



**SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION
FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION
SECRETARIAT**

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SAARC Secretariat's Activities (held from January 2018 to July 2018)

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
1.	Twelfth Informal Meeting of the SAARC Finance Ministers	4 May 2018	Manila, the Philippines	Completed	The Finance Ministers/Heads of Delegation briefed the Meeting about the current status of economic progress achieved in their respective countries, appreciated the contribution made by Asia Development Bank (ADB) in economic growth and expressed the hope that SAARC would make further progress to achieve its full potential for the benefit of peoples of the region. The Meeting was held on the sidelines of the Fifty-first Annual Meeting of ADB.	Finance Ministers, Heads of Delegation SG and Director (ARD)
2.	Fourteenth SAARCFINANCE Governors' Symposium	27 June 2018	Kathmandu	Completed	The two-day Symposium was organized by Nepal Rastra Bank under the auspices of SAARCFINANCE with the theme, "Developing a Common Platform for Strengthening Digital Payment System in the SAARC Region".	Governors of Central Banks of South Asia, SG and Director (SGO)
3.	Technical Meeting of Senior Officials of Education on SAARC Framework for Action: Education 2030.	11 July 2018	Bangkok	Completed	The SAARC Secretariat with collaboration of the UNICEF ROSA and UNESCO Regional Office in Bangkok organized Technical Meeting of Senior Officials of Education in Bangkok on 11 July 2018 to consider the SAARC Action Plan to implement New Delhi Declaration on Education and the SAARC Framework for Action: Education 2030.	Delegations from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, and representatives from UNESCO, UNICEF and Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) Director (ESC) DO (ESC)

4.	Asia Pacific Regional Seminar on Sub-Regional Cooperation for Achieving SDG4-Education 2030	12-14 July 2018	Bangkok	Completed	Organized by the UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education (UNESCO Bangkok)	UNESCO, Bangkok Office UNESCO, New Delhi Office, UNICEF ROSA, Kathmandu, Director (ESC)
5.	SAARC Cultural Capital	31 May – 2 June 2018	Thimphu, Bhutan	Completed	<p>Inauguration of the SAARC Cultural Capital in Thimphu with traditional Mar-Chang ceremony and the specially composed SAARC Theme song presented at the Inauguration.</p> <p>National Council Chairperson of Bhutan inaugurated the event. An Exhibition of SAARC Handicrafts was also organized. The concluding session was addressed by the Foreign Minister of Bhutan.</p>	<p>Chairperson of the National Council of Bhutan, H.E. Secretary General of SAARC, Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bhutan. Secretary and Directors, Ministry of Home & Cultural Affairs, Bhutan. Directors of SAARC Secretariat. Heads of SAARC Regional Organisations in Bhutan. Joint Secretary and Under Secretary, Ministry of Culture, India. Under Secretary (SAARC), Ministry of External Affairs, India. Archivist, National Library and Archives, Bhutan. Director, SAARC Cultural Centre</p>
6.	Fifty-fifth Session of the Programming Committee of SAARC	6 July 2018	Kathmandu	Completed	The meeting considered some financial provisions of the Secretariat for the Budget of 2018. The one-day Session of the Programming Committee was attended by Heads of SARC Division of Ministries of Foreign/External Affairs and representatives from all Member States of SAARC. The Secretariat hosted the meeting.	All National Focal Points, SG and all Directors

7.	i) Eleventh SAARC Conference on Cooperation in Police Matters ii) Sixth Meetings of Focal Points of SAARC Drug Offences Monitoring Desk (SDOMD) iii) Sixth Meeting of SAARC Terrorist Offences Monitoring Desk (STOMD)	10-11 April 2018	Kathmandu	Completed	<p>Sixth SDOMD The Meeting recommended measures to prevent/ combat drug offences in the region.</p> <p>Sixth STOMD The Meeting considered the matter pertaining to the Secure Data Base of SDOMD and STOMD to strengthen these mechanisms.</p> <p>Eleventh Police Conference The Conference considered the concept papers on SAARCPOL and SAARC Institute of Criminology, and matters relating to networking among the Police Authorities and combating corruption, among others.</p>	<p>Mr. Prem Kumar Rai, Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Government of Nepal</p> <p>Mr. Prakash Aryal, Inspector General of Nepal Police</p> <p>SG; Director (ESC)</p>
8.	Third Convocation of the South Asian University (SAU)	07 June 2018	New Delhi	Completed	During the Third Convocation, the University awarded 160 students with Master, 10 with M.Phil. and 06 with PhD degrees.	SG and Director (ESC)
9.	Renewal of SAARC-UNICEF Cooperation Agreement	5 June 2018	SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu	Completed	<p>The Cooperation Agreement focuses on the development, protection and participation of children, and raising the awareness, understanding and action for children, through formulating frameworks, policies and programmes, and various other initiatives.</p> <p>SAARC and UNICEF ROSA enjoy excellent collaboration, and work together on issues related to children, specifically focusing on education, early childhood development, maternal and adolescent nutrition, as well as on issues relating to child marriage, development of children and youth, gender equality, violence against children and health issues in South Asia.</p>	The Agreement was signed by the Secretary General and Regional Director, UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia (UNICEF ROSA).
10.	Expert Group meeting to Review and Refine the Draft Regional Strategy on Child	19-21 February 2018	Islamabad	Completed	An event of South Asian Initiative to End Violence against Children (SAIEVAC), an apex body of SAARC, and held parallel with	36 participants including SAIEVAC focal points and representatives from

	Sexual Abuse and Exploitation				the 1 st International Human Rights Conference to review and refine the draft Regional Strategy on Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation including online safety (CSAE&OS).	SAARC Member States, and NGOs. Director (SA) and Desk Officer (SA)
11.	Second Regional Conference on Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR)	20-22 March 2018	Dhaka	Completed	The Meeting was organized by SAARC Secretariat in collaboration with SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), Dhaka, World Organization of Animal Health (OIE) and Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The Meeting reviewed the progress made since its First Meeting in April 2016, set new targets and strategies for controlling the disease and free the region from PPR by 2028, the year the SAARC Chief Veterinary Officers' (CVOs) Forum also agreed upon in May 2017 to free the region from PPR.	Chief Veterinary Officers/their representatives and PPR experts from Member States, FAO and OIE. Director (ARD) Director and Livestock Specialist from SAARC Agriculture Centre.
12.	First SAARC Annual Meeting on Non-communicable Diseases	31 March – 01 April 2018	Colombo	Completed	The meeting discussed the incremental need of resources, multilateral funding and specialized funding for NCDs (including Mental Health) and Indoor Air Pollution as the tenth monitorable target in the NCD Monitoring Framework. The Meeting also considered the draft Terms of Reference (ToRs) for its future meetings.	Participants from Member States, delegates from Sri Lanka, Director (SA) and Desk Officer (SA).
13.	Ninth Meeting of Heads of SAARC Statistical Organizations (SAARCSTAT)	11-13 April 2018	Dhaka	Completed	The Meeting discussed the matters relating to enhancing cooperation among the Member States on statistical matters focusing on Gender.	Participants from SAARC Member States, Director (ENB) and Desk Officer (SA)
14.	South Asia Platform of Parliamentarians for Children	2 – 3 May 2018	Dhaka	Completed	This was a follow-up meeting to the South Asian Parliamentarians' Platform held in 2017, organized by UNICEF.	Participants from SAARC Member States, Members of Parliaments, Youth Parliament Members, UNICEF ROSA and HQ

						Officials and Director (SA).
15.	SAARC and UNICEF ROSA Regional Conference: Scaling Up the Nutrition Care of Women during Pregnancy in South Asia	7-9 May 2018	Kathmandu	Completed	In collaboration with UNICEF and for the second year, this meeting was held. Secretary General of SAARC was the Chief Guest at the inaugural session. Director (SA) moderated the keynote panel, and also delivered remarks at the closing session. The meeting was attended by 4-8 member delegations from all SAARC member states. The meeting called for regional action through SAARC to address the issue.	120 Participants from SAARC Member States, UNICEF ROSA and HQ Officials, NGOs. SG, Director (SA) and Desk Officer (SA)
16.	SAARC-PTB Kick-off Workshop of the Project “Strengthening Regional Integration and Cooperation in the field of Quality Infrastructure in SAARC”	8-9 May 2018	Kathmandu	Completed	SAARC and PTB signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 2003 with the objective to implement technical cooperation projects in the area of metrology, standards, testing, quality management, accreditation and certification, collectively known as MSTQ, in the Member States of SAARC.	Inaugurated by Minister of Industry, Commerce & Supplies of Nepal. Head of Development Corporation, PTB. South Asia Regional Representative of PTB.SG, Director (HRT/ETF), Desk Officer (ETF)
17.	Core Group of SAARC Immigration Authorities and Visa Experts meeting	28 June 2018	SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu	Completed	The meeting discussed measures to streamline the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme, including development of its security software for implementation across the region.	Heads of Immigration authorities of South Asia, SG, Director (Admin) and Desk Officer (Admin)

