

I understand, the SEDP in SAARC countries is a platform to work all eight countries together in our common goal and agenda.

- And, I believe that our region can emerge as a power and driving engine for the world economy if we achieve our economic completely normalize, our trade relations, and ensure an environment for rapid economic growth.
- In the same time, SDF can support to raise the awareness level of government, donors and the business communities and international development organization about the largely untapped potentials of social enterprises to provide effective and efficient services to their stakeholders.
- Therefore, the SDF needs to focus on building and scaling of social enterprise by using optimum use of grants, resource and the intellectual capital, primarily for capacity building of enterprises and the business communities.
- despite strong growth and significant poverty reduction, our region still has the world's largest number of people living below the poverty line. Our region face poorly in food security, and human development indicators for health, nutrition, education, gender and so on.
- we are home to about 23.4 per cent of the world population. But our share in world gross domestic product remains at barely 3.3 per cent as of 2017.
- it clearly indicated that Per capita GDP of our region is very low in compare to the world. That is why, program related to entrepreneurships, education and skills development is essential to enhance the capacity of human capital.
- In the context of Nepal, SAARC CCI in joint collaboration with the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) is very keen to work jointly with SAARC Development Fund (SDF) in the areas of Industry, commerce and trade in an innovative ways.
- As we are aware that the SDF is in the process of launching the Social Enterprise Development Program (SEDP) as part of its Social Window. Therefore, we want to be a part of this project.

- In Nepal more than 90% of the business economy is covered by Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). However, access to financial services for this group is poor.
- That is why, I believe the SDF can effectively provide the line of credit in Nepalese MSMEs, which can in-turn boost job creation, raise income, empower MSMEs, reduce vulnerability and increase investments in business growth and promotion.
- These days Nepalese economy practicing federal economic system through 7 autonomous provinces, where there are at least 7 to 16 districts in each province.
- The resources, capital and topographies have different among each other, therefore it is a new experience to us to practice our business and investment under this situation.
- However, we are sure that we can scale up our business and achieve economic growth through the intact mobilization of MSME. But, we need support for some period of time.
- As SDF is worked to promote the welfare of the people of SAARC region, to improve their quality of life, to accelerate economic growth, social progress and poverty alleviation in the Region, we highly expect the support of SDF as of its scope and objective.
- I feel, there are many projects are in operation under SDF, but the focus on MSME is still in shadow.
- MSME sector and their role into employment creation, revenue generation, poverty alleviation and capital formation is significantly remarkable but why is sector is not properly considered?
- For example, in Nepal more than 74% of employment is generated by MSMEs and contributed more than 40% of national GDP. Hence, we are in the line to support this sector.
- We have clear idea about the role model project of MSMEs, which we can start in Nepal and replicate in our member countries in the region.
- When we talk of about business and investment, we should not look only at goods and services. What is equally important is

the entrepreneurship of the mind and the Corporate Social Responsibility for the community.

Let's have a join hands and ready for collaboration.

saarc wayforward

- To build partnership with various Multilateral Development Banks, Regional Financial Institutions, Scheduled commercial Banks, public and private sector corporate bodies, donor agencies and development organizations.
- Bamboo Based enterprise development.
- Networking and capacity building of women entrepreneurs from SAARC countries.
- Economic empowerment of women through Energy access.
- Support to value chain, entrepreneurship and skill development.
- Hydropower project in Nepal with participation of Bangladesh and India.
- Livelihood enhancement of small farmers in SAARC region through small agro- business focusing on value chain development.
- Empowering the Rural Communities.