



**BANGLADESH
CHAPTER**

SID-South Asia Committee Meeting and Regional Seminar

ON ECONOMIC GROWTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT WITH EQUITY, SECURITY AND SUSTAINABILITY — NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES

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MESSAGE



It gives me great pleasure to learn that a meeting of the Society for International Development South Asia Committee (SID-SAC) will be held in Dhaka on 3rd-4th December, 1992 under the aegis of SID-Bangladesh Chapter. Participants from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are due to attend the meeting. I wish that SID-SAC which is a facilitating mechanism to coordinate the activities of the Regional Chapters of SID will succeed in attaining the objects of the present meeting.

I am also pleased to know that on this occasion a Regional Seminar on "Economic Growth and Human Development with Equity, Security and Sustainability—National and Regional Perspectives" will be organized. Economic growth and human development are closely inter-related. Human beings contribute to growth and growth contributes to the welfare of the people. If development is to be in the best interest of the people, economic growth and human development must be with equity, security and sustainability. The participants of the Seminar from home and abroad may deliberate in depth on the relevant aspects of this important topic and generate new ideas and strategies to help solve the problems of the South Asian Countries in the field of economic growth and human development with equity, security and sustainability. I wish all success of the meeting and congratulate SID for organizing the Regional Seminar on a topic of vital interest and importance.

A M Zahiruddin Khan
Minister for Planning
Government of the People's
Republic of Bangladesh

MESSAGE

I am very glad that SID-Bangladesh Chapter is hosting on 3-4 December 1992 an Executive Committee Meeting of SID South Asia Committee (SID-SAC) and the first Working Group Meeting for 1993 SID South Asia Regional Conference. Acceptance of invitation by all the members to attend these Meetings indicates the importance being attached to them. I welcome the distinguished participants from India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Hopefully their stay in Bangladesh would be pleasant and their deliberations fruitful.



Through conference, seminars, workshops and publications on burning developmental issues at international, regional and national levels, SID tries to promote the cause of durable and equitable growth the world over. The present Meetings and Seminar on the eve of the SAARC Summit in Dhaka are intended to underscore the necessity of enhanced regional cooperation for economic growth and human development in South Asia. May SID succeed in its noble mission!

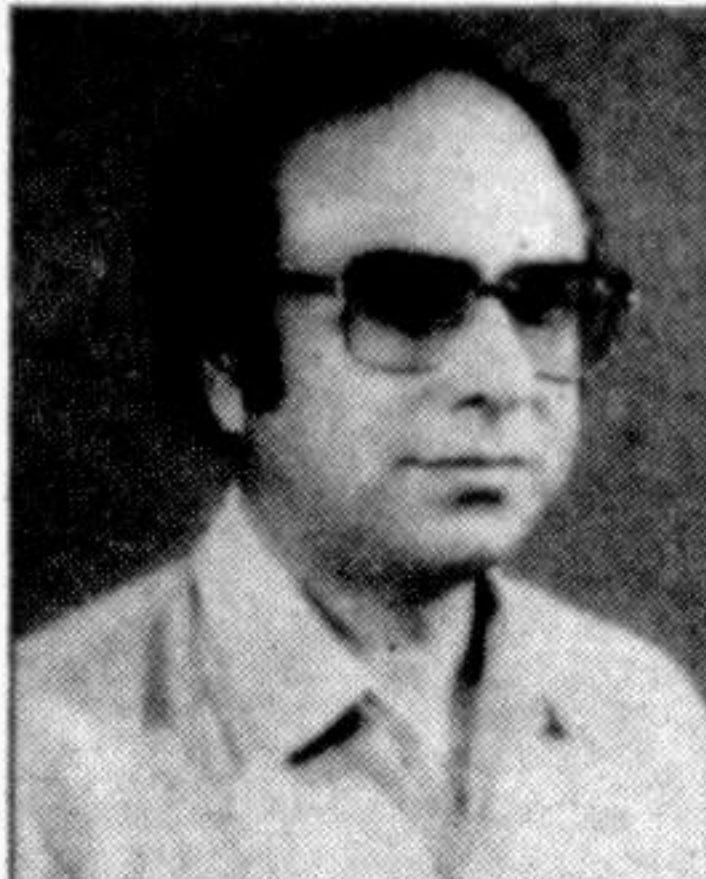
A T M Shamsul Haque

Member, Planning Commission
Government of Bangladesh
President, SID Bangladesh
Chapter.

