

**SAARC Activities**  
**Implemented from January to December 2019**



**SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu**



**Afghanistan Bangladesh Bhutan India Maldives Nepal Pakistan Sri Lanka**



# **SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION SECRETARIAT**

## **CONTENTS**

- 1. Activities of SAARC Secretariat**
- 2. Activities of SAARC Specialized Bodies**
- 3. Activities of SAARC Regional Centres**
- 4. Activities of SAARC Apex Bodies**
- 5. Activities of SAARC Recognized Bodies**

## SAARC Secretariat's Activities (implemented from January-December 2019)

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
1.	Fourth Meeting of the SAARC Agriculture Ministers	27 June 2019	Thimphu	Completed	<p>The Thimphu Statement on Agriculture and Rural Development was unanimously adopted by the Meeting, with 19-points regional pledges and strategies, to promote regional collaboration in agriculture and allied sectors. The Meeting, agreed to among others, promote multi-sectoral approaches to attain higher level of food safety and nutrition security; promote climate resilient agricultural strategies and technologies; expand agro-processing and building competitive agricultural value chains; facilitate gender mainstreaming and attracting youth and women in agriculture; intensify agricultural research, development and innovation through higher public investment and public-private partnership; and adopt appropriate measures to avert transboundary animal diseases.</p> <p>The Ministers also adopted the Statement on SAARC's Cooperation on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR).</p> <p>The Meeting was inaugurated by H.E. Dr. Tandi Dorji, Hon'ble Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Royal Government of Bhutan. H.E. Lyonpo Yeshey Penjor, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and Forests of Bhutan and the</p>	<p>Hon'ble Agriculture Ministers, Representatives of all Member States (except Afghanistan).</p> <p>Secretary General of SAARC, Director (ARD), Director (IPA), Director (ENB), Desk Officer (ARD) and Desk Officer (ETS) from the SAARC Secretariat and Director (SAC) and Senior Programme Specialists from SAC.</p>

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
					Secretary General of SAARC addressed the Inaugural Session.	
2.	The Thirteenth Informal Meeting of SAARC Finance Ministers	2 May 2019	Nadi, Fiji	Completed	Hon. Finance Ministers/Heads of Delegation briefed the meeting about the current status of economic progress achieved in their respective country, and progress made under various mechanisms under the SAARC process, appreciated the support of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in the region's economic growth and expressed the hope that SAARC would make further progress to achieve its full potential for the benefit its of peoples.	Hon. Finance Ministers and Heads of Delegation of the Member States, Secretary General of SAARC and Director (ETF) SAARC Secretariat.
3.	Sixth SDF Governing Council Meeting	2 May 2019	Nadi, Fiji	Completed	The Governing Council approved future strategies and action plan of the SAARC Development Fund.	Hon. Finance Ministers/Heads of Delegation of the Member States, Secretary General and Director (ETF) of SAARC Secretariat, and CEO, SDF.
4.	Sixth South Asia Public Procurement Conference	22-24 April 2019	Thimphu	Completed	<p>The Conference brought together the Heads of Public Procurement Agencies and other key stakeholders from South Asia to learn from one another with a view to making their public procurement systems more effective.</p> <p>The Conference was supported by the World Bank (WB), Asian Development Bank (ADB), Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).</p>	<p>The Conference was inaugurated by H.E. Mr. Namgay Tshering, Hon'ble Finance Minister of the Royal Government of Bhutan.</p> <p>Heads of Public Procurement Agencies of all Member States, Secretary General and Director (ETF) of SAARC Secretariat.</p>

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
5.	Twelfth Meeting of the Committee of Heads of University Grants Commissions/Equivalent Bodies.	30–31 May 2019	Kathmandu	Completed	<p>The Meeting considered matters pertaining to Credit Transfer Mechanism in SAARC Member States, Open and Distance Learning and SAARC-UNESCO Cooperation in the field of higher education, among others.</p> <p>The Secretary General of SAARC delivered remarks at the Inaugural Session.</p>	H.E. Mr. Giriraj Mani Pokharel, Hon'ble Education Minister of Nepal, Heads of University Grants Commissions Equivalent Bodies of the Member States, Director (ESC) and Desk Officer (ESC) of the SAARC Secretariat.
6.	Regional Economic Integration Study (Phase II)	24-25 June 2019	Kathmandu	Completed	<p>The Meeting reiterated the following recommendations for implementation on a priority basis: Reduction/Removal of Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) and Para-Tariff Barriers (PTBs); Energy Cooperation; Trade Facilitation Measures; Investment Cooperation; Reduction of products in the Sensitive Lists; SAARC Agreement on Trade in Services (SATIS); and Improvement in Connectivity (rail, road, air, maritime) among the Member States. Implementation of these prioritized recommendations will facilitate the transition of SAARC from SAFTA to SAEU.</p>	<p>The Meeting was inaugurated by H.E. Mr. Matrika Prasad Yadav, Hon'ble Minister of Industry, Commerce and Supplies, Government of Nepal.</p> <p>Representatives of all Member States and Director (ETF) of SAARC Secretariat.</p>
7.	South Asia Statistical Capacity Development Workshop on Developing SAARC SDG4 Monitoring Framework and Preparatory Meeting for the Fifth APMED	21-24 May 2019	Kathmandu	Completed	<p>The Meeting discussed ways to enhance monitoring capacities of SAARC countries in the context of relevant SDG4 goals and addressed issues related to the forthcoming 5th APMED2030 in October 2019.</p> <p>The Secretary General of SAARC delivered opening remarks at the Inaugural Session.</p> <p>Secretary, Ministry of Education, Nepal inaugurated the Workshop.</p>	Hon. State Minister for Education of Maldives, Representatives of Member States, UNESCO, and UNICEF, SAARC Secretary General and Director (ESC) SAARC Secretariat.

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
8.	Round-Table on Asian Regional Cooperation Organizations	28 March 2019	Boao, Hainan Province of China	Completed	The Round-Table was devoted to the theme, Opportunities and Challenges of Asian Regional Cooperation. The Round-Table was a component of Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2019 convened under the auspices of Boao Forum for Asia.	Secretary General of SAARC, Heads of Regional Organizations in Asia, including ASEAN-China Centre (ACC); Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD); Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS); and Asian Financial Cooperation Association (AFCA).
9.	Senior Agriculture Officials' Meeting (SAOM) preparatory to the Fourth Meeting of the SAARC Agriculture Ministers	26 June 2019	Thimphu	Completed	The Meeting reviewed the status of implementation of the decisions/recommendations of various Meetings held since its last Meeting, considered the activities of SAARC Agriculture Centre and made various important recommendations. The Meeting adopted the Reports of the Ninth Meeting of TCARD and the Third Multi-stakeholders' Dialogue on Agriculture. The Meeting was inaugurated by His Excellency Mr. Yeshey Penjor, Minister for Agriculture and Forests, Royal Government of Bhutan. The Secretary General of SAARC also addressed the Inaugural Session.	Senior Agriculture Officials (at the level of Secretaries)/ Representatives of all Member States (except Afghanistan).  Secretary General of SAARC, Director (ARD), Director (IPA), Director (ENB), Desk Officer (ARD) and Desk Officer (ETS) from the SAARC Secretariat and Director and Senior Programme Specialists from SAC.
10.	Ninth Meeting of the Technical Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (TCARD)	25 June 2019	Thimphu	Completed	The Committee reviewed the status of implementation of the decisions/recommendations of Meetings held since the Eighth Meeting of TCARD and made effective and the timely important recommendations for implementation of the decisions. The Committee identified several concrete areas for formulating projects of regional importance and advised the SAARC	TCARD Members/ Representatives of all Member States (except Afghanistan) attended. Representatives of International / Regional Specialized Organizations attended a particular session.

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
					<p>Agriculture Centre to realign some of its priorities accordingly.</p> <p>The Meeting was inaugurated by H.E. Dasho Rinzin Dorji, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture &amp; Forests, Royal Government of Bhutan. The Secretary General of SAARC also addressed the Inaugural Session.</p>	Director (ARD), Director (IPA), Director (ENB), Desk Officer (ARD) and Desk Officer (ETS) from the SAARC Secretariat and Director (SAC) and Senior Programme Specialists from SAC also attended.
11.	Second Meeting of the SAARC Seed Bank Board	17 January 2019	New Delhi	Completed	<p>The Board reviewed the status of implementation of the decisions of its First Meeting. The Board recommended to short-list potential common varieties of the crops of the Member States for adaptive trials in order to fix the assessed share of the Member States for the Seed Bank Reserve. The Board decided to develop common minimum Seed Quality Standard, Seed Testing Procedures and a draft Protocol for the SAARC Seed Bank Agreement.</p> <p>The Meeting was inaugurated by Mr. Sanjay Agarwal, Secretary (DAC &amp; FW), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare of the Government of India.</p>	SAARC Seed Bank Board Members/Representatives from all Member States (except Maldives), Director (ARD) and Desk Officer (ARD) from the SAARC Secretariat and Senior Programme Specialist (Crops) from SAC
12.	Tenth Meeting of the SAARC Food Bank Board	21-22 January 2019	Islamabad	Completed	<p>The Board reviewed the status of implementation of the decisions of its Ninth Meeting and provided further guidance for early operationalization of the Food Bank. The Board decided to formulate the Regional Guidelines on Storage Method. Practices and Quality Control Measures as soon as possible.</p>	SAARC Food Bank Board Members / Representatives from all Member States (except Nepal) Director (ARD) and Desk Officer (ARD) from the SAARC Secretariat and Senior Programme Specialist (Crops) from SAC.

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
					<p>Representatives of International Organizations also participated in a particular session of the Meeting for collaboration to enhance regional food and nutrition security.</p> <p>The Meeting was inaugurated by Dr. Muhammad Hashim Popalzai, Secretary, Ministry of National Food Security and Research of the Government of Pakistan. The closing ceremony was graced by H.E. Mr. Sahibzada Muhammad Mehboob Sultan, Hon'ble Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.</p>	
13.	The Ninth Meeting of Working Group on Energy	08-09 April 2019	Islamabad	Completed	The Ninth Meeting of the Working Group on Energy was held on 08-09 April 2019 in Islamabad. The Meeting reviewed the implementation matrix of the decisions taken during its previous session. The Meeting also deliberated on the pilot projects received from the Member States.	Representatives of the Member States, SAARC Energy Centre, ADB, IRENA; and Director (ETS) and Desk Officer (ETS) from the SAARC Secretariat.
14.	Third Meeting of Core Group of the SAARC Immigration Authorities and Visa Experts	18 April 2019	SAARC Secretariat	Completed	The Third Meeting of the Core Group of SAARC Immigration Authorities and Visa Experts was held on 18 April 2019 at the SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu. The Meeting deliberated on the technical evaluation of the bids for the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme Project.	Representatives of the Member States. Director (ETS) and Desk Officer (ETS) of the SAARC Secretariat.
15.	Regional Consultation Workshop on Gender	12-14 June 2019	Kathmandu	Completed	Organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in collaboration with the Asian Farmers'	Representatives from the six Member States, Farmers'



No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
	Sensitive Value Chain in South Asia				Association for Sustainable Rural Development. The SAARC Secretariat and SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) facilitated organization of the Meeting.  Inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister for Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation of Nepal. Secretary General of SAARC also addressed the Inaugural Session.	Organizations, FAO, AFA, IFAD and SAC.
16.	Second SAARC-PTB Workshop on Best practice in Metrology Law Development	12-13 June 2019	Thimphu	Completed	Hosted by Bhutan Standards Bureau under the financial and technical assistance of PTB-Germany. The objectives of the Workshop were to facilitate, upgrade and harmonize metrology laws and regulations in line with international best practices. The SAARC and SARSO Secretariats facilitated and coordinated the Meeting.	Representatives of the Member States, SARSO and Director (ETF) of the SAARC Secretariat.
17.	SAARC Technical Consultation on Early Childhood & Women's Nutrition: Improving the nutrition situation of young children and women in South Asia	17-18 June 2019	SAARC Secretariat	Completed	SAARC and UNICEF organized a "Technical Consultation on Early Childhood & Women's Nutrition: Improving the nutrition situation of young children and women in South Asia", on 17-18 June 2019 at the SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu. The Secretary General of SAARC addressed the Inaugural Session.	Representatives from Seven Member States, and UNICEF; Director (SA), and Desk Officer (SA) of the SAARC Secretariat.
18.	Third Multi-stakeholders' Dialogue on Agriculture (Preceding the Ninth Meeting of the Technical	24 June 2019	Thimphu	Completed	The Dialogue was held in two segments, thematic and cross-cutting. The theme was "Sharing Seeds to enhance Food Security: 'Seeds without Borders' in SAARC Member States". The Dialogue made various recommendations on both its theme and on various cross-cutting regional issues/	The Representatives of the Member States and the private sector in Bhutan attended.  Director (ARD), Director (IPA), Director (ENB), Desk Officer (ARD) and Desk Officer (ETS)

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
	Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development)				challenges in agriculture and rural development.  The Dialogue was inaugurated by H.E. Dasho Rinzin Dorji, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Royal Government of Bhutan. The Secretary General of SAARC also addressed the Inaugural Session.	from the SAARC Secretariat and Director and Senior Programme Specialists from SAC also attended.
19.	SAARC Workshop on “Enhancing Progress Towards Rabies Elimination Goal of ‘Zero by 30’ in the SAARC Region”	26-28 June 2019	Kathmandu	Completed	The SAARC Rabies Workshop on “Enhancing Progress Towards Rabies Elimination Goal of ‘Zero by 2030’ in the SAARC Region” in collaboration with the tripartite consisting of the World Health Organization (WHO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) was held on 26-28 June 2019 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The main objective of the Workshop was to enhance efforts to achieve the Rabies Elimination Goal of Zero by 2030 in the SAARC Region and find avenues for cross-sectoral collaboration.	The Workshop was attended by all SAARC Member States, represented by experts from both human and animal health sectors, WHO, FAO and OIE; Director (SA), and Desk Officer (SA) from the SAARC Secretariat.
20.	South Asian Regional Conference “Weaving the Web”	25 January 2019	Kathmandu	Completed	The Conference, which was organized by Sankalpa – Women’s Alliance for Peace, Justice and Democracy, brought together eminent women representatives from the South Asian countries to discuss measures to promote the welfare of women in order to bring them into the mainstream of socio-economic development.	Secretary General of SAARC

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
21.	Uni-Global Model United Nations Conference	22 February 2019	Kathmandu	Completed	The Conference was organized by the Global College International Kathmandu. Director (IPA), SAARC Secretariat addressed the Uni-Global Model United Nations inauguration ceremony (UGCI MUN) on “SAARC <i>process and Regional Cooperation</i> .” The opening session was addressed by the Ambassador of Finland to Nepal, Representative of the UN Country Office to Nepal and other prominent personalities of Nepal on multilateral diplomacy.	Director (IPA), SAARC Secretariat. The Conference was attended by more than a hundred schools from various countries.
22.	SAARC Internship Programme	01 January -30 June 2019	SAARC Secretariat	Ongoing	The SAARC Secretariat offers internship to under-graduate, graduate and post-graduate students from South Asia and researchers of any nationality working in South Asian research institutes based within the region.	During the period (January-June 2019), sixteen students successfully completed their internship at the Secretariat and were awarded certificates by the Secretary General.
23.	Sixth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD)	27-29 March 2019	Bangkok	Completed	Recent developments in achieving SDG4 goals in the region were reviewed with a particular reference to the SAARC Framework for Action (SAFFA) on Education 2030.	Participants from Asia Pacific countries, UNESCAP; Director (ESC) from the SAARC Secretariat.
24.	Technical Working Group (TWG) Meeting of the Commonwealth Accelerated Development Mechanism for Education (CADME)	28-29 May 2019	London	Completed	The Commonwealth Secretariat invited the representative of the SAARC Secretariat to share SAARC’s work on education and to discuss possible collaboration between the two organizations. The Director, SAARC Secretariat, briefed the Meeting on ‘Cooperation in Education within the Framework of SAARC’ by providing the	Director (IPA), SAARC Secretariat. The Meeting was attended by ten Members of the Technical Working Group, representatives of Regional Organizations (EU, AU, CARICOM, Pacific Community), High Commissions of the Commonwealth Member States

