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SAARCFINANCE Database Webinar on: "COVID-19 Pandemic in the SAARC Countries: Policy Responses and its Impact" & Database Working Group Meeting

Tuesday, June 22, 2021

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM (Bangladesh Standard Time)

Organized by: **SAARCFINANCE Cell** Research Department Bangladesh Bank

Program Schedule

SAARCFINANCE Database Webinar			
10:00 – 10:50 AM	Inaugural Session		
	Chief Guest: Mr. Abu Farah Md. Nasser, Deputy Governor, Bangladesh Bank		
	Chairperson: Mr. Asish Kumar Dasgupta, Executive Director (Research),		
	Bangladesh Bank		
	Participants: Distinguished Guests, Nominated all participants from SAARC member		
	countries for database webinar and working group meeting, Nodal		
	officers, Working group members and SAARCFINANCE Coordinators		
	and Alternate Coordinators		
10:00 – 10:05 AM	Welcome Remarks by Dr. Sayera Younus , SAARCFINANCE Coordinator,		
10.05 10.10.175	Bangladesh and General Manager, Research Department, Bangladesh Bank		
10:05 – 10:10 AM			
10.10 10.25 13.5	(Statistics), Bangladesh Bank		
10:10 – 10:35 AM			
10:35 – 10:45 AM	Reserve Bank of India		
10:35 – 10:45 AM	Speech by the Chief Guest Mr. Abu Farah Md. Nasser, Deputy Governor,		
10:45 – 10:50 AM	Bangladesh Bank Speech by the Chairperson Mr. Asigh Kuman Daggunta Evacutive Director		
10:45 – 10:50 AM	Speech by the Chairperson Mr . Asish Kumar Dasgupta , Executive Director (Research), Bangladesh Bank		
	Short break (for 05 minutes)		
10:55 – 01:45 PM			
10:55 - 01:45 FM			
	Session Chair: Dr. Md. Habibur Rahman, Executive Director (Research), Bangladesh Bank		
	Participants: Nominated participants from SAARC member countries for Database		
	Webinar, SAARCFINANCE Coordinators and Alternate Coordinators,		
	and Distinguished Guests		
10:55 – 12:15 PM	ž .		
10:55 – 11:10 AM	Country Paper Presentation by Afghanistan		
11:10 – 11:25 AM	Country Paper Presentation by Bangladesh		
11:25 – 11:40 AM	Country Paper Presentation by Bhutan		
11:40 – 11:55 AM	Country Paper Presentation by India		
11:55 – 12:15 PM	Open floor for Discussion		
Short Break (for 05 minutes)			
12:20 – 01:45 PM	Working Session-II		
12:20 – 12:35 PM	Country Paper Presentation by Maldives		
12:35 – 12:50 PM	Country Paper Presentation by Nepal		
12:50 – 01:05 PM	Country Paper Presentation by Pakistan		
01:05 – 01:20 PM	Country Paper Presentation by Sri Lanka		
01:20 – 01:40 PM	Open floor for Discussion		
01:40 – 01:45 PM	Closing Remarks by Dr. Sayera Younus, SAARCFINANCE Coordinator,		
	Bangladesh and General Manager, Research Department, Bangladesh Bank		
Lunch Break (for 1 hour and 15 minutes)			

03:00 – 4:00 PM	SAARCFINANCE Database Working Group Meeting		
03:00-03:10	Inaugural Session		
PM	Presided by: Reserve Bank of India		
	Special Guest: Mr. A.K.M. Fazlul Haque Mia, Executive Director (Statistics), Bangladesh Bank		
	Moderator: Mr. Md. Rafiqul Islam, Deputy General Manager, Statistics department, Bangladesh Bank		
	Participants: Nominated participants from SAARC member countries for Working Group Meeting, Nodal officers, Working group members, and SAARCFINANCE Coordinators and Alternate Coordinators		
03:10-03:30 PM	M Discussion on the Decisions Taken in the Preceding SFDB Seminar Technical Meeting and SFDB bilateral meetings		
	Chair: Dr. Mohua Roy, Adviser-in-Charge, International Department, Reserve Bank of India		
	-Opening remarks by the Chair followed by the discussion.		
03:30-03:40 PM	Discussion on SFDB Audit of the Country data (June 2021)		
	-The data gaps in each country's data sheet, metadata and Advance Release Calender (led by International Department, RBI).		
03:40-03:55 PM	Presentation on implementation of Data Reporting portal in the Centralized Information Management System (CIMS)		
	Chair: Dr. Ajit R Joshi, Principal Adviser, Department of Statistics & Information Management, Reserve Bank of India		
	-Opening remarks by the Chair followed by the presentation		
	-Discussion on the Data submission issues in the existing system		
03:55-04:00 PM	Concluding remarks by Bangladesh Bank		