SAARC Secretariat's Activities held in 2017

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Participation
1.	Eleventh Informal Meeting of SAARC Finance Ministers	5 May 2017	Yokohama, Japan	Completed	<p>The Ministers reviewed progress on various financial and economic areas of cooperation including the establishment of South Asian Economic Union (SAEU).</p> <p>The Meeting was held on the side-lines of the Fiftieth Annual Meeting of Asian Development Bank.</p>	Finance Ministers, SG and Director (ETF)
2.	i) Eighth Meeting of SAARC Ministers of Interior/Home ii) Eighth Meeting of Secretaries of Interior/Home	12-13 July 2017	Colombo	Completed	<p>These Meetings considered matters relating to SAARC Conference on Cooperation in Police Matters, SAARC Terrorist Offences Monitoring Desk (STOMD) and SAARC Drug Offences Monitoring Desk (SDOMD), terrorism, Maritime Security and Piracy, Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Combating Corruption and Cyber Crimes.</p>	Ministers, Secretaries, SG, Director (ESC) and Director (ETS)
3.	i) Sixth Meeting of SAARC Ministers of Health ii) Meeting of Senior Officials/Secretaries of Health	27-29 July 2017	Colombo	Completed	<p>The Meeting adopted the Colombo Declaration "Calling for accelerated progress on key Regional Health Issues".</p> <p>The Meeting welcomed the suggestion by the Secretary General of SAARC about establishment of South Asian Medical University. The Meeting also welcomed</p>	<p>Participants from all Member States, including Ministers, Secretaries, and other officials.</p> <p>SG and Director (SA) participated from the Secretariat.</p>

					the offer of Sri Lanka to host the University.	
4.	Informal Meeting of the SAARC Council of Ministers	21 September 2017	New York	Completed	The Ministers reiterated their full commitment to the SAARC process and stressed the need to promote progress and prosperity of the peoples of the region through the platform of SAARC. In order to enhance economic relations, people-to-people contacts and tourism, the Ministers emphasized the need to improve connectivity in the region. The meeting was held on the sidelines of the Seventy-second Session of the United Nations General Assembly.	Foreign Ministers, SG and Director (ETS/Admin)
5.	The Seventh Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA-VII)	14-15 November 2017	Ashgabat, Turkmenistan	Completed	The Conference was convened under the theme “Deepening Connectivity and Expanding Trade through Investment in Infrastructure and Improving Synergy” in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan with presence of H.E. Sarwar Danish, Second Vice President of Afghanistan, H.E Rashid Meredov, Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan, and H.E. Salahuddin Rabbani, Foreign Minister of Afghanistan. H.E. Secretary General of SAARC met with Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan at the invitation of the Minister. Turkmenistan expressed interest to collaborate with SAARC. As a follow up on the issues discussed with the Turkmenistan Foreign Minister, the Ambassador of Turkmenistan to India, H.E. Mr. P.H. Durdyev, who has concurrent accreditation with Nepal, visited the SAARC Secretariat on 23 January 2018. Ambassador Durdyev,	H.E. Vice President of Afghanistan, Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan and Turkmenistan; Representatives of supporting countries and organizations. SG and Director (HRT) from SAARC Secretariat. (SAARC Participating Organization) Hosted by Turkmenistan and Co-chaired by Turkmenistan and Afghanistan.

					reiterated his Government's keen interest in cooperation with SAARC in the areas of common interest and in exploring the modalities for substantive and project based engagement. The Ambassador expressed Turkmenistan's readiness for cooperation in specific areas such as connectivity, energy and trade. The matter has been communicated to Member States for their comments/views. Afghanistan and Pakistan conveyed their support for initiating such cooperation.	
6.	HEART OF ASIA-Istanbul Process Ministerial Conference preceded by SOM Meeting	30 November- 1 December 2017	Baku, Azerbaijan	Completed	The 7 th Ministerial Conference was inaugurated by Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani. The Conference was attended by representatives of states and organizations that are members of the "Heart of Asia - Istanbul Process" – President and Foreign Minister of Afghanistan, Foreign Ministers of Turkey, Pakistan, Iran, Indian Minister of State for External Affairs, Deputy Foreign and high officials from other supporting countries and organizations. The Heart of Asia provides a platform for sincere and results-oriented regional cooperation by placing Afghanistan at its center. The Heart of Asia comprises 14 participating countries, 17 supporting countries, and 12 supporting regional and international organizations.	H.Es. Presidents of Afghanistan and Azerbaijan; Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan and Azerbaijan; and representatives of supporting countries/organizations. SG and Director (HRT) from SAARC Secretariat. (SAARC Supporting Organization) Hosted by Azerbaijan and Co-chaired by Azerbaijan and Afghanistan
7.	Second Convocation of the South Asian University	11 June 2017	New Delhi	Completed	185 students – 21 from Afghanistan, 28 from Bangladesh, one from Bhutan, one from Maldives, 16 from Nepal, 11 from Pakistan and 3 from Sri Lanka and the rest 104 from India, representing all the eight SAARC countries received their Masters Degrees. Nine students received their	Minister of State for External Affairs, a Minister of Nepal & India, SG and Director (ESC)

					MPhil Degrees – one each from Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Afghanistan and 6 from India. The Degrees, in various programmes were given out by the Nepalese Ambassador Mr. Upadhayay. 11 programme toppers were honoured with the SAU Gold Medal by the Chief Guest.	
8.	Special Sitting of the Sri Lankan Parliament and Eight Conference of the Association of SAARC Speakers and Parliamentarians	3-5 October 2017	Colombo	Completed	The eighth Conference of the Association of SAARC Speakers and Parliamentarians (ASSP) was inaugurated under the patronage of President Maithripala Sirisena. The Conference served as a platform for the Parliamentarians of South Asia to work together to reach the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development. The SAARC Speakers General Assembly also held discussions on "Promoting Parliamentary Diplomacy and Open Parliament in the age of digitalization" and "SAARC Parliamentarians' role in preserving Cultural and Archaeological Heritage in South Asia Region". Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe delivered the keynote address at the opening ceremony. A commemorative stamp was issued to mark the eighth Conference of the Association of SAARC Speakers and Parliamentarians.	Rt. Hon'ble President of Sri Lanka, Speakers of Parliaments of SAARC States; MPs of SAARC. SG and Director (HRT) from SAARC Secretariat. Organized by Parliament of Sri Lanka.
9.	i)Twenty-fifth SAARCLAW Anniversary ii)Eleventh SAARC Chief Justices Conference	27-29 October 2017	Colombo	Completed	The Conference, titled "Emerging Legal Trends in the SAARC countries" focused its discussions mainly on drafting trade and commercial laws exclusive to the region as well as debating the necessity to harmonise some laws to promote greater regional cooperation. The Conference also explored promotion of foreign direct investment and cross-border transactions in the region through the introduction of an investment-friendly legal regime. Topics that discussed also included forming 'a common regional	Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister of Sri Lanka and Hon'ble Ms. Thalatha Atukorale, Minister of Justice; Hon'ble Chief Justices or their representative judges of SAARC. SG and Director (HRT) from SAARC Secretariat.

						platform for combating climate change, environmental degradation, depletion of habitat, decimation of wildlife and deforestation’.	Organized by SAARCLAW an Apex Body of SAARC.
10.	Fifty-third Session of the Programming Committee	01-02 February 2017	Kathmandu	Completed		The meeting scrutinized budgets, approved calendar of activities of the SAARC Secretariat and Regional Centres and considered reports of various SAARC mechanisms.	The Meeting was attended by all Member States, SG and all Directors.
11.	Fifty-fourth Session of the Programming Committee	12-13 December 2017	SAARC Secretariat	Completed		The meeting scrutinized budgets, approved calendar of activities of the SAARC Secretariat and Regional Centres, discussed on the budget for the year 2018 and considered reports of various SAARC mechanisms.	The Meeting was attended by all Member States, SG and all Directors.
12.	SAARC-ADB Workshop of the IGEG.CC to finalize the “Study on Climate Change in the Region: Ways to Address Social, Economic and Environmental Challenges”	16-17 February 2017	Thimphu	Completed		The meeting recommended that action may be taken on the agreed recommendations as contained in the study report.	Attended by all Member States, ADB officials and SAARC Secretariat (Director and DO(ENB) Chief Guest - H.E. Lyonpo Jigme Zangpo, Hon’ble Speaker, National Assembly of Bhutan
13.	SAARC Literature Festival	24-26 February 2017	New Delhi	Completed		The festival helped to build up and strengthen people-to-people contacts among South Asian peoples, foster peace, mutual understanding, reciprocal respect for cultural diversity within and beyond borders.	Ambassadors of SAARC Countries; Prominent writers and literary figures of SAARC. Director (HRT) from SAARC Secretariat. Organized by FOSWAL an Apex Body of SAARC.
14.	SAARC Epidemiology Network (EpiNet) Forum Meeting	27-28 February 2017	New Delhi	Completed		The Meeting aimed, <i>inter alia</i> , to operationalize the SAARC EpiNet network, develop a road map for the	Relevant experts/ Representatives of all

					operation and sustainability of the network as well as identify key veterinary laboratories, vaccine and drug manufacturers and epidemiology institutions and experts in the region for regional resource sharing.	Member States, FAO-RAP, OIE, SAC
15.	South Asia Parliamentarians Platform for Children “Making SDGs work for children in South Asia”	2-3 March 2017	Kathmandu	Completed	The participants of the platform discussed on various issues concerning children under the SDGs and proposed recommendations for greater cooperation among SAARC Member States.	Participants from all SAARC Member States, delegates and MPs from Nepal, UNICEF ROSA and HQ, SG and Director (SA)
16.	SAARC-FAO Consultation Meeting on Sustainability of the Regional Support Unit (RSU) and Other Mechanisms created under HPEDs and TADs projects	9 March 2017	Kathmandu	Completed	The Meeting discussed on few plausible options for sustainability of the mechanisms.	National Focal Points and representatives of the Ministries of Foreign/External Affairs of the Member States, FAO-ECTAD Regional Manager, Coordinator and other officials of the FAO Regional Support Unit for SAARC and Chair of the SAARC Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs) Forum. SG, Director (ARD) and DO (ARD) Director of SAARC Agriculture Centre.
17.	Joint ESCAP-OSJD Meeting on Strengthening Railway Transport Connectivity in Southwest Asia	15-16 March 2017	New Delhi	Completed	UNESCAP presented its feasibility study on greater connectivity through railway between South and Southwest Asia.	Organized by the UNESCAP. Director (ETS)
18.	Validation of SAARC-IFAD-SAWTEE scoping study	23-24 March 2017	Kathmandu	Completed	The meeting finalized the study report to be submitted to IFAD Headquarters seeking funds in the next grant cycle with a set of recommendation which would pave the way for future collaboration between SAARC and IFAD.	In addition to representatives of all the Member States, the Meeting was attended by SAC, SAWTEE, IWMI, IFPRI, IFAD, FAO, ADB, EU along with

						regional think-tanks like CPD, CUTS, SDPI and IPS. Director (ARD) and DO (ARD).
19.	International Conference on "Peaceful and Prosperous South Asia-Opportunities and Challenges" (ICSA)-2017	27-29 March 2017	Noida, India	Completed	The conference was organized by Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Jaypee Institute of Information Technology, Noida and discussed various ideas on how to work toward peaceful and prosperous South Asia.	120 participants from across the globe participated. Director (SA) represented SAARC.
20.	SAARC-FAO Consultation Meeting on Cross Border livestock issues among the Gangetic Plain Countries	27-28 March 2017	Nepal	Completed	The Meeting aimed to foster multilateral collaboration among Gangetic Plain Countries, i.e., Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal towards controlling transboundary animal diseases (TADs) through safe and effective management of cross-border trade of livestock and livestock products among these countries. The meeting was attended by national delegates from four Gangetic Plain Countries and participants/resource persons from FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP), Regional Support Unit for SAARC (RSU-SAARC), and FAO Emergency Center for Transboundary Animal Disease (ECTAD) Unit in Bangladesh and Nepal.	In line with the objectives, the meeting was attended by the four Member States from Gangetic Plain i.e., Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal and FAO experts.
21.	Eleventh Meeting of the Committee of Heads of University Grants Commission/Equivalent Bodies	02-03 April 2017	Bandos Island, the Maldives	Completed	The meeting decided: -to name common website of University Grants Commission/ Equivalent Bodies of Member States of SAARC as 'Higher Education Network of SAARC (HENSA)'; -to nominate one focal person each from Member States responsible for updating the respective websites, to make the website public friendly by uploading in ongoing programmes and latest news on regular basis; and	Minister of Education of the Maldives, Heads of UGC/equivalent Bodies, Director (ESC) and Desk Officer (ESC)

