

# Snapshot of COSATT

2008 - 2018

Activities, Seminars, Publications



CONSORTIUM OF SOUTH ASIAN THINK TANKS  
**COSATT**  
BRIDGING POLICY RESEARCH IN SOUTH ASIA



Konrad  
Adenauer  
Stiftung

## INTRODUCTION

**C**onsortium of South Asian Think-Tanks (COSATT) has been in existence since 2008 and this year we celebrate our 10 years of work, activities, conferences, fruitful partnerships and publications. Here, we are grateful to the unflinching support by the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) for its trust bestowed on this network.

COSATT has addressed and analyzed South Asia's place in the world by deliberating and critically discussing on its past, present and future. Leading scholars and academicians have gathered in one or the other South Asian capital(s) and presented papers and articles on critical issues facing the region and given their suggestions to policy makers. COSATT events have been well covered in the South Asian media, our conferences were inaugurated or participated by Prime Ministers, Foreign Ministers, Secretary Generals of SAARC, former Prime Ministers, Foreign and Defense Secretaries, academics. It is a very vibrant and robust track-II initiative but we would not have reached thus far without the active and steadfast commitment of our partner think-tanks.

Our conferences have both enriched and provided impetus to other like-minded initiatives in the region. At times, when the SAARC Summits have not taken place on schedule, COSATT events have provided the platform for track-I and track-II to engage in free and frank discussions on how not to make regional cooperation efforts hostage to bilateral tensions. The template for the future of South Asia has been elevated to a higher level by German M.Ps and European academics who have talked about challenges and prospects of European integration and how incremental processes can help a region towards better connectivity and cooperation.

Here are a few glimpses of our 10 year journey. I am confident COSATT will reach from heights to heights with your support and cooperation in the months and years ahead.

**Dr. Nishchal N. Pandey**  
Director,  
Centre for South Asian Studies,  
Kathmandu and Convener of COSATT



# ACTIVITIES ...



## COSATT Themes ...

COSATT has chosen themes such as connectivity, energy security, climate change, countering terrorism, countering youth radicalization and violent extremism and refugees and IDPs in South Asia to discuss and deliberate among heads of think-tanks, academics, policy makers and researchers. Papers are presented in each of the conferences and policy papers are submitted to important stakeholders such as the 8 governments, SAARC Secretariat, UN agencies, INGOs and the media of our region.

South Asia is one of the least integrated regions in the world. It is also one of the least connected regions. Political and security cruxes have long impacted on regional cooperation endeavors even as important issues such as common stand against terrorism in all its manifestations, promoting connectivity and establishing a common visa regime, etc. have long been hostage to bilateral tensions.

At the same time, increasing demand for energy, sustainable development, reducing environmental impacts, call for collective action across the whole region. Issue of refugees and migration highlighting the interlinkages between individual and societal aspirations, role of state and non-state actors and its linkage with poverty, unemployment, conflict is also a critical issue of contemporary South Asia. COSATT conferences have brought in some of the best minds in South Asia to discourse on these themes and provide policy recommendations.



## SEMINARS ...







## COSATT Partnerships, Visits and Institutional Linkages ...

COSATT is an informal network of some of the prominent think-tanks in region but we are also expanding the network among Institutes and Centres in other regions such as Europe and Southeast Asia that are conducting research on South Asia. In this context, a MoU was signed with the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS) under the National University of Singapore in 2017 for exchange of scholars and regular participation in each others' conferences. During a visit of COSATT group members to Berlin, Brussels and Heidelberg in October 2013 a joint conference was held at the famous Heidelberg University and meetings at the European Commission. Another COSATT visit to Berlin in 2008 provided an opportunity to visit the Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP), a world renowned think-tank and also interactions with Honorable Members of the Bundestag.





