



CHARTER OF THE JICA ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS' FORUM OF SAARC COUNTRIES

The representatives of JICA Alumni Association of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri-Lanka;

Desirous of establishing a non-political forum to foster mutual understanding, cooperation and strengthening friendship between the members of JICA Alumni Associations of SAARC countries and Japan. The forum shall act as a common platform to participate in different development activities and share the experience for better regional integration;

Conscious that in an increasing integration in bilateral, multilateral, regional and global forum, the objectives of sustainable economic and social development are best achieved in the South Asia region by fostering understanding, sharing knowledge and experiences, good neighbourly relations and meaningful cooperation among the JICA Alumni of SAARC countries, which are bound by ties of history and culture;

Convinced that regional cooperation among the JICA Alumni of participating countries of South Asia is mutually beneficial, desirable and necessary for promoting the welfare and improving the quality of life of the peoples of the region;

Convinced further that economic, social and technical cooperation among the JICA Alumni of SAARC countries would contribute significantly towards national and collective self-reliance in promoting national development by sharing knowledge and experiences in different fields;

Recognizing that increased cooperation, contacts and exchanges among the JICA Alumni of SAARC countries will contribute towards promotion of mutual friendship and understanding between the Alumni and the people of Japan;

Recalling the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the JICA Alumni Associations' representatives present at the Regional Seminar in Dhaka, Bangladesh on July 19, 2008, and subsequent endorsement of the Memorandum of Understanding by the JICA Alumni Association of Sri Lanka;

Liama

Khushud

[Signature]

R. K. Prasad



JICA Alumni Associations Forum of SAARC Countries (JAAFSC)

Reaffirming the determination of JICA Alumni Associations in the SAARC region to promote such cooperation within an institutional framework;

DO HEREBY AGREE to establish a forum to be known as **JICA ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS' FORUM OF SAARC COUNTRIES (JAAFSC)** hereinafter referred to as the "FORUM", with the following objectives, principles, institutional and financial arrangements:

Article I

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the FORUM shall be to:

- i. maintain, develop and extend relationship to foster mutual understanding, cooperation and strengthening friendship among the ex-participants of JICA sponsored programs in the SAARC region;
- ii. exchange views, ideas, share the knowledge and experience among the members of JAAFSC to develop linkage with JICA and different training institutes in Japan, with a view to exchange information and cooperation in the relevant fields of mutual interest;
- iii. contribute towards strengthening of friendly ties and cooperation in different areas of development activities between participating countries in the SAARC region and Japan;
- iv. promote and strengthen collective self-reliance among the JICA Alumni Associations in the SAARC region;
- v. strengthen cooperation among the member JICA Alumni Associations in international forum on matters of common interest ; and
- vi. cooperate with international and regional organizations with similar objectives.

R. K. jaiswal



JICA Alumni Associations Forum of SAARC Countries (JAAFSC)

Article II

PRINCIPLE

Cooperation within the framework of the FORUM shall be based on respect for the principles to foster mutual understanding and friendship between the members of JICA Alumni Associations in the SAARC region and Japan.

Article III

LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

1. The name of the FORUM shall be JICA ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS' FORUM OF SAARC COUNTRIES (JAAFSC). The FORUM shall be established as a non-profit and non-political forum. The organizational structure of the FORUM would include an executive committee and a secretariat.
2. Executive Committee
 - i. There shall be a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Committee (EC), from amongst the members of the aforesaid EC. For the first tenure of two years, the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall be elected by the Interim Executive Committee. Thereafter, the position of the Chairperson shall rotate among members in alphabetic order after every two years. After election of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson of the EC shall be elected from the next country in alphabetical order. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the EC shall be the nominated representatives of their respective JICA Alumni Associations. The structure, powers and functions of the EC shall be outlined in the Articles of Association of FORUM. The Secretary General shall be the nominated representative of JICA Alumni Association of the country where the Secretariat shall be located.
 - ii. The EC shall consist of three members from each member country of JAAFSC.
 - iii. The EC may assign specific responsibilities to its individual member(s).
 - iv. The EC shall meet once a year or more often, as and when deemed necessary.



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v. The EC shall perform the following functions:

- a) Formulation of the policies of the FORUM.
- b) Identification of new areas of cooperation based on appropriate studies.
- c) Review of the progress of the cooperation under the FORUM.
- d) Decision on new areas of cooperation and on other matters of common interest to the FORUM.
- e) Establishment of additional mechanism(s) under the FORUM, as deemed necessary.
- f) Overall monitoring and coordination of programme of cooperation.
- g) Approval of projects and programme, and the modalities of their financing.
- h) Determination of sectoral priorities.
- i) Mobilization of regional and external resources.

vi. Extraordinary meeting of the EC may be held by agreement among the member associations.

vii. The EC shall frame its own rules and procedures and shall devise operating procedures for the FORUM.

Article IV

AREA OF COOPERATION

The FORUM will focus its activities and technical cooperation, primarily in the following fields;

- i. Agriculture and rural development;
- ii. Health, nutrition and population;
- iii. Poverty reduction;
- iv. Women, youth and children;
- v. Environment, forestry and water resources;
- vi. Human resource development;
- vii. Transport and communication; and
- viii. Culture and Tourism.

R.K. Jaiswal



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Article V

SECRETARIAT

There shall be a Secretariat of the FORUM at Dhaka, Bangladesh. The role of the Secretariat shall be to coordinate and monitor the implementation of FORUM activities. The Secretariat shall remain under the management control of the Executive Committee

Article VI

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

1. JICA Alumni Associations FORUM of SAARC countries shall have its own financial resources, including but not limited to:
 - i. Contribution from FORUM members;
 - ii. Contribution from JICA;
 - iii. Financial assistance from other appropriate sources.
2. JICA Alumni Associations forming membership of the FORUM shall jointly share the annual expenditure of the FORUM.
3. The financial year will be from the 1st April to 31st March of the following year.

Article VII

MEMBERSHIP

The JICA Alumni Associations of the SAARC countries signed this Charter, shall *ipso facto* be the members of the FORUM. Any other JICA Alumni Association in the SAARC country subscribing to the objectives and principles of this Charter may be admitted as a member of the FORUM by unanimous decision of the Executive Committee.

IN FAITH WHEREOF we have appended our signatures hereunto. **DONE** in **KATHMANDU, NEPAL** on this the Sixteenth day of March of the year Two Thousand and Nine.