Distinguished Delegates' Profiles:

Mr. Abu Farah Md. Nasser, Chief Guest



Mr. Abu Farah Md. Nasser has been Deputy Governor of Bangladesh Bank since March 2021. He started his career as Central Banker at Bangladesh Bank in October 1988. With over 32 years of experience in different positions in Bangladesh Bank, he supervised the activities of the Banking Regulation and Policy Department, Department of Off-site Supervision, Department of Banking Inspection, Agricultural Credit Department, SME & Special Programmes Department, etc. He has a wide range of experience in serving as the Member of the Executive Committee at Islamic Financial Services Board (IFSB) in Malaysia, Member of Technical Committee at IFSB in Malaysia, Director of the Karmasangsthan Bank, Chair of the Advisory Committee in formulating Guidelines on Green Bond Taxonomy, and many more. He also served in Microcredit Regulatory Authority (MRA) as a Director for three years on Deputation. He held many important roles, such as, the Advisor of the Financial Stability Report Preparation Committee, Coordinator of the Guidelines on Internal Credit Risk Rating System for Banks, Chief Coordinator of the Policy Guidelines for providing financial support to export-oriented industries, local industries and Traded business affected by COVID-19, etc.

Mr. Nasser obtained his Master's & Bachelor's degrees in Accounting from the University of Dhaka. He is the first-ever National Integrity Award winner of Bangladesh Bank in 2019. His primary areas of interest are prudential regulation, banking risk management, corporate governance, macroeconomic & financial stability, sustainable Financing, and green bond taxonomy, etc.

In his illustrious career, Mr. Nasser visited many countries to attend various courses, seminars, and conferences organized by international institutions; notably, World Bank, IMF, Federal Reserve System, Asian Development Bank, AFI, APRACA and The Islamic Financial Services Board.

Dr. Mridul Kumar Saggar, Keynote Speaker



Dr. Mridul Kumar Saggar has been a central banker for three decades. He has varied experience in various fields related to macroeconomics, monetary policy, financial markets, international financial architecture, global financial regulatory reforms and national income accounting. He is currently the Executive Director at the Reserve Bank of India overseeing the economics and policy research in the central bank. He is also the member of its Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) that sets the central bank's policy rate and the Financial Markets Committee (FMC) that looks after financial market operations for monetary policy implementation.

In past, he had also served as Head of the International Department of the Reserve Bank with responsibilities that included international financial architecture and global financial regulatory reform issues besides central bank swap arrangements. He also Chaired the Working Group on SAARFINANCE database during 2018-20, operationalizing it and then steering it to new improved levels.

Dr. Mridul has represented India in senior capacity at various international bodies like the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), Financial Stability Board (FSB), International Monetary Fund (IMF), OECD, G20, BRICS and SAARC. He has represented India at the G20 Finance Deputies and on international committees such as International Financial Architecture (IFA), Framework Working Group (FWG), Infrastructure Working Group (IWG) and OECD Advisory Task Force on the Codes on Capital Account Liberalization (ATFC). He has also served on various governmental committees and Expert Groups and has been on the Advisory Committee of the International Institute of Banking and Finance (IIBF). Currently, he is on the Executive Committee of the Indian Association of Research in National Income and Wealth (IARNIW).

During 2008-10, he had a stint as Chief Economist of Kotak, India's largest I-bank and served institutional portfolio investors all over the globe. He also participated in several debates on financial news channels. He holds a doctoral degree from Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai and has been a fellow at the Princeton University, New Jersey, USA. He is a distinguished researcher with over 50 published articles in magazines and professional referred national and international journals. He has delivered guest lectures at several central banks and academic institutions in various parts of the world.

