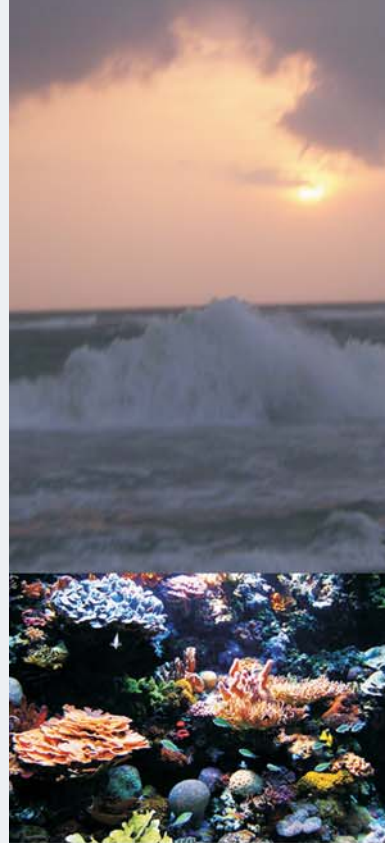


25 YEARS OF SACEP

Silver Jubilee Souvenir

1982 - 2007







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Silver Jubilee Souvenir

Message from His Excellency DASHO NADO RINCHHEN
Deputy Minister of Environment, Royal Government of Bhutan
and the Chairman of SACEP Governing Council



It was the wisdom of the leaders of the South Asia that led to establishment of South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) twenty five years ago to promote cooperation amongst the member states in the field of environmental conservation and sustainable development. Being an inter-governmental organization, established collectively by group of developing countries of the region. We can not boast of highly commendable achievements. Nevertheless, it must be recognized that SACEP has implemented a number of programmes and projects in the areas of environmental awareness, MEA's environmental legislations, biodiversity, air pollution and the protection and management of coastal environment despite its limited resources and capacity. These programmes have benefited the member states and also promoted regional cooperation.

Today, every country faces the challenges of balancing socio-economic development and environmental conservation. Rapid economic development, rising population consumption pattern and changing life styles put immense pressure on the fragile ecology of the earth. The pressure is out-growing the capacity of the earth to support it. The problem is further aggravated by the climate change and the global warming. In such a situation, SACEP can play an important role for the benefit of the member states, particularly dealing with environmental challenges such as climate change, waste management, deforestation, pollution and environment degradation.

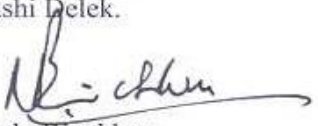
The external of SACEP carried out few years ago have pointed out some of the weakness of SACEP as well as the recommendation to make SACEP a dynamic institution. SACEP under the leadership of Director General should now focus on these priority areas and promote projects and programmes that is mutually re-enforcing and beneficial to all the member states. The secretariat should put all its energy in implementing its work programme and further foster regional cooperation in the field of environment and sustainable development. Here again SACEP would need the commitment and support of member governments.

Over the years, SACEP has established partnership relations with several organizations such as UNEP, SAARC, SIDA, IUCN, WMO, etc, through which a partnership and strong foundation has been established. SACEP must now evolve as a mature organization and produce results beneficial to the people of our region.

It is hoped that in the times ahead, SACEP will learn from its weakness and limitation and re-orient itself to become an effective and productive regional organization. In my capacity as a current chair of the SACEP Governing Council, I wish to urge all member governments to extend full support to SACEP in realizing its objective.

If we are to realize the mission of our predecessors, we need to provide extra impetus to the programmes of SACEP and see it evolve into an organization that is beneficial to our region. SACEP is ours and together we must make it a premier regional environment organization that we all can be proud of.

On the auspicious occasion of SACEP's Silver Jubilee, I extend my Best Wishes and Tashi Delek for its continued success.

Tashi Delek.

Nado Rinchen

Deputy Minister of Environment, Royal Government of Bhutan
Current Chairman of SACEP Governing Council.



Message from Dr. Arvind Anil Boaz
Director General, South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme



I consider myself extremely fortunate to be at the helm of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) at this period of time in its history when it celebrates 25 years of its existence.

SACEP carries a very rich tradition of many great achievements since its inception and I salute to the wisdom of its founding fathers who had the vision to establish this regional organisation, the first of its kind not only in South Asia but in the world and for the member countries for their commitments.

I carry the torch lit by my predecessors who has kept the flame alive with their untiring efforts to bring many innovative projects and programmes to this region.

Today, our region faces the challenges of rapid economic growth coupled with an ever increasing population. This has a strong impact on the environment. Uncontrolled Urbanisation and the changing lifestyles of this population have led to an aggravated problem of Waste Management. The effects of Climate Change and Global warming are being progressively felt in this region with Glacial Lakes and Sea level rise being critical issues for the mountain and the small islands and the coastal regions respectively. SACEP is trying to address these burning issues and has prioritised both Waste Management and Adaptation to Climate Change as priority issues in its current Work Programme.

The External Review of SACEP done in 2003, has given a way forward for SACEP to learn from its weaknesses and transform itself into a dynamic and relevant organisation to its member countries. I have put in all my efforts to steer SACEP on this new recovery path and to strengthen it to become a premier institution in the field of environment. As envisaged in the revised Mission Statement, we have tried to establish close links with several national, regional and International Institutions and to work with them for the benefit of the region. In this aspect, we are happy to mention the MoUs and Project Agreements that we have signed with UNEP, European Commission, IMO, WMO, SIDA, IUCN and the Royal Belgium Institute of Environment

I am profoundly honoured to the attention from the international community for the present strong status of SACEP in the South Asia Region.

I am thankful to the Host Government Sri Lanka for its continued strong support. The United Nations Environment Programme, other network of regional and international organisations, several governmental and non governmental organisations for strengthening the partnerships to achieve the expected role of the Secretariat.

I am particularly grateful for the strong support of the member country governments to carry forward the programmes of SACEP and I am confident that this support will not only continue but grow to help SACEP evolve into the organisation that was the dream of its founding fathers to act as a fulcrum of all sustainable environmental activity in this region.

SACEP has performed and is recognised for its renewed strength to play its part for achieving environmental sustainability in the region, taking the Millennium Development Goals as a scale to measure its regional performances.

I am confident that SACEP has found its bearings to lead and be proactive to take up its role to enhance leadership in the region for environmental management on every issue from the atmosphere to the mountains right down to the deep oceans.

In framing its strategies for the future generations of our region, SACEP will continue to observe the global changes to adapt to the regional status, observe and incorporate economic considerations in addressing the environmental concerns to achieve sustainable development and above all the cause of poverty alleviation for the millions of under privileged in the South Asian Region.

I look forward to the continued support from all concerned to take this organisation to greater heights in the near future.


Dr. A.A. Boaz
Director General





Messages from Heads of States



Message by
His Excellency Prof. Iajuddin Ahmed
President of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh




On behalf of the Government and the people of Bangladesh, I congratulate South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) on celebrating Silver Jubilee in 2007.

SACEP is a common platform for South Asian Countries to work together for a better South Asia in terms of protection of environment and sustainable use of natural resources and biological diversity which the region is blessed with. A large population and low level of economic attainment have restricted South Asia from doing justice to the management of the natural resources till today. Currently, economic development without giving due care to the environment has become our prime concern. I consider, economic development should not be at the cost of environmental degradation. This is vital for the very survival of people, as we are heavily dependent on natural resource base including agriculture. I would urge all concerned to maintain a balance between economic development and environmental conservation to develop a resourceful South Asia. Climate change would be one of the biggest challenges to the human civilization in this century. The south Asian countries, particularly the poorer ones, would be the worst sufferers. We need to put our best efforts to make our common endeavor for the protection of our environment from further degradation.

I hope all the government of this region will come forward with every possible support to SACEP for making it an effective regional environmental organization. To that end, I reiterate the support of our people and the government towards SACEP.

Allah Hafez, Bangladesh Zindabad.



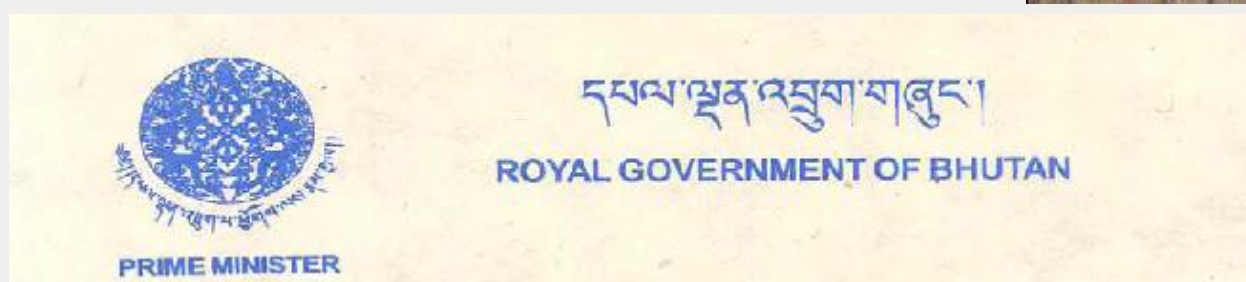
Professor Dr. Iajuddin Ahmed

President
People's Republic of Bangladesh
Dhaka



Silver Jubilee Souvenir

Message by
His Excellency Mr. Lyonpo Khandu Wangchuk
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bhutan



I extend my best wishes to the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) on the occasion of its silver jubilee. Bhutan is proud to be a founding member of SACEP and has benefited from a number of SACEP's projects and programs in the areas of environmental education, environment legislation and air pollution.


South Asia covers almost one twentieth of the earth's surface and is one of the world's most diverse regions with a diversity of ecosystems, cultures, religions and economic development patterns. We harbor 14% of the world's mangrove forests, 6% of the world's coral reefs and one of the world's most important mountain ecosystems that is home to more than 25,000 species of plants. Along with the immense natural wealth, We are also home to one fifth of the world's population.

Globally, human activities are resulting in mass extinction of species and climate change that pose a great threat to future generations. Global economic development is already outgrowing the carrying capacity of the earth. Even in our region, unprecedented economic development during the last decade has led to increased pressure on the region's natural environment, causing depletion and pollution of water resources and biodiversity, deforestation, Soil degradation and air pollution .Furthermore, natural calamities such as floods, cyclones, tsunamis, drought and landslides have exacerbated the rate of environmental degradation. All of these have tremendous impact on the livelihood and wellbeing of our people, particularly the poor.

With its mission to promote regional cooperation in the field of environmental management and sustainable development, SACEP today is lauded as the oldest regional intergovernmental environmental organization in the world. The organization is a reflection of our region's collective commitment to sustainable development and recognition that cooperative action is crucial to address both environmental degradation and poverty alleviation in the region.

With 25 years of experience behind it, SACEP must now shoulder great and definitive responsibilities in promoting collective regional action in priority areas of environmental concern such as waste management, adaptation to climate change, biodiversity conservation, water resource management and reduction of natural disasters.

Bhutan remains committed to the ideals and visions of SACEP and I extend my best wishes and Tashi Delek for the success of the organization in promoting environmental conservation and sustainable development in our region.


(Khandu Wangchuk)
Prime Minister of Bhutan



Message by
His Excellency Mr. Manmohan Singh,
Prime Minister of India



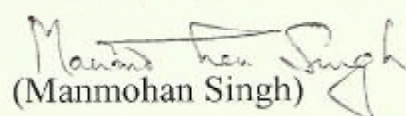
प्रधान मंत्री
Prime Minister
MESSAGE



It is heartening to note that the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) is celebrating its Silver Jubilee this year.

At the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm in 1972, the then Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi expressed the feelings of many developing countries when she said "How can we speak to those who live in villages and in slums about keeping the oceans, the rivers and the air clean when their own lives are contaminated at the source? The environment cannot be improved in conditions of poverty". India is committed to a process of sustainable development that maintains a balance and harmony between the environment and the imperative of economic growth.

I extend best wishes to SACEP on this significant milestone.


(Manmohan Singh)

New Delhi
January 19, 2007



Message by
His Excellency Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom,
President of the Republic of Maldives



It gives me great pleasure to extend warm greetings and sincere congratulations to the Governing Council (GC), Consultative Committee (CC), National Focal Points (NFP), Subject Area Focal Points and Secretariat of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), on the historical occasion of SACEP's silver Jubilee. I also extend my good wishes of the occasion to the national focal point for SACEP the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Water.

Since its inception in 1982, SACEP has made an important contribution to promoting cooperation in protecting and preserving the environment of its member-states.

From the mountainous terrains of the Himalayas to the coral gardens of the Maldives, the South Asian region contains some of the most spectacular environments and biologically diverse ecosystems anywhere in the world. SACEP has matured steadily over the years towards fulfilling its stated visions of recognizing environmental degradation, integrating environment and development and promoting cooperative action among member-states.

SACEP has successfully implemented a number of Programmes and projects in a variety of areas, including air pollution, protection and management of the coastal environment and environmental legislation. It is also the secretariat for the South Asian Seas Programme.

SACEP's role in strengthening environmental protection standards in the Maldives is indeed significant. In this regard, I recall SACEP's assistance towards improving our State of the Environment reporting, and the implementation of the first phase of the historic 'Male' Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Transboundary Effects for South Asia'. The second phase of implementing the Declaration is currently underway. SACEP's role in revising UNEP's Regional Seas Reports and Studies for South Asian Seas, strengthening regional response to marine oil and chemical spills, and long-term management and conservation of coral reefs in South Asia are further milestones of SACEP.

I am confident that SACEP will go from strength to strength, and continue to work in partnership with the member countries in preserving and protecting our environment.

Maumoon Abdul Gayoom
President of the Republic of Maldives



Message by
His Excellency Mr. Girija Prasad Koirala
Prime Minister of Royal Government of Nepal



The Prime Minister



Kathmandu, Nepal

Message

I am delighted to learn that the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme is celebrating the silver jubilee of its foundation this year. On this happy occasion, I, on behalf of the people and government of Nepal as well as on my own, would like to express my sincere congratulations to the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP).

The last few decades have proved challenging for all the regions in the world and more so for South Asia in achieving sustainable development. During this period, we have realized that national capacity-building is critical to ensure sustainable development that alone protects the rights of the future generations to have an access to the benefits of the environmental resources. It must be acknowledged that prudent utilization of environmental resources within the limits of its carrying capacity is necessary, but not sufficient condition, to ensure the equitable sharing of benefits to the present and future generations.

In South Asian context, poverty remains one of the daunting challenges that need to be addressed seriously to mitigate the environmental problems. Sustainable development would remain a distant dream if poverty is not eradicated in all its forms and dimensions. Our experiences suggest that poverty and underdevelopment contribute to environmental degradation. The adoption of the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals 2000 underlines the commitment that the world leaders have made towards eradicating poverty in the world.

The SACEP represents our commitment to make collective efforts to address the environmental problems we are facing and to attain the lofty goal of sustainable development in the region. The efforts made by the SACEP in the field of environmental management are noteworthy. However, much remains to be done. I am confident that the SACEP will continue to make sustained efforts to address, in a comprehensive manner, environment related challenges and problems including those associated with climate change. It is a matter of serious concern that Nepal and her neighbouring member states have been experiencing the adverse impact of climate change. We, therefore need to address this problem collectively, resolutely and steadfastly.

I wish the SACEP all success in its endeavours !

(Girija Prasad Koirala)



Message by
His Excellency Mr. Mahinda Rajapakse
President of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka



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இலங்கை சனநாயக சோசலிசக் குடியரசு
President of Sri Lanka



Message

I am pleased to send this message for the silver jubilee celebrations of the South Asia Cooperative Environment Program (SACEP), a pioneer inter-governmental regional organization on management of the environment.

The Government of Sri Lanka played a lead role in establishing SACEP and offered to host its secretariat in Colombo. Taking stock of its achievements over 25 years, we see that SACEP has faced many challenging issues both within and outside the environmental sector, in South Asia and beyond. I am glad to note the significant achievements of SACEP in addressing these issues.

The emerging environmental issues of a trans-boundary nature call for collective action by the countries of the region. With the added complexities of globalization, the role of SACEP as the facilitator of environmental management in our region becomes more important. The collaborative arrangements between SACEP and other international organizations to meet emerging challenges are commendable.

I congratulate SACEP on its silver jubilee celebrations and wish it all success in future activities to promote the protection, management and enhancement of the environment in the countries of South Asia.

Mahinda Rajapaksa

January 11, 2007

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Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka





Messages From Hon. Ministers of Environment



Message by Justice Md. Fazlul Haque
 Adviser, Ministry of Environment & Forest
 Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



Adviser
 Ministry of Environment & Forest
 Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

I congratulate South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) for celebrating the Silver Jubilee 2007. Today, South Asia is at a Critical Juncture in its development. The pressure of high population in limited land area and emerging new economy with growing industrialization pose a serious threat to South Asia's environment and ecosystem.

We all at least must acknowledge that environmental degradation, poverty and deprivation anywhere in the South Asia is a threat to all the nations in the region. However, while the problems abound and make their resolution difficult, that should not deter us from action. In this Endeavour, as any long journey begins with the first small step we must begin with whatever we have done best and increasingly build upon those and new areas of enterprise.

SACEP was established to address the environmental concerns of South Asian countries but we have not yet achieved our desired goals. Whatever successes and achievements SACEP has, we as a regional team want to carry forward to their logical end towards the goal of sustainable development.

I believe, SACEP will be able to claim its success and to achieve its mission and vision, when the word SACEP, through its action oriented activities, would be known to the people of our region. I wish every success of SACEP in the days to come.

