



**COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH
ON
SOUTH ASIA TAX SYSTEMS**

WORKSHOP DOCUMENT

8-9 August, 2010

Hotel Furama City, Singapore

GOVERNANCE INSTITUTES NETWORK INTERNATIONAL

House 21, Street 56, Sector F-6/4 Islamabad 44000 – Pakistan
Tel: (92-51) 287 65 12 / 287 03 22 Fax: (92-51) 287 65 14
E-mail: info@giniweb.net or mail@giniweb.net Website: www.giniweb.net

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Background

Revenue systems in developing countries across South Asia can generally be characterized as inefficient and regressive. This undermines the redistributive function of fiscal policy and leads to sub-optimal allocation of resources. This also erodes the ability of governments to fund the delivery of adequate public services. Additionally, these systems are highly centralized and dependent on indirect rather than direct taxation. This causes vertical fiscal imbalance, raises distributional concerns, and detracts from effective accountability to the taxpaying citizens. Governments across South Asia have launched various policy reforms to address these concerns but have made only modest headway against these challenges. Ample academic theorizing and political debates have centered on the reasons behind reform failure in host countries. But there is little in the way of current, methodologically sound, and policy relevant research which illuminates the factors which cause and perpetuate the tradition of failure for public finance reforms throughout the region. Key knowledge gaps relating to the political economy of tax regimes; recent and upcoming fiscal reforms; and fiscal federalism and decentralization need to be filled. This would allow well-intentioned policies to deliver revenue systems that enhance inclusive growth, and fund needful social protection measures in South Asia.

First, the political economy of South Asian countries is not hospitable to public finance reform. Casualties include proposals for an agriculture income tax in Pakistan¹, reforms for fiscal federalism in India², and the planned reduction and simplification of import tariffs in Sri Lanka³. International experience suggests that reform process in its political dimensions is as important as reform outcomes. Yet, analysis of revenue systems from political economy perspectives remains sparse in countries of the region. Without it narrow interest groups with political influence will have successfully sabotaged tax reform efforts. Research needs to be conducted, which provides a detailed, explicit stocktaking of the perverse incentives which underpin implementation failure. The immediate politico-economic interests at stake and their detailed contours, the roles of the stakeholders, and their inter-relational dynamics over time need to be studied. Most importantly, current research does not reveal the extent or nature of influence these factors exercise over reform, as well as over the immediate policy and institutional environment.

Second, efficient and effective tax administration has been singled out as a key success factor for tax reform in literature from Bangladesh⁴, Sri Lanka⁵, India⁶ and Pakistan⁷. Empirical research suggests that in developing countries, “tax administration is tax policy.”⁸ The

¹ The theory and practice of agricultural income tax in Pakistan and a viable solution, M. Ghaffar Chaudhry, 1999

² Federalism in India: Political Economy and Reform, Govinda Rao and Nirvikar Singh, 2001

³ Sri Lanka: The Political Economy of Failure, Razeen Sally, 2006

⁴ Delivering on Budget FY2009-10: A set of Implementation Issues, Center for Policy Dialogue, 2009

⁵ Anomalies in the Taxation System in Sri Lanka: Need for Reform and Restructuring, Saman Kelegama, Executive Director, Institute of Policy Studies (IPS)

⁶ Tax System Reform in India: Achievements and Challenges Ahead, Govinda M. Rao, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP), 2005

⁷ Updated Project Information Document, Pakistan Tax Administration Reforms Project, World Bank, 2004

⁸ Milka Casanegra de Jantscher, 1990

marginalization of administrative aspects in reform efforts represents bureaucratic intransigence in the face of political will, which in itself is a colonial holdover. Ignoring tax administration perpetuates the bureaucratic hegemony over political consensus in public finance. It allows policies and reforms approved through the legislative process to be paralyzed in implementation. There is no research on ‘how’ and ‘why’ the bureaucratic anti-reform lobbies are able to achieve this and what countervailing measures may be taken to insulate reform efforts. In Pakistan, for instance, literature on tax administration is limited to practitioner accounts from the Federal Bureau of Revenue and programme documents from the World Bank. Research needs to uncover the specific motivational drivers, capacity and resource constraints, excessive discretionary powers, lack of financial controls and absence of political oversight that create rent seeking opportunities. Without it, policy changes will not filter down to the average taxpayer, and the rift between *de jure* policy and *de facto* implementation will persist. Additionally, given the shared colonial background and largely identical bureaucratic apparatus of South Asian states, collaborative research on the issue would present a seminal opportunity to evolve common solutions to shared problems from the same bureaucratic inheritance.

