



18th South Asian Economics Students Meet (SAESM)

March 12-17, 2023 (Tentative) | Kathmandu, Nepal

Hosted by: Central Department of Economics, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal

18th South Asian Economics Students' Meet (Kathmandu, Nepal)

Tentative Dates: March 12 – 17, 2023

Organized by:

Central Department of Economics, Tribhuvan University

Theme: Towards Resilient South Asian Economies

The conference will have the following subthemes:

Sub Theme	Topic
1	Macroeconomics of Pandemic and War
2	Role of Economic Policies During the Crisis
3	Migration, Remittance, and Development during Pandemic
4	Human Development
5	Poverty and Vulnerability
6	Labor market and Employment
7	Gender and Development
8	Climate Change and Natural Resources in South Asia
9	International Trade
10	Political Economy and Fiscal Federalism in South Asia

*Details on the themes are described in Section 2 below.

GUIDELINES for those interested in participating and representing India in the 18th SAESM to be held at Kathmandu, Nepal:

1. Students from Colleges in India *must* be enrolled in a bachelor's programme in economics and possess a valid passport or voter ID for travel to Nepal.
2. Every participant must write a conference paper and take part in an additional event (Budding Economist / Economics Quiz / Panel Discussion) which is mandatory. Details on the additional events are described in Section 2 below.
3. Interested candidates can apply with a *paper proposal* which includes an abstract on any of the themes mentioned above on which you intend to write the paper (approximately 500 words), the structure of the paper and an indicative bibliography. Papers may be an evaluation of an own country issues, comparison of their own country with other countries or South Asia

as a whole. Papers can be written using primary survey data / case study / review of the issue / modelling economic theory / econometric tools. The expected standard of the presentations takes into account that the delegates are undergraduates and hence the expected academic excellence and competency is of normal academic standards at undergraduate level. Thus, while any of the above methodologies may be used, the papers *must demonstrate application of economics knowledge and analysis in addressing the chosen issue.*

4. Co-authored papers will not be accepted.

5. Students are required to submit a CV along with transcript / mark-sheet of your undergraduate study.
6. Please indicate your preference for Budding Economist, Quiz or Panel Discussion.
7. Selection will be based on the research paper proposal, CV and an online interview.
8. **The country coordinators have the final authority to select the participants. The decision of the country coordinators will be final and binding.**

PLEASE NOTE:

1. **All selected candidates will have to pay a registration / retreat fee of USD 200.** It will cover travel cost from from Delhi / Kolkata / Mumbai / Chennai to Kathmandu, and conference meals and stay in Kathmandu along with other members of South Asian contingent.
2. The age of the students should not exceed 25 years at the time of application.
3. All applicants will have to submit a college ID proof which shows that the applicant is a bonafide student of the college in the academic year 2022-2023.
4. All applicants have to submit a scanned copy of passport or voter ID.
5. The deadline for submission of relevant material for selection is **December 20, 2022.**
6. The result will be declared by **December 31, 2022.**

Email address for all submissions and other correspondence: INDIASAESM@GMAIL.COM

Submission Deadlines:

December 20, 2022: Submission of abstract / structure of paper for selection

February 15, 2023: Submission of final paper to country coordinator.

Online selection interviews will be held in the last week of December and selected candidates will be informed by December 31, 2022.

Check SAESM website www.saesm.net for further details and updates.

Apoorva Gupta
Rupali Sharma
Country Coordinators, India

1 Call for Participation

On behalf of the Central Department of Economics, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal, SAESM India cordially announces this call for participation of students from India in the 18th edition of the South Asian Economics Student's Meet (SAESM). The program will take place in Kathmandu during March 12- 17, 2023. The banner theme of the *meet* is "*Towards Resilient South Asian Economies*" which initiates academic discourse amongst young minds towards building back a better South Asia amidst the pandemic and other global/regional constraints.