On the Theme and Purpose of this SID-SAC Meeting and Regional Seminar

Economic Growth and Human Development with Equity, Security and Sustainability

by Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad



QAZI KHOLIQUZZAMAN AHMAD is Member of SID Governing Council and of Executive Committee; (Immediate Past SID Vice President; Former Chairman SID-SAC; Former President SID-Bangladesh Chapter)

PROGRAMMES of the Society for International Development (SID) operate on a three year cycle built around its triennial World Conferences. In a given triennium, the seven SID regions of the world choose themes which are relevant to the particular regional realities and concerns and have reference to the broad programme framework of the next World Conference. Having reviewed and analyzed issues related to sustainable development during 1988-91, leading to the 20th SID World Conference held in Amsterdam in May 1991 on the theme of "One World or Several — Towards a Strategy for Growth, Sustainability and Solidarity in an Interdependent World", SID aims to discuss in the current triennium how sustainable development can be achieved, leading to the 21st World Conference to be held in

Mexico in April 1994. The pertinent issues under this broad theme may be considered horizontally under sub-themes: governance and institutional development, to explore political and juridical dimensions of sustainable development; culture and identity, to examine changes in values required for sustainability and the implications of the globalization process; ecology and global responsibility, to understand how individuals and nations must apply the lessons of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED); and equity and human development, to address the poverty dimensions as well as strategies to empower people to achieve sustainable livelihoods. Each of these themes may be examined vertically in terms of how local

initiatives are linked to national, regional and global perspectives in an interdependent world. During the triennium 1988-91, SID in South Asia intensely debated relevant issues under the broad theme of "Policies and Strategies for Sustainable Development in South Asia — National and Regional Perspectives". Keeping in view the outcome of those debates and the issues to be discussed in the 21st SID World Conference in 1994, we have chosen "Economic Growth and Human Development with Equity, Security and Sustainability" as an umbrella theme to explore, during the current triennium, major questions South Asia faces in the context of achieving sustainable development. South Asia is characterized by a high concentration of population and poverty and serious environmental degradation. The challenge of alleviating poverty or environmental degradation alone is formidable enough; but the region must address both simultaneously and urgently for orderly social progress in harmony with the nature since the alternative looming in the horizon is social convulsions and irreversible destruction of the natural base of future growth. The Sixth SAARC Summit held in Colombo, Sri Lanka in December 1991 accorded the highest priority to the alleviation of poverty in all South Asian countries. It also laid due emphasis on environmentally sound growth. SID chapters and membership of the region are endeavouring to make their contribution toward formulation of policies and strategies for achieving the same goals. It may be noted that virtually all the SAARC Summits held so far have emphasized the crucial importance of people's involvement in regional cooperation and the key role of the people-to-people contact in that process. SID-SAC is an independent forum that promotes people-to-people

Society for International Development (SID)

THE Society for International Development (SID) is the world's largest membership organization devoted to international development. The Society was established in 1957 as an association of people with interest in international economic, political and social development. Since then SID has become a worldwide forum for the exchange of development experience, information and ideas. SID has more than 10,000 members in 132 countries. A significant part of the Society's work is carried out through over 120 SID Chapters, over 50% in the South, which provide active programmes geared to interests of their communities. The purposes of the Society are to encourage, support and facilitate a sense of community among individuals and organizations committed to development at local, regional and international levels and to provide services to national development constituencies; to promote international dialogue, understanding and co-operation for social and economic development which furthers the well being of all peoples and of a truly interdependent world of self-reliant nations; and to advance the science, process and art of sustainable social and economic development through educational means, including research, publication and discussion. SID is not affiliated with any government. It provides members and associates with ideas and information from many perspectives and facilities for dissemination of their experiences and views. SID cooperates actively with existing networks of development institutions. SID has a consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and has official UN representation in New York, Geneva, Paris and Vienna. SID is financed by membership dues and contributions from a wide variety of development organizations, foundations and institutions. SID's International Secretariat is located in Rome, Italy. SID's programmes operate on a three year cycle built around its triennial World Conference. These are major events which bring together participants in the development process from all parts of the world to review current issues in the field of international development and to highlight new lines of inquiry and response. The Conference also helps SID chart new directions based on changes in

