



SACEP

S A C E P

*Report of the
Second Governing Council Meeting of the*

SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

17 & 18 April 1985

Dhaka, Bangladesh

SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
(S A C E P)
REPORT OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE
GOVERNING COUNCIL - GC 2

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**Report of the Second Meeting of
the Governing Council of the South
Asia Co-operative Environment
Programme (SACEP), 17 & 18 April
1985, Dhaka, Bangladesh.**

SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

SECOND MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL (GC 2).

17th & 18th April 1985

DHAKA, BANGLADESH.

REPORT

1. INTRODUCTION

The Second Meeting of the Governing Council of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on the 17th & 18th April 1985.

2. ATTENDANCE

The Governing Council (GC 2) was attended by Representatives from the following Member Countries viz. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Representatives from the following United Nations Agencies and bodies also participated: Economic & Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and The Austrian South Asian Institute.

A list of participants is at Annex I

3. INAUGURATION

The Second Meeting of the Governing Council of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme was inaugurated by Rear Admiral Sultan Ahmed, Deputy Chief Martial Law Administrator and Chief of the Naval Staff & Minister for Communications, Ports, Shipping, IWT, Irrigation, Water Resources & Flood Control of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. In his inaugural address he stated that as the member countries of this co-operative organisation are all in a developing stage, the environmental problems need to be tackled jointly before they become more complicated, and this requires, first of all, a cohesiveness in programme identification and prescription, and meaningful integration of environmental efforts for achieving economic goals and furthering developmental policies. He continued that the concept of joint efforts at the regional level as embodied in the constitution of SACEP, is, the most practical method to overcome the common problems which are, by no means, few and easily surmountable. Although sub-regional programmes had been launched in other parts of this region even before the establishment of SACEP, this organisation is unique in the sense that for the first time in South Asia a co-operative system based on and surcharged with environmental concept was set up. He emphasised that it is significant that besides underlining the environmental problems and measures to overcome them, the concern of development has also been kept in view. The areas identified for mutual co-operation are also important for advancement of national development and welfare. We cannot, therefore, afford to preserve environment in contrast with the necessity for development he said. Both have, to go hand in hand.

A copy of his address is at Annex II.

Major General Mahmudul Hasan, Minister for Local Government, Rural Development, Co-operatives and Works, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh expressed the hope that the Second Meeting of the Governing Council will be another milestone in the history of Co-operation among South Asian Countries to meet the environmental challenge. He said that it is heartening that the countries of the sub-region have now a forum to discuss and deliberate common issues and seek solution through co-operative efforts.

A copy of his address is at Annex III.

Hon. Dr. Abdul Ghafar Lakanwal, Minister of Agriculture and Land Reforms of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and Chairman of the Governing Council addressing the inaugural session said representation of member states at high level at this meeting is a reflection of the commitment of the Governments and people of the South Asian Region to work together for the protection and management of the environment. He also stated that the importance of SACEP is not only in its being the first step towards co-operative action in South Asia but also stems from the spirit of self-reliance shown by member countries in ensuring such co-operation.

A copy of his address is at Annex IV.

The inaugural session was also addressed by Mr S A M S Kibria, Executive Secretary of ESCAP, Bangkok, and Mr Joseph C Wheeler, Deputy Executive Director of UNEP, Nairobi. Mr Kibria in his address noted with gratification that SACEP members have committed themselves at the highest political level to intensify co-operation and assured that ESCAP will continue to work in close co-operation with SACEP in the years to come.

A copy of Mr Kibria's address is at Annex V.

Mr Joseph C Wheeler conveyed the best wishes of Dr Mostafa K Tolba, Executive Director of UNEP and commended the Director, South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme for his dedicated guidance of this young organisation. He said that the establishment of SACEP in 1981 has to be regarded as a historic event and that the UNEP is pleased to have had the privilege to be closely involved from its inception. He went on to say that the establishment of SACEP indicates a deep concern about the state of the environment shared by a group of countries, which together constitute a quarter of the world's population, and that only a deep commitment on the part of the co-operating member countries can ensure the success of SACEP's programmes.

A copy of his address is at Annex VI.

Mr Husain Ahmed, Secretary Local Government Division of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh addressing the inaugural session as the Chairman of the National Organising Committee said that there is little choice but to opt for a co-operative and co-ordinated approach to cope with the looming environmental crisis.

A copy of his address is at Annex VII.

Mr M A Karim, Member Secretary of the National Organizing Committee proposed the vote of thanks.

4. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

In accordance with the provisions of Article 4 (c) of the Articles of Association of SACEP Major General Mahmudul Hasan, Minister for Local Government, Rural Development, Co-operatives and Works, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh took over the Chairmanship from Hon. Abdul Ghafar Lakanwal.

Hon. Festus Perera, Minister of Fisheries of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and Hon. Umar Zahir, Minister of Home Affairs & Social Services, Republic of Maldives were elected as Vice Chairmen of the meeting.

Mr W D Ailapperuma, Director-General of the Central Environmental Authority of Sri Lanka was elected as the Rapporteur.

5. AGENDA

The Governing Council (GC 2) discussed and adopted the Agenda of the meeting.

A copy of the Agenda is at Annex VIII.

6. STATEMENTS OF HEADS OF DELEGATIONS

The Governing Council (GC 2) heard with interest the statements of the Heads of delegation from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Pakistan & Sri Lanka.

Copies of their statements are at Annexes IX - XV.

7. OTHER STATEMENTS

A statement on the proposed Austrian support to SACEP was made by the leader of the Austrian delegation.

A copy of his statement is at Annex XVI.

The delegates from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) made statements assuring fullest co-operation for SACEP Projects and Programmes.

8. INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

8 (a) *Rules of Procedure*

The draft rules of procedure as per background documentation SACEP/GC2/WP 1 (Annex 1) were presented for adoption.

Rule 1 came up for discussion where some member countries were of opinion that the meetings of the Governing Council should be held once in two years. After considerable discussion it was agreed that meetings of the Governing Council will be held in terms of Article 4(c) of the Articles of Association and that the Consultative Committee would decide on the dates.

The adopted Rules of Procedure is at Annex XVII.

8 (b) *Modalities of Focal Points*

The Draft modalities of focal points presented in background document SACEP/GC2/WP 2 (Annex 2) were adopted subject to certain amendments.

The adopted Modalities of Focal Points is at Annex XVIII.

8 (c) *Austrian Government Support*

Document SACEP/GC2/WP 3 presented by the Director was considered at this meeting. The delegates thanked the Austrian Government for their kind offer of support and agreed to the establishment of a liaison office for SACEP in Vienna. The suggested modalities of operation of the proposed office in Vienna given in Annex 2 of the above document was discussed and approved subject to certain amendments.

The adopted Modalities of Operation of the proposed SACEP Office in Vienna, Austria is at Annex IXX.

The Governing Council directed the Secretariat to investigate the feasibility of making arrangements similar to that of the Austrian assistance with other donor agencies and keep the next Governing Council informed.

9. PROGRAMME MATTERS

REVIEW OF PRIORITY PROGRAMMES & PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN BY SACEP AND THE ACTIVITIES OF SUBJECT AREA FOCAL POINTS:

Documents SACEP/GC2/WP 4 & WP 5 were discussed and the Governing Council commended the initiatives taken by the Secretariat and the focal points in initiating projects outlined in the documents.

The Governing Council recommended that SACEP should continue to formulate the South Asian Seas Programme and its implementation in close collaboration and co-operation with Oceans and Coastal Areas Programme Activity Centre (OCA/PAC) of UNEP.

The Pakistan delegation suggested the creation of an efficient Planning & Monitoring Cell within the Secretariat. This should exclusively deal with Programme matters from the conception to the execution stage through an effective co-operation and co-ordination of the member countries. It should conceive areas of concern in the field of environment and in consultation with the Consultative Committee make proposals for the consideration of the Governments.

To streamline the process, a two year plan will be prepared for launching from early 1987. Detailed project proposals along with financial implications should be worked out after member countries support the proposals at preliminary stage. The programme should then be placed before the Council for their administrative approval. Approved projects should then be executed under a phased programme through the involvement of the focal points. The monitoring of physical progress should also be done by the Cell being proposed. The Director of SACEP Secretariat should make all out efforts to tap financial resources necessary for the projects.

The Governing Council agreed that this proposal would be taken up for implementation, subject to the availability of funds.

At the request of the delegates, UNEP representative kindly agreed that UNEP will function as the focal point for the subject area of Desertification.

The UNEP delegate responding to the suggestion requesting that the South Asia be considered as a "bloc" in the implementation of the project for Environment Education for Asia and the Pacific said that SACEP can consider this in the implementation of the Action Plan once it has been formulated & adopted. He further stated that UNEP will explore the possibility of granting funds for the continuation of the SACEP News Letter.

10. FINANCIAL MATTERS

The following documents were taken up together for discussion.

1. Enhanced Country Contribution - SACEP/GC 2/WP 6.
2. Trust Fund - SACEP/GC 2/WP 7.
3. External Programme Support & Collaboration - SACEP/GC 2/WP 8.

The Director explained in detail the financial constraints that the SACEP Secretariat has been facing and the action so far taken by the Secretariat as directed by the Consultative Committee to appeal to the member countries to enhance their country contributions.

The Director stated that his term of office is nearing completion and the Governing Council should examine critically the current financial position as outlined in the documents under consideration with a view to contribute sufficient funds for the payment of salary and other allowances of the new director and the clearing of accrued debts. The Governing Council was also appraised of the absolute need to strengthen the staff of the Secretariat as outlined in the document in order to serve the projects that are now due for implementation. All members appreciating the need for enhancing country contributions indicated that an enhanced country contribution will be considered by the Government to meet the above needs and this decision will be conveyed to the Secretariat.

The Governing Council noted that the resolution adopted at GC 1 in January 1983 on the establishment of a Trust Fund has yet to be implemented. The members agreed that member countries should initiate fresh action on this proposal through their respective Governments and the Secretariat.

11. APPOINTMENT OF NEW DIRECTOR

Document SACEP/GC 2/WP 9 was taken up for discussion. It was pointed out the decision taken at the High Level Ministerial meeting to appoint the first Director from Sri Lanka and the subsequent Directors in an alphabetical order. In this context the Government of Afghanistan had nominated a candidate whose bio-data was circulated among the member countries. The meeting endorsed the appointment of Mr Jafar Kazim the Afghan candidate to the post of Director. He will assume office within three months from today, and the member countries agreed to endeavour to make the necessary funds available to pay for his salary and other dues inclusive of accrued debts.

12. CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

The meeting considered & adopted this report on the 18th of April 1985.

13. CONCLUDING SESSION

Dr Leslie Herath, Director of SACEP thanked all concerned for the co-operation and assistance he had received during his tenure of office. He made special mention of the Sri Lankan Government, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Consultative Committee and the SACEP Secretariat Staff.

The Chairman GC 2 in his concluding remarks wished SACEP the very best in achieving its objectives.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

SACEP MEMBERS

AFGHANISTAN

Hon. Dr Abdul Ghafar Lakanwal

- Minister of Agriculture & Land Reforms.

Eng. Mr M T Zamani

- Director-General for Science & Technology,
State Planting Committee, Kabul.

Mr Abdul Ahad Wolesi

- Charge d' Affaires for the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan
in Bangladesh.

BANGLADESH

Major General Mahmudul Hasan

- Minister of Local Government, Rural Development, Co-operatives
& Works.

Mr Husain Ahmed

- Secretary, Local Government Division.

Mr M A Karim

- Director, Department of Environment Pollution Control, Dhaka.

Mr M Atiqullah

- Chief Conservator of Forests.