1.1 About SAESM

SAESM is a well-established undergraduate economics students' annual meet in South Asia. This event provides an opportunity for students to develop academic papers on various issues of regional importance, present the papers, and learn from each other. The annual meeting is usually a conference followed by a quiz contest and competition for budding economists. A retreat for the participants, generally sightseeing at some of the cultural and natural heritage sites, highlights the SAESM conclave.

SAESM runs as a regional network. A team of dedicated faculty members representing various academic institutions in South Asia facilitates the organization. Its governing council, the apex advisory body, provides vision, guidelines, and framework for the smooth functioning of SAESM. The organizing committee works towards the length and breadth of the event, while the scientific committee takes care of the academic merits of the conference.

Coordinating Institutions

- Afghanistan: Kabul University, Faculty of Economics
- Bangladesh: South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM)
- Bhutan: Royal University of Bhutan, Sherubste College
- India: SAESM India (Association of South Asian Scholars)
- Nepal: Tribhuvan University, Central Department of Economics
- Pakistan: Lahore University of Management Sciences, Pakistan
- Sri Lanka: University of Colombo, Department of Economics

Governing Council

- Prof. Dr. Bishwambher Pyakuryal – Chairperson (Nepal)
- Dr. Mihir Pandey, Member (Department of Economics, Ramjas College, University of Delhi, India)
- Prof. Dr. Selim Raihan , Member (Department of Economics, Dhaka University- Bangladesh & Executive Director, SANEM)
- Prof. Dr. Sirimal Abeyratne, Member (Department of Economics, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka)
- Dr. Syed Turab Hussain- Member (Department of Economics, Lahore University of Management Sciences- Pakistan)

1.2 SAESM from 2004 to 2022

	Year	Venue	Theme	Main Partner
1st	2004	New Delhi	Economic Developments in South Asia: Which Way Ahead	National Foundation of India
2nd	2005	Lahore	Issues for South Asian Development	Syed Babar Ali Foundation
3rd	2006	Dhaka	Sharing Ideas for a Better Understanding of South Asian Development	Prime Bank
4th	2007	Colombo	Economic Development and Regional Cooperation in South Asia	The World Bank
5th	2008	New Delhi	Economic Challenges to Make South Asia Free from Poverty and Deprivation	The World Bank
6th	2009	Dhaka	Young Economist's for an Integrated South Asia	National Bank
7th	2010	Colombo	Economic Freedom and Poverty Reduction in South Asia	Friedrich Naumann Stiftung
8th	2011	New Delhi	Development Alternatives in South Asia	Institute for Financial Management and Research
9th	2012	Kathmandu	Towards a Green South Asia	The World Bank
10th	2013	Lahore	The Political Economy of South Asia	The World Bank
11th	2014	Thimphu	South Asian Integration: Prospects and Challenges	The World Bank
12th	2016	Colombo	South Asia in the Asian Century	The World Bank
13th	2017	Kathmandu	One South Asia	The World Bank
14th	2018	Chittagong	Sustaining South Asian Integration	The World Bank
15th	2019	Colombo	Development in South Asia: Challenges and Opportunities	The World Bank
16th	2020	Kathmandu	Towards Prosperous South Asia	The World Bank, UNDP-Nepal
17th	2022	Lahore	Equitable, Inclusive and Sustainable South Asian Cities	LUMS (Virtual)

2 Participation and Events

The participation of students in different categories will be as per Table 1.

Table 1: Participation Details

Country	#Total Students participating in core events	Paper Presentation	Budding	Quiz	Panel Discussions
Afghanistan	10	All	Four	Four	Two
Bangladesh	10	participating	Students*	Students*	Students*.
Bhutan	10	students should	(4)	(4)	(2)
India	10	write a paper			
Pakistan	10	(10=4+4+2)			
Sri Lanka	10				
Nepal**	10				

*These students will be exclusively nominated for each category namely Budding Economist Competition, Quiz and Panel Discussions. For example, those participating in Budding Economist category will **not** be participating in Quiz or Panel Discussion, and so on.

**Nepal, the host country, may include a maximum of 2 students per subtheme (of 2.1 below) for the paper presentation category only.