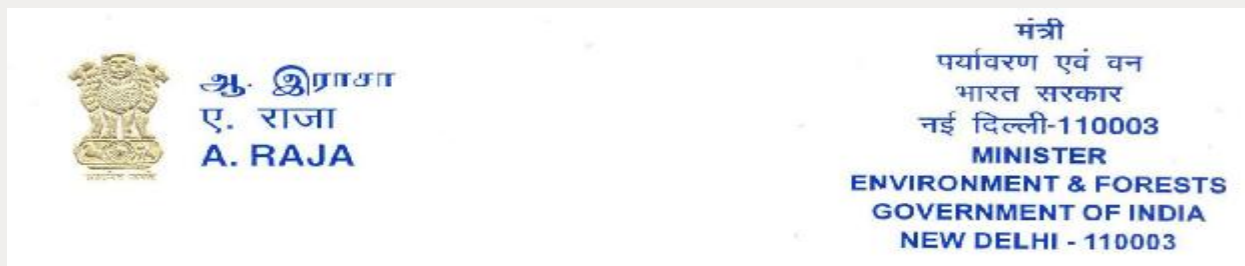
Md. Fazlul Haque
 17/12/06.
 (Justice Md. Fazlul Haque)

Adviser
 Ministry of Environment & Forest
 Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



Silver Jubilee Souvenir

Message from Hon. Mr. A. Raja
Minister of Environment & Forests
Government of India



I am pleased to learn that South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) is celebrating its Silver Jubilee in January 2007. On this momentous occasion, a Special Silver Jubilee Souvenir will also be published by SACEP.

On this happy occasion, I extend my best wishes and greetings to all the Members associated with the SACEP.

I wish the Silver Jubilee Programme of SACEP all success.

(A. RAJA)

A. Raja
Minister of Environment & Forests






Message from Hon. Mr. Ahmed Abdullah
Minister of Environment, Energy and Water, Republic of Maldives

I would like to congratulate SACEP on the occasion of its twenty fifth anniversary, we are all worried and concerned about the growing threats and challenges to the environment and to humanity. Maldives, being a low lying small island nation is among the most vulnerable countries from environmental degradation and climate change. We have to redouble our efforts to resolve and protect the environment. International, regional and national action is needed more than ever before.

SACEP can be an important organisation for a unified approach to harness our resources and action in South Asia. But in doing so, we must be mindful to identify result-oriented good programmes and avoid duplication. We must exert more efforts to strengthen national capacities, research and raise greater awareness to make everyone a responsible partner, promoter and protector of the environment.

I wish SACEP success in this great task.

With warm wishes,

Ahmed Abdullah
Minister of Environment, Energy and Water

Republic of Maldives



Message from Hon. Man Bahadur Vishwakarma
State Minister of Environment Science and Technology
Royal Government of Nepal

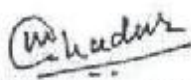


It is a matter of great pleasure to note that SACEP is celebrating its Silver Jubilee in January 2007.

I believe that these 25 years have been a significant period of regional co-operation among its member countries in the field of environmental conservation and sustainable economic development. The efforts made by SACEP during this period towards fostering regional solidarity to voice our common concerns on the global stage are quite laudable. I am delighted to mention here that Nepal, as active member country, has been supportive of various activities undertaken by SACEP.

The years ahead are even more challenging for us in the context of impacts of global climate change, which we understand, are real and more evident now. As we are at the receiving end of such impacts, this is one area where SACEP could play a crucial role of co-ordination for developing a fruitful strategy of benefiting the most from favorable mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol and of implementing adaptation plans with a sense of urgency.

I take this opportunity to congratulate SACEP on the occasion of celebrating its Silver Jubilee and would also like to extend my best wishes for great success in its forthcoming programmes and actions.



(Man Bahadur Vishwakarma)

State Minister of Environment, Science and Technology,
Royal Government of Nepal



Message from Hon. Mr. Makhdoom Syed Faisal Saleh Hayat
Federal Minister of Environment
Islamic Republic of Pakistan

MESSAGE AT SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATION OF SACEP

I am very happy to learn that South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) is celebrating its silver jubilee during 10th meeting of its Governing Council in January in Kathmandu, Nepal.

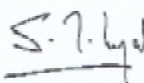
SACEP is one of the pioneer Sub-regional intergovernmental organisations set up by the member governments of South Asia. Its charter and mandate has grown with the environmental agenda at the national and global level during the past 25 years. It also reaffirms that global environmental policy setting and implementation in today's globalizing world can only be effective if it takes into full account full realities of regional practices and priorities.

It is also true that environmental problems are often regional or sub regional in scale requiring regional level solutions taking into account consideration factors such as geography, natural resources, cultural heritage, traditions and practices. It is heartening to note that regional co-operation movement has grown considerably in the Asia that started with the establishment of SACEP and followed by the establishment of South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). The focus of SAARC on broader socio-economic development issues like trade, poverty alleviation and people to people contact, has helped integrate environmental agenda into broader socio-economic agenda in South Asia. The mature leadership of South Asia is now also dealing with territorial and other disputes to gradually win solutions to maximize benefits associated with regional cooperation.

SACEP and SAARC working together on a common strategy with an overarching goal of poverty reduction has great potential for benefit to the people of South Asia through greater political connectivity; expansion of trade and investment; development of financial systems and improved environmental health and social conditions. We need to maintain this momentum by using the opportunities created by the presence of SACEP and SAARC.

SACEP strategy and work progress with focus on regional environmental issues, like water, air desertification and marine pollution provides a useful framework for sub-regional / regional approaches to these common problems. SACEP could also be an effective forum to learn from each other experiences and approaches and building networks with relevant institutions and centres of excellence in our region. We also recommend close co-operation and correspondence between the work of the SAARC Technical Committee on Environment, Forests and Meteorology and SAARC not only to create synergy between activities of both there sub regional organisations but also optimize benefits accruing to the people of South Asia. In this way SACEP would be able to benefit from the political governance frameworks, which are available at the Foreign Ministers and Heads of the Government Levels under SAARC.

I wish SACEP continued success in its future endeavour and assure that its work programmes and activities in the area of environmental protection and sustainable development will continue to receive my full support.


(Makhdoom Syed Faisal Saleh Hayat)
Federal Minister of Environment



Message from Hon. Mr. Maithripala Sirisena
Minister of Environment
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka



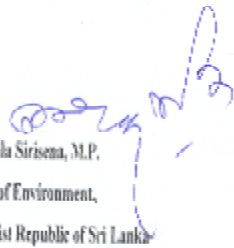
Office of the Minister of Environment
Government of Sri Lanka



I consider it a privilege to send this message to the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme, (SACEP) to mark its silver jubilee celebrations. The government of Sri Lanka being partner government of SACEP is very much pleased to join the governments of the South Asian family in wishing strength and wisdom to SACEP to enable carrying out its mandate of contributing to the environmental sustainability of the region.

The government of Sri Lanka strongly believes that the responsibilities of environmental management extend beyond the territorial boundaries of one country. Therefore, while we undertake country level actions it is also important to undertake sub regional, regional and global actions. Thus, SACEP being an inter-governmental arm can play a vital role in implementing South Asian sub regional environmental programmes.

Since the inception of SACEP, the Ministry in charge of the subject of environment has functioned as the national focal point in Sri Lanka. Therefore, I look forward for continued collaborations with SACEP for achieving our common goals of achieving sustainable development goals while preserving the environmental integrity of countries in South Asia.


Maithripala Sirisena, M.P.
Minister of Environment,
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka







Country Profiles



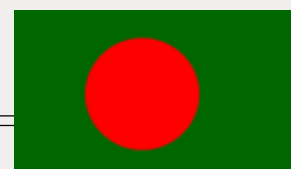


Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Afghanistan is a landlocked country located in the heart of Asia. It is bordered by Pakistan in the south and east, Iran in the west, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan in the north, and the People's Republic of China in the far northeast.

Afghanistan's total land area is approximately 650 000 km². Most of the land is mountainous (approximately 63%). The country has a wide range of ecosystems, including glaciers and high-alpine vegetation, montane coniferous and mixed forest, open dry woodland with juniper, pistachio or almond, semi-desert scrub, sand and stony deserts, rivers, lakes and marshland.

President: H. E. Hamid Karzai
 Capital: Kabul
 Population: 31,056,997 (-2006)



Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh

Bangladesh is situated between India and Myanmar. The total land area of the country is 147,570 km². Nearly 50% of the country has an elevation of less than 10 m above the sea level and only the southwestern parts of the country, exceeds an altitude of 300m.

Bangladesh is a disaster-prone country, with its geographical setting and various other anthropogenic activities making the country vulnerable to natural disasters. Almost every year one or more natural disasters including floods, cyclones, storm surges and droughts affect peoples live in some part of the country. Agriculture is the major economic sector and contributes to about 24 percent of the nations GDP, while 60 percent of the total land area is under cultivation.

President: H.E. Professor Iajudin Ahamed
 Capital: Dhaka
 Population: 147,365,352 (2006)





Royal Government of Bhutan

Bhutan situated between India and China is a landlocked country with a land area of 47,000 km². Most of the land area is hilly and rugged.

Bhutan is situated between two bio-geographical realms, which coupled with altitudinal variations allows it to hosts a range of ecosystems spanning sub tropical, temperate and alpine features. Endemism is high accounting for 60% of the endemic species in the Eastern Himalayan Region. Bhutan is also rich in biological diversity and is classified as one of the 10 global biodiversity hotspots.

King: His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck
 Prime Minister: H. E. Lyonpo Khandu Wangchuk
 Capital: Thimphu
 Population: 2,279,723 (2006)



Republic of India

India is the seventh-largest country by geographical area and the second most populous country in the world. India borders Pakistan to the west; the People's Republic of China, Nepal and Bhutan to the north-east; and Bangladesh and Myanmar to the east. India has a coastline of over seven thousand kilometres, bounded by the Indian Ocean on the south, the Arabian Sea on the west, and the Bay of Bengal on the east.

India possesses a great diversity of its natural ecosystems. The panorama of Indian forests ranges from evergreen tropical rain forests to dry alpine scrubs. Between the two extremes, the country has semi-evergreen rain forests, deciduous monsoon forests, thorn forests, subtropical pine forests and temperate montane forests. India has more than 47,000 species of flowering and non flowering plants representing about 12% of the recorded world's flora and out of it, 5,150 are endemic.

President: HE A.P.J. Abdul Kalam
 Prime Minister: Hon. Manmohan Singh
 Capital : New Delhi
 Population: 1,095,351,995 (2006)





Republic of Maldives

The Republic of Maldives, is an island nation consisting of a group of atolls in the Indian Ocean. The Maldives are located south of India's Lakshadweep islands, and about seven hundred kilometers (435 mi) south-west of Sri Lanka. The twenty-six atolls encompass a territory featuring 1,192 islets, roughly two hundred of which are inhabited by people.

The islands themselves vary in size from 0.5 km² to around 2 km² and the total land area of the Maldives is estimated at only around 300 km². Maximum height above sea level within the country is around 3 m, and about 80% of the land area is below 1m of mean sea level. Therefore, global warming and the associated sea level rise represent a catastrophe for its survival.

President: H. E. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom

Capital: Male

Population: 359,008 (2006)



Government of Nepal

Nepal is situated in the Central Himalayan Region between India and China. It is a landlocked country with a land area of 147, 181 km². Its rich biological and ecosystem diversity is a result of its location coupled with the huge elevation and climate variations. The elevation changes from 60m above sea level to 8,848m - the highest point in the world (Mount Everest - Sagarmatha).

The climatic variation ranges from humid tropical to temperate to arctic climates. The Ecological variation is as rich with a range from monsoon tropical, temperate, alpine to arctic ecosystems. Twenty nine percent of the total land area of Nepal is under the forest cover.

Prime Minister: Hon. Girija Prasad Koirala

Capital: Kathmandu

Population: 28,287,147 (2006)





Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Pakistan is bordered by Afghanistan and Iran in the west, India in the east and the People's Republic of China in the far northeast. It has a 1046 kilometer coastline along the Arabian Sea in the south. Pakistan is the sixth most populous country in the world.

Pakistan's 796,095 km² of territory include a wide variety of landscapes, from arid deserts to lush, green valleys to stark mountain peaks. It is an arid country with rainfall ranging from 80 mm in the southern parts to 1600 mm in the North. Pakistan has 225 Protected Areas comprising 14 National Parks, 99 Wildlife Sanctuaries, 96 Game Reserves, and 16 unclassified (private, proposed or recommended). The total area covered by these categories is 9,170,121 ha which is 10.4% of the total land area.

President: H. E. Pervez Musharraf
 Prime Ministe: Hon. Shukat Aziz
 Capital: Islamabad
 Population: 165,803,560 (2006)



Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is an island situated in the Indian Ocean, at the base of the Indian Sub-Continent, 880 km north of the equator. Sri Lanka has a pleasant tropical climate. The island consists of a mountainous area in the south-central parts arising to an elevation of 2,524m, and a vast coastal plain surrounding it. This altitudinal change has caused thermal zones and together with variation in rainfall has resulted in wide variety of ecosystems in the small island country. Total Land area is 65, 610 km².

Sri Lanka has the highest biodiversity per unit area of land among the Asian countries in terms of flowering plants and all vertebrate groups, except of birds. Being an island country, Sri Lanka is endowed with a coastline of 1585 km. The coastal region includes terrestrial ecosystem, mangroves, lagoons and estuaries, shoreline ecosystem, coral reefs, etc.

President: H.E. Mahinda Rajapakse
 Prime Minister: Hon. Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka
 Capital: Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte
 Population: 20,222,240 (2006)



Directors of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme



Sri Lanka

February 1981 – June 1982

July 1982 – June 1985

Dr. Leslie Herath

Chairman of Water Resources Board.



Afghanistan

July 1985 – July 1988

Mr. M. J. Kazem

Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Bangladesh

August 1988 – July 1991

Mr. A. M. S. Hoque

Superintending Engineer, Public Health Department.



India

February – November 1992

Mr. R. K. Midha.

Secretary, Department of Environment, Government of West Bengal, India



India

March 1993 – February 1995

Mr. V. P. Jauhari

Additional Commissioner, Institute of Administration
Andhra Pradesh & Director,
Ministry of Environment & Forests



Maldives

March 1995 – Mid May 1998

Mr. Hussain Shihab

Deputy Minister of Planning, Human Resources &
Environment





Director Generals of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme



Nepal

Mid May 1998 – End June 2001

Dr. Ananda Raj Joshi

Environmental Expert, Ministry of Population and
Environment



Pakistan

10th July 2001 – 20th April 2005

Mr. Mahboob Elahi

Director General (Env.), Ministry of Environment,
Local Government and Rural Development,

Director Generals of SACEP appointed on Merit Basis as per the decision of the 3rd Special Session.



India

20th April 2005 to date

Dr. Arvind Anil Boaz

Chief Conservator of Forests, Forest Department,
Government of Chhattisgarh, India.



Message from
Dr. V.P.Jauhari, I.A.S.,
Director March 1993 –Feb 1995

Dr. V.P.JAUHARI, I.A.S.,
Special Chief Secretary to Government



REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
Room No. 609, L-Block,
A.P. Secretariat,
Hyderabad - 500 022.
☎ (Off) : 23452768
Fax : 040-23451836
vpjauhari@hotmail.com
jauhari@hdl.vsnl.net.in

I am indeed happy to learn that SACEP is celebrating Silver Jubilee in January 2007. SACEP has come a long way in its journey in the last 25 years and has many distinctions to its credit. It has a daunting task to handle, as South Asia is one of the poorest regions of the world. The problem gets compounded with rapid environmental degradation of this sub-region of Asia.

However with the political commitment of all the member countries of SACEP and their relentless support to it, I am confident that the challenge will be met by SACEP appropriately. On this occasion, I convey my heartiest congratulations and best wishes to SACEP and its Secretariat and let this remain a memorable one.


(DR. V.P. JAUHARI)

Special Chief Secretary to Government



A Message from
Hon. Mr. Hussain Shihab
March 1995–May 1998




Minister of State for Arts
National Centre for the Arts
Olympus Complex
Handhuvarudhey Hingun
Male'
Republic Maldives

My heartiest congratulations to all member countries of SACEP on the 25th anniversary of the organisation. I would like to congratulate the present Director General of SACEP and the staff on this historical occasion.

It gives me great pleasure to have been a part of the valuable contribution that the organisation has made to the protection and preservation of the environment in the South Asia region. It gives me great joy and sense of jubilation that my President – His Excellency Maumoon Abdul Gayoom of Maldives has been instrumental in initiating many of the environmental protection issues in the region and that SACEP was able to positively contribute in moving the region on the directions given by His Excellency.

Let me wish SACEP many more "Quarter centuries", in serving the people of South Asia and making it possible to entrust a clean and pristine environment to our future generations.

May Almighty Allah give us strength in fulfilling these noble goals.

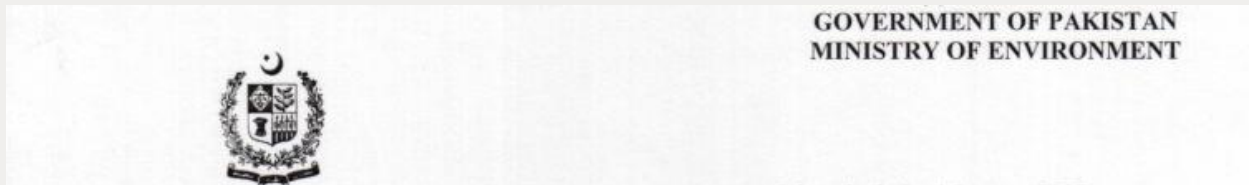


Hussain Shihab

Minister of State for Arts



Message from Mahboob Elahi
Director General (2001-2005)



It gives me immense pleasure to extend my heartiest congratulations to South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme for taking out a souvenir to commemorate its silver jubilee in January 2007.


It is indeed a milestone in the history of this organisation to work co-operatively and collaboratively for the protection and enhancement of environment in our region. Working together with other sub-regional and regional organizations, like Colombo Plan, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and BIMSTEC, SACEP has been instrumental in pursuing environment and sustainable development agenda in the region. It has also identified key regional environmental issues to be addressed collectively. We need to pool our intellectual and financial resources for mitigation of these problems so as to promise the regenerative capacity of environment for the present and future generations.

During my stay at SACEP, I continued to work for the revitalization of the organisation and its capacity for better delivery of its services. In this pursuit, SACEP was successful in concluding agreements of long term collaboration with important global and regional players like, United Nations Environment Programmes, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Regional Seas Programme and International Coral Reef Initiator (ICRI), besides agreements of cooperation with several national and sub-regional institutions and centers of excellence.

