

## Regional Forum

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### Sri Lanka to host South Asia economic policy summit

Jan 28, 2013 (LBO) - Sri Lanka will host the 6th South Asia Economic Summit (SAES), a policy forum that brings together academia, government, civil society and the private sector in the region, each year.

"The emerging growth opportunities and challenges for South Asia in the context of changing global economic dynamics will come into focus at this Summit, similar to the World Economic Forum held annually in Davos, Switzerland, albeit at a regional level," Sri Lanka's Institute of Policy Studies, a think tank said.

"With the summit theme of 'Towards a Stronger, Dynamic, and Inclusive South Asia', the three days of deliberations will discuss what South Asian states need to do to strengthen their economic growth prospects while managing risks and challenges, while building a stronger region as a whole."

The other partners in the SAES process are the Centre for Policy Dialogue (Bangladesh), South Asia Watch on Trade, Environment and Economics (Nepal), Sustainable Development Policy Institute (Pakistan) and Research and Information Systems for Developing Countries – (India).

The recommendations emerging from the forum is used to inform and inform and influence the direction of official South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation processes, as well as individual governments.

This year's summit will be under four broad themes - harnessing human capital; tackling environmental challenges and climate change; managing intra-country growth disparities; and supporting the competitiveness of private-sector enterprises, IPS said.

The Summit is expected to host around 150 foreign delegates from South Asia and beyond, and will feature several special events including a televised debate on regional economic integration.

This year's summit will be held from September 02 to 04 in Colombo.

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