2.1 Paper Presentations

All eligible students are invited to submit papers focusing on the themes listed below. A total of 10 students from each country (a maximum of 20 students from the host country Nepal) will be selected. Students are required to write a research paper in a prescribed format.

Theme 1: Macroeconomics of Pandemic and War - Macroeconomic impacts/implications of the Pandemic and Current global crisis and national economy: Implication on inflation, balance of payments and foreign exchange, economic growth, internal borrowing and public debt.

Theme 2: Role of Economic Policies during the crisis - Role and effectiveness of Monetary Policy amid the pandemic and war related crisis, Expansionary vs. contractionary monetary policy during the crisis; role of money supply and interest rate to stabilize the economy; Role of fiscal policy: public transfers and subsidies to mitigate the crisis, optimal tax policy.

Theme 3: Migration, Remittance, and Development during Pandemic - Role of Migration and Remittances on Economic Development: on Economic growth, poverty, education, health,

technology adoption, economic cost of migration and remittances, macro/micro determinants of migration and remittances.

Theme 4: Human Development - Determinants of human development, Impact of COVID-19 on Health and Education, Use of ICT applications on Education and Health, digital divide and human development.

Theme 5: Poverty and Vulnerability - Economic Crisis/extreme events (such as flood, drought, and natural disasters) and implication for poverty and vulnerable groups, determinants and drivers of Inequalities, Role of Social security and safety net.

Theme 6: Labor market and Employment - Implication of current global slowdown and pandemic on Labor Market and Employment outcomes, Economics of informal labor markets, wage gap and discrimination, decomposition of wage gap.

Theme 7: Gender and Development - Issues of gender and development in South Asia; Gender discrimination and socio-economic outcomes such as on welfare, education, health, Gender based inequalities, Ways to reduce gender discrimination.

Theme 8: Climate change and Natural Resources in South Asia - Climate Change issues in South Asia; impact and cost of climate change, Economic costs of natural disasters, mitigating and adaption to climate change, Role of natural resources on welfare,

Theme 9: International Trade - Recent economic crisis and pandemic and its implication on Trade, Barriers of regional Trade in South Asia, Potentials of trade in South Asia, Economic benefits of regional trade, Need for cooperation among South Asian nations.

Theme 10: Political Economy and Fiscal Federalism in South Asia - Fiscal federalism, role of local/provincial governments, economics of power division among different tiers of the governments, role of Different Actors such as civil society, grass roots organizations, and other non-government actors in economic development

A student from each theme will be declared as the best paper presenter. Each paper will be evaluated based on the quality of the paper (60% Written) and presentation (40% Oral). A team of experts will evaluate the paper before their oral presentation. The details of the evaluation guidelines will be disclosed later.

2.1.1 Format of Research Paper

The research paper shall follow a standard format that is commonly practiced in writing a research article or discussion paper. It will have the following components: Preliminaries (Front page, Abstract, Table of content), Main body (Background and rationale, Research questions and objectives, Review of Literature, Methodology, Results and Discussion and conclusions), and annexure (References, appendices, big tables or maps, etc.). The researcher may decide about sub-headings as per their requirements. Chapter division of the paper is not recommended.

i. Front page: Title of the paper, name of candidates and representing the institution, date of submission (center aligned).

ii. Abstract: With a limit of 200 words.

ii. Main body: 1-inch margin on all sides, 1.5 line space, Font: Times New Roman or Arial (applicable for all pages of the paper), Size 11. The main body of the paper should not exceed 5000 words.

iii. Referencing and in-text citation: APA style, 6th edition

2.2 Budding Economist Competition

Four students should be nominated (among ten students) for the budding economist category.

This meet will declare a budding economist of the region for the year 2023. In honor of the contribution by Prof. Deb Kusum Das to SAESM and the South Asian Economics fraternity, the winner will be conferred with DKD Budding Economist of the South Asia medal for 2023.

The students have to undergo a selection process that includes **written examination** comprising core courses in undergraduate economics, **economic interpretation of visual information** and **interview round**.

