



## **South Asian Economic Development: The Way Forward**

**An International Conference from the Perspective of Young Researchers**

**April 9-10, 2015**

The Faculty of Economics at the South Asian University, New Delhi, is pleased to announce its inaugural international conference with young researchers. South Asia is well known as the region that has consistently grown at impressive rates over the last decade and a half, while being home to the largest concentration of the world's poor. Interrogating the extent of and reasons for endemic poverty coexisting with sustained economic growth is the basic *raison d'être* for the proposed conference to be held during April 9-10, 2015 in New Delhi. Evaluating 'what has worked', 'what has not' and, therefore, 'how precisely do we go forward' will form the core scientific content of the proposed conference.

Being part of a unique university with a mandate of inculcating regional consciousness among the citizens of South Asia, the Faculty of Economics considers it an obligation to contribute to the understanding of the challenges and opportunities for inclusive development in the region, especially in its economic dimension. Through this conference, we hope to provide a platform for sharing both broad visions of the region's collective future, as well as results of detailed research focusing on specific themes relevant for the region.

This event will be dedicated to the memory of Professor G. K. Chadha, Founding President of South Asian University, who passed away in March 2014. A renowned economist and administrator, Professor Chadha spent the last years of his life building the South Asian University from scratch. His vision of South Asia as a strong regional entity and South Asian University as a vibrant intellectual space to support this goal will be the guiding force behind this conference.

### **Themes for the conference**

Papers focusing on South Asia from all methodological perspectives are invited from young scholars on the broad themes identified below:

- i. Inclusive growth, employment and structural change (including sectoral perspectives and issues of urbanization, informalization and exclusion)
- ii. Issues in Rural and Agricultural development
- iii. Human development and the welfare state (including issues of poverty, inequality and vulnerability)
- iv. Growth and environmental sustainability (including issues of disasters, climate change, energy and natural resources)
- v. Macroeconomic dynamics and policies (including financial sector, capital movements, exchange rate dynamics)
- vi. Trade, economic integration and prospects for regional cooperation in South Asia (including issues of communication, connectivity, and infrastructure)

vii. Governance, regulations, and institutions (including issues of economic and social conflict)

Papers focussing on regional, sub-regional, national, and subnational issues preferably with broader relevance for South Asia as a whole will qualify.

**Eligibility:** Uniquely this year's conference targets 'young' researchers (defined to include all those within **five years** of the receipt of doctoral degree or equivalent). Advanced doctoral candidates close to thesis submission stage are especially encouraged to propose papers on themes cited above and those closely related. While all 'young' researchers working on these topics are welcome to submit papers, this announcement is being particularly directed to those working in organizations based in the SAARC member countries (namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka).

**Deadlines:** Eligible researchers who have papers relevant to any of the broad themes as cited above are cordially invited to electronically submit their completed papers by **February 22, 2015** at the following email address: [econconf@sau.ac.in](mailto:econconf@sau.ac.in). Kindly also submit brief CV alongwith the paper. Decision on the acceptance/revision of papers would be made by **February 28** following a refereeing process. Any queries can be sent to the same email address above.

**Travel Expenses:** Over and above providing accommodation (up to 3 nights), meals, and local conveyance, the organizers expect to cover the lowest economy class air fare of all accepted authors (one per paper). Co-authors, who are non-presenters, are welcome to attend the meetings, albeit at their own expense. All other participants, especially from outside India, are also welcome to attend.