The so-called 'down to earth' action now being initiated by SACEP is most welcome and a meaningful step in the right direction. The grand design now being spelled out by SACEP will guarantee a better tomorrow for the millions who live in this part of Asia. It will indeed save them from falling into a pit with their eyes wide open, (that is a common-sense warning from Trade Minister).

In fact, this fledgling organisation has already achieved stupendous success particularly in motivating decision makers in South Asia to commit themselves for realistic programmes of action.

On Friday, Minister Gamini Dissanayake made a laudable proposition, to have a special year of the trees and the participating nations resolved unanimously to accept it.

Dr. Leslie Herath, the dynamic director of SACEP, has been quite outspoken about the objectives of his organisation. With an almost missionary zeal he underscored the futility and the counterproductivity of the loads of reports that normally follow conferences. Governments are sick and tired of these things and are looking desperately for action, is what he also stressed. How right he is.