

2nd International Conference on South Asian Economic Development

**Faculty of Economics
South Asian University
New Delhi**

**February 18-19, 2016
Venue: FSI Hall, Akbar Bhawan, SAU**

Conference Program

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18

8:30 – 9:30 am : Registration

9:30 – 11:30 am : **Inaugural session**

Chair: Kavita A. Sharma, President, South Asian University

Welcome Address: Santosh C. Panda, Dean and Professor, Faculty of Economics, South Asian University

Inaugural Address: C. Rangarajan, Former Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, Former Governor, Reserve Bank of India and Chairman, Madras School of Economics

Keynote Lecture: Atiur Rahman, Governor, Bangladesh Bank

Title: *Role of Central Banks in Promoting South Asian Regional Economic Cooperation*

11:30 am – 12:00 noon : High Tea

12:00 noon – 1:30 pm

: **Technical Session I: Health & Education**

Chair: Ramesh Chand (Member, NITI Aayog)

1. Demand for Nutrients in India: An Analysis Based on the 50th, 61st and 66th Rounds of the NSS

Nidhi Kaicker, Ambedkar University Delhi
Vani Kulkarni, University of Pennsylvania
Raghav Gaiha, Harvard School of Public Health

2. Social Networks and Health Insurance Utilization

Sisir Debnath, Indian School of Business
Tarun Jain, Indian School of Business
Manvendra Singh, Indian School of Business

3. A Study of Parents' Private-Public School Choice Post Enrolment in India

Sharnic D, Shiv Nadar University, India
Vishakha Agarwal, Shiv Nadar University, India

Discussants: Nandita Saikia, Jawaharlal Nehru University
Ankush Agrawal, IIT Delhi

1:30 – 2:30 pm : Lunch Break

2:30 – 4:30 pm : **Technical Session II: Financial Inclusion**

Chair: Pulin Nayak (Former Director, Delhi School of Economics)

1. Evaluating Productivity and Factors of Productivity in South Asian Microfinance Institutions (Mfis): A Malmquist Approach

Md Aslam Mia, University of Malaya, Malaysia

2. An Assessment of the Functional Financial Literacy in Sri Lanka

Shirantha Heenkenda, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka

3. Does Access to Microcredit Help Women in Becoming Entrepreneurs? Evidence from Bangladesh

M. Jahangir Alam Chowdhury, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

4. Impact Assessment of Credit Program for the Tenant Farmers in Bangladesh: Evidences from the Field Experiment

Mohammad Abdul Malek , BRAC, Bangladesh and Bonn University
Md. Amzad Hossain, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh
Md. Shakil Ahmed, BRAC, Bangladesh
Marup Hossain, University of Florida
Md. Hasib Reza, BRAC, Bangladesh

Discussants: Nitin Arora, Panjab University
Arindam Banerjee, Ambedkar University Delhi

4:30 – 4:45 pm : Tea / Coffee Break

4:45 – 6:45 pm : **Technical Session III: Open Economy Macroeconomics**

Chair: Pami Dua (Director, Delhi School of Economics)

1. Domestic Credit, School Enrollment & Hi-Tech Exports in Bangladesh

Sandip Sarker, Khulna University, Bangladesh.
Arifuzzaman Khan, Bangladesh Bank.

2. ‘Large’ fluctuations in Capital flow: How different are these Episodes? A new use of India’s Balance of Payment Data

Sayantana Bandhu Majumder, University of Calcutta

3. What Next with NIFA? A Lesson from Trends and Contests behind the Currency Convergence in South Asia

D.I.J. Samaranyake, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka
Kinga Choden, Royal Thimphu College, Thimphu, Bhutan

4. An Analysis of Dynamic Interdependence between Financial Cycle and Business Cycle in the SAARC Countries

Wasim Ahmad, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, India
Sanjay Sehgal, University of Delhi, India

Discussant: Ananya Ghosh-Dastidar, University of Delhi
Jyotirmoy Bhattacharya, Ambedkar University Delhi

7: 00 -9:00 pm : Dinner

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19

9:00 – 10.00 am : **Technical Session IV: Banking and Financial Market**

Chair: N. R. Bhanumurthy (Professor, NIPFP)