We also prepared a medium and long-term work programme of SACEP covering the period 2004-2006 and 2004-2008 to provide a long-term vision for the organization and its deliverables. It had also become the basis of support to SACEP various global, regional and national organizations. Several reforms in the working of the organization were introduced and several young talented professionals were inducted in the service of SACEP. The organization in general has seen remarkable improvement in the financial resources as well as interest of the member governments in its work.

As a result these efforts, the organization is better resourced and networked to carry out its mandate effectively and to the satisfaction of its governments and other stakeholders at large. I am sure that as a result of these efforts, the organisation is well poised for efficient delivery of its services aimed at the constant improvement of environmental conditions of the people of South Asia.

It will be my pleasure to remain associated with the work of this organization and to contribute in any manner that could be helpful for further enhancing improving its performance.


MAHBOOB ELAHI
 Islamabad, Pakistan




REMEMBERED WITH GRATITUDE

THE PRIME MOVERS OF SACEP



Late H.E. Ranasinghe Premadasa

President of Sri Lanka



Late Prof. C. Suriyakumaran
Regional Director of UNEP Asia and
Pacific



Late Dr. Leslie Herath
First Director of SACEP



IN MEMORIUM
DIED IN OFFICE



Late Mr. R. K Midha

Director SACEP

Born - 20th November 1937

Assumed Directorship - 18th February 1992

Died - 22nd November 1992

Formerly Secretary, Department of Environment

Government of West Bengal, India



Silver Jubilee Souvenir



H.E. Zia-ul Haq, President of Pakistan –March 8th, 1985 Year of Trees for South Asia at a tree planting ceremony



Courtesy call Dr. Leslie Herath, Director, SACEP with H E Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, President of Maldives.



Dr. A.A. Boaz Director General of SACEP with H. E. Mahinda Rajapakse, President of Sri Lanka.



1985 – March 8th Day of the Trees for South Asia – H E. Mr. J. R. Jayawardena, President of Sri Lanka planting a tree in Colombo



1985 – March 8th Day of the Trees for South Asia – H E. Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom. President of Maldives planting a tree in Maldives







Messages from Heads of International Organisations



Message from Mr. Achim Steiner
Executive Director
United Nations Environment Programme

I would like to congratulate the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) on the Silver Jubilee celebrations, scheduled for 23 – 25 January 2007. The occasion will provide an opportunity for South Asia to reflect on, and look forward to increased regional co-operation for the environment. In the two recent SAARC Summits, the Heads of Governments have provided guidance on the environment protection. I am sure SACEP in partnership with SAARC will build on these Declarations to further strengthen cooperation for environment protection.

As you are aware that in the past decades, UNEP has worked closely with SACEP Secretariat in delivering services. I wish to inform you that UNEP's support to SACEP and regional co-operation on environment will continue both in terms of the technical programme support and enhancement of the process within South Asia. SACEP is one of the foremost intergovernmental agencies committed to promoting environment and sustainable development in the region. Through its 25 years of existence, the agency has strived to address environmental issues through the promotion of sub-regional co-operation. The sub-region has excellent civil societies that are active both at the global and regional levels.

I hope that partnerships with the civil society and private sectors could be further strengthened in the work programme you will be discussing for 2007 -2008 at the UNEP Governing Council.

I have requested Mr. Surendra Shrestha, Regional Director for the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP/ROAP) to represent UNEP at this important Meeting of Senior Officials, Silver Jubilee Celebrations and the Governing Council.

I wish the SACEP Secretariat a successful 10th Meeting of the Governing Council in Kathmandu, and happy jubilee celebrations.

With Best Regards.



Achim Steiner
Executive Director



Message Dr. Veerle Vandeweerd
Coordinator GPA and Head Regional Seas Programme
UNEP




The UNEP Regional Seas Programme (RSP) and the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) takes this opportunity to congratulate the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme on its Silver Jubilee. Indeed 25 years have seen SACEP through various achievements and challenges in addressing environmental issues in South Asia.

Within the UNEP/RSP and the GPA, collaboration with SACEP is mainly through the South Asian Seas Programme (SASP). Various activities, including pilot projects, studies and consultations have been and continue to be undertaken collectively with the common aim of addressing the sustainable management and conservation of the marine and coastal environment of South Asia. Successful activities, among many others, include the development and implementation of National Programmes of Action for the GPA in various countries in the region, training on municipal wastewater management, development of sustainable financial mechanisms to address land-based sources of coastal and marine pollution, management of the coral reefs and marine litter.

The South Asian Seas Programme (SASP) is part of the global Regional Seas Programme constitute 18 individual RSPs worldwide, and provides the appropriate regional framework to implement the GPA in South Asia. Both SASP and SACEP are represented and actively contribute to the yearly global meetings of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, as well as at the Intergovernmental Review Meetings of the GPA.

Despite progress, challenges still remain. These challenges need to be addressed collaboratively by the member countries with all partners and actors in the region. As identified in the global Regional Seas Strategic Directions that are currently being implemented, there is a need for moving forward towards sustainable development, more country ownership to enhance the sustainability and effectiveness of the RSPs, greater visibility, improved knowledge-based policy making, coordinated regional implementation of multilateral environment agreements and promotion of integrated management based on ecosystem approaches. The UNEP-RSP and the UNEP-GPA wishes to reassure SACEP of its continued commitment and support in meeting the environmental challenges in the region.

Once again, congratulations on your Silver Jubilee and wishing you fruitful deliberations during the 10th meeting of the Governing Council.



Dr Veerle Vandeweerd
GPA Coordinator
UNEP GPA



Message from H.E Mr. Kim Hak- SU
Under – Secretary- General of the United Nations and
Executive Secretary of ESCAP

The Asian and Pacific region is the most economically dynamic region in the world. In the past decade, the pace of growth in the region's developing countries outstripped that at the global level. Between 1990 and 2004, some 270 million people emerged from the poverty trap.

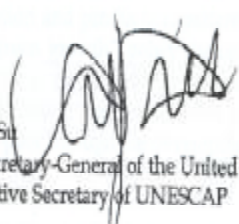
However, the shadow of enormous challenges continues to loom over parts of the region, including in South Asia. The region needs to maintain growth to combat persistent poverty. At the same time, further growth will exert serious environmental pressure, if the current growth pattern is to continue. The region is already living beyond its environmental carrying capacity.

The fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, held in Seoul in March 2005 concluded that "green growth" or environmentally sustainable economic growth, should be the new policy focus. This would help resolve the dilemma posed by the immediate need for economic growth and poverty reduction on the one hand and, the long-term need to ensure the protection of natural resources critical to economic development and human, survival, on the other. Thus the Fifth Ministerial Conference recognized "green growth" as a unique policy focus and strategy for operationalizing the broad concept of sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.

The UNESCAP programme to promote "green growth" focuses on analytical and research work and policy-level awareness raising. Outcomes of this work include policy measures to improve the eco-efficiency of consumption and production patterns of economic growth and eco-efficiency indicators. UNESCAP "green growth" policy dialogues help raise awareness at the policy level. In the course of exploring opportunities for the development of win-win outcomes, UNESCAP is promoting the development of green business growth models. This includes options for addressing the needs of the poor through the development of business based on environmentally-sound technologies.

To tackle critical environmental concerns, long-term regional cooperation is imperative. Sub-Regional institutions, such as the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), have an important role to play in connecting policy dialogue and advocacy at the regional level and sub-Region-specific development initiatives to meet local needs.

On the occasion of its silver jubilee, UNESCAP congratulates SACEP for its comprehensive efforts to support conservation and the management of natural resources in South Asia. UNESCAP is committed to strengthening its collaboration with SACEP to address critical environmental concerns in South Asia.



Kim Hak-Su
Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and
Executive Secretary of UNESCAP



Silver Jubilee Souvenir

Message from H.E. Mr. Efthimios E. Mitropoulos,
Secretary – General,
International Maritime Organization


In the rapidly changing world that we inhabit today, a Silver Jubilee is a very significant milestone indeed. It bears witness to the fact that something of genuine, lasting value has been created and that it has been able to grow and gain strength over the years.

It was in 1981 that the Colombo Declaration gave birth to SACEP and, a year later, the organization became a legal entity. Since then, your track record has been one of steady and sure progress, tackling issues in what is perhaps the most important area of concern facing the world today – the protection of our fragile environment.

The very fact that your founders had the foresight to recognize the significance of environmental issues a quarter of a century ago when, it is fair to say, other concerns were higher on most people's agendas, speaks volumes of their understanding of the things that really matter. Today, as the weight of evidence to support the notion that mankind's actions have placed the future of our planet at risk grows, bringing with it a groundswell of environmental awareness to the mainstream that may, or may not be "too little, too late", your organization receives and genuinely merits the congratulations of civil society as a whole for having the clarity of vision to act when you did and for keeping the faith to such good effect over the past 25 years.

From the maritime point of view, I should like to mention the important milestones that shaped that vision, including, in particular, the 1984 meeting in Bangkok, at which the five maritime nations of SACEP committed themselves to the development of an action plan to protect and manage the marine environment of the South Asian Seas region; the adoption of that Action Plan in New Delhi in 1995; and the first South Asian Seas intergovernmental meeting of ministers in Islamabad, in 1999. There is no doubt that clean seas and oceans are absolutely vital if millions of people are to enjoy a sustainable livelihood and your decisions then, and your continuing concern, warrants the gratitude of all the many stakeholders who depend on a clean and healthy marine environment.

Looking to the future, your sub-region is one of the most populous in the world and many parts of it are undergoing a rapid transformation into urbanization and industrialization. The decisions you make about how that process is managed and implemented will affect not just your own people and the seas of your sub-region, but the entire planet. May you have the wisdom you need to face the challenges of your next quarter century as diligently and as successfully as you have those of your first.



E.E. Mitropoulos
Secretary-General

International Maritime Organization



Message from H E Mr. M. Jarraud
Secretary – General World Meteorological Organization



I would like to express my appreciation to Dr. Arvind Boaz, Director – General of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), for his kind invitation to contribute to the SACEP Silver Jubilee Souvenir publication, marking the 25th anniversary of the Programme.

Therefore on this auspicious occasion, on behalf of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and its 187 members, the international meteorological and hydrological communities and myself, I wish to congratulate SACEP warmly for its first quarter of a century of successful regional co-operation in South Asia. At the same time, I would like to praise, through SACEP, the hydrometeorological sectors of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, for their important contributions in making this Programme a reality.

I wish to recall that, 25 years ago, SACEP was created by its Members in order to fulfill a vision based on recognition of the perils of environmental degradation, of the need for integration of environment and development, as essential prerequisites to Sustainable Development, and of the importance of co-operative action in the South Asian region, since many of the issues involved clearly transcended all national and administrative boundaries.

The primordial mission of SACEP therefore included the promotion of regional co-operation in South Asia, in the field of the environment and in the context of sustainable development, as well as support to the conservation and environmentally sound management of all the natural resources in the region, through partnerships among all national, regional, and international institutions, governmental and non governmental, as well as among all experts and sectors concerned. It is thus straightforward enough to realize the importance of this mission, since South Asia provides a home for about one fifth of the entire world population.

In 1980, a meeting of intergovernmental experts of the South Asian countries was held in Bangalore, India, to identify and discuss common issues for the region. The meeting unanimously recommended the establishment of a sub-regional organization, devoted to the protection and management of the environment. A Ministerial level meeting held during 1981 in Colombo (Sri Lanka) approved the Colombo Declaration and the Articles of Association for the initiation of SACEP, which became a legal entity in 1982.


I also wish to recall that, in November 2005, SACEP and WMO subscribed a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in the area of promotion of the sciences of meteorology, climatology and hydrology, and for the safety of human life and property, as well as for natural disaster prevention and mitigation activities. Through this agreement, WMO has provided a strong framework for international cooperation aimed at the development of meteorology and operational hydrology in South Asian countries.

As the specialized agency of the United Nations with mandate in weather, climate and water, WMO plays a major role in the South Asia region, which is bordered in the south by the Indian Ocean, in the southeast by Bay of Bengal and in the southwest by the Arabian Sea. The SACEP region spans deserts, arid lands and even reaches the Himalayan heights, while a monsoonic climate prevails over its southern part.

Therefore, weather and climate vary significantly from place to place within the diversity of the region, which also contains some of the world's largest river systems, such as the Indus and the Ganga- Brahmaputra. Accordingly, the region is prone to natural hazards like drought, cyclones, floods, earthquakes and landslides, and it has periodically experienced major disasters, including some of the effects of the December 2004 tsunami.

I therefore wish to stress that WMO recognizes SACEP as a major partner in the context of the regional cooperation championed by the Governments of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, and it gives me great pleasure to avail myself of this opportunity to recognize the important contributions of SACEP to the development of meteorology, hydrology and related sciences in the South Asia region.

I therefore again take great pleasure in congratulating the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), on the auspicious occasion of its Silver Jubilee.

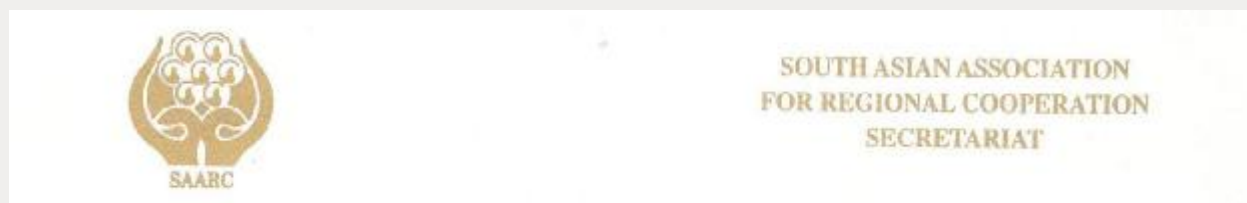


(M. Jarraud)
Secretary-General





Message from
Mr. Chenkyab Dorji, Secretary General
South Asian Association For Regional Cooperation Secretariat (SAARC)



This South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) is one of the oldest Inter Governmental Organizations in the region. It has undertaken a number of useful programmes and projects to promote and support the protection, management and enhancement of the environment, both natural and human, of the countries of South Asia.

A Memorandum of Understanding signed between SAARC and SACEP in 2004 provides the framework for co-operation between our two organizations, I am confident that the work carried out by the two organisations will help improve the State of the Environment in South Asia.

On the happy occasion of its Silver Jubilee celebrations in 2007, I would like to express our warmest felicitations to SACEP.


(Chenkyab Dorji)
Secretary General






GOVERNING COUNCILS OF SACEP





**3rd Special Session of
8th Governing Council
of SACEP, Colombo
November 2003**



**Inauguration of High Level Meeting to Initiate SACEP,
February 1981, Colombo Sri Lanka.**



**Dr. A.A. Boaz Director General of SACEP
welcoming H. E. Mr. Lyonpo Yeshey Zimba,
Prime Minister of Royal Government of
Bhutan at 9th GC of SACEP**



Group Photograph of delegates of 9th GC of SACEP, in Thimphu, Bhutan.

**Delegates at 1st IMM of the
South Asian Seas
Programme, Islamabad,
March 1999.**



From Colombo to Thimpu



High Level Meeting to Initiate SACEP, Colombo, Sri Lanka February 1981

L- R: Mr. Esmathulla Walli, Director (Country & Town Planning) Afghanistan, Hon Dr. R. A. Ghani, Minister of State for Science and Technology, Bangladesh, Hon C. P. N. Singh Minister of State for Science and Technology, India, Prof C. Suriyakumaran, Regional Director UNEP, Hon Ranasinghe Premadasa, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Hon P. C. Imbulana, Deputy Minister, Local Government, Housing and Construction, Sri Lanka, Hon. Mohamed Mustafa Hussain, Minister of Health, Maldives, Air Vice Marshall Hon. Inamul Haque Khan, Minister of Housing, Works, Water and Power, Pakistan Hon. Lalith Athulathmudali, Minister of Trade and Shipping, Sri Lanka.



