



Fifteenth South Asia Economic Summit (SAES XV) Unleashing an equitable green transformation in South Asia

Kathmandu | 11-13 December 2024

Programme Agenda

Time	Programme
Day I 11 December	
15:30 – 16:00	Registration
16:00 – 17:00	Opening session Welcome and Introductory Address: Dr. Ratnakar Adhikari, Chairman, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Nepal. Remarks from Special Guest from Bangladesh (Virtual) Hon'ble Ms. Syeda Rizwana Hasan, Adviser, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Interim Government, People's Republic of Bangladesh Remarks from Distinguished Guests H.E. Ms. Veronique Lorenzo, Ambassador of the European Union Delegation to Nepal H.E. Ms. Hanaa Singer-Hamdy, United Nations Resident Coordinator, Nepal Inaugural Address by the Chief Guest Hon'ble Mr. Damodar Bhandari, Minister, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies, Government of Nepal Chairperson's Remarks: Dr. Posh Raj Pandey, Chair Emeritus, SAWTEE, Nepal
17:00 – 17:30	Tea break
17:30 – 19:30	Opening Plenary: Developing green value chains in South Asia: An agenda for cooperation Moderator: Dr. Debapriya Bhattacharya, Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Convener of the Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh

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	<p>Keynote speech: Prof. Dr. Rehman Sobhan, Chairman, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Posh Raj Pandey, Chair Emeritus, SAWTEE, Nepal • Dr. Pritam Banerjee, Head and Professor, Centre for WTO Studies, India • Dr. Ganeshan Wignaraja, Professorial Fellow in Economics and Trade at Gateway House and a Visiting Senior Fellow at ODI, UK • Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Pakistan • Dr. Rupa Chanda, Director of Trade, Investment and Innovation, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP), Thailand
19:30 – 22:00	Musical Gala and Welcome Dinner

DAY 2 | 12 December

09:00 – 11:00	Plenary: Trade and industrial policies in a time of climate action		
	<p>Moderator: Dr. Brendan Vickers, Adviser and Head, International Trade Policy Section, Commonwealth Secretariat, UK</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director and Chief Executive, Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID), India • Dr. Dushni Weerakoon, Executive Director, Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS), Sri Lanka • Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), India • Ms. Ieva Baršauskaitė, Lead, Trade and the Green Transition, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), Switzerland • Dr. Paras Kharel, Executive Director, SAWTEE, Nepal 		
11:00 – 11:15	Tea break		
11:15 – 13:00	Parallel session: Sustainability-based trade measures: An emerging challenge for global trade	Parallel session: Tapping clean energy for development	Parallel session: Trade in environment-friendly goods and services: Emerging opportunities and challenges

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	<p>Moderator: Prof. Dr. Murali Kallummal, Professor, Centre for WTO Studies</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Vishakha Srivastav, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for WTO Studies, India Dr. Selim Raihan, Executive Director, South Asian Network on Economic Modelling (SANEM); and Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh Dr. Salamat Ali, Trade Economist, Commonwealth Secretariat, UK Dr. Aparna Sawhney, Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), India Dr. Joel Trachtman, Professor of International Law and Henry J. Braker Professorship of Commercial Law, Tufts University, US (virtual) 	<p>Moderator: Mr. Shishir Priyadarshi, President, Global Relations, Adani Group, India</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Dipak Gyawali, Former Minister for Water Resources, Nepal Dr. Biraj Singh Thapa, Associate Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, School of Engineering, Kathmandu University, Nepal Dr. Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Research Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh Ms. Saima William, Program Lead for Climate Action, Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI), Pakistan Mr. Ashish Garga, Vice President, Independent Power Producers Association Nepal (IPPAN), Nepal 	<p>Moderator: Dr. Rupa Chanda, Director of Trade, Investment and Innovation, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP), Thailand</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Pramila A Crivelli, Economist, Economic Research Department, Asian Development Bank, Manila, Philippines Dr. Seeta Giri, Founder, Mountain Crafts, Bhutan Ms. Darshana Shrestha, First Vice-President, Federation of Women Entrepreneurs Association of Nepal (FWEAN), Nepal Mr. Saumitra Neupane, Executive Director, Policy Entrepreneurs Inc, Nepal Mr. Kshitiz Dahal, Senior Research Officer, SAWTEE, Nepal
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break		