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
					glimpses of cooperation in education within the SAARC process.	based in London and UNESCO. Senior officials of the Education/HR Ministries of the Government of India and Sri Lanka also attended the Meeting.
25.						
26.	SAARC Internship Programme	1 July to 31 December 2019	SAARC Secretariat	Completed	SAARC Secretariat offers internship at the SAARC Secretariat to under-graduate, graduate and post-graduate students from South Asia and researchers of any nationality working in South Asian research institutes based within the region. The overall objective of the SIP is to promote awareness about the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in and beyond South Asia. Under this program, interested students or researchers are placed at the SAARC Secretariat in Kathmandu for a period of two weeks to six months, depending on the need and nature of the projected research work.	During the period July- December 2019, 17 (seventeen) students successfully completed internship programme at the Secretariat and were awarded certificates by the Secretary General
27.	Educational visit by an eight-member delegation of National Library and Archives of Bhutan	2 July 2019	SAARC Secretariat	Completed	To learn about SAARC and its activities, the delegation paid a courtesy call on Secretary General and were briefed on SAARC activities.	An eight-member delegation from National Library and Archives of Bhutan.
28.	Educational visit by an eleven-member delegation of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Royal Government of Bhutan	2 July 2019	SAARC Secretariat	Completed	As part of their SAARC familiarization programme, the delegation paid a courtesy call on Secretary General. A briefing on “SAARC Process and its Activities” was organized for the delegates, followed by an interaction session.	An eleven-member delegation, led by Mr. Sonam Dorjee, Incharge, Raven House under Protocol Department of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Royal Government of Bhutan.

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
29.	Visit by a delegation of officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan.	12 July 2019	SAARC Secretariat	Completed	As part of their SAARC familiarization programme, the delegation paid a courtesy call on Secretary General. A presentation on “SAARC Process and its Activities” was organized for the delegates, followed by and interaction session.	A group of Afghan officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan and their accompanying visitors from Asia Foundation, Afghanistan, Asra Consulting, Afghanistan, Apeejay School of Management, New Delhi and Uniglobe College, Kathmandu.
30.	38 <sup>th</sup> SAARC FINANCE Group Meeting and 15 <sup>th</sup> SAARAC FINANCE Governor’s Symposium	14 - 15 July 2019	Paro, Bhutan	Completed	Participants shared their experiences on macroeconomic policy issues and to organize training programmes in the areas of banking and financial issues.	Heads of Central Banks and Officials from Ministries of Finance of SAARC Member States and Director (ETF), SAARC Secretariat.
31.	Fourth FAO/OIE Sub-Regional Meeting of Global Framework for Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADS) for SAARC	22 July 2019	Islamabad	Completed	<p>During the Meeting Partners agreed to continue co-ordination within SAARC and across the sub-regions in Asia and the Pacific to enhance disease control, capacity building partnerships and information sharing.</p> <p>Member States and Partners also agreed to:</p> <p>(i) actively engage from a national and regional level with global initiatives and strategies such as Global FMD, PPR, Rabies, Avian Influenza etc.; and</p> <p>(ii) continue to hold the sub-regional GF-TADS meeting back to back with the SAARC CVOs forum every 2nd year.</p>	The Fourth FAO/OIE Sub-Regional Meeting of Global Framework for Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADS) for SAARC was held on 22 July 2019 preceding the Seventh Meeting of the SAARC CVOs’ Forum with the support of FAO and OIE. Chief Veterinary Officers / Representatives from all Member States except Maldives attended the Meeting. Director (ARD) and Desk Officer (ARD) from the SAARC Secretariat and Senior Programme Specialist (Livestock) from SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) and representatives of FAO and OIE attended the Meeting.

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
32.	Seventh Meeting of the SAARC Chief Veterinary Officers' (CVOs) Forum	23-24 July 2019	Islamabad Pakistan	Completed	<p>The Meeting recommended to add Rabies, Brucellosis, and Newcastle diseases as the new priority diseases for SAARC region. The Meeting also recommended that ASF (African Swine Fever), Nipah and IBR may be considered as emerging threats. OIE and FAO conveyed their readiness to support SAARC and the Member States in this regard.</p> <p>The Meeting recommended that to materialize the pledge to free the region from PPR by 2028, extensive national strategies/action plan would be required and Member States would need to augment their efforts and activities extensively.</p> <p>The Meeting suggested SAC to hold a training on Border Quarantine issues for import risk analysis for livestock and products, herd health management and bio security, and poultry waste management. FAO and OIE have assured to extend possible support. The Meeting also recommended SAC to organize specialized training on poultry development.</p>	The Meeting was inaugurated by Dr. Muhammad Khursheed, Joint Secretary, Ministry of National Food Security and Research of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Chief Veterinary Officers / Representatives from all Member States except Maldives attended the Meeting. Director (ARD) and Desk Officer (ARD) from the SAARC Secretariat and Senior Programme Specialist (Livestock) from SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) and representatives of FAO and OIE attended the Meeting.
33.	Educational visit by students of Rosebud School, Kathmandu	11 September 2019	SAARC Secretariat	Completed	As a part of the Nepali school curriculum in grade six, the students are required to study about SAARC. The students were eager to learn about the SAARC process and the functions of the Secretariat. The Secretary General met and interacted with the students. The students were also briefed about the function and activities of the SAARC and its Secretariat	70 students of Rosebud School and their teachers.

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
34.	3 <sup>rd</sup> Regional Conference on STOP STUNTING   Improving Young Children's Diets in South Asia	17-19 Sept. 2019	Kathmandu, Nepal	Completed	In conformity with the SAARC-UNICEF Memorandum of Understanding, a SAARC Regional Action Framework for Nutrition, developed in collaboration with UNICEF Regional Office (UNICEF ROSA), was launched during the Thirty-fifth Session of the Council of Ministers (Kathmandu, 25 November 2014). As per the Framework, UNICEF would assist SAARC Member States to undertake programmes and activities in the area of nutrition. In this regard, SAARC and UNICEF had jointly hosted a <b>“3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Conference on STOP STUNTING   Improving Young Children's Diets in South Asia”</b>	UNICEF, Director (SA), D.O. (SA)
35.	Third Meeting of the SAARC Ministers of Education/Higher Education, preceded by the Meeting of Senior Officials of Education	09-10 October 2019	Maldives	Completed	<p>The Meeting adopted the Education 2030: SAARC Framework for Action (SFFA), which provides an overall strategy for educational development in the region and seeks to promote specific commitments of South Asian governments in achieving SDG4 targets.</p> <p>The Meeting also adopted the Malé Statement on Education/Higher Education which decided, <i>inter alia</i>, to constitute a SAARC Forum of Education/Higher Education Ministers for advancing SDG4-Education 2030 targets and to oversee, guide and lead the implementation of the SFFA.</p>	Delegations from all Member States.
36.	Fourteenth Informal Meeting of the SAARC Finance Ministers	17 October 2019	Washington D.C.	Completed	Hon. Finance Ministers/Heads of Delegation briefed the meeting about the current status of economic progress achieved in their respective	Hon. Finance Ministers and Heads of Delegation of the Member States, Representative from the

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
					country, and progress made under various mechanisms under the SAARC process, appreciated the support of the World Bank in the region's economic growth and expressed the hope that SAARC would make further progress to achieve its full potential for the benefit its of people. <b>For the first time, the Fourteenth Informal Meeting of the SAARC Finance Ministers was held with the support of World Bank.</b>	World Bank, Secretary General of SAARC and Director (ETF), SAARC Secretariat.
37.	Educational visit by students of Sudesha School, Lalitpur	14 November 2019	SAARC Secretariat	Completed	As a part of the Nepali school curriculum in grade seven, the students are required to study about SAARC. The students were eager to learn about the SAARC process and the functions of the Secretariat. The Secretary General met and interacted with the students. The students were also briefed about the function and activities of the SAARC and its Secretariat	23 students of Sudesha School and their teachers.
38.	Sixth Meeting of Inter-Government Group on Transport.	19 November 2019	Kathmandu	Completed	The Sixth Meeting of SAARC Inter-governmental Group on Transport was held on 19 November 2019. The Meeting discussed the SAARC Motor Vehicles, SAARC Railways and SAARC Regional Air Services Agreement.	Member States, Director (ENB), Director (IPA), Desk Officer (ETS), Desk Officer (HRT)
39.	Educational visit by students of Babylon National School, Kathmandu	27 – 28 November 2019	SAARC Secretariat	Completed	As a part of the Nepali school curriculum in grade seven, the students are required to study about SAARC. The students were eager to learn about the SAARC process and the functions of the Secretariat. The Secretary General met and interacted with the students. The students were also briefed about the function and activities of the SAARC and its Secretariat	112 students of Babylon National School and their teachers.



No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
40.	Eighth Ministerial Conference of the Heart of Asia – Istanbul Process and its Preceding Senior Officials’ Meeting	08-09 December 2019	Istanbul, the Republic of Turkey	Completed	<p>The 8th Ministerial Conference of the Heart of Asia Istanbul Process was held on 9 December 2019, in Istanbul, preceded by its SOM on 8 December.</p> <p>The Conference was inaugurated with statements delivered by the Afghan President H.E. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani and his Turkish counterpart H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.</p> <p>The theme running throughout the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process Ministerial Conference was Peace, Partnership, Prosperity.</p> <p>The Conference adopted and issued a Declaration with renewed commitments to the visions of the process</p>	<p>The was attended by the Foreign Ministers and High Officials of fifteen participating countries, sixteen supporting countries and twelve supporting regional and international organizations of the Heart of Asia- Istanbul Process.</p> <p>Director HRT from SAARC Secretariat attended the Conference</p>
41.	Fifty-Seventh Session of the Programming Committee	19 - 20 December 2019	SAARC Secret	Completed	<p>The 57<sup>th</sup> Session of the Programming Committee was held on 19-20 November 2019 at the SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu. The Committee considered the Reports of the Governing Boards of SAARC Regional Centres and Specialized Bodies, Budget of the SAARC Secretariat/Regional Centres and other administrative issues.</p>	Member States, All Directors, Desk Officer (ETS), Desk Officer (HRT), Desk Officer (IPA), A.O.-I, A.O.-II
42.	Educational visit by students of Riviera International School, Kathmandu	24 December 2019	SAARC Secretariat	Completed	<p>As a part of the Nepali school curriculum in grade seven, the students are required to study about SAARC. The students were eager to learn about the SAARC process and the functions of the Secretariat. The Secretary General met and interacted with the students. The students were also briefed about the function and activities of the SAARC and its Secretariat</p>	52 students of Riviera International school and their teachers.
43.						
44.						

### SAARC Specialized Bodies' Activities (implemented from January-December 2019)

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
1.	Development of SARSO Guide 2 - Draft Guideline for selection of proposed project proposals/new work items for regional harmonization/ formulation of Regional Standards			Completed	The guideline provides guidance on selection of Project proposals / Proposals for New Work Items for regional harmonization of Standards / formulation of regional Standards using priority ratings. The draft was circulated among the Member States for comments.	
2.	Meeting with American National Standards Institute (ANSI) in Dhaka, Bangladesh	23 January 2019	Dhaka	Completed	Discussed mutual collaboration to promote adoption and use of ISO sanitation standards, primarily ISO 30500, non-sewered sanitation solutions and ISO 24521, and guidelines for the management of basic on-site domestic wastewater services.	SARSO and ANSI
3.	Webinar Meeting between the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and SARSO Secretariat	29 January 2019	Dhaka	Completed	Discussed recent developments and further collaboration in areas of mutual interest. Both the organizations agreed to continue cooperation for effective implementation of the Cooperation Agreement.	SARSO and ISO
4.	Regional Kick-off Workshop of the Blended Learning Course Quality Infrastructure for Sustainable	25 to 28 February 2019	Colombo	Completed	The Workshop was aimed to introduce major disciplines and institutions of Quality Infrastructure: metrology, standardization, conformity assessment, accreditation and market surveillance.	Relevant stakeholders from the Member States of SAARC, and representatives from the SAARC and SARSO Secretariats.

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
	Development (QuISD) under the SAARC-PTB Project					
5.	South Asian Biotechnology Conference (SABC)	14-16 March 2019	New Delhi	Completed	The Theme of SABC-2019 was “Empowering Life through Biotechnology”. The Conference focused on problems pertaining to South Asian region in the field of Infectious Diseases, Biotechnology and Agriculture.	Faculty of Life Sciences & Biotechnology (FLSB), SAU
6.	H.V. Perera Victors Moot Court Competition	21-24 March 2019	Colombo	Completed	The Moot Court competition was supported by SARCO to engage with academia and students in Arbitration  The Best SAARC Team Award was won by the National Law School of India University, Bangalore.	SARCO and Sri Lanka Law College
7.	SAU Cultural Fest	29-31 March 2019	New Delhi	Completed	Students performed different dance forms, such as Bharatnatyam and Mohiniyattam. Other activities included Rangoli, Mehendi, Antakshari, Singing and Debating competition. A colourful fashion show where students displayed attires from a wide range of cultures and communities of South Asia was also part of the Festival.	SAU
8.	South Asia Food Fest	1 April 2019	New Delhi	Completed	SAU students prepared a range of dishes from their countries.	SAU
9.	Seminar on Global Compact on Refugees	18 April 2019	New Delhi	Completed	Speakers included Chief of Mission of UNHCR, Secretary General of Asian African Legal Consultative Organisation (AALCO),	Jointly organized by the Faculty of Legal Studies, South Asian University and the United

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
					Member of International Law Commission (ILC), journalists and academics.	Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), India
10	International Conference “Poetic Imagining(s) of South Asia: Borders and Nations”	22-23 April 2019	New Delhi	Completed	The Conference comprised 14 panel discussions. Over 100 participants including 42 scholars attended the 2-day Conference.	Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS), SAU
11	Meeting with Standards Australia in Dhaka, Bangladesh	30 April 2019	Dhaka	Completed	Discussed possible collaboration with Standards Australia on Indo-Pacific Digital Trade Standardization Initiative and also proposed to hold a regional workshop for NSBs and stakeholders from the countries included in the project.	SARSO
12	Fifty-second Annual Meeting of the Asian Development Bank	1-5 May 2019	Nadi, Fiji	Completed	Strengthened Partnership - SAARC Development Fund has been partnering with ADB for many years to mobilize funds to jointly finance projects in the SAARC Member States.	CEO, SDF
13	International Workshop "Emerging Trends in Internet of Things and Machine Learning"	4 -5 May 2019	New Delhi	Completed	The Workshop brought together eminent academicians, industry experts and research scholars to exchange ideas on the recent trends and applications of Internet of Things and Machine Learning.	Department of Computer Science, FMCS, SAU
14	Book Launch and Panel Discussion	7 May 2019	New Delhi	Completed	Faculty of Legal Studies, SAU, in association with Oxford University Press, organised a book launch and discussion on India and Bilateral Investment - Treaties Refusal, Acceptance, Backlash authored by Prabhash	Faculty of Legal Studies, SAU

