

REMARKS BY H. E. MR. AMJAD HUSSAIN B. SIAL,
SECRETARY GENERAL OF SAARC
TO WELCOME HON. SHAHID KHAQAN ABBASI,
PRIME MINISTER OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN
SAARC SECRETARIAT, KATHMANDU, 06 MARCH 2018

Honourable Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of all officials at the SAARC Secretariat, I have the honour to extend a very warm welcome to the Hon. Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and his delegation. We are greatly honoured by this visit.

The leaders of SAARC have been visiting the Headquarters of SAARC since its inception. However, this visit is taking place exactly after nine years of the last visit by the Hon'ble President of Sri Lanka in March 2009. Here is the tree planted by the President.

We are happy and grateful indeed, Hon'ble Prime Minister, that you could find it convenient for yourself to visit the Headquarters of SAARC despite busy schedule and paucity of time.

This visit will certainly be a source of inspiration and encouragement to the officials here to work with even greater zeal and zest to provide best possible services to the Member States.

Pakistan has been playing a commendable role in the attainment of the objectives of SAARC. It has also hosted two SAARC Summits in the past.

As welcomed by the leaders of SAARC during the Eighteenth Summit held in Kathmandu in November 2014, Pakistan is to host the Nineteenth Summit.

The Summit is the highest institutional organ of SAARC. The holding of Summits provides renewed impetus to the SAARC process. Therefore, it is highly desirable that the Summits are held every two years, as decided by the leaders during the Eighteenth Summit.

I avail myself of this opportunity to express our gratitude to the current Chair of SAARC and the host of the Headquarters, Nepal, and other Member States for their continued valuable support to the SAARC Secretariat.

In concluding my remarks, I wish to once again thank the Hon. Prime Minister for this visit.

May I now have the honour to invite the Hon. Prime Minister to make his remarks and plant a tree thereafter.

I thank you.