Mr. A.K.M. Fazlul Haque Mia, Special Guest



Mr. A.K.M. Fazlul Haque Mia started his professional career as an Assistant Director on 1 April in 1989 in Statistics Department of Bangladesh Bank. He is currently holding the post of Executive Director (Statistics) since 28 March, 2019. He became Executive Director (Specialized) on 3 October, 2016. He has completed B.Sc. (Hon's) and M.Sc. in Statistics from Jahangirnagar University.

Mr. Mia has vast working experience in Monetary and Financial Statistics, Balance of Payments (BoP), Banking Statistics, Foreign Investment and External Debt, Non-bank Financial Institution, e-Banking and e-Commerce Statistics etc. Currently he has been supervising Credit Information Bureau (CIB) and Statistics Department of Bangladesh Bank. He has special contribution to the compilation of Balance of Payments (BoP) of Bangladesh. He has got many foreign training from IMF (Washington DC), Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) and attended many foreign seminars and meeting with IMF, World Bank, different ministries, banks, vendors and other national & international organizations as well.

Mr. Asish Kumar Dasgupta, Chairperson



Mr. Asish Kumar Dasgupta has started his career as an Assistant Director on June 15, 1989 in Research Department of Bangladesh Bank. He is currently working as an Executive Director (Research) in the Bangladesh Bank (Central Bank of Bangladesh). Currently, he looks after the activities of the Research Department of Bangladesh Bank. He is presently a Steering Committee Member of SARTTAC on behalf of Bangladesh Bank.

Dr. Md. Habibur Rahman, Working Session Chair



Dr. Md. Habibur Rahman is currently working as an Executive Director (Research) and Chief Economist (in Charge) in the Central Bank of Bangladesh (the Bangladesh Bank) overseeing the Monetary Policy Department and Chief Economist's Unit of the Bank. Dr. Rahman joined the Research Department of Bangladesh Bank in 1990 and has been working under various capacities of the Bank since then. He was also appointed as a Senior Research Economist at the Policy Analysis Unit (PAU), a World Bank-funded capacity building project at the Bank. Dr. Rahman completed his B.Sc. (Honors) and M.Sc. in Economics from Jahangirnagar University, Savar, Dhaka. Later on, he obtained his Master's in Economics and Ph.D. in Applied Economics respectively from Eastern Michigan and Western Michigan University of the USA.

Dr. Rahman attended the Advanced Training Program (ATP) at the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS). He has also attended 'the Fletcher School Leadership Program for Financial Inclusion,' an innovative training initiative of the Tufts University (USA) designed for banking regulators and policy-makers. Dr. Rahman has many publications covering monetary, real, fiscal, and external sector economics.

Dr. Sayera Younus, SAARCFINANCE Coordinator, Bangladesh



Dr. Sayera Younus is currently working as a SAAARCFINANCE Coordinator, Bangladesh since May 2016 and General Manager of Research Department. She looks over the works of Economic Modeling and Forecasting Unit, SAARCFINANCE Cell and International Financial Institutions Division. She did her Post-Doctoral Research on 'Developing a DSGE model for Bangladesh' as a Fulbright Visiting Scholar at Fordham University, USA. She did her MS and Ph.D. on Applied Economics from the Eastern Michigan and Western Michigan University respectively in the USA. Bangladesh Bank recognized her with a Gold Medal on 22nd April 2014 for her contribution to the field of research on monetary, inflation, exchange rate, interest rate and credit policies including banks' assets portfolios, asset quality and non-performing loans. Dr. Sayera has many publications in the national and international journal covering monetary, real, fiscal and external sectors. Her areas of interest are monetary, macroeconomics, macro-modeling and Econometrics.

COUNTRY PAPER PRESENTERS FROM SAARC CENTRAL BANKS:



Mr. Mohammad Dawood Niazai, DAB

Mr. Mohammad Dawood Niazai is the Regional economic analyst of the Monetary Policy Department in the Da Afghanistan Bank and the SAARCFINANCE Coordinator, Afghanistan. He obtained his MA in Economics from Osmania University, Hyderabad, India and BA in Economics from Nangarhar University, Afghanistan.