development thinking and emerging issues. In May 1991 SID 20th World Conference in Amsterdam on One World or Several: Towards a Strategy for Growth, Sustainability and Solidarity in an Interdependent World, brought to the fore several major lines of programme inquiry for SID to pursue in the period leading to the next SID World Conference in 1994 in Mexico. These are issues relating to: Environment and Sustainable Development; Integration of Women and Youth in Development; Private and Public Sector Balance in Development; Grassroots Movements and Participation; Human Rights and Democracy and the Strengthening of the Multilateral System and International Governance. One important SID activity is its North-South-Roundtable (NSRT) where high level academics, development practitioners, researchers and policy makers are invited from around the world to discuss global development issues. SID has several regular publications — Development (quarterly journal), Compass (news letter), Development Hotline (fortnightly news bulletin) and Meridian (Published jointly by SID, IPS and AIESEC as a bi-monthly news letter to focus on youth issues). SID is managed by an internationally elected Governing Council and an Executive Committee. The presidency rotates between the South and the North. Current President is from the North: Maurice Williams. Current Members of the Governing Council from South Asia are: Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad (Bangladesh), Jaya Arunachalam (India), Ashok Bapna (India), Tissa Devendra (Sri Lanka), Q. K. Ahmad is also member of the Executive Committee and Chair, SID Youth Programme.

MESSAGE

This SID-SAC meeting and a regional seminar on "Economic Growth and Human Development with Equity, Security and Sustainability" marks an important step in a broad based process of regional reflection and debate in South Asia as SID prepares for its 21st World Conference in Mexico in 1994. The world has been dramatically transformed since the end of the Cold War and the nature of the changes is far from clear as events continue to unfold. What is entirely clear is that we need new approaches to development — approaches which encompass reform of governance and institutions, protection of human rights and equity, and greater economic and ecological security. This seminar is a valuable opportunity to explore these themes which are the tasks SID set for itself in Amsterdam. The discussions will contribute to shaping the Society's future programme as the Governing Council prepares for the 21st World Conference in Mexico City in 1994. SID has a unique responsibility to provide guidance and set standards for new development approaches to meet changing needs. For the Society is a broad-based association of over 10,000 development professionals, policy makers and institutions committed to promoting sound and equitable development. Through more than 120 national and local chapters around the world and seven regional conferences SID is addressing the kinds of concerns that will be raised in Dhaka. I wish to express the gratitude of SID to the Bangladesh Dhaka Chapter for hosting the SID-SAC meeting and the regional seminar just before the annual SAARC summit. The recent Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro has provided some important lessons to guide development policy and actions as we effect the transition to sustainable livelihoods for all. Though many of the major environmental problems are global or transnational in character, it is essential to recognize important differences in the state of the environment and of development within and among countries, as well as the countries' financial, technological and institutional capacities to deal with these problems. What is required is a collective yet differentiated approach to action which respects national priorities and values. Further it is unlikely that the condition of the environment will change if the living conditions of nearly 75% of the world's population receiving 15% of the world's income do not improve. Accelerated economic development with equity in the composition and distribution of its benefits, for the reduction of poverty within and between countries, should receive priority attention in international cooperation and national policy. The environmental challenge can best be met while addressing the needs of people at the local level through a democratic and participatory process which allows priorities to be established and conflicts of interest to be resolved openly and directly by those concerned. Participation in decision-making is the best way to link social and human development to environmental protection. Finally, it is increasingly evident that one of the fundamentals of sustainable development is an appropriate institutional framework, one which provides for balanced development of public policy by the state, of a vigorous private sector and an independent and plural civil society. Critical is the interaction of the thinking and institutions which underline these three sectors — the public, the private and the civil. Among the conclusions of the recent Rio Summit on Environment and Development is that world is exceeding some of its physical limits, and that human society is using resources and generating waste at rates which are not sustainable. We can conclude from the last two decades of experience — from the United Nations Environment Conference in Stockholm to the recent Rio Summit — that the time to act is less than was foreseen, the danger of collapse is higher, but that the technological possibilities to avoid collapse are much greater. However, a matter of great concern is the conclusion of the UN Secretary General that the level of commitment by government at the Rio Summit was not commensurate with the risks. What is required is enough growth to realize the technological possibilities and strategies for a sustainable global society — and just that and no more. Then the world will achieve the goal of the Brundtland Report of a society which meets its own needs without hindering future generations from meeting theirs. The task before us as participants in this SID-SAC meeting and regional seminar is to inform the debate on sustainable development as we move along the difficult path of translating agreed principles into action. For it is the civil society of independent organizations, like SID, which are able to define and, by building broad public support, enforce norms of public morality and conduct to protect human rights, to realize gender and intergenerational equity and to ensure protection of the environment. I wish you a constructive SID-SAC meeting and a rich and productive seminar.



