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## SANEI FOCUS

### ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF DIVERSE ECONOMIC RESEARCH AND PLANTING THE SEEDS FOR A SECURE FUTURE IN SOUTH ASIAN REGION.

#### Eight Annual Conference Kathmandu, Nepal

The Eight Annual Conference of the South Asia Network of Economic Research Institutes (SANEI) was held in Kathmandu, Nepal, during 31<sup>st</sup> August to 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2007. The honorable Minister for Finance, Dr. Ram Sharan Mahat, delivered inaugural address. The Secretary (Coordinator) SANEI welcomed all the participants.

The Conference brought together more than 30 participants from member countries of South Asia (Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka). The members of the steering committee, Research Advisory Panel (RAP) and researchers doing projects under SANEI VIII participated in the Conference. The Themes of Eight Annual Conference were “**Financial Sector Reform**” and “**Higher Education**”. Under these themes eight papers were presented by the researchers and members of RAP gave their comments on these papers.

The SANEI Steering Committee meeting was held on 31 August. The members reviewed activities and financial situation of SANEI and set out action plan for future.

Dr Isher Judge Ahluwalia, Chairperson of Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations, delivered the invited lecture on “**Indian**

**Economy: Looking Ahead**” on the evening of 31 August. The lecture was chaired by Prof. T.N. Srinivasan, Department of Economics, Yale University, USA.

The presentation on activities of Global Development Network (GDN) was made by Ms. Ramona Angelescu, SANEI coordinator in GDN and Miss Saba Anwar from Pakistan gave the presentation on South Asia Regional Window, which is now maintained and updated by SANEI - PIDE.

The Panel Discussion on **“South Asia Agriculture - Post Doha”**, the theme of ninth round, was held on the afternoon of 1 September. The panel was chaired by Dr Naushin Mahmood Secretary (Coordinator), SANEI and acting Vice Chancellor of Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE). Professor T. N. Srinivasan, Dr Binod Karmacharya from Nepal and Dr Usman Mustafa from Pakistan were the panelists.



### Multidisciplinary and Intermediation Research (MIR) has been completed

SANEI-GDN launched the Multidisciplinary Research and Intermediation Project in South Asia. Three projects were approved by the Steering Committee members. These three studies are: (i) "Institutions Building for Controlling Corruption: A Case Study on the Effectiveness of Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA) and National Vigilance Center (NIC) in Nepal" by Dr Dilli Raj Khanal, (ii) "Impact of Arsenic Contamination in Ground Water on Poverty and Choice of Mitigation Technology for Rural Communities of Bangladesh" by Dr A.K. Enamul Haque, M. Zakir Hossain Khan and Dr. Joyasree Roy and (iii) "Demographic Transition and Economic Development in Kerala: The Role of Emigration" by Dr S Irudaya Rajan and Dr. K.S. James. These studies were presented at the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference held in Islamabad, Pakistan and also presented at the Multidisciplinary and Intermediation Research (MIR) Seminar was held in Lahore, Pakistan at April 1, 2007. The final reports are available in SANEI website.

### Lecture of M. Ali Khan

SANEI and PIDE organized an Invited National Lecture on "**Perfect Competition and Economic Development**" by SANEI Research Advisory Panel Member, Prof. Dr M. Ali Khan, Abram Hutzler Professor of Political Economy, John Hopkins University, USA, on 6 Sep, 2007 in Islamabad, Pakistan. The lecture was chaired by Engr. Dr. Akram Sheikh, Deputy Chairman/Minister of State, Planning Commission, Government of Pakistan.



### South Asian Regional Window

The South Asia Window is being produced by the SANEI in partnership with GDNet. The window features news and funding opportunities, policy related social science research papers and profiles of researchers and organizations based in the South Asian region. The window also contains updated information about conferences, jobs and calls for papers by international researchers and policy makers. The website of South Asia Regional Window is <http://www.gdnet.org/middle.php>

### SANEI Phase VIII

The theme of the Eight Round was “**Financial Sector Reform & Higher Education**”. Under these themes 12 studies were funded. The first drafts of these studies are available on the website. These studies were presented by the researchers at the Eighth Annual Conference in Katmandu, Nepal. The final review of these studies is in process.