3rd Governing Council January 1987, New Delhi, India Hon Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister of India at the Inauguration. On his right, Chairman of the GC, Hon Mr. Bhajan Lal, Minister of Environment & Forests, India



2nd Governing Council April 1985, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Chief Guest Rear Admiral Sultan Ahamed, Deputy Chief Martial Law Administrator, & Chief of the Naval Staff & Minister for Communications, Ports, Shipping, IWT, Irrigation, Water Resources & Flood Control, Bangladesh delivering the Inaugural Address



4th Governing Council April 1988, Afghanistan

L – R: Mr. Prasanthia Dias Abeyegunawardene, Consultant SACEP, Mr. Mohamed Jafar Kazem, Director SACEP, GC Chairman Hon. Fateh Mohamad Tarin, Minister of Light & Foodstuff Industries, Afghanistan & Rapporteur Mr. R. V. Warjri, First Secretary, Indian High Commission, Sri Lanka



7th Governing Council April 1998, Male, Maldives

Inaugural Session. Head of Delegations of South Asian Countries in the First Row: L – R: Hon. Mr. Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Environment & Forests, India, Hon. Abdullahi Majeed, Deputy Minister of Planning, Human Resources & Environment, Maldives, H. E. Mr. Nilamber Acharya, Nepal High Commissioner to Sri Lanka & Hon. Mr. Nandimitra Ekanayake, Minister of Forestry & Environment, Sri Lanka



9th Governing Council August 2005 Bhutan

L- R: Dr. Arvind Boaz, Director General SACEP, Chairman GC 9 Hon. Dashi Nado Rinchen, Deputy Minister, National Environment Commission, Royal Government of Bhutan, Outgoing Chairman Hon. A. H. M. Fowzie, Minister of Environment & Natural Resources, Sri Lanka



GOVERNING COUNCILS OF SACEP

Number	Date & Venue	Inaugurated by	Chairman
High Level Meeting to Initiate SACEP	18 – 25 February 1981, Colombo, Sri Lanka	Hon. Ranasinghe Premadasa, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka	Hon. Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali, Minister of Trade & Shipping, Sri Lanka
GC 1	27-29th January 1983, Colombo, Sri Lanka	Hon. Ranasinghe Premadasa, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka	Hon Abdul Ghafar Lakanwal, Minister of Agriculture and Land Reforms, Afghanistan
GC 2	17-18th April 1985, Dhaka, Bangladesh	Rear Admiral Sultan Ahmed, Deputy Chief Martial Law Administrator, & Chief of the Naval Staff & Minister for Communications, Ports, Shipping, IWT, Irrigation, Water Resources & Flood Control, Bangladesh	Major General Mahmudul Hasan, Minister of Local Government, Rural Development, Co-operatives and Works, Bangladesh
GC 3	12-13th January 1987, New Delhi, India	Hon. Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister, India	Hon. Mr. Bhajan Lal, Minister of Environment & Forests, India
GC 4	25-26th April 1988, Kabul, Afghanistan	Hon. Sultan Ali Keshmand, Prime Minister of Afghanistan.	Hon. Fateh Mohamad Tarin, Minister of Light & Foodstuff Industries, Afghanistan
GC 5	27th September 1992, Sri Lanka	Hon. Ranasinghe Premadasa, President of Sri Lanka	Hon. Mr. Vincent Perera, Minister of Environment & Parliamentary Affairs, Sri Lanka
GC 6	1st September 1994, Islamabad, Pakistan	Mr. Asif Ali Zardari, Member National Assembly and Chairperson of Pakistan Environment Protection Council	Mr. Muhammad Zafarullah Khan, Secretary, Environment and Urban Affairs Division
GC 7	22nd April 1998, Malé, Maldives	His Excellency Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, President, Maldives	Hon Mr. Abdul Rasheed Hussain, Minister of Planning, Human Resources and Environment, Maldives
GC 8	29th September 2001, Colombo, Sri Lanka	Her Excellency Madam Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaranatunga, President of Sri Lanka	Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena, Minister of Transport & Environment, Sri Lanka
1 st Special Session of GC 8	1 st July 2002, Colombo, Sri Lanka	Hon. Rukman Senanayake, Minister of Environment & Natural Resources, Sri Lanka	Hon. Rukman Senanayake, Minister of Environment & Natural Resources, Sri Lanka
2 nd Special Session of GC 8	21 st January 2003, Colombo, Sri Lanka	Hon Mr. Tyrone Fernando, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sri Lanka	Hon. Rukman Senanayake, Minister of Environment & Natural Resources, Sri Lanka
3 rd Special Session of GC 8	8 th November 2003, Colombo, Sri Lanka	Hon. Rukman Senanayake, Minister of Environment & Natural Resources, Sri Lanka	Hon. Rukman Senanayake, Minister of Environment & Natural Resources, Sri Lanka
GC 9	26 th August 2005, Thimphu, Royal Government of Bhutan	Hon Mr. Lyonpo Yeshey Zimba, Prime Minister of Royal Government of Bhutan	Hon. Dasho Nado Rinchhen, Deputy Minister, National Environment Commission, Royal Government of Bhutan





MAJOR DECISIONS OF SACEP GOVERNING COUNCILS

<p>GC 1</p> <p>27-29th January 1983, Colombo, Sri Lanka</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Adoption of Resolution calling for the Establishment of a Trust fund for SACEP ◆ Approval of 12 projects formulate by SACEP and lay down of criteria for project selection ◆ Designation of the year 1988 as the Year of Trees for South Asia
<p>GC 2</p> <p>17-18th April 1985, Dhaka, Bangladesh</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Adoption of the Rules of Procedure for the Governing Council ◆ Approval of the Modalities of Focal Points of SACEP ◆ Recommended that SACEP should continue to formulate the South Asian Seas Action Plan and its implementation in close collaboration with Oceans and Coastal Areas Programme Centre of UNEP. ◆ Recommended the creation of an efficient planning & monitoring unit within the SACEP Secretariat.
<p>GC 3</p> <p>12-13th January 1987 New Delhi, India</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Development of a new formula for sharing the expenditure to make SACEP a viable self supporting institution. ◆ The meeting sought for the continuing support of SACEP by UN and other International Organisations. ◆ Recommended that member states should seriously examine the appropriateness of their Subject Area Focal Points.
<p>GC 4</p> <p>25-26th April 1988, Kabul, Afghanistan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Approval of Rules and Regulations of SACEP Secretariat ◆ Establishment of a fund for financing projects and programmes of SACEP on the basis of voluntary contribution by member states and other donors. ◆ Approved the Terms of Reference for a Panel of Experts from within the region to review SACEP's current projects and programmes and to formulate a Plan of Action for next five years. ◆ UNESCO was requested to prepare an Inter-country Environmental Education Project for South Asia.
<p>GC 5</p> <p>27th September 1992 Sri Lanka</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Approval of the creation of project preparation, planning and monitoring cell within the SACEP Secretariat. ◆ Approved the SACEP Plan of Action 1992-1996 ◆ Working closely with the SAARC Secretariat was stressed.
<p>GC 6</p> <p>1st September 1994, Islamabad, Pakistan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Recommended the implementation of UNEP/ESCAP/SACEP/ Projects on 'Capacity building in the field of Planning & Management of the Coastal areas in the South Asian seas region, which was approved during the 1994 Intergovernmental Meeting held in India. ◆ Recommended to support the need of the additional space and staff as proposed by the SACEP secretariat. ◆ Endorsed the recommendation made by the Meeting of Senior Officials on National Focal Points in assisting the Secretariat in its activities. ◆ Recommended that efforts of SACEP should be publicised more. ◆ Agreed that the relationship between SAARC and SACEP should be such that the scarce resources available in the region should be utilized prudently and that there should not be any duplication of efforts.



<p>GC 7</p> <p>22nd April 1998, Malé, Maldives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Endorsement of a revised list of priority subject areas (SSP2) for South Asia, which are in accordance with Agenda 21. ◆ Adoption of Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely Tranboundary Effects for South Asia. ◆ Requested the Director General of SACEP to prepare a portfolio outlining in detail the aims and activities of SACEP and make it available to possible donor/funding agencies. ◆ Agreed to ensure that SAARC is informed of SACEP's experience in the field of environment and its wish to collaborate and complement work of SAARC in that area.
<p>GC 8</p> <p>28-29th September 2001</p> <p>Colombo, Sri Lanka</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Recommended that the present system of Focal Points should remain, but mechanisms for intra-country co-ordination need to be stimulated and strengthened. ◆ Agreed that SACEP Secretariat should be strengthened in terms of staff and other requirements. ◆ Recommended the use of the State of Environment Reports prepared by the member countries as the basis in formulating new programme activities. ◆ Recommended to select few priority issues related to the whole region and develop programme activities to be implemented during a specific time period. ◆ Recommended SACEP Secretariat to take measures to collect, collate and disseminate all information on environment, so that SACEP should become the storehouse of knowledge in the region. ◆ Recommended the invitation of major donors to the SACEP programmes, as observers at SACEP GC Meetings.
<p>GC 9</p> <p>25th August 2005</p> <p>Thimphu, Bhutan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Under Programme Matters, The work programme will consist of core activities and projects and will focus on areas of waste, adaptation to climate change, database management / indicators of State of the Environment (SoE). ◆ The databases to the Environmental Natural Resources to be updated regularly by South Asia Environment and Natural Resources Information Centre (SENRIC) to assist the region in the State of the Environment (SoE) reporting. ◆ The Advisory Body for SACEP proposed by the National Focal Points may not be necessary as this will create another layer of bureaucracy. However, there is a strong need to strengthen the Secretariat. UNEP is requested to assist the Secretariat in its capacity building programme.



Silver Jubilee Souvenir



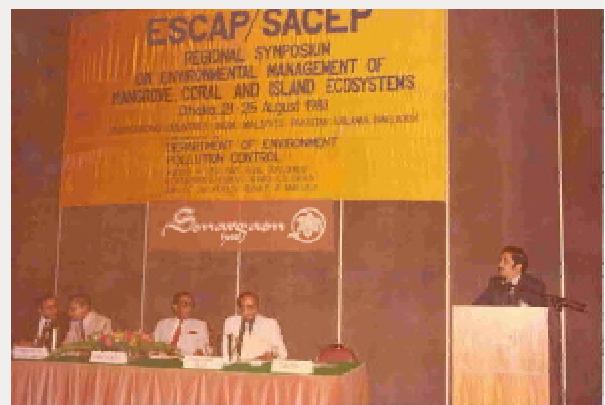
L - R Mr.T.Hewage, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Hon Rukman Senanayake, Minister of Environment & Natural Resources, Sri Lanka & Mr. Elik Adler, Programme Officer, UNEP Regional Seas Programme, Nairobi.



L-R Dr. Suvit Yodmani, Regional Director UNEP, Hon. Nandimitra Ekanayaka, Minister of Environment Sri Lanka, Mr. Hussain Shihab, Director SACEP, Hon. Mahinda Rajapakse, Minister of Fisheries Sri Lanka, Mr. Walter Rast, UNEP, Nairobi.



IMO-SACEP Regional Workshop on Anti Foulant System on Ships, Chennai, India, 2005 L-R Mr. Edward Kleverlaan, IMO, Dr. P.S.Goel, Secretary, Department of Ocean Development, India, Dr. A.A. Boaz, Director General, Mr. Prasantha Dias Abeyegunawardene, Interim Coordinator, SAS.



Dr. Leslie Herath, Director SACEP addressing the ESCAP-SACEP Symposium on Environmental Management of Mangrove, Coral and Island Ecosystems, Dhaka, Bangladesh



First GPA workshop, Bentota 1997– Hon. Mahinda Rajapakse, Minister of Fisheries, Sri Lanka.



Participants at the Workshop IMO-SACEP Regional Workshop on Anti Foulant System on Ships, Chennai, India





Hon. Mr. Mahinda Wijesekara, Minister of Fisheries inaugurating the SAS / IMO OPRC – LEVEL 2 Training Course for Oil Spill Commanders and Oil Spill Supervisors in Sri Lanka, 2002.



Participants at SAS / IMO OPRC – LEVEL 2 Training Course for Oil Spill Commanders and Oil Spill Supervisors in Sri Lanka, 2002.



Dr. Reazul Karim, Chief Environment Division ESCAP addressing the ESCAP/UNEP/SACEP Workshop on Management Strategies for the Protection of the Coastal and Marine Environment in the South Asian Seas Region, Colombo 1993.



Hon. Dr. Wimal Wickramasinghe, Minister of Environment, Sri Lanka inaugurating the ESCAP/UNEP/SACEP Workshop on Management Strategies for the Protection of the Coastal and Marine Environment in the South Asian Seas Region, Colombo 1993.



Mr. Surendra Shrestha Regional Director, UNEP-ROAP with Dr. Arvind Boaz, Director General SACEP (left), at the SACEP Secretariat



Dr. A.A. Boaz, Director General of SACEP, (2nd from Left) with Ms. Sachiko Kuwabara Yamamoto, Executive Secretary, Basel Convention and the other officers of the Secretariat, Geneva, Switzerland on April 7th 2006





SACEP Programmes





Current Staff of the SACEP Secretariat



Seated – Left to Right
 Mrs. Priyankari Alexander – Programme Officer, Mr. Hiran Tillegaratne – Programme Officer, Mr. Pradyumna Kumar Kotta – SENRIC Project – Coordinator, Mr. P N Dias Abeyegunawardene – Adviser - SACEP / SASP, Dr. Arvind Anil Boaz – Director General, Mrs. Jacintha S. Tissera – Administrative Officer, DR. Noman Fazal Qadir – Regional Coordinator / SASP, Mr. W.K. Rathnadeera – Senior Programme Officer
 Standing – Left to Right
 Ms. P. Logama, Mr. Ariyaratne Hettiarachchi, Mrs. Augusta J. Mullegama, Mr. J A Jayawardene, Ms. Sudarshani Dissanayake, Mr. G.W.L. Kumara, Ms. G.G.Amitha Iranganie, Ms. K.Harshanamali Wijayawardhana



BACKGROUND TO SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

In the light of deteriorating environmental conditions, the countries of the South Asian Region, thoughtfully came together, and signed a Declaration in Colombo, now known as the "Colombo Declaration". The countries concerned were Afghanistan, the current member states of the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC), Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka and Iran. Through this association, they formulated South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) to be the nerve centre of environmental activities in the areas of regional concern as a collaborative effort of the Member Countries. SACEP, since it became a 'legal entity' in 1982, has been implementing the programmes and policies approved by its Governing Council, which constitutes ministerial representation of the member countries.

The various aspects of Coastal and Marine Environmental Management were currently being covered in three of SACEP's fifteen Priority Subject Matter Areas, namely Conservation of Corals, Mangroves, Deltas, Coastal Areas, Conservation of Island Ecosystems and Regional Seas Programme, which were identified by experts of the region at its formative stages. SACEP since then has actively been involved in various programme activities in these subject areas.

The Stockholm Conference in 1972 on the Human Environment was the spiritual father of the United Nations Environment Programme. The Conference underlined the "vital importance" for humanity of the seas and all the living organisms, which the oceans support. UNEP in its very First Governing Council Sessions in 1973 set the "Health of the Oceans" as one of its priority concerns. Even today this remains as one of its major concerns.

For a variety of historical reasons, a Regional Seas Programme for the South Asian Seas was not initiated. The emergence of SACEP saw with it the revival of interests of the concerned member states towards the establishment of a Regional Seas Programme for the South Asian Seas.

The quest for the launching of a Regional Seas Programme for the South Asian Seas, initiated by the SACEP Member States at UNEP's Governing Council in 1982, led a year later to the designation of the region as a part of UNEP's Programme.

The South Asian Seas Region can be categorised into two distinct geographical groups. While Maldives and Sri Lanka are island nations, Bangladesh, India and Pakistan are situated on the Asian mainland. India has two groups of islands in the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal, whose problems are similar to that of Maldives and Sri Lanka. The northern Indian Ocean with its adjoining seas, Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea form the common marine boundary for the five South Asian nations. The total land area covered by these countries is about 4.5 million sq. km. having a population of about 1.1 billion. The population density varies from 26 per sq. km. in Sri Lanka to 591 per sq. km. in the Maldives. The region except Sri Lanka has a high rate of population growth of more than 2%. Nearly 20 to 25% of the population of these countries are directly or indirectly dependent on the sea for living.

In connection with the South Asian Regional Seas Programme, there have been four Meetings of National Focal Points, a Meeting of Experts and a Meeting of Legal and Technical Experts. There has also been an IMO/UNEP Workshop on South Asia Marine Pollution Emergency Action Plan.

The Action Plan for the South Asian Regional Seas Programme was formally adopted at a Meeting of Plenipotentiaries of the concerned countries held in New Delhi, on March 24th 1995.

The Action Plan of the South Asian Seas Programme approved at the Meeting of Plenipotentiaries has certain important elements, which will assist the member countries in protecting the marine environment of the region.

The Action Plan in addition to specifying the needs under the main components of Environmental Assessment, Environmental Management, Environmental Legislation & Institutional and Financial Arrangements, identified the areas where priority activities need to be developed for implementation under the Action Plan. These priority activities are in four specific areas.



The Four Areas are:

- ◆ Priority Area 1 Integrated Coastal Zone Management
- ◆ Priority Area 2 Development and Implementation of National and Regional Oil Spill Contingency Planning
- ◆ Priority Area 3 Human Resources Development Through Strengthening Regional Centres of Excellence
- ◆ Priority Area 4 Land Based Sources of Marine Pollution

Each of the priority areas identified specific activities to be undertaken.

The Meeting of Plenipotentiaries also adopted three resolutions in respect of the implementation, Institutional Arrangements and Financial Arrangements and the Final Act of the South Asian Seas Action Plan.

SACEP was designated as the Secretariat for the implementation of the Action Plan in respect for the South Asian Seas Programme and a Trust Fund was also established for the maintenance of the Secretariat.

A single original copy of the Final Act has been deposited in the archive of Department of Ocean Development, Government of India, New Delhi.

At the time of the Plenipotentiaries Meeting, one member state was not represented at the Ministerial level. As such though the Final Act was signed by the other four states, the signing of the act by the fifth state was only in January 1998. As such the South Seas Action Plan came into force only in January 1998.

ACTIVITIES - UNEP REGIONAL SEAS PROGRAMME, NAIROBI

General Assistance in the formulation and development of National & Regional Activities pertaining to the implementation of the Action Plan of the South Asian Seas Programme

- 1) Development of detailed Project Proposals on the following Project Concepts identified in the Programming Cycle 1999 – 2002 (US \$ 50,000)

Specifically the following

- ◆ Integrated Coastal Zone Management
 - (1) Capacity Building for the Control of Coastal Erosion in the context of ICZM in the South Asian Seas Region - 1999-2000.
 - (2) Assessment of Areas Vulnerable to Sea Level Rise in the South Asian Seas Region
- ◆ National and Regional Oil Spill Contingency Planning
 - (3) Capacity Building in the Development and Operation of National Oil Spill Contingency Planning - 1999-2000.
- ◆ Human Resource Development through Strengthening Regional Centres of Excellence
 - (4) Identification of Capacity Building Requirements in Coastal and Marine Environmental Protection and Management - 1999 – 2000
 - (5) Strengthening the Capacity of the Regional Centres of Excellence in the Protection and Management of the Coastal and Marine Environment - 2001-2002.
- ◆ Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment from Land-Based Activities
 - (6) Identification and Assessment of the nature, extent, problems and causes of Marine Pollution from Land-based Activities and the Preparation of a National Programme of Action for Control of Land-based Sources of Pollution - 1999-2000.
 - (7) Development of National Water Quality Criteria for different uses of Sea Water - 2001-2002.





2. Updating and finalising of the South Asian Seas Oil Spill Contingency Plan
3. Workshop in Integrated Coastal Areas and River Basin Management in Chennai
4. Revision of UNEP Regional Seas Reports and Studies for the South Asian States
5. Development of a Marine Litter Activity for the South Asian Seas Region
6. Assistance in the Development of the GEF POP's Block B Proposal
7. Pilot Project for Establishing Integrated Coastal Area and River Basin Management in South Asia: Attanagalu-Oya, Sri Lanka.