Maurice Williams
SID President

SID South Asia Committee (SID-SAC)

AFTER the successful completion of the 19th World Conference of the Society for International Development in New Delhi in March 1988, there was a consensus on the need for active regional programmes to be pursued by SID all over the world to focus attention on key current issues of development. The Governing Council of the SID which met during this World Conference initiated a series of study group meetings and regional conferences in 7 SID regions of the world. The South Asian Region boldly accepted the challenge. The region already had a framework in place. SID Representatives from South Asian countries met in Dhaka in December 1985 a few days prior to the first SAARC summit in Dhaka, and established SID-South Asia Committee (SID-SAC). Dr Q K Ahmed was elected the first chairman of SID-SAC. Under his leadership SID-SAC contributed significantly towards the expansion of SID in South Asia and consolidation of its activities in the region. SID-SAC played an important role in organizing SID's 19th World Conference in Delhi. Good work of SID-SAC continued as Mr Ahuja of India and Mr S M Huda successively followed Dr Ahmed as chairman of SID-SAC. The principle of rotation has brought me to the current chairmanship of SID-SAC. The specific objectives of the SID-SAC are:

— An Introduction by Tissa Devendra

c) to contribute through its various activities such as those listed under (d) above to a desirable process of cooperation in development among countries of South Asia. During the 1988-91 SID-SAC organized study group meetings, SID-SAC meetings and regional seminars (in Dhaka, Hyderabad, Madras and Karachi) around the SID's overriding theme in that period of sustainable development, leading to SID-South Asia Regional Conference in Dhaka in 1990, a highly successful event. The South Asia Regional Programme leading to the 21st World Conference in April 1994 in Mexico begins in Dhaka with this SID-SAC meeting and regional seminar on "Economic Growth and Human Development with Equity, Security and Sustainability". The seminar will address crucial issues and SID-SAC meeting will plan study group a preparatory meetings leading to the next South-Asia Regional Conference to be held in August 1992 in Sri Lanka. South Asia contains over one billion people, about a fifth of the world total. We have been able to make significant progress, but there are large segments of population which are still poverty stricken and lack participations in the development process of their respective countries. Thus it is necessary to review the key development policies pursued by the countries of this region

and seek to identify adjustment policies in order to resolve the persisting problems. On behalf of SID-SAC I convey my heartfelt thanks to the SID Bangladesh Chapter for hosting this significant meeting of SID-SAC and the regional brainstorming seminar, and to Dr Q K Ahmad for his initiative in that regard. We look forward to fruitful deliberations and interactions in Dhaka.

TISSA DEVENDRA is Chairman SID-SAC and Member SID Governing Council

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SID-BANGLADESH CHAPTER

The Bangladesh Chapter of SID was established in February 1981 within the framework of SID International. It has since been organizing national seminars and discussion meetings on pertinent issues such as Diversification of the Rural Economy and Employment Generation in Non-Farm Sectors, Energy in Bangladesh in the Global Context, Food Security in Bangladesh, International Transfer of Resources, Local Level Planning in Bangladesh, NGO Participation on National Development, Domestic Resource Mobilization in Bangladesh, Human Resources Development, Adjustment with a Human Face, Perspectives on South Asian Cooperation for Peace and Progress, Adjustment Process & Programmes in Low Income Countries, Brain Drain, Grassroots Participation in Development, Aid and Influence, Global Warming and Bangladesh and Environment and Environmental Development. SID-Bangladesh Chapter is hosting the SID South Asia Regional Conference on "Policies and Strategies for Sustainable Development in South Asia-National and Regional Perspectives" in Dhaka from 26-28 November 1990. The chapter publishes a journal called Bangladesh Development Dialogue.

- President** : A T M Shamsul Haque
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: Momtazuddin Ahmed
Secretary General : Fatema Zohora
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The SID-SAC meeting and the regional seminar will be attended by delegates from Nepal, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka as well as participants and guests from Bangladesh.