

THE DAKSHIN NEWS

Development And Knowledge Sharing Initiative

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EDITORIAL

The Newsletter of DAKSHIN – the Global South Centre of Excellence aims to express the voice of the Global South. It shares ideas and perceptions from countries of the Global South about the common challenges faced by them and their endeavours to evolve simple, scalable and affordable solutions for their accelerated socio-economic development based on their own experiences and perspectives.

India has consistently demonstrated its readiness to share with the Global South its knowledge, experience, and capabilities for forging development solutions, as part of its philosophy of ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’ that is, the world is one family.

The southern perspective of development runs around the principles of solidarity and cooperation among members of the Global South, a process often described as South-South Cooperation. The countries of the Global South are ready to help others meet their developmental objectives and are also simultaneously keen to use experiences of fellow participants in raising their living conditions. The idea of development compact is the template for this formulation.

Keeping this spirit in mind, DAKSHIN highlights the development solutions available across the Global South. It aims to become a platform for development solutions for countries of the Global South and undertakes research, publications and events around such solutions.

This second issue of the DAKSHIN Newsletter starts with excerpts of India’s External Affairs Minister, Dr. S Jaishankar’s speech delivered at the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs in Lagos on issues of Global South. The newsletter then proceeds to capture salient discussion points from the 3 DAKSHIN Online workshops on the areas of Agriculture, Health, and Digital Solutions. The newsletter ends with Global South news on Development Cooperation. Together, we shall explore the collective developmental experiences adhering to our own development cooperation principles and modalities.

Address by EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar at the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs in Lagos

Indian External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar delivered a speech at the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs in Lagos on the 22nd of January, 2024 for a captivating discourse titled “Resetting the Global Agenda: the role of India and the Global South.”. This was at the backdrop of the Non-Aligned





“Global South is about solidarity, Global South means having a heart, Global South means willing to share.”

Movement (NAM) Summit in Kampala, Uganda on 19-20th January, 2024 where the issues, development, and challenges of the Global South were discussed and deliberated upon. Minister’s speech exuded positive vibe and Dr. Jaishankar described eloquently as to what does Global South mean and what it stands for in the arena of world politics and global governance.

The Nigeria Institute of International Affairs (NIIA) proudly welcomed Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, the Indian Minister of External Affairs. The Minister gave a scintillating lecture that took the guest down memory lane on the gains of India-Nigeria relations. The NIIA Director General, Prof. Eghosa Osaghae whilst welcoming the audience, took his time to talk about the gains Nigeria as a whole have benefited from the bilateral relationships and pushed for stronger bilateral ties between the

two countries.

Dr. S. Jaishankar explained that the Indian diplomatic presence was set up in Lagos in 1958 coming at back of generations of Nigerians who had known Indian teachers, who had known Indian traders, who had a connect with India before there was a formal diplomatic one. He explained how over the years the relationship between the two countries has strengthened in the field of education and capacity building, health, agriculture, ICT, and security cooperation, and mentioned that the trading relations have also expanded and that the annual trade fluctuates between USD 12 to USD 15 billion, and India’s investment commitment in Nigeria is close to USD 30 billion.

Speaking of the Indian Presidency of the G 20, Dr. Jaishankar elaborated how India was able to bring back the attention of the world to Global South and

Development by raising the issues that matter to the developing world. The issues raised by India at the G20 were in the domain of sustainable development goals, of clean and green growth, of woman-led development, of health, energy and food security, of digital public infrastructure, indeed, of our way of life and of our planet's future. An important factor that India emphasised on was that the growth of the majority of this planet should not be traded against arguments of the well-being of the planet.

Minister Jaishankar explained that the debate on what is actually the global development agenda point us in the direction of progress, where every society, in a manner in which it is itself comfortable, is able to advance, where prosperity is not the privilege of a few, where growth is robust, is sustainable, is green, where there is security, where there is stability, and where the basic needs of food, of health, of energy are met, where climate action advances, along with climate justice and where the focus of the world, as it rightfully should be, must remain on Agenda 2030.

Minister Jaishankar also elaborated on issues of global governance and the place of the Global South in it. According to him the simple principle that must guide global governance, global conversations, and global debates is a conviction that no one and no country and region should be left behind. He also explained that the welfare of Africa is particularly important and that the rise of Africa is even more crucial because in a changing global order growth in continents intensifies once they get decolonised. Minister explained

that the middle powers, regional organisations should have a fairer and more equitable say in how the world is run. According to him, the global agenda in many ways is about restoring the world to its natural diversity as to begin with the world was diverse and was distorted by the period of western domination. He thus claimed that in a post-colonial world today, restoring that natural diversity is actually our collective objective.

Dr Jaishankar then elaborated on the 'Global South' as he believed that people and academics world over, especially in the West have trouble understanding the essence of it. He said there are often criticism on the use of the term 'Global South' and that most people questