT systems manager/administrator), Mr. Jibril Barry
4. Dr Julio Jiménez Peña, Director of Compliance and Culture, Comité Nacional de Estudiosos de las Relaciones Internacionales (CONERI), [Dominican Republic National Committee of International Relations Scholars (CONERI)], Dominican Republic
5. Dr María Belén Herrero, Adjunct Researcher, Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO), Argentina
6. Dr Marta Fernández, Director, BRICS Policy Center/PUC-Rio, Brazil
7. Professor Nandini Patel, Executive Director, The Institute for Policy Interaction (IPI), Malawi,
8. Dr Vladimir Rozón, Manager of Special Projects, The Global Foundation for Democracy and Development (FUNGLODE), Dominican Republic, Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo (FUNGLODE), Dominican Republic



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RIS specialises in issues related to international economic development, trade, investment and technology. It is envisioned as a forum for fostering effective policy dialogue and capacity-building among developing countries on global and regional economic issues. The focus of the work programme of RIS is to promote South-South Cooperation and collaborate with developing countries in multilateral negotiations in various forums. Through its following centres/forums, RIS promotes policy dialogue and coherence on regional and international economic issues.



The word “DAKSHIN” (दक्षिण) is of Sanskrit origin, meaning “South.” The Hon’ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, inaugurated DAKSHIN – Global South Centre of Excellence in November 2023. The initiative was inspired by the deliberations of Global South leaders during the Voice of the Global South Summits. DAKSHIN stands for Development and Knowledge Sharing Initiative. Hosted at the RIS, DAKSHIN has established linkages with leading think tanks and universities across the Global South and is building a dynamic network of scholars working on Global South issues.



AIC at RIS has been working to strengthen India’s strategic partnership with ASEAN in its realisation of the ASEAN Community. AIC at RIS undertakes research, policy advocacy and regular networking activities with relevant organisations and think-tanks in India and ASEAN countries, with the aim of providing policy inputs, up-to-date information, data resources and sustained interaction, for strengthening ASEAN-India partnership.



CMEC has been established at RIS under the aegis of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPS&W), Government of India. CMEC is a collaboration between RIS and Indian Ports Association (IPA). It has been mandated to act as an advisory/technological arm of MoPSW to provide the analytical support on policies and their implementation.



FITM is a joint initiative by the Ministry of Ayush and RIS. It has been established with the objective of undertaking policy research on economy, intellectual property rights (IPRs) trade, sustainability and international cooperation in traditional medicines. FITM provides analytical support to the Ministry of Ayush on policy and strategy responses on emerging national and global developments.



BEF aims to serve as a dedicated platform for fostering dialogue on promoting the concept in the Indian Ocean and other regions. The forum focuses on conducting studies on the potential, prospects and challenges of blue economy; providing regular inputs to practitioners in the government and the private sectors; and promoting advocacy for its smooth adoption in national economic policies.



FIDC, has been engaged in exploring nuances of India’s development cooperation programme, keeping in view the wider perspective of South-South Cooperation in the backdrop of international development cooperation scenario. It is a tripartite initiative of the Development Partnership Administration (DPA) of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, academia and civil society organisations.



FISD aims to harness the full potential and synergy between science and technology, diplomacy, foreign policy and development cooperation in order to meet India’s development and security needs. It is also engaged in strengthening India’s engagement with the international system and on key global issues involving science and technology.



As part of its work programme, RIS has been deeply involved in strengthening economic integration in the South Asia region. In this context, the role of the South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS) is very important. SACEPS is a network organisation engaged in addressing regional issues of common concerns in South Asia.



Knowledge generated endogenously among the Southern partners can help in consolidation of stronger common issues at different global policy fora. The purpose of NeST is to provide a global platform for Southern Think-Tanks for collaboratively generating, systematising, consolidating and sharing knowledge on South South Cooperation approaches for international development.

— Policy research to shape the international development agenda —

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