ACTIVITIES - UNEP / GPA OFFICE, THE HAGUE

Assistance in the formulation and development of National & Regional activities pertaining to the implementation of the GPA Programme in South Asia and conduct of workshops and the strengthening principles of Integrated Coastal Area and River Basin Management

Major Activities

1. 1997 - South Asian Seas Workshop on GPA
2. 1997 - Development of National & Regional Action Plans on the GPA
3. 1999 - UNEP/GPA Strategic Action Plan on Sewage
 - Inventory of Socio-Economic Opportunities and Case Studies
 - A. An overview of socio-economic opportunities for addressing sewage,
 - B. An overview with a compilation, description and analysis of case studies for the South Asian Seas region on socio-economic benefits from addressing sewage,
4. 1999 - GPA Pilot Exercise on Regional Reporting for GPA Intergovernmental Meeting 2001
5. 2002 - Development of Pilot National Programme of Action (NPA) for the protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities in Sri Lanka– Govt of Sri Lanka
6. April 2003 South Asia Regional Workshop, Colombo, Sri Lanka
7. 2005 - Strategic Planning and Developing Market Based Instruments for the Medium to Long Term Strategic Planning of the Implementation of the Sri Lanka National Program of Action (MBI/NPA)



Participant at the Regional Seminar/ Workshop on Ratification and Implementation of OPRC/ HNS Protocol, AFS Convention and Identification and Establishment of PSSA's January,2006, Colombo.



SAS Ministerial & Intergovernmental Ministerial Meetings

Number	Date & Venue	Inaugurated by	Chairman
Meeting of Plenipotentiaries on the Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the South Asian Seas Region	24th March 1995 New Delhi, India	Hon. Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, Minister of Foreign Affairs, India	Hon. Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, Minister of State (Ocean Development), Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers, & Department of Ocean Development & Electronics, India
First Intergovernmental Meeting of Ministers	26th March 1999 Islamabad, Pakistan	Hon. Makhdoom Syed Ahmad Mahmud, Minister of State, Ministry of Environment, Local Government and Rural Development, Pakistan	Hon. Makhdoom Syed Ahmad Mahmud, Minister of State, Ministry of Environment, Local Government and Rural Development, Pakistan
Second Intergovernmental Ministerial Meeting	1 st July 2002, Colombo Sri Lanka	Hon. Mahinda Wijesekera, Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Sri Lanka	Hon. Rukman Senanayake, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Sri Lanka
Third Intergovernmental Ministerial Meeting	26th August 2005 Thimphu, Bhutan	Hon. A. H. M. Fowzie, Minister of Environment & Natural Resources, Government of Sri Lanka	Hon. Mr. Ahmed Abdullah, Minister of Energy, Water and Environment, Government of the Republic of Maldives

Faunal Diversity

Assessment of Faunal Biodiversity in the Countries of South Asia

This project was undertaken by SACEP with technical assistance for the Priority Subject Area Focal Point, namely Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta

The Project Period was 1995 – 1996.

Project Objectives were in the short term to train Zoologists/Biologists of SACEP Countries in the field of Systematics, Taxonomy and Ecology, the assessment of faunal wealth, and inventurise them in areas of rapid development especially urban and industry. Further more to Scientists of SACEP Countries in Environmental Impact Assessment and finally to facilitate Exchange of Data on Biodiversity as the basis for Recommending Appropriate Schemes and Measures to remedy loss of Biodiversity due to man's activity.

In the long term to assist in the Development of a Definitive South Asian Biodiversity Action Plan and to provide Countries in the SACEP Region with an Environmentally Sound Management Plan, based on Systematics and Taxonomy, Ecology, Environmental Impact Assessment Studies and to Identify Acceptable Biodiversity Levels such as determined on the basis of Scientific, Institutional, Social and Economic Factors





The main Project Activities were the conducting of a "Training Workshop for the Selected National Co-ordinators" at Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta. (From 12 - 19 June 1995, preparation of Country Reports by National Co-ordinators and the National Experts on an agreed format and the Final Workshop was then held in Maldives from 20 - 23 October 1996. The objective of the Workshop was to decide on the format and contents of the Regional Action Plan for the Management for the Faunal Component of Biodiversity of the South Asian Region.

The major Project Outputs were:

- .. Preparation of Country Reports,
- .. The Publication of a Regional Report on Assessment of the Faunal Component of Biodiversity in the SACEP Region,
- .. Publication of Guidelines for the Assessment and Protection of the Faunal Component of Biodiversity for the South Asian Region and the
- .. Training of National Officers of the seven SACEP Countries dealing with Faunal Biodiversity

Environmental Education

Co-operation in Environmental Training A Project for Capacity Building in the South Asian Region

This project was undertaken by SACEP with technical assistance for the Priority Subject Area Focal Point, namely Centre for Environment Education (CEE), Ahmedabad, India

The Project Period was 1995 – 1996.

Project Objectives were in the short term to assess initially on a Country Basis and latterly for the Region, the Training requirements on a Priority Basis and to identify existing Training Programmes and Opportunities in Environment and Development related fields in the Region.

In the long term to Assist in the Development of a Definitive Plan of Action for the SACEP Region in respect of meeting the Training Needs on a National and Regional Basis.

The main Project Activities were the conducting of a "Regional Workshop of National Consultants for Assessment of Environmental Training Needs and Opportunities in the South Asia Region" in Male, Republic of Maldives from 16 - 20 July 1995, the revision by the National Consultants in co-operation with SACEP and CEE the Country Reports on the Training Needs for each of the SACEP Countries, based on a revised format, A Final Review and Evaluation Meeting was then held at CEE, Ahmedabad from 22 - 24 February 1996. The objective of the meeting was to finalise the Regional Report and the Action Plan in Connection with the Environmental Training Needs of the Region.

The major project outputs were:

- .. Preparation of Training Requirements in the field of environment, on a Priority Basis, for each country in the SACEP region
- .. The Preparation of Plan of Action to meet the Training Needs in the field of environment, of the Countries of the SACEP Region on a Short Term and Long Term Basis.



Hon. P. L. Singh, Minister of Environmental and Population, Nepal delivering the opening address at High Level Consultative Meeting on South Asian Action Plan on Env-Education & Training 2002-2007, Kathmandu, February, 2002.





Strengthening of Framework Legislation for Environmental Management in the New Context of Sustainable Development in South Asian Countries

This project was implemented by South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) in partnership with the Regional Environmental Law Programme, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, United Nations Environment Programme and in close co-operation with National Focal Points & Institutions and relevant UN and International Organisations and SACEP's Priority Subject Matter Area Focal Point for Environmental Legislation.

Funding was provided by Norwegian Agency for Development Co-operation (NORAD) and other relevant UN and International Agencies..

The Project Period was 1997 – 2000.

The objective of the Project was to develop and implement country-specific programmes of assistance in the seven South Asian Countries to support them in their efforts to reinforcing existing Framework Laws to enable these to serve as an instrument for effective environmental management including implementation of environmental conventions, integration of environment and development in decision making at national, provincial/state, and local levels, and generally promoting the goals of sustainable development, and in those countries that have no such legislation, to develop the legislative and institutional basis for such a law and to translate it into an appropriate national law.

The principal strategic elements of the project were: Needs responsiveness; Partnership between SACEP, UNEP and other relevant organisations to avoid duplication and enhance effectiveness; optimum utilisation of national and regional experts; and the employment of participatory and consultative methodologies which would ensure that the draft legislation, especially the institutional arrangement it puts in place for integration of environment and development, has the acceptance of all relevant national institutions and encourages public support and participation in its implementation.

At Regional level, consultations and exposure to inputs from external sources was carried out, for cost effectiveness, through workshops designed to produce country-specific legislative and institutional schemes for incorporation in the draft legislation, especially in two critical areas - The implementation of major global environmental conventions (in collaboration with the relevant Convention Secretariats) and application of economic instruments and incentives for environmental management, including impact assessment (in collaboration with, in particular, Institutions in selected developing and developed countries which have established effective mechanisms for these.

At National level, the activities was steered by a government appointed representative National Task Force, comprising representatives of the principal Ministries, Agencies and Institutions involved, Universities, major NGOs and recognised national experts in environmental policy and law. The steps were followed to ensure realisation of tangible results.

The short term objective was the development in each of the project countries, the development of effective Framework Law which serves as a legal basis for environmental management and integration of environment and development, in the context of sustainable development, and implementation of environmental conventions.

The Long Term Objectives was to effectively translate sustainable development policies into action at national, provincial & local levels in the seven participating countries and effective implementation of environmental conventions and instruments.

The Short Term Indicators was the enactment of new or revised framework legislation for environmental management in each of the seven participating countries and the Long Term Indicators were the improved environmental management and integration of environmental considerations in development planning activities, within the framework of the new legal and institutional regime

The Major Outputs were as follows:

- A) Special Regional Activities
 - ◆ Conventions Secretariat Meeting, Maldives, April 1997
 - ◆ Regional Judges Symposium – Sri Lanka, July 1997





- ◆ Asian Regional Workshop on UNFCCC with Special Reference to the CDM, Bangkok 1997
- ◆ Environmental Management Seminar for South Asia - Islamabad - September 1998
- ◆ Development of the Publication "Handbook of National Legislation for South Asian Countries"
- ◆ South Asian Forum on Environmental Co-operation between Government and the Private Sector, New Delhi, 1998
- B) Special National Activities
 - ◆ National Seminar on Environmental Law and Management – Nepal
 - ◆ National Seminar on Environmental Law and Management - Bangladesh
- C) Special Publications
 - ◆ South Asia Handbook of Treaties and Other Legal Instruments in the Field of Environmental Law
 - ◆ Compendium of Summaries of Judicial Decisions in Environment Related Cases (With Special Reference to Countries in South Asia)
 - ◆ Report of the Regional Workshop on Strengthening Legal and Institutional Arrangements for Implementing Major Environmental Conventions in South Asia
 - ◆ Report of the Regional Symposium on the Role of the Judiciary in Promoting the Rule of Law in the Area of Sustainable Development
 - ◆ Proceedings of National Seminar on Environmental Law and Management – Nepal
 - ◆ Proceedings of National Seminar on Environmental Law and Management – Bangladesh

IMO

IMO & SACEP Collaboration

The International Maritime Organization (IMO), based in London, UK is a specialized agency of the United Nations with 167 Member States and three Associate Members, IMO is based in the United Kingdom with around 300 international staff.

IMO's specialised committees and sub-committees are the focus for the technical work to update existing legislation or develop and adopt new regulations, with meetings attended by maritime experts from Member Governments, together with those from interested intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

IMO along with UNEP and ESCAP are longest standing partners with SACEP and IMO's involvement and assistance to SACEP dates back to the 1st Meeting of National Focal Points held in Bangkok in 1983 for the establishment of the South Asian Seas Programme.

At this meeting, IMO very readily agreed to help SACEP in the formulation of South Asian Seas Oil Spill Contingency Plan. Initially in 1987-88 they funded a mission by IMO Consultant – Capt Roy Nichols to develop a Draft Regional Oil Spill Contingency.

The rationale for developing this project was that a draft South Asian Marine Pollution Emergency Action Plan was prepared by the IMO in 1989, based on inputs received from member countries. The plan reflected essentially the threats of oil pollution in the South Asian Seas Region based on information and statistics made available during 1989.

IMO since 1989 have conducted many workshops and programmes whereby the member country personnel were trained, both nationally and regionally in combating oil spills and they were also educated on the IMO Conventions relevant to this.

In December 2005, an Agreement of Co-operation between the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) was signed on matters of common interest to the two organisations with a view to ensuring maximum co-ordination of the work and activities of the respective organisations in respect of such matters. With respect to the co-operation on the response to Marine Oil and Chemical Spills in the South Asia Region, much water has flowed under the bridge. After a series of Meetings and Consultations, SACEP and the South Asian Seas Programme is on the threshold of signing a historic MOU whereby the marine member countries of SACEP agree to co-operate in case of marine disasters due to oil spills.

SACEP is grateful to IMO for all their unstinted support given and look forward to more meaningful project activities once the Oil Spill MOU is signed by the Plenipotentiaries in early 2007.





Hon. Srimani Athulathmudali, Minister of Environment, Sri Lanka delivering the inaugural address at 1st UNEP-SACEP Environmental Management Seminar, South Asia, Bentota, Sri Lanka, 1996.



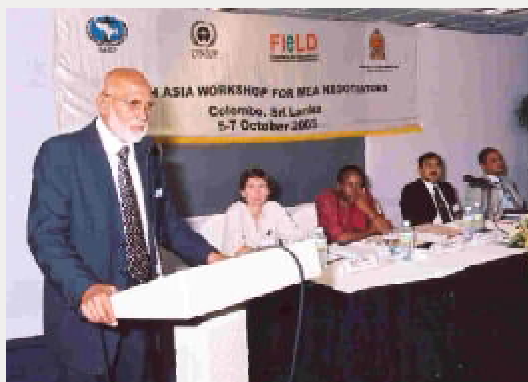
Group Photograph of Participants at 2nd UNEP-SACEP Environmental Management Seminar, South Asia in Islamabad 1998.



SACEP / UNEP Environmental Law Workshop, Jan 1987 L-R Mr. Prasanthia Dias Abeyegunawardene, Consultant UNDP & SACEP, Mr. Jafar Kazem Director SACEP



Justice C.G. Weeramantry, Vice President International Court of Justice addressing the UNEP-SACEP- NORAD judges symposium, July 1987, Colombo



MEA Negotiators workshop, Hon. A.H.M. Fowzie Minister of Environment, Sri Lanka delivering the inaugural address, Oct. 2005.



MEA negotiators workshop, Colombo, Oct, 2005 L-R Ms. M.J. Mace, FIELD Ms. Elizabeth Mrema, UNEP, Hon. A.H.M. Fowzie, Minister of Environment Sri Lanka & Dr. A.A. Boaz, Director General of SACEP.



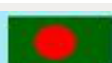
Mr. Lal Kurukulasuriya, Chief Environment Law Programme, UNEP Bangkok, addressing the Participants of the National Workshop on Environmental Law and Sustainable Development, Dhaka, Bangladesh, September, 1999.





MILESTONES

YEAR	ACTIVITY
1980	10 – 15 th March, Bangalore Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting at Regional Centre for Technology Transfer (RCTT), Bangalore
1981	February, Colombo - High Level Meeting to Initiate SACEP
1983	27-29 th January Colombo, Sri Lanka First Governing Council Meeting of SACEP 21 – 25 th August, Dhaka – ESCAP / SACEP Regional Symposium on Environmental Management of Mangrove, Coral and Island Ecosystems
1984	19-21 st March Bangkok Meeting of National Focal Points on the Development of an Action Plan for an Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the South Asian Seas Region.
1985	8 th March – Commemoration of the South Asian Day of the Trees under SACEP Year of the Trees Celebrations 17-18 th April Dhaka, Bangladesh Second Governing Council Meeting of SACEP
1986	2-5 th December Bangkok Meeting of Experts on the South Asian Seas Regional Programme
1987	12-13 th January, New Delhi, India Third Governing Council Meeting of SACEP 15 – 16 th January, New Delhi SACEP- UNDP International Workshop on Environmental Legislation Mission by IMO Consultant – Capt Roy Nichols to Marine Member States regarding Oil Spill Contingency Plan March Colombo UNEP-SACEP EIA Seminar 7-11 th December Bangkok Second Meeting of National Focal Points on the Development of an Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the South Asian Seas Region
1988	25-26 th April, Kabul, Afghanistan Fourth Governing Council Meeting of SACEP
1989	Nov-Dec Bangkok UNEP / IMO Workshop on South Asia Marine Pollution Emergency Action
1990	5-8 th February Bangkok, Meeting of Legal and Technical Experts to Review the Proposed Legal Framework of the Action Plan for the South Asian Region,
1992	27 th September Sri Lanka, Fifth Governing Council Meeting of SACEP
1993	20 – 23 rd December Colombo ESCAP/UNEP/SACEP Workshop on Management Strategies for the Protection of the Coastal and Marine Environment in the South Asian Seas Region
1994	17 – 19 th May New Delhi ESCAP/UNEP/SACEP Intergovernmental Meeting on Capacity Building in Coastal Environmental Management in the South Asian Seas Region, 1 st September Islamabad, Pakistan Sixth Governing Council Meeting of SACEP 10 – 16 th November, Colombo – SENRIC Training Programme on Geographical Information Systems for Management of Natural Resources and Environment 23 – 25 th November, Colombo Third Meeting of National Focal Points on the Development of an Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the South Asian Seas Region,
1995	24 th March Plenipotentiaries Meeting for the Adoption of the SAS Action Plan 12 – 19 th June Calcutta “Training Workshop for the Selected National Co-ordinators on Assessment of Faunal Biodiversity” 16 – 20 th July in Male - „Regional Workshop of National Consultants for Assessment of Environmental Training Needs and Opportunities in the South Asia Region”
1996	22 – 24 th February, Ahmedabad, Final Review and Evaluation Meeting for Assessment of Environmental Training Needs and Opportunities in the South Asia Region” 16 – 27 th September, Bentota, Sri Lanka- 1 st Environmental Management Seminar for South Asia – Colombo 20 – 23 rd October Maldives Final Workshop on Assessment of Faunal Biodiversity





Inauguration of Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on Compliance with and Enforcement of MEA's, September 2003, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

L – R: Hon. Mr. Rukman Senanayake, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Sri Lanka, H. E Mr. Marco Gonzales, Executive Secretary, Ozone Secretariat, Mr. Prasantha Dias Abeyegunawardene, Interim Co-ordinator, South Asian Seas Programme. Mr. Mahboob Elahi, Director General, SACEP

Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on Compliance With and Enforcement of MEA's, September 2003, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

L – R: H. E Mr. Marco Gonzales, Executive Secretary, Ozone Secretariat, Hon. Mr. Rukman Senanayake, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Sri Lanka, Mr. Donald Kaniaru, Facilitator, UNEP, Ms. Amy Hindman, Legal Adviser to the Executive Director of UNEP, Mr. Mahboob Elahi, Director General, SACEP, Mr. Prasantha Dias Abeyegunawardene, Interim Co-ordinator, South Asian Seas Programme



Dr A.A. Boaz Director General of SACEP and the Director United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), Dr. Kazunobu Onagawa at the SACEP Secretariat on 6th June 2006.