Mr Md.Amjad Hussain Khan

- Member, Indo-Bangladesh Joint River Commission.

Mr Syed Abdur Rob

- Deputy Secretary, Local Government Division.

Mr Mostafizur Rahman

- Deputy Secretary (Deputy Draftsman) Ministry of Law.

Mr Anwar Fazal Md Alamgir

- Joint Chief, S & T, Planning Commission.

Dr A K M Nazrul-Islam

- Associate Professor, Department of Botany, Dhaka University.

Prof. Firoz Ahmed

- Professor of Civil Engineering,
Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology.

Prof. Abdul Latif Bhuiyan

- Professor of Marine Biology, University of Chittagong.

Mr Md Anwarul Islam

- Deputy Director, Department of Environment Pollution Control,
Dhaka Division.

Mr Md Mosharraf Hussain

- Deputy Director, Department of Environment Pollution Control,
Khulna Division.

Mr Abdus Sobhan

- Deputy Director, Department of Environment Pollution Control,
Chittagong Division.

Mr Md Reazuddin

- Deputy Director, Department of Environment Pollution Control,
Laboratory Division, Dhaka.

BHUTAN

H.E. Mr T Tobgyel

- Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr Leki Dorji

- First Secretary, Royal Bhutanese Embassy, Dhaka.

INDIA

H.E. I P Khosla

Mr Alok Sinha

Mr S N Gopala Krishnan

- High Commissioner for India in Bangladesh
- Deputy Secretary, Department of Environment, Government of India
- First Secretary, Indian High Commission, Dhaka

MALDIVES

Hon. Umar Zahir

Mr Mohamed Saced

- Minister of Home Affairs & Social Services
- Under Secretary, Ministry of Planning & Development

PAKISTAN

H.E. Tanvir Ahmad Khan

Mr Khalid Nizami

- Ambassador for Pakistan in Bangladesh
- Pakistan Embassy, Dhaka

SRI LANKA

Hon. Festus Perera

H.E. D E Tillekeratne

Mr W D Ailapperuma

- Minister of Fisheries
- High Commissioner for Sri Lanka in Bangladesh
- Director-General, Central Environmental Authority of Sri Lanka

OTHERS

UNITED NATIONS BODIES

UNEP

Mr Joseph Wheeler

Dr Nay Htun

Dr R D Deshpande

- Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi
- Regional Director & Representative, United Nations Environment Programme, Bangkok
- Regional Adviser, United Nations Environment Programme, Bangkok

ESCAP

Mr S A M S Kibria

Dr. K F Jalal

Mr Enam A Chaudhury

- Executive Secretary, Economic Social Commission for Asia & Pacific, Bangkok
- Chief, Environmental Co-ordinating Unit Economic Social Commission for Asia & Pacific, Bangkok
- Special Assistant to Executive Secretary and Secretary to Commission. Economic Social Commission for Asia & Pacific, Bangkok

FAO

Mr Harold Loesch

- Project Manager, Fisheries, Dhaka

DONOR AGENCIES

AUSTRIAN SOUTH ASIAN INSTITUTE

Dr Norb W Knoll

- Head of Mission, Secretary General, Federation Chamber of Architects & Engineers, Austria

Mr Eduard F Wilmsen

- Vice Chairman, Academy of Energy and Environment, Austria

Dr G Burian

- Head of Economic Policy Department, Federal Ministry of Commerce, Trade & Industry, Austria

SACEP SECRETARIAT

Dr Leslie Herath

- Director

Mr P N Dias Abeyegunawardene

- Consultant

Miss Marlene Pereira

- Administrative Assistant

**INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF REAR ADMIRAL SULTAN AHMAD,
DEPUTY CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR AND
CHIEF OF THE NAVAL STAFF AND
MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS, PORTS, SHIPPING,
IWT, IRRIGATION, WATER RESOURCES & FLOOD
CONTROL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH**

It is a matter of great pleasure for me to welcome you all to this Second Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP. The fact that Bangladesh was a pioneer of the SACEP concept gives me added satisfaction to see this meeting being held here.

Your presence here symbolises the growing concern of the countries of this region over the progressive decline in the environment and the will to face environmental crisis through co-operation and collective efforts.

I have no doubt that you will agree with me that environmental crisis faced by the countries of this region have arisen from a number of interlinked and multidimensional trends, such as:-

- increasing environmental impact of human activities,
- increasing rate of depletion of renewable resources,
- the state of poverty and deficiency of essentials,
- exponential increase in population,
- problems of increasing agricultural production,
- increasing trends of industrialisation and growth of megapolis,
- increasing dependence on technology,
- increasing unemployment and under employment,
- and, last but not the least, the increasing isolation from nature and alienation of man from nature, alienation from other men, and alienation from himself.

The exponential rate of consumption of the earth's resources is manifesting itself in pollution and waste. The growth economy which influences the pattern of our programmes and policies causes, in fact, some of the world's blatant pollutants.

Paradoxically, these are linked with our efforts to accelerate development which is also necessary to meet the economic challenges. The preservation of environment and the necessity for development are, therefore, inter-related and inseparable from our determination to improve our life and to provide for the welfare of the coming generations.

Beside, overall environmental improvement, Bangladesh is particularly concerned at the declining degradation of environment in the subject areas of mangrove, coral and island ecosystem. Marine environment is yet another area which has been engaging our attention. Land-based pollutants, oil spillage and other human activities have been disturbing the marine ecological balance. Bangladesh is making necessary legislation to enforce preventive measures for minimising pollution of our Seas.

The biological community of an area and the physical environment in which the community exists depend on each other within the ecosystems. As preservation of ecosystems depends upon the functional relationship that exist between organisms and their physical environment, it involves detailed study of the situation and relevant concerted technological approach to the problem. Naturally, therefore, we look forward hopefully to co-operating with member countries to check the forces responsible for decline of environment in these fields.

As the member countries of this co-operative organisation are all in a developing stage, the environmental problems need to be tackled jointly before they become more complicated. This requires, first of all, a cohesiveness in program identification and prescription, and meaningful integration of environmental efforts for achieving economic goals and furthering developmental policies.

The concept of joint efforts at the regional level as embodied in the constitution of SACEP, is, I believe, the most practical method to overcome our common problems which are, by no means, few and easily surmountable. Sub-regional programmes had been launched in other parts of this region from before the establishment of SACEP. But SACEP is unique in the sense that for the first time in South Asia a co-operative system based on and surcharged with environmental concept was set up.

It is also very significant that besides underlining the environmental problems and measures to overcome them, the concern of development has also been kept in view. The areas identified for our mutual co-operation are also important for advancement of national development and welfare. We cannot, therefore, afford to preserve environment in contrast with the necessity for development. Both have to go hand in hand.

Distinguished Delegates, the performance of SACEP during the short period of its existence indeed, augurs well for its future capabilities and I hope the outcome of this meeting will further strengthen the programme to play its part more fruitfully.

I am happy Bangladesh has got the privilege of hosting this important meeting of the Governing Council.

I am sure the deliberations and discussions among the distinguished delegates will lead to new vistas of co-operation, perspective and strategies as also of meaningful and practical steps to implement them.

I hope your stay in the Capital, during this two-day conference will be pleasant and memorable.

It is with my best wishes for result oriented deliberations and action conscious co-operation within the framework of SACEP that I declare the Second Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP open.

I wish again the meeting all success.

Thanking you all.

**ADDRESS OF WELCOME BY
MAJOR GENERAL MAHMUDUL HASAN
MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
RURAL DEVELOPMENT, CO-OPERATIVES AND WORKS,
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH**

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this inaugural session of the Second Meeting of the Governing Council of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme here in Dhaka. We are grateful that SACEP has kindly chosen our country as the venue for this important meeting.

As you all know, countries of this sub-region which share this programme face identical environmental problems and as such we all need appropriate institutional support in tackling them effectively. We have, therefore, opted for a co-ordinated and co-operative plan of action. It is out of this conviction that Bangladesh has been actively associated with this co-operative Programme since its inception.

As a developing country, we are determined to solve our existing environmental deterioration. We are also determined to make our future development programmes environmentally viable. In this backdrop it is heartening that the countries of this sub-region have now a forum to discuss and deliberate common issues and seek solution through co-operative efforts.

This Co-operative Programme was formulated only a few years ago. I understand that despite some initial setbacks, the Programme has made appreciable strides in helping the member countries to move forward during this short span of its existence.

I am sure the Second Meeting of the Governing Council will be another milestone in our history of co-operation to meet the environmental challenge. I hope the distinguished Delegates and participants will find themselves here in a congenial atmosphere for fruitful and meaningful deliberations which, I am confident, will lead to far reaching results.

May I express my very sincere thanks and gratitude to Rear Admiral Sultan Ahmad, DCMLA, Chief of Naval Staff, Minister for Communications, Ports, Shipping and IwTA, Flood Control, Irrigation and Water Resources for kindly agreeing to be the Chief Guest of this meeting.

I welcome you, once again, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen to this meeting.

I hope you will find your stay in this historic city of Dhaka pleasant and enjoyable.

Thank you all.

ADDRESS BY CHAIRMAN GC 1

DR ABDUL GHAFAR LAKANWAL, MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE
AND LAND REFORM OF THE
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN

First of all let me convey my deep appreciation as the first Chairman of the SACEP Governing Council to His Excellency Rear Admiral Sultan Ahmad DCMLA, Chief of Naval Staff, Minister of Communication, Ports, Shipping and IWT, Flood Control, Irrigation and Water Resources of the Government of Bangladesh on his arrival and participation at the inaugural session of this important meeting. I am sure His Excellency's presence and participation in this gathering will make valuable and positive contribution towards further strengthening and achievement of the goals and objectives of SACEP.

Excellencies, I would also like to extend my thanks to His Excellency Major General Mahmudul Hasan Minister of Local Government and Rural Development Co-operatives and Works of the Government of Bangladesh for his warm statement of welcome as well as the address made by the National Organisation Committee. I would like to convey my particular thanks and gratitude to the Government of Bangladesh for hosting the Second Governing Council Meeting of SACEP in Dhaka. I would also appreciate participation and remarks made by H. E. S. A. M. S. Kibria, Executive Secretary of ESCAP and Mr J C Wheeler, Deputy Executive Director of UNEP.

Your Excellencies, We met last in Colombo on the occasion of the First Governing Council on the 27th January, 1983. I noticed at that meeting that, the presence of the distinguished delegates not only reflected the interest of the governments and people of the South Asian Region for the protection and management of the environment in which we live, but also reflected the need of recognition to work together in co-operation to meet the challenge of environmental hazards and management in our part of the world. In this context, I would like to state that the launching of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme becomes an initiative of indisputable significance. Since the countries of the South Asia Region agreed in 1981 to establish SACEP as an Organisation or machinery for co-operation, we not only initiated and launched this co-operative action, but also agreed to make financial contribution towards strengthening SACEP so that it would be able to render effective and successful services in the South Asia Region.

The importance of SACEP not only lies in its being the first step towards co-operative action in South Asia, it also stems from the spirit and commitments that some least developed countries under took to render financial support and came forward to provide financial contribution to ensure such co-operation.

In conclusion I would like to assure you that my country the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan (DRA) strongly supports the over-all goals and objectives of SACEP and is prepared to make efforts for further strengthening SACEP role in our South Asia member countries region effectively.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

As you are aware the Chairmanship of SACEP in accordance to the Articles of Association will be transferred to H. E. Major General Mahamudul Hasan, Minister of Local Government and Rural Development and Co-operatives of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. I am, convinced that under his chairmanship SACEP will further be strengthened, developed and diversifies its activities so that in realizing meeting our common problems in the South Asia member countries.