					-matters relating to mutual recognition of professional degrees, quality assurance and accreditation mechanism, open and distance learning in the Member States of SAARC and SAARC Quality Assurance Network were also deliberated.	
22.	The SAARC-ADB Third Special Meeting on Regional Economic Integration Study (Phase-II)	12-13 April 2017	Islamabad	Completed	Held with the financial and technical assistance of Asian Development Bank (ADB) to review the implementation of the prioritized recommendations of the Study.	Representatives of Member States and ADB officials Director (ETS), Director (ETF), DO (ETS), DO (ETF);
23.	South Asia Tobacco Control Leadership Programme	8-13 May 2017	Kathmandu	Completed	The participants of the program deliberated on the health hazards of tobacco.	Member States SG and Director (SA)
24.	Sixth Meeting of SAARC Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs) Forum back to back with the Third meeting of FAO/OIE GF-TADs for SAARC	8-10 May 2017	Thimphu	Completed	During the meeting, SAARC CVOs reviewed the ongoing collaborations and project activities as well as discussed on various priority issues related to livestock sector of the region including diseases information sharing and management, epidemiology, laboratory matters, controlling priority diseases like foot and mouth disease (FMD), <i>peste des petis ruminants</i> (PPR), avian influenza (AI). The meeting agreed to strengthen SAARC collaboration on issues such as: Anti-microbial Use (AMU) stewardship and control and preventing Anti-microbial Resistance (AMR) spread in the region, harmonizing livestock related legislations, harmonizing livestock education, research and training.	CVOs of the Member States of SAARC. Director (ARD) and DO (ARD) SAARC Agriculture Centre
25.	Field Epidemiology Training Programs (FETPV) Mentor Training for SAARC Member States	8-17 May 2017	India	Completed	The training focused on basic epidemiology concepts & applications, principles of outbreak investigation, case definitions, epidemiological curves, animal	The representatives of the Member States participated in the training programme.

					and human health case studies under outbreak investigation, epidemiological surveys under one health perspective including both human and animal health surveillance, measures of disease, sampling frame and sample size estimation, sample collection/package/transportation.	
26.	Regional Conference on Scaling-up Care for Children with Severe Wasting in South Asia	16-18 May 2017	Kathmandu	Completed	The delegates discussed on the measures to curb the severe wasting affecting the children of South Asia.	Participants from all Member States, UNICEF ROSA, UNICEF HQ, as well as some international partners and NGOs invited by UNICEF. SG, Director (SA), Desk Officer (SA) participated.
27.	SAARC Agricultural Trade Forum	22-23 May 2017	Dhaka	Completed	The Trade Forum pointed out that agriculture enjoys a natural comparative advantage in the SAARC region; therefore, more agricultural items should be delisted from the SAFTA sensitive lists. The participants also recommended for a continuation of the Trade Forum in future.	Members of SAARC Technical Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (TCARD), SAFTA Committee of Experts focal points, representatives from various trade and economics think-tanks in the SAARC region and representatives from development partner institutions. Director (ARD), DO (ARD). Experts from the SAC.
28.	SAARC Disaster Management Centre (Interim Unit) organized a training programme on Application of Space Technology in Monitoring	May 24 -26, 2017	Gandhinagar, India	Completed	Training imparted to member States on the use of Space Technology in Disaster Management with presentation of case studies on existing national and International and best practices.	Participants from Member States and Director (IPA) from SAARC Secretariat

	& Managing Risks at Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management					
29.	Asia Pacific Regional Seminar on Sub-Regional Cooperation for Achieving SDG4-Education 2030	29 -31 May 2017	Bangkok	Completed	Organized by the UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education (UNESCO Bangkok)	UNESCO, Bangkok Office UNESCO, New Delhi Office, UNICEF ROSA, Kathmandu, Director (ESC)
30.	Capacity Building Workshop: Evidence-based Policies on Youth Development in Asia Promoting the Sustainability of the Youth Policy Toolbox in Asia-Pacific	29 May-1 June 2017	Bangkok	Completed	The participants of the Workshop discussed the need to integrate evidence based approaches in youth development policies. Organised by ESCAP and DESA, and in partnership with the Commonwealth and several United Nations entities, including UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA and ILO.	80 officials from government, civil society, youth representatives and international partners, from Asia-Pacific countries. Director (SA) represented the SAARC.
31.	Twelfth Regional Workshop for Judges, Prosecutors and Police Officers in South Asia on Effectively Countering Terrorism	5-7 June 2017	Colombo	Completed	The menace of terrorism is impacting the security of the region. It was stressed that regional mechanism has to be developed to tackle this menace.	SAARC Member States Director (ESC)
32.	Third Asia-Pacific Meeting on Education 2030 (APMED 2030)	4-7 July 2017	Bangkok	Completed	Organized by UNESCO Bangkok Office.	UNESCO, Bangkok Office UNESCO, New Delhi Office, UNICEF ROSA, Kathmandu, Director (ESC)
33.	Eighth Meeting of SAARC Immigration Authorities	11 July 2017	Colombo	Completed	The meeting approved the proposal for Security software for electronic SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme.	Heads of Immigration in South Asia, SG and Director (Admin)

34.	Twenty-seventh meeting of the SAARC Development Fund (SDF)	18-19 July 2017	Thimphu	Completed	The meeting deliberated on various important issues such as the credit policy, the framework for Economic and Infrastructure Window, the strategic plan of SDF 2020 and other important matters pertaining to SDF.	Members of SDF Board of Directors. Director (ARD) and SDF CEO.
35.	Connecting South Asia and Tourism Roundtable Session	25 July 2017	Thimphu	Completed	Organized by SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry.	Ministers of Bhutan, prominent businessmen from region, SG and Director (ETS)
36.	Inter-Regional Experts Forum on Skills and Migration in the South Asia-Middle East Corridor	25 -26 July 2017	New Delhi	Completed	Jointly organized by ILO and the Government of India. The Forum held discussion on labour market demand and the future of work for migrants in the Middle East.	Representatives from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka attended the programme. Director (IPA)
37.	UCLG ASPAC South/Southwest Capacity Development Workshop	16-17 August 2017	Kathmandu	Completed	To strengthen cooperation amongst local governments and partners in South and Southwest Sub-Region in Asia, UCLG ASPAC established the Standing Committee for South and Southwest Asia in 2013. The workshop contributed to strengthen the UCLG ASPAC South and Southwest Sub-Region for the promotion of local self-governance in the region. The workshop specifically focused on identifying potential stakeholders and to discuss modalities for enhanced partnership and networking amongst local governments in the South and Southwest sub-region.	Head of Planning Commission of Nepal; and participants from SAARC region. Director (HRT) from SAARC Secretariat. Organized by United Cities and Local Government (UCLG) ASPAC in collaboration with NAVIN, MUAN and ADDCN.
38.	SAARC Friendship Badminton Competition at the Armed Police Force Headquarters, Halchowk	26 August 2017	Kathmandu	Completed	SAARC Secretariat won both Men's Double and Mixed Double trophies.	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal, Kathmandu-based SAARC Missions and SAARC Secretariat

39.	Across Barriers-International Business Women's Summit	10-11 September 2017	Kathmandu	Completed	The objective of the Summit was to develop partnerships between entrepreneurs from the SAARC and ASEAN regions, People's Republic of China, UK, Australia and business women leaders from other countries. The summit served as a regional hub for networking and connecting women SMEs to explore significant opportunities in cooperation and joint investments with potential counterparts. Around twenty countries attended the summit with twelve international speakers.	Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal; over hundred participants from ASEAN, SAARC Regions, People's Republic of China and business women from other countries. Director (HRT) from SAARC Secretariat. Organized by SAWDF a Recognized Body of SAARC.
40.	Fourth Meeting of SAARC Expert Group on Renewable Energy	12-13 September 2017	Islamabad	Completed	Concept Paper for creation of revolving paper for the renewable projects in the region was discussed and approved.	Representatives of Member States, Director (ETS), DO (ETS)
41.	Meeting of Core Group of SAARC Immigration and Visa Experts	10 October 2017	SAARC Secretariat	Completed	RFPs for Security software for development of electronic SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme was approved.	Heads of Immigration of South Asia, SG and Director (Admin)
42.	Second SAARC-ADB Workshop of the IGEG.CC to finalize the "Study on Climate Change in the Region: Ways to Address Social, Economic and Environmental Challenges"	16-17 October 2017	Colombo	Completed	Finalized the Study Report on Climate Risks in the SAARC Region; ways to Address the Social, Economic and Environmental Challenges with incorporation of inputs received from all Member States.	Attended by all Member States, ADB officials and SAARC Secretariat (Director and DO(ENB) Chief Guest - H.E. Hon. Susil Premajyantha, Minister of Science, Technology and Research, Government of Sri Lanka
43.	Second Meeting of SAARC Council of Experts of Energy Regulators (Electricity)	24-25 Oct. 2017	Islamabad	Completed	Roadmap for implementation of SAARC Framework Agreement on Energy Cooperation (Electricity) was discussed.	Representatives of Member States, officials of ADB Director (ETS), DO (ETS)
44.	Special Session of the Technical Committee on	27 November 2017	Dhaka	Completed	Special Session of TCARD reviewed the draft of SAARC Food and Nutrition	Members of the Technical Committee on Agriculture and Rural