Signing a MoU between SACEP and WMO
L-R Dr. A.A. Boaz, Director General, SACEP Mr. I. H. Andrabi, Chairman, Consultative Committee, H.E. Mr. M. Jarraud, Secretary – General World Meteorological Organization, November, 2005



Silver Jubilee Souvenir

1997	<p>1 – 6th April - Regional Workshop for Countries in South Asia on Strengthening Legal and Institutional Arrangements for Implementing Major Environmental Conventions</p> <p>4 – 6th July - Regional Symposium on the Role of the Judiciary in Promoting the Rule of Law in the Area of Sustainable Development</p> <p>20 – 23rd August - Workshop on Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities in the South Asian Seas Region Colombo, Sri Lanka</p> <p>12 – 16th December Workshop for Training of National Co-ordinators in Connection With the SACEP - NORAD - BSI on Assessment of Floral Biodiversity in The South Asian Region, Calcutta, India</p>
1998	<p>22nd April Malé, Maldives , Seventh Governing Council Meeting of SACEP</p> <p>22nd April Malé, Maldives – Adoption of the Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely Transboundary Effects</p> <p>July - South Asian Forum on Environmental Co-operation between Government and the Private Sector, New Delhi,</p> <p>August, Review of Strategy And Programmes I & II of South Asia Co-Operative Environment Programme (SACEP) by Dr. Ian Bryceson & Mr. K. H. J. Wijayadasa</p> <p>3 – 10th September, Male - Conduct of the 1st Training Course for the South Asian Seas Countries on Integrated Management of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas with Technical Assistance from Great Barrier Marine Park Authority, Townsville, Australia</p> <p>21 – 23 September, Bangkok - Regional Workshop for Establishing the Asia Pacific International Network on Environmental Compliance & Enforcement (ASPA – INECE)</p> <p>28 September – 2nd October - 2nd Environmental Management Seminar for South Asia - Islamabad</p>
1999	<p>26th March - First Intergovernmental Meeting of Ministers of South Asian Seas Programme</p> <p>12 – 14th October, Bangkok – Asian Regional Workshop on UNFCCC with Special Reference to GDM</p> <p>22 – 23rd September, Dhaka - UNEP/SACEP/NORAD National Workshop on Environmental Law and Sustainable Development</p> <p>14 – 16th December, Colombo - 1st Meeting Of Senior Officials to Consider the Draft South Asian Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan</p>
2000	<p>March - Meeting of National Focal Points to Review and Endorse Capacity Building In The Development and Operation of National Oil Spill Contingency Planning 1999-2000</p> <p>May/June - IMO - SAS – UNEP Assessment Mission by Cdr T Meyer and Cdr. Hiran Soysa on Port Reception Facilities in the South Asian Seas Region</p> <p>15-16th June - Colombo ESCAP – SACEP National Workshops on Integrating Environmental Considerations into Economic Policy Making Processes for Sri Lanka</p> <p>31 July – 3rd August SACEP / NORAD / Government of Bangladesh Workshop on Assessment of Floral Diversity and Preparation of Action Plan for South Asia, Dhaka</p> <p>21 – 25th August, Colombo – IMO – SACEP Workshop on Port Reception Facilities in Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Pakistan & Sri Lanka</p> <p>4 – 6th December, Colombo - 2nd Meeting of Senior Officials to Consider The Draft South Asian Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan</p>
2001	29th September, Colombo, Sri Lanka, Eighth Governing Council Meeting of SACEP
2002	<p>27 – 28th February, Kathmandu – UNEP /SACEP / Govt of Nepal High level Consultative Meeting on the South Asian Action Plan on "Environmental Education & Training 2002 – 2007</p> <p>1st July - Colombo, Sri Lanka, 1st Special Session of GC-8</p> <p>1st July, Colombo - Second Intergovernmental Meeting of Ministers of South Asian Seas Programme</p> <p>11 – 15th November, Colombo - SAS / IMO OPRC – LEVEL 2 Training Course for Oil Spill Commanders and Oil Spill Supervisors</p>



2003	<p>21st January, Colombo, Sri Lanka 2nd Special Session of GC 8</p> <p>7th February, Nairobi – Signing of MOU with UNEP on Technical Co-operation in the Field of Environment</p> <p>30 June – 4th July, Colombo - SACEP – IMO Regional Training Course on MARPOL 73/78 Implementation and Enforcement</p> <p>7-10th April Chennai, India Workshop on Integrated Coastal Area and River Basin Management in the South Asian Seas Region</p> <p>28-30th April Colombo GPA Regional Workshop on Implementation of the GPA in South Asia, 2003-2008</p> <p>September, Colombo SAS / IMO OPRC – LEVEL 2 Training Course for Oil Spill Commanders and Oil Spill Supervisors</p> <p>14 – 19th September, Colombo SACEP – UNEP Asia Pacific Regional Workshop on Compliance with and Enforcement of Multilateral Environmental Agreements</p> <p>8th November, Colombo, Sri Lanka 3rd Special Session of GC 8</p>
2004	<p>8th July Colombo & Kathmandu – MOU between SACEP and South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) in the Field of Environment</p>
2005	<p>25th August, Thimphu, Bhutan – Third Intergovernmental Meeting of Ministers of SAS</p> <p>25th August, Thimphu, Bhutan – Ninth Governing Council Meeting of SACEP</p> <p>3 – 6th October, Chennai Regional Workshop on measures to collect, handle, treat and dispose of waste generated in applying AFS</p> <p>5 – 7th October, Colombo UNEP/SACEP/FIELD South Asia Workshop for MEA Negotiators</p> <p>22nd November, Colombo – Signing of MOU with World Meteorological Organization</p> <p>12th December - MOU between UNEP Regional Office on SACEP and SENRIC Activities</p> <p>16th December, London – Signing of Letter of Agreement with International Maritime Organization ensuring maximum co-ordination of work and activities of common interests</p>
2006	<p>16 – 20th January – Colombo Regional Seminar/Workshop on Ratification and Implementation of The OPRC-HNS Protocol, The AFS Convention And Identification And Establishment of PSSA's</p> <p>9th May MOU under Phase III Implementation of Male Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely Transboundary Effects</p> <p>27th July – EU Project on Long term Management and Conservation of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas in South Asia – MOU signed with UNEP GPA</p> <p>9th August – MOU between SACEP and IUCN World Conservation Union Asia Region on Complementary and Mutual Support</p> <p>18 – 26th August Colombo South Asian Games – Waste Management Campaign</p> <p>18th September – Observance of Coastal Cleanup Day under the Marine Litter Project</p> <p>27 – 28th September, Colombo – SACEP – ICRAN Regional Resource Co-ordination and Mobilisation Workshop on Long term Management and Conservation of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas in South Asia</p> <p>25th October – Signing of Contract with the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS) on "Capacity Building for the Clearing House Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity in South Asia, through informing the Public and Training Post Graduate Students: A Case Study for Sri Lanka"</p> <p>27 November – 1st December – Basel Convention COP 8 Decision on Establishment of a Regional Centre at SACEP</p>
2007	<p>10th January – Scoping Exercise on Adaptation to Climate Change</p> <p>January Chennai – Workshop on Livelihood Application under the SACEP – ICRAN Regional Resource Co-ordination and Mobilisation Workshop on Long term Management and Conservation of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas in South Asia</p>





SACEP – NORWEGIAN COLLABORATION

Norwegian Support to SACEP

The respective Norwegian Embassies in Sri Lanka (also accredited to the Maldives), Bangladesh, Pakistan and India (also accredited to Nepal and Bhutan) and Norway has supported a wide range of environmental programmes and projects in the South Asian region for many years. It was thus favourably considered when SACEP approached the Norwegian Embassy in Sri Lanka during 1992 for support to environmental programmes in South Asia.

Initial support was approved for SACEP's SSP I by the Norwegian Embassy in Sri Lanka for 1994-95 with an allocation under RAS-003 for the sum of US \$ 412,500 for two projects which were completed

- ◆ Assessment of Faunal Biodiversity
- ◆ Co-operation in Capacity Building for Environmental Training

Additional support was approved for part funding of another project for the sum of US \$ 24,314 which is also completed:

- ◆ Environmental Management Seminar for South Asia

New support was approved for selected projects proposed by SACEP under SSP II for a three year period (1996-98) for the sum of NOK 5,000,000.

These projects include:

- ◆ Training for Management of Protected Areas and Coral Island Ecosystems
- ◆ Strengthening of Framework Legislation for Environmental Management
- ◆ Co-operation in Environmental Training - Follow-up
- ◆ Assessment of Faunal Biodiversity - Follow-up
- ◆ Assessment of Floral Biodiversity
- ◆ Information Management in the Maldives

In addition to this, approval was given for the utilisation of remaining unspent funds from SSP I amounting to USD 23,000 for a project under SSP II entitled SACEP's webpage.

PROJECT OUTPUTS

The major project activities under the Specific Programme Components are listed below:

◆ STRENGTHENING OF FRAMEWORK LEGISLATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

◇ Special Regional Activities

- * Conventions Secretariat's Meeting April 1997
- * Regional Judges Symposium - July 1997
- * Asian Regional Workshop on UNFCCC with Special Reference to the CDM 1997
- * Environmental Management Seminar for South Asia - Islamabad - Sept 1998
- * Development of the Publication "Handbook of National Legislation for South Asian Countries" 1997
- * South Asian Forum on Environmental Co-operation between Government and the Private Sector 1998



- ◇ Special National Activities
 - * National Seminar on Environmental Law and Management – Nepal
 - * National Seminar on Environmental Law and Management - Bangladesh
- ◇ Special Publications
 - * South Asia Handbook of Treaties and Other Legal Instruments in the Field of Environmental Law Compendium of Summaries of Judicial Decisions in Environment Related Cases (With Special Reference to Countries in South Asia)
 - * Report of the Regional Workshop on Strengthening Legal and Institutional Arrangements for Implementing Major Environmental Conventions in South Asia
 - * Report of the Regional Symposium on the Role of the judiciary in Promoting the Rule of Law in the Area of Sustainable Development
 - * South Asian Handbook of National Environmental Legislation (Under Print)
 - * Proceedings of National Seminar on Environmental Law and Management – Nepal
 - * Proceedings of National Seminar on Environmental Law and Management – Bangladesh

◆ TRAINING FOR MANAGEMENT OF PROTECTED AREAS AND CORAL ISLAND ECOSYSTEM

- ◇ The conduct of the Steering Committee Meeting in Connection with Finalisation of the Course Content of the Proposed Training Course on Regional Training for the Management of Protected Areas and Coral Island Ecosystems in the Indian Ocean.
- ◇ Preparation of Training Manual on Integrated Management of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas for South Asia with Technical Assistance from Great Barrier Marine Park Authority, Townsville, Australia
- ◇ Conduct of the 1st Training Course for the South Asian Seas Countries on Integrated Management of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas with Technical Assistance from Great Barrier Marine Park Authority, Townsville, Australia

◆ PILOT PROJECT - STRENGTHENING ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT CAPABILITIES IN MALDIVES

- ◇ Activities by Ministry of Planning Human Resources and Environment
 - * Assembling of a small, catalogued technical library of reports and publications on environmental matters in the Maldives
 - * Production of a computerised bibliography of the marine and terrestrial environment of Maldives and enhance the quality of the library established
 - * Increase of capacity for environmental information collection, handling and dissemination
 - * Publication of the State of the Environment Report
 - * Completion and test run of the library software
 - * Completion of the bibliography of publications on environment of Maldives
- ◇ Activities by Ministry of Information, Arts and Culture
 - * Selection of a team of local experts who will assume responsibility for the human resource development component
 - * Conduct of a workshop to identify the training needs of programme producers on environment
 - * Preparation of training material for a tailor made 2 month course for programme producers and trainees
 - * Review and standardisation of the training material to ensure policy consistency and verify facts
 - * Conduct of a course for participants from Voice of Maldives, Television Maldives and Education Development Centre
 - * Procurement of reference material for programme production
 - * Production of script for 52 radio programmes on selected topics by trained producers and local experts acting as resource persons
 - * Procurement of the necessary hardware for programme production and storage





- ◆ ASSESSMENT OF FLORAL BIODIVERSITY
 - ◇ Conduct of a Regional Workshop on Assessment of Plant Biodiversity and Preparation of Action Plan for South Asia
 - ◇ Publication of Regional Overview and Action Plan on the Assessment of Plant Diversity in the South Asian Region (Under Preparation & Printing)
- ◆ SACEP WEB PAGE
 - ◇ Preparation of background materials and design for Web Page
- ◆ CO-OPERATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING - FOLLOW UP
 - ◇ Preparation & publication titled "Co-operation in Capacity Building for Environmental Training in South Asia"
- ◆ ASSESSMENT OF FAUNAL BIODIVERSITY - FOLLOW UP
 - ◇ Publication of "An Assessment Manual for Faunal Biodiversity in South Asia" with technical assistance from Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta

SENRIC

UNEP & SACEP COLLABORATION

Since the time, SACEP was established in the year 1982, UNEP through its Regional Office for Asia and Pacific played a key role. Though UNEP was instrumental in setting the stage to the Secretariat's role for the region, its involvement in strengthening the Secretariat became more prominent during the last decade with specific project support since the year 1994.

UNEP's support initiated the South Asia Environment Natural Information Centre, with the main goal to address the objective *Informed decision making*" (Chapter 40, Agenda 21) and as the main strategy for the region under the UNEP's Environment Assessment Programme (UNEP-EAP), later known as UNEP's Regional Resource Centre for Asia Pacific (UNEP-RRC.AP). Under this collaboration, SACEP addressed three main components, namely a) Capacity Building, b) Data Management, and c) Assessment and Reporting.

Under this collaboration, the region benefited through established GIS and IP centres for the governments at the Ministries of Environment and also establishing National Centres to ensure a coordinated mechanism for data management; fully operational GIS labs and trained personnel. GIS based dataset for the region at various degrees of scales were ensured and data with clearance from the governments is accessible through web site with UNEP-RRC.AP. Assessment and State of the Environment Reports for the region were produced during the years 2000-2001 at national and sub-regional levels. The process of the SoE Reporting ensured enhanced capacities for Environmental Assessment at the Ministries.

The collaboration further received guidance and assistance from UNEP to the recommendation from the Governing Council for a review of the Secretariat's programme and management. It is envisaged that the collaboration and guidance from UNEP would continue to support the project implementation for the aspects constantly reviewed and recommended by the Governing Council.



Inauguration UNEP/SACEP EIA seminar March 1987, Colombo

L-R Mr. W.D. Ailapperuma, Director General CEA, Dr. Nay Htun, Regional Director, UNEP-ROAP, Mr. K.H.J. Wijayadasa, Secretary to Prime Minister & Chairman, SACEP Consultative Committee,



**1st Training Batch –GIS
with SACEP staff, 1994**



Launch of State of Environment Reports at Special Session of the SACEP Governing Council, January 2003, Sri Lanka

L – R: Mr. C. R C. Mohanty, UNEP – RRCAP, Hon. Jafrul Islam Chowdhury, State Minister of Environment & Forests, Bangladesh, H.E. Dasho Nado Rinchchen, Deputy Minister, NECS, Bhutan, Mr. K. C. Misra, Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests, India, Representative from Maldivian High Commission in Sri Lanka, Hon. Mr. Rukman Senanayake, Minister of Environment & Natural Resources, Sri Lanka, Hon. Kamal Prasad Chaulagain, Ministry of Population and Environment, Nepal, Hon. Major (Rtd) Tahir Iqbal, Minister of State for Environment, Pakistan

Launch of State of Environment Reports at Special Session of the SACEP Governing Council, January 2003, Sri Lanka

Mr. Pradyumna Kumar Kotta, Project Manager SENRIC handing over copies to Hon. Mr. Rukman Senanayake, Minister of Environment & Natural Resources, Sri Lanka, Hon. Kamal Prasad Chaulagain, Ministry of Population and Environment, Nepal, Hon. Major (Rtd) Tahir Iqbal, Minister of State for Environment, Pakistan



Presentation of Certificates at SACEP Environmental and Natural Resource Information Center Training Programme.

Seated L-R Mr. V.P. Jauhari, Director SACEP, Mr. J.S. Mukul Counselor, Indian High Commission & Chairman Consultative Committee, SACEP, Dr. D. Nesiha Secretary Ministry of Environment, Sri Lanka, Mr. Pradyumna Kumar Kotta, Project Coordinator, SENRIC.





SOUTH ASIA ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTRE (SENRIC)

1. Background and Establishment

1.1 SACEP became a legal entity in 1982 when the minimum required number of countries ratified its Articles of association. Since its formation, the establishment of an Environment Clearing House System has been a priority area for the South Asian region and fully endorsed by its Governing Council at all of its meetings. As a response, the Regional Environmental and Natural Resources Information Centre (RENRIC) was established in SACEP in July 1990 with the support from the Asian Development Bank under the broad objectives indicated below

- a) Establishment of an environmental and natural resources clearing-house within the SACEP Secretariat;
- b) Establishment of an environmental and natural resources information network within the SACEP membership utilizing the existing subject matter Focal Points to the extent possible;
- c) Provision of an information network system including appropriate hardware and software;
- d) Provision of advisory support and training for member country representatives by presenting a SACEP Workshop

1.2 The 5th GC of SACEP in September 1992 approved a SACEP Strategy and Programme (SSP 1) for the period 1992-96. Under SSP 1, continuation of RENRIC was one of the main approvals.

1.3 The Environment and Natural Resources Information Networking (ENRIN) activity in Asia and the Pacific Region within a cooperative environment assessment framework is designed to catalyse and facilitate capacity building and servicing of institutions in developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the Asia Pacific Region for improved assessment and reporting on environmental issues. Its long-term goal is to help countries in the Region realise the objectives articulated in Agenda 21, Chapter 40 on Information for Decision-making: (a) *enhanced accessibility of integrated environment and development information*; and (b) *enhanced national capacity to deal with such information for decision-making, priority-setting, policy formulation and planning*.

1.4 In association with the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP), the Asia Pacific ENRIN project is coordinated by UNEP Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP RRC.AP) located at the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand. Partnerships were forged at the regional and sub-regional levels in executing and implementing the project. Under these partnerships, SENRIC project was initiated in early 1994 in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) as a continuation of the RENRIC's establishment to coordinate the activities for the South Asian Region and to be based at SACEP. The Environment Assessment Programme of UNEP (UNEP EAP.AP now known as UNEP RRC.AP) provided necessary backstopping for the related activities since 1995 following the initial establishment support from ADB for the year 1994.