Finally, I would like to say that inspite of the financial constraints faced by the SACEP Secretariat, may I record my appreciation for work done so far by SACEP in establishing this nascent organisation on a firm foundation. Today's meeting is indeed a testimony to this valuable effort.

**ADDRESS BY MR S A M S KIBRIA, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY,
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC, BANGKOK**

It gives me great pleasure to have the opportunity to speak to the Second Meeting of the Governing Council of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme. I am keenly interested in South Asian Co-operation, both because of ESCAP's mandate to foster regional interaction and also because of my own association with efforts to promote South Asian Co-operation while serving as Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh. It is a matter of much satisfaction to me that the culmination of such efforts is two institutional arrangements of great potential, one being the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme.

Over the years, economic and ecological interdependence has emerged as an inescapable reality of modern life. Indeed, the earth has been compared to a spaceship wherein all the life-supporting processes and components, including their biotic, economic and political elements, have intimate and multidimensional cross-linkages and dependencies. With this realization, there has been a resurgence of interest in co-operation in different fields among developing countries, particularly those of comparatively homogeneous sub regions or regions. There are obvious advantages in such co-operation due to logistic factors such as their contiguous location and complementarities in resource endowment. It is being increasingly felt that such factors can be exploited for the greatest advantage of the countries concerned if their activities can be harmonized and allocated among them on the basis of comparative advantage. I am pleased to note that SACEP follows this same approach in implementing its co-operative activities.

The basic thrust for co-operation or co-ordination among countries is sustainable through the collective will of the countries themselves. It is gratifying to note that the countries participating in SACEP have committed themselves at the highest political level to intensifying co-operation. In reality, though, co-operation flourishes over the long term on the strength of its economic rationale. In this regard, the economic benefits stemming from environmental projects are usually less visible and more difficult to evaluate and as such are often ignored in the conventional cost-benefit analysis.

Even so, such benefits are by no means negligible. According to a global study, environmental damage in the developing countries costs 3 per cent of GNP, amounting to 250 billion dollars, while the cost of repairing such damage would be less than 1 per cent. In several countries environmental protection measures have led to stepped-up economic activities and the creation of many new jobs. Moreover, since the number of jobs created in relation to funds invested is far greater in this sector than in many others, the potential for generating employment through environmental protection measures is enormous. Environmental safeguards also encourage economic activities in certain sectors, while conserving raw materials and energy and promoting low-waste and non-waste technology. Importantly, most of the benefits from environmental improvement measures are felt by the low-income groups, as it is mainly the poorer sections of society who live in unhealthy environmental conditions. While these economic factors have contributed to growing co-operation on the environment, there are grounds for further developing such co-operative programmes based on these considerations.

In helping to speed up the region's economic and social progress and maintain the momentum of growth, we in ESCAP believe that development cannot be sustained unless environmental considerations are fully integrated into the planning process.

Apart from considerable work to help ensure such integration, ESCAP is also active in promoting environmental awareness, strengthening the institutional and legal frameworks, and in improving environmental protection measures. This past February, ESCAP organised the first ministerial-level conference on Asia's environment and brought out an indepth regional report of the state of the environment, which warns of potentially serious stresses to the region's resources and general environment developing in the next one or two decades. Unless nations act quickly and decisively, in following the principles and guidelines adopted by the Ministers as a Declaration and Framework for Action Plans for the Management of the Asian Environment, the environmental prospects for many developing Asian countries do not seem to be bright.

While seeing a need to strengthen regional co-operation in the field of environment and natural resources the Conference of Ministers emphasized that the main building blocks for such co-operation should be the smaller, sub regional groups of countries. Subregionalization was thus seen as a step towards developing more consolidated regional programmes on the environment. This places substantial responsibilities on such sub regional organizations which, in addition to SACEP in the region, include the ASEAN Working Group on Environment and the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme. SACEP, as we all know, is a fledgling organization and, like many others, is beset with financial problems. Still, it has an outstanding record for formulating worthwhile projects and striving to implement them in a cost-effective way. ESCAP, for its part, maintains active co-operation with SACEP and has organized several joint activities, including the Symposium on Environmental Management of Mangrove, Coral and Island Ecosystems in South Asia held here in August 1983. I should like to assure this Meeting that ESCAP will continue to work in close co-operation with SACEP in the years to come. SACEP clearly enjoys the support and good-will of its members, represented here at the ministerial level, and I have no doubt that the organization's potential will be fully harnessed to carry out increasingly important programmes of environmental improvement in South Asia. I wish you every success in your deliberations.

Thank you very much.

**ADDRESS BY MR JOSEPH C WHEELER
DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME, NAIROBI**

On behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme, let me convey to you sincere greetings and best wishes from all of us at UNEP and especially from Mr M K Tolba, our Executive Director who is in Geneva, unfortunately grounded temporarily by his doctors from travel.

If I have my count right, this is my twentieth visit to Dhaka - though my first in 14 years - I am happy to be back to see and feel the progress which has been made since my last visit. I salute the Government of Bangladesh for their hospitality for this meeting and for their dedication to dealing with the problems of the environment which this signifies.

I would also like to take this opportunity to commend the Director of SACEP for the dedication and leadership which he has provided to SACEP from the very beginning.

The establishment of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) in 1981 has to be regarded as an historic event and UNEP is very pleased to have had the privilege to be closely involved from its inception. It indicates a deep concern about the state of the environment shared by a group of countries which together constitute a quarter of the world's population. Perhaps the SACEP region has no parallel in terms of the great diversity both between and within member countries in regard to topography, rainfall and water, soils, flora and fauna. Certainly, environmental challenges are pervasive. In our view, SACEP represents a magnificent initiative undertaken in a spirit of self-reliance. It also signifies the co-operative spirit and commitment on the part of the member countries. Only a deep commitment on the part of co-operating countries can ensure the success of SACEP's programmes.

The primary objective of SACEP is to help its members work out a harmonious balance between natural resources and the human family. This search for harmony comes naturally in the peoples of this area, whose art, poetry, epics, and religious for ages past have contributed insights to our common quest for transcendental unifying principles. So the search is not simply a pragmatic reaction to today's pressures on the resource base on which we all depend but also a natural progression from cultures grounded in an appreciation of nature's role.

In this region, environmental problems are manifold. In the context of rapid population increase and development there is forest destruction and soil loss, flooding, water shortage and water pollution, industrial and automobile pollution in the context of expanding urbanization and rapid growth in manufacturing; and serious problems of wildlife and plant loss with implications for our common need to preserve genetic diversity.

Many of these problems are attended by severe conditions of poverty and desperation. A common and tragic example of such a poverty-environment relationship is the widespread dependence of the poor on firewood which is needed for cooking and heating. Similarly the problem of separating drinking water and sewerage are made even more difficult by both urban and rural crowding. Environmental concerns must be dealt with to achieve sustainable economic development. Experience gained in the last three decades has convincingly shown that there can be no rational and equitable economic development without dealing with environmental issues. Environmental degradation invariably results in increased economic inequalities in which the poor suffer the most. Environmental degradation and social injustice go together.

In the context of the above, SACEP's endeavour has been and must be to prepare a coherent framework of ideas and suggest solutions to help member governments integrate environmental concerns in their economic and social policies. Experience generated can then be shared by member countries. I understand SACEP has identified the following subject matter areas for near-term attention:

- (1) Environmental Impact Assessment and Cost/Benefit Analysis; Environment and Development (Focal Point - Sri Lanka)
- (2) Environmental Quality Standards (Focal Point - Iran)

- (3) Technology for Development of Renewable and Reusable Resources (Focal Point - ESCAP/Regional Center for Technology Transfer)
- (4) Environmental Legislation (Focal Point - India)
- (5) Conservation of Montaine Ecosystems and Watersheds (Focal Point - Pakistan)
- (6) Social Forestry (Focal Point - Afghanistan with assistance of India)
- (7) Regional Co-operation in Wildlife and Genetic Resources Conservation (Focal Point - Iran)
- (8) Conservation of Corals, Mangroves, Deltas, Coastal Areas and Island Ecosystems (Focal Point - Bangladesh and Maldives)
- (9) Tourism and Environment (Focal Point - Nepal)
- (10) Desertification (Focal Point - UNEP)
- (11) Regional Seas Programme (Focal Point - UNEP)
- (12) Energy and Environment (Focal Point - Iran in co-operation with Pakistan and India)
- (13) Education and Training (Focal Point - India)
- (14) Training in Wildlife Management (Focal Point - India)

This is a formidable agenda for action. I understand that progress has been made in some of these areas. In many of these areas, UNEP has been giving whatever assistance it could give, within its limited resources. As you are aware, one of the areas in which UNEP has been very active is the Regional Seas Programme. Since the Governing Council of UNEP at its 11th Session requested the Executive Director to designate the South Asian Seas as a region to be included in the Regional Seas Programme, notable progress has been made in close co-operation with SACEP and the respective governments. At the meeting of the national focal points held in Bangkok, in 1984, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka identified eight priority areas of concern. With the help of SACEP and UNEP these five countries are in the process of preparing country reports reviewing environmental problems in each of the eight identified areas, outlining possible solutions, and describing available institutional and human resources. On the basis of these national reports, UNEP in co-operation with SACEP and other organizations as appropriate, will prepare a regional report on the South Asian Seas environmental problems defined as priority areas as well as a draft action plan reflecting the conclusions of the country and regional reports.

Conservation of coastal areas and mangroves has been accorded priority by SACEP and I am glad to note that Bangladesh is expected to play a leading role in this activity. Like tropical forests, mangroves have played an important part in the economics of people in the tropics for thousands of years. Mangroves constitute a rich reservoir and refuge for many unusual plants and animals, but are now being depleted through overexploitation. SACEP organized in August 1983 a very successful symposium which was also sponsored by ESCAP. UNEP assisted the symposium by making provision for the participation of experts with experience in the subject area from the East Asian Seas and the South Pacific regions. We should continue to collaborate and review our efforts to identify resources for implementing this plan.

Another area in which UNEP is closely co-operating with SACEP is afforestation. SACEP declared 1988 as "Year of the Trees for South Asia." UNEP's Governing Council commended this and urged that it be broadened to include the entire Asia and Pacific region, inviting other countries in the region to consider designating 1988 as Year of the Trees. The Governing Council also requested the Executive Director of UNEP to support SACEP, within available resources, in the formulation of projects and programmes by SACEP's Secretariat, and to assist in soliciting support from donor agencies for the implementation of those activities.

As one initiative, I commend the Sri Lanka project to plant 100 million trees to commemorate their Year of Trees with the theme: Shade, Shelter and Solace. The Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Mr Premadasa, has taken a lead role in promoting this noteworthy activity. Also, in the area of afforestation, it is heartening to know that the Prime Minister of India, Mr Rajiv Gandhi has recently announced the setting up of the National Wasteland Development Board with the object of bringing 5 million hectares of land every year under fuelwood and fodder plantation. The plan envisages active participation of voluntary organizations.

UNEP is providing support to SACEP to compile information on national activities relating to tree planting. It is also helping to draw up the major elements of an action programme for SACEP member countries, focussing on increasing public awareness.

Environmental education has been identified by SACEP as one of the priority areas for action. Increasing widespread public awareness will foster better understanding of the essential links between environmental quality and improved satisfaction of human needs. Responding to a Governing Council decision, UNEP will be organizing a meeting of experts from Governments and members of the academic and scientific communities in Bangkok, from 11 to 15 November 1985 to consider a draft plan of action for promoting environmental education and training in Asia and the Pacific.

UNEP has been responding to specific requests from SACEP countries. I will mention a few of these activities.