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14:00—15:45	Parallel session: Inequality and justice in an era of climate change	Parallel session: Imperative of sustainable tourism	Parallel session: Harnessing investments for an equitable green transformation in South Asia
	<p>Moderator: Mr. John Samuel, Regional Director, Oxfam in Asia</p> <p>Presentation: Mr. Prakash Kafle, Thematic Lead, Resilience and Climate Justice including Humanitarian, Oxfam in Nepal</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Nitya Nanda, Director, Council for Social Development, India • Prof. Md. Shahidul Haque, South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG), North South University, and Former Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Bangladesh • Ms. Saima William, Program Lead for Climate Action, Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI), Pakistan 	<p>Moderator: Dr. Seeta Giri, Founder, Mountain Crafts, Bhutan</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Deepak Raj Joshi, CEO, Nepal Tourism Board, Nepal • Dr. Mariyam Shakeela, Former Cabinet Minister, Maldives, and Chief Executive Officer, SIMDI Group, Maldives • Ms. Yankeela Sherpa, Former Minister for Tourism; Former President, Trekking Agents' Association of Nepal (TAAN); and Federation of Women's Entrepreneurs of Nepal (FWEAN), Nepal • Dr. Anu Kumari Lama, Tourism Specialist, International Centre for Integrated Mountain 	<p>Moderator: Mr. Tom Becker, Economist of the Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP), Thailand</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Sushil Gyewali, CEO, Investment Board of Nepal, Nepal • Ms. Priyanka Samaraweera, Executive Director, Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka • Mr. Chhime Thsering, Director, Invest Bhutan, Bhutan • Ms. Shreeya Shukla, ESG and Net Zero Specialist, Pi Green Innovation, India • Mr. Mohit Singhvi, Associate Vice President, Chakr Innovation, India

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Dikshya Singh, Programme Coordinator, SAWTEE, Nepal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development (ICIMOD), Nepal Ms. Sunanda Ale Sharma, Assistant Professor, Kathmandu University, Nepal Mr. Foqoruddin Al Kabir, Senior Research Associate, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Tiffany Tong, Co-founder and CEO, Aloï Technology, Nepal
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15:45—16:00	Tea break	
16:00—17:45	Parallel session: Capacity building on sustainable disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, and mitigation	Parallel session: Resilience and agility of MSMEs and inclusive businesses
	<p>Moderator: Dr. Sagar Prasai, Senior Advisor, The Asia Foundation, Nepal</p> <p>Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Sanjay Srivastava, Chief, Disaster Risk Reduction, UN ESCAP, Thailand Ms. Aminath Shaahy, Assistant Director, The Maldives National University, Maldives <p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Anil Pokhrel, Chief Executive, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority, Government of Nepal Dr. Shafqat Munir, Deputy Executive/Head, Sustainable and Resilience Programme, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Pakistan 	<p>Moderator: Dr. Mona Shrestha Adhikari, Chief Executive Officer, Enterprise for Management, Economic Reform and Gender Equality (EMERGE), Nepal</p> <p>Keynote Speaker: Mr. Krishna Bahadur Raut, Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies (MoICS), Nepal</p> <p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Ganga Tilakaratna, Research Fellow, Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS), Sri Lanka Ms. Tripti Rai, Country Director, Oxfam in Nepal Ms. Mikiko Tanaka, Director and Head, Sub-regional Office for South and Southwest Asia, United Nations Economic

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Pulasthi Amarasinghe, Research Fellow, Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS), Sri Lanka • Dr. Sabyasachi Saha, Associate Professor, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), India • Ms. Shakti Gurung, Executive Director, Centre for Disaster Management Studies, Nepal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP), India • Mr. Suman Shakya, Founder/CEO, Tangent Waves, Nepal
Day over	

