* **The South Asian University**

**Establishment of South Asian University**

At the Thirteenth SAARC Summit held in November 2005 in Dhaka, India proposed to create a Centre of Excellence, in the form of a South Asian University, which can provide world class facilities and professional faculty to students and researchers drawn from every country of the region.

The Expert Group Meeting to Finalize the Modalities for Establishing the South Asian University was held in March 2007 in New Delhi and the First Meeting of the Inter-Governmental Steering Committee on the establishment of South Asian University was held in May 2007 in New Delhi.

Since then, the following Meetings have been held:

* Second Meeting of the Inter-Governmental Steering Committee on the establishment of South Asian University,  3 -4 December 2008, Dhaka
* Third Meeting of the Inter-Governmental Steering Committee on the establishment of South Asian University, 15-16 April 2009,Mussoorie
* Expert Group Meeting of the Establishment of South Asian University, 2- 4 December 2009, New Delhi
* Fourth Meeting of the Inter-Governmental Steering Committee on the establishment of South Asian University,  6-8 October 2009, Kathmandu
* Fifth Meeting of the Inter-Governmental Steering Committee on the establishment of South Asian University, 7 – 9 January 2010, New Delhi
* Sixth Meeting of the Inter-Governmental Steering Committee on the establishment of South Asian University, 9 – 13 March 2010, New Delhi

The funding modality of the South Asian University (SAU) and the draft Statutes, Academic Structure, Business Plan, Rules, Regulations of SAU have been discussed and agreed upon at the above Meetings. Attempts are underway to commence the First Academic Session in August 2010.

**Function of South Asian University**

The First Academic Session of SAU commenced on 26 August 2010 with an intake of 50 no. of students. 25 students have joined the MA (Development Economics) programme and 25 students have joined the MCA (Master of Computer Applications) programme.

At the 7th Inter-Governmental Meeting on the Establishment of South Asian University (New, Delhi, 21 – 22 September 2010), the Member States finalized the modalities for South Asian University. In its second year of functioning, SAU has 156 students enrolled for Masters' Degrees in Development Economics, International Relations, Sociology, Law, Biotechnology and Computer Science. For the third academic year (2012 - 13), SAU has invited applications for the common entrance examination which is to be held on 27 May 2012 and the third academic session will commence on 16 July 2012.

SAU is one of the major achievements of SAARC. The university now offers post-graduate and doctoral programs in various disciplines that include Development Economics, Computer Science, Biotechnology, Mathematics, Sociology, International Relations and Law. It will ultimately have 11 post-graduate faculties and a faculty of undergraduate studies. SAU attracts students from all member nations and its degrees are recognized by all the eight SAARC countries.

SAU was conducted the first convocation on 11 June 2016, in New Delhi. The occasion was presided over by Mr. Kamal Thapa, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister of Nepal, while General V K Singh, the Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India was the Chief Guest.

A total of 652 students were conferred Master’s Degree in various programmes that include Applied Mathematics, Biotechnology, Computer Science, Development Economics, International Relations, Legal Studies and Sociology and two scholars were conferred MPhil Degree. 30 programme toppers were honoured with the SAU Gold Medal. Students from all the eight SAARC countries were present at the convocation.

The Second Convocation was held on 12 June 2017 in New Delhi and a total of 185 students offered Master’s and MPhil Degrees.

The First Governing Board Meeting of SAU was held in New Delhi on 07 March 2011 where Prof. G. K. Chadha was elected the first President of the South Asian University for a period of 5 years. From 2011 until 2016, SAU held 8 Governing Board Meetings which has been participated by the Members from all eight Member States of SAARC.

* **1st meeting**: in New Delhi on 07 March 2011
* **2nd meeting**: in New Delhi on 09 March 2012
* **3rd meeting**: in New Delhi on 04 December 2012
* **4th meeting**: in New Delhi on 27 May 2013
* **5th meeting**: in New Delhi on 24 December 2013
* **6th meeting**: in New Delhi on 29 October 2014
* **7th meeting**: in Paro, Bhutan on 09 March 2015
* **8th meeting**: in Malé, Maldives on 09 February 2016
* **9th meeting**: in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 28 November 2016
* **10th meeting**: to be held in New Delhi on 18 December 2017

The University is currently functioning from Akbar Bhawan Campus in Chanakyapuri, New Delhi before it eventually moves into its 100 acre campus in Maidan Garhi, South Delhi which the construction is under progress.

*The official website of the South Asian University:* [www.sau.int](http://www.sau.int)