Ms. Saila Sarmin Rapti, BB

Ms. Saila Sarmin Rapti started her career as an Assistant Director in Research Department of Bangladesh Bank in 2016. She received her Master's and Bachelor's degree in Economics from Jahangirnagar University. Her current areas of research interest are macroeconomics, monetary economics, regional development, financial inclusion etc.



Ms. Ugyen Dema, RMA

Ms. Ugyen Dema joined the Royal Monetary Authority of Bhutan in the year 2020 as an Assistant Research Officer at the Department of Macroeconomic Research and Statistics. Currently, she works under the Monetary Sector. She holds a bachelor's degree in Economics and Environmental Studies from the Royal Thimphu College in Bhutan.



Dr. Indrani Manna, RBI

Dr. Indrani Manna is Director, Research with the Reserve Bank of India. She has a doctorate in economics from the University of Kansas, USA. Her research interests include macroeconomics and non-parametric econometrics. She has published in reputed journals like the Quarterly Journal of Finance and Accounting, Open Economies Review and International Symposia on Econometrics and Economic Theory.



Mr. Kedar Prasad Pokhrel, NRB

Mr. Kedar Prasad Pokhrel is Deputy Director in Bank and Financial Institutions Regulation Department at Nepal Rastra Bank. He did Master in Business Administration from Tribhuvan University, Nepal in 1998. He has participated in various programs related to central banking, finance and accounting organized by different national and international organizations. His areas of interest are banking and financial management.



Ms. Dhaha Shuaib, MMA

Ms. Dhaha Shuaib is currently a senior research analyst at the Modelling and Forecasting Section of the Monetary Policy and Exchange Rate Division. She holds a Master's degree in Economics along with a Bachelor's degree in Economics, Mathematics and Statistics. Her main area of work consists of forecasting the economic indicators of the country and contributing to the research requirements of the authority.



Mr. Muhammad Abdus Salam, SBP

Mr. Muhammad Abdus Salam is currently associated with the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) in capacity of Joint Director. He is also a resource person (trainer) at National Institute of Banking and Finance (NIBAF). He has earned M. Sc Statistics from University of Peshawar and M. Phil in Statistics from Government College University, Lahore (GCUL). He has also earned master's degree (MAS) from Applied Economic Research Centre and MBA from the renowned Asian institute, Institute of Business Administration (IBA).



Mr. Janaka Edirisinghe, CBSL

Mr. Janaka Edirisinghe is the Head and a Senior Economist at the Money and Banking Division in the Economic Research Department of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. He has obtained his postgraduate degree from the University of Cincinnati, USA in Applied Economics. His primary areas of interest are Monetary Policy, Fiscal Policy and Central Banking.



Mr. Thilak Ranjeewa Priyadarshana, CBSL

Mr. Thilak Ranjeewa Priyadarshana is the Head and a Senior Economist at the Public Finance Division in the Economic Research Department of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. He has obtained his postgraduate degrees in Economics from the University of Southampton, UK and the University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka. His primary areas of interest are Monetary Policy, Fiscal Policy and Central Banking.

Other Participants in the Database Webinar and Working Group Meeting



Mr. Nasrullah Stanekzai, DAB

Mr. Nasrullah Stanekzai is an Economic researcher of the Monetary Policy Department of Da Afghanistan Bank.



Md. Meraj Uddin Sarker, BB

Md. Meraj Uddin Sarker is currently holding the post General Manager since August 31, 2020. He has completed B.Sc. (Hon's) and M.Sc. in Statistics from Rajshahi University. He has working experience in Balance of Payments (BoP), Banking Statistics, Foreign Investment and External Debt etc.



Md. Rafiqul Islam, BB

Md. Rafiqul Islam is currently holding the post Deputy General Manager since December 31, 2020. He works as Nodal officer of SAARCFINANCE Database Cell, Bangladesh Bank. He has completed B.Sc. (Hon's) and M.S. in Statistics from Dhaka University. He also achieved Master of Economics from Ritsumeikan University, Japan.