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
					Ranjan and published by Oxford University Press.	
15	Joint monitoring visit to Project “Promoting Integrated Bamboo Based Enterprise Development Among SAARC Countries” Bhutan component by AD – SW, AD – IAD and AD – M&E	10-17 May 2019	Bhutan	Completed	<p>The team interacted with the project officials, visited the project site and interacted with the beneficiaries from the communities.</p> <p>The visit enabled the beneficiaries to understand the purpose and prospects of the project and the importance of their participation in the project.</p> <p>The visit resulted in fast tracking the implementation of the project activities on ground by the IA.</p>	<p>Tarayana Foundation, Bhutan</p> <p>SDF Assistant Director for Social Window, Audit and M&amp;E</p>
16	Visit to International Organization for Standardization (ISO), International Electro Technical Commission (IEC) Central Secretariat and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)	13-15 May 2019	Geneva	Completed	<p>SARSO officials had detailed discussions with professional of ISO and IEC on potential activities of mutual interest for further strengthening cooperation with ISO and IEC.</p> <p>Bilateral discussions with the officials of UNECE were held on further collaboration, such as assistance to the Member States of SAARC for capacity building in the area of quality infrastructure.</p>	SARSO, ISO, IEC and UNECE

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
17.	12 <sup>th</sup> 2NLS-TRI LEGAL International Arbitration Moot 2019	17-19 May 2019	Bangalore, India	Completed	The event was organized by the leading Legal University of India with assistance from SARCO. “Spirit of SAARC Award” was introduced and won by Symbiosis Law School, Noida, India.	SARCO and National Law School of India University, Bangalore
18.	SAU Award Ceremony	3 June 2019	New Delhi	Completed	Students received Master’s and PhD Degrees from Dr. Kavita A Sharma, President, SAU, and Programme toppers received Gold Medals from Prof. Bhim Prasad Subedi, Chairman, SAU Governing Board.	SAU
19.	31 <sup>st</sup> Joint Commission Meeting of the UN World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) for Member States from Asia and the Pacific	3 June 2019	Thimphu	Completed	Established partnership with senior officials and organizations on exploring potential cross border projects on tourism in the SAARC Member States	CEO, SDF
20.	Second SAARC-PTB Workshop on Best Practice in Metrology Law Development	12-13 June 2019	Thimphu	Completed	Hosted by Bhutan Standards Bureau under the financial and technical assistance of PTB-Germany. The objectives of the Workshop were to facilitate, upgrade and harmonize metrology laws and regulations in line with international best practices. The SARSO Secretariat facilitated and coordinated the Meeting.	Member States of SAARC, Director (ETF), SAARC Secretariat, and SARSO.

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
21.	CARLEP Stakeholders Consultation by AD, SW, AD-C&R	13 June 2019	Thimphu	Completed	Presented on SDF Social Window (SW) funding criteria, guidelines and funding envelope. Solicited new proposals in agriculture.	IFAD, Ministry of Agriculture, Bhutan, and SDF Social Window team, Credit, Risk and Investment Asst. Director
22.	Second Meeting of the Financial Experts Committee for Phase-II of SAU	14 June 2019	New Delhi	Completed		Representatives from seven Member States and SAU
23.	Mid-Year SW project review	21-28 June 2019	SDF Secretariat, Thimphu	Completed	<p>The Social Window team undertook mid-year review of the projects funded by SDF under Social Window.</p> <p>The review covered all active projects – SABAH, MCH, CRP, Toll Free, WASH, Bamboo, Networking and Livelihood. The review enabled SW team to discuss progress of the projects, share challenges and ways to solve the issues, and share lessons learnt, work plan for the next two quarters and way forward with the implementation of the project activities.</p>	SDF
24.	Launching of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Programme in coordination with all SAARC Member States	January-June 2019	SDF Secretariat	Ongoing	Coordination with all SAARC Member States for nomination of a bank / institution for MSME Funding Scheme of SDF	SAARC Development Fund (SDF)

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
25.	Case Study on SDF funded Project : “Strengthening the livelihood initiative for home-based workers in SAARC Region’ was implemented through the SAARC Business Association of Home-Based Workers (SABAH)”	March-July 2019	SDF Secretariat	Procurement of services of Third Party Completed  Primary and secondary research work completed.  Report will be finalized in July 2019	The proposed case study is to assess how the project contributed to regional cooperation and integration, to analyze various challenges and implementation issues experienced by SABAH across both phases in the countries of implementation and to document key learnings, especially in relation to project design and monitoring, to assess the SABAH model for promoting social development in order to draw broader lessons for future design, implementation and coordination of social projects in the SAARC region.	SDF, Monitoring and Evaluation Asst. Director
26.	Regional concluding workshop of the Blended Learning Course Quality Infrastructure for Sustainable Development (QuISP) under the SAARC-PTB Project.	01 to 05 July 2019	Braunschweig and Berlin, Germany	Participated	Workshop shared lessons on the significance of quality-related services for intra-regional and international trade and export promotion. Further, Concluding workshop reviewed the practical experience in international project coordination conducting group assignments on quality infrastructure building and simulated the trade negotiations.	Delegates from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka and SAAR Secretariat.
27.	Participated in the ‘Regional workshop on Food Safety Policy, Trade Standards and Harmonization’, focused on the regional priorities of India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka.	08-10 July 2019	New Delhi, India	Participated	Organized and funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Foreign Agricultural Service Office of Capacity Building and Development (FAS/OCBD), in association with Cornell University and Sathguru. Workshop deliberated on the Food safety policy, trade standards and regional harmonization. The SARSO	India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka.



No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
					Secretariat delivered presentation on 'SARSO and its role in Regional Harmonization of Standards' covering the current status of harmonization in the region.	
28.	International Conference	18 – 19 July 2019	South Asian University Campus	Completed	A two-day international conference "Work, Identity and Livelihood in 'New' Nepal: Conversation within South Asia" was organised by SAU's Department of Sociology in collaboration with Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) in India, International Development Research Centre Canada (IDRC), the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) and Martin Chautari in Nepal	Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, SAU
29.	SAU Orientation 2019	29 July 2019	South Asian University Campus	Completed	An Orientation Programme to welcome the new batch of Masters and PhD students, who cleared the SAU Entrance Test 2019 was organised. Dr. Kavita A Sharma, President, SAU, delivered the welcome address and narrated a brief history of the university and updated the gathering about the on-going project of constructing the permanent campus of the university.	South Asian University (SAU)
30.	Mr. Kevin Kemp (PTB Expert) visited SARSO Secretariat	29 July to 01 August 2019	Dhaka, Bangladesh	Completed	Mr. Kemp and SARSO had an interactive session on the development of navigation structure for the website and needed functions. A draft Terms of Reference for the up gradation of SARSO website was developed during the visit.	SARSO and PTB-Expert

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
31.	Mr. Dennis Chew, Regional Director, Asia Pacific Regional Centre (APRC), International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) visited SARSO Secretariat.	05 August 2019	Dhaka, Bangladesh	Completed	The SARSO and IEC discussed potential collaboration opportunities. Mr. Dennis presented brief updates of the IEC, shared about IEC platform and its functionalities, overview of the training in 2016 in Singapore for SARSO management.	SARSO and IEC representative
32.	Mr. Adrian Goh, International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Regional Engagement Asia visited SARSO Secretariat.	07 August 2019	Dhaka, Bangladesh	Completed	Mr. Goh presented an overview of ISO at a glance and key ISO activities in the region. . SARSO and ISO discussed areas of cooperation for mutual benefit of both the organizations.	SARSO and ISO representative
33.	The Ministry of Finance, Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB), SAARC Development Fund (SDF) and Drukair Corporation Limited signed a US\$13 million loan agreement to finance the purchase of Drukair ATR aircraft. The financing of ATR 42-600 with US \$ 13m is the first loan under the economic and Infrastructure windows of SDF. Legal Department of SDF solely developed all the	13 August 2019	Thimphu, Bhutan	Completed	The financing of ATR 42-600 with US \$ 13m marked the activation of SDF's Economic and Infrastructure Funding Windows. It is the first loan under the economic and Infrastructure windows of SDF. Legal Department of SDF solely developed all the loan/legal documents in this regard.	Ministry of Finance, Royal Government of Bhutan and SDF

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
	loan/legal documents in this regard.					
34.	Second Annual Forum	21 – 23 August 2019	New Delhi	Completed	South Asian University organised the Second TROSA Annual Learning Forum held with partnership with the Transboundary Rivers of South Asia (TROSA) program and the School of Advanced Studies (SAS), TERI University. The event offered a dialogic platform for interaction between civil society members, academia, water professionals and grass-root activists.	Department of International Relations, FSS, SAU
35.	31 <sup>st</sup> SDF Board Meeting 3 <sup>rd</sup> Board Human Resource Committee (BHRC) Meeting 5 <sup>th</sup> Board Project Appraisal Committee (BPAC) Meeting 10 <sup>th</sup> Finance and Audit Committee (FAC) Meetings	21-24 August 2019	Colombo, Sri Lanka	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Two projects - Consortium for scaling up climate smart agriculture in South Asia and Second phase of Inter-Professional Master's Programme in Rehabilitation Science – were approved.</li> <li>❖ SDF Strategic Plan, SDF Proposed Pricing, Loan-Grant Policy, Social Window Strategy Paper, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) funding scheme, implementation status and challenges of projects were discussed.</li> </ul>	SDF
36.	Thirty-first Meeting of the Board of Directors of the SAARC Development Fund (SDF)	23-24 August 2019	Colombo	Completed		Director (ARD) attended. Airfare and admissible DSA by the Secretariat.
37.	Library Orientation Programme	1 September 2019	SAU Campus	Completed	A Library User Orientation was held wherein Mr. Abdullah alModabber, the Assistant Librarian, discussed the	Prof. G. K. Chadha Library

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
					various facilities and services that the Prof. G. K. Chadha Library provides to the students, faculty and staff.	
38.	Conference on Soft Computing	02 – 04 September 2019	Liverpool, UK	Completed	9th International Conference on Soft Computing for Problem Solving (SocProS 2019), was held at Liverpool Hope University, UK, jointly organized by South Asian University, New Delhi, Liverpool Hope University, UK and Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee, India. The conference was attended by more than 80 researchers from various countries of the world. The event was attended by Dr. Kavita Sharma, President, SAU	Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science, SAU
39.	Participation in the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) week and the 42 <sup>nd</sup> ISO General Assembly.	17 - 20 September 2019	Cape Town, South Africa	Completed	Attended the ISO General Assembly; Attended the Meeting of Signatories – ‘Declaration on Gender Responsive Standards and Standards Development’, organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE); Organized side-line meeting with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU); Participated in the ‘ISO New rights event’; Organized an informal meeting with the heads of the National Standards Bodies of South Asia who were present in the ISO General Assembly.	SARSO Secretariat
40.	SDF disbursed loan amount US\$13 million to Drukair Corporation Limited for the purchase of Drukair ATR aircraft. This is following the	20 September 2019	SDF, Thimphu, Bhutan	Completed	It is the first loan disbursement under the Economic and Infrastructure windows of SDF, and hence activating the E&I Funding Window.	SDF

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
	agreement signed between the Ministry of Finance, Royal Government of Bhutan, SDF and Drukair on 13 August 2019. Legal department of SDF assisted all the concerned department of SDF to develop and execute the disbursement/transaction related documents.					
41.	7 <sup>th</sup> Peradeniya International Economics Research Symposium	17 – 18 October 2019	Peradeniya, Sri Lanka	Completed	7th Peradeniya International Economics Research Symposium (PIERS), organized annually by the Department of Economics and Statistics at the University of Peradeniya since 2013 saw active participation of foreign and local academics researchers and policymakers. The Faculty of Economics, South Asian University, was a collaborative partner for this conference, whose central theme was “Nothing to be Left Behind: Integrating Subnational Dynamics Towards Global Sustainable Development”.	Faculty of Economics, South Asian University
42.	Panel Discussion on Capital Accumulation & the Organizational Question	18 – 19 October 2019	Patna, India	Completed	A panel discussion and an International Conference at Patna University on “Capital Accumulation & the Organizational Question” was organised by SAU in collaboration with Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung (SouthAsia). The events were an effort to remember Rosa Luxemburg’s contributions as a leading	Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, SAU

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
					theorist affecting international political debates and to reflect on these two areas by contemporising her works.	
43.	Participated on the 83 <sup>rd</sup> International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) General Meeting (Council / SMB / Affiliate Forum / Industrializing Countries Workshop).	21 – 25 October 2019	Shanghai, China	Completed	<p>Attended the IEC Council Meeting, Standards Managment Board Meeting, Affiliate forum and Industrializing Countries Workshop.</p> <p>Bilateral meeting was held between SARSO and CEN/CENELEC (European Standards Organizations) to follow up of the MoU signed between the two organizations for mutual collaboration.</p> <p>Bilateral meeting was held with the IEC Central Secretariat to discuss further collaboration.</p> <p>Director General, SARSO delivered presentation about SARSO, its activities and international cooperation during the IEC NEC Chair and Secretary workshop</p>	Over 4000 delegates from 171 countries participated in the 83 <sup>rd</sup> IEC General Meeting held in Shanghai.
44.	6 <sup>th</sup> SDF Counterpart Agencies Meeting	23-25 October 2019	Male, Maldives	Completed	<p>❖ Counterpart agencies were briefed on the Draft SDF Strategic Plan, Proposed Pricing Policy for E&amp;I Windows, Loan – Grant Policy of Social Window and other important agenda items discussed at the 31<sup>st</sup> SDF Board Meeting held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 23-24 August 2019</p> <p>❖ They were updated on the Social Window Strategy Paper, Ongoing</p>	SDF

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
					<p>Projects, Closed projects, Project Fund Commitment / Disbursement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Shared the ongoing project implementation and closure challenges and their vital role in facilitating and support required.</li> </ul>	
45.	Joint monitoring visit to Projects in Maldives, Sri Lanka and Nepal by Assistant Directors – Internal Audit, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Social Window.	26 October - 15 November 2019	Maldives, Sri Lanka and Nepal	Completed	<p>The SDF, under its mandate to help its member countries, has been providing grants for development projects under Social Window. In order to maximize the benefits of the financial assistance, the projects are monitored till completion of fund disbursements and project completion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The team met and interacted with the project officials. Most importantly, they visited few of the project sites and interacted with the beneficiaries from the communities.</li> <li>❖ The visit enabled the beneficiaries to understand the purpose and prospects of the projects and the importance of their participation in the project.</li> <li>❖ Enabled the IAs and SDF team to understand and identify the challenges and issues related to the project and suggest appropriate measures.</li> <li>❖ The visit showed seriousness of the SDF's commitment to the project and resulted in IAs prompt responses and in initiating the activities.</li> </ul>	SDF and Implementing Agency (IA) staff.

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
					❖ The visit enabled the team and IA to discuss issues related to project closures, disbursements and requirements of project closures.	
46.	Weekly Skype Meeting with Implementing Agencies	Every Wednesday of the week	SDF Secretariat, Thimphu, Bhutan	Meeting Convened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Conducted weekly Skype meetings with each and every project implementing agencies including the counterpart agencies in all the 8 SAARC Member States.</li> <li>❖ The meeting enabled discussion of issues, challenges, identify remedies and have agreements on way forward.</li> <li>❖ This has enabled open discussion and facilitated smooth implementation of the projects.</li> </ul>	SDF
47.	10 <sup>th</sup> Governing Board Meeting of SARCO	30-31 October 2019	Lahore, Pakistan	Completed	The Annual Governing Board Meeting reviewed the progress of SARCO during 2019. Meeting observed and recommended matters for the year 2020, for the approval of the upcoming 57 <sup>th</sup> Session of the Programming Committee.	Representatives of all SAARC Member States participated in the Governing Board Meeting. Director, ETF represented the Hon'ble Secretary General of SAARC and the representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan (Host Government) also participated.
48.	Workshop on Mapping Indian Ocean Studies	31 October 2019	SAU Campus	Completed	A one-day workshop on "Mapping Indian Ocean Studies: Emerging Research Agenda" was organised as the inaugural workshop of the Maritime South Asia & the Indian Ocean research workshop series. The series sought to realize SAU's endeavour to develop a	Department of International Relations, FSS, SAU



No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
					"regional consciousness" that facilitates knowledge production of "Knowledge without Borders." The 31st October workshop sought to take stock of the existing scholarship on Maritime South Asia and the Indian Ocean and identifying potential thrust areas for research and collaboration	
49.	Handing over charge of SAU President	01 November 2019	SAU Campus	Completed	Dr. AVS Ramesh Chandra took over charge as the Acting President of the South Asian University after Dr. Kavita Sharma completed her term as President, SAU.	South Asian University
50.	International Workshop on Efficiency and Productivity Measurement	01 – 02 November 2019	SAU Campus	Completed	The two-day classroom-based workshop on Efficiency and Productivity Analysis using R focused on both parametric and non - parametric approaches to efficiency and productivity measurement. The content of the workshop was designed meticulously with the objective to provide a healthy balance between theory and hands-on applications. Dr. Oleg Badunenko from the University of Portsmouth, UK delivered a lecture at the workshop which was inaugurated by Dr. AVS Ramesh Chandra, Acting President, SAU.	Faculty of Economics, South Asian University
51.	Workshop on India and the Sovereignty Principle	04 November 2019	SAU Campus	Completed	The one-day workshop on "India and the Sovereignty Principle" sought to understand the salience of the sovereignty principle for India at a time when India's capabilities have been on an upward trajectory. The event was organised in collaboration with	Department of International Relations, FSS, SAU

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
					Carnegie India. The event was coordinated by Dr. Nabarun Roy from the Department of International Relations, SAU. Dr. TCA Raghavan, DG, ICWA was the keynote speaker. Prof. Sanjay Chaturvedi, Dean, FSS, SAU and Dr. AVS Ramesh Chandra, the Acting President of SAU also spoke at the well-attended event.	
52.	Seventh Meeting of the Technical Management Board (TMB) of SARSO held under the Chairpersonship of Mr. Muhammad Yasin Akhtar from Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA), Pakistan.	04 November 2019	Dhaka, Bangladesh	Completed	Noted the brief report of SARSO Activities 2019; Reviewed the progress of implementation of recommendations of the 6 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of TMB of SARSO held on 21 November 2018 in Kathmandu, Nepal; Noted the updates and status of the SARSO Sectoral Technical Committees (STCs); Discussed and recommended the SARSO STC Meeting calendar; Reviewed the 'Guideline for selection of proposed project proposals for regional harmonization of Standards' and discussed the mechanism for projection of common Interests of SARSO in ISO/IEC Forums.	Delegates from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka and SAARC Secretariat.
53.	Eighth Meeting of the Governing Board of SARSO held under the Chairpersonship of Mr. Bishwo Babu Pudasaini, Director General, Nepal Bureau of Standard and Metrology (NBSM).	05-06 November 2019	Dhaka, Bangladesh	Completed	Noted the report of SARSO Activities for the year 2019; Reviewed the Status chart of follow up and implementation of recommendations/directives of the 7 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of GB of SARSO (Kathmandu, Nepal, 22-23 November 2018); Endorsed the	Delegates from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka and SAARC Secretariat.

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
					Report of the Seventh Meeting of the Technical Management Board (04 November 2019, Dhaka, Bangladesh); Considered the proposed Budget of SARSO (Institutional and Program) for the year 2020 and discussed other matters.	
54.	BioZest 2019	07 November 2019	SAU Campus	Completed	The 3rd Annual International Science Event - 'BioZest' with the theme of 'Green Science' was organised successfully. The event a wonderful platform for students and young researchers of all SAARC countries to display their scientific knowledge through oral and poster presentations along with theme-related competitive games. Renowned academicians and scientists delivered speeches as a part of the event	Faculty of Life Sciences and Biotechnology, SAU
55.	Visit by South African Delegation	07 November 2019	SAU Campus	Completed	SAU hosted a delegation from the University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa. The delegation was led by Mr. Cornelius Hagenmeier (Director: Internationalisation) and included, among others, Professor Heidi Hudson (Dean, Faculty of the Humanities) and Dr. Stephanie Cawood (Director, Center of Gender and Africa Studies).	Department of International Relations, FSS, SAU
56.	International Workshop on Human Economy in Asia: A Methodological Reflection	07 – 08 November 2019	SAU Campus	Completed	A two-day international workshop "Human Economy in Asia: A Methodological Reflection" was organised by SAU's Department of	Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, SAU

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
					Sociology on 7-8 November, 2019, in collaboration with CNRS Paris and Dong-A University Busan. The workshop comprised of 3 panel discussions and screening of 3 documentary films over two days.	
57.	Special Talk on Legal Studies	13 November 2019	SAU Campus	Completed	SAU hosted two professors of law from the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh - Dr. Muhammad Ekramul Haque & Dr. Mohammed Towhidul Islam who addressed the students and faculty members on 'Justiciability of Constitutional Principles on Economic and Social Rights in Bangladesh, India: A Comparative Analysis' and 'Bangladesh's Compliance with the WTO TRIPS Agreement:: Lessons from Developing SAARC Countries', respectively.	Faculty of Legal Studies, SAU
58.	Poster Exhibition	14 November 2019	SAU Campus	Completed	MSc (Biotechnology) students presented a poster exhibition on several deadly viruses such as HIV, Influenza, Ebola, Zika, SARS, Hepatitis, Dengue, Chikungunya and many more. The main goal of this annual exhibition was to raise public awareness about pandemic risks with the perspective that human, animal and environmental health are interconnected. Prof. Ritu Gaur, Faculty of Life Sciences and Biotechnology, coordinated the event which was attended by the Dr. AVS Ramesh Chandra, the Acting President of SAU.	Faculty of Life Sciences and Biotechnology, SAU

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
59.	Special Lecture on Gender Sensitization	19 November 2019	SAU Campus	Completed	A special lecture by Professor Alka Sharma, Dean - Humanities and Social Sciences, Jaypee Institute of Information Technology was organised on the topic, 'Gender Equality and Women's leadership for sustainable society'	The Gender Sensitization Committee, SAU
60.	SAARC-PTB Preparatory Workshop on Inter-Laboratory Comparisons for Length and Volume was hosted by CSIR-National Physical Laboratory, under the financial assistance of PTB-Germany.	19 – 20 November 2019	New Delhi, India	Completed	Discussed and finalized the draft technical protocol for line scale calibration and draft technical protocol for Micropipette calibration.	Delegates from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, India, Sri Lanka and SAARC Secretariat.
61.	Visit by Czech Delegation	22 November 2019	SAU Campus	Completed	Student and faculty representatives from the Department of International Relations, FSS, SAU had the opportunity to interact with a delegation from Czech Republic, including H. E. Milan Hovorka, Ambassador of the Czech Republic in India and Professor Tomas Zima, Rector, Charles University, Prague. The interactive session entailed a discussion on various programmes offered by Charles University and avenues for collaboration. The delegation was received by Dr. AVS Ramesh Chandra, the Acting President of SAU.	South Asian University

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
62.	SARCO Seminar in Kabul	24 November 2019	Kabul, Afghanistan	Completed	2 <sup>nd</sup> Seminar of SARCO in Afghanistan on “Understanding Arbitration and the Commercial Arbitration Law of 2007”. H.E. Dr. Abdul Baseer Anwar, Minister of Justice of Afghanistan graced the Seminar as Chief Guest.	The Seminar was participated in by the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce & Industries, Afghanistan Centre for Dispute Resolution, Afghanistan Women Chamber of Commerce and Industries, International Chamber of Commerce (Afghanistan), Afghan-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Commerce, the Supreme Court of Afghanistan, academics from various Kabul based Universities, Lawyers and practitioners.
63.	35 <sup>th</sup> SAARC Charter Day	8 December 2019	Thimphu, Bhutan	Celebrated	<p>SDF celebrated the SAARC Charter Day with partners, who included high-ranking government officials, resident Ambassadors, heads of international organizations, civil society representatives and implementing agencies of SDF funded projects.</p> <p>Hon’ble Foreign Minister of Bhutan Lyonpo Dr Tandi Dorji was the guest of honour.</p> <p>The event allowed partners to recognize the region’s shared history and common destiny, and the determination of the</p>	SDF

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
					SAARC Member to foster mutual understanding, friendship and cooperation for peace and prosperity.	
64.	SAARC Charter Day	09 December 2019	SAU Campus	Completed	The South Asian University the SAARC Charter Day. The event saw active participation from students, faculty and the non - teaching staff of the university. Dr. AVS Ramesh Chandra, Acting President, SAU, in his inaugural address talked about the importance of regional co - operation and how it is intrinsic to the objectives of establishing the university. He also updated the gathering about the construction activities at the permanent campus. An art exhibition titled 'Conundrum of Contours' was also inaugurated by Dr. Ramesh Chandra.	South Asian University
65.	SAARC Charter Day	09 December 2019	Islamabad	Completed	35 <sup>th</sup> SAARC Charter Day organized at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad H.E. Mr. Sohail Mahmood, Foreign Secretary of Pakistan graced the event as Chief Guest.	Officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassadors and representatives of SAARC Member Countries and Observer States' Missions, SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry and representatives of the business communities attended the event.
66.	Celebrated the 35 <sup>th</sup> SAARC Charter Day.	09 December 2019	Dhaka, Bangladesh	Completed	Director General, Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI), Director (ETF), SAARC and Director (SAARC & BIMSTEC Wing), Ministry of Foreign Affairs,	Representatives from the diplomatic corps of the SAARC Member States in Bangladesh, officials from SAARC Agriculture Centre

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
					<p>Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh were distinguished guests during the function.</p> <p>SARSO delivered a presentation on 'SARSO towards regional harmonization of Standards' and Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) delivered presentation on 'BSTI and its role'.</p>	(SAC), senior officials from Ministries, government agencies, Chambers and private sector.
67.	International Workshop	11 – 13 December 2019	SAU Campus	Completed	An International hands -on Workshop on “Recombinant Protein Expression and Purification Techniques” was organised with 18 participants including two faculties from the University of Bhutan. The participants learned through this workshop the basics of heterologous recombinant protein expression, cell lysis by ultrasonication, SDS - Polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis, and purification of protein by the advanced chromatography techniques.	Faculty of Life Sciences and Biotechnology, SAU
68.	Joint mission to SABAH Bangladesh by Director SW and AD – M&E.	13-15 December 2019	Dhakha, Bangladesh	Meeting convened	The visit enabled the SDF team and IA to clarify issues related to project closures, and start the process of project closure for Phase-II.	SDF
69.	Field Mission to SDF funded Project: “Promoting Integrated Bamboo Based Enterprise Development	16-17 December 2019	Bangladesh	Completed	<p>For this particular project, the specific objectives were to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Review financial information</li> <li>❖ Review physical and financial Progress</li> <li>❖ Review audit reports</li> </ul>	SDF and Implementing Agency Staff



No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
	among SAARC Countries - Bangladesh				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Orientation of IA regarding SDF formats including Progress and Financial Reports</li> <li>❖ Orientation of IA regarding policies and procedures including project closure requirements</li> </ul>	
70.	Field Mission to SDF funded Project: "Toll free helpline for women and children in SAARC Member State - Bangladesh	18 December 2019	Bangladesh	Completed	<p>In this particular project, the specific objective was to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Review financial information</li> <li>❖ Progress review</li> <li>❖ Audit reports</li> <li>❖ Orientation of IA regarding SDF formats including Progress and Financial Reports</li> <li>❖ Orientation of IA regarding policies and procedures including project closure requirements</li> </ul>	SDF and Implementing Agency Staff
71.	Field Mission to SDF funded Project: "Networking of Women Entrepreneurs from SAARC Countries - Bangladesh	19 December 2019	Bangladesh	Completed	<p>In this particular project, the specific objective was to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Review financial information</li> <li>❖ Progress review</li> <li>❖ Audit reports</li> <li>❖ Orientation of IA regarding SDF formats including Progress and Financial Reports</li> <li>❖ Orientation of IA regarding policies and procedures including project closure requirements.</li> </ul>	
72.	57 <sup>th</sup> Session of the SAARC Programming Committee Meeting	19-20 December 2019	Kathmandu, Nepal	Meeting attended	CEO, SDF shared current status, achievements and future action plan of SDF by updating the members on the	SAARC Secretariat

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
	(SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu)				Decisions of the 30 <sup>th</sup> and 31 <sup>st</sup> SDF Board of Directors Meeting.	
73.	Attended the Fifty-seventh Session of the Programming Committee of the SAARC.	19 – 20 December 2019	Kathmandu, Nepal	Completed	Considered the SAARC Calendar of Activities for 2020, the Committee reviewed matters relating to the SAARC Secretariat, Specialized Bodies and Regional Centres, including the budgets and Calendars of Activities for 2020.	SAARC Member States, SAARC Regional Centres and Specialized Bodies.
74.	Field Mission to SDF funded Project: “Regional Inter-professional Master’s Program in Rehabilitation Science - Bangladesh	20 December 2019	Bangladesh	Completed	<p>The SDF, under its mandate to help its member countries, has been providing grants for development projects under Social Window. In order to maximize the benefits of the financial assistance, the projects are monitored till completion of fund disbursements and project completion.</p> <p>For this particular project, the specific objectives were to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Review financial information</li> <li>❖ Review physical and financial Progress</li> <li>❖ Review audit reports</li> <li>❖ Orientation of IA regarding SDF formats including Progress and Financial Reports</li> <li>❖ Orientation of IA regarding policies and procedures including project closure requirements.</li> <li>❖ TORs for Project Evaluation.</li> </ul>	SDF and Implementing Agency Staff
75.	Management Development	26-31 December 2019	New Delhi, India	Training Completed	Training completed on Enterprise Resource Planning, Communications, Office Management, Financial	SDF and the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi , India

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
	Programme Training for SDF Staff				Management and Financial and Cross Boarder Regional Project Management	
76.	7 <sup>th</sup> Edition of the SARCO Newsletter	30 December 2019	Islamabad (SARCO Secretariat)	Completed	Latest edition of the bi-annual Newsletter of SARCO included Articles from Arbitrators and partners and latest news about Arbitration & SARCO's activities.	
77.	New website of SARSO launched <a href="http://www.sarso.org">www.sarso.org</a>	December 2019	Dhaka, Bangladesh	Completed		