In Bangladesh authorities have identified pollution of the Karnaphuli river in Chittagong by industrial and municipal wastes as one of the most serious environmental problems. Through the Clearing-house mechanism of UNEP, a detailed proposal for the treatment of industrial wastes as a demonstration and training project is being prepared by a team of consultants. We hope the results will be a valuable input for the Chittagong urban area improvement project likely to be supported by multilateral sources of funding.

UNEP has provided consultant support to assist the Government of India in the setting up of a proposed Institute of Environmental Management. This will be a centre of excellence offering training programmes and specialized courses for decision-makers and specialists from government, academia and industry, as well as undertake research projects in collaboration with government departments, NGO's and other organizations.

At the request of the Maldives Government, UNEP provided the services of a consultant to undertake a study of the salinity problem in Male. The consultant made a number of recommendations to conserve the freshwater lens, as well as the planting of salt resistant flora.

UNEP will provide a senior consultant to assist the Nepal Government on a national environmental and natural resource management strategy which will take into account the Basic Principles of the Seventh Plan.

In Pakistan, UNEP assisted UNDP in identifying and collaborating with a consultant to work on environmental quality control for water, air and noise in the industrial areas in Karachi, Multan, Lahore, Faisalabad, Hyderabad, Nowshera and Islamabad.

In Sri Lanka, under the Clearing-house programme, assistance was provided to establish a national register of potentially toxic chemicals. Complete lists of chemicals in use have already been completed. A series of questions have been transmitted for action by the Query-Response Service of the IRPTC.

From what I have stated so far, it would be seen that UNEP is trying to be responsive to the needs of the countries of the SACEP area. UNEP will continue to support your efforts within our limited capacity.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, UNEP commends SACEP's efforts and looks forward to a long and fruitful relationship. Mr Nay Htun, Mr Ramachandra Deshpande and I are all very pleased to be here in Dhaka for your meeting and look forward to our discussions together.

**ADDRESS BY MR HUSAIN AHMED,
SECRETARY, LOCAL GOVERNMENT DIVISION AND
CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE
FOR THE SECOND MEETING OF THE GOVERNING
COUNCIL OF THE SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**

This meeting is being sponsored by South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme. The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has the most pleasant task of hosting it. A National Organising Committee was formed for this purpose. The Committee was given necessary advice and support by SACEP Secretariat in organising this meeting. I take this opportunity to express on behalf of the National Committee our sincere gratitude to SACEP Secretariat for all their valuable assistance.

The importance of this meeting can hardly be over-emphasised in view of its all pervasive theme. The deliberations and discussions and the exchange of views among the distinguished delegates of the member countries will centre around matters relating to better environment on which depend our life support systems. The environmental crisis has been growing alarmingly and has been assuming a multidimensional character. The situation is complex and has been causing serious concern in the developing countries, including members of SACEP. As they are still at a developing stage these countries lack adequate resources, financial and technological, to cope with the situation effectively in an isolated manner. We have, therefore, little choice but to opt for a co-operative and co-ordinated approach towards this gigantic task. I am sure the deliberations of this meeting will immensely contribute towards the formulation of a comprehensive environmental strategy for the region.

Our Minister Major General Mahmudul Hasan in spite of his multifarious pre-occupations took keen interest in organising this meeting. But for his advice and guidance, it would have been very difficult for the National Organising Committee to hold the meeting in a befitting manner. We express our sincere gratitude to him.

It was very kind of Rear Admiral Sultan Ahmad, DCMLA, Chief of Naval Staff, Minister for Communications, Ports, Shipping and IWT, Flood Control, Irrigation and Water Resources to agree to be the Chief Guest of this meeting and to inaugurate it. We offer him our sincerest thanks.

Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates, we wish you a most pleasant stay here.

Thank you all, ladies and gentlemen.

**SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
GOVERNING COUNCIL - SECOND MEETING
17th & 18th APRIL 1985
DHAKA, BANGLADESH**

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of Office Bearers
3. Adoption of Agenda & Organization of Work
4. Statements by Heads of Member Country Delegations
5. Statements by United Nations Agencies, International/Regional Organisations and Aid Consortia
6. INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS
 - a) Consideration & Adoption of the Rules of Procedure
 - b) Consideration & Adoption of the Modalities of Focal Points
 - c) Austrian Government Support
7. PROGRAMME MATTERS
 - a) Review of Priority Programmes & Projects undertaken by SACEP (Directors's Report)
 - b) Review of Activities of Subject Area Focal Points - Report by Member Countries
8. FINANCIAL MATTERS
 - a) Enhanced Country Contributions
 - b) Trust Fund
 - c) External Programme Support and Collaboration
9. Appointment of New Director
10. Any other matter
11. Adoption of Report
12. Closure of Meeting

**STATEMENT OF THE HEAD OF THE AFGHANISTAN
DELEGATION, HON. DR ABDUL GHAFAR LAKANWAL, MINISTER FOR
AGRICULTURE AND LAND REFORM,
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN**

I am very honoured to have been provided the opportunity to speak to this distinguished and friendly gathering on the occasion of the Second Governing Council Meeting of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme. Mr Chairman, I would like to extend to you, on behalf of the delegation of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, our warm felicitations on your well deserved election. We are confident that under your able guidance and with the active participation of the distinguished delegates, the proceedings of this meeting will be crowned with success.

I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to express, on behalf of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the Afghan delegation, our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Government and the People of Bangladesh for hosting the Second Governing Council meeting of SACEP in this beautiful city of Dhaka and for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to us. We would also like to convey our sincere appreciation to H.E. the distinguished Mr Sultan Ahmed of the Government of Bangladesh for his opening address to this meeting. We very much appreciate the excellent and efficient arrangements made by the Secretariat for the meeting.

Mr Chairman,

As you remember, we last met in Colombo on the occasion of the First Meeting of the Governing Council on 27th to 29th January, 1973. At that meeting, I noticed that the presence of the distinguished delegates not only reflected the interest of the governments and people of the South Asian Region for the protection and management of the environment in which we live, but also reflected the need and recognition to work together in co-operation to meet the challenge of environmental hazards and management in our part of the world. In this context, I would like to state that the launching of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme becomes an initiative of indisputable significance. Since the countries of the South Asia Region agreed in 1981 to establish SACEP as an organisation or machinery for co-operation, we not only initiated and launched this co-operative action, but also agreed to make financial contribution towards strengthening SACEP so that it would be able to render successful services in the South Asia region.

The importance of SACEP not only lies in its being the first step towards co-operative action in South Asia, it also stems from the spirit and commitments that some least developed countries undertook to render financial support and came forward to provide financial contributions to ensure such co-operation.

Mr Chairman,

The developing countries, especially the least developed, are facing many technical and economical difficulties such as shortages of technical know-how, lack of sufficient capital, low level of literacy, etc. But I am proud to state that my country is among those which has taken the path of economic development towards progress after its national and democratic revolution. Among the fundamental and primary duties of the revolutionary Government are the solution of issues related to the elimination of economic backwardness, creation of an independent national economy, acceleration of the rate of economic growth, development and modernization of agriculture and land reforms, industrialisation of the country for raising the standard of living of the masses of the people.

Mr Chairman,

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan as a member of SACEP has taken interest in the goals, objectives and overall projects and programmes adopted in the First Meeting of the Governing Council held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, 27-29 January, 1983, and I would like to point out here some of the activities initiated by my Government to be carried out in this direction.

- As it was decided at the first meeting of the Governing Council that the Year 1988 be declared as a Year of Trees for South Asia, this has been approved and ratified by the government and the task has been entrusted to the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reforms of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan to take proper measures to implement this programme through plantation of trees and extension of forestry.

- Regarding the present state of environmental legislation, I would like to inform you that two National consultants are appointed and introduced by the Government to UNDP Office in Kabul to undertake this survey and complete their report and it will be submitted to SACEP in due time.
- In regard to the approval of Articles of Association of SACEP, I would like to inform the meeting that these Articles had already been approved by the government.
- In respect of the utilization of Solar energy the project has been approved by the Council of Ministers and the task has been given to the executive committee of the Council of Ministers of the DRA composed of Ministers of Energy, Higher and Vocational Education, President of the Academy of Sciences of the DRA, Chairman of the State Planning Committee and Vice Chairman of the Council of Ministers to formulate and prepare detailed plan and programme and submit the same to the Council of Ministers for final decision.
- In the field of social forestry also, the DRA has taken a number of steps such as planting of fast growing species of trees and also for production of sufficient wood for the energy needs of the population who have land with their houses. The DRA has also launched an ambitious scheme to develop social forestry in Kabul and other provinces where considerable progress has been achieved in this direction.

Mr Chairman,

Let me now turn to the items of Agenda for the meeting. Reference here may be invited to a note from the Secretariat item SACEP/GC 2/WP 7 regarding creation of the establishment of a Trust Fund for providing financial support for various programmes of SACEP. My delegation fully supports the fund.

Again, attention may be drawn to Document SACEP/GC 2/WP 8 in regard to the note from the Secretariat on External Programme Support and Collaboration. As emphasised in the Secretariat note and as decided at earlier meetings in this connection, there is an urgent need for external programme support and collaboration with UNEP programmes.

In conclusion we feel that SACEP has to be strengthened and promoted to serve as an effective machinery for becoming able to play a very meaningful role in the diverse aspects of the techno-economic co-operation and services to the South Asian member countries. I am sure that SACEP, if properly developed, will lead to the growth, conservation and best utilization of the resources in the member country's region. We feel that the current meeting is of great significance and that the deliberation and the decisions taken will be of far-reaching importance for the future welfare and economic growth of the developing member countries in a healthy environment.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

STATEMENT BY THE BANGLADESH DELEGATION

It is a happy occasion for Bangladesh to host the Second Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP. In the backdrop of our national commitment for the preservation of environment, this important meeting will undoubtedly give us an added impetus and greatly contribute to the attainment of our sustainable goals.

It is an occasion to assess and evaluate the action so far taken by the member countries of SACEP and to determine the future course of action on the basis of co-operative and co-ordinated approach to check environmental degradation in different sectors of this sub-region. With their limited resources the member countries of SACEP can hardly afford to bridge the environmental gap depending on individual and isolated efforts. There is no substitute for co-operation in this huge task of environmental protection. It is precisely out of this conviction that Bangladesh has been firmly associated with the SACEP concept.

We believe that we have been able to identify the problems and indicate the line of actions to overcome them. Expeditions and effective solutions will demand more co-ordination and mutual exchange of resources amongst member countries.

As you know, Bangladesh is the focal point for conservation of mangroves, corals, deltas and coastal areas and also for Island Eco-systems in collaboration with Maldives. Bangladesh has the largest single tract of mangroves in the world. Mangroves provide habitat for conservation of living marine environment besides preventing coastal erosion and mitigating adverse effects of natural disasters, such as, cyclones and tidal bores. Bangladesh attaches great importance to the protection of its mangroves and shares with the member countries their desire to develop mangroves and coastal areas.

Our keenness to develop the co-operative approach to the mitigation of environmental deteriorations is manifest. We had organised with the collaboration of ESCAP/SACEP a regional symposium in Dhaka in August 1983 on the environmental management of its subject areas. This symposium was in fact the first of its kind since the inception of SACEP. The symposium provided a forum for meaningful deliberations and discussions by participants from the member countries. Specific recommendations including the establishment of a Regional Mangrove Institute in Bangladesh were made for the environmental management of the mangroves, coral and Island Eco-systems in South Asia. The recommendations were also discussed in Bangkok in the recently concluded ESCAP's Ministerial level meeting on Environment in Asia and the Pacific. We are delighted to see the Executive Secretary of ESCAP here amongst us today. I am sure these recommendations will receive ESCAP's due and immediate attention.