DAY III | 13 December

09:00 – 11:00 Plenary: Green finance post-COP29: Pathways for delivery

	<p>Moderator: Dr. Ratnakar Adhikari, Chairman, SAWTEE, Nepal</p> <p>Keynote speech: Mr. John Samuel, Regional Director, Oxfam in Asia</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Madhu Kumar Marasini, Member-Secretary, National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal • Dr. Fahmida Khatun, Executive Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh • Mr. Radhesh Pant, Chairman, VRock & Company, Nepal • Ms. Pranisha Shrestha, Head of Brand and Marketing, NMB Bank Ltd., Nepal • Mr. Sanjay Vashist, Director, Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSA), India
11:00 – 11:15	Tea break

11:15-13:00	Parallel session: Towards circular economy implementation	Parallel session: Climate-resilient agri system for food security
	Moderator: Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Pakistan	Moderator: Mr. Pradeep Singh Mehta, Secretary General, Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS), India

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	<p>Presentation: Dr. Piya Kerdlap, Founder and Managing Director, PXP Sustainability, Thailand (virtual)</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Dilli Raj Khanal, Former Member of Parliament, Nepal • Dr. Nitya Nanda, Director, Council for Social Development, India • Ms. Prakriti Mainali, Co-founder, Shakti Milan, Nepal • Ms. Pratigya Bashyal, Kathmandu University School of Management, Nepal • Ms. Devyani Hari, Senior Director, Centre for Responsible Business, India (virtual) 	<p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Matina Joshi Vaidya, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MOALD) Government of Nepal • Dr. Pulasthi Amarasinghe, Research Fellow, Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS), Sri Lanka • Ms. Shalini Gupta, Integrated Development Studies (IIDS), Nepal • Mr. Sudeep Bajrachayra, Technical Advisor Mandala Agrifresh, Nepal
<p>13:00 – 14:00</p>	<p>Lunch Break</p>	
<p>14:00-15:45</p>	<p>Parallel session: Green and sustainable trade facilitation</p>	<p>Parallel session: Technology and innovation for an equitable green transformation</p>
	<p>Moderator: Dr. Sameer Khatiwada, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Philippines</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Baikuntha Aryal, Former Chief Secretary, Government of Nepal • Dr. Prabir De, Professor, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), India • Mr. Rabi Shankar Sainju, Vice Chair, SAWTEE; and former Joint Secretary, Government of Nepal 	<p>Moderator: Prof. Rounaq Jahan, Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Brendan Vickers, Adviser and Head, International Trade Policy Section, Commonwealth Secretariat, UK • Mr. Vivek Rana, IT Expert, Nepal • Mr. Syed Yusuf Saadat, Research Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prof. Mustafizur Rahman, Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh• Ms. Rinchen Lhazom, Chief, Internal Trade Promotion & Facilitation Division, Department of Trade, Ministry of Industry, Commerce & Employment, Bhutan• Mr. Arif Kamal Syed, Head of Operations for Cross-border Trade (Central Asia), Dynamic Logistics International, Pakistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Sonika Manandhar, Co-Founder, Aloï Technology, Nepal• Mr. Ajit Bikram Shah, Founding Chairman, American Chamber of Commerce in Nepal (AMCHAM Nepal); and Director and CEO, Lotus Holdings, Nepal
15:45—16:00	Tea break	
16:00—17:00	Closing session	
	Fifteenth SAES: Key takeaways Ms, Neelu Thapa, Director of 15th SAES and Treasurer, SAWTEE, Nepal	
	Remarks by the Organizer-designate of SAES XVI Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Pakistan	
	Remarks from Distinguished Guests Mr. Gobinda Bahadur Karkee, Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies, Government of Nepal Ms. Mikiko Tanaka, Director and Head of ESCAP Sub-Regional Office for South and South-West Asia Office, India Mr. Chandra Prasad Dhakal, President, Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI), Nepal	
	Special Remarks from the chief guest Mr. Maha Prasad Adhikari, Nepal Rastra Bank, Nepal	
	Vote of Thanks Ms. Bindra Hada, Board Member, SAWTEE and Former Secretary, Government of Nepal	

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Chairman’s Concluding Remarks

Dr. Ratnakar Adhikari, Chairman, SAWTEE, Nepal