

# CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

## South Asian Training Programme on CGE Modelling

18-24 April 2009  
Kathmandu, Nepal

Effective trade policy making and implementation depend significantly on the *a priori* assessment of the implications that could arise from different policy options. It is thus important for researchers and policy makers to conduct *ex ante* analyses of alternative policy scenarios, for example, the potential implications of a particular trade policy reform measure such as tariff reduction for the macroeconomic environment, exports, imports, industrial growth, economic sectors, economic welfare, employment, poverty and food security.

It is in this context that along with the growing demand for *ex ante* analyses, the application of Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) models is becoming increasingly important in trade policy analysis among researchers, policy analysts and civil society members. Realizing this need, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics & Environment (SAWTEE), Kathmandu and South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM), Dhaka organized a five-day training on CGE Modelling in July 2008 in Kathmandu, Nepal. Altogether 31 researchers from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka representing universities, research organizations, non-governmental organizations and central banks participated in the training.

In collaboration with SAWTEE and SANEM, some of the researchers are already conducting research works using CGE models. Encouraged by the

enthusiastic response and participation of the researchers in the first training and realizing the need to provide continuity to such trainings in future, SAWTEE and SANEM are organizing this training programme for the second time from 18-24 April 2009 in Kathmandu, Nepal.

### **Objective**

The training intends to build the capacity of researchers in South Asia providing them with basic knowledge of CGE modelling using GAMS software so that they are able to contribute to informed trade policy making and implementation in South Asia, and help the region in its pursuit of an effective and meaningful integration into the global economy, not least the rules-based multilateral trading system, espoused by the World Trade Organization (WTO).

### **Eligibility for application**

Applicants should have at least a Master's degree in Economics and a good knowledge of applied micro- and macro-economics. However, no previous knowledge of modelling is assumed. Preference will be given to candidates who also have a basic understanding of econometrics and are working in the area of trade policy research.

### **Cost**

The organizers will bear the cost of travel and stay in Kathmandu during the training.

### **Deadline**

Applications must include a letter of expression of interest and a CV not exceeding two pages. Applications must be sent to [sawtee@sawtee.org](mailto:sawtee@sawtee.org) by **20 March 2009**.

### **Instructors**

The participants of the training will be instructed by two resource persons: Dr. Selim Raihan and Dr. Bazlul Haque Khondker.

## About the instructors

Dr. Raihan (sraihan\_duecon@yahoo.com) is Associate Professor of Economics at University of Dhaka, Bangladesh and Executive Director of SANEM. He is a specialist in economic modelling, trade policy analysis and poverty. He has a number of publications on international trade and economic modelling.

Dr. Bazlul Haque Khondker (bazlul.khondker@gmail.com) is Professor of Economics at University of Dhaka, Bangladesh and Chairman of SANEM. His areas of specialization include macro-economic modelling, public finance and poverty. He has several publications on economic modelling and poverty.

## ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS



**SAWTEE (South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics & Environment)** is a regional network that operates through its secretariat in Kathmandu and 11 member institutions from five South Asian countries, namely Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The overall objective of SAWTEE is to build the capacity of concerned stakeholders in South Asia in the context of liberalization and globalization. [www.sawtee.org](http://www.sawtee.org)



**SANEM (South Asian Network on Economic Modeling)** was launched on January 1, 2007. It is primarily a network of economic modelers in South Asia. SANEM aims to promote the production, exchange and dissemination of basic research knowledge in the areas of regional integration, multilateral and domestic trade liberalization, environment and poverty. There is no denying the fact that these issues are of the utmost importance for all South Asian countries. [www.sanemnet.org](http://www.sanemnet.org)