In respect of the management of coral and island eco-systems, Bangladesh in pursuance of symposium recommendations, organised visits by experts to St. Martin's island on several occasions to study this lone coral island of our country. Action plan on the basis of the findings of the experts is being worked out and we intend to take up formulation of a project in consultation with SACEP's Secretariat.

I am happy to inform that Bangladesh has affirmatively responded to SACEP's declaration of 1988 as the Year of the Trees. While consultancy support from SACEP in this respect is awaited, massive tree plantation and afforestation programmes have been undertaken by our Government to make the declaration a success.

In the matter of protection and management of the South Asian Seas Region, SACEP's consultant visited Bangladesh a few months ago to assist us in the preparation of a report. It is encouraging to learn from the Director's note that reports of the concerned member countries are being compiled in the Secretariat for a regional overview. Thereafter a draft Action plan based on the reports of the member countries of SACEP is expected to be prepared.

Our anxieties for the protection of our marine environment can hardly be over-emphasised. We shall welcome SACEP's Action plan and do our best to implement it with our limited resources supplemented by the external technical and financial assistance.

Bangladesh reiterates its support to SACEP in its programmes and activities and gives assurance of positive co-operation within the framework and mandate of SACEP.

The importance of pollution free environment in our life is now globally recognised. It is human action that is mainly responsible for its impairment and by the same token human action alone through rational use of natural resources can enhance it. This fact underlines the close relationship between environment and our activities, specially those related to development. Our development activities have to be for our sake and for the sake of the coming generations, imbued with the concept of environment. This is a challenging task, specially for the developing countries and calls for undaunted, relentless co-operative and collaborative efforts.

The Second Meeting of the Governing Council marks another milestone in our slow but steady progress towards our environmental goal. The discussions and deliberations of this meeting will undoubtedly open newer and broader scope for us to work. Bangladesh is willing to co-operate with other member countries to help SACEP Secretariat grow from strength to strength as a viable institution so that it may discharge its responsibilities effectively for our common good.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, permit me to conclude with the hope that the deliberations of this meeting will help us to reach our goal in the shortest possible time.

Thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen.

STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE BHUTANESE DELEGATION

DASHO (DR.) T. TOBGYEL, FOREIGN SECRETARY,

ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN

On behalf of the Bhutanese delegation and on my own behalf, I would like to congratulate you, Sir, on your unanimous election as Chairman of this important meeting. My delegation would also like to congratulate the Vice Chairman and Rapporteur on their election to the high posts. We are confident that under your able leadership this meeting will produce fruitful results.

My delegation also likes to express our gratitude to His Excellency Rear Admiral Sultan Ahmad, DCMLA, Chief of Naval Staff and Minister for Communications, Ports, Shipping and IWT, Flood Control, Irrigation and Water Resources for his inspiring inaugural address which has set the correct tone of this meeting.

I would also like to thank the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for the generous hospitality extended to us.

The subject of environment has a vital bearing on the prospects of development, the well-being of present and future generations and the quality of human life on this planet. The preservation and improvement of the environment cannot be seen as one process standing alone. Rather it is something that is and must be an integral part of the development of a nation's life. Policies, programmes and their implementation in the various fields of development must reflect the attention and effort that should be given to the proper management of the environment.

This is particularly true of our region. South Asia has the largest concentration of the world's population with the vast majority of them living in the most dire poverty. This situation has had very unfortunate implications for the environment. The combination of over population and the poverty has resulted in heavy pressure on the land, uncontrolled urbanisation, and over-use of the productive capacities of ecosystems, of soil, water and wood.

This in turn has led to soil erosion, desertification, deforestation and water, air and other pollutions. These and other ills caused by a deteriorating environment are posing a serious threat to the lives of our people.

Proper care and prudent management of our environment are the only answers to the problems presented by a rapidly deteriorating physical environment. However individual national efforts in this direction will need to be complemented by the collective endeavours of the regional countries to translate our general concern for the quality of our environment into concrete measures for its care and protection. The problems and concern of environment are no respects of national boundaries. An environmental problem which confronts a particular country will inevitably affect the others in the region at some stage. The interdependence of the regional countries where environment issues are concerned is especially evident.

The establishment of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) has been a positive step forward in bringing together the countries of South Asia to jointly combat environmental challenges. A promising beginning has already been made in developing comprehensive and coherent environmental programmes and projects. It may be a little premature still to assess the tangible impact of these activities, nevertheless, it is most heartening to note that as a result of SACEP'S initiatives there is increased consciousness of the seriousness of environmental problems and support for undertaking remedial measures.

Speaking of my own country, Mr Chairman, Bhutan is fortunate to have a small population and an abundance of natural resources. These and other favourable factors have prevented serious environmental problems. However this happy situation could be drastically altered by mistakes resulting from negligence or unwise management of our environment. We positively want to avoid such mistakes. We look to fruitful co-operation with our neighbours in the region in our effort to achieve a fine balance between environment and development.

I am delighted to be here attending this Second Governing Council Meeting. Though the SACEP was established fairly recently, I feel that it is a venture which is already proving its value. The Kingdom of Bhutan fully supports the SACEP its programmes and projects, and will be happy to co-operate closely with other regional countries in realising its objectives and aspirations. It gives me great pleasure to announce that as a token of its continuing support the Kingdom of Bhutan is increasing its contribution to SACEP to US \$ 1,200 which is 20% over last year's figure.

Before I conclude, may I once again sincerely thank the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for the warm hospitality extended to us and the excellent arrangements made for this meeting.

STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF INDIAN DELEGATION,
HIS EXCELLENCY I. P. KHOSLA, HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR INDIA IN BANGLADESH

1. The Government of India wishes to offer its best wishes to the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme and hopes that the decisions taken in the first Governing Council Meeting as well as in the present Meeting will continue to usher in good progress in the field of environmental management in this Region.
2. My Government would like to share with co-member countries of SACEP our rich experiences in this field.
3. This distinguished gathering is aware of the pioneering efforts made in India in the field of environmental management as a result of the lead given by our late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi. It was her key note address to the Stockholm Conference on Human Environment in 1972 which showed to the world the way towards a good future.
4. To these ends, we in India have been able to initiate a number of activities. A major achievement has been the establishment of close operational linkages with the various Ministries/Departments of the Government and voluntary agencies, thus providing a base for pursuing participative environmental programmes. Promotion of research and development has emerged as an important area of activity for generating data on environmental quality and also for manpower development to build up the professional competence to tackle environmental issues. Procedures have been established for environmental evaluation of major projects, zoning and classification of the major rivers, inventorisation of polluting industries, launching of a countrywide programmes for enforcement of Minimal National Standards in respect of selected industries and formation of ambient air quality standards are among the important achievements in the field of pollution control.

I have been especially asked by my Minister of State for ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS, Mr Vir Sen to express his sincerest regrets at not being able to attend this very important meeting of Environmental Programme in South Asia because of his pre-occupation with the Indian Parliament which is currently in session. Since the Prime Minister himself looks after the Ministry of ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS and there is no other Minister in the Ministry, Mr Vir Sen with greatest regret had to forego this opportunity to be with you.

5. Significant progress has been made towards establishing a network of conservation areas including the management issues for designation of Biosphere Reserves. Through the computerised Environmental Information System (ENVIS), with distributed data base centres, facilities have been created for systematic storage, retrieval and dissemination of environmental information. Through short-term courses, workshops and such other non-formal education campaigns, we have attempted to expose various key segments of society to the concepts of environmental management. The programmes of public participation through eco-development camps have been well received. The experience gained through deployment of ex-Service personnel for eco-development work has also been very encouraging.
6. I would like to mention, in particular, two recently announced major programmes for pollution control and resource conservation. One is for setting up a Central Ganga Authority for speedy implementation of pollution control in this river which is not only the longest river of India but is also interwoven in the lives of millions of Indian people. The project components would include:
 - renovation of existing sewage pumping and treatment plants.
 - renovation of the existing sewerage system.
 - installation of new sewage treatment plants in 27 major cities to treat sewage and to recover resources such as bio-gas and manure besides provision for irrigation and aquaculture.

The project will be a major landmark of integrated pollution control.

7. Our Second major operational programme is constituting a Central Wastelands Board that will afforest 5 million hectares of wastelands each year. The management of the planted areas will help in meeting the fuel and fodder needs of the rural poor.

8. In our Seventh Five Year Plan period (1980-1985), we also have the following ambitious ventures to achieve in India and I am sure this learned gathering will give my Government and my people its best wishes for our success. These ventures are:

A. Pollution Control

- Setting up and strengthening laboratory facilities for air and water (inland and coastal) quality analysis.
- Basin and sub-basin wise inventorisation of pollution sources.
- Implementation of industry-specific Minimal National Standards
- Setting up of standards/institutional arrangements for regulation of import, manufacture and handling hazardous substances (toxic chemicals and micro-organisms).

B. Environmental Impact Assessment

- Setting up of a National Environmental Monitoring Organisation
- Formulation of guidelines, methodologies and selected case studies for environmental impact assessment.

C. Natural Living Resources Conservation

- Implementation of the Programme on setting up of Biosphere Reserves as a major technological mission.
- Strengthening of ecological component of Botanical Survey of India and the Zoological Survey of India.
- Intensive surveys and mapping of ecologically sensitive areas.
- Captive breeding of endangered/threatened economically useful non-agricultural plant species.
- Consolidation of the Project Tiger and for management of National Parks and sanctuaries.

D. Eco-Development

- Field action Projects for selected mined areas reclamation, hill resorts, village clusters, etc.
- Aerial seeding for revegetation of degraded areas.
- Reclamation of selected watersheds and degraded eco-systems.
- Setting up of National Conservation and Development Corporations.

E. Environmental Research

- Co-ordinated Projects on tissue culture and seed biology, ethnobiology, biological monitoring, ecological modelling, air pollutions and plants, instrumentation development, waste treatment and recycling, etc.
- Setting up of Centres of Excellence in mangroves, biosystematic studies, wetlands, ecology, mining and ornithology.

F. Environmental Education

- Strengthening of the National Museum of Natural History and its Regional stations.
- Setting up of a National Institute of Environmental Management.
- Promotion of non-formal education.
- Support to professional societies and institutions.
- Setting up of interpretive centres.

G. Environmental Information

- Strengthening on-going programmes through a network of subject-oriented and location-specific distributed data based centres.

H. Co-ordination and Liaison with State/UTs

- Catalytic assistance for setting up of State structures for environmental management.
- District level Environmental Committees.

I. Environmental Policy and Law

- Formation of a National conservation strategy.

J. Manpower Development

- Strengthening of Science and Technology staff strength in the government for its various programmes.
- Special training programmes/fellowships/awards/short-term in service training courses for manpower development at various levels.

9. I would like to especially share with you our experiences in the two important fields of "Man and the Biosphere" and "Environmental Education".

Man and the Biosphere (MAB) is a inter-disciplinary programme of research and training which emphasizes an ecological approach to the study of inter-relationships between Man and his environment. The programmes aim at generating knowledge for rational use and conservation of natural resources. MAB programme in India was started in 1972. The areas of major thrust include conservation of flora and fauna, mountain ecosystems, arid and semi-arid regions, mangroves, wetlands, rivers, tropical forests, ecosystem and environmental education programmes. The programme is directed and supervised by the National MAB Committee. For paying special attention to Mangroves, a National Mangrove Committee (which reports to National MAB Committee) has been constituted.

