SAARC as a Regional Organization

- Established in 1985 with Seven South Asian Nations; Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Maldives, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.
- In 2007, Afghanistan also joined to SAARC.
- China, USA, Myanmar, Iran, Japan, South Korea, Australia, Mauritius, and the European Union (EU) are the observer members of the SAARC.
The SAARC Social Charter, which was signed by the Heads of State or Government during the 12th Summit in Islamabad, 4 - 6 January 2004, reaffirmed the importance of attaining the target of providing free education to all children between the ages of 6 - 14 years.

The Member States agreed to share their respective experiences and technical expertise to achieve this goal.
At the Thirteenth SAARC Summit held in Dhaka in November 2005, the leaders noted the achievements of the Member States during recent years in the area of primary education and stressed that to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century Member States must make important strides in the areas of science, technology and higher education.
The History of the Education related activities under the SAARC

- At the invitation of the Government of Sri Lanka, the First Meeting of the SAARC Ministers of Education/Higher Education was held in Colombo on 27 March 2009 preceded by the Meeting of the Senior Officials of the Ministries of Education/Higher Education.

- This Meeting considered matters relating to SAARC-UNESCO Cooperation in the field of Higher Education, Role of the Committee of Heads of University Grants Commissions/Equivalent Bodies and Open & Distance Learning in South Asia. This Meeting focused on Higher Education Policies and Strategies in South Asia and deliberated on the Plan of Action on Higher Education.
The development on collaborations at Regional Level

MOU/partnership between UNESCO/UNICEF and SAARC to:

Achieve Education-related SAARC Development Goals (SDGs)

New Delhi declaration (31st October 2014)

1. Emphasis on SAARC collaboration spanning pre primary to tertiary education but with a focus on accelerating the Unfinished Business of reducing out-of-school children and illiteracy and promoting life-long learning

2. Policy dialogue among SAARC Member States on issues concerning education development;

3. Formulation of the SAARC Framework for Action for the post-2015 education agenda
New Delhi agreement (14th October 2015)
1. Identifying critical bottlenecks to meet SDG 4
2. Interpreting, and prioritizing the SDG 4 indicators and developing and sharing national strategies to achieve SDG 4 in the SAARC Member States

SAARC Framework of Action 2030 (September, 2016)
1. Strategic Areas for Regional Cooperation in South Asia
2. Partnerships and Networks
3. Responsibilities of each SAARC country on specific topic
Members-States of SAARC agreed to develop the SAARC Framework for Action in October 2014 meeting in New Delhi.

Discussed in a sideline meeting Incheon, Republic of Korea in May 2015;

Further discussed in New Delhi, India in October 2015 and in Kathmandu, Nepal in March 2016.

Discussed in a sideline meeting in First Asia-Pacific Meeting on Education 2030 in Bangkok, November 2015

SFA will be adopted / endorsed by upcoming ministerial meeting in Maldives
The development on collaborations at Regional level

1. Formulation of the SAARC Education 2030 Framework for Action (India/ Maldives)
2. Technical Cooperation and Exchange of Experts (Bhutan/ Sri Lanka)
3. Generating/Expanding the Knowledge Base Required to Support Policy Formulation (India)
4. Documentation and Sharing/Dissemination of Information/Knowledge (Nepal)
5. Networking with Institutions to Improve Collaboration (Afghanistan)
6. Policy Dialogue, Advocacy and Programme Support Communications (Maldives)
The development on collaboration at Regional Level

1. Monitoring of Progress towards SDG4 and Corresponding Targets (Nepal/ SAARC secretariat)
2. Skills Development (Pakistan)
3. Harnessing the Potential of ICTs for Enhancing Educational Access and Quality (India)
4. Teacher Development and Management (Bhutan/ Sri Lanka)
5. Approaches to Reducing Out-of-School Children and Improving Literacy Rates (Bangladesh)
6. Promotion of Lifelong Learning for all (Bangladesh)
7. Facilitating Mutual Recognition of Qualifications and Student Mobility (Pakistan)
The ‘Technical meeting of Senior officials’ on Education - 15/16 September 2016, New Delhi

- The meeting considered SDG4 as the specific target which has to be reached by all SAARC member States and establishment of “Children Tracking System’ to identify the members of Children who dropout of the education system early. The proposed web portal also provides a room to share the best practice to overcome the Challenges.

- It was agreed by the member States for a monitoring system and identifies the SAARC Regional indicators.
THANK YOU

FOR YOUR ATTENTION