



# Call for Applications

## Seventh South Asian Training Programme on CGE Modelling

20–24 November, 2014  
Kathmandu, Nepal

### BACKGROUND

Over the past 25 years, computable general equilibrium (CGE) models have become an important tool for empirical economic analysis. CGE models offer a comprehensive way of modeling the overall impact of policy changes on an economy or a region by considering all production activities, factors and institutions. Such models also include factors such as markets and macroeconomic components: investment and savings, balance of payments and government budget. CGE models are applauded for being able to incorporate multiple economic linkages that often come handy in explaining trends and structural responses to changes in development policy.

Effective trade, climate and development policy making and implementation depend significantly on a priori assessments of the implications that could arise from different policy options. It is thus imperative for researchers and policy makers to conduct ex ante analyses of alternative policy scenarios, for example, the potential implications of a particular policy measure such as tariff reduction for the macroeconomic environment, exports, imports, employment, poverty, food security, greenhouse gas emissions and environmental sustainability.

The growing importance of, and hence demand for, ex ante policy analysis also arises from the negotiations for further trade liberalization at multilateral, regional and bilateral levels, climate change measures and food security options. CGE models have emerged as a potent tool to carry out ex ante analysis and are being increasingly used in trade, climate and development policy analysis.

Despite the utility and growing importance of CGE modelling in policy analysis, most developing and least-developed countries—including those in South Asia—face the constraint of a dearth of human resources having expertise in the application of CGE modelling. Ex ante analyses using CGE models are still few and using such models is a daunting challenge even though knowledge about the potency of such models is widespread. Thus, research questions that demand an ex ante analysis largely remain unanswered and the formulation of effective policy and/or positions runs the risk of being divorced from reality.

## **CGE TRAINING**

South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Kathmandu and South Asian Network on Economic Modelling (SANEM), Dhaka started CGE modelling training for researchers in South Asia in 2008. SAWTEE and SANEM collaborated with the Centre for WTO Studies (CWS), New Delhi, in organizing the training programme since the fifth CGE modelling training of August 2012. The training programme successfully completed its sixth edition in 2013.

Building on the experiences of successful organization of six CGE training programmes, and motivated by encouraging feedbacks, SAWTEE and SANEM, together with the CWS, are organising the “Seventh South Asian Training Programme on CGE Modelling” from 20-24 November 2014 in Kathmandu.

Unlike in the past training programmes, on the last day (24 November), a few trainees of earlier training programmes will be invited to make brief presentations of the research they have conducted using CGE modelling.

## **OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the training programme are to:

- Imparting basic knowledge of theory and applications of CGE modelling to South Asian researchers;
- Enhancing policy research capacity using CGE models on issues relating to the interlinkages between trade, climate change and food security;
- Expanding the network of South Asian researchers on trade, climate change and food security issues; and
- Providing a platform to a few outstanding alumni who have used their learning from the past trainings in their research works to present their research during the training programme.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Applicants should have at least a Master’s degree in Economics or a related subject and a good knowledge of applied micro- and macro-economics. While no previous knowledge of modelling is assumed, applicants must have research experience in trade, climate and

development issues. Preference will be given to candidates who also have experience in using quantitative research tools.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

Interested candidates are requested to make application by submitting the following documents to SAWTEE at [cge@sawtee.org](mailto:cge@sawtee.org) no later than **Wednesday, 24 September 2014 by 17:00 Kathmandu time**.

- Attached application form
- Recent CV (not exceeding two pages)
- Letter of expression of interest

*Incomplete applications or those received after the due date will not be processed.*

## COURSE FEE AND OTHER EXPENSES

The course fee to participate in the training is US\$500 per person. The participants are responsible for expenses related to travel (airfare, local transport and airport transfers), lodging and food. The organizers shall provide lunch and tea/coffee during the training period. All participants are expected to stay at the training venue.

## FUNDING

Deserving applicants who are unable to participate without funding support from the organizers to cover the expenses (air travel, airport transfer, lodging and food) are requested to indicate the same in their applications. Course fees may also be waived for such applicants. Please note that such funding is limited to a **few South Asian applicants with a demonstrated need currently studying/working in South Asia**. Selected participants are encouraged and supported to look for external funding for their participation in the training programme.

## INSTRUCTOR

**Dr. Selim Raihan** will conduct the training programme. He is a specialist in economic modelling, trade policy analysis and development issues. He has a number of publications on international trade and economic modelling. Dr. Raihan—PhD in Economics from Manchester University—is a Professor of Economics at University of Dhaka, Bangladesh and the Executive Director of SANEM. (<http://sanemnet.org/executive-director-dr-selim-raihan/>)

## ORGANIZERS



**SAWTEE (South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment)** is a regional network that operates through its secretariat in Kathmandu and 11 member institutions from five South Asian countries: Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The goal of SAWTEE is to enable stakeholders, particularly the poor and marginalized, to derive net benefits from changing

political economy and environmental landscapes.

[www.sawtee.org](http://www.sawtee.org)



**SANEM (South Asian Network on Economic Modeling)** was launched on January 1, 2007. It is a network of economists and policy makers in South Asia with a special emphasis on economic modelling. SANEM aims to promote the production, exchange and dissemination of basic research knowledge in the areas of international trade, macro economy, poverty, labor market, environment, political economy and economic modeling. [www.sanemnet.org](http://www.sanemnet.org)



**Centre for WTO Studies (CWS)** was established in 1999 to be a permanent repository of WTO negotiations-related knowledge and documentation. Since November 2002 it is situated in the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi. The Centre conducts independent research on WTO and other trade issues. It also implements a comprehensive programme for trade capacity-building activities for developing countries. Through a multi-tiered outreach programme, the Centre seeks to create, and to deepen, awareness about WTO and international trade issues among stakeholders from diverse backgrounds and provides a platform for building consensus on key negotiating issues. [www.wtocommerce.iift.ac.in](http://www.wtocommerce.iift.ac.in)

**For more information or clarification, please contact:**

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