



**COORDINATORS OF SAARCSTAT
TECHNICAL SUB-GROUPS:
FIRST MEETING**

Dhaka, Bangladesh, 16 April 2008

SAARC/TSG01/10

**Government of Pakistan
Statistics Division Federal Bureau of Statistics**

BASE PAPER ON STATISTICAL WEBSITE OF SAARC MEMBER STATES

Background

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) provides a platform for the people of South Asia to work together in a spirit of friendship and trust for the well being of the people. It aims to accelerate the progress of economic and social development in Member countries. Main objectives of the SAARC in brief are as under

- i. to promote welfare of people of South Asia and to improve their quality of life;
- ii. to accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region;
- iii. to promote collective self-reliance among the countries of South Asia;
- iv. to contribute to mutual trust, understanding and appreciation of one another's problems;
- v. to strengthen cooperation among themselves in international forums on matters of common interest.

Statistics

Statistics covers a wide range of subjects / sectors i.e. population, education, manpower, national accounts, agriculture, manufacturing, energy, mining, transport and communications, external trade, prices, finance, construction, etc. A sound statistical base is imperative for formulation of development plans. Data which is comprehensive, reliable, and timely accessible is an asset for the planners, researchers and policy makers. Thus on-line availability of statistical data is pre-requisite to expand and strengthen areas of cooperation in order to achieve the objectives of SAARC.

Websites of SAARC Countries

First meeting of the Heads of Statistical Organization of SAARC States was held at Kolkata, India from 26-27 May 2005. The possibility to initiate cooperation in the field of statistics was discussed and it was agreed to develop a common Statistical Website of Member States.

All member States are maintaining their official statistical websites. The websites contain significant amount of data for the use of researchers, planners and government organizations world wide. These websites can further be made more useful by putting data of common interest of SAARC Member States. The addresses of Websites of Member States are as under:

Bangladesh	:	<u>www.bbsgov.org</u>
Bhutan	:	<u>www.nsb.gov.bt</u>
India	:	<u>www.mospi.nic.in</u>
Maldives	:	<u>www.planning.gov.mv</u>
Nepal	:	<u>www.cbs.gov.np</u>
Pakistan	:	<u>www.statpak.gov.pk</u>
Sri Lanka	:	<u>www.statistics.gov.lk</u>

A website www.saarc-sec.org of Member States already exists which is maintained by SAARC Secretariat at Kathmandu, Nepal. Presently, it contains information on objectives, areas of cooperation, events etc. It is being updated by the SAARC Secretariat on regular basis. The data on common interest of SAARC member States can either be placed on website under a heading the "Statistics" separately for each country or an independent website can be developed and maintained as www.saarcstat.org.

Data of Common Interest of Member States

SAARC member states have lots of data with them and a significant amount is available on their websites. It will be more useful to place data on selected indicators of common interest on website(s). The SAARC countries have varying starting / ending dates for fiscal years. They have also different base years for different subjects like Price Indices, National Accounts, etc. The possible ways to place the data of SAARC Member States on website(s) may either be in comparable format after resolving above stated issues or under the name of individual country as per their existing formats / as suits to individual country.

Following proposals are submitted for consideration:

SAARC Member States may add/update data of common interest in their existing websites and make them accessible to each Member State without any restriction.

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Data of common interest of SAARC Member States may be placed on existing SAARC secretariat website www.saarc-sec.org.

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An independent website www.saarcstat.org having data / main indicators of common interest may be developed and maintained with consensus of Member States.