	Agriculture and Rural Development				Security Framework (SFNSF), Strategic Plan of Action (SPA) and four project outlines developed under the SAARC-FAO Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) on “Strengthening the Capacity of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in the Development, Co-ordination and Monitoring of a Regional Food Security and Nutrition Framework, Strategies and Programmes” (2015-2017).	Development, the project consultants along with FAO experts on Food Security and Nutrition. Director (ARD and DO (ARD)). Experts from SAARC Agriculture Centre
45.	International Conference on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)	5-6 December 2017	New Delhi	Completed	The objectives of the conference were the universalization and adherence to the CCW and its Protocols and their enhanced implementation in order to ensure respect for International Humanitarian Law (IHL).	Head of Delegation, ICRC; President, Indian Society of International Law; Secretary (West) Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India; Vice President, ICRC. Organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in partnership with Indian Society of International Law Director (HRT) from SAARC Secretariat.
46.	Expert Group to review salaries and allowance of GSS II-VII Staff	11 December 2017	SAARC Secretariat	Completed	The meeting discussed the issue of revision of salaries and allowance of GSS II-VII Staff.	All National Focal Points, and Director (Admin)

SAARC Specialized Bodies' Activities (held from January to July 2018)

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Organizer
1.	First Meeting of Board Project Appraisal Committee	29 January 2018	SDF Secretariat	Completed	The Board Project Appraisal Committee appraised the projects under the three funding windows and recommended to SDF Board for approval.	Members of the Project Appraisal Committee and SDF CEO Organized by SAARC Development Fund (SDF) Secretariat
2.	Sixth Meeting of the Governing Board (GB) of SARSO and Fifth TMB Meeting of SARSO	08-09 March 2018	New Delhi	Completed	The GB, instructed and formed a Selection Committee for the Appointment of DG SARSO. They also approved the Budget and the Calendar of Activities of SARSO for the year 2018.	Member States South Asian Regional Standards Organization Director (SA&ETF).
3.	Second Meeting of Board Project Appraisal Committee	16 March 2018	SDF Secretariat	Completed	The Board Project Appraisal Committee appraised the projects under the three funding windows and recommended to SDF Board for approval.	Members of the Project Appraisal Committee and SDF CEO Organized by SAARC Development Fund (SDF) Secretariat
4.	Eighth Meeting of Finance & Audit Committee (FAC) of SDF	17 March 2018	SDF Secretariat, Thimphu	Completed	FAC recommended SDF Secretariat's budget for approval of the Board and also took decisions on other financial and administrative issues related to SDF.	Members of the FAC and SDF CEO. Organized by SAARC Development Fund (SDF) Secretariat
5.	Twenty Ninth Meeting of SDF Board of Directors	18-19 March 2018	SDF Secretariat, Thimphu	Completed	Board in principle approved two projects under the Infrastructure Window. Board also approved the	Members of the SDF Board of Directors and SDF CEO.

					SDF Secretariat budget as per recommendation of FAC.	Organized by SAARC Development Fund (SDF) Secretariat
6.	Third Convocation of the South Asian University (SAU)	07 June 2018	New Delhi, India	Completed	<p>During the Third Convocation, the University awarded 160 students with Master, 10 with M.Phil. and 06 with PhD degrees.</p> <p>Attended by SG and Director (ESC).</p>	<p>Mr. Giriraj Mani Pokhrel, Minister for Education, Science and Technology, Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, President, ICCR and Member of Rajya Sabha as the Chief Guest, Mr. Amjad Hussain B Sial, the Secretary General of SAARC Other members of SAU's statutory bodies from the South Asian region.</p>

SAARC Specialized Bodies' Activities held in 2017

No.	Activity	Dates	Venues	Status	Highlights	Organizer
1.	Press Conference	February 2017	Islamabad	Completed	SARCO held a press conference attended by representatives of the major media houses in Pakistan. The reporters of the media houses inquired about organizational and professional activities of the Council. This press conference was given publicity in the print and electronic media which uplifted the image of SARCO and highlighted the presence of a dispute resolution mechanism within the SAARC region.	SARCO
2.	Brainstorming Workshop on Strategic Plan of SDF 2020	9 February 2017	Colombo	Completed	SAARC Development Fund organized a SDF Board of Directors and Regional and International Financial Experts from the SAARC Member States Brainstorming Workshop to finalize the draft strategic plan of SDF 2020, MSME Programme and E & I Policy on 09 February 2017 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.	Members of the SDF Board of Directors and SDF Officials. Organized by SAARC Development Fund (SDF) Secretariat
3.	Twenty-sixth meeting of the Board of Directors of SAARC Development Fund (SDF)	10-11 February 2017	Colombo	Completed	Discussion to finalize the draft strategic plan of SDF 2020, MSME Program and E & I Policy.	Members of the SDF Board of Directors and SDF CEO Organized by SAARC Development Fund (SDF) Secretariat
4.	Fourth Meeting of the Technical Management Board (TMB) of SARSO	27 February 2017	Dhaka	Completed	1. Reviewed the progress made upon the decisions/directions given by the Third Meeting of the TMB of SARSO held in 12 December 2015. 2. The members deliberated on the Final Draft SAARC Standards and recommended three Standards from the Food and Agriculture sector for approval. 3. Recommended the draft SARSO Directives part 1 & 2 for approval to the Governing Board of SARSO. 4. Finalized the meeting calendar of Sectoral Technical Committees (STCs) of SARSO for the year 2017 5. Elected Pakistan as Chair of TMB for next three years.	Member States SARSO
5.	Fifth Meeting of the Governing Board (GB) of SARSO	28 February-01 March 2017	Dhaka	Completed	1. Reviewed the progress of the implementation status of the recommendations/decisions of the Fourth Meeting of GB of SARSO held in Dhaka, 14-15 December 2015. 2. Endorsed the Report of the Fourth Technical Management Board Meeting 3. The Meeting considered SARSO's budget for the year 2017.	Member States SARSO

6.	Meeting with IEC representatives	02 March 2017	Dhaka	Completed	Discussed on Cooperation Agreement between IEC and SARSO signed on 09 October 2016 at Frankfurt, Germany and developed an implementation plan accordingly to make effective implementation of the Cooperation Agreement. The meeting also discussed the modalities for adoption of IEC Standards as SAARC Standards.	IEC Representatives SARSO
7.	Regional Parliamentarians' Conference on Combatting Human Trafficking	21-22 March 2017	Bangkok	Completed	Jointly hosted by Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) & South Asian Initiative to Eliminate Violence against Children (SAIEVAC).	Delegates from SAARC, other countries, SG and Director (SA)
8.	Participation on the 2 nd Symposium on China-South Asia, South East Asia Commercial Legal Cooperation	13 June 2017	Kunming, China	Completed	On the invitation of SAARC-CCI and China Council for Promotion of Investment and Trade (CCPIT), the Director General (SARCO) addressed the Second Symposium on China - South Asia, South East Asia Commercial Legal Cooperation held at Kunming, China. He explained the work carried out and the importance of having an independent arbitration Center in the region of South Asia.	SAARC CCI CCPIT Officials DG SARCO
9.	27th Meeting of SDF Board of Directors	18-19 July 2017	Thimphu	Completed	The meeting deliberated on various important issues such as the credit policy, the framework for Economic and Infrastructure window, the strategic plan of SDF 2020 and other important matters pertaining to SDF.	Members of the SDF Board of Directors and SDF CEO Organized by SAARC Development Fund (SDF) Secretariat
10.	Second Sectoral Technical Committee (STC) Meeting on Electrical, Electronics, Telecom and IT (EET&IT) of SARSO	25-26 July 2017	Karachi, Pakistan	Completed	Discussed harmonization of Standards on Double Capped Fluorescent Lamps. Fifteen new work items were proposed and recommended for harmonization. Appointed Project leaders and constituted editing committees for each work item under discussion of STC.	Member States SARSO
11.	SARCO's role in acting as a catalyst for promoting ADR and Cross Border Trade and Investment	16 August 2017	Islamabad	Completed	SARCO's role in acting as a catalyst for promoting ADR and Cross Border Trade and Investment. The Senior Vice President of FPCCI highlighted the need for larger publicity of SARCO among the trading community of Pakistan and the SAARC region and assured of his help in this regard. The Director General addressed the members of the trading community and the participating professionals	Mian Saukaut Masud, Senior Vice President, FPCCI graced the Seminar as Chief Guest. The seminar was attended by the members of FPCCI.. SARCO

					regarding need to include SARCO model dispute resolution clause before signing of business contracts.	
12.	Eighth Meeting of the Governing Board of SARCO	21-22 September 2017	Colombo	Completed	The Meeting was of the view that since the wide publicity of revised Rules of Procedure for Conciliation and Arbitration have been revised and adopted by GB and wide publicity of revised Rules, through the Governmental and non-governmental channels is desired.	Members of Board, Director (SA/ETF), DG SARCO
13.	Seminar on “Importance of Arbitration as a mechanism for the resolution of commercial disputes and the role played by SARCO in the region”	23 September 2017	Kandy, Sri Lanka	Completed	SARCO in collaboration with the Sinhaputhra Finance PLC organized this Seminar to discuss how to adopt arbitration as a litigation process for a speedier recovery method especially in debt recovery in the Banking and Finance sector and in any other sector which has debt recovery issues.	Member States SARCO
14.	Seventh Meeting of Sectoral Technical Committee (STC) on Food and Agricultural Products (FAP) of SARSO	04-05 October 2017	Noida, India	Completed	Recommended to finalize the Draft SAARC Standards on Black Tea, Skimmed Milk Powder, Food Hygiene General Principles - Code of Practice and Instant Noodles. Discussed the list of 44 approved new work items and recommended to initiate the SAARC Standards development process for the new work items i.e. cumin; fenugreek; curry powder; fennel seeds; cardamom; mango; onion; citrus fruits-orange; potato; fish and fish products; chemical & micro-biological Standards: Meat & Meat Products. Appointed Project leaders and constituted editing committees for each work item.	Member States SARSO
	Signing of MoU between CEN, CENELEC and SARSO	11 October 2017	Vladivostok, Russia	Completed	This Memorandum of Understanding offers tangible opportunities for greater technical and systemic alignment, with a view to facilitate trade in goods and services between Europe and South Asian countries.	CEN CENELEC SARSO
15.	Seminar on “Arbitration – A Mechanism to Resolve Trade Disputes and to Ease Business transaction within the SAARC Region”	29 November 2017	Kabul	Completed	SARCO conducted its maiden Seminar in Afghanistan. The event was held in collaboration with the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce & Industries and Afghanistan Women Chamber of Commerce & Industries; and represented by representatives of the business community, Chambers, Young Arbitrators’ Forum, Ministry of Commerce & Industries, Supreme Court of Afghanistan and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan.	Mr. Muzamil Shinwari, Advisor on trade & private sector to the Chief Executive of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, graced the event as Guest of Honor. SARCO
16.	28th Meeting of SDF Board of Directors	20-22 December 2017	Thimphu	Completed	During this Board Meeting, the Board of Directors approved the Credit Policy & Policy Guidelines for the Economic &	Members of the SDF Board of Directors and SDF CEO

