



SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SAARC-CCI)

SAARC was established in the year 1985, hitherto avoided including core economic issues in its program, but in consequence to a desire for having a SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, SAARC Secretariat commissioned a study on Trade, Manufactures and Services in 1988. The study was completed in 1991 and was concluded with a strong endorsement towards establishing a SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry so as to bring about improvement in the business environment disseminate information about potential tradable goods and identify joint ventures in the SAARC region.

Pursuant to the directive of SAARC Secretariat, SAARC Chamber of Commerce & Industry, assisted by the National Federations, submitted its draft constitution to the SAARC Secretariat and received its approval in December 1992. This signified the official recognition of the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SAARC CCI) by all the national governments of SAARC as the apex body of all the National Federations of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of SAARC, namely

Members of SAARC-CCI:

- Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry(ACCI)
- The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FBCCI)
- Bhutan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCCI)
- Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)
- Maldives National Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MNCCI)
- Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FNCCI)
- Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI)
- Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Sri Lanka (FCCISL)

Presently all National Chambers/ Federations of the respective member countries serve as focal points to facilitate the SAARC CCI Secretariat in Islamabad. Currently two new sub offices; in Colombo and Mumbai, have been opened up and are functional.

Organs:

- a. The General Assembly (also to be known as GA)
- b. The Executive Committee (also to be known as EC)
- c. The General Secretariat

Focused Areas:

- Awareness building on key economic issues i.e. trade facilitation, NTBs, TBTs, Harmonization of Customs Procedures, intra-regional investment and such others pertaining to promote economic cooperation at the regional level.
- Develop global linkages as a part of its outreach strategy
- Provide services to its members and representatives of the private sector
- Work closely with governments, NGOs, CSOs to raise the concern on socio-economic issues
- Develop an institutional framework for supporting economic cooperation

Objectives:

- To encourage Trade, Service, Industry, Small & Medium Enterprise, Agriculture, Intra-Regional through creating strong business linkages amongst the entrepreneurs of the region of South Asia
- To make recommendations to safeguard the economic and business interests of the SAARC
- To serve as a consultative body of the Private Sector of the region to provide input / feedback on regional economic issues
- To encourage Member Countries to accord preferential terms of trade to each other and finally strive towards the gradual realization of the SAARC Economic and Monetary Union.
- To promote the exchange of commercial, technical, industrial management and scientific information, education and know-how amongst its members
- To collate, collect and disseminate statistical data and joint research and development among the SAARC Member Countries.

Services offers by services:

- Liaison with parent body to exchange views on the areas of activities
- Dissemination of data/information amongst members on socio-economic issues
- To create awareness amongst the stakeholders about economic issues in the region
- To voice concerns of the Private Sector of the region at relevant platforms
- To provide input /feedback of the Private Sector on economic and trade related issues to SAARC Secretariat for policy formulation etc.

Role of FPCCI in SAARC-CCI:

- Being the primary member, Pakistan host the Secretariat of SAARC CCI which was formerly established in FPCCI Head Office Karachi and later shifted to Islamabad.
- In October 1993, Mr. S.M Inam from Pakistan was elected as the First President of SCCI (1994 to 1995). In Feb 1994, SCCI was formally inaugurated in Dhaka by the then Prime Minister of Bangladesh. The presidency of SCCI rotates alphabetically amongst member organizations. Since its establishment, Presidency of SAARC CCI has been enjoyed by all seven founder members.
- In the first rotation of presidency Mr. Salman F Rahman of Bangladesh (1996 to 1997), Mr. Kantikumar R Podar of India (1998 to 1999), Mr. Qasim Ibrahim of Maldives (2000 to 2001), Mr. Padma Jyoti of Nepal (2002 to 2003), Mr. Macky Hashim from Sri Lanka (2004 to 2005) and Dasho Ugen Tshechup Dorji (2006 to 2007) from Bhutan have served the organization.
- After completion of first rotation, Mr. Tariq Sayeed from Pakistan took over presidency (2008 to 2009) followed by Mr. Annisul Huq from Bangladesh, (2010 to 2011) and Mr. Vikramjit Singh Sahney from India (2012 to 2013). Mr. Ismail Asif from Maldives (2014), Mr. Suraj Vaidya from (2016-2017), Mr. RuwanEdirisinghe from (2018-2019) while Mr. Iftikhar Ali Malik is the current President from Pakistan.

Office Bearers of SAARC-CCI

President

Mr. Iftikhar Ali Malik (Pakistan)
CEO, Guard Group of Industries

Sr. Vice President (Bhutan)

Mr. Dasho Ugen Tsechup Dorji
M/s Singye Group of Companies Pvt. Ltd

Vice Presidents

Mr. Khairuddin Mayel Ahmadi
Vice President SAARC CCI (Afghanistan)

Mr. Sheikh Fazle Fahim
Vice President SAARC CCI (Bangladesh)

Mr. Vinod Juneja
Vice President SAARC CCI (India)

Mr. Mohamed Rasheed
Vice President SAARC CCI (Maldives)

Mr. Chandi Raj Dhakal
Vice President SAARC CCI (Nepal)

Senator Haji Ghulam Ali
Vice President SAARC CCI (Pakistan)

Dr. M. Rohitha Silva
Vice President SAARC CCI (Sri Lanka)

Headquarter of SAARC CCI:

SAARC Chamber of Commerce & Industry (Permanent Headquarters)
397, Street No 64, I-8/3, Islamabad, Pakistan
Tel: 00-92-51-4860612-3, 8316023
Fax: 00-92-51-8316024
Email: info@saarcchamber.org