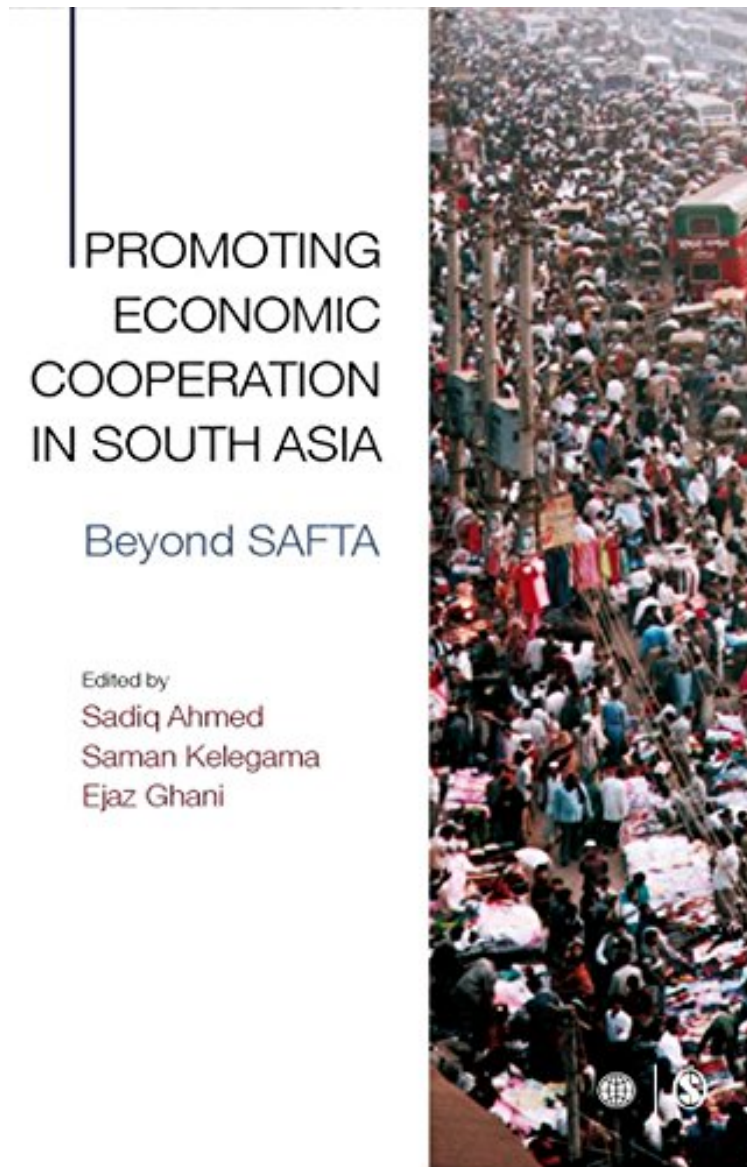


(Free) Promoting Economic Cooperation in South Asia: Beyond SAFTA

Promoting Economic Cooperation in South Asia: Beyond SAFTA

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Promoting Economic Cooperation in South Asia: Beyond SAFTA examines the distinct development dichotomy that

exists in South Asia and tries to find a workable solution to bridge this gap. In spite of rapid economic growth since 1980, there is extensive poverty and inequality in South Asia. This dichotomy has two faces: one is highly urbanized and well-linked to global markets, and the other is rural, isolated from the global economy, and growing very slowly. The large bulk of South Asia's poor live in the latter environment. The book brings together perspectives from academics, the private sector, civil society and policy makers. Using solid empirical evidence and sound analysis, it stresses that in addition to policy and institutional reforms aimed at removing domestic constraints to growth and job creation, market integration and regional cooperation ought to be key elements of a strategy for removing the dichotomy and eliminating poverty in the longer term. Delving into major political economic issues of the SAARC region, the book analyzes SAFTA, bilateral FTAs, transportation, regional integration, regulatory mechanisms, food prices, labor and employment, and tourism. It also provides an analysis of why past cooperation efforts have not worked and how better cooperation can be achieved in specific areas. It looks at the many policy and institutional constraints that contribute to the present state and have made South Asia one of the least integrated regions of the world. The book will be a very useful reference for researchers, scholars and bilateral and multilateral financial institutions and donor groups interested in South Asia's development. Policy makers and think tanks focusing on economics, political science, and international relations will also find it beneficial.