### SAARC Regional Centres' Activities (implemented from January-December 2019)

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
1.	SAARC Cultural Capital Thimphu (Closing Ceremony)	29 June 2019	Thimphu	Completed	In keeping with the provisions of the SAARC Agenda for Culture, Thimphu was declared the SAARC Cultural Capital for 2018-19. As the SAARC Cultural Capital, Thimphu hosted several programmes and activities to showcase Bhutan's unique cultural heritage. These include, the SAARC Handicraft Exhibition and Workshop in May 2018, Food Festival in February 2019, and Film Festival in April 2019, among others.	H.E. Dasho Sherub Gyeltshen, Hon'ble Minister for Home and Cultural Affairs of the Royal Government of Bhutan inaugurated the Closing Ceremony.  The Secretary General of SAARC, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Bhutan and Director, SAARC Cultural Centre, Director (ESC), Director (ENB) of the SAARC Secretariat, SCC and the Department of Culture, Bhutan.
2.	SAARC Literary Award - 2019	29 June 2019	Thimphu	Completed	Awarded to Dr. Anisuzzaman, nominated by Bangladesh in conjunction with the SAARC Cultural Capital Closing Ceremony.	Secretary General of SAARC, Director(ESC), Director (ENB) of the SAARC Secretariat, SCC and the Department of Culture, Bhutan.
3.	SAARC Regional Consultation on "Fish Culture in Cages and Pens in Reservoirs, Lakes, Rivers and Marine Waters	17-19 April 2019	Pokhara	Completed	Important recommendations were made during this Consultation Meeting with regard to the Fish Culture in Cages and Pens in Reservoirs, Lakes, Rivers and Marine Waters for Aquaculture Diversification. A book is to be published.	Hon'ble Minister for Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperatives, Gandaki

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
	for Aquaculture Diversification in South Asia”					Pradesh, inaugurated the event.  Representatives of the Member States of SAARC, Secretary General of SAARC and SAC
4.	World TB Day- 2019	24 March 2019	Nepal	Completed	<p>On the occasion of The World TB and SAARC TB Day-2019, H.E. the Secretary-General of SAARC issued a Message, which was circulated among the National TB Control Programmes of Member States for media coverage.</p> <p>STAC has participated in the joint function organized in National TB Centre, Thimi. On behalf of SAARC Secretariat, the Message of H.E. the Secretary-General of SAARC was read out by a Professional Staff in the ceremony. The Deputy Prime Minister &amp; Health Minister; and State Minister, Ministry of Health and Population, Government of Nepal, were present in the function as Chief Guest and Special Guest.</p>	Participation from Ministry of Health and Population, its Departments and collaborating partners working for TB (joint Function)
					Two Programmes were conducted in Janakpur. One is mass rally, which was opened by Hon’ble Social Development Minister, Province No.2. The second was a World TB Day & SAARC TB Day Celebration Function under the chairmanship of Hon’ble Social Development Minister, Province No.2. and Chief Guest of the ceremony was Hon’ble Chief Minister of Province No. 2.	<p>Participants from Province No. 2 of Nepal.</p> <p>The Hon’ble Chief Minister, Social Development Minister, 16 Parliamentarians, representative of Province Parliament and</p>

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
					Director STAC presented the findings of the in-depth Review of the TB Control programme in the province conducted by STAC along with recommendations of the Centre.	officials from other Ministries of Province.
5.	Regional Expert Consultation on “Pulses Value Chain Development for Achieving Food and Nutrition Security in South Asia”	17-19 April 2019	Hyderabad	Completed	The Consultation came up with some important recommendations for developing Pulses Value Chain. Development for achieving Food and Nutrition Security. A book is to be published.	Representatives of Member States of SAARC, SAC and International Crops Research Institute for the Semi - Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Hyderabad, India
6.	STORM Project Teleconference	8 January 2019	Teleconference	Completed	Reviewed the current status of the SAARC-STORM Project and discussed the way forward for completion / conclusion of the project.	Director (SDMC) Director (ENB)  Participants from Bangladesh, Bhutan and India.
7.	SAARC Exhibition of Paintings	22-24 January 2019	University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka	Completed	Paintings of all SAARC Member States were appreciated and enjoyed by audiences of all ages. Art therapy and lectures on art held for high school students during the Exhibition.	SCC and the University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka
8.	Training Programme on “Rapid Assessment for Resilient Recovery (RARR)”	29 January to 01 February 2019	Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management (GIDM),	Completed	The Training Programme provided an opportunity to learn and enhance the knowledge to bridge emergency response, recovery and reconstruction activities more seamlessly, to enhance evidence-based decision-making for disasters, and promote	Participants from all Member States

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
			Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India		the use of smart tools and technologies for early cost estimates of recovery and reconstruction	
9.	Participation in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Book Fair 2019	1-28 February 2019	Bangla Academy, Dhaka, Bangladesh	Completed	Created awareness among the people about the SAC Activities	SAC
10.	Participation in Meeting of collaborating Institutions for Strengthening of Networking WHO/UNAIDS/UNFPA & other collaborating institutes	2-3 February 2019	New Delhi	Completed	The Director, STAC, participated in the TB Free Summit, New Delhi, 2-3 February 2019 as the RNTCP / Government of India has set their target to eliminate TB in India by 2025.	STAC
11.	Participation in Meeting of collaborating Institutions for Strengthening of Networking WHO/UNAIDS/UNFPA & other collaborating institutes	10 February 2019	Dhaka	Completed	National TB Control Programme, Government of Bangladesh, has completed the Research titled “Comparative Evaluation of Treatment Outcome for Multi-drug Resistant Tuberculosis with and without Comorbidity: A Retrospective Analysis, Bangladesh, 2018 and they invited Director and Research Officer of STAC to participate in the dissemination Meeting held on 10 February 2019 in Dhaka under the research budget.	STAC
12.	Webinar on “Sharing Australian Experiences in Solar PV Technology”	26 February 2019	Islamabad	Completed	The Webinar discussed in detail the policies formulated by the Australian Government for overcoming barriers to the market integration and up-taking of Solar technology; the necessary reforms to renewable energy targets; and the large scale programmes initiated by the Government in collaboration with industry such as Solar Panel Validation Initiative, Solar Towns Programme,	Member States, SAARC Energy Centre, ADB, IRENA, Director (ETS) and Desk Officer (ETS).

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
					Solar energy management system, interactive live Solar PV map and deployment of central battery storage for a separate neighborhood.	
13.	Webinar on “Promotion of Energy Conservation in Municipalities of SAARC”	12 March 2019	Islamabad	Completed	For building the capacity of the municipality officials and to share knowledge, SEC held a series of webinar.	Member States, Director (ETS) and Desk Officer (ETS).
14.	Participation in the Review of activities NTPs and NACPs/Communicable diseases in the SAARC Member States by STAC	17-18 March 2019	Province No. 2, Nepal	Completed	<p>On the request of National TB Control Programme, Government of Nepal, an in-depth TB Control Programme was conducted in 08 Districts of the Province and following sectors were reviewed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Human resources, financial situation in the light of the programme’s performance and demands.</li> <li>ii. DOTS centre, structure, organization and management frameworks</li> <li>iii. DR Hostel (Dhanusha) structure, organization and management frameworks</li> <li>iv. Monitoring and supervision plan and how well services are delivered, and assess any inequities in access to and quality of care</li> <li>v. Public private mix</li> <li>vi. Advocacy, social mobilization and communication, how well that works</li> </ul>	Three teams by STAC in 08 districts of province No.2



No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
15.	STORM Project Teleconference	25 March 2019	Teleconference	Completed	Reviewed the current status of the SAARC-STORM Project and discussed measures for completion / conclusion of the project.	Director (SDMC) Director (ENB)  Participants from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, India. Officials from ISRO were also present.
16.	SAARC Regional Consultation on “Development of Aquaculture for Commercially Important Finfishes in South Asia”	26-28 March 2019	Colombo	Completed	Various aspects for developing Aquaculture for Commercially Important Finfishes were discussed and The Consultation made some important recommendations.  A book is to be published.	Representatives of Member States of SAARC, SAC and National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka (NAQDA)
17.	Innovate Sri Lanka 2019 Exhibition	2-3 April 2019	Colombo	Completed	Promotion of the activities of the SAARC Cultural Centre	SCC & the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka.
18.	Webinar on “Exploring Financing Opportunities for Clean Energy, Environment and Energy Efficiency Projects”	9 April 2019	Pakistan	Completed	The Webinar discussed in detail numerous financial instruments; identified risks and barriers to financing in developing countries; described selection of appropriate financing instrument role of financial intermediaries and institutions and private public partnerships, and presented specific case studies on the use of appropriate financing instrument. Moreover, the Webinar also discussed grant-based financing available through multilateral financial institutions and micro financing institutions.	Representative of Member States of SAARC Director (ETS), DO (ETS) and SEC
19.	Webinar on “Hybrid RE Power Plants:	16 April 2019	Pakistan	Completed	The Webinar discussed the opportunities and challenges linked to Hybrid RE power plants. The Webinar also covered the whole breadth of the topic	Representatives of Member States of

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
	Opportunities and Challenges”				ranging from complex technical issues of operation and design to smart strategies for the policy makers and regulators to harness the support from public-private domains for effective promotion of the concept of hybrid RE power plants in SAARC region.	SAARC, Director (ETS), DO (ETS) and SEC.
20.	SAARC Regional Training of Trainers (ToT) on Diagnosis, Treatment and Programmatic Management of Pediatric TB	17-21 April 2019	Sri Lanka	Completed	Participants were trained on diagnosis, treatment and programmatic management of Pediatric TB.	Representatives of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka and STAC
21.	Webinar on “Solar PV System Design and Simulation Using Appropriate Software” (02 webinars)	23-25 April 2019	Pakistan	Completed	These two Webinars covered sections with basic and intermediate level training on using the PVsyst and PV*Sol software’s or any other appropriate software. The experts demonstrated the functionality of these powerful software, and helped the participants understand the modeling, assessments, performance evaluation and cost estimation techniques.	Representatives of the Member States of SAARC and SEC
22.	Webinar on “Use of Solar Energy in Water Desalination”	30 April 2019	Pakistan	Completed	SEC proposed the Webinar on use of solar energy in water desalination. This Webinar was an effort to share the available knowledge and experience of the experts from different organizations involved in the thermal desalination of sea water as well as researchers from the research organizations. As solar thermal desalination is in its early stages, with a few projects recently established, the Webinar not only shared theoretical knowledge, but also shared important learnings from those recent projects and	Representatives of the Member States of SAARC and SEC

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
					solutions to commonly encountered problems during those projects.	
23.	Webinar on "Waste-to-Energy Municipality-level Demonstration Project in Selected Areas of Member States"	7 May 2019	Pakistan	Completed	In South Asia, it is estimated that there is a potential to produce around 8 million tons of compost worth approx. US \$ 709 million, or alternatively, approx. 3,340 GWh/year of electricity (from biogas) with a market value of around US \$ 701 million/year. However, there are a number of factors to be considered for choosing a suitable technology for treating different components of wastes before their final disposal. Therefore, to discuss these factors and technology options, a Webinar was proposed. The Webinar consisted of presentations from various experts having knowledge of experiences and initiatives of WtE technologies on consideration of factors before selecting a technology such as type, quantity and calorific value of waste; lowest carbon footprint of WtE technology; available mechanism for community-based source segregation of waste; separate collection and resource recovery systems etc.	Representatives of the Member States of SAARC and SEC
24.	Expert Consultation Meeting on "Identification of Best Practices in Livestock Feed and Fodder Production and Management"	21-23 May 2019	Bengaluru	Completed	Experts made various recommendations in the Meeting for identification of best practices in Livestock Feed and Fodder Production and Management. A book is to be published.	Representatives of Member States of SAARC, SAARC Agriculture Centre, Dhaka and ICAR-National Institute of Animal Nutrition and Physiology, Bengaluru

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
25.	Regional Training on “Building Resilient Agriculture: Solution Packages for Farming Communities” in SAARC Member States	27-30 May 2019	Kathmandu	Completed	Through the Training, the participants were trained on Building Resilient Agriculture: Solution Packages for Farming Communities. Training Manual has been published.	Representatives of Member States of SAARC, Director (ARD), SAARC Secretariat, SAC, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)
26.	Buddhist Cultural Trails Research Grants Review Committee Meeting	30 May 2019	Colombo	Completed	Research reports from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Sri Lanka were presented via video conferencing to the Review Committee.	Members of Review Committee and SCC.
27.	Celebration of World Environment Day	05 June 2019	Pakistan	Completed	<p>Each year, communities across the world celebrate the World Environment Day on 5 June focusing attention on the importance of natural environment and all that it provides, clean air, clean water, clean soil, clean food and much more.</p> <p>SEC organized different celebration programmes comprising suitable activities in collaboration with relevant organization(s) and with the involvement of media where possible.</p>	SEC
28.	SAARC Regional Expert Consultation on “Youth and Women in Agriculture: For Economic Development and Key to Food Security in Future”	9-11 June 2019	Kathmandu	Completed	Various important aspects were discussed and important recommendations were made in the Consultation Meeting with regard to Youth and Women in Agriculture: For Economic Development and Key to Food Security. A book is to be published.	Representatives of Member States of SAARC, SAC, ActionAid Bangladesh, and Asian Farmers’ Association (AFA)

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
29.	Participation in Meeting of collaborating Institutions for Strengthening of Networking WHO/UNAIDS/UNFPA & other collaborating institutes	13 June 2019	New Delhi	Completed	The Director, STAC, visited New Delhi for signing the Agreement with HITES, India, for procurement and installation of equipment for SAARC Supra-national Reference Laboratory for TB and HIV/AIDS at STAC	STAC
30.	SAARC Regional Training on Anti-Retro Viral Treatment (ART) to HIV/AIDS Control Programmes	13-15 June 2019	Kathmandu	Completed	Participants have been successfully trained on Technical and Operational aspects of Anti Retro Viral Therapy	Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka
31.	SAARC Regional Expert Consultation Meeting on “The Progress and Prospects of Agricultural Biotechnology and Bio-safety in South Asia”	18-20 June 2019	Dhaka	Completed	The Expert Consultation came up with some vital recommendations for progress and prospects of Agricultural Biotechnology and Bio-safety.	Representatives of Member States of SAARC, SAC, Bangladesh South Asia Bio-safety Programme (SABP), Bangladesh, and International Life Sciences Institute (ILSI) Research Foundation, Washington, USA
32.	Regional Training on “smart agricultural water management interventions for enhancing water productivity and resilience in South Asia”	18-22 June 2019	Bhubaneswar	Completed	Participants were trained on smart agricultural water management interventions for enhancing water productivity and resilience. A Training Manual has been published.	Representatives of Member States of SAARC, SAC, International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and ICAR-Indian Institute of Water