10. The Department of Environment has given considerable thrust to the promotion of environmental education at different levels to create environmental awareness. The Government of India has decided to give a leading responsibility to its Department of Environment for providing inputs and responsibility of incorporating environmental education in the formal education system and also creating different means and terms of non-formal education for propagating the idea of environmental consciousness in different corners of the country.
11. An Advisory Committee for Environmental Education and Awareness has been constituted which draws expertise from various governmental and non-governmental agencies for guiding activities in the field of environmental education. The Committee has been helpful in restructuring the programme to ensure emphasis on larger participation of rural communities. Its main role is to let people grasp issues at stake through proper knowledge, skills and attitudes.
12. India is also associated in a major way in the United Nations Environment Programme's Regional Seas Programme. Our country Report is already with UNEP and, when other Country Reports are similarly received, a cohesive regional programme to combat marine pollution will be chalked out by UNEP. But speaking for my country, India already has an on-going programme.
13. I must now share with you our deep sorrow over the recent Bhopal Gas tragedy. Rehabilitation of families which have lost their bread-winners is being attended to. My Government is undertaking a thorough examination of the location policy and safety measures of industrial establishments so that such disasters do not again take place. And my Government has also sued the Union Carbide for adequate compensation on account of the tragedy which was clearly of this multinational industrial house's making.
14. To sum up, thus, during the coming years, in order to achieve a comprehensive and cohesive approach to environment management, our objectives will be the following:
 - Institutionalising the process of conservation oriented development activities among agencies at the Central, state and local levels with various sectoral/programme jurisdictions.
 - Securing greater public participation in environmental management.
 - Laying a sound Science & Technology base and build up an integrated system for environmental research, development, demonstration and extension activities.
 - Strengthening mechanisms for ensuring corrective action with regard to environmental degradation that has already taken place.
15. In thus diversifying and broadbasing our efforts in environmental management India especially looks forward to the laudable attempts of SACEP to bring together countries of this region to share differing experiences and help each other. My Government offers once again its good wishes to SACEP and looks forward to gaining from the rich experiences of fellow member-countries.

STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE MALDIVIAN DELEGATION,
 HON. MR. UMAR ZAHIR, MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS AND
 SOCIAL SERVICES, REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

At the outset, on behalf of my delegation and my own, I wish to express our deep gratitude to the Government and the people of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for their host facilities and the excellent arrangements made for this Second Governing Council Meeting of SACEP, here in Dhaka.

I take this opportunity to congratulate Major General Mahmudul Hassan, Minister for Local Government, Rural Development, Co-operatives and Works for being unanimously elected as Chairman of this important Meeting. I am confident your guidance will bring about fruitful results in the deliberations of this Meeting, and let me also thank you all for choosing me as Vice Chairman of this meeting.

I also take this opportunity to thank Dr Leslie Herath, who steered the course of SACEP activities as Director of this organisation.

In Maldives, though our environment can be classified as still being in a very pure and healthy state, we realise the consequences of the strain caused as a result of population growth and development.

The Maldives at all costs, is determined to avoid, for both economic and non-economic reasons, damage to its environment. We are aware, that once it is lost, it is extremely difficult and expensive, if not impossible to retrieve it.

The Government has committed itself to giving a high priority to the preservation of the country's natural habitat and the quality of life for its citizens.

The Government has established a National Council for the protection of the environment, to set up environment standards and to co-ordinate the activities of the different agencies in order to achieve a more efficient environment management. As a first step, the Council advocates promotion of environmental education, training and awareness at various levels and fields.

Awareness programmes are being designed to educate our younger generation in conserving our environment. We emphasise the rational use of the land, beaches and the sea to enhance environment protection.

Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

The main task before us is to transfer our environment to the future generation not only in a preserved state but enriched as well. The study of existing and possible problem areas is essential if we are to achieve the ambitious objectives we are setting.

In the Maldives, the possible environment problem areas are: pollution, reclamation, coral and sand mining, problems as a result of development of tourism, exploitation of marine resources, construction of causeways, water and sanitation.

Environmental impact assessments in these areas are necessary if we are to incorporate necessary safeguards for a activities having a bearing on environmental quality. I am confident SACEP would render every possible support for such programmes.

Maldives will benefit tremendously having participated in this meeting, sharing and discussing our mutual experiences in environmental protection. On our part, we shall always be willing to share our knowledge and experiences in this field.

Thank you.

**STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF PAKISTAN DELEGATION,
HIS EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR TANVIR AHMAD KHAN, AMBASSADOR FOR THE
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN IN BANGLADESH**

I would, at the outset, like to associate myself whole-heartedly with the leaders of delegations who have preceded me in felicitating you on your election as the Chairman of the 2nd meeting of the Governing Council of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme. Having lived in your beautiful capital for almost three years, I am fully aware of the keen interest that Your Excellency has taken in environmental matters. Your dynamic approach to the problems of the city of Dhaka has already yielded excellent results. This conference is, indeed, fortunate that its deliberations are being guided by you and it would indeed benefit from your personal dynamism.

I would also avail myself of this opportunity to congratulate the distinguished Ministers from the friendly countries of Sri Lanka and Maldives on their election as Vice Chairmen.

2. Mr. Chairman, I would not want to dwell on the conceptual framework of our deliberations as it has already been most admirably and effectively set out this morning, especially in the inspiring inaugural address of Rear Admiral Sultan Ahmed, Deputy Chief Martial Law Administrator and Minister of Communication of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the thought-provoking statements made by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP, Mr S A M S Kibria and the Deputy Executive Director of UNEP, Mr J C Wheeler. The key-concept of economic and ecological inter-dependence which was emphasised in their speeches is beginning to find a special resonance on our region as a number of our States have intensified their efforts to institutionalise multidimensional co-operation. In regard to environmental challenges, we are indeed fortunate that their awareness has emerged and found an honourable place in Governmental policies at rather an opportune time in our collective regional history. The traditional threats to environment, some of which were succinctly mentioned by His Excellency the Foreign Secretary of Bhutan, have inflicted substantial damage but not to the extent that renewal and replenishment become impossible. The new threats created by the otherwise much needed industrial and technological development process have fortunately not yet assumed proportions known in some parts of the globe and can be successfully contained by wise planning at this stage. It is, therefore, imperative that we pursue coherent and feasible short-term as well as long-term projects without any loss of time to protect our environment both at the national and the regional level. SACEP has already played a significant role in identifying a number of major areas in this regard. We in Pakistan feel that sub-regional and regional co-operation will greatly promote our common objectives and effectively reinforce national efforts.

3. I would like to inform the Council that in Pakistan, the subject of environment has been given constitutional recognition. Enabling laws for protection and preservation have already been promulgated. Under these laws Environmental Protection Council and the Environmental Protection Agency have been established. The Council is headed by the President of Pakistan. The Ministers-in-charge of the subject of environment in the Provinces are, inter-alia, the members of the Council. The agency is the executing arm of the Council. It is headed by a Director-General who is the Chief Executive. He is also responsible for monitoring the implementation of the decisions of the Council. Necessary bye-laws are being framed to effectively and legally deal with the environmental issues including those of marine pollution. To ensure that Environmental dimensions are incorporated in the development activities of the country, the requirement of Environmental Impact Assessment of the projects at planning stage has been made obligatory on the part of sponsoring agencies. In fact, the Sixth Development Plan which we embarked recently attaches a very high priority to environmental concerns both at the planning and implementation stages.

4. One of our major problems has been very rapid urbanization. A city like Karachi which had no more than three hundred thousand inhabitants at the time of independence in 1947 now has a population of close to eight million. Keeping these pressures in view, the collection, treatment and disposal of solid wastes in large urban centres has been assigned a very high priority. Adequate measures are also being taken to attend to the problems of Soil Erosion and desertification. A few of these include change in Agricultural practices, afforestation on a large scale, educating farmers about the proper land treatment, terracing, shelter belts, cover crops, grass water ways and other soil conserving practices.

5. I would also like to draw the attention of the Council to the most serious problem of development of alternate sources of energy which is of common concern to all the member countries and here co-operative effort is needed most. The insatiable demand of more and more energy through non-renewable resources by densely populated technological societies and developing countries is now ripping the thin veneer of our global environment. To forestall this colossal damage, it is highly important that concerted efforts are made to develop economically viable technologies for harnessing energy from renewable resources like the sun, wind and ocean tides.

6. Mr Chairman, I do not wish to anticipate at this stage, matters which more appropriately belong to our detailed consideration of the Agenda. But I would, with your permission, make a passing reference to the resource constraints on fulfilling South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme. As things stand at the moment, internal augmentation of financial resources can be expected only up to a limited extent and we hope and trust that the SACEP Secretariat would keep a sharp focus on the enhancement of available funds by seeking greater support from U.N. agencies, EC countries and other political donors.

STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE SRI LANKA DELEGATION

HON. FESTUS PERERA, MINISTER OF FISHERIES,

REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

I consider it a privilege to have the opportunity to address this Second Governing Council Meeting of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme, as the leader of the Sri Lanka delegation. First, it is both my duty and my pleasure to express our gratitude to our hosts, the President and the Government of Bangladesh for the kind and warm hospitality extended to us.

Distinguished delegates, your presence here to day at this meeting, is a reconfirmation of the need to work together in co-operation to meet the challenge of environmental management amidst the struggle for development in our South Asian Countries. It is a re-affirmation of the principles that we agreed upon in Colombo in 1981, when we founded and formalised this organisation. More than anything else, your presence reflects the interest that the Governments and the peoples of South Asia have shown in the protection and management of the environment in which we live - in which our future generations have to survive.

Distinguished delegates, we, the members of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme, share many environmental problems. All of us belong to the developing world. Most of our environmental problems have stemmed from poverty, its effects and from the effort at development for release from poverty. Increased efforts at development and production have put more pressures on our natural resources and the environment. The multi-environmental crisis is most acute in our part of the world where the populations we have to deal with are much larger and poverty more widespread.

The energies and efforts of all our countries, during the last few decades have been increasingly directed towards the achievement of the goal of development. Our populations almost doubled during the last quarter century and the rate of food production and economic growth could not keep up with it. Therefore, all of us became pre-concerned with the achievement of a higher Gross National Product. Development strategies continued to concentrate on quantitative growth while environmental concerns and developmental goals were generally seen as incompatible. But in all our countries, with the new recognition given to the importance of the environment, the concepts and issues involved in the environmental developmental inter-face have become clearer. The launching of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme also resulted from this new recognition - the recognition that global economic and political security lies in restoring the delicate balance between people, resources, environment and development.

In my own country, Sri Lanka, I am proud to report of several significant achievements in the field of environment.

Our efforts personally directed and guided by the Hon. Prime Minister himself, were first directed towards three main aspects which we considered vital and urgent. First we established an institutional and legislative framework for environmental policy making and co-ordination of scattered environmental activities. Secondly, we initiated a nationwide programme for public awareness in environmental protection and management. Thirdly, we commenced the formulation of a National Environmental Code. However, the most significant achievement of ours is the political commitment that the Government of Sri Lanka has made towards the protection and management of the environment. Concern for the environment is enshrined in our new Constitution and the Government accorded the highest priority to environment by placing it under the responsibility and supervision of the Prime Minister of the country. Therefore, the untiring efforts of the Hon. Prime Minister, in his efforts to develop a self-reliant nation, concern for the environment is now incorporated in all state planning and implementation activities. It is with this sense of commitment towards environment that Sri Lanka has always supported and upheld the cause of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme - the SACEP. Both the meeting of the Ministers in 1981 to establish SACEP and its first Governing Council Meeting were inaugurated in Colombo by the Hon. Prime Minister of Sri Lanka and I would like to take this opportunity to pay a tribute to him for the guidance and leadership that he has always provided for the protection and management of the environment.

Since its inception, the SACEP has come a long way. The excellent report prepared for us by the Director provides us with a glimpse of the trends as well as the emerging pattern in this young organisation. Though beset by financial and resource problems, its achievements are praiseworthy. They have contributed significantly to the sharing of knowledge and experience in our separate efforts at protection and management of the environment.