1. Macroeconomic Determinants of the Stock Market Index: Empirical Evidence from Dhaka Stock Exchange

Md. Abu Hasan, Rajshahi University, Bangladesh
Anita Zaman, Rajshahi University, Bangladesh

2. Regulatory Arbitrage and Presence of Foreign Banks in India

Anjali Prashad, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, India

Discussant: P.C. Biswal (Management Development Institute, Gurgaon)

10:00 – 10:15 am : Tea / Coffee Break

10:15 – 11.15 am : **Technical Session V: Political Economy**

Chair: Anjan Mukherji (Professor Emeritus, Jawaharlal Nehru University)

1. Caste Connections and Government Transfers: The Mahadalits of Bihar

Hemanshu Kumar, Delhi School of Economics, India
Rohini Somanathan, Delhi School of Economics, India

2. Stability of Seat Sharing Agreements in Political Coalitions

Amarjyoti Mahanta, Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, India
Ragupathy Venkatachalam, AI-ECON Research Centre, Taipei

Discussants: Sourabh B Paul, IIT Delhi
Parikshit Ghosh, Delhi School of Economics

11:15 – 11:30 am : Tea / Coffee Break

11:30 am – 12:30 pm : **Distinguished Plenary Lecture**

Chair: Syed Ahsan (Visiting Professor, South Asian University)

Title: “Structural Transformation in South Asia”

Speaker: Raghendra Jha, Head, Arndt-Corden Department of Economics, and Executive Director, Australia South Asia Research Centre, Fellow Research School of Asia and the Pacific Crawford School of Public Policy

12:30 – 1:30 pm : Lunch Break

1:30- 3.30 pm : **Technical session VI: Labour Economics**

Chair: Arup Mitra (Professor, Institute of Economic Growth)

1. Evaluating the Impact of Internal and International Remittances on Households Net Assets in Bangladesh Using Generalized Propensity Score

Mehdi Chowdhury, Bournemouth University, UK
Dragana Radicic, Bournemouth University, UK

2. Impact of Neo-liberal Economic Policy on the Legal Framework and State Policy on Labour: A Case of Sri Lanka and India

Ramindu Perera, Sri Lanka

3. Why are Fewer Married Women Joining The Work Force in India? A Decomposition Analysis Over Two Decades

Farzana Afridi, Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi, India
Taryn Dinkelman, Dartmouth College, Hanover, United States
Kanika Mahajan, Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi, India

4. Labour Market Segmentation in the Indian Economy: An Investigation

Bhaskar Jyoti Neog, IIT Kharagpur, West Bengal, India
Bimal Kishore Sahoo, IIT Kharagpur, West Bengal, India

Discussants: Jesim Pais, ISID
Dibyendu Maiti (Delhi School of Economics)

3.30-3.45 pm : Tea/Coffee Break

3:45 –5:15 pm : **Technical session VII: Food and Livelihood Security**

Chair: Ashwini Deshpande (Professor, Delhi School of Economics)

1. Household Responses to Food Subsidies: Evidence from India

Tara Kaul, International Initiative for Impact Evaluation, india

2. Moving Towards Sustainable Livelihoods from Extreme Poverty: Evidence from CFPR-TUP Programme of BRAC in Bangladesh

Jinnat Ara, BRAC, Bangladesh

3. Impact of Climate Change on Food Grain Yields in India

Shreekant Gupta, Delhi School of Economics, India

Partha Sen, Delhi School of Economics, India

Saumya Verma, Delhi School of Economics, India

Discussant: Aparajita Dasgupta, Ashoka University
Anirban Dasgupta, South Asian University

5:15 – 5:30 pm : Tea/Coffee Break

5:30 – 6.35 pm : **Valedictory Session**

Chair: Santosh C. Panda, Dean and Professor, Faculty of Economics, South Asian University

Valedictory Address: Bibek Debroy, Member, NITI Aayog

Title: “South Asia – Growth and Poverty Reduction”

Vote of Thanks: Soumya Datta, South Asian University

6:35 – 7.00 pm : High Tea