### Steering Committee Meeting

SANEI Steering Committee Meeting was held on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007 in New Delhi, India. All the Steering Committee Members attended the meeting. The meeting was chaired by Dr Ishrat Hussain. Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Director and Executive Chief of the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) welcomed the members of steering committee. Dr. Naushin Mahmood introduced of the new chairman of SANEI, Dr. Ishrat Hussain presented the coordinator’s report which was discussed by the members.

### SANEI Steering Committee Members Met the Indian Vice President

SANEI Steering Committee Members met the Indian Vice President Mr. Muhammad Hamid Ansari on December 8, 2007 in New Delhi, India. He appreciated the activities of network and highlighted some issues like natural resources on which research could be beneficial to the South Asian Region.



## New SANEI Member

SANEI has a membership of 52 research institutions in the South Asia region. The following institutes have joined SANEI as new members.

- Sardar Patel Institute of Economic and Social Research, Ahmedabad, India
- Social Policy and Development Centre, Karachi, Pakistan.
- Centre for Economic and Social Studies, India

## SANEI Phase IX Call for Proposals

SANEI IX call for proposal witnessed an outstanding response in the number of proposal received on the themes of **“South Asian Agriculture – Post Doha”**. The proposal was widely advertised among member institutes and South Asian scholars in five countries of the region. The call was advertised in all the prominent newspapers of the member countries and emails were sent to a large number of researchers of the five countries of the region. The total number of proposals received was 54. Out of these, 12 proposals were from Nepal, 22 from India, 10 from Pakistan, 7 from Sri Lanka and 1 from Bangladesh. On the basis of the research advisory panel’s evaluation, the Chairman approved 15 proposals for funding under SANEI IX. The proposals were can be seen in SANEI website.

## Projects Approved under the Ninth Phase of SANEI

No.	Subject	Discipline	Institutes	Country	Name of the Principal Researcher(s)
1.	<a href="#">Trips and Safeguard Mechanism: Impact of Mailbox Applications on Affordability and Accessibility of Essential Medicines in Post 2005 Phase</a>	Economics	Ministry Of External Affairs, Delhi	India	<a href="#">Dr. Somesh Mathur</a>
2.	<a href="#">Evaluation of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of Uruguay Round on Supply Chain: A Study on Tea Sector of Nilgiri Region of South India</a>	Multidisciplinary	Center For Ecological Economics And Natural Resources and Institute For Social And Economic Change Nagarbhavi Bangalore	India	<a href="#">Dr. K. V. Raju</a>  <a href="#">Dr. K. Lenin Babu</a>
3.	<a href="#">A Study on Transformation Of Indian Agriculture in the Post Doha Scenario and its Macro Economic Impact</a>	Economics	Deptt. Of Economics And Politics Vidya-Bhavana Visva-Bharati (University) Santiniketan India-731235	India	<a href="#">Aparajita Mukherjee</a> <a href="#">Dr. Saumya Chakrabart</a>