					Infrastructure (E&I) Windows of SDF among other important issues.	Organized by SAARC Development Fund (SDF) Secretariat
17.	Meeting of Counterpart Agencies of SDF	26-28 December 2017	Colombo	Completed	The Counterpart Agencies of SDF from all the Member States met on 26-28 December 2017 in Colombo, Sri Lanka in order to discuss important issues pertaining to SDF as well as SDF funded projects.	Representatives of the Member States, project officials, financial experts, Banks, International consultancies including KPMG, PwC, E&Y, Doelitte, development partners including Equicap, IFPRI, ICIMOD, ILO, IOM, Chambers of Commerce & Industry and SDF CEO Organized by SAARC Development Fund (SDF) Secretariat

SAARC Regional Centers' Activities (held from January to July 2018)

No.	Activity	Date	Venue	Status	Highlights	Organizer
1.	Review of Article for SAARC Journals of TB Lung Disease and HIV/AIDS	January-Dec.2018	STAC, Kathmandu	Partially Completed	Articles were reviewed by external reviewers for 1 st issue of Journal.	SAARC HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis Centre.
2.	SAARC Epidemiological Response on HIV/AIDS Control 2018 -E-circulation	January-April 2018	STAC, Kathmandu	Completed	The Document has been prepared and circulated electronically.	SAARC HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis Centre.
3.	Training Programme on "Mainstreaming Disaster Management in Infrastructure Sector"	8-12 January 2018	Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management (GIDM), Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India	Completed	Sharing of knowledge and exchange experiences for integrating risk reduction in infrastructure sector.	Member States Organized by the Interim Unit of the SAARC Disaster Management Centre (SDMC).
4.	Joint SAARC Monitoring Missions for appraisal of TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programmes in the Region by STAC	22-24 January 2018	Member States	Conducted in one country i.e. Maldives	The Director and Training Officer conducted the monitoring of NTP and NACP in Maldives on 22-24 January 2018.	SAARC HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis Centre.
5.	SAARC Literary Award and Ceremony	26 January 2018	Galle World Heritage City, Sri Lanka	Completed	Award recipient – Mr. Najibulla Manalai of Afghanistan.	SAARC Cultural Centre
6.	Dissemination Webinar on the Study Report to "Assess the Resource Potential and Planning for a Demonstration Project using Run-of-River Submersible Water Turbines"	8 February 2018	Islamabad	Completed	Through the Webinar, the national and international experts shared their experiences regarding technical, design, installation, modeling, financial, policy, market management and business development aspects of the hydrokinetic turbines.	SAARC Energy Centre

7.	Workshop on “Emergency Services Reform and SAARC Rescue Challenge”	20-22 February 2018	Emergency Services Headquarters and Academy, Lahore, Pakistan	Completed	Improve coordination and ensure uniform standards of emergency services in the Member States of SAARC with the aim to help capacity building and skill enhancement in emergency services.	Member States Organized by the Punjab Emergency Service, Government of Punjab (Pakistan)
8.	SAARC Epidemiological Response on Tuberculosis & TB/HIV Co-infection 2018- E-circulation	March 2018	STAC, Kathmandu	Completed	Document prepared and circulated electronically.	SAARC HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis Centre
9.	Dissemination Webinar on "Study to Investigate the Difficulties for Household Solar Systems in SAARC Region".	6 March 2018	Islamabad	Completed	The webinar presented the difficulties, problems and social issues faced by the Solar Home Systems programmes in South Asia and suggested solutions and recommendations for effective implementation of Solar PV technology in off-grid electricity supply.	SAARC Energy Centre
10.	SAARC International Women’s Day	8 March 2018	Auditorium of the Kalutara District Secretariat, Kalutara, Sri Lanka	Completed	Theme of the Programme was “A Mother’s Song: An aesthetic journey through South Asia in search of the Rhythms of Love”.	SAARC Cultural Centre
11.	Training Programme on “Heat Wave Preparedness and Response in SAARC Region”	8-10 March 2018	Gandhinagar, India	Completed	Development of action plan and capacity building for heat preparedness.	Member States Organized by the Interim Unit of the SAARC Disaster Management Centre (SDMC)
12.	SAARC Seminar on Management of TB Control Programme in Urban/Slums in the SAARC Member States	12-14 March 2018	Dhaka	Completed	Made recommendations on Management of TB Control Programme in Urban/Slums in the SAARC Member States	SAARC HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis Centre
13.	Commemoration of World TB Day-2018	22 and 24 March 2018	STAC, Kathmandu	Completed	Interaction Programme conducted on 22 March and Joint Programme conducted on 24 March, 2018.	SAARC HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis Centre

14.	Exposure Visit on Conservation Agriculture, Commercial Vegetable Production and Rural Development in Bangladesh	26-30 March 2018	Bangladesh	Completed	Exchange of experiences and technologies among the SAARC Member States. Develop concept/proposal to up-scale the successful technologies in SAARC Member States.	Member States of SAARC and SAC experts Organized by SAARC Agriculture Centre
15.	Fifteenth Round Proficiency Testing of SSM for NRLs of SAARC Member States	April 2018	Identified National TB Reference Laboratories in Member States	Completed	Testing SSM for NRLs of the Member States of SAARC was conducted successfully.	SAARC HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis Centre
16.	SAC-Donor Coordination Meeting on SAARC Regional Agricultural Projects	05-06 April 2018	Kathmandu	Completed	SAC presented seven project proposals for consideration of the development partners. IFAD agreed to develop a US\$ 3.5 million regional grant project on Consortium for Scaling-Up Climate Smart Agriculture in South Asia and several other development partners also expressed their willingness to participate in some of the projects presented by SAC during the Meeting.	Representatives of all the Member States along with FAO, ADB, WB, Winrock, IFAD, JICA, SDC, IFPRI, IRRI and CCAFS. SG and Director (ARD) and SAARC Agriculture Centre experts Organized by SAARC Agriculture Centre
17.	SAARC Regional Policy Dialogue on Good Agriculture Practices (GAP)	08-10 April 2018	Kathmandu	Completed	Recommended SAC to formulate SAARC-GAP in collaboration with FAO-RAP.	Member States of SAARC and SAC expert Organized by SAARC Agriculture Centre
18.	Dissemination Webinar on "Study for Deployment of Electric Road Transportation in South Asia".	11 April 2018	Islamabad	Completed	The webinar presented an overall view of Electric Road Transportation initiatives in South Asia, the Challenges & Opportunities in deploying Electric Road Transportation in SAARC Region..	SAARC Energy Centre
19.	Strengthening of digital access of Library resources to the visitors	12 April 2018	STAC, Kathmandu	Completed	The Centre has digitalized the Library resources to facilitate online access to the readers. The upgraded library and video	SAARC HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis Centre

					conferencing facility at the STAC was inaugurated by the SG of SAARC.	
20.	Regional consultation on policies and strategies for the genetic improvement of indigenous livestock	11-13 April 2018	Kathmandu	Completed	Comprehensive animal breeding policies and strategies have been proposed for the Member States. Existing animal breeding policies and strategies have been included in the Report for mutual benefit.	Member States of SAARC and SAC expert Organized by SAARC Agriculture Centre
21.	Regional expert consultation on climate smart agricultural policies, strategies	17-19 April 2018	India	Completed	The consultation came up with a couple of key recommendations such as establishment of Working Group and piloting of CSA technologies among member countries through a bigger project.	Member States of SAARC and SAC expert Organized by SAARC Agriculture Centre
22.	SAARC Regional Training on Diagnosis and Treatment of Pediatric TB	23-27 April 2018	Negombo, Sri Lanka	Completed	Participants acquired knowledge/skill on diagnosis and treatment of Pediatric TB.	Member States SAARC HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis Centre
23.	Workshop on "Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in SAARC Region"	26-27 April 2018	Kutch, Gujarat, India	Completed	Sharing of experiences on disaster risk reduction.	Member States, ADB, Director, BIMSTEC, IT Officer, BIMSTEC, Director and DO, ENB & NIDM Organized by the Interim Unit of the SAARC Disaster Management Centre (SDMC)
24.	Regional Training on Animal Disease Informatics and Biostatistics	3-8 May 2018	Bengaluru, India	Completed	The training addressed the issue of outbreak of emerging and zoonotic livestock diseases. It also considered measures to eradicate economically important livestock diseases.	Member States of SAARC and SAC expert Organized by SAARC Agriculture Centre