2.2.1 Submission of an Opinion Essay

Student competing in the Budding Economist contest shall submit an opinion essay on "**Pandemic and South Asian Economies: Lessons learnt for the need of Economic Cooperation**". This will be an opinion or perspective essay. No sub-headings, abstract is recommended. **This essay carries 10 % of the weight on budding economist competition.** The length of the paper (main body) should not exceed 2 pages. The applicable formatting details shall be as per research paper guidelines given in 2.1.1.

2.2.2 Written Exams

Budding economist participants will sit for two rounds of written exams. First paper will cover Mathematical Methods, Statistical Methods, and Basic Econometrics. Second paper will be a mixture of Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, and Development Issues of South Asia. The details of the course will be shared later. **The exams carry 50 % of the total marks.**

2.2.3 Visual Round

The top ten students based on the score in written exams will qualify for this round. **This will carry 15 % of the total marks.** Instantaneous comment(s) on audio-visual materials played/displayed equipped with valid economic ways of thinking will be evaluated in this round.

2.2.4 Interview Round

The top five students based on the score from written exams and visual round will be enlisted for this round. **This will carry 25 % of the total marks.** The student with the highest overall score will be declared as Budding Economist 2023 of the region.

2.3 Quizonomics

A group of seven teams each team comprising four members from four different nations will participate in the quiz event. Each country will nominate **four** students to participate in this segment. The name of seven teams will announced later. Selection of students for each team will be based on lottery method. The content or coverage of the quiz will be shared later.

2.4 Panel Discussions

Two Students from each country will participate in following two panel discussions:

- 1) Economics of Pandemic and War: Challenges and Policy options to minimize the risk at domestic economy (Student 1)
- 2) Economics of Climate Change in South Asia: Current Status, Key Issues and way forward (Student 2)

2.5 Keynote Speech

There will be two Keynote speeches (one in inaugural and one in farewell) along with presentations from renowned economists in the region.

2.6 Awards and Honors

- "Sen-Haque Award" for best of the best paper
- "Best Paper Award" in each sub-theme
- "DKD Budding Economist Award-2023" for the Budding Economist competition winner
- "Best Quiz Team Award" for quiz winning team
- "Best Panelist Award" for the best panel

2.7 Retreat

A day retreat will be organized for participants near the hill station of the Kathmandu Valley.

The venue for the retreat will be announced later.

3 Tentative Program Schedule

The tentative program schedule will be as follows:

Day	Major events
1	Arrival of international delegates Welcome Dinner
2	Inaugural Session Keynote speech Panel discussions Paper Presentations (parallel) sessions Budding Economist Written Competition
3	Quizonomics Paper Presentations (parallel) sessions Budding Visual Round
4	Budding Economist Competition Final Panel Discussion Plenary Session
5	Retreat Farewell Speech/ Valediction/Farewell Dinner
6	Retreat/Departure

GUIDELINES SUMMARY FOR APPLICANTS

1. Students from Colleges in India *must* be enrolled in a bachelors programme in economics.
2. Every participant has to write a conference paper and take part in an additional event. (Budding Economist / Economics Quiz / Panel Discussion) which is mandatory.
You have to apply with a *paper proposal* which includes an abstract of what you intend to write in the paper (approximately 500 words), the structure of the paper and an indicative bibliography.
3. **Co-authored papers will not be accepted.**
4. **Submit a CV along with transcript / mark-sheet** of your undergraduate study. Please indicate your preference for Budding Economist, Quiz, and Panel Discussion.
5. Selection will be based on the research paper proposal, CV and an online interview.
6. **Last Date for Applying: December 20, 2022.** Students are strongly urged to apply earlier keeping in mind their semester exams and not wait for the last date.
7. **Email address for all submissions and other correspondence:** INDIASAESM@GMAIL.COM
8. **Registration Fee** - The students selected to represent India at SAESM 2023 in Kathmandu will have to pay **USD 200** as registration / retreat fee. It will cover travel cost from from Delhi / Kolkata / Mumbai / Chennai / Bangalore to Kathmandu, and conference meals and stay in Kathmandu along with other members of South Asian contingent

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