Ms. Samia Alam, BB

Ms. Samia Alam started her professional career as an Assistant Director on April 09, 2018 in Statistics Department of Bangladesh Bank. She is currently holding the post Deputy Director since December 22, 2020. She has completed B.Sc. (Hon's) and M.S. in Statistics from Jahangirnagar University.



Tanzila Rahman Mou, BB

Ms. Tanzila Rahman Mou started her professional career as an Assistant Director on December 14, 2020 in Statistics Department of Bangladesh Bank. She has completed B.S. (Hon's) and M.S. in Statistics from Dhaka University.



Mr. Sonam Tobgye, RMA

Mr. Sonam Tobgye is Chief Research Officer at the Department of Macroeconomic Research and Statistics in Royal Monetary Authority of Bhutan (RMA). Mr. Sonam holds Master's degree in Economics from International University of Japan.



Ms. Yeshi Choden Wangchen, RMA

Ms. Yeshi Choden Wangchen is an Asst. Research officer of the Department of Macroeconomic Research and Statistics in Royal Monetary Authority of Bhutan.



Dr. Mohua Roy, RBI

Dr. Mohua Roy is the Adviser-in-Charge of the International Department in the Reserve Bank of India since July 2020. Dr. Roy has also served as Advisor to Executive Director, OEDIN, IMF, and IMFC Alternate Deputy for India.



Dr. Ajit R. Joshi, RBI

Dr. Ajit R. Joshi is the Principal Adviser of the Department of Statistics and Information Management (DSIM) Reserve Bank of India. As the Head of the Department of Statistics and Information Management (DSIM), he mainly looks after collection of large scale data on banking, corporate and external sector. Forward looking surveys for supporting the monetary policy are conducted by the Department.



Mr. Debasis Nandi, RBI

Mr. Debasis Nandi is the Director of the Data Management and Dissemination Division, DSIM of the Reserve Bank of India. He is also assigned as Nodal Officer of SAARCFINANCE Database. He is also guiding a project team for overhauling the DW System using Big-Data Technology.



Ms. Smita Sharma, RBI

Ms. Smita Sharma is the Director of the International Department in the Reserve Bank of India. She is also assigned as the SAARCFINANCE Coordinator, India.



Dr. Ajesh Palayi, RBI

Dr. Ajesh Palayi is the Research Officer of International Department in the Reserve Bank of India. He is also assigned as the SAARCFINANCE Alternate Coordinator, India.



Mr. Maulik Shengal, RBI

Mr. Maulik Shengal is the Manager of the International Department of Reserve Bank of India. He is also assigned as a Nodal Officer of the SAARCFINANCE Database Working Group.



Ms. Mariyam Rashfa, MMA

Ms. Mariyam Rashfa is the Executive Director of the Research Division at the Maldives Monetary Authority (MMA). Ms. Rashfa joined the MMA in 2003 and held various positions in the areas of monetary policy and research. From 2017-2019 she also worked as a Fiscal and Macroeconomic Research Consultant at the Fiscal Affairs Division of the Ministry of Finance. She holds a Masters in Macroeconomic Policy from the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, Japan.



Ms. Fathimath Faisha, MMA

Ms. Fathimath Faisha is the section head of statistical Information System Section (SISS) at the Maldives Monetary Authority (MMA). She joined MMA in 2007 as a monetary compiler and since then she had 12 years of experience working in MMA: focusing mainly on monetary and financial data, data management and dissemination. She holds a Master's degree in International and Development Economics and Bachelor's degree in Analytical Economics.



Ms. Zoona Ahmed, MMA

Zoona Ahmed joined the Maldives Monetary Authority in 2018 and has been working in the Statistical Information Systems Section of the Statistics Division since. She is currently the Nodal Officer of the SAARCFINANCE Database of Maldives.



Mr. Buddha Raj Sharma, NRB

Mr. Buddha Raj Sharma is Director in Banks and Financial Institutions Regulation Department at Nepal Rastra Bank. He completed his Master in Business Studies (MBS) in 2003 and Masters of Arts in Economics in 2008 from Tribhuvan University, Nepal. His field of interests are financial stability, monetary/macroeconomic policies and financial sector policies.