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
						Management, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India.
33.	SAARC Regional Meeting of Programme Managers on TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programmes	20-22 June 2019	Colombo	Completed	The Meeting recommended demand driven activities of STAC for the year 2020.	Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka
34.	Hindu Cultural Trails Research Grants Review Committee Meeting	24 June 2019	Colombo	Completed	Research reports from Afghanistan, Bhutan, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka were presented via video conferencing to the Review Committee.	Members of the Review Committee and SCC.
35.	Review of Article for SAARC Journals of TB Lung Disease and HIV/AIDS	July-December 2019	STAC	Completed	The Articles were reviewed by external reviewers for 2nd issue of SAARC Journal of Tuberculosis, Lung Disease and HIV/AIDS Vol.XVII, No.2. Year, 2019;	
36.	SAARC Film Festival 2019	02-07 July 2019	National Film Corporation Cinema Hall, Colombo, Sri Lanka	Completed	Thirty-four films screened – 15 Feature Films, 13 Short Films and 6 Master Films. A Masterclass was held in conjunction with the festival by the international Jury Members to share their knowledge with the participants from the Region.	Hon'ble Secretary General and Director (ESC) attend. Organized by SAARC Cultural Centre (SCC). Participated by all MSs.
37.	Training Workshop on “Towards Coherent Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy Development, Implementation and Monitoring among SAARC Member States	-09-11 July 2019	SDMC Gujarat, India	Completed		Participated by all Member States.
38.	Regional Experts Consultation Meeting on “Multi-Sectoral Program	16-18 July 2019	Bangladesh	Completed	A comprehensive book on the country status report has been published	07 MSs participated & jointly organized by SAC and Asia Pacific Association of

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
	Development for SAARC Agriculture Centre”					Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI)
39.	Participation International AIDS Conference on HIV/AIDS, STI	21-24 July 2019	Mexico	Completed	The Director, STAC participated in the 10 <sup>th</sup> IAS conference on HIV Science on 21 <sup>st</sup> - 24 <sup>th</sup> July 2019 in, Mexico. Updated the latest developments on HIV/AIDS and also made the informal meetings/discussions with the Programme Managers/representatives from the SAARC Region on regional issues and activities on HIV/AIDS	Director, STAC
40.	SAARC Regional training on “Molecular Diagnosis and Laboratory Surveillance of PPR	21-26 July 2019	BLRI, Bangladesh	Completed	A manual has been published on the said training	04 MSs participated & jointly organized by SAC and Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute (BLRI)
41.	“Family Farmers Cooperatives to End Hunger and Poverty through Integrated Farming in South Asia”	22-24 July 2019	NDDB, India	Completed	A comprehensive book on the country status report is being processed to publish	07 MSs participated & jointly organized by SAC and Asian Farmer Association (AFA)
42.	Webinar on "Promotion of Energy Conservation in Municipalities of SAARC"	12 March and 25 July 2019	SEC	Completed	<b>Brief Description</b> Energy Conservation and Energy Efficiency are important measures to ensure energy security and sustainable development. Precious investment in energy generation can be avoided with the management of energy at demand side through energy conservation. Energy use in municipal activities is not only one of the largest sources of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, it also causes significant burden on the budget. By increasing energy conservation, municipalities can reduce their cost of energy and emissions. Implementing energy conservation in municipalities need to take the population all along, thus apart from technical	Under this activity two webinars were successfully conducted on 12 March 2019 and 25 July 2019. The report of the activity is available on SEC website.

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
					dimension it has political dimension as well. Therefore, to save energy and reducing its environmental impacts, officials of the municipalities and local government play an extremely important role to set their targets. To meet these targets capacity building of the municipality officials is extremely important. Therefore, education of local leadership and appreciation of officials for adopting good practices is essential. In many parts of the world competition between different municipalities has played as very significant role in this direction. If any municipality has performed well, its knowledge should be shared among others to follow. With the same vision, SEC conducted two webinar on this important topic.	
43.	Regional Training on “Safe and Sustainable Vegetable Value Chain Development in South Asia”	28 July – 01 August 2019	Department of Agriculture (DoA, Sri Lanka	Completed	A manual has been published on the training	06 MSs participated & jointly organized by SAC and CIRDAP
44.	SAARC regional training workshop on Earth observation and climate data analysis for agricultural drought monitoring in South Asia	29 July-01 August 2019	PARC, Pakistan	Completed	A manual has been published on the training	06 MSs participated & jointly organized by SAC and ICIMOD, Nepal
45.	Appraisal /Monitoring on TB and HIV/AIDS in SAARC Region	5 August 2019	Bhutan	Completed	The team monitors the National TB and HIV/AIDS Programme, Laboratory Services in Bhutan and recommended the Programme wise recommendations for better achievements.	Director and Research Officer, STAC participated.
46.	SAARC Training on Gene-Xpert Machine Operation	6-8 August 2019	Bhutan	Completed	The participants got the knowledge;	participants from Governments of Afghanistan,



No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
	and Maintenance Training for Laboratory Personnel				i. To comprehend Xpert MTB/Rif technology, system and algorithms. ii. To set-up and install GeneXpert machine. iii. To follow Bio-safety and Good Laboratory Practices in performing Xpert MTB/Rif procedures. iv. To demonstrate accurate results and interpretation. v. To record and report Xpert MTB/Rif results according to NTP guidelines. vi. To exhibit acceptable competency in troubleshooting Xpert MTB/Rif.	Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri-Lanka participated in the Training
47.	SAARC Regional Training on “Laboratory Biosafety and Biosecurity for Handling Transboundary Animal diseases and Zoonotic Emerging Pathogens”	19 – 24 August 2019	ICAR- National Institute of Veterinary Epidemiology and Disease Informatics (ICAR-NIVEDI, India)	Completed	A manual has been published on the training	06 MSs participated & Organized by SAC
48.	Developing Country Specific Integrated Plant Nutrition System Modules for Major Crops and Cropping System	21 – 23 August 2019	DoA, Kandy, Sri Lanka	Completed	A comprehensive book on the country status report is being processed to publish	06 MSs participated & jointly organized by SAC and IRRI, India
49.	Participation in the Review of activities NTPs and NACPs/Communicable diseases in the SAARC Member States by STAC	21 – 28 August 2019	Afghanistan	Completed	The Director, STAC participated in the Midterm Review of TB Control Programme to evaluate its achievements, challenges and way forward toward its National Strategy Plan 2017-2021 conducted in Afghanistan from 21-28 August, 2019. Inputs of the STAC was provided for Mid-term Review and its recommendations.	Director, STAC
50.	Training on “Energy Conservation and	26-28 August 2019	Sri Lanka	Completed	<b>Brief Description</b>	The training workshop was successfully

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
	Efficiency in Buildings”. (03 days; Sri Lanka)				Energy efficiency schemes targeting reduced use of energy in buildings holds good potential. Energy efficiency in buildings covers a wide range of themes and requires life cycle approach for assessment of overall benefits... With a view to bringing about energy conservation and improving energy efficiency in building sector in SAARC Member States, SEC proposes to hold a training. The training was three-day activity having 03 main sections, with each section spread over a day. In first section, Energy efficiency in all sectors of the economy, its importance and techniques were discussed. In the second section, energy conservation in buildings was discussed, including energy saving potential, role of policy, market forces and building energy codes. In third section, sub categories of building envelope including heating/ cooling, lighting, along with equipment standardization was discussed.	Conducted on 26th – 28th August 2019 in Sri Lanka in collaboration with Sri Lanka Energy Managers Association (SLEMA).
51.	Regional Expert Consultation on "Food Safety in South Asia Region: Current Status, Policy Perspective and Way- Forward”	26 – 28 August 2019	SAC, Bangladesh	Completed	A comprehensive book on the country status report is being processed to publish	8 MSs participated & Jointly organized by SAC, and BSAFE Foundation
52.	Training Workshop on “Towards Coherent Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy Development, Implementation and Monitoring among SAARC Member States	27 – 30 August 2019	SDMC Gujarat, India	Completed		Participated by all Member States.
53.	Regional Training on Good Agriculture Practices	27 – 30 August 2019	QCI, India	Completed	A manual has been on the training	7 MSs participated &

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
	(GAP) in SAARC Member States					jointly organized by SAC, and Quality Council of India (QCI), India
54.	SAARC Research Seminar on Islamic Cultural Trails: Journey through Time and Space – Minarets and Mosques, Tombs, Trade, Tradition and Technology	28 – 30 August 2019	Kabul Senera Hotel, Afghanistan	Completed	The Cultural tour was to the City of Herat and the Kabul Museum, Bagh e Babur Gardens and the Closing Ceremony was hosted by Minister of Culture at the Chihilsitoun Garden in Kabul.	Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
55.	Workshop on “Participation of Private Sector in Overcoming Energy Poverty in SAARC Member States”. (02 days; Sri Lanka)	29-30 August 2019	Sri Lanka	Completed	<p><b>Brief Description</b></p> <p>Energy poor rural communities not only witness an improvement in quality of life from reliable energy access but rural electrification and access to modern forms of energy also has a great potential for agricultural revenue generating activities. However, fighting energy poverty is a difficult task for the SAARC member states due to limited financial resources of the governments. This calls for active participation of private sector to play a key role in overcoming energy poverty and delivering universal energy access. The government’s role is to set rules and provide a favorable environment to the private sector, and then private sector can address the energy poverty issue by providing technical and operational capacity.</p> <p>Therefore, SEC conducted a 2-days workshop to discuss this important topic in detail. The workshop discussed distributed energy solutions for energy poor areas, involvement of private sector finance, as well as understanding of how access to clean and affordable energy can fast-track development in South Asia. Energy poor markets and their requirements for private financing was also analyzed. The various types of roles by the private</p>	The workshop was successfully conducted on 29th – 30th August 2019 in Sri Lanka in collaboration with Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority (SLSEA).

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
					sector and public-private cooperation were identified, challenges faced by private sector were discussed, ways through which policy makers can incentivize private sector were deliberated, and case studies along with success stories in overcoming energy.	
56.	SAARC Regional Consultative Meeting on Seeds without Borders in South Asia	3 – 5 September 2019	Nepal	Completed	A comprehensive report on the said training has published	07 MSs participated & Jointly organized by SAC and International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)
57.	Establishment of Digital/Record Archives in STAC (Internal)	4 September 2019	STAC	Completed	<p>Recommendations of Meeting: The National Archive will provide necessary assistance/guidance to setup digital archive at STAC as per the requirement provided by STAC. List of archiving documents/resources is to be prepared for this purpose. A detail proposal report will be prepared with taking in consideration the requirements of STAC for establishing digital archive/record by the National Archive after further investigation/consultation. The expert teams also suggested to utilize the remaining amount allocated for the establishment of archive/record to purchase some equipment and initiate the process of establish digital archive/record. In the case of establishing of digital archive at STAC, around US\$ 55000.00 will be required for initial establishment.</p>	Consultative Meeting with the Expert Team from National Archive, Government of Nepal, Ministry of Culture, Tourism & Civil Aviation, Kathmandu,
58.	SAARC Handicraft Exhibition and Workshop	8 – 12 September 2019	Lalitpur, Kathmandu, Nepal	Completed	The participants joined an excursion to the city of Patan and Hanumandhoka.	Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
59.	SAARC Training of Mid-level Clinical Managers on Programmatic Management of Drug Resistance TB (PMDT)	15-19 September 2019	Dhaka	Completed	The participants from SAARC Member Countries have been trained in managing MDR TB programme implementation, its evaluation and enhance to manage in special condition.	Participants from Governments of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Sri-Lanka were participated in the Training, however, after getting confirmation, the participants from Afghanistan and Pakistan could not attended Training due to unknown reasons.
60.	Training for Professionals of Afghanistan Public Private Partnership Unit and Afghanistan Electricity Regulatory Authority on Power Regulatory System. (5-days; Pakistan)	16-20 September 2019	Pakistan	Completed	<p><b>Brief Description</b></p> <p>Afghan Ministry of Energy and Water requested SEC to conduct on-job training for professionals belonging to Afghanistan Public Private Partnership (PPP) Unit and Afghanistan Electricity Regulatory Authority with National Power Regulators of Pakistan. Such training will deliver the much-needed exposure and expertise to Afghan professionals to capitalize the experience gained by two front running South Asian countries in the domain of power system regulation.</p> <p>The training was conducted in three stages. In first stage, a hired field expert delivered lectures to participants covering the overview of country's power sector and theory of modern regulatory tools in the domain of electricity Generation, Transmission, Distribution and Retail. In second stage, the participants were given a comprehensive training by National Power Regulator to gain insights on its departmental roles, functions and procedures. In third stage, participants visited key power sector institution such as Power Purchaser or Power Dispatch Controller etc. to gain practical</p>	Training was successfully organized from 16th to 20th September 2019 in collaboration with National Electric Power Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (NEPRA) in Islamabad, Pakistan.

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
					knowledge on regulatory compliance operations undertaken by these institutes.	
61.	SAARC Artist Camp and Exhibition	22 – 27 September 2019	Hulhumale, Maldives	Completed	The Artist Camp was held for the 8 <sup>th</sup> consecutive year and painted under the themes “ <i>Oceans, a binding treasure of South Asia</i> ” and “ <i>Cultures and Confluences of Creativity</i> ”.	Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
62.	Video Conferencing on Cross border issues and migrant health on TB and HIV/AIDS in SAARC Member Countries	30 September 2019	STAC	Completed	<p>The Meeting discussed and recommended;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Cross border meeting with the stakeholder to be held at a small scale among the local communities in the border areas and moved towards the larger area</li> <li>ii. Common treatment regimen on TB should be developed for durability of treatment among the member countries</li> <li>iii. STAC should take the leadership and integrated TB and HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases issues in the border security and co-ordination management meetings as a platform.</li> <li>iv. Joint monitoring policy, surveillance and linking of data resources to be incorporated in the cross border migration health strategy.</li> <li>v. Policies for free treatment and testing of latent TB among the cross border migrants should be developed.</li> <li>vi. Discussion on status and the technical aspects of the regional migration health strategy should happen once all member countries receive the action plan and implement it in their respective countries.</li> <li>vii. Common referral mechanism on migrant health among the member countries should be</li> </ul>	The Video Conferencing was participated by Director and Professional of STAC, Dr. Lungten Z. Wangchuk, Scientist, Team Leads-CDS, WHO, Kathmandu, Mr. Lekey Khandu, Programme Manager, NACP, Bhutan, Mr. Ugyen Dendup, Programme Manager, NTP, Bhutan, Dr. Sanjaya Kumar Muttou, Joint Director, Central TB Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, India, Dr. Anoop Puri, Deputy Director General, NACO, India, Dr. Navin Prakash Shah, Chest Physician, NTC, Nepal and Dr. Anuj Bhattachan, Director, NCASC from Nepal took part in the discussion

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
					<p>incorporated in the SAARC Regional migration health strategy.</p> <p>viii. A strong routine surveillance on the migrants and the development of action plan should be incorporated in the SAARC Regional migration health strategy.</p> <p>ix. Medical screening guidelines with health education for the inbound and outbound migrants should be developed in the SAARC Regional migration health strategy</p>	
63.	Dissemination Workshop for the Study on “Development of Roadmap for Implementation of Smart Grid: Concepts, Practices and Technologies in SAARC”. (02 days; Bhutan)	30 September – 1 October 2019	Bhutan	Completed	<p><b>Brief Description</b></p> <p>Power systems of SAARC Member States are facing several challenges such as high Aggregate Technical &amp; Commercial (AT&amp;C) losses, grid outages and supply shortages. At the same time, the generation and supply networks are expanding and becoming more and more complex to meet the growing electricity demand in the Region. Grid integration challenges are further adding up with the fast-emerging central and distributed Renewable Energy (RE) generation plants primarily due to their inherent nature of intermittency and geographical diversity. Consequently, the conventional unidirectional grid control practices are failing to keep up the sufficient levels of efficiency and reliability. World is now shifting towards Smart Grid technologies.</p> <p>SEC conducted a study, and a dissemination workshop to disseminate the findings of that study, to get feedback from member states for value addition, and to build awareness among Member States. The dissemination workshop was a two-day long activity and divided into three stages. The first stage consisted of the study dissemination by the</p>	The event was arranged at The Hotel Le Meriden Thimphu Bhutan, in collaboration with Department of Hydropower & Power Systems, Ministry of Economic Affairs Bhutan