Third, fiscal federalism and decentralization remain problematic for all countries in South Asia to varying degrees. In Pakistan federal-provincial fiscal relations are vertically imbalanced with all provinces suffering chronic deficits owing largely to capacity constraints, lack of political will and bureaucratic resistance.⁹ Local finance suffers from poor linkages between development and non-development budgets, vertically executed projects with poor O&M planning, arbitrary and opaque province-local transfers and excessive bureaucracy in account keeping.¹⁰ In Sri Lanka, the Provincial Council System is weakened by inadequate decentralization of revenue sources to the provinces, mismatch between nature of provincial expenditure and funding, and flaws in the prevailing grants system. This causes weak fiscal management and control.¹¹ In India, federal-provincial transfers have failed to address growing interstate economic disparities.¹² Research on the optimal assignment of taxes and expenditures between the different tiers of government and its continual updating is scanty.¹³ There is no literature for instance, on the specific factors mitigating against the correction of vertical imbalance between the Centre and the Provinces or between the Provinces and Local Governments in Pakistan. Fiscal autonomy promised prior to independence has only recently been granted to provinces this year through the 18th Constitutional Amendment. This raises multiple questions: What are the dilatory factors at play? How may they be overcome? How far will this measure redress the vertical fiscal imbalance? How far will it reduce inter-provincial and inter-district socio-economic disparities? Intergovernmental fiscal relations are often the key source of funding for lower tiers. If these questions remain unanswered, and the current problems remain unsolved, the result will be continuing fiscal instability, political discontent, and starved development spending.

Fourth, a number of recent tax policy reforms have been introduced in South Asian countries and a number of reform proposals are under consideration with their respective governments. Pakistan is set to upgrade to a full-fledged VAT despite more than a decade of lack-luster

⁹ Pakistan Tax Policy Report, World Bank, Volumes I & II, July 2009

¹⁰ Pakistan’s Fiscal Decentralization: Issues and Opportunities, George E Peterson, World Bank 2002

¹¹ De-centralization and Provincial Finance in Sri Lanka, D.D.M. Waidyasekera, Governance Series, Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), 2000

¹² Federalism in India: Political Economy and Reform, Govinda Rao and Nirvikar Singh, 2001

¹³ With the exception of one study: (Hafiz Pasha, 1997), no other literature could be found which focuses directly on this issue.

performance under a quasi-VAT Sales Tax regime introduced in 1990.¹⁴ Policy experiments with VAT reform are a part of regional experience, with Bangladesh¹⁵, India¹⁶, and Sri Lanka¹⁷ having introduced it in one form or another over the past decade with mixed success. However, there is very little in the way of detailed economic analysis by governments, think-tanks, or independent researchers on the impacts of such reforms on revenue, efficiency and progressivity. Without this knowledge, it is difficult to assess prospects for improvement in the context of the current and immediate legal/institutional environment, or to ascertain implications for growth inclusivity and fiscal stability in South Asia. Given this shared experience of VAT and other fiscal reforms, there is added value in collaborative research on this issue conducted by think tanks throughout the region. It will allow them to crystallize learning experiences, flag pitfalls for governments attempting new reforms, and share best practices on reform design, execution and sequencing.

Fifth, research on direct and indirect taxation focuses on the more conventional concern of progressivity of tax burden and impact on lower-income strata. However, direct and indirect taxes also have very different implications for compliance, transparency, and accountability. While it is widely acknowledged that regional tax authorities have favored indirect taxation as the primary source of revenue, this dependence is usually linked to convenient collection. But this dependence allows tax authorities and their affiliated public institutions to perpetuate the low levels of transparency and accountability associated with indirect taxation. This is because indirect taxation impacts groups rather than individual taxpayers, diffusing the link between representative and financial legitimacy. There is sparse research on this aspect of the direct vs. indirect taxation debate at the national or regional levels in South Asia.

For each theme research questions have been posed (with due consultation with Workshop invitees) which will be further refined, elaborated and crystallized in line with feedback from Workshop participants:

1. Political economy of tax regimes (Theme 1)

- Who are the major formal and informal lobbies and what are their political and economic interests?
- What is the extent and nature of their influence over policy formulation and implementation?
- What are the key political factors affecting the makeup of earmarked revenue and general budgetary support?
- What are the key political factors affecting the policies and institutional arrangements for fiscal federalism and decentralization?
- What is the impact of the above on historical and current reform efforts?

2. Recent and upcoming fiscal reforms (Theme 2)

- What has been the impact of the past fiscal policy reforms at the federal, provincial, and local levels of government on revenue generation, efficiency, and progressivity? What are the key lessons learned for present and future policy reform efforts?

¹⁴ Pakistan Tax Policy Report, World Bank, Volumes I & II, July 2009

¹⁵ The Equity Impact of the Value Added Tax in Bangladesh, Shahabuddin M. Hussain, 1995

¹⁶ Tax System Reform in India: Achievements and Challenges Ahead, Govinda M. Rao, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP), 2005

¹⁷ Anomalies in the Taxation System in Sri Lanka: Need for Reform and Restructuring, Saman Kelegama, Executive Director, Institute of Policy Studies (IPS)

- What are the short, medium, and long term implications of past and current policy reforms on inclusive growth and fiscal stability?
- What are the key institutional weaknesses within regional tax authorities which retard tax administration and reform implementation? What are the key measures required to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of tax administration and transparency and accountability of operations?
- What are the implications for accountability and transparency given the dependence of regional tax authorities on indirect taxation vis a vie direct taxation?

3. Fiscal federalism and decentralization (Theme 3)

- What are the key factors impeding the correction of vertical fiscal imbalance between hierarchical tiers of government in South Asian countries? How may they be overcome?
- What is the optimal assignment of taxes and expenditures between different levels of government in each South Asian country? How has that changed over time?

Objectives

General Objective: To organize a regional workshop of representatives of think-tanks from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka to plan collaborative research on tax systems in South Asia, and organize a network to conduct this research.

Specific Objective 1: Solicit inputs from Workshop participants and gain consensus on research questions (stated earlier) and refine them according to national context, interest and experience of collaborating institutions, and opportunities for comparative analysis at the regional level.

Specific Objective 2: Develop an Integrated Proposal with detailed methodologies for collaborative regional research on the research themes and questions (stated earlier) with an added analytical component that allows comparative analysis to:

- Highlight similarities and differences in the institutional and policy environments
- Identify and explain regional patterns and trends over time
- Evolve best practices for reform design, sequencing and implementation under adverse conditions

Specific Objective 3: Finalize institutional arrangements and organizational details for setting up and running a South Asian network for undertaking the collaborative research, specifying:

- Roles and responsibilities of collaborating institutions
- Communication and coordination protocols
- Activity planning at the regional, national, and institutional level
- Financial protocols

Methodology

Governance Institutions Network International (GINI) is an NGO based in Islamabad, Pakistan, Registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission under section 42 of the Companies Ordinance 1984. GINI specializes in policy research, analysis and advocacy focusing on governance reform and capacity building at the national and local levels. Past

activities include extensive research work conducted for the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

GINI has approached IDRC Canada for support to establish a regional network of research institutions and individuals under the ‘*Globalization, Growth and Poverty*’ (GPP) program¹⁸. The network will focus on the fiscal policy and accountability sub-theme of the GPP. In this way, the study fiscal policy and revenue systems within and across countries in South Asia will inform decision making regarding the policy mixes that best promote inclusive growth in various national contexts in the developing countries of South Asia.

As a first step, GINI is proposing to hold a workshop to bring together leading scholars in the field, from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, USA, and Canada¹⁹, to participate in a planning workshop. Participants will contribute towards proposing roles and responsibilities of the network members and its structure and functional modalities. Also, the workshop will finalize the research themes and questions as well as the methodology and logistics for the first phase of the network functioning.

The Workshop will be a 2 day event organized in Singapore scheduled for 8th and 9th August, 2010 at the Furama City Centre. ‘Day 1’ will involve the sharing of country and regional experiences pertaining to each research theme, and discussion on the research questions. Delegates will be asked to prepare their inputs beforehand, which will then be presented to all participants. Each Session will be organized to begin with presentations by delegates from each country on the Session theme. Each presentation will be followed by a ‘Question & Answer’ session and then opened up to the floor for discussion. There will be 3 such Sessions on the first half of ‘Day 1’, one for each research theme.

