

10TH SOUTH ASIAN MANAGEMENT FORUM

On 9-10 April 2009 at Thimphu, Bhutan

The 10th South Asian Management Forum (SAMF) with the theme *Change and Continuity: Management Prospects and Challenges* was held at Thimphu, Bhutan on 9th and 10th of April 2009. It was organized by AMDISA and hosted by Royal Institute of Management (RIM), Thimphu, an AMDISA member-institution. It is a forum which is held biennially. This is the second time that Royal Institute of Management hosted the forum, the first of which was held in 1998. The two-day forum commenced on April 9, 2009 with the traditional offering of marching. It was inaugurated by Mr Lyonchen Jigmi Y. Thinley, the Honorable Prime Minister of Bhutan.



10th SAMF Inaugural

In his address to the gathering, Mr Lyonchen expressed his appreciation of the theme for this year's forum. He said, "change is inevitable." The Prime Minister highlighted the importance of managing ourselves with the change but "change for the sake of change is undesirable," he added. With examples of every South Asian country facing different challenges, Mr Lyonchen pointed out how suitable the theme for the 10th South Asian Management Forum has been. He also reminded the participants of the opportunities that lie ahead of them to learn new lessons from the management schools. Finally, the Prime Minister wished an enjoyable and a productive deliberation.

Welcoming the participants, Mr Karma Tshering, Director, RIM, informed that there were about 230 participants for the forum including 30 paper presentations. Initially, there were over 70 responses from a wide range of academicians, students and professors, a total of 58 papers were written and submitted for review. The editorial committee and the reviewers have accepted only 30 papers for presentation and publication. Interestingly, all papers that were presented received an overwhelming support, feedbacks were thoroughly deliberated by the participants over two days of sessions. The papers were grouped under 8 themes: Management of Capital Markets, Democracy and Governance, Banking, Business Reforms, Management Education, Organization

Management and Culture, Enterprise Development and Management and Institutional Renewal and Managing Change.



Dr Hafiz G A Siddiqi, Outgoing President, AMDISA

Subsequently, the outgoing President of AMDISA, Dr Hafiz G A Siddiqi congratulated the host institution for successfully organizing the forum. He added that the executive members of AMDISA “respectfully remember and pay our respect to the late Dr Dharni P Sinha, who founded AMDISA in 1988...” Dr Siddiqi emphasized that AMDISA is an international association since its membership is available to management development networks all over the world. It promotes peace through “people to people contact” by organizing workshops, seminars and conferences. The outgoing President congratulated the Vice President of AMDISA, Mr Karma Tshering who would succeed him as the next President.

Dr Siddiqi stated that AMDISA has grown steadily and published many scholarly books and regularly publishes the South Asian Journal of Management. It has created new knowledge in management. He also spoke about the need to root out terrorism and to promote peace and cooperation through people to people contact for development in the region. This, he said, can be promoted through private initiative like the AMDISA.



**Mr Mohammed Jasimuddin, Adviser (Asia Region)
Commonwealth Secretariat**

Mr Mohammed Jasimuddin, Adviser (Asia Region) Governance & Institutional Development Division, Commonwealth Secretariat, also emphasized the essence of AMDISA and the roles it plays in the South Asian regions.

He recalled that “AMDISA was conceptualized by some great thinkers, chief amongst them was Dr Mohan Kaul, the Ex-Dean of the IIM, Ahmedabad, Dr K P K Nayyar of the Canada and like them some of the visionary leaders present here today and those who sadly have left us as well... and paid tribute to their courage, leadership and untiring commitment in the leadership of AMDISA”.

He said, “The very nature of the commonwealth has always been to place the highest importance on human equality and on building bridges between its races, cultures, disparities and philosophies. At the heart of the 1991 Harare Commonwealth Heads of Government declaration was the recognition that development is a people-centered process whose ultimate goal must be the improvement of the human condition. Participation and empowerment of individuals, groups and communities, was thus made the touchstone for Commonwealth programme.”

He also said that it is time for us to appreciate that the AMDISA publications, the Newsletter and the South Asian Journal of Management have grown from strength to strength. The external relationship with regard to AMDISA’s benchmarking and cross crediting has yielded a new dimension improving the quality. The South Asian Quality Assurance System (SAQS) is a testament in itself. The support committed to faculty development has helped Maldives, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka and has spilled over to Brunei Darussalam.

He made special mention to the founder of AMDISA, the late Dr Dharni P Sinha as an inspiration, a great institutional builder and a peace maker.

The closing ceremony was graced by one of Bhutan’s best known opinion leaders, His Excellency Lyonpo Thakur Singh Powdyel, the Education Minister of Bhutan. In his speech he urged the participants to work on the commitments made here towards developing better management education and practices for the brighter future of the South Asian region.

The Forum also provided a platform for opinion leaders of the region to share their views and renew the commitments of AMDISA towards the joint regional collaboration and actions. RIM director said that this forum would help “sow the seed of friendship” among the participating nations.



The Chief Guest Hon’ble Mr Lyonpo Thakur

S Powdyel addressing the Delegates at the Valedictory Function