



**Reframing South Asian
Regional Cooperation
in the New Context**
National and Global Dimensions
4-5 November 2023, Dhaka, Bangladesh



Parallel Session A1

Multi-modal Transport (Cross-border Logistics)

Saturday, 4 November 2023 | 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Venue: Annex 1, Sheraton Dhaka

Chair: *Dr Dushni Weerakoon*, Executive Director
Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS), Sri Lanka

Compared to other regional trading blocs around the world, South Asia has made relatively little progress in terms of multi-modal transport and cross-border logistics. It is often argued that a regional approach towards enhanced connectivity is difficult due to several political and economic factors. Hence, many argue that South Asian countries are better off moving forward with the regional integration agenda through a subregional or bilateral approach. However, over the recent years, such attempts at the subregional and bilateral levels have also seen limited success.

Guiding Questions for the Panellists

1. What are the key technical and political challenges for South Asian countries in improving multi-modal transport and cross-border logistics within the region?
2. What are the major areas of potential that the countries of the region can harness to make strides in this area?
3. What lessons can the region draw from the experiences of some recent subregional and bilateral initiatives in the recent past?