25.	Webinar on the Study “Review of Existing Feasibility Study of Karnali Chissapani Hydro Power Project Dissemination Development (10,800 MW) for Defining the Way Forward to Materialize it as a Regional Hydro Power Project”	8 May 2018	Islamabad	Completed	The objective of the Webinar was to disseminate the findings and recommendations of the study report (conducted by SEC in 2017) among the stakeholders for adding value and making consensus of the terms of reference for updating the existing feasibility study.	SAARC Energy Centre
26.	Knowledge Sharing Workshop on “Modern Techniques Including Renewable Energy Auctions for Economizing Renewable Energy Tariff”.	9-10 May 2018	Colombo	Completed	Participants of the Workshop discussed on the importance of renewal energy, shared experiences of their respective member countries and committed to work for utilization of renewal energy resources for South Asia.	Member States SAARC Energy Centre
27.	Regional Training on “Animal Feed and Nutrient Analysis”	9-14 May 2018	India	Completed	The training imparted knowledge on new innovative techniques and technologies on animal feed and nutrient analysis as well as on cost effective and quality feed formulation.	Member States of SAARC and SAC expert Organized by SAARC Agriculture Centre
28.	Revision of SAARC Regional Strategy on Advocacy, Communication and Social Mobilization (ACSM)	13-15 May 2018	STAC, Kathmandu	Completed	The revised SAARC Regional Strategy on ACSM was prepared and presented in the Meeting of Programme Managers on TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programmes and cross border issues.	Member States SAARC HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis Centre
29.	Revision of Vision Document of SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre (by STAC desk/correspondence method)	13-15 May 2018	STAC, Kathmandu	Completed	The revised document was presented in the Meeting of Programme Managers on TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programmes and cross border issues.	Member States SAARC HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis Centre
30.	Revision of SAARC Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS	13-15 May 2018	STAC, Kathmandu	Completed	The revised document was presented in the Meeting of Programme Managers on TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programmes and cross border issues.	Member States SAARC HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis Centre

31.	Revision of SAARC Regional Strategy on Control/Elimination of TB	13-15 May 2018	STAC, Kathmandu	Completed	The revised document was presented in the Meeting of Programme Managers on TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programmes and cross border issues.	Member States SAARC HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis Centre
32.	SAARC Regional Meeting of Programme Managers on TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programmes and cross border issues	13-15 May 2018	Maldives	Completed	The Meeting adopted following Strategies: Draft Revised SAARC Regional Strategy on ACSM (2018-2023). Draft Revised SAARC Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS (2018-2023). Draft Revised SAARC Regional Strategy on Elimination of Tuberculosis (2018-2023). Draft SAARC Regional Strategy on Migrant Health/Cross border issues in the SAARC Member States (2018-2023). Draft Revised Vision Document of STAC .	Member States SAARC HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis Centre
33.	Development of SAARC Regional Strategy on Migrant Health /Cross border issues in the SAARC Member States	13-15 May 2018	STAC, Kathmandu	Completed	The Centre has developed the Strategy and presented in the SAARC Regional Meeting of Programme Managers on TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programmes and cross border issues.	SAARC HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis Centre
34.	Exposure visit of farmers on community engagement of seed sovereignty in South Asia	19-21 May 2018	Bangladesh	Completed	Participants recommended formulation of multi-country project on community seed development.	Member States of SAARC and SAC expert Organized by SAARC Agriculture Centre
35.	SAARC Film Festival	22-27 May 2018	Colombo	Completed	Films from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka were screened with participants from Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka.	SAARC Cultural Centre

36.	SAARC Regional training on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in SAARC Member States	27-31 May 2018	Gazipur, Bangladesh	Completed	The training was attended by all the Member States except Afghanistan. The trainees were provided hands-on training on mass rearing bio-control agents, their release in laboratories and usage, monitoring and evaluation in fields, IPM technologies and bio-pesticides.	Member States of SAARC and SAC expert Organized by SAARC Agriculture Centre
37.	SAARC Agricultural PhD Scholarship -2018	27 May 2018	University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka		The second PhD Scholarship has been awarded to Ms. Sara Shahibzada of Afghanistan.	Member States of SAARC Organized by SAARC Agriculture Centre
38.	SAARC Culture Capital Thimphu (Inauguration ceremony)	31 May 2018	Thimphu, Bhutan	Completed	The Second SAARC Cultural Capital programme was conducted in Thimphu, Bhutan, on 31 May 2018. The objective of the SAARC Cultural Capital is to promote cultural values of the selected ancient cities of the Member States of SAARC.	SAARC Cultural Centre, Colombo, Sri Lanka The activities will continue throughout the year. Attended by, National Council Chairperson, Foreign Minister, SG, Director (ESC) and Director (ENB&SGO)
39.	SAARC Handicraft Exhibition and Workshop	31 May-1 June 2018	Thimphu, Bhutan	Completed	Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka sent nominations for the programme. However, participants from India and Maldives were unable to join.	India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh SAARC Cultural Centre
40.	SAARC Exhibition of Paintings	10 th – 13 th July 2018	University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Nugegoda, Sri Lanka.	Completed	Paintings representing all SAARC Member States were displayed, with predominantly those from the SAARC Artists Camp and Exhibition of Paintings held in Nepal in 2017. (Non-participatory Programme)	SAARC Cultural Centre

SAARC Regional Centre Activities held in 2017

No.	Activity	Dates	Venues	Status	Highlights	Organizer
1.	SAARC International Women's Day	8 March 2017	Colombo	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pioneering artistes in different fields were honoured during the celebrations. 	SAARC Cultural Centre, Colombo
2.	World TB Day- 2017	22-24 March 2017	Kathmandu	Completed	Report presented in the 27 th GB.	STAC
3.	Printing STAC Journal of Tuberculosis Lung Disease and HIV/AIDS	March and December 2017	Kathmandu	Completed	Two issues of Journal developed and printed.	STAC
4.	Thirteenth Round Proficiency Testing of SSM for NRLs of SAARC Member States (2016)	April 2017	Identified 10 NRLs of SAARC Member States	Completed	All 10 Laboratories maintaining the high quality of standard for sputum microscopy required to be sustained to TB control in future too. The ongoing P.Test (2016) completed in 2017.	STAC
5.	Expert Consultation Meeting on "Best Practices of Integrated Plant Nutrition System (IPNS) in SAARC Countries"	09-10 April 2017	Mymensingh, Bangladesh	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Documented the successful IPNS in SAARC countries -Identified successful practices of IPNS - A comprehensive book published on best practices of IPNS in SAARC countries - A set of demand driven recommendation made 	Member States of SAARC and SAC expert Organized by SAARC Agriculture Centre
6.	Participation in the Review of activities NTPs and NACPs/ in the SAARC Member States by STAC	10-11 April 2017	Birantnagar, Nepal	Completed	Laboratory Based Regional Review Meeting-Nepal Report approved by Twenty-seventh GB.	STAC
7.	Awareness workshop on 'Importance of ISO 14001 and its impact on environment and trade	24 April 2017	Dhaka	Completed	For understanding international standards ISO 14001:2015 that provides framework in improving environmental performance through more efficient use of resources and reduction of waste, gaining a competitive advantage and the trust of stakeholders. Seventy-one (71) workshop participants represented over 37 organizations, including policy makers, regulators, exporters, consumers, environmentalists, universities and non-for-profit organizations participated in the awareness workshop.	In collaboration of Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institution (BSTI), Bangladesh with the support of SESA
8.	Training Programme on Application of Space Technology in Monitoring and Managing Risks	14-16 May 2017	Gandhinagar, India	Completed	Organized by Interim Unit of the SAARC Disaster Management Centre (SDMC), Gujarat Institute of	Member States Organized by the

					Disaster Management (GIDM), Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India.	SAARC Disaster Management Centre
9.	Regional training on “Field Epidemiology Training Program for the Veterinarians (FETPV)”	15-24 May 2018	Bangalore, India	Completed	-Awareness raised on veterinary field epidemiology - Identified best practices on field veterinary epidemiology	Member States of SAARC and SAC expert Organized by SAARC Agriculture Centre
10.	Development of framework and Guidelines for Private-Public Mix b	26 May 2017	Kathmandu	Completed	Document approved by 27 th GB.	STAC
11.	SAARC Regional Meeting of Programme Managers and Cross Boarder issue on TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programmes	29-31 May 2017	Thimphu	Completed	Report/Recommendations approved by Twenty seventh GB.	STAC
12.	SAARC Regional Training on Operational Research on TB and HIV/AIDS	12-16 June 2017	Jaipur, India	Completed	Report approved by Twenty seventh GB.	STAC
13.	Training Programme on Short Range Regional Early Warning	21-23 June 2017	Gandhinagar, India	Completed	Capacity building of professionals in understanding, managing, evaluating and undertaking improvements in end- to-end early warning systems for hydro-meteorological and geological hazards and extreme events.	Member States Organized by the SAARC Disaster Management Centre (SDMC) and GIDM
14.	Participation in the Review of activities NTPs and NACPs/ in the SAARC Member States by STAC	26-30 June 2017	Colombo	Completed	Review on TB Control and Preventive Activities. Report approved by Twenty seventh GB.	Member States Organized by the SAARC Disaster Management Centre
15.	Fourteenth Round Proficiency Testing of SSM for NRLs of SAARC Member States	July, 2017	Identified 10 NRLs of SAARC Member States	Completed	All 10 Laboratories maintaining the high quality of standard for sputum microscopy required to be sustained in future too to TB control.	STAC
16.	Water-Energy-Food Nexus: A basis for Sustainable Agricultural Development in SAARC Region	3-5 July 2017	Thimphu	Completed	-Identified priority areas of interventions through the regional initiatives - A book was published in 2017 with country report status - A set of demand driven recommendation made.	Member States of SAARC and SAC expert Organized by SAARC Agriculture Centre

17.	SAARC Exhibition of Paintings	3 July - 9 July 2017	Colombo.	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paintings from all Member States created during the SAARC Artist Camp since its inception was displayed. • Representatives of High Commissions and Embassies in Sri Lanka from the Member States of Afghanistan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Pakistan as well as representatives from the SAARC Observer States of Iran and Japan, Director of the Indian Cultural Centre in Sri Lanka and Director of the Department of Culture in Sri Lanka participated at the Inauguration Ceremony. 	SCC In collaboration with the “Saundaryabhimani Festival at the University of Visual and Performing Arts
18.	SAARC Regional Training on TB for Microbiologist on Culture & DST, Gene Xpert/NAAT and its maintenance	10-14 July 2017	New Delhi	Completed	-	Member States STAC
19.	Video Conferencing on “Backyard Poultry Production in SAARC Member States”	11 July 2017	Video Conferencing	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Enhanced capacity of the participants on different backyard poultry production - Disseminated knowledge on backyard poultry production - A comprehensive book published on backyard poultry production system in SAARC region - A set of demand driven recommendation made. 	Member States of SAARC and SAC experts Organized by SAARC Agriculture Centre
20.	SAARC Artist Camp and Exhibition of Paintings	28-31 July 2017	Kathmandu	Completed	Themes for the Artists were “Sacred Sites” and “The Beauty of Nature”.	The Chief Guest at the Inauguration was the Minister of Culture in Nepal and chaired by the Secretary to the Minister of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation. Chief Guest for the Closing Ceremony and the Exhibition of Paintings was the Hon Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal, with His Excellency, the Secretary General of SAARC.

						SCC
21.	SAARC Epidemiological Response on Tuberculosis & TB/HIV Co-infection (2016)	August 2017	Kathmandu	Completed	Availability of updated data on Tuberculosis & TB/HIV Co-infection. The Technical Document prepared and e-circulation to the Member States.	STAC
22.	Forging SAC-CGIAR partnership for Agricultural Research and Development in South Asia	2-3 August 2017	New Delhi	Completed	Developed concept notes for joint programme Identified need based research agenda in the region A policy Paper on Agricultural Research in SAARC Region: Common Challenges and Priorities published.	Member States of SAARC, CGIAR Centres including CIP International, Biodiversity International, ICRAF, CIMMYT, ICRISAT, IRRI, IWMI, CCAFS, ILRI, World Fish, ICARDA, CABI and World Veg and SAC experts. Organized by SAARC Agriculture Centre
23.	SAARC Regional Training of Trainers (ToT) on Diagnosis, Treatment and Programmatic Management of Pediatric TB	7-11 August 2017	Colombo	Completed	Report approved by Twenty seventh GB.	STAC
24.	Regional consultation on “Facilitating use of microbial pesticides in South Asia”	21-23 August 2017	Kathmandu	Completed	-Established partnership between identified stakeholders of national and regional level -A book was published in 2017 with country report status on facilitating use of microbial pesticides in South Asia - A set of demand driven recommendation made.	Member States of SAARC and SAC expert Organized by SAARC Agriculture Centre
25.	Regional expert consultation on “Sustainable Goat Farming for Livelihood Improvement in South Asia: Opportunities, Constrains and Potential”	22-24 August 2017	Islamabad	Completed	-Enhanced knowledge on goat farming practices adopted in different regions - A set of demand driven recommendation made - A comprehensive book on goat farming for livelihood improvement published.	Member States of SAARC and SAC expert Organized by SAARC Agriculture Centre
26.	Community-Based Non-Wood Forest Products Enterprise: Sustainable Business Model	24-26 August 2017	Thimphu	Completed	-Documented best community based enterprise on NWFPs in SAARC region - A book was published in 2017 with country report status on community based non wood forest products enterprise: sustainable business model.	Member States of SAARC and SAC expert

						Organized by SAARC Agriculture Centre
27.	SAARC Research Seminar on Buddhist Cultural Trails: <i>Journey through Time and Space, of Merchants, Monks and Pilgrims</i>	26 to 28 August 2017	Colombo	Completed	38 papers were presented in 7 multi-disciplinary panels. Keynote speaker was Emeritus Prof. Nimal De Silva of University of Moratuwa. Mr. J. Dadallage, Consultant Public Relations to the Hon. Prime Minister of Sri Lanka represented the Chief Guest Mr. E.M.S.B. Ekanayake, Secretary to the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka. Director of the Indian Cultural Centre on behalf of the H.E. the High Commissioner of India, Mr. Intisar Ahmed Sulhery on behalf of the H.E. the High Commissioner of Pakistan, Mr. M.A.K. Giriagama, Director General of South Asia and SAARC Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Sri Lanka represented the Member States. Mr. Dwatmaji Hanomanresi, Counsellor for Socio and Cultural Affairs represented H.E. the Ambassador of Indonesia. Academics from University of Colombo, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, University of Peradeniya, Buddhist and Pali University of Sri Lanka and other scholars were also present.	Organized by SAARC Agriculture Centre SCC Academics, scholars, researchers from the Member States of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka participated. The participants visited Arankele Meditation Monastery and Dambulla World Heritage Site as the Cultural Tour. Buddhist, Hindu and Islamic Religious representatives participated at the inauguration.
28.	Regional Expert Consultation Meeting on Conservation Agriculture in SAARC Member Countries	28-30 August 2017	Paro, Bhutan	Completed	- Collected best practices of CA - Established network between the regional and national organization - A comprehensive book on conservation agriculture published - A set of demand driven recommendation made.	Jointly organized by Royal University of Bhutan, College of Natural Resources, Bhutan and SAC
29.	Regional consultation on “Risk management for small farmers”	29-31 August 2017	Kathmandu	Completed	- Documented lessons learnt on agricultural risk management in SAARC countries - A book was published in 2017 with country report status on risk management for small farmers	Member States of SAARC and SAC expert Organized by SAARC Agriculture Centre
30.	Research -TB among Young People on rise in Sri-Lanka (2013)	Report received in September 2017	Sri-Lanka	Completed	Measures should be taken to modify risky life-style, facts such as alcohol consumption, smoking	STAC

					and substance abuse, which have an impact on spread of TB. The pending/ongoing Research (2013) completed in 2017.	
31.	SAARC Training on Management of Information for Action	1-5 September, 2017	Bangalore	Completed	Report approved by Twenty seventh GB.	STAC
32.	Regional Expert Consultation Meeting on Technology sharing of Spice Crops in SAARC Countries	11-13 September 2017	Kerala, India	Completed	- Established network between national and international market through sharing technology and value chain development -Published on commonly grown spices crops - A comprehensive book on technology sharing of spice crops published.	Member States of SAARC and SAC expert Organized by SAARC Agriculture Centre
33.	The SAARC Exposure visit to observe the best practices on HIV/AIDS in Nepal	11-15 September 2017	Nepal	Completed	Report approved by Twenty seventh GB.	STAC
34.	Regional Video Conference Meeting on Proven Technology sharing of Maize in SAARC Countries	18 September 2017	Dhaka	Completed	-Established regional network for maize research and development - A set of demand driven recommendation made -Documented technologies available for improvement of maize production - A comprehensive book on proven technology sharing of maize published.	Member States of SAARC and SAC expert Organized by SAARC Agriculture Centre
35.	Best Management Practices for the Aquaculture of Commercially Important Fin Fishes in SAARC Region	19-21 September 2017	Negombo, Sri Lanka	Completed	-Developed Best Management Practices (BMPs) for the production of different species in various culture system - A comprehensive book published on best management practices for the aquaculture of commercially important fin fishes in SAARC region - A set of demand driven recommendation made.	Member States of SAARC and SAC expert Organized by SAARC Agriculture Centre
36.	Regional consultation on “export promotion and market access for agriculture and food products in major global markets”	19-21 September 2017	Colombo	Completed	-Documented lessons learnt on agro commodities export -Reviewed the current status of agro-food export in the region - A book was published in 2017 with country report status - A set of demand driven recommendation made.	Member States of SAARC and SAC expert Organized by SAARC Agriculture Centre

37.	Training Programme on Disaster Resistance Construction Technologies	20-22 September 2017	Gandhinagar, India	Completed	Sharing of knowledge from various SAARC Member States and facilitate exchange of experiences amongst the professionals and first responders from the SAARC Member States.	Member States Organized by the SDMC
38.	Regional consultation on Farm Made Feed for Sustainable Aquaculture Development in South Asia	10-12 October 2017	Kathmandu	Completed	-Carried out an inventory of fish feed ingredients, their nutritive value and farm made feed formulations for better return by the publication - A comprehensive book published - A set of demand driven recommendation made.	Member States SAC
39.	Training on Project Planning, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation	21-31 October 2017	Comilla, Bangladesh	Completed	The training was part of the “FAO Technical Cooperation Program on strengthening the capacity of SAARC in the development, coordination and monitoring of a regional food security and nutrition framework, strategies and programs”. The overall objective of the training program was to acquaint the participants with the concepts, stages, techniques and management of development projects.	Main participants SAARC Agriculture Centre
40.	Printing of SAARC Regional Training Manual for Programme Management of Drug Resistance TB	November 2017	Kathmandu	Completed	The Training Manual printed and circulated.	STAC
41.	Digitalization of library resources (TB, HIV/AIDS and Laboratory)	November 2017	Kathmandu	Completed	Digitalized Library resource and linked to STAC Website.	STAC
42.	Participation in the Fifth Conference on Lung Health	14-17 November 2017	Dhaka	Completed	Director, STAC chaired the technical session of the Conference. During the period, he made the courtesy meetings with Director-General, Department of Health Services and Line Director & Programme Manager of NTP, Government of Bangladesh.	STAC
43.	Fifth Meeting of STC on Building Materials	21-22 November 2017	Colombo	Completed	Discussed the Draft SAARC Standards related to Building Materials and proposed recommendations. Prepared the STC Meeting calendar for the year 2018 and 2019. Reconfirmed the work programme and finalized the project plan for each item under discussion.	Member States Director (SA/ETF) and DO (SA)

44.	SAARC Film Festival	21-25 November 2017	Colombo	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short Films, Feature Films and Master Films from all 8 Member States of the SAARC was screened. • Film personnel from Bangladesh, Maldives and Sri Lanka participated. • 12 SAARC Film Awards were given in different categories. • Award winning films were selected by Jury Members from Australia, Spain and Iran. • This was the 7th SAARC Film Festival and has been consistently held in Colombo every year since 2011. 	Member States SCC
45.	SAARC Cultural Festival on Traditional Dance	30 November – 3 December 2017	Dhaka	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Inauguration Ceremony was held in an outdoor venue which included over 2000 members of the public. • Dance workshops were conducted every day. • In addition, there were 2 performances of traditional dance at the National Theatre with traditional dance troupes from the participating Member States. • The SAARC Cultural Festival on Traditional Dance was held in conjunction with the SAARC Handicraft Exhibition and Workshop. 	The Chief Guest for the Inauguration was the Secretary to the Minister of Culture, Bangladesh The Chief Guest at the Closing Ceremony was the Minister of Culture Bangladesh. SCC
46.	SAARC Handicraft Exhibition and Workshop	30 November to 3 December 2017	Dhaka	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were several workshops conducted throughout the Programme, which allowed the member states to understand and experience the traditional handicraft culture, techniques and artistry of the participating member states and exchange knowledge and knowhow amongst the experiences artisans from the South Asian Region. • The SAARC Cultural Festival on Traditional Dance was held in conjunction with the SAARC Handicraft Exhibition and Workshop. 	The Chief Guest for the Inauguration was the Secretary to the Minister of Culture, Bangladesh The Chief Guest at the Closing Ceremony was the Minister of Culture Bangladesh The Deputy Minister and several officials from Maldives participated. SCC