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
					authors and the Peer Reviewer. In the second stage, prominent Smart Grid technology and policy experts from within and outside the SAARC region shared their valuable experiences with the delegates and inform them of the latest trends worldwide. The third stage consisted of a short visit to a Load Dispatch Center for the delegates from all Member States to get field insights and combine theoretical knowledge with practical knowledge.	
64.	SAARC Non-Violence Day	2 October 2019	Lighthouse Auditorium, Colombo 07	Completed	More than 2,000 paintings were received for this non-participatory event.	Non-participatory
65.	Thirteenth Meeting of the Governing Board of SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) and Meeting of the Selection Committee.	15-17 October 2019	Dhaka	Completed		Director (ARD) attended. Airfare and admissible DSA by the Secretariat. Local hospitality by the Centre.
66.	Training Workshop on Regional Severe Weather and Flash Flood Hazard Early Warning Mechanism.	15-17 October 2019	SDMC	Completed		Participated by all Member States.
67.	Eleventh Governing Board Meeting of the SAARC Cultural Centre (SCC)	16-17 October 2019	Lighthouse Htoel, Galle, Sri Lanka	Completed	Sri Lanka passed the Chair of the Governing Board to Afghanistan.	Participated by all MSs and Director (ESC), SAARR Secretariat.
68.	Selection Committee Meeting of SCC	19-20 October 2019	Colombo	Completed		Director (ESC) attended and airfare and admissible DSA by the Secretariat and local hospitality by the host.
69.	Regional Expert Consultation on “Fostering	23 – 25 October 2019	MoA, Sri Lanka	Completed	A comprehensive book on the country status report is being processed to publish	07 MSs participated & jointly organized by SAC



No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
	Investment for Sustainable Agricultural Development for SAARC Member Countries: Public-Private-Farmer Cooperation (PPFC)”					and ActionAid Bangladesh
70.	Participation in the Union World Conference on Lung Health/Tobacco	29 October – 2 November 2019	Hyderabad, India	Completed	The Director, STAC participated in the 50 <sup>th</sup> Union World Conference on Lung Health, Hyderabad, India (29 October-02 November, 2019). Updated the information in developments on TB and also made the informal meetings/discussions were held with the Programme Managers/representatives from the SAARC Region on regional issues and activities on HIV/AIDS	Director, STAC
71.	Regional Exposure Visit for Partnership to Strengthen Community Based Seed Systems in South Asia	5 – 7 November 2019	PARC, Islamabad, Pakistan	Completed	A comprehensive book on the country status report is being processed to publish	07 MSs participated & jointly organized by SAC and Asian Farmer Association (AFA)
72.	SAARC Regional workshop for the mid-level HIV/AIDS managers on Community Led Testing (CLT) on HIV/AIDS	11-13 November 2019	Pakistan	Completed	The participants were able to get the knowledge; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. on strategic approach to enhance knowledge and skills to the Mid-Level Managers for delivering CLT services.</li> <li>ii. knowledge and recent practices regarding community level testing for HIV/AIDS in SAARC Member Countries</li> <li>iii. To foresee the recent progress of laboratory testing of HIV/AIDS</li> <li>iv. expansion of CLT and share knowledge and experiences for delivering CLT services in Member Countries</li> </ul>	Participants from Governments of Afghanistan, Bhutan, Nepal, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri-Lanka participated

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
73.	SAARC Regional Training on Pesticide Residue Analysis	19 – 23 November 2019	BARI, Bangladesh	Completed	A comprehensive report on the said training has been published	06 MSs participated and Organized by SAC
74.	29 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of Governing Board of STAC	20-21 Nov. 2019	Kathmandu	Completed		Director (SA) and Desk Officer (SA) attended.
75.	SAARC Photography Competition: Reflections of Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage of Dance in South Asia	14 November 2019 (Selection Committee Meeting)	SCC, Sri Lanka	Completed	174 photographs received from all Member States.	Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
76.	SAARC Research Grants on Islamic Cultural Trails	25 November 2019 (Selection Committee Meeting)	SCC, Sri Lanka	Ongoing	SCC did not receive Research proposals from the Member States Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal.	Afghanistan, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
77.	Dissemination Workshop for the Study on “SAARC Energy Outlook 2030”. (02 days; Nepal)	26-27 November 2019	Nepal	Completed	<p><b>Brief Description</b></p> <p>Energy security is an important consideration for peace and prosperity of the region. The demand forecast and identification of potential energy sources in long time horizon are very important for securing and maintaining the energy security in the region. The development of Energy Outlook of individual member countries and consolidation at the whole South Asia level will help in combating the energy security challenges prevailing in the region. Energy sector in SAARC countries have grown rapidly in recent years. The economic and population growth along with urbanization and industrialization tends to continue rapid expansion in demand for energy.</p> <p>In this context, SEC conducted a study on “SAARC Energy Outlook 2030”. In order to disseminate the findings of that study, to get feedback from member states for value addition, and to build awareness</p>	The event was arranged in Hotel Yak & Yeti, Kathmandu in collaboration with the Water and Energy Commission Secretariat (WECS), Government of Nepal. The workshop was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Mr. Krishna Prasad Oli, Hon’ Member, National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal.

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
					among Member States, SEC organized a dissemination workshop. The dissemination workshop was a 2-days long activity divided in three stages. During the workshop, the authors presented the study findings and results. Besides the presentations from the authors, efforts were made to involve the external expertise to deliver on the energy related topic. The first stage consisted of the study dissemination by the authors and the Peer Reviewer. In the second stage, prominent expert in the field delivered their views followed by a brainstorming session with the panel of experts. The workshop audience including policy / decision makers, planners and other stakeholders of energy sector in the region were provided a chance to present their opinions and suggest changes to the report.	
78.	Dissemination Workshop for the Study on “Promotion of Trans-Border Business of Crude Oil and Petroleum Products in the SAARC Region”. (02 days; Nepal)	28-29 November 2019	Nepal	Completed	<b>Brief Description</b> Realizing the benefits of trans-border business of crude oil and petroleum products in the SAARC region, the Expert Group on Oil and Gas recommended conducting a study on “Promotion of Trans-Border Business of Crude Oil and Petroleum Products in the SAARC Region”. In this background, SEC has carried out the above-mentioned study in the year-2018 to focus on the opportunities and challenges associated with energy trade related to crude oil and petroleum products in SAARC region. During the study, prevailing trade regimes and the relevant regulatory and legal frameworks of the SAARC Member States were reviewed. The relevant international and regional best practices and their relevance as well as applicability to the region and the various technological, financial, and commercial options for	The event was arranged in Hotel Yak & Yeti in collaboration with Nepal Oil Corporation, Government of Nepal. The workshop was inaugurated by Chief Guest, Mr. Dhurba Ghimire, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies, Government of Nepal.

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
					<p>promoting trade of crude oil and petroleum products in the region have also been covered in the study. Hence, in order to disseminate the study findings and recommendations given by the expert and to get feedback from member states for value addition &amp; finalization of the report, SEC aims to organize a dissemination workshop in Kathmandu, Nepal.</p> <p>The dissemination workshop was a 2-days activity and divided into three stages. The first stage consisted of the respective country presentations on their existing rules, regulations and procedures related to trans-border business of crude oil and petroleum products from the SAARC delegates. In the second stage, the study report was disseminated by the experts and the Peer Reviewer. The third stage consisted of discussion on study findings and recommendations, getting feedback from the delegates and experts.</p>	
79.	SAARC Regional workshop for implementation on TB - Tobacco collaborative activities and development of guidelines on TB Tobacco	4-5 December 2019	Jaipur, India	Completed	<p>The workshop has successfully completed with following output to include in the TB-Tobacco guideline.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To Lay down Managerial processes to implement the guidelines</li> <li>Need to Specify coordination mechanisms at various levels</li> <li>Designate responsibilities to NTP and TCP for implementing training , supervisions logistics, communication &amp; M&amp;E actions</li> <li>Designate share of budgetary needs</li> <li>Provide sufficient timetable for implementation</li> <li>In country technical and operational policy and frameworks for integrating TB Tobacco control in primary health settings</li> </ol>	The NTPs/Governments of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. However, the delegations of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Maldives and Sri Lanka were not able to participate due to unknown reasons at the last minute.

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
					vii. TB – Tobacco operational plans to be included in the National Strategic plans with provision of adequate funds viii. Establish a Joint working group with technical experts from both entities (eg TAG members)	
80.	Regional Workshop and Capacity Building Programme for Utilization of Space based and Geospatial Information for Achieving the Targets of the Sendai Framework	04-08 December 2019	SDMC, Gujarat, India	Completed		Participated by all Member States except Sri Lanka.
81.	35 <sup>th</sup> SAARC Charter Day	8 December 2019	Bangladesh	Completed	Minister, MoA, was attended	About 200 participants attended in the program.
82.	SAARC Charter Day	8 December 2019	Cinnamon Grand Hotel, Colombo, Sri Lanka.	Completed		Non-participatory
83.	World AIDS Day-2019	10 December 2019	Kathmandu	Completed	Interactive Programme on Elimination of Tuberculosis and End HIV/AIDS Epidemic on the occasion of SAARC Charter Day and World AIDS Day Was held in Kathmandu.  ☞The Meeting highlighted the latest technology on TB and HIV/AIDS and participants were updated on these issues.  ☞The Meeting highlighted the importance and major achievements of SAARC	MBBS students from Tribhuvan University, Institute of Medicine (IOM), KIST Medical College, Kathmandu Medical College (KMC), Nepalese Army Institute of Health Sciences, Nepal Medical College, Kathmandu, representatives from Anti Retroviral Therapy (ART) Centers and District Public Health
84.	SAARC Charter Day-2019					

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
						Offices (DPHO) from the Kathmandu valley were participated in the programme.
85.	SAARC Training on Gene-Xpert Machine Operation and Maintenance Training for Laboratory Personnel	13-15 December 2019	Nepal	Completed	<p>The participants were got the knowledge;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. To comprehend Xpert MTB/Rif technology, system and algorithms.</li> <li>ii. To set-up and install GeneXpert machine.</li> <li>iii. To follow Bio-safety and Good Laboratory Practices in performing Xpert MTB/Rif procedures.</li> <li>iv. To demonstrate accurate results and interpretation.</li> <li>v. To record and report Xpert MTB/Rif results according to NTP guidelines.</li> </ul> <p>To exhibit acceptable competency in troubleshooting Xpert MTB/Rif.</p>	Participants from Governments of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Pakistan were participated in the Training, however, after getting confirmation, the participants from India and Sri-Lanka could not attended Training due to unknown reasons.
86.	Regional Consultation Meeting on Strengthening High Value Vegetable Seed System in SAARC Countries	22 – 24 December 2019	Nepal	Completed	A comprehensive book on the country status report is being processed to publish	Jointly Organized by the SAC and Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperative (MoLMAC), Nepal
87.	Cultures of SAARC – Pathways of Experience	26 December 2019 (Selection Committee Meeting)	SCC Office	On-going	Despite extending the deadline for chapter proposals and all attempts made by SCC, we did not receive sufficient amount of proposals from the Member States. The best proposals selected will be published.	India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
88.	SAARC Cultural Capital Opening Ceremony		India	Not Completed		Dates were not provided by the host Member State.
89.	SAARC Cultural Festival on Music and Dance		India	Not Completed		Dates were not provided by the host Member State

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
90.	SAARC Sculpture symposium	25 – 30 November 2019	Pakistan	Not Completed		Lack of Quorum
	<b>Research</b>					
91.	Occupational risk (prevalence and risk factors) of Latent Tuberculosis Infection among Health Care Workers	July-December 2019	Nepal	On-going	Data collection completed. Technical Report is awaited from NTP Nepal	NTP, Nepal
92.	Trend (frequency and distribution patterns) of opportunistic infections associated with HIV/AIDS – A multi-centric study-)	July-December 2019	Afghanistan, Bhutan and Nepal	On-going	The NACP, Afghanistan completed the study and Technical Report is awaited.  The study is under completion through NACP, Bhutan and may be completed by 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2020.	NACP Afghanistan and Bhutan. NACP, Nepal could not conducted due to some technical reason.
93.	HIV Prevalence Study in key population in Afghanistan	July-December 2019	Afghanistan	On-going	The study completed in Afghanistan and Technical Report is awaited.	NACP Afghanistan
94.	Assessment of compliance of shorter regimen of MDR-TB treatment in Bhutan	July-December 2019	Bhutan	On-going	The study is under completion through NTP, Bhutan and may be completed by 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2020	NTP Bhutan
	<b>Production and Printing</b>					
95.	STAC Journal of Tuberculosis Lung Disease and HIV/AIDS	July-December 2019	STAC	Completed	Produced the STAC Journal of Tuberculosis Lung Disease and HIV/AIDS Vol.1 and Vol.2.	Publication
96.	SAARC Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS (2018-2023)	July-December 2019	STAC	Completed	Produced the SAARC Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS (2018-2023) for the Region	Publication

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
97.	SAARC Regional Strategy on Elimination of TB (2018-2023)	July-December 2019	STAC	Completed	Produced the SAARC Regional Strategy on Elimination of TB (2018-2023) for the Region	Publication
98.	SAARC Regional Guidelines Pediatric TB (2018-2023)	July-December 2019	STAC	Completed	Produced the SAARC Regional Guidelines Pediatric TB for the Region	Publication
99.	SAARC Regional Strategy on ACSM (2018-2023)	July-December 2019	STAC	Completed	Produced the SAARC Regional Strategy on ACSM (2018-2023) for the Region	Publication
100.	SAARC Regional Strategy on Migration Health (2018-2023)	July-December 2019	STAC	Completed	Produced the SAARC Regional Strategy on Migration Health (2018-2023) for the Region	Publication
101.	Vision Document of STAC	July-December 2019	STAC	Completed	Produced the Vision Document of STAC	Publication
102.	SAARC Guidelines for Public-Private Mix approach for National TB Control Programmes	July-December 2019	STAC	Completed	Produced the SAARC Guidelines for Public-Private Mix approach for National TB Control Programmes for the Region	Publication
103.	Printing of Wall Calendar 2020/ promotional materials (500 copies)	July-December 2019	STAC	Completed	Produced the Wall Calendar 2020	Publication
104.	STAC Newsletter (e-circulation)	July-December 2019	STAC	Completed	The STAC Newsletter (Jan.-June) 2019 issue has prepared and circulated electronically.	Publication
105.	Strengthening of Library Purchasing/renewal of software & journals, membership etc. for Library	July-December 2019	STAC	Completed	Purchased the scientific books on TB, Research Method, Clinical and Public Health Research, Bio-statistics, TB and Non TB, Pediatric HIV, Mix HIV Status, Laboratory Diagnosis, Communicable disease, infectious diseases etc.	
106.	Study on “Assessment of Clean Power Generation Technologies Using Low	2019	SEC	Completed	<b>Brief Description</b> Utilization of low calorific value coal is only attractive if the energy production is cheap and it has no adverse impact on the environment. Fortunately,	The study report is available on SEC website for free of cost use by all.



