



South Asia's Path to Resilient Growth

Conference and Book Launch | January 6, 2023

Taj Mahal Hotel, New Delhi, India

The conference, coinciding with the book launch, will provide an opportunity to discuss how South Asia can build on its development success in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and geopolitical tensions to achieve its potential. The conference will focus on areas that are viewed as key to sustaining high-quality growth over the medium term. It will include a discussion on ways to accelerate the income convergence process in the region, leveraging on the still large potential demographic dividend in most countries, reform priorities, including climate-friendly policies for sustainable growth, and ways to cope with heightened vulnerabilities through macro-financial management. The conference will bring together high-level participants from the South Asia region.

Friday January 6	Book Launch: South Asia's Path to Resilient Growth Venue: Longchamp Room, Rooftop, Taj Mahal Hotel
10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Registration
10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Opening Remarks, Book Launch, and Keynote Address <i>Antoinette Sayeh, Deputy Managing Director, IMF</i> <i>Krishna Srinivasan, Director, Asia and Pacific Department (APD), IMF</i> <i>Shaktikanta Das, Governor, Reserve Bank of India (keynote speaker)</i>
11:15 a.m. – 11:35 a.m.	Coffee Break

11:35 a.m. – 12:50 p.m. S-1

Enhancing Macro Financial Management

This session first sets the stage by reviewing South Asia's experience during the pandemic, its economic impact and the post-pandemic recovery marked by both challenges and setbacks, including the adverse impact from the war in Ukraine. In light of the heightened vulnerabilities, this session then focuses on the role of macro-financial management through improved quality of infrastructure investment, sound monetary policy frameworks, and financial development to boost sustainable growth in the region.

Background

A brief presentation on the key messages from the book and laying out key questions for the panel to discuss in the session.

Moderator: *Ranil Salgado, Assistant Director, APD, IMF*

Panelists:

Chetan Ghate, Director, Institute of Economic Growth, India

Ali Hashim, Governor, Maldives Monetary Authority

Indira Rajaraman, Professor (retired), National Institute of Public Finance and Policy

Mridul Saggur, Professor, India Institute of Management, Kozhikode, India

12:50 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Lunch

2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. S-2

Unlocking Structural Transformation

Trade liberalization and the resulting diversification has helped South Asia narrow the income gap with other regions. This session focuses on the large potential for further income gains from a renewed reform momentum and a better integration into Asian and global value chains.

Background

A brief presentation on the key messages from the book and laying out key questions for the panel to discuss in the session.

Moderator: *Rahul Anand, Division Chief, APD, IMF*

Panelists:

Ganeshan Wignaraja, Professorial Fellow, Economics and Trade, Gateway House: India Council on Global Relations

Ismail Ali Manik, Minister of State for Finance, Maldives

Han Koo Yeo, former Minister of Trade, Republic of Korea

3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

S-3

Determinants of Sustainable, Inclusive and Climate-Friendly Growth

This session focuses on understanding the climate-friendly engines of long-run growth and determinants of inequality and to identify policies that could help South Asia achieve its development potential.

Background

A brief presentation on the key messages from the book and laying out key questions for the panel to discuss in the session.

Moderator: *Jarkko Turunen, Deputy Division Chief, APD, IMF*

Panelists:

Bazlul Haque Khondker, Professor of Economics, Dhaka University, Bangladesh

Shamika Ravi, Vice President (Economic Policy), Observer Research Foundation

Shankar Prasad Sharma, Ambassador, Embassy of Nepal in India

4:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Coffee Break

4:45 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

High Level Policy Panel Discussion

Strengthening Institutions for Sustainable Growth in the
post-COVID World

Moderator

Krishna Srinivasan, Director, APD, IMF

Panelists:

Antoinette Sayeh, Deputy Managing Director, IMF

V. Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Advisor, India

*P. Nandalal Weerasinghe, Governor, Central Bank of Sri
Lanka*

*Shamsul Alam, Minister of State, Bangladesh Planning
Commission, Ministry of Planning*

Maha Prasad Adhikari, Governor, Nepal Rastra Bank