On the second half of ‘Day 1’, participants will break up into Thematic Collaborative Work Groups to prepare research methodologies for their particular theme. Participants will be pre-assigned to collaborative work groups based on their preferences communicated to GINI prior to the Workshop. Each methodology will detail:

- Design approach (experimental or quasi-experimental)
- Research parameters
- Sampling strategy (population, sampling fraction, sampling frame, etc.)
- Research instruments (questionnaires, Focus Group Discussions, unstructured interviews, etc.) and data sources (key informant groups including government officials, donors, academics, etc.)
- Collection protocols (reliability checks, enumerator trainings and supervision, etc.)
- Data entry, verification, and storage procedures
- Analytical methods

¹⁸‘Globalization, Growth and Poverty’ (GPP) is an economic policy program initiated by the International Development Resource Center (IDRC), Canada. Its overall objective is to support research to inform decision making regarding the policy mixes that best promote inclusive growth in various national contexts in developing countries. ‘Fiscal Policy and Accountability’ is a key research theme of the GPP, focusing on the alignment of both the tax and expenditure sides of the government budget for growth and equity.)

¹⁹ The North American scholars are intended to provide substantive and programmatic support for the initiative. Dr. Anwar Shah, is intended to provide specialized technical support on fiscal policy, while Dr. Shabbir Cheema will provide advisory services on broader governance and reform issues in which fiscal issues are embedded, where they respectively hold considerable expertise. Dr. Kathleen Lauder has considerable experience in networking with NGOs in Asia and fundraising she will provide administrative and coordination advice on the technical and managerial issues of the network. GINI will fund the participation of these invitees through a cost sharing agreement with IDRC detailed in the Budget.

- Reporting formats

The first half of ‘Day 2’ will feature presentations by the Thematic Collaborative Work Groups on their respective methodologies in Session IV. This will be followed by Session V where participants will begin discussions on incorporating the thematic methodologies into an Integrated Proposal for regional research.

On the second half of ‘Day 2’, the focus will shift from substantive to administrative issues. Session VI will involve open floor discussions that will gain agreement among all participants on the following key areas regarding the organization and running of the network:

- Roles and Responsibilities of collaborating institutions, GINI as lead institution, as well as instruments that formalize them, e.g. Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs), Terms of Reference (ToRs), Charters, etc.
- Communication and Coordination Protocols including assignment of institutional focal persons, and arrangements for communication channels such as meetings, study tours, videoconferencing, internet databases, online blogs and wikis, etc.
- Activity planning at the regional, national, and institutional level including formation of qualified teams, assignment of tasks, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, etc.
- Financial Protocols including reporting requirements, disbursement authority, verification procedures, etc.

The detailed Workshop Agenda is attached at Annex A.

Expected Results

<i>Objectives</i>	<i>Outputs</i>	<i>Outcomes</i>
<i>Specific Objective 1: Solicit inputs from Workshop participants and gain consensus on research questions (stated earlier) and refine them</i>	Workshop Report prepared detailing deliberations, points of agreement and/or disagreement and final research themes and questions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ownership and participation of collaborating institutes ensured • Research themes contextualized to national/regional policy environments and researcher expertise
<i>Specific Objective 2: Develop an Integrated Proposal with detailed methodologies for collaborative regional research on the research themes and questions (stated earlier) with an added analytical component that allows comparative analysis</i>	Integrated Proposal finalized incorporating methodologies for collaborative research by regional participants on the 3 research themes (stated earlier).	Regional research proposal to ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • substantive cohesion; and • administrative coordination among collaborative institutes
<i>Specific Objective 3: Finalize institutional arrangements and organizational details for setting up and running a South Asian network for undertaking the collaborative research</i>	Administrative decisions taken regarding roles, activities, finances and communications as detailed in the Workshop Report	Greater clarity and focus of research activities with formalized institutional arrangements

After the Workshop, GINI would prepare a Workshop Report detailing:

- Main substantive issues agreed upon, including research themes, questions, and methodologies
- Administrative decisions taken and those deferred
- Preliminary version of the Integrated Proposal based on Workshop discussions.

This Report would be disseminated amongst all Workshop participants.