4.	<a href="#">The Impact of Doha Round on Indian Horticulture</a>	Economics	The Energy And Resources Institute	India	<a href="#">Nitya Nanda</a> <a href="#">Anandajit Goswami</a> <a href="#">R. Srinivasulu</a> <a href="#">Ligia Noronha</a>
5.	<a href="#">Impact of WTO on Oilseed Growers and Processors in India: A Case Study in Anantapur District of Andhra Pradesh</a>	Economics	Administrative Staff College of India	India	<a href="#">A.Amarender Reddy</a>
6.	<a href="#">Assessing The Trade Liberalization Impact on Cropping Pattern Change, Technological Adoption and Income Distribution in Tamil Nadu, India.</a>	Economics	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Annamalai University	India	<a href="#">Dr.K.N.Selvaraj</a> <a href="#">Dr.C.Ramasamy</a> <a href="#">Dr.K.R.Sundaravaradarajan</a>
7.	<a href="#">Challenges, Opportunities and Imperatives For Techno-Economic- Institutional Reforms Under Trade Liberalisation: Case Studies of Tea and Rubber Plantation Sectors in India.</a>	Economics	Gujarat Institute Of Development Research	India	<a href="#">Dr. P.K. Viswanathan</a> <a href="#">Amita Shah</a>
8.	<a href="#">Implications of Trade Liberalization : An Analysis of the Growth Components and Contributory Factors for Agriculture across Indian States</a>	Multidisciplinary	Sardar Patel Institute of Economic and Social Research (SPIESR)	India	<a href="#">Professor NC Shah</a> <a href="#">Dr. Niti Mehta</a>
9.	<a href="#">Cost Benefit Analysis Of Buffer Zone Management In Chitwan National Park, Nepal</a>	Economics	Tribhuvan University	Nepal	<a href="#">Maniratna Aryal</a>
10.	<a href="#">Macroeconomic Impacts of Trade Liberalization in South Asian Agriculture</a>	Economics	ICRIER	India	<a href="#">Surajit Deb</a>
11.	<a href="#">Impact of Multilateral Agricultural Trade Liberalization on Household Welfare in Nepal</a>	Economics	Nepal Council For Development Economics Research	Nepal	<a href="#">Binod K. Karmacharya</a>

12.	<a href="#">Micro Finance Institutions and its Role in Alleviating Rural Poverty in Nepal: A Socio-economic Analysis</a>	Multidisciplinary	Tribhuvan University	Nepal	<a href="#">Ms Shanti Sapkota</a>
13.	<a href="#">Making Agriculture Trade Liberalization Work for The Poor: Evidences From South Asia</a>	Economics	Institute For Integrated Development Studies	Nepal	<a href="#">Udbodh Ushakar Rijal</a>
14.	<a href="#">The Dairy Sector In Sri Lanka - Post Doha Adjustments and Policy Options</a>	Multidisciplinary	Marga Institute	Srilanka	Jeevika Weerahewa  <a href="#">Nimal Sanderatne</a>  <a href="#">Sarath S. Kodithuwakku</a>  <a href="#">Pradeepa Silva</a>  <a href="#">Javalath Amerarsekera</a>
15.	<a href="#">Impact of Post Doha Agricultural Liberalization on Efficiency And Comparative Advantage of Rice And Potato Sectors in Sri Lanka: A Policy Analysis Matrix Approach</a>	Multidisciplinary	Institute Of Policy Studies Of Sri Lanka	Srilanka	<a href="#">Parakrama Amarenath Samaratunga</a>  <a href="#">Manoj Indika Thibbotuwawa</a>  <a href="#">Thusitha Dilhani Marawila</a>

### New SANEI Executives

Dr Rashid Amjad (Vice Chancellor, PIDE, Islamabad) is new Secretary and Coordinator of SANEI.

### SANEI – Book

SANEI has published a book entitled “**Social Security for the Elderly**” edited by S. Irudaya Rajan and published by Routledge, India. The book is based on the studies, which were funded in the second and fourth round of SANEI.

### SANEI Phase X Call for proposal

SANEI Tenth call for proposal will be announced in May 2008 with the thematic focus on

- Ensuring Health for All
- Perspective on Inter / Intra Regional Migration

### SANEI invited lecture on Reforms and the Indian Economic Performance: Past and Prospects

SANEI is organizing an invited lecture on **“Reforms and the Indian Economic Performance: Past and Prospects”** by Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Director and Chief Executive, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations, New Delhi, India. The lecture is scheduled on April 23, 2008 at the Marriot Hotel, Islamabad.

### Ninth Annual Conference

The SANEI Ninth Annual Conference is scheduled to be held in Bhurban, Pakistan during August 2008. Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) will handle of all arrangements for the meeting. The theme of the Conference is **“South Asian Agriculture – Post Doha”** and papers will be presented on this theme by the researchers of the ninth round.

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