Dr. Dilli Ram Pokhrel, NRB

Dr. Dilli Ram Pokhrel is Director of External Sector Unit in Economic Research Department at Nepal Rastra Bank. He did M.A. in Economics from Tribhuvan University, Nepal in 1999 and received Ph.D. in Economics from Osaka Sangyo University, Japan in 2006. His field of interests is monetary/macroeconomic policies and financial economics.



Ms. Lasantha Wijerathna, CBSL

Ms. Lasantha Wijerathna is working as a senior economist attached to the Real Sector Division of the Economic Research Department of the Central Bank. She earned her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees, specialized in Economics from the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. Her primary areas of interest are Monetary Policy, growth and development.



Dr. Janaka Maheepala, CBSL

Dr. Janaka Maheepala is working as a senior economist attached to the Modelling and Forecasting Division of the Economic Research Department of the Central Bank. He earned his Master degree in Applied Economics from the University of Cincinnati, USA and PhD in Economics from the University of Texas Tech, USA. His primary areas of interest are Monetary Policy, Fiscal Policy and Econometrics.



Dr. Lasitha Pathberiya, CBSL

Dr. Lasitha R. C. Pathberiya is currently working as a Deputy Director of Economic Research Department of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and Secretary to the Monetary Policy Committee of the Central Bank. He oversees work relating to Money and Banking, International Finance and Administration Divisions of Economic Research Department. Dr. Lasitha has received his PhD in Economics at the University of Queensland, Australia. He has completed Master in Business Economics at the University of Queensland, achieving Deans Honor for excellence in his studies. His research interest area is macroeconomics, monetary policy, particularly new Keynesian economics.

Other Participants from Bangladesh Bank

1.	Mr. Shah Zia-Ul Haque, Joint Director, Payment Systems Department	
2.	Mr. Md. Hassan Chisty, Deputy Director, Agricultural Credit Department	
3.	Mr. Hossain Md. Al Helal, Joint Director, Monetary Policy Department	
4.	Mr. Mohammad Jahid Iqbal, Joint Director, SME and Special Programs Department	
5.	Mr. Muhammad Jahangir Alam, Joint Director, Financial Inclusion Department	
6.	Ms. Umma Salma Liza, Joint Director, Foreign Exchange Policy Department	
7.	Dr. Md Salim Al Mamun, Deputy General Manager (Research), Chief Economists Unit	
8.	Ms. Ratna Biswas, Joint Director, Department of Off-site Supervision	
9.	Mr. Md. Mir Hossain, Assistant Maintenance Engineer, ICTIMMD	
10.	Mr. Mollah Khokon Ali, Assistant Maintenance Engineer, ICTIMMD	

Seminar Management Committee:



Mr. Asish Kumar Dasgupta, Executive Director (Research)



Dr. Sayera Younus, SF Coordinator and General Manager



Mr. Md. Abdul Karim, SF Alternate Coordinator and Deputy General Manager



Mr. Md. Rafiqul Islam, SF Nodal Person, Deputy General Manager (Statistics)



Mr. Tarek Aziz, Joint Director, Research Department



Mr. Dipankar Kumar Chowdhury, Joint Director (Maintenance Engineer)



Ms. Saila Sarmin Rapti, Deputy Director Research Department



Ms. Rifat Ara Bindu, Assistant Director Research Department



Mr. Md. Sajjad Hossain, Assistant Director Research Department

List of SAARCFINANCE Coordinators and SAARCFINANCE Alternate Coordinators

Country	SAARCFINANCE Coordinators	SAARCFINANCE Alternate Coordinators
Afghanistan	Mr. Abdul Karim Malikyar	Mr. Mohammad Dawood Niazai
Bangladesh	Dr. Sayera Younus	Mr. Md. Abdul Karim
Bhutan	Mr. Sonam Tobgye	Ms. Yeshi Choden Wangchen
India	Ms. Smita Sharma	Mr. Ajesh Palayi
Maldives	Ms. Idham Hussain	Ms. Mariyam Rashfa
Nepal	Mr. Narayan Prasad Pokhrel	Mr. Damber Subedi
Pakistan	Mr. Farooq Arby	Mr. Muhammad Asghar Khan
Sri Lanka	Ms. M M Lasantha K Wijerathne	Dr. M M Janaka D Maheepala