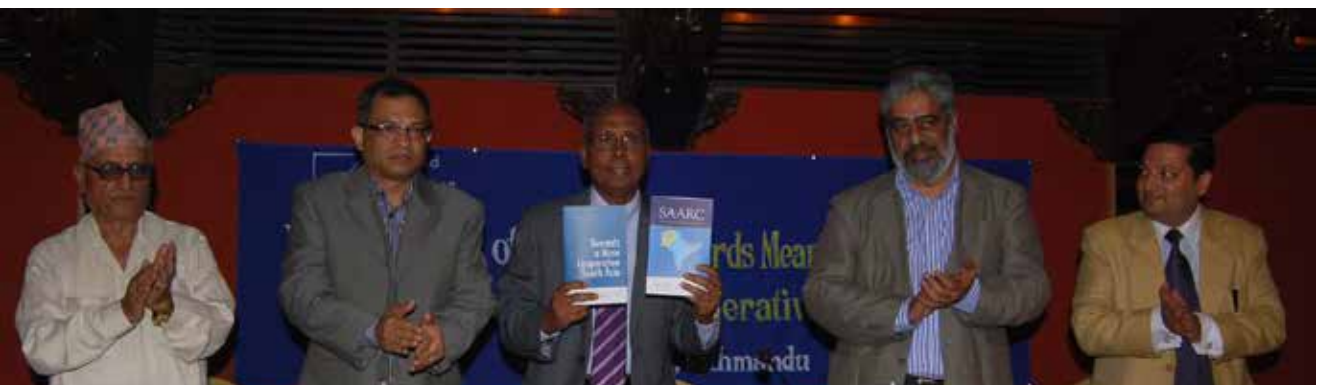
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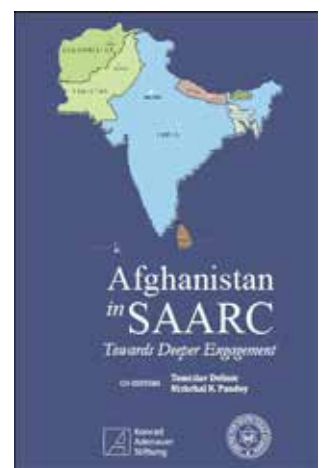
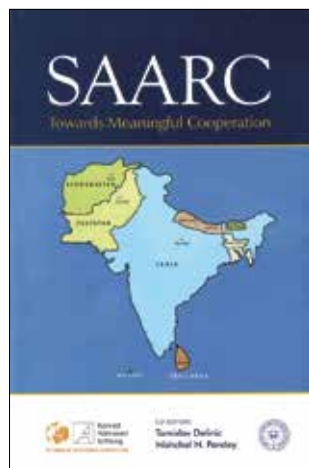
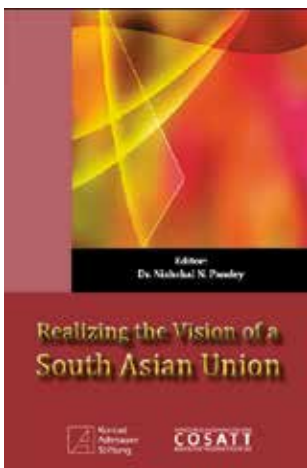
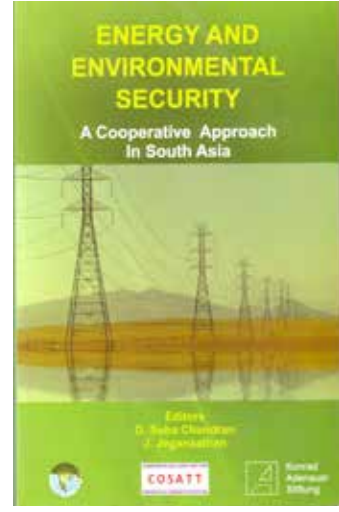
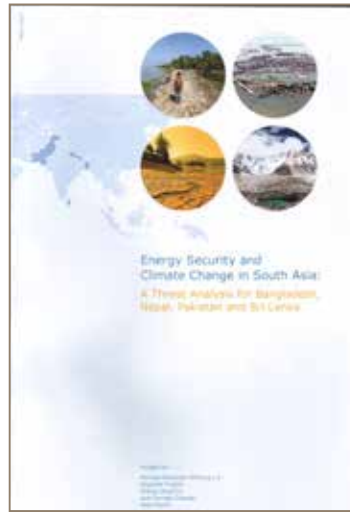
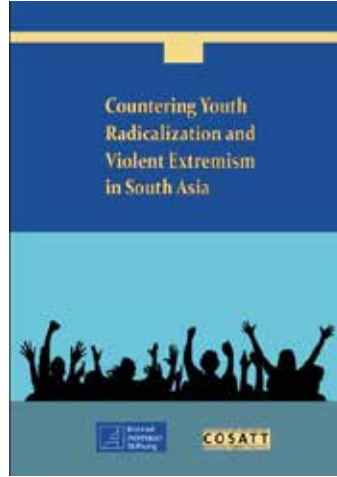
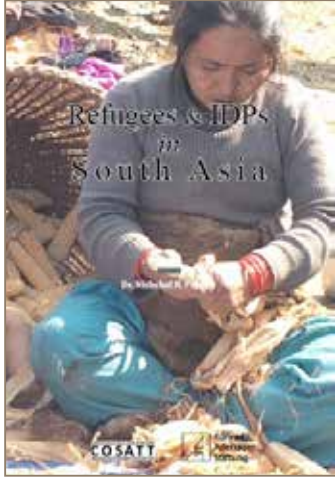
## PUBLICATIONS ...



COSATT brings out books and research papers as proceedings of each of the events that we conduct. They can be easily downloaded from our website [www.cosatt.org](http://www.cosatt.org)

In addition, our books are also available in kindle. Some of our books are today in university curriculums for Masters degree programs. We take pride in the fact that our publications are enriching the study on South Asia in diverse themes from connectivity and terrorism to energy security and climate change. Individual chapters from experts from each of the eight countries of SAARC makes the publications unique.

Here we would like to recognize the support that our network has received from KAS Directors in the last ten years - Mr. Joerg Wolff, Dr. Beatrice Gorawantschy, Mr. Tomislav Delinic, Dr. Wilhelm Hofmeister and now Mr. Christian Echle. We would also like to thank Mr. Pankaj Madan of KAS, Delhi and Ms. Megha Sarmah, KAS, Singapore who have participated in our events and suggested ways to make our publications more visible.



## COSATT Members

Afghanistan Justice Organization (AJO), Kabul

Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies (BIPSS), Dhaka

Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS), Dhaka

Centre for Bhutan Studies, Thimpu

Centre for Development and Peace Studies, Guwahati

Centre for South Asian Studies (CSAS), Kathmandu

Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (RCSS), Colombo

Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute for International Relations and Strategic Studies, Colombo

Institute of National Security Studies of Sri Lanka, Colombo

Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS), Singapore

Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS)