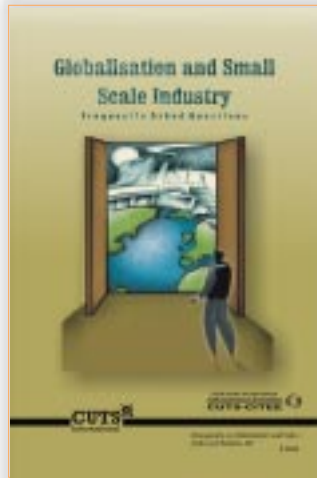


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April-May 2006

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Cost of Non-Cooperation in South Asia

(RECSA No.6/2005)

Most countries have long abandoned the 'beggarthy-neighbour' policy. However, the ghost of mistrust, misunderstanding and misgiving still persists in the South Asian region. Indeed, the benefits of regional cooperation that are foregone are the cost of non-cooperation in South Asia. When the global economy is benefiting from different types of regional cooperation, South Asia lags behind in this regard due to the existence of numerous challenges within the countries of the region.

The potential gains from regional cooperation in South Asia look fragile and nondescript, and therefore leaders must put their minds together to look inward for a more dynamic South Asia. In principle, regional cooperation in South Asia must be both pragmatic and realistic, which should be intended to grow step by step in the economic, social and cultural spheres. For economic growth and stability, customised policies and development agreements among different countries of South Asia are essential.

This briefing paper examines the impeding bottlenecks and ineffectiveness of SAARC to formulate regional cooperation. It presents the potential losses due to non-cooperation *vis-à-vis* potential benefits and provides suggestions and steps for creating regional cooperation in South Asia.

*This Briefing Paper can be viewed at:
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Competition Law and Intellectual Property Rights in Vietnam

(No.3/2006)

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