Regional collaborative research teams will be formed to work on the three research themes. Workplans will be prepared for each team detailing the roles and responsibilities, deliverables, and tentative budgetary requirements and timelines for the research work. A Steering Committee will be constituted composed of representatives from each country which will vet and approve these Workplans. Once research work is initiated, the deliverables will be regularly shared with all network members and undergo a review process overseen by GINI and participated in by all members. GINI may act as Secretariat to the regional network providing substantive support, contract management and quality control services, while leading the research in Pakistan.

Participating Institutions and Personnel

<i>Institutes</i>	<i>Personnel</i>	<i>Background</i>
East-West Center, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA	Dr. Shabbir Cheema, Director Asia-Pacific, Governance and Democracy Initiative Email: cheemas@eastwestcenter.org	Dr. Shabbir Cheema was previously the Director of the Governance Division of UNDP. His current work focuses on governance in Asia and the Pacific including decentralization, civil society engagement, electoral and parliamentary processes and civil service reform. He is the contributor and co-editor of <i>Decentralizing Governance: Emerging Concepts and Practices</i> (Brookings and Harvard 2007).
World Bank Institute, Washington, USA	Dr. Anwar Shah, Economist and Program Leader, Governance Program Email: ashah@worldbank.org	Dr. Anwar Shah has previously served the Ministry of Finance, Government of Canada and Government of Alberta, Canada and held responsibilities for federal-provincial and provincial-local fiscal relations respectively. He has advised multiple governments on fiscal federalism.
Institute on Governance in Ottawa, Canada	Ms. Maryantonett Flumian President Email: mflumian@iog.ca	She is a seasoned senior executive at the Deputy Minister level in the Canadian federal Public Service with more than 20 years of large-scale operational experience in the economic, social and federal/provincial domains. She is internationally recognized for her work as a transformational leader across many complex areas of public policy and

		administration such as labour markets, firearms, fisheries, and environmental issues. She was the first Deputy Minister of Service Canada. Her current research focuses on leadership, collaboration, governance, and the transformational potential of technology primarily in the area of citizen-centered services.
	Ms. Laura Edgar Vice President Email: ledgar@iog.ca	Laura Edgar leads the Institute's international work, including building and managing modernizing government, organizational governance, indigenous governance, health and innovation and partnership initiatives and projects around the world. Laura also leads the Institute's work on the governance of partnerships, including PPPs and civil society – government relations. Additionally, she has over ten years experience working with boards of directors of public purpose organizations. She has worked in West Africa, Japan, South-East Asia and Losotho.
International Development Resource Centre (IDRC), Ottawa, Canada	Evan Due, Ph. D. Senior Program Specialist Tel: +65-6594-3713); +65-9271-5574 Email: edue@idrc.org.sg (Additional representative to be Determined)	NA.
Beaconhouse National University (BNU), Pakistan 3-C, Zafar Ali Road Gulberg – V, Lahore Tel: 92-42-5718260-3 Email: info@bnu.edu.pk	Dr. Aisha Ghaus Pasha, Director of Research, Beaconhouse National University (BNU) Cell: 0306-4543693 Email: aishagp@aol.com	Dr. Aisha has 23 year of experience in teaching, undertaking research and consulting assignments in social policy and development, governance, public finance and urban and regional economics and in advocacy work on social and economic issues.
	Dr. Sartaj Aziz, Vice Chancellor, BNU Ext (PA): 821 Email: sartajaziz@hotmail.com	He is a recognized development economist, having served as Minister of State for Food, Agriculture and Cooperatives, Minister for Finance Planning and Economic Affairs and as Senator for the Pakistan government where he is a member of the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs. He has held senior positions in the UN, FAO, World Food Council, and

		International Fund for Agricultural Development. He has also played a key role in the North-South dialogue and South-South cooperation.
Social Policy and Development Centre (SPDC) 15, Maqbool Co-operative Housing Society, Block 7 & 8, Karachi – 75350 & Tel: 021-34534284	Dr. Khalida Ghaus, Managing Director Tel: 021-34534284/111-113-113, Cell: 0343-2605516 Email: kghaus2001@yahoo.com	She is an eminent scholar of international relations, human rights, social policy and development. Her academic career includes directorship of the Department of International Relations, and the Center of Excellence for Women’s Studies at the University of Karachi. She is also Honorary Director of the Pakistan Center for Democracy Studies and is an Asia Fellow at the Henry L. Stimson Center, Washington DC.
	Mr. Muhammad Asif Iqbal Company Secretary & Principal Economist Email: asifiqbal@spdc.org.pk spdc@cyber.net.pk	He is a senior economist with over 19 years of research experience focusing on revenue mobilization, social sector spending, social development and economic empowerment. International assignments include technical support for developing the Poverty Reduction Strategy paper for the Government of Eritrea. He also has various national and international publications to his credit.
Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) Quaid-i-Azam University Campus, Islamabad	Dr. Idrees Khawaja, Associate Professor Tel: 051-9201140 Cell: 03335606904 Email: khawajami@yahoo.com	He has over 8 years of academic/research experience in the areas of civil service reform, entrepreneurship, exchange rates and monetary policy, specializing in econometric analysis. He has also taught Economics and Finance at the post-graduate level at PIDE.
Governance Institutes Network International (GINI), Pakistan House 21, Street 56, F-6/4, Islamabad	Mr. Daniyal Aziz, Advisor Email: dax100@hotmail.com	He holds over 17 years of experience in governance, institutional reform and economic development, with a career spanning involvement in national and local politics, civil society leadership, and international networking. He has been a member of the National Assembly, as well as Chairman, National Reconstruction Bureau (NRB), was elected Chairman of the Forum on Ministers of Social Development in Asia, and currently heads various donor-led governance reform initiatives including the Devolution Trust for Community Empowerment (DTCE).

	<p>Mr. Usama Bakhtiar Ahmed, Research Manager Email: usamab@gmail.com</p>	<p>He holds over 5 years of experience with the UNDP conducting policy research, analysis, advocacy and program evaluation. He has worked for governance reform at the regional level throughout the Asia Pacific, and within Pakistan in support of devolution. This experience includes designing and managing several national level survey research projects. He has also provided substantive and administrative support for research conducted by GINI. His academic qualifications include a Masters degree in Public Policy and Management from Carnegie Mellon University, USA.</p>
<p>National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP), New Delhi 18/2 Satsang Vihar Marg, Special Institutional Area, New Delhi-110067 (INDIA) Tel.: 91-11 26563688, 26569780, 26569784, 26963421, Fax: 91-11-26852548</p>	<p>Dr. Govinda Rao Marapalli, Director Office: F-11, First Floor Email: mgr@nipfp.org.in Phone: 91-011-26857274 Fax: 91-011-26512703</p>	<p>He has led or been part of Committees such as Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, Technical Experts Committee for the Introduction of State VAT in India, Expert Group on Taxation of Services, Expert Group Panchayat Raj, Tax Reforms Commission, Revenue Reforms Commission, State Finance Ministers' Committee on Sales Tax Reform. He has also been actively involved as Consultant/adviser on public policy to various international bodies such as World bank , Asian development bank, UNDP, ESCAP-United Nations.</p>
<p>Institute of Social Sciences (ISS) 8 Nelson Mandela Road New Delhi – 110 070 Tel: (91) 11-43158800, 43158801 Email: issnd@vsnl.com Website: www.issin.org</p>	<p>Dr. George Matthew, Director Email: iss@nda.vsnl.net.in sapna@issin.org</p>	<p>George Mathew is Founding Director, Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi. Some of the important academic positions he has held are: Visiting Fellow of the University of Chicago South Asian Studies Centre (1981-82) and Visiting Professor, University of Padova (1988); awarded the Fulbright Fellowship in summer 1991 for working at the University of Chicago. He is a member of several committees of the federal government and on the board of governors of national and international organizations.</p>

<p>National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) Parisila Bhawan, 11, Indraprastha Estate, New Delhi -110002, India Telephone: (91-11) 23379861 /2 /3 /5 /6 /8, 23379857 Fax : (91-11) 2337-0164 Email: infor@ncaer.org</p>	<p>Dr. Suman K. Bery, Director-General Email: sbery@ncaer.org</p>	<p>Prior to this assignment, he was working at the World Bank in Washington, D.C., USA as the Lead Economist for Brazil. Other experience on Latin America included work on Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Ecuador and Peru. Dr. Bery has also held the position of Special Consultant to the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, where he was actively involved in developing proposals for reform of the government debt markets, linkages between general financial sector deregulation and the development of the bond market, as well as issues of market structure, drawing upon the experience of other developing countries.</p>
<p>Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi 110067. Phones: +91-11-26742676, 26742575, 26741557 Fax: 26742580</p>	<p>Dr. Saumen Chattopadhyay Associate Professor, Zakir Husain Centre for Educational Studies, School of Social Sciences, Email: sauchatto@yahoo.com; saumen@mail.jnu.ac.in</p>	<p>He is a senior economist specializing in Central and State Government finances, international finance, macroeconomic issues related to corruption and the black economy, and development economics, in general. He has been involved with various fiscal research projects focusing on customs laws, tax compliance, and state finance. He is currently engaged in a comparative research study in collaboration with the Institute of Education (IOE), London focusing on public funding of higher education.</p>
<p>Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) House#40/C, Road#11 Dhanmondi R/A GPO Box 2129 Dhaka - 1205, Bangladesh</p>	<p>Dr. Mustafizur Rahman, Executive Director Email: mustafiz@cpd.org.bd Telephone: 880 2 9141655 Fax: 880 2 8130951</p>	<p>He is serving as Member of Bangladesh Economic Association (BEA) as well as the Working Group on WTO, Ministry of Commerce. He specializes in Trade sector performance, backward and forward linkages, trade policy analysis, export competitiveness issues including technology, exchange rates and incentives, regionalization and regional economic cooperation in South Asia, foreign aid, globalization and its multidimensional implications for Bangladesh's external sector performance.</p>

<p>Institute of Governance Studies (IGS), BRAC University, 40/6, North Avenue, Gulshan-2 Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh Tel: +88 02 881 0306, 881 0320, 881 0326, +88 01199 810 380 Fax: +88 02 883 2542 Email: igs-info@bracu.ac.bd</p>	<p>Mr. Manzoor Hasan, Director Email: Mhasan56@yahoo.com</p>	<p>He was the founding Executive Director of Transparency International Bangladesh (1996 to 2003) and then the Regional Director (Asia-Pacific) of Transparency International in Berlin. Mr Hasan was awarded the Officer of Order of the British Empire (OBE) by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 2003 for his work on transparency. In 2004 Mr. Hasan re-joined BRAC as its Deputy Executive Director. For BRAC University, he was instrumental in putting together a Masters Degree programme in Governance & Development.</p>
<p>Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka 99 St, Michael's Road Colombo 03 Sri Lanka</p>	<p>Dr. Saman Kelegama, Executive Director Email: ed@ips.lk Telephone: 00 94 11 2431368 Facsimile: 00 94 11 2431395</p>	<p>He is a trade policy economist who also works on industrial economics, public enterprise reform, and macroeconomics. He is a Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka. He was a Visiting Fellow at the Australia South Asia Research Centre, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia (1998); Government of India Distinguished Visiting Scholar (1998); Salzburg Fellow (1997); USIS International Visitor (1993); and Visiting Fellow, Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, The Netherlands (1992/3). He has served as a consultant to the World Bank, ADB, UNDP, UNIDO, ILO, UN-ESCAP, Commonwealth Secretariat, among other organizations.</p>
	<p>Dr. Dushni Weerakoon, Deputy Director & Head of Macroeconomic Policy Research Email: dushni@ips.lk</p>	<p>Since joining the IPS in 1994, her research and publications have covered areas related to regional trade integration, macroeconomic policy and international economics. She has extensive experience working in policy development committees and official delegations of the Government of Sri Lanka including as a member of the Macro and Trade Policy Steering Committee of the Ministry of Policy Development and Implementation and as an official delegate to the Committee of Experts to negotiate the South Asian Free Trade Agreement. She currently serves on the Trade and Tariff Committee of the National Council for Economic Development (NCED) of the Ministry of Finance, Sri Lanka.</p>

<p>Institute for Integrated Development Studies (IIDS), Mandikhatar, Kathmandu, Nepal P.O. Box 2254 Tel: 977-1-4378831 / 4371006</p> <p>Fax: 977-1-4378809</p> <p>Email: iids@wlink.com.np Website: www.iids.org.np</p>	<p>Dr. Bishnu Pant, Executive Director Email: bishnu.pant@gmail.com bdpant@iids.wlink.com.np</p>	<p>Dr. Pant worked in the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Manila in different capacities for more than 12 years since April 1996, and was mostly responsible in assisting the ADB developing member countries improve their statistical systems. His contribution in successfully completing the 2005 round of ICP Asia Pacific has been highly commendable. He also worked in the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP), Bangkok as Chief of the Statistical Information Services Section from April 1986 to March 1996. His major areas of expertise include statistics and national accounts.</p>
	<p>Dr. Mahesh Baskota, Treasurer Email: mbanskota@ku.edu.np</p>	<p>Dr. Mahesh Baskota, is also currently serving as the Dean, School of Arts, Kathmandu University. He has formerly served as Country Representatives at The World Conservation Union (IUCN), Nepal Country Office; Deputy Director of ICIMOD and Programme Director of Nepal Staff College; as well as Associate Professor of Centre for Economic Development and Administration (CEDA).</p>