Promoting Regional Economic Cooperation in South Asia while making for useful reading also raises hopes and expectations of fresh and insightful offerings from the authors that could be used as inputs in devising credible policy measures to achieve concrete outcomes of the yet slow-moving agenda of economic cooperation in the region; The editors have to be lauded for the sheer diversity and range of issues that have been included in the book.... the book is a courageous effort at bringing together the relevant aspects of regional economic cooperation in South Asia in one volume. The book succeeds in bringing some core problems and solutions to the table using some innovative techniques and imaginative thinking that goes beyond the rhetoric! (South Asia Economic Journal) The book is a good collection of viewpoints from policy makers, private sector, civil society and academics. It captures the 'dichotomy' in South Asia and describes its 'two faces' - one that is 'highly urbanized and well linked to global markets' and the other 'rural, isolated from the global economy and growing very slowly'. (Business Line) This book examines the distinct development dichotomy that exists in South Asia and tries to find a workable solution to bridge this gap; Undoubtedly, the book is an eloquent plea to ensure high regional co-operation leading to a strong South Asia. It is strongly recommended reading for all policy makers and students of South Asia. (Free Press Journal) Promoting Regional Economic Cooperation in South Asia while making for useful reading also raises hopes and expectations of fresh and insightful offerings from the authors that could be used as inputs in devising credible policy measures to achieve concrete outcomes of the yet slow-moving agenda of economic cooperation in the region; The editors have to be lauded for the sheer diversity and range of issues that have been included in the book.... the book is a courageous effort at bringing together the relevant aspects of regional economic cooperation in South Asia in one volume. The book succeeds in bringing some core problems and solutions to the table using some innovative techniques and imaginative thinking that goes beyond the rhetoric! (South Asia Economic Journal) The book is a good collection of viewpoints from policy makers, private sector, civil society and academics. It captures the 'dichotomy' in South Asia and describes its 'two faces' - one that is 'highly urbanized and well linked to global markets' and the other 'rural, isolated from the global economy and growing very slowly'. (Business Line) This book examines the distinct development dichotomy that exists in South Asia and tries to find a workable solution to bridge this gap; Undoubtedly, the book is an eloquent plea to ensure high regional co-operation leading to a strong South Asia. It is strongly recommended reading for all policy makers and students of South Asia. (Free Press Journal) About the Author Saman Kelegama is the Executive Director of the Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS). He is a Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka and was the President of the Sri Lanka Economic Association (SLEA) during 1999-2003. He has published extensively on Sri Lankan and regional economic issues in both local and international journals. His latest books are: Foreign Aid in South Asia: The Emerging Scenario (2012), Trade Liberalization and Poverty in South Asia (joint editor 2011), Migration, Remittances, and Development in South Asia (2011), Promoting Economic Cooperation in South Asia: Beyond SAFTA (2010), Trade in Services in South Asia: Opportunities and Risks of Liberalization (2009), South Asia in the WTO (2007), Development under Stress: Sri Lankan Economy in Transition (2006), Contemporary Economic Issues: Sri Lanka in the Global Context (2006), South Asia After the Quota System: The Impact of the MFA Phase-Out (2005), Economic Policy in Sri Lanka: Issues and Debates (2004), Ready-Made Garment Industry in Sri Lanka: Facing the Global Challenge (2004), and many more. He is the co-editor of the South Asia Economic Journal (Sage Publications) and serves as a referee for a number of international journals. He serves and had served in a number of government and private sector Boards as an independent member. He received his Doctorate (D.Phil.) and Masters in Economics from University of Oxford, U.K. Masters in Mathematics from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, India.