47.	Training Programme on Seasonal Climate Forecasts Mechanism in the Region	6-8 December 2017	Gandhinagar, India	Completed	Sharing of knowledge from various SAARC Member States and facilitate exchange of experiences amongst the professionals from the SAARC Member States to effectively help communities to be prepared for sever climate related hazards and become more disaster resilient.	Member States Organized by the SDMC
48.	World AIDS Day-2017 & SAARC Charter Day- 2017	07 December 2017	Kathmandu	Completed	Combined Programme with Medical Students and highlighted to objectives, area of cooperation and importance of SAARC.	Local Programme STAC
49.	SAARC Non-violence Day Art Competition (Award Ceremony)	8 th December 2017	Colombo	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SAARC Cultural Centre received over 1000 entries from all parts of Sri Lanka from school children for the Competition held to commemorate SAARC Non-Violence Day on the 2nd of October. The 6 winning entries (3 prizes for each category) were from 6 districts of Sri Lanka. The winners of the competition received book vouchers The SAARC Non-Violence Day Art Competition Awards Ceremony was held during the SAARC Charter Day celebrations. 	Sri Lankan Government Officials, Embassies and International Organizations in Colombo, Sri Lanka SCC
50.	Development of Template for Dispute Resolution under SAARC Inter-Governmental Framework Agreement (Electricity)	December 2017	Islamabad	Completed	SARCO in collaboration with SAARC Energy Centre (SEC) has conducted a Study to develop a dispute resolution mechanism for energy disputes entailing from the IGFA (Electricity) of 2014. The study was conducted due to inclusion of SARCO Model Clause in the IGFA (Electricity). Dissemination Workshop regarding this Study is scheduled to be held in Dhaka in the month of August 2018. The final report submitted by Consultant was reviewed by the Chairman of the Scottish Arbitration Centre, as Peer-Reviewer.	SAARC Energy Centre
51.	Update regional data on TB, HIV/AIDS and TB/HIV co-infection and analysis to generate evidence to the region	December 2017	Kathmandu	Completed	Generation of evidence based data.	STAC

SAARC Apex Bodies' Activities (held from January to July 2018)

1.	Sixth SAARC Business Leaders' Conclave	16-18 March 2018	Kathmandu	Completed	The Sixth Edition of the SLBC was organized on 16-18 March in Kathmandu, Nepal, in collaboration with the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FNCCI) and Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF) and with support of Government of Nepal, under the theme "Unleashing Shared Prosperity through Economic Integration". The Conclave hosted business delegates and high-level government officials, including Ministers from the Member States of SAARC.	Rt. Hon. Prime Minister of Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal; Hon'ble Minister of Industry, Commerce and Supply of Nepal; and SG. Organized by SCCI, an Apex Body of SAARC.
2.	International Conference of Women Entrepreneurs	17-19 January 2018	Visakhapatnam, India	Completed	The conference brought together eminent speakers from the manufacturing community, technology experts & innovation specialists to share their experiences and views on sustainability of startups and focus on emerging developments in the MSME sector with a special reference to women entrepreneurship. Government of India allocated 5 acres of land in Visakhapatnam for establishing women entrepreneurship International Trade & Technology Hub.	Hon'ble Chief Minister N. Chandrababu and SG. Organized by SAWDF, a Recognized Body of SAARC and (ALEAP-INDIA).

SAARC APEX Bodies Activities in 2017

1.	High Level Regional Policy Conference on Environment, Human & Child Labour and Animal Welfare in South Asia's Brick Kilns:Tackling Challenges and Working Together to Change the Industry	26-27 January 2017	Pokhara, Nepal	Completed	Organized by the SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat. Jointly hosted by the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare and the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of Nepal in collaboration with Brooke, ILO and The Donkey Sanctuary.	Member States Director (SA)
2.	SDEF 17th Apex Body Meet & Regional Conference on "Water Resource Management in the Context of Gorkha Earthquake-2015"	22-24 March 2017	Kathmandu	Organized by SAARC Diploma Engineers Forum	The Apex Body Meet and Regional Conference had thematic Sessions focusing on Water Management. The Sessions were further focusing on particular topics such as knowledge sharing among the member states, sewerage management, Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems (DEWATS), among others.	Seniors Engineers from Member States and Director (HRT) from SAARC Secretariat
3.	High Level Regional Policy Conference on Environment, Human & Child Labour and Animal Welfare in South Asia's Brick Kilns:Tackling Challenges and Working Together to Change the Industry	26-27 January 2017	Pokhara, Nepal	Completed	Organized by the SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat. Jointly hosted by the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare and the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of Nepal in collaboration with Brooke, ILO and The Donkey Sanctuary.	Member States Director (SA)

Activities of SAARC Apex Bodies During 2017

SN	Name of the Apex Body	Number of Activities	Remarks
1.	SAARC Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI)	82 Activities	Including: Executive Committee Meetings, Forums, Round Tables, Trainings, Trade Fairs, Visits, Call on Dignitaries.
2.	SAARCLAW	44 Activities	Including: 14 th SAARCLAW Conference and 11 th SAARC Chief Justices' Conferences, Round Tables, Consultation Meetings, Seminars, Discussion in different Member States and Meetings with dignitaries of the Member States.
3.	South Asian Federation of Accountants (SAFA)	29 activities	Including: Annual Board Meetings, Conferences, Seminars, Workshops in different SAARC Member States.
4.	South Asia Foundation (SAF)	81 activities	Including: Meetings, Conferences, Training Programmes, Scholarships Seminars and Lectures in different Member States.
5.	Foundation of SAARC Writers and Literature (FOSWAL)	13 Activities	Including: Sufi Festival, Literature Festival, Dialogues and Discussions.
6.	South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children (SAIEVAC)	22 Activities	Including: High Level Meeting, Expert Meeting, Consultations, Conferences and Trainings.

SAARC Recognized Bodies' Activities (held from January to July 2018)

1.	XIV SAARC Academy of Ophthalmology Conference	21- 24 June 2018	Kathmandu,	Completed	Ophthalmologist and experts involved in eye health from different Member States gathered to discuss and exchange ideas on challenges pertaining to eye health. The theme of the Conference was from "Darkness to Light".	Organized by SAO (a Recognized Body of SAARC) with Nepal Ophthalmic Society. Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, former President of Nepal, Health Secretary, Government of Nepal, President and General Secretary of SAARC Academy of Ophthalmology and Director (IPA).
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SAARC Recognized Bodies' Activities 2017

1.	SDEF 17th Apex Body Meet & Regional Conference on “Water Resource Management in the Context of Gorkha Earthquake-2015”	22-24 March 2017	Kathmandu	Organized by SAARC Diploma Engineers Forum	The Apex Body Meet and Regional Conference had thematic Sessions focusing on Water Management. The Sessions were further focusing on particular topics such as knowledge sharing among the member states, sewerage management, Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems (DEWATS), among others.	Seniors Engineers from Member States and Director (HRT) from SAARC Secretariat
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Activities of SAARC Recognized Bodies During 2017

S/N	Name of Recognized Body	Number of Activities	Remarks
1.	Association of Management and Development Institutions in South Asia (AMDISA)	34 Activities	Including: Executive Board Meetings, Conferences, Conclaves, Visits, Mentor Visits, Peer Reviews, Team Visits, and Awards.
2.	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation of Architects (SAARCH)	1 Activity	On 2 November, 2017, under the Chairmanship of the Mr. Kishore Thapa, the meeting of the Presidents of SAARCH National Institutes was held in Kathmandu, Nepal.
3.	Federation of State Insurance Organizations of SAARC Countries (FSIO)	1 Activity	12 th SFO Conference, held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 8th -10th December, 2017.
4.	SAARC Diploma Engineers Forum (SDEF)	5 Activities	Including: 2 Apex Bodies Meet, Conference, Observation of SAARC Charter Day.
5.	SAARC Teachers Federation (STF)	9 Activities	Including: Thematic Workshops in Afghanistan, Nepal, India and Sri Lanka on Sustainable Development Goals-2030.
6.	SAARC Women's Association (SWA)	1 Activity	Chaos By SMS: A Play by Indu Dharmasena Lionel Wendt Theatre, Colombo 24 th November, 2017
7.	Hindukush Himalayan Grassroots Women's Natural Resources Management (HIMAWANTI)	25 Activities	Including: Training Programmes, Project based activities, Workshops, Consultation Meetings, Peer Learning Sessions, etc.
8.	Federation of Association of Pediatric Surgeons of SAARC Countries (FAPSS)	Activities	ARM (Anorectal Malformation) database in SAARC countries started. So far, data from India & Bangladesh is being collected. Hopefully, others will join in 2018; A joint meeting of FAPSS & IAPS (Indian Association of Pediatric Surgeons) will be held in September, 2018 in Chandigarh, India.
9.	SAARC Federation of Oncologists (SFO)	1 Activity	12 th SFO Conference, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 8-10 December, 2017.

S/N	Name of Recognized Body	Number of Activities	Remarks
10.	South Asian Network of Economic Research Institute (SANEI)	2 Activities	<p>18th RRC Proposal Calls: SANEI Secretariat has sent a proposal to Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Cross-Border Transmission Infrastructure. A couple of proposals were sent to Global Development Network (GDN).</p> <p>Building Training on STATA and Enhancing Economy and Environment through Use of Electric Vehicles. 17th Round RRC accommodated 5 research studies under the theme taxation. All the studies are expected to be completed by November 2018.</p>
11.	South Asian Women Development Forum (SAWDF)	4 Activities in 2017	Including: Talk Programme, Consultative Meeting and “Across Barriers-International Business Women’s Summit”
12.	Self Employed Women Association (SEWA)	Activities	During the year 2017, SEWA continued knowledge sharing in SAARC countries through capacity building, strengthening women’s organisations and participation in conferences.