Annex A: Workshop Agenda

1st DAY	DATE: 8th of August, 2010
0800-0855	Registration
0900	Guests to be seated
0900-0910	Inaugural/Welcome Address by IDRC Representative
0910-0930	Keynote Address by Advisor, GINI
0930-1100	Session-I: Political economy of tax regimes in South Asia
	Co-Chaired by:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Vice Chancellor, BNU • Dr. Govinda Rao, Director, NIPFP
0930-0935	Lead-in to Discussion by Dr. Shabbir Cheema, Director Asia-Pacific, East-West Center
0935-0950	India: Dr. Saumen Chattopadhyay, Assoc. Professor, JNU
0950-1005	Pakistan: Dr. Khalida Ghaus, Managing Director, SPDC
1005-1020	Bangladesh: Mr. Manzoor Hasan, Director, IGS
1020-1035	Sri Lanka: Dr. Saman Kelegama, Executive Director, IPS
1035-1050	Nepal: Dr. Mahesh Baskota, Treasurer, IIDS
1050-1100	Open floor discussion.
1100-1230	Session-II: Recent and upcoming fiscal reforms in South Asia
	Co-Chaired by:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Mustafizur Rahman, Executive Director, CDP • Dr. Anwar Shah, World Bank
1100-1115	India: Dr. Govinda Rao Marapalli, Director, NIPFP
1115-1130	Pakistan: Dr. Hafiz A. Pasha, Dean, School of Social Sciences, BNU
1130-1145	Bangladesh: Dr. Mustafizur Rahman, Executive Director, CPD
1145-1200	Sri Lanka: Dr. Dushni Weerakoon, Deputy Director, IPS
1200-1215	Nepal: Dr. Mahesh Baskota, Treasurer, IIDS
1215-1230	Open floor discussion.
1230-1400	Session III: Fiscal federalism and decentralization in South Asia
	Co-Chaired by:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. George Matthew, Director, ISS • Dr. Shabbir Cheema, Director, East-West Center
1230-1245	India: Dr. Suman K. Bery, Director-General, NCAER
1245-1300	Pakistan: Dr. Aisha Ghaus Pasha, Director of Research, BNU
1300-1315	Dr. Anwar Shah, Economist and Program Leader, World Bank
1315-1330	Ms. Maryantonett Flumian, President, IOG
1330-1345	Nepal: Dr. Mahesh Baskota, Treasurer, IIDS
1345-1400	Open Floor Discussion
1400-1500	Lunch
1500-1830	Parallel Breakout Sessions of Collaborative Workgroups

2nd DAY	DATE: 9th of August, 2010
0900-1300	Session IV: Presentation of Methodologies by Thematic Work Groups Co-Chaired by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Hafiz Pasha, Dean, School of Social Sciences, BNU • Dr. Saman Kelegama, Executive Director, IPS
0900-0930	25 minute Presentation on Theme 1 Methodology and 5 minute Q & A
0930-1000	25 minute Presentation on Theme 2 Methodology and 5 minute Q & A
1000-1030	25 minute Presentation on Theme 3 Methodology and 5 minute Q & A
1030-1400	Session V: Development of Integrated Proposal Co-Chaired by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Bishnu Pant, Executive Director, IIDS • Mr. Daniyal Aziz, Advisor, GINI
1400-1500	Lunch
1500-1830	Session VI: Organization & Planning Co-Chaired by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Manzoor Hasan, Director, IGS • Ms. Maryantonett Flumian, President, IOG
1515-1600	Roles and Responsibilities
1600-1645	Communication and Coordination Protocols
1645-1730	Activity Planning
1730-1815	Financial Protocols
1815-1830	Closing Address

Annex B: Bibliography

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