No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
	Calorific Value Coal in SAARC Region”.				<p>low cost of power generation from coal coupled with huge reserves of low calorific value coal in SAARC region makes a case to study its effective utilization in the existing and upcoming power plants. The study will concentrate on both these aspects while investigating the potential of existing technology options for power generation from low calorific value coal.</p> <p>The study assesses the technological aspects of using low calorific value coal in the power plants, such as blending of different grades of coal, pulverization, combustion configurations, coal gasification, equipment retrofitting, control of air emissions, carbon capture technologies etc. As coal washing helps in reducing air pollution by eliminating 50% ash content in the coal, but in turn it may also harm the environment, therefore, ways to reduce water pollution resulting from washing of low grade coal is also be discussed. Finally, the costs involved for all these technology options shall be discussed in detail, and use/conversion options will be recommended for each Member State.</p>	
107.	Study on “Possible Uses of Crop Residue for Energy Generation Instead of Open Burning”.	2019	SEC	Completed	<p>Rice-wheat cropping system is dominant in the area constituting Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, and Nepal; resultantly, this area is producing enormous quantity of rice straw residues, which are generally burnt in open air. This has some short-term advantages to the farmers; however, it also results in health and environmental problems. The black carbon emissions from crop residue burning combines with dense winter fog and give rise to atmospheric smog in South Asia. This smog has serious negative health impacts, and leads to eye infections, coughing, headache, asthma, allergies etc. Smog is also particularly bad for cardiac patients. Therefore, to</p>	The study report is available on SEC website for free of cost use by all.

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
					<p>counter these environmental and health impacts, the open air burning of crops needs to be minimized. There is a huge potential in converting crop residues to produce energy utilizing new emerging technologies. Also, instead of burning the crop residue, the synthesis gas produced from it can be supplied to the rural community for cooking and heating purposes. Therefore, the study focuses on use of crop residues, mainly rice crop residue. It will also evaluate the availability of crops and their energy content for gasification available technological options, energy demand in the area and cost benefit analysis. The study will also identify regional and international examples where such technologies are being used. Moreover, recommendations will be made for each member state.</p>	
108.	Assessment of “Industry Readiness for Manufacturing of Battery Electric Vehicles in SAARC countries (India and Pakistan)”.	2019	SEC	Completed	<p><b>Brief Description</b>  Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV) demand is rising globally because of lower fuel and maintenance cost, robust performance, and a significant positive impact on environment. Such multi-faceted role of BEVs can bring multiple system level advantages. The fuel mix of electricity sectors is generally cleaner than the fossil-dominated fuel mix of transport sectors. Therefore, the use of BEVs can reduce country’s fossil dependence, local air pollution and its share in global carbon emissions. BEVs can provide a unique chance to harness energy efficiency in electricity systems by offering the modern services such as storage, demand-response etc. Ultimately, all these benefits translate into economic opportunities for countries to lower their spending on fossil fuels which are, in most of</p>	The study report is available on SEC website for free of cost use by all.

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
					<p>the cases, imported from abroad at the expense of precious foreign reserves.</p> <p>The study comprises of a field-based survey of the auto industry of four SAARC Member States i.e. Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. The key auto industry stakeholders to be surveyed, and will include existing and upcoming manufacturers and assemblers dealing in BEVs and their components such as Battery, Motor, Inverter, Software etc. The study will analyze the strengths of local industry concerning manufacturing of BEVs and will furnish policy recommendations for governments to assist in its further development.</p>	
109.	Study on "Assessment of Pipelines as Preferred Mode of Movement of Crude/Oil Products Within SAARC Member States".	2019	SEC	Completed	<p><b>Brief Description</b></p> <p>Different modes of transportation are used to move crude oil and associated products from source to the consumption centers, such as pipelines, rail, shipping, and trucking; but pipelines remain one of the safest, most efficient and economical way to move these natural resources. At present, oil pipelines are being used in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan.</p> <p>The laying of oil pipelines and infrastructure are costly and sometimes have associated issues. Hence, a detailed study works out technical and financial viability of connecting the SAARC countries through pipeline for meeting their liquid fuel requirements. The study assesses the end to end technological aspects of the use of pipeline transportation for crude oil and petroleum products considering a number of parameters like the designated products, quantity of each product within a country and across SAARC Member States, the distance of transportation, frequency of transportation and interstate political situation etc.</p>	The study report is available on SEC website for free of cost use by all.

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
					Costs involved for all these technology options are discussed in detail, and use/conversion options will be recommended for each Member State depending on its local conditions. Special emphasis is given to the landlocked countries like Afghanistan, Bhutan and Nepal.	
110.	Action Plan for “Electricity Utilities of SAARC Countries to Introduce EV Charging Infrastructure”.	2019	SEC	Completed	<p><b>Brief Description</b></p> <p>Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) vehicles form the backbone of the transport sector and contribute 23% of global CO2 emissions as well as high levels of air pollution in large cities, leading to major health concerns. In view of Paris Agreement obligations and to tackle air pollution, policy makers are now looking towards electric vehicles (EVs). According to IEA, the number of EVs in the world has hit 3.1 million mark in 2017, and is expected to grow to 125 million by 2030. One of the major drivers for growth in the number of EVs is the easy access to charging infrastructure as well as the enabling environment for the consumers in order to purchase them.</p> <p>The action plan consists of medium to long-term strategies for that utility. The action plan is formulated and facilitated through mutual consultations between the expert and the electricity utility leadership, so that the electricity utility also takes ownership of the action plan. The plan shall serve as a strategy guide to be adopted as per its convenience.</p>	The study report is available on SEC website for free of cost use by all.
111.	SAARC Solar PV Demonstration Project: Tapping the Indigenous Generation Resources. (Afghanistan). Roll-over from 2018	2019	Afghanistan	Completed	<p><b>Brief Description</b></p> <p>SEC plans to undertake this pilot project to demonstrate the technical and economic viability of Solar PV technology to supplement traditional generation sources of electric power. It is expected that apart from balancing the increasing power demand, the local distribution power utility will also</p>	A 20 kW Hybrid Grid-Tied Solar Photovoltaic (PV) System equipped with battery storage system and utilizing latest technologies was installed in Kabul, in

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
					gather valuable operating experience about both integrating the intermittent power provided by PV systems, and about the operation of distributed generation systems (such as this one), with their grid. The demonstration pilot project comprises of 20 kW Hybrid Grid-Tied Solar Photovoltaic (PV) equipped with battery storage system and utilizing latest technologies.	collaboration with Ministry of Energy, Government of Afghanistan
112.	Development of "SAARC Energy Data Portal"	2019	SEC	Completed	<p><b>Brief Description</b></p> <p>SEC has been publishing SAARC Energy Data Books annually. Each Data Book covers 10-Year time series data on energy balance, energy resources and reserves, energy production and supply, energy consumption, and electricity installed capacity, production, trade &amp; supply. However, organizations have shifted their entire energy databases to digital formats, such as web-based energy portals, as reading and analyzing data from voluminous reports and books is time consuming and not convenient. Moreover, digitization of energy data helps with quick filtering of required data in the form of interactive charts and trends. Therefore, SEC has realized the need for shifting its database to a digital format in the form of a web-based portal that will cover all data till 2017.</p> <p>The portal consists of a web application on the official SEC website that includes the whole database in electronic format. Realizing the need that the world is moving towards digitization of data, therefore, that database has search filters and graphical data representation to make the data interpretation for researchers as easy as possible. The portal allows users to investigate and tailor several interactive charts including various energy parameters, fuel types etc.</p>	The portal has been developed and launched. All can access and use this portal on SEC website or using following link: <a href="http://portal.saarcenergy.org/indicators">http://portal.saarcenergy.org/indicators</a>

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
113.						
114.						

### SAARC Apex Bodies' Activities (implemented from January-December 2019)

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participants
1.	SAFA International Conference	4 April 2019	Kathmandu	Completed	The Conference held with the theme of 'Enabling Business Environment for Economic Development', aimed at enhancing knowledge and information on challenges and opportunities of international trade, role of foreign direct investments in the development of a country, and sustainable development among others.	Hon'ble Minister for Finance of Nepal Mr. Yuba Raj Khatriwada. Chief Executive Officers of various companies, Chartered Accountants, financial consultants and managers of various companies in Nepal participated in the Conference.
2.	Best Woman Entrepreneur Award-2018	11 January 2019	Kathmandu	Completed	Established in 2001 in Colombo under the auspices of the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, an Apex Body of SAARC, the Women Entrepreneurs' Council has been working towards	Secretary General of SAARC

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participants
					promoting women entrepreneurship across the region.	
3.	SAIEVAC Interfaith Think Tank Meeting	16 January 2019	Bangkok	Completed	Reviewed progress and chalked out next steps for the Interfaith Platform	SAIEVAC, UN/INGO Partners
4.	An advocacy meeting on “Analysis and Application of the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act, 2012” by South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation in LAW (SAARCLAW)	26 January 2019	Dhaka		The meeting called for effective implementation of the counter-trafficking laws to stop trafficking of the country's migrant workers.	Mr. Muhammad Rashid, Secretary General, SAARCLAW
5.	Annual Thesis Exhibition 2019 by South Asia Foundation (SAF)	28 January-2 February 2019	Beaconhouse National University, Lahore	Completed	The seventh-degree show of twelve graduates of MA of Art and Design Studies (MA ADS) class of 2019 was on display at the School of Visual Arts and Design (SVAD).	Participation by five of the twelve students were sponsored by UMISAA, three joined the programme, three from Kashmir and two from Sri Lanka.
6.	Chennai Photo Biennale- by South Asia Foundation (SAF)	22 February-24 March 2019	Chennai	Completed	Exhibition in Chennai Photo Biennale	Participation by Rashid Rana, Dean, School of Visual Arts and Design, Beaconhouse National University
7.	SAARC Woman Entrepreneur Award Ceremony 2018	2 March 2019	Colombo	Completed	The aim of the event was to recognize the entrepreneurial spirit of women of SAARC region and encourage women who possess vision, innovation, entrepreneurial drive, leadership, individuality and tenacity to aspire other women in the region. Honb’le	Mr. Ruwan Edirisinghe, President SAARC CCI Dr. Rohitha Silva, Vice President SAARC CCI (Sri Lanka), SAARC CCI Executive Committee Members, SAARC CCI General Assembly Members, SCWEC members along with

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participants
					Mrs. Chandrani Bandara, Minister for Women and Child Affairs and Dry Zone Development was invited as the Chief Guest.	entrepreneurs and businessmen/women from SAARC region, representatives of Diplomatic missions, members of women organizations and institutions.
8.	First SAIEVAC Interfaith Platform Meeting	11-12 March 2019	Bangkok	Completed	Finalized the ToRs for the Interfaith Action for EVAC	SAIEVAC GB & Coordinators, Director, Social Affairs, NACGs, UN/INGO partners, and SAIEVAC
9.	PAN Asia Children's Summit Review	13 March 2019	Bangkok	Completed	Discussed the scope of the proposed Children's Summit to observe the 30 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CRC	CRC ASIA/ASEAN, SAIEVAC, WVI, ECPAT, IPPF
10.	Discussion Programme on "Opportunities & Challenges in ensuring External Voting" by South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation in LAW (SAARCLAW)	16 April 2019	Kathmandu	Completed	The programme focused on the prevailing opportunities and challenges, including the constitution of Nepal, finances, directives, etc.	Prof. Purna Man Shakya, Vice-President, Hon'ble Justice Sapana Pradhan Malla, EXCO, SAARCLAW
11.	Fourth UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador Madanjeet Singh Memorial Lecture	16 April 2019	Jawaharlal Nehru Auditorium, Pondicherry University	Completed	<p>The distinguished speaker, SAF Alumni, was one of the youngest Parliamentarians from Bhutan.</p> <p>The Speaker stressed the Role of Young Parliamentarians in enhancing regional cooperation and confronting a common challenges of eliminating poverty, boosting gender equality, and managing environment and natural resources.</p>	Dasho Dorji Kandu, MP, National Council of Bhutan, Mme. France Marquet, Principal Trustee MSF, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, Chairman, SAF-India, Prof. Gurmeet Singh, Vice-Chancellor, Pondicherry University, Prof. Venkata Ragotham, Dean, School of Social Sciences & International



No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participants
						Studies and Prof. A.S. Raju of UMISARC.
12.	MoU signed between UMSAILS and University of Asia Pacific (UAP) by South Asia Foundation (SAF)	28 April 2019	Dhaka	Completed	The MoU was signed between UAP and UMSAILS. Sixteen scholarships will be awarded each year among SAARC countries to pursue one year LL.M. programme at the University.	Prof. Dr. Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Vice Chair, SAF Bangladesh and Vice Chancellor, UAP, Prof. Dr. M. R. Kabir, Dr. Chowdhury Ishrak Ahmed Siddiky, Coordinator, UMSAILS and Adviser, LL.M Programme.
13.	First Organising Committee Meeting of the Asian Children's Summit by South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC)	29-30 May 2019	Bangkok	Completed	A Preparatory Meeting for the Children's Summit tentatively scheduled for the week of 25th November 2019	ASEAN, CRC Asia, UN/INGO Partners, SAIEVAC
14.	Second China South Asia Business Cooperation Forum	10 June 2019	Yunnan	Completed		President SAARC CCI, Mr. Ruwan Edirisinghe, Mr. Chandi Raj Dhakal, Vice President SAARC CCI, and Dr. Rohitha Silva, Vice President SAARC CCI (Sri Lanka)

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participants
15.	The Fourteenth China South Asia Business Forum (CSABF) by SAARC Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI)	11-14 June 2019	Kunming	Completed	The SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SAARC CCI) in partnership with the Yunnan Sub Council of China Council for Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), supported by Peoples Government of Yunnan, China, organized the 14 <sup>th</sup> China South Asia Business Forum (CSABF).	President SAARC CCI, Mr. Ruwan Edirisinghe, and Mr. Chandi Raj Dhakal, Vice President SAARC CCI
16.	UMCDSRC Talk on the problems of youth radicalization in South Asia	30 June 2019	Kathmandu	Completed	The problem of Youth radicalization was discussed.	Representatives of South Asia Foundation (SAF)  Students from UMCDSRC and Members of the Regional Steering Group of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC)

### SAARC Recognized Bodies' Activities (implemented from January to December 2019)

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participants
1.	Garvi Gurjari- International Buyer-Seller Meet 2019 by South Asian Women Development Forum (SAWDF)	4-7 February 2019	Gujarat	Completed	The Garvi Gurjari- International Buyer-Seller Meet 2019 facilitated direct interaction among the buyers and sellers over its interesting events like B2B Meets, Seminar, Fashion Show and Live Demonstration. The availability of first-hand information about the products and market trends, and strategic business deals made the event a win-win situation for the artisans and weavers as well as the buyers.	The event was attended by President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary from SAWDF, including the SAWDF Working Counterparts.
2.	CME by Radiological Society of SAARC Countries (RSSC)	9 March 2019	Kathmandu	CPD Accredited	CME on Women's imaging	95
3.	Women's Day Celebration - SAARC Women's Association (SWA)	28 March 2019	Sindhi Community Centre	Completed	Recognition of the distinguished guests in their respective field	28 members; 8 guests

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participants
4.	Women in Business Session, Nepal Investment Summit 2019	29 March 2019	Kathmandu	Completed	The Session discussed opportunities for creating win-win scenario for growth and women's engagement and economic empowerment. The Session also brought to light the constraints and barriers for investment in women-led business.	SAWDF in partnership with DFID delegates representing the public, private sectors and other stakeholders.