1.5 The Governing Council of SACEP at its 3rd Special Session held on 6 November 2003 endorsed the recommendations from a review of the work programme and suggested that the SACEP's management structure to adopt SENRIC and any such projects to form an integral part of the Secretariat.

1.6 Implementation of the Sub-Programme in Asia Pacific Region requires coordination and cooperation with existing sub-regional institutions in the Region. Since its inception, SACEP's concern centered on the establishment of a regional cooperation on environment-oriented development activities.

1.7 Targeting the environment agency in each country, the activities in the Asia Pacific ENRIN project being implemented include (a) *institutional capacity building activities*, (b) *data and database management support*, and (c) *assessment and reporting*.

1.8 Through the initial stages, SENRIC pursued on *Training, Data Management* activities through the years 1994-1997 as a part of Capacity Building operations, in close collaboration with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Kathmandu, Nepal.



1.9 Project activities under collaboration with UNEP-RRC.AP and ROAP (1994-2002)

A. Capacity Building (1994-96)

- ◆ Under the assistance from Asian development Bank and the UNEP-EAP.AP GIA and IP capacities at the Ministries were enhanced as a follow up of the activities under the ENRIN setup.
- ◆ Under this activity National Coordinating Centres in Maldives and Sri Lanka and GIS training facilities in Sri Lanka at the University of Peradeniya were ensured.

B. Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia

- ◆ The Malé Declaration on Transboundary Air Pollution was adopted under the Chairmanship of Hon. Mohammed Abdul Gayoom, President of the Republic of Maldives during the 7th Governing Council of SACEP held in April 1998
- ◆ Fostering collaboration with the UNEP-RRC.AP, Sida and SEI SACEP participated in ensuring the National Implementation Networks, compilation of the baseline status of the monitoring mechanisms in the region and a regional Action Plan for implementation of the Declaration during Phase 1 (year 1998-2000)
- ◆ Phase 2 (year 2002-2004) activities of the project established a monitoring network in the region and the strong network of such monitoring assured with the cooperation and collaboration from the member countries to share the existing facilities and capabilities in the region. A Status Report was presented to the 8th Governing Council of SACEP at its 2nd Special Session during January 2003

C. Strengthening Environmental Assessment Capabilities (SEAMCAP, 1998-2002)

- ◆ In November 1998, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) designated UNEP Environment Assessment Programme for Asia and Pacific (UNEP EAP.AP) to implement a project on *Strengthening National Capabilities on Environment Assessment and Monitoring towards the Preparation of the Global State of the Environment Report 2000*. Specifically, for the South Asian region the following countries are covered: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. UNEP further assisted towards the preparation of the Reports for India and Pakistan as well.
- ◆ SENRIC assisted to strengthen the capacities in establishing strong information technology base for data processing, modelling and analysis requirements that supports SoE assessments and reporting, and improve the basis for decision making in the handling of important/emerging environment problems. The project further assisted in preparing national and regional SoE reports which are a contribution to "2002 Global State of Environment Report" and "2002 Earth Summit". It also set in motion a continuous and regular assessment process in the region to facilitate the decision making process.
- ◆ During the year 2001/2 SENRIC/SACEP participated towards the agreed and assumed activities to implement the SEAMCAP (Phase 1) and successfully coordinated and ensured the completion of the *national level SoE Reports for Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka* and a *sub-regional Report. "Children of the Monsoon"* a youth version of the sub-regional report, is also one of the main outcomes of this project.

D. Regional Consultations to support the GEO process (2000-2002)

SENRIC constantly assisted in Regional Consultations to complement UNEP activities in the sub-region for inputs to

- ◆ GEO 2002 (June 2001)
- ◆ South Asia SoE Report (June 2001)
- ◆ WSSD Preparatory and follow-up Activities for the Regional Platform (Sept 2001)
- ◆ Preparation & Consultations of South Asia Position paper for WSSD (June 2002)





E. Review of the SACEP Work Programme (2001-2003)

SENRIC undertook the conduct of programme review following the suggestion from the GC (September 2001). The Review mission's recommendations were endorsed by the Governing Council (November 2003).

1.10 Project achievements under collaboration with UNEP-RRC.AP and ROAP (1994-2003)

a) Capacity Building Activities (1994-1997)

- ◆ Preparation of GIS Training Manuals with local case studies
- ◆ Training of Trainers (GIS and Image Processing / Remote Sensing)
- ◆ Setup of GIS Training Unit (University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka)
- ◆ Setup of National Coordinating Units at the Ministry of Environment (Sri Lanka and Maldives)
- ◆ Provision of Hardware and Software to the member countries
- ◆ Training to the IWMI centres conducted in Colombo
- ◆ Advisory role to set up the GIS system for IWMI units

b) Early Warning and Reporting (1996 - 2004)

Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia (on-going since 1998)

- ◆ Phase 1: 1998-2001: National and Regional Baseline Studies and Action Plans
- ◆ Phase 2: 2001-2003: Implementation of Regional Action Plan

The Declaration was adopted at the 7th Governing Council of SACEP held in 1998. Phase 1 addressed the national regional level baseline studies and formulated an action plan; Phase 2 implemented the action plan to the set up of monitoring stations and lab facilities in each of the member countries including Iran and conducted training courses to monitor the air pollution data.

Publications / Reports:

- ◆ Proceedings of the Network Meeting 2001: 29 June 2001, 6-7 October 2003, Colombo Sri Lanka
- ◆ Proceedings of the Annual Network Meeting 2002: 18-19 July 2002, Kathmandu, Nepal,
- ◆ National Stakeholders' Meeting : 24 September 2002, New Delhi, India
- ◆ Proceedings of the Annual Network Meeting: 6-7 October 2002, Dhaka, Bangladesh,
- ◆ Regional Stakeholders' Forum: 8 October 2003, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- ◆ National Stakeholders' Meeting : 25 February 2004, Dhaka Bangladesh
- ◆ Report of the Training Programme on Monitoring Transboundary Air Pollution, 29-31 May 2002, UNEP- RRC.AP Bangkok, Thailand
- ◆ Report of the Training Programme on Wet Deposition Monitoring: 4-9 August, 2003: CPCB, New Delhi, India
- ◆ Report of the in-country Training Programmes : March 2004
- ◆ Report of the Training Programme and Refresher Course: 8-12 March 2004, CPCB, New Delhi, India
- ◆ Technical Documents for Wet and Dry Deposition Monitoring: March 2004
- ◆ Data Reporting : March 2004
- ◆ Training Materials on Monitoring Transboundary Air Pollution: March 2004
- ◆ Wet Deposition Monitoring Practical Manual (Water Analysis) : March 2004



State of the Environment Reporting (1996-2002)

- ◆ SoE Database Framework for South Asia (1998)
- ◆ SoE Reporting through SEAMCAP project (1998-2002)
- ◆ Regional Consultations for input to the WSSD (2001)
- ◆ Integrated Environmental Assessment briefings, training to the regional partners (2003)

Under the framework guidelines developed by UNEP-RRCAAP, SACEP addressed the capacity building issues through trainings and provision of hardware and software to the Ministries of Environment; coordinated efforts to the development of SoE database which formed the basis for the SoE Reports in the region.

Publications:

- ◆ State of the Environment Report: Bangladesh
- ◆ State of the Environment Report: Bhutan
- ◆ State of the Environment Report: India
- ◆ State of the Environment Report: Maldives
- ◆ State of the Environment Report: Nepal
- ◆ State of the Environment Report: Sri Lanka.
- ◆ South Asia State of the Environment Report
- ◆ Children of Monsoon : Youth version of the South Asia State of the Environment

The publications were launched at the SACEP's Special Session of the Governing Council (2002)

Review of SACEP Programme

Successful coordination and conduct of the review of the programme in consultation with all the member countries and presentation to the Governing Council for endorsement.

1.11 Currently on-going / anticipated project activities under collaboration with UNEP-ROAP

A. *Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia*

- ◆ Phase 3: 2005-2008 (Sida approved SEI's role to be the consultant; communication with contracts from UNEP awaited) Annex: Project document
- ◆ Phase 3 (year 2005-2007): the project will continue to address the Capacity Building activities and a strong network through involving wider group of stakeholders. Phase 3 activities aimed at regional and national level capacity building and explore avenues to partnership with agencies for the suggestions from the Regional Stakeholder Forums, for example : Health Impact Studies
- ◆ Falling in line with the Declaration, the region further confirms on the necessity for the Assessment of the impacts on Human Health, Ecosystems, Corrosive Effects to the Monuments, Acidification of Soils etc. and suggests on studies to be initiated.
- ◆ Implementing the "The Declaration", the project presently addresses the statement from the region to "*Co-operate in building up standardised methodologies to monitor phenomena like acid depositions and analyse their impacts without prejudice to the national activities in such fields*"

B. *Proposal from SACEP for continued collaboration to implement the regional strategy*

- ◆ Regional Strategies for Sustainable Development
 - ◆ Capacity Development Initiative (Bali Strategic Plan, Annex)
- 23rd Governing Council of UNEP endorsed the Bali Strategic Plan Technology support and Capacity Building. Anticipated areas of collaboration include:



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Indicators

1. Sustainable Development Indicators (MDG-7)

Environmental Data and Database

2. Environmental Data & Database (Land, water, air and biodiversity)
Databases on Land cover, Land Degradation; Air quality and Health Impacts; Fresh water quality and Availability; Biodiversity and Bio resources

Reporting

3. Environmental Reporting
4. State of the Environmental Report; / Integrated Environmental Assessment

Chemicals

5. Capacity Building : POPs Convention

Environmental Law

6. Training and Capacity building on Multilateral Environmental Agreements
7. Training and Awareness to Judges and Parliamentarians
8. Waste Management (e-waste; solid waste) Educational and Awareness

Training and awareness building

Regional consultation for GEO-4

Regional consultation for environmental outlook report

Sustainable development meeting, Kathmandu



Distribution of Certificates for GIS Training by Dr. D. Nesiya, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Sri Lanka in November 1994
Also in picture Mr. Kumar Kotta, Project Co-ordinator, SENRIC

SACEP / NORAD Project – Regional Workshop of National Consultants for Assessment of Environmental; Training Needs and Opportunities in the South Asian Region in Environmental Training February 2006, Maldives

L – R: Mr. Mohamed Khaleel, Ministry of Planning, Human Resources and Environment, Maldives, Mr. Hussain Shihab, Director, SACEP, Hon Mr. Ismail Shafeeu, Minister, Maldives, Mr. K. Sarabhai, Director, CEE, Ahmedabad. Mr. W.M. Leelasena, Special Advisor to the Norwegian Embassy in Sri Lanka



Final Workshop SACEP / NORAD Project on Assessment of Faunal Biodiversity in the South Asian Region, 20 - 23 October 1996, Maldives

L – R: Mr. Prasantha Dias Abeyegunawardene, Deputy Director Programmes SACEP, Hon. Mr. Hussain Zaki, Minister of Tourism, Maldives, Mr. Hussain Shihab, Director, SACEP, Mr. Arild Skara, 1st Secretary, Royal Norwegian Embassy in Sri Lanka, Dr. J.R.B. Alfred, Acting Director, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta



Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia

South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) being an intergovernmental organization of the South Asia region, considering the unique problems faced by its member countries with regards to the management of hazardous waste and the needs of separate Basel Convention Regional Centre for the region to address those issues effectively, had proposed the establishment of the Regional Centre at SACEP Secretariat, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

SACEP, with the full support of its member countries was able to get the decision at the recently concluded CoP8 of the Basel Convention to establish a separate regional centre for South Asia at the SACEP Secretariat.

EU Supported ICRAN - SACEP Project on MCPA's

First Regional Resource Coordination and Mobilisation workshop for the Long-term Management and Conservation of MCPAs in South Asia

SACEP in collaboration with the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) and other partners, is charged with the implementation of the European Union (EU) funded project "Institutional Strengthening and capacity development for the long-term management of MCPAs encompassing coral reefs in South Asia", and the 5 maritime nations of South Asia Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The project was approved by the EU on 26th December 2005. Under the project, the First Regional Resource Coordination and Mobilisation workshop for the Long-term Management and Conservation of MCPAs in South Asia was held in Colombo on 27 and 28 September 2006, in which Delegates from all the five maritime countries and experts from International organisations deliberated on various aspects of the project.



From R-L, Dr. Arvind Boaz, Director General of SACEP, Dr. Kristian Teleki Director, ICRAN and Ms. Nicola Bernard Programme Officer at the Workshop Panel.



L-R, SACEP Programme Officer and Chairman of Sponsoring Committee- SAG, Mr. Nalin Attygalle with the Team Liaison officers of 5 Participating Countries

Waste Management Campaign

Waste Management Campaign 18-28 August, 2006 10th South Asian Games
Colombo, Sri Lanka

The 10th South Asian Games was an event with around 2,500 foreign sportsmen visited Sri Lanka. The event was conducted in 11 venues during 18-28 August, 2006. The main functions were held at the Sugathadasa Stadium, Colombo. In pursuance of the priority of Waste Management decided at the 9th Governing Council, SACEP initiated and coordinated a programme with the organisers of the South Asian Games (National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka) to introduce and disseminate integrated waste management practices during the games.

Abans Environmental Services Ltd., a private company of Sri Lanka in the waste management sector supported the project both financially and technically by introducing a proper Waste Management and sorting module for the event through their expertise on user separation of waste and its subsequent disposal. SACEP also launched a campaign for proper collection of waste by distributing waste collection pouches to all sportspersons and support staff in order to keep their waste in them and discard in to the bins later. Ministry of Environment Sri Lanka, partially funded the effort to provide waist pouches printed with slogans of the 3R approach to all the sportspersons, media-persons and volunteers participating in this event from all over the South Asian region.





Regional Consultation on Climate Change Adaptation Opportunities and the Way Forward

In pursuance to the Governing Council's decision on SACEP's mandate to the adaptation to climate change, a *Regional Consultation on Climate Change Adaptation Opportunities and the Way Forward* was held in Colombo on 10th January 2007. Participants included representation from the ministries and regional and national agencies. The meeting was chaired by Prof. Mohan Munasinghe, Vice-Chair, IPCC.

The consultations clearly focused on

1. The principal adaptation-related issues in the region?
2. Expressions on SACEP and CEE to initiate intensive assessments through reality checks on
 - a. Adequacy of information on eco-system health vis-à-vis susceptibility to perturbations
 - b. Existing institutional and technical strengths to assess and guide implementation of solutions within location-specific frameworks
 - c. Indigenous solutions which need to be significantly up-scaled and in this process avoid duplication of efforts.
 - d. Establishing a few pilots which demonstrate the feasibility of evolving appropriate systems integrating institutional, technical, technological, regulatory and fiscal adaptations in addition to up-scaling.

The regional group has proposed task forces for different themes and suggested a road map to be briefed to the Governing Council with a clear understanding of the regional consensus on prioritizing adaptation – related thrust areas and hence set the agenda in conjunction with the developmental and environmental protection imperatives at the local, regional and global levels.



Participants at the Regional Consultation held in
10th January 2007, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Prof. Madduma Bandara (right) setting the objectives
for the Discussion Forum, on Response to Post
Tsunami Status on 16th June 2006 at SACEP
Dr. Dr A.A. Boaz, Director General of SACEP (left)
Co-chaired the Forum.



The Birth of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)
 By Deshamanya K.H.J. Wijayadasa,
 Secretary to the Prime Minister and Secretary to the President, 1984 - 1994
 Chairman Central Environmental Authority 1980 – 1988



The Concept of Sub Regional Co-operation in Environment

The South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme or SACEP as it is called in abbreviated form is a regional grouping of 8 countries namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. SACEP was the brainchild of Mr. C. Suriyakumaran, a distinguished Sri Lankan who happened to be the first Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific of the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) in Bangkok in the 1970's. The very concept of a regional grouping on the subject of the environment 25 years ago was indeed unique and innovative. We had heard of regional groupings, which were political, economic, religious or social. But this was the first occasion on which eight countries had been brought together solely on the subject of environment.

The South Asian sub region extends from Nepal in the north to the Maldives in the south and from Afghanistan in the west to Bangladesh in the east. It is clearly demarcated geographically by the Indian Ocean and the Himalayan and Hindu Kush mountain ranges. It covers 5.4 percent of the world's land area, 16 percent of all agricultural land, 3.2 percent of the world's forested area and carries 20 percent of its population. Even though food production in South Asia had increased dramatically in the last five decades, widespread deforestation, soil erosion, land degradation and depletion and pollution of water resources was phenomenal.

In South Asia environmental concerns resulting from unplanned economic growth and urbanization such as traffic congestion, air, water and soil pollution, growth of slums and shanties and the overloading of the basic infrastructure have been on the increase. Around 35 percent of the population live below the poverty line. Acute population pressure, abject poverty and development devoid of environmental safeguards have resulted in irreparable environmental degradation and depletion of natural resources. Two of the highest priorities in all these countries are poverty alleviation and environmentally sound and sustainable development.

Being an Economist in the then Economic Commission for Asia and Pacific (ECAPE) from the 1960's Mr. C. Suriyakumaran perceived underdevelopment as a multi faceted and deep seated economic and environmental phenomenon caused by the operation of the vicious cycle of poverty, environmental degradation and haphazard economic development. This prompted him to embark on a crusade for harmonizing environment and development in Asia and the Pacific by setting up a series of sub regional co-operative environment programmes; namely Asian Environment Programme (ASEP); South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP).

The Bangalore Initiative

SACEP was born out of the initiative taken by the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific of the United Nations Environment Programme located in Bangkok which convened an Inter-Governmental Expert Group Meeting at the Regional Centre for Technology Transfer in Bangalore, from the 10th to the 15th of March 1980. The purpose of the meeting was to consider the feasibility of establishing the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme. I am happy that I had the privilege of leading the Sri Lanka delegation to this meeting in my capacity as Chairman designate of the Central Environmental Authority and Additional Secretary to the Ministry of Local Government Housing and Construction which were directly under the purview of Prime Minister Mr. R. Premadasa.

I had published the opening statement I made at the Bangalore Meeting in my book "Towards Sustainable Growth; the Sri Lanka Experience" in full. It will be appropriate to recapitulate the thinking behind the establishment of SACEP as reflected in that statement. I quote below a few relevant paragraphs.

"Serious pre-occupation with environmental problems is a relatively recent phenomenon in Sri Lanka. While there have always been certain expressions of concern of issues relating to the environment, it was only during the last few years, that new problems emerged and others that existed before, took an entirely new dimension.





These resulted from our efforts to accelerate development as well as from technological and social changes"

"At the same time, in Sri Lanka, there is an urgent need for development. Poverty brings in its wake, all types of environmental degradation. Therefore, it is no longer possible to contrast the preservation of the environment with the necessity for development. Thus, it is in this context that our strategies for the preservation and betterment of the environment should coincide with those of development. Both should be related and inseparable expressions of the capacity of man to improve his life as well as to provide for the well being of future generations."

"In my country, Sri Lanka, in the past there has been little awareness, of the close relationship between development and environment. Unplanned development, without due regard to the protection and management of the environment has led to a reduction in biological diversity and the degradation of the environment. The rapid increase of population and the changing patterns of living have made it necessary for us to change the natural environment. But such changes have not been made with a full awareness of their consequences."

"It was our earlier assumption, that the degradation of the environment is a phenomenon peculiar to industrialized countries. But there is in developing countries, a type and scale of environmental degradation which is both massive and positively dangerous to their development. In Sri Lanka, forests have been depleted by shifting cultivation and over felling. Grazing lands have been plucked down to their roots and corals and mangroves deprived of their capacity to renew themselves. On top of this, uncontrolled urbanization has led to the growth of low density suburbs, while the core-city suffers from blight and slum conditions."

"The Major development schemes, undertaken in Sri Lanka at present namely, the accelerated Mahaveli Project, the Free Trade Zone and the Urban Development Programme-will undoubtedly generate their own environmental disturbances. All the same, we cannot deprive, our people any longer of the benefits of development programmes, such as employment, higher incomes, better housing, safe drinking water and other common amenities. Therefore, the task that confronts Sri Lanka today is one of reconciling development with environmental protection and management. While we can no longer afford to misuse the limited resources at our command, yet it is essential that all development activities should take place within the framework of a realistic policy on the environment"

The Birth of SACEP

The Inter-governmental Expert Group which met in Bangalore was of the unanimous opinion that the South Asian Sub-region with a diversity of land forms, water bodies, climates, soils, natural vegetation and human settlements, afforded a unique opportunity for a collaborative approach towards the protection and management of the environment. Amidst such diversity there existed a great deal of unity in ecological characteristics, the way of life and the problems of development common to the region. The deliberations were held under the headings Environmental Management, Management of Natural resources, Desertification, Regional Seas Programme, Energy and the Environment, Education and Training and the establishment of the South Asia Co-operative Programme.

The meeting also adopted the establishment of several focal points which were to serve as the primary institutional points for carrying forward the agreed programme components in the specialized areas identified. Some of the key subjects identified and assigned to member countries were; Legislation, Education and Training, Energy, Wild life, Environmental Quality, Coral and Island Eco-system, Mangroves, Deltas and Coastal areas, Tourism, Mountain Eco-systems, Social Forestry, Wild Life, Environmental Impact Assessment, Cost Benefit Analysis, Environment and Development, Desertification and Regional Seas. These focal points were to serve as the receiving and disseminating centres for organized exchange of material and information and ongoing field activities in the participating countries. Such focal points would be permanently linked to each other and to the Secretariat.

The meeting unanimously adopted that it would be mutually beneficial to establish a Regional Organization of the member countries enjoying equal status designated the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme. The meeting also unanimously resolved that the Secretariat of SACEP be established in Sri Lanka. It was also decided that the Regional Office of UNEP should convene shortly a high level meeting of Government



officials to work out the Articles of Association, Programme Modalities and functions of each Focal Point and the Consultative Committee. This meeting was to be followed by a meeting of Ministers which would adopt a Declaration or Convention and approve the programme of work of SACEP.

The Colombo Declaration of 1981

A little less than a year later in February 1981, UNEP-ROAP convened a High Level Meeting of Officials and Ministers of South Asian Countries in Colombo. This meeting reaffirmed the spirit of mutual self help, collaboration and co-operation underlying the establishment of the inter governmental organization solely devoted to the protection and management of the South Asian Environment and unanimously adopted the Colombo Declaration and the Articles of Association of SACEP. The proposal to set up the SACEP Secretariat in Colombo was ratified. Dr. Leslie Herath of Sri Lanka was appointed as the pro-tem Director of SACEP so that he could get down to the task of establishing the Secretariat without delay. Accordingly, SACEP became a legal entity in January 1982, when 3 member countries ratified the Articles of Association.

The following are some excerpts from the speeches of three leading personalities who addressed the first meeting of ministers for the establishment of SACEP held in Colombo on the 23rd of February 1981.

- ◆ Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa of Sri Lanka stated that " the objectives of SACEP should be threefold; namely integration of environmental concerns with economic goals, adoption of environmentally sound and sustainable policies and spelling out long term perspectives and strategies"
- ◆ Dr. Mostafa K. Tolba, Executive Director of UNEP said that "the element of self help and the self financing component built into SACEP were noteworthy and should be examples to others."
- ◆ Mr. C. Suriyakumaran Director UNEP-ROAP stated that "apart from the importance of the co-operative effort for solving environmental problems, the formation of SACEP was important as a pioneering venture in sub regional co-operation itself"

The aims and objectives of SACEP as spelt out by its founders were threefold.

- ◆ To promote and support the protection, management and enhancement of the environment, both natural and human, of the countries of South Asia, individually, collectively and co-operatively.
- ◆ To make judicious use of the resources of the environment towards removal of poverty, reduction of socio-economic disparity, improve the quality of life, and ensure prosperity on a continuing basis.
- ◆ For these purposes, to make the fullest use of the organizational arrangements and facilities for co-operation under SACEP.

Also, the founding fathers of SACEP determined that the functions of SACEP should be as follows.

- ◆ To promote co-operative activities of mutual interest in priority areas of environment of mutual interest;
- ◆ To ensure that these activities are beneficial individually or collectively to the member states of the Region;
- ◆ To extend support as needed through exchange of knowledge and expertise available among the member countries;
- ◆ To provide local resources towards implementation of projects and activities; and
- ◆ To encourage maximum constructive and complementary support from interested donor countries and other sources

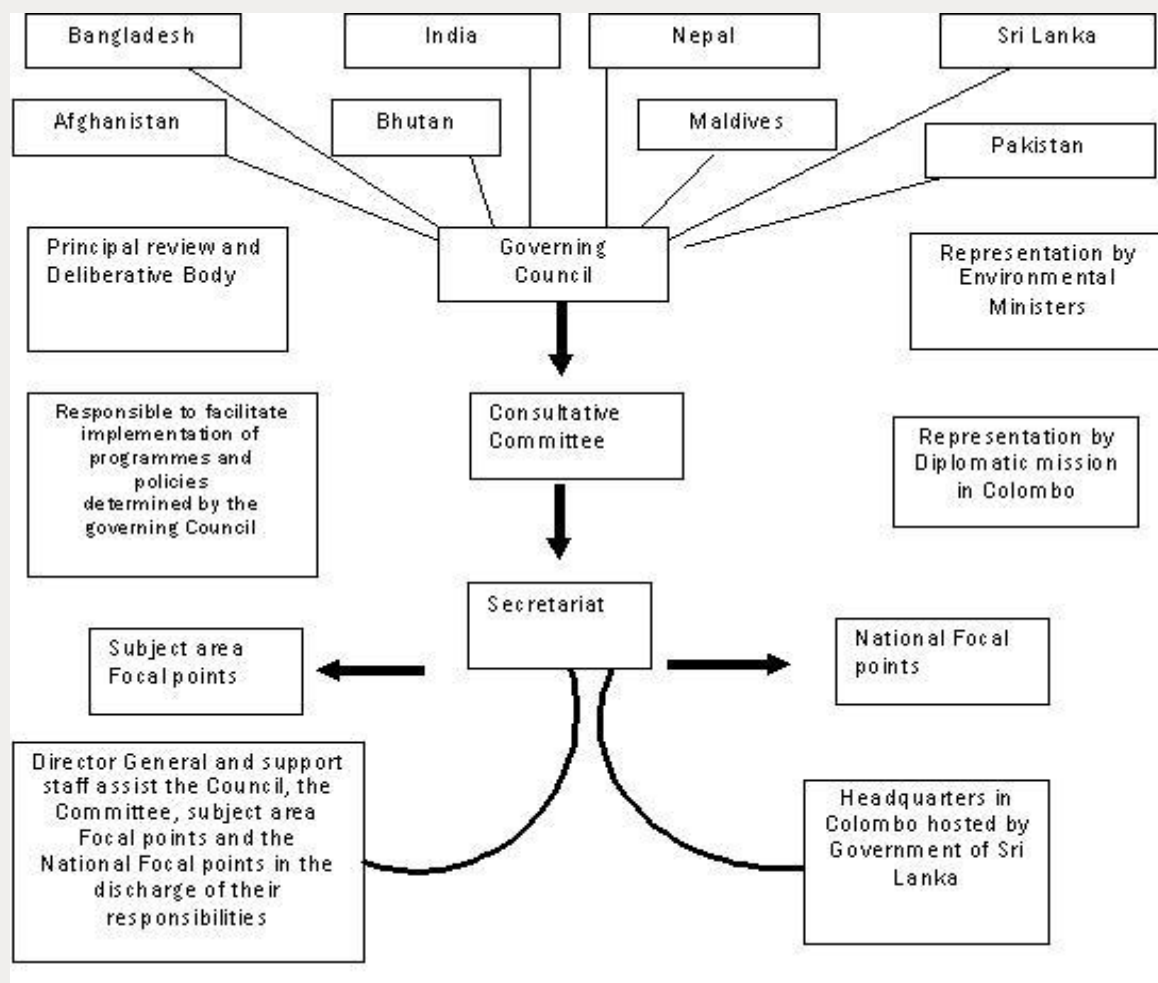
The Organisational Structure

The principal organs of SACEP as spelt out in the Articles of Association of SACEP are; the Governing Council (GC), the Consultative Committee (CC), National Focal Points (NFP), Subject Area Focal Points (SAFP) and the Secretariat

The Governing Council (GC) is the principal deliberative and decision making body responsible for determining policies, strategies and programmes. It is represented at ministerial level and meets once every two years. The Consultative Committee (CC) is responsible for facilitating the implementation of policies, strategies and programmes determined by the GC and consists of representatives of diplomatic missions residing in Colombo. The CC is also expected to provide guidance to the Secretariat in the planning, implementation and monitoring of programmes and projects.



ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF SACEP



It is the responsibility of each member State to designate a National Focal Point to facilitate the work of the Secretariat and to function as the main communication link within the member States and with the Secretariat. National Focal Points are expected to work towards the implementation of the National Programmes and co-operate with the Secretariat in programme planning and implementation. The National Focal Points are deemed to be liaison points in their countries for all matters related to SACEP including their own.

The Subject Area Focal Points (SAFP) are expected to co-operate with the Secretariat in project identification, formulation, implementation and monitoring. Each country that has assumed responsibility for a particular subject area designates a centre of excellence in the subject area as the Subject Area Focal Point and appoints a liaison officer. The modalities of Focal Points laid down by the GC spell out their duties and responsibilities. They are formulation of project documents with CC approval, their submission to donor agencies through the Secretariat, and implementation through national governments with maximum use of national expertise.

The Secretariat consists of the Director now re designated as the Director General and professional, administrative and supporting staff. In order to uphold the principles of equity and brotherhood among member States it was decided that each member State should nominate a Director on a 3 year rotation basis starting with Sri Lanka. The main function of the Secretariat is to assist the Governing Council, the Consultative Committee the NFP and the SAFP in the discharge of their duties and responsibilities. SACEP receives funding support from three sources. Firstly it is mandatory for each member state to make an annual country contribution as determined by the Governing Council based on the modified United Nations Scale. Secondly, the host country, Sri Lanka has to provide modest hosting facilities including office accommodation, a residence for the Director General, basic establishment costs and grant limited diplomatic recognition to international officers. Thirdly, SACEP is dependent on multilateral, bilateral and other donor agencies for project funding and on member states for the funding of national components of projects of a regional nature.



SACEP Gets on its Feet

On the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of SACEP, I consider it my duty to place on record how this fledgling Intergovernmental Organization got off the ground. The establishment of SACEP Headquarters in Colombo would never have seen the light of day if not for the keen interest and the positive dynamism of the then Prime Minister Mr. Ranasinghe Premadasa. He was instrumental in obtaining the concurrence of President Mr. J.R. Jayawardene and thereafter approval of the Cabinet of Ministers unwaveringly and speedily.

Although SACEP has now proved to be a worthwhile idea, originally it was not received with enthusiasm by all countries of South Asia. At that time the very idea of regional co-operation was viewed with suspicion due to inter State misunderstandings and rivalries. The South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) was still on the drawing boards. In fact Sri Lanka's offer to host SACEP was accepted unanimously in the absence of any other offers and being the only country which had the most cordial relations with all the other countries in the South Asian Sub Region.

Iran participated in all the meetings from Bangalore onwards for a couple of years but did not ratify the Articles of Association and finally dropped out. As the first Chairman of the Consultative Committee, I undertook a mission to Myanmar in 1981 along with the then Regional Advisor of UNEP – ROAP to enlighten the senior government officials of that country on the benefits of joining SACEP but our advice was not taken seriously. SACEP would have been richer and stronger if both Iran and Myanmar as originally envisaged had become partners in this co-operative endeavor.

Even though we expected a great deal of support by way of Technical Assistance and Funding from the UN System and other Donor Agencies, it was not forthcoming. Mr. C. Suriyakumaran's retirement in 1982 made matters worse. Country contributions were not being received regularly. There were a few anxious moments when SACEP was terribly short of money to make ends meet. I remember speaking to the Secretary to the Treasury and arranging with him to release advances against future host country contributions. I was obliged to keep SACEP alive by pumping oxygen when necessary as a co-founder and Chairman / Member of the Consultative Committee for 8 years thereafter.

In this regard I should place on record the energy and enthusiasm displayed by Dr. Leslie Herath the first Director and his able lieutenant Ms. Marlene Pereira, the first Administrative Officer in getting SACEP on its feet with a great deal of sacrifice and finesse. With the appointment of Dr. Leslie Herath as Director things got moving. The first Secretariat was set up at Ward Place in Colombo 7. Dr. Leslie Herath who was also Chairman of the Water Resources Board at that time managed to obtain on loan the initial financial and material resources necessary to get things going.

The first Governing Council Meeting was held in Colombo in January 1983 with a high degree of professionalism and very many expectations. Mr. Prasantha Dias Abeygunawardene was appointed as a Consultant in July 1983. Prasantha and Marlene have been the only continuing links of SACEP between then and now. Finally, when SACEP got off the ground I could breathe a sigh of relief for it is I who recommended Dr. Leslie Herath to the Prime Minister for the post of Director of SACEP. Both Mr. C. Suriyakumaran and Dr. Leslie Herath are no more. But their dedicated services to SACEP will be a source of inspiration to the SACEP flag bearers of today and tomorrow.





“Down Memory Lane”

By Marlene Pereira Former Deputy Director – Administration of SACEP



It was the year 1982 – I had just commenced work at Marga Institute as Secretary cum Personal Assistant to the late Chandra Soyza when Dr Leslie Herath the first Director of SACEP walked in and literally coerced me to join SACEP and assist him to organise this nascent Organisation. We were situated at Ward Place. The modest staff consisted of Dr. Herath, his Typist Secretary Latha Ihalagama, now working for the S.L Embassy in Lebanon, Peon Jayawardana who is still at SACEP and myself. Later Prasantha Dias Abeygunawardene joined as Deputy Director Programme and like Jayawardhana still works at SACEP. To become a legal entity SACEP required a minimum of 3 countries to ratify the Articles of Association which Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan etc. did, followed by the other countries. Later there was a Vector Control Project inaugurated by Dr Jill Roberts of the Southampton University. Dr Herath also commenced a Programme to promote the IPIL IPIL plant.

Our 1st Governing Council Meeting was at BMICH and this was something new to the very small SACEP Staff, but here I must mention the unstinting whole hearted assistance afforded to us by Mr. K H J Wijayadasa Secretary to the Prime Minister and Mr. W D Aillaperuma. They seconded their own staff to help us. Computers were not in vogue then and it was a case of typing for dear life to meet a given time frame. The former was always through the years as Consultant and Adviser to SACEP.

Right down the line I continued working for Directors who were appointed in alphabetical order by the respective Member Governments. We had a very memorable Governing Council Meeting in Kabul, Afghanistan, where due to lack of communication we were held up at Immigration and I was separated from Prasantha. This made me distraught. We also just escaped a bomb blast in the city. I must mention my good friend Kumar Kotta who joined SACEP and who was my sparring partner in good camaraderie. Shortly after he arrived he went roaming the Streets of Negombo during a high alert time, minus his ID and was almost taken into custody. Fortunately he telephoned me and I was able to convince the authorities that he telephoned me that he was a Bona fide Executive of SACEP. I had one unfortunate experience when shortly after assuming duties the Indian Director, Dr. R.K. Midha died of a heat attack. It happened on a Sunday, and I had the task of arranging with funeral undertakers – inquest etc. Mr. Gopinathan of the Indian High Commission and Mr Wijayadasa helped me.

I enjoyed complete job satisfaction working at SACEP for several Directors. Dr Jauhari the Indian Director gave me the sobriquet of “Iron lady” as I was a strict disciplinarian and a stickler for perfect work. My only regret was that I could not complete the full circle and work even for a short period for the Pakistan Director. I retired during the tenure of service of Dr Joshi Director from Nepal. Thus, in July 1999 ended an eventful and satisfying career.

SACEP has now come a long way. The present Director General Dr. Boaz has completely transformed the present Office into a spacious and elegant Institution replete with numerous projects and programmes and a full complement of staff. As SACEP completes its 25 years of existence I sincerely wish the very best of good wishes and my heartiest congratulations for its future well being.