Distinguished delegates, the Government of Sri Lanka has always given its continued support to this organisation. We are proud to have its Head Office in Colombo and we will continue to provide these host facilities. We were also fortunate to have had the opportunity of hosting the Ministers meeting which established the SACEP, as well as its first Governing Council Meeting.

At the last Governing Council Meeting, a resolution mooted by the Sri Lanka delegation for a Year of the Trees in South Asia in 1988 was unanimously adopted. Subsequently, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, not only endorsed and promised support to this proposal, but also enlarged its scope to encompass the whole Asia and Pacific Region. In this connection, I am happy to announce to this distinguished gathering that the Government of Sri Lanka has taken several very positive steps for the implementation of this proposal. Under the able leadership and guidance of the Hon. Prime Minister, we have launched a catalytic "100 Million Trees Programme" through which tree planting is being promoted as a sort of a moral crusade. Through this gigantic effort, we hope to achieve an unparalleled breakthrough, an unprecedented experience, in planting and nurturing of trees as an integral part of the life of the community.

When the SACEP was launched, we agreed on certain focal point activities. Sri Lanka was identified as the focal point for Environment and Development and for Environmental Impact Assessment. In Sri Lanka, where the concern for the environment itself does not date very far, these subject areas were new and untried. However, we have been able to make modest headway during the last few years. We have now made environmental impact assessment mandatory to all development project in Sri Lanka and we have also been able to draw up basic guidelines and procedures for this work. One of our principal areas of concentration was of course the training of expertise. I am happy to announce to this distinguished meeting that we are now in a position to offer such training to our member nations as well. The Government of Sri Lanka has already invited the Director of the SACEP to sponsor a few participants from the member nations to the EIA training programme that we have scheduled for August, this year.

Distinguished delegates, the need to find solutions for environmental problems in our countries has become critical. Indeed at no time in our recent history, has the need for remedial action been so urgent or insistent. We all need to sustain economic and social development to meet the demands of our growing populations and such development will require an ever expanding utilization of the natural resources and the environment. Therefore, the methods that have to be chosen and the strategies that have to be adopted in the near future, would be extremely important. They would constitute either a constraint or a potential for the achievement of the basic goals of development.

It is in this context, that we must view the role that the SACEP has to play. SACEP has to stimulate a continuing effort in individual member countries, to adopt environmentally sound projects, programmes and policies by placing emphasis on carefully selected fields of action. SACEP would have to help to present a concrete framework of ideas and prescriptions that would enable member Governments to discuss and analyse meaningfully, the integration of environmental concerns with economic goals and policies. In addition, SACEP would have to help in the exchange of ideas and experiences among member nations, not only on the manner of formulating long-term perspectives and strategies, but also on the practical examples which testify to the validity of such perspectives.

Mr Chairman, before proceeding further, I would like to reflect on at least some of the significant achievements of SACEP during the last few years. SACEP, with the member countries successfully spearheaded a request, for the establishment of a Regional Seas Programme for the South Asian Seas. This programme has now been officially adopted by the United Nations Environment Programme and I know that SACEP is presently co-ordinating the preliminary work for the preparation of a Regional Seas Action Plan. The implementation of the South Asian Regional Seas Programme, is undoubtedly another significant step in our efforts at regional co-operation on the environment. SACEP also sponsored programme of activities on the conservation of mangroves, corals and island ecosystems, with a symposium held in this same city of Dhaka. These two programmes intrinsically linked are extremely important to us in the island home of Sri Lanka and I take this opportunity to congratulate SACEP on these achievements and the several other achievements which have been well documented in the papers presented at this meeting.

Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, I would like to present some of my thoughts on further activities that SACEP can sponsor, for your kind consideration. Successful implementation of environmental programmes ultimately depend on the willingness of the people to support, carry out and continue such programmes. No amount of environmental legislation or regulation or imaginative protection schemes will be successful without possible co-operation and assistance.

Therefore, awareness of the importance of environmental management and protection has become very necessary. The United Nations Environment Programme, by Governing Council resolution has commenced on an environmental education and training programme for the Asia and Pacific Region. I would like to suggest to you distinguished delegates that SACEP may consider launching a parallel, well thoughtout environmental awareness programme on a priority basis. Perhaps, we can think of establishing a South Asian Working Group on Environmental Awareness and Education at SACEP which could develop a strategy for harnessing all modern communication media as well as educational methodologies for extending environmental awareness to even the remotest corners in our countries. I would like to make special mention here of the urgent need to reach the younger generation - the generations that have to protect and manage the environment for the generations thereafter. We have to reach them through all possible means - through books, publications, school curricula, films - what ever the means that modern education can develop.

Linked to this same issue Mr Chairman, is the need in our countries of personnel to organise, direct and manage environmental programmes. We need personnel with the ability to integrate technical knowledge on the environment with the managerial ability to use that knowledge in implementation. Many environmental agencies have experience and expertise in one or more professional areas, however, we, specially in Sri Lanka, urgently need a cadre of well trained, highly competent decision makers and planners, who have the professional abilities for dealing with complex environmental protection and management programmes. Therefore, a programme of professional development in environment, I believe should be a priority action area for SACEP in the near future.

Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, our countries, can boast of rich environmental traditions. In our old agrarian societies, with their annual cycle of sowing and harvesting, the harmony of nature and human beings was maintained. Our religious and cultural traditions are conducive to a disciplined life-style and to austerity. Therefore, let this meeting be another occasion to reinforce our historic covenants between man and nature - between the process of living and the environment.

Before I conclude Mr Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank the first Director of SACEP, Dr Leslie Herath. He guided this young organisation through a turbulent period with much determination and self-sacrifice. I am personally aware of the commitment and the singleness of purpose with which he steered SACEP. Let me, on behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka and on behalf of all of us present here today, express our gratitude to Dr Herath for performing this unenviable task so well.

Let me conclude by thanking our hosts, the President and the Government of Bangladesh once again and commending the Director and the staff of SACEP for the excellent preparations made for this meeting. Sri Lanka, is honoured to be a member of this august body and proud to have been one of its sponsors. I have no doubt that this Second Governing Council Meeting will forge and strengthen closer ties among all our South Asian Countries.

Thank you.

**STATEMENT OF THE HEAD OF DELEGATION
OF THE AUSTRIAN SOUTH ASIAN INSTITUTE,
DR NORBERT W KNOLL**

The Austrian Delegation has the great honour and privilege of extending the warmest personal greetings from the Federal Chancellor of the Republic of Austria, Dr. Fred Sinowatz, and from the former Secretary General of the United Nations, Dr. Kurt Waldheim, who both wish the Second Meeting of the Governing Council every success.

At the historic UN Conference on the Human Environment in 1972 in Stockholm, the Austrian delegation on the one hand observed with keen interest the committed attitude of South Asian Countries, such as India, who was represented by the Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi and on the other actively supported the establishment of environmental and energy programmes, such as UNEP, action under which today have worldwide effects. As I myself, then a member of the Austrian delegation, had the honour of speaking on the Austrian position, it gives me particular pleasure to be here today at this Meeting and to express our willingness to co-operate with you in this field.

The dynamic Director of SACEP, Dr. Leslie Herath, has already given you detailed information in his documentation on his contacts with Austrian institutions and persons in public life. Soon after the official contacts with SACEP, we in Austria made every effort to put the co-operation with SACEP and the member countries on a firm footing by enlisting support from both the Governmental and non-Governmental agencies. Both the Academy of Environment and Energy, whose representative, Mr. Ed Wilmsen, is present today as a member of our delegation, and the Austrian South Asia Institute offered their support on the occasion of the visit of Dr. Herath to Vienna. Three expert missions visited the member countries of SACEP and identified projects and programmes which on the one hand meet the needs of the individual SACEP countries and on the other provide an opportunity of offering the technical expertise of Austrian environmental and energy experts to South Asia.

On this occasion, it gives us great pleasure to be able to report to you, Mr. President, that the contacts and talks with Dr. Herath and representatives of Focal Points which began two years ago have now reached a stage well beyond formal declarations of intent. In brief, the following has been resolved.

An inter-ministerial Committee of the Government of Austria has been formed to deal solely with SACEP matters. This Committee has recommended to the Austrian Federal Government the feasibility of establishing a SACEP Office in Vienna, which is to represent SACEP interests in Europe. SACEP Office in Vienna will be granted by law all those host facilities contained in the Modalities of Operation submitted to the Conference in the documentation.

You are, no doubt, aware, Mr. President, that in 1955 Austria adopted a status of permanent neutrality. As a result of this status it is committed to taking a neutral stand in the case of military conflict, but it also has the opportunity and means to act as an intermediary between the major power blocs. Not the least important consideration in this context is that it is in the interest of Austria as a permanently neutral state to contribute to bring about co-operation between developing and industrialised countries.

As one of the three host countries for United Nations Organisations, Austria has demonstrated the importance it attaches to co-operation and dialogue between developing and industrialised countries.

Should you, Mr. President and distinguished Delegates of this Conference, wish the establishment of a SACEP Office in Vienna, it is likely that the Vice-Chancellor of the Republic of Austria will be one of the patrons of this office.

For the practical evaluation and realisation of the findings of the Austrian expert mission, the Austrian National Bank has authorised the financing of a research project. It will, therefore, be possible to enlist some of your qualified engineers and other experts in the fields of ecology and energy for the implementation of the necessary steps.

For this purpose, a member of our delegation, Dr. Burian, Head of the Economics Department of the Federal Ministry of Industry and Trade, will travel to SACEP Office immediately after this conference. In September and October this year further visits by eminent Austrian professors to Bhutan and Nepal have been planned. This study will be the basis for the development of technology transfer as requested by these countries especially for small hydro power-stations, utilisation of solar and wind energy, of bio-mass etc.

Since the last mission, we have also made considerable advances with the project for the utilisation of biological waste for energy production. India and Sri Lanka have shown considerable interest in this technology. We have so far had good responses in procuring funds for these projects.

The proposed SACEP Office in Vienna will approach other donor agencies for support when specific requests are made via the appropriate channels.

The Austrian delegation wishes Mr. President and distinguished Delegates, that we have been able to show how interested Austria has become in the co-operation with SACEP and her most desirable activities. Dr. Wilfried Gredler, long-serving Austrian Ambassador at the Council of Europe, in Bonn and Peking, has taken over the presidency of the Austrian South Asian Institute ensuring further successful strengthening of relations between Austria and the South Asian countries of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme. His contacts with the European community will be of special interest to this future co-operation.

Before I conclude my statement I would like to take this opportunity of expressing our thanks to the Director of SACEP, representatives of Focal Points and the members of the Consultative Committee for their trust and their interest in the co-operation with Austria.

Let us hope that institutionalising our relationships in Vienna will not only serve as the SACEP Window to Europe - as Dr. Herath once described it - but also as Gate to a better future in a whole environment in South Asia.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**RULES OF PROCEDURE OF GOVERNING COUNCIL
OF SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**

- Rule 1 -** The Governing Council shall normally meet once a year, and in conformity with the provisions of Article 4(c) of the Declaration and Articles of Association of SACEP.
- Rule 2 -** The date of a Regular Meeting of the Governing Council shall be as fixed by it at the preceding meeting, and if it has not been so fixed, a meeting may be convened on a date fixed by the Consultative Committee.
- Rule 3 -** The venue of the Regular Meeting of the Governing Council shall be by rotation amongst the members in alphabetical order commencing with the host country or by agreement in the preceding meeting of the Governing Council or as decided by the Consultative Committee.
- Rule 4 -** The Governing Council or the Consultative Committee at any of its meetings, may decide to have one or more Special Sessions of the Governing Council, at venues and dates as decided by them.
- Rule 5 -** The Agenda for a Regular Session, shall be as decided by the Governing Council. Where it has not been so decided or where a Special Session has been convened, the Consultative Committee shall decide upon the Agenda for the Regular or Special Session as the case may be.
- Rule 6 -** The notification for the Regular and/or Special Session(s) of the Governing Council, together with the relevant documents shall be sent, in the case of Regular Sessions, at least twelve weeks in advance and in the case of Special Sessions, at least six weeks in advance of the proposed dates of such meeting.
- Rule 7 -** The Governing Council may decide at any session to amend the Agenda circulated as it deems fit.
- Rule 8 -** Each member State of the Governing Council shall be represented by an accredited representative, who will normally be of Ministerial rank, and may be accompanied by alternates and/or advisers, the credentials of whom shall be scrutinised and confirmed by a Member appointed for such purpose by the Chairman of the session.
- Rule 9 -** At the commencement of each session, the Governing Council shall elect a new Chairman for such session in a manner consistent with the Articles of Association of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme. One or more Vice-Chairmen, a Rapporteur and other Officers may also be appointed by the Governing Council for such session. The Director shall function as the Secretary to the Council during its sessions.
- Rule 10 -** All Office-bearers shall hold office for a period until their successors are elected at a subsequent session. Such Office-bearers, other than the Chairman, would be eligible for re-election to the same office or any other office at such subsequent sessions.
- Rule 11 -** The Chairman shall preside at all meetings and in his absence a Vice-Chairman shall preside and shall exercise all the functions, duties and powers of the office of the Chairman.
- Rule 12 -** A simple majority of the membership of the Council, shall constitute a quorum.
- Rule 13 -** All decisions of the Governing Council shall be arrived at, by consensus.
- Rule 14 -** Representatives of United Nations Bodies and Specialised Agencies, Non-Governmental Organisations and guests may attend meetings of the Governing Council as observers at the invitation of the Consultative Committee.
- Rule 15 -** The Chairman of the session, with the concurrence of the members, may make provisional rules on any matter not specifically provided for by these Rules of Procedure provided, however, that such rules are consistent with the Articles of Association of SACEP. Such rules shall be deemed to be part of the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council after confirmation by the Council at its subsequent session.

**MODALITIES OF FOCAL POINTS
OF SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**

1. Initiation of Project Proposals

- 1.1 As provided in Article 6 of the Articles of Association, the Focal Point shall work towards the implementation of its programmes and shall co-operate with SACEP Secretariat in programme implementation. The National Focal Point shall in consultation with all concerned member countries, identify the priority areas in which project proposals should be initiated and prepare brief project outlines listing the problems, suggested solutions and proposed actions. The Focal Point shall then circulate the brief outline among the member countries and consult with them either directly or through the Secretariat to ascertain the extent of their interest in the project proposals.
- 1.2 The matter will then be put before the Consultative Committee, who will authorise the project proposals to be taken up or give other instructions as they deem fit.
- 1.3 In cases where such outlines of project proposals are not prepared by the Focal Point in any subject area, the Secretariat may, after prior consultations with the Focal Points and with the approval of the Consultative Committee, initiate project proposals, prepare brief outlines and consult with the member countries to ascertain the extent of their interest. Further action on the project proposals shall be taken on the basis of interest shown and with the approval of the Consultative Committee.

2. Formulation of the Project Document

- 2.1 After the outline of the project proposal is approved by the Consultative Committee, the Focal Point shall formulate a detailed project document, including, among other things, budgetary requirements, detailed work plan, project components that could be undertaken at the national and regional level, and modalities of project implementation, particularly institutional arrangements for co-ordination. Any assistance in the formulation of the project document shall be arranged by the Secretariat, if requested by the Focal Points. The Secretariat may also arrange for the formulation of a detailed project document under advice to the Focal Point concerned.

3. Submission of Project Document to Funding Agencies

- 3.1 The Secretariat shall circulate the final project document among prospective Funding Agencies and shall undertake any other action deemed necessary to seek funding for the Project. However, the Secretariat, before approaching the Funding Agencies, shall obtain the prior approval of the Consultative Committee, in order to ensure that member countries have no objections to any particular Funding Agency for any reason.

4. Implementation of the Project

- 4.1 The implementation of all components of the projects at the national level shall be the exclusive responsibility of each participating country and shall be entirely under its jurisdiction.
- 4.2 Participating countries shall take adequate measures to implement the project(s) using the funds made available from and through the Secretariat and resources allocated in the national programmes. Each participating country shall designate a national authority(ies) or organization(s) who will be responsible for project management and implementation of the national components and overall co-ordination of all activities under the project at the national level.
- 4.3 The designated project management authority(ies) or organization(s) shall follow the budgetary allocations and work plan incorporated in the project document which constitute the basis for disbursement of funds.

5. National Expertise and Institutions

- 5.1 Focal Points shall, on request, identify and suggest national experts and institutions for recruitment and sub-contracting for project preparation and implementation. However, the Secretariat will make the final choice of the expert or institution to be recruited. Recruitment from countries other than member countries will be done only as a last resort with specific approval of the Consultative Committee and of the Focal Point for which such recruitment will be made.

6. Liaison Activities

- 6.1 Focal Points shall be the liaison points in their countries for all matters related to SACEP, including those subject areas other than their own.
- 6.2 SACEP Secretariat shall liaise with the Focal Point in each member country for all fifteen Subject Areas. The national Focal Point, in its turn, shall assume the responsibilities to collect and disseminate all relevant information from the various Subject Area Focal Points in different countries to all the interested parties within the country. This will also enable the respective member countries to keep in constant touch with the activities pursued by the various Subject Area Focal Points with the assistance from the SACEP Secretariat.

MODALITIES OF OPERATION OF THE PROPOSED SACEP OFFICE IN VIENNA, AUSTRIA

1. The SACEP Office in Vienna (hereinafter called the Vienna Liaison Office) will work under the exclusive directions of the Governing Council of SACEP. The composition and terms of reference of the Governing Council as given in Article 4 of the Articles of Association of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme is given below:
 - a. The Council shall consist of all the members of SACEP;
 - b. Each member shall have one representative on the Council, who will normally be of Ministerial rank;
 - c. Unless otherwise agreed upon by members, the Council shall normally meet once a year. The quorum for a meeting of the Governing Council shall be a simple majority of the membership. The Presidency of the Governing Council shall be by rotation amongst the members in alphabetical order commencing with the host country; the Chairman shall hold office for a period of one year or till such time as the new Chairman takes office in that year;
 - d. The Council shall be the principal review and deliberative body of SACEP and shall be responsible for determining policy and programmes;
 - e. The Council may discuss any questions or any matters within the scope of its Articles of Association;
 - f. The meetings of the Council shall proceed in a co-operative spirit, which is the key note of SACEP, and shall endeavour at all times to reach agreement by consensus;
 - g. The Governing Council may formulate its own rules of procedure.
2. The Consultative Committee of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme shall from time to time request the services of the Vienna Liaison Office in areas as decided by the Consultative Committee on projects and programmes approved by the member countries. The composition and terms of reference of the Consultative Committee as given in Article 5 of the Articles of Association of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme is given below:
 - a. The Committee shall consist of representatives of Member States of SACEP; its headquarters shall be in Colombo where it will normally hold its sessions;
 - b. Each Member State shall meet the expenses of its representative for attendance at Committee sessions;
 - c. It shall be the responsibility of the Committee to facilitate implementation of the programmes and policies as determined by the Council through close informal co-operation and to promote the dissemination of information on the concepts and the operation of SACEP in general;
 - d. At its first session, the Committee will elect a Chairman who will chair its sessions for not more than one term of one year from the date of election. For any period, during which the chairman is absent from the country, or is otherwise prevented from exercising the functions of Chairman, the Council shall elect an Acting Chairman;

The Committee will submit a report on the action taken by the Committee to the next meeting of the Council;

 - e. Six weeks notice shall be given of sessions. The notice shall in every case be accompanied by a provisional agenda. Any documents that may require reference to member Governments before discussion shall be issued not less than six weeks before the date of the session at which they will be discussed;
 - f. A simple majority of the membership of SACEP shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of holding a Committee Session;

- g. The Committee shall endeavour to reach agreement by consensus after discussion in a co-operative spirit;
- h. The Committee may make such rules and regulations as it deems necessary in relation to Committee procedures and the operation and administration of the Secretariat, subject to the approval of the Governing Council.

3. The Vienna Liaison Office will have two principal organs viz:

- a. The Management Committee; and
- b. The Office proper.

3.1 THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- a. The Management Committee shall consist of:
 - One representative from each of SACEP member countries.
 - Four members nominated by the Austrian South Asian Institute.
 - The Director of SACEP.
 - Additional Co-opted members as approved by all members.
- b. The Management Committee shall have Patrons nominated by the Government of Austria in consultation with the Consultative Committee.
- c. The Management Committee shall have a Chairman who shall be a national of Austria in the first instance and the tenure of office of the first Chairman shall be for two years.
- d. The tenure of office of the subsequent Chairman shall be one year and in alphabetical order from amongst SACEP Member Countries.

3.2 THE VIENNA LIAISON OFFICE PROPER

The Office shall be located at a suitable venue in Vienna and shall be staffed by a small number of international staff one of whom will be the Officer-in-Charge.

The recruitment of staff will be at the discretion of the Management Committee subject to ratification by the Consultative Committee of SACEP. The International Staff shall be from Austria and from member countries of SACEP. The tenure of office of the Officer-in-Charge shall be three years for the first appointee and two years for the subsequent appointees. The first Officer-in-Charge will be from Austria. The recruitment of subsequent Officers-in-Charge will be from SACEP member countries nominated in alphabetical order. The Officer-in-Charge shall be the Chief Executive Officer and shall act as Secretary of the Management Committee Meetings. He shall submit periodic programme reports to the Management Committee which shall be presented to the SACEP Secretariat. The Officer-in-Charge of Vienna Liaison Office shall maintain close liaison with the UN Offices in Europe, EEC and bilateral and multilateral donor agencies based in Europe as approved by the SACEP Secretariat.

3.3 BUDGET

The total budget for all the activities contemplated by the Vienna Liaison Office shall be borne by the allocations made from Austrian and other appropriate sources. The Management Committee shall formulate necessary financial rules and regulations and arrange for facilities to audit the accounts.

The Vienna Liaison Office will initiate a TRUST FUND, the proceeds of which will be used for supporting the institutional infrastructure of SACEP. This disbursement of the TRUST FUND shall be made only in consultation with the Governing Council and/or the Consultative Committee of SACEP.

3.4 HOST FACILITIES

The Government of Austria and the Austrian South Asian Institute have agreed in principle to grant host facilities to the Vienna Liaison Office and the international staff employed by the office, similar to the host facilities granted by Sri Lanka to the SACEP Secretariat in Colombo, and its international staff. The host facilities of the SACEP Secretariat in Colombo as given in Article 9 of the Articles of Association of SACEP is given below:

- a. The host country of the Secretariat shall provide such hosting and support facilities for the Secretariat and the Director of SACEP as are needed, in particular:
 - i. Separate and distinctive offices for the Secretariat, and official residences for the Director; and
 - ii. Such other facilities as may be agreed upon from time to time between the host country and the Council;
- b. The countries assuming responsibilities as Focal Points for subject areas shall provide such physical and other facilities as deemed adequate and necessary for the discharge of their functions;
- c. The host country of the Secretariat and the countries responsible for Focal Points, in so far as the latter use the services of international staff, shall accord such status, immunities, exemptions and privileges as are in conformity with accepted practice for such organs and as may specifically be agreed upon between the Council and the Member States.

The working language of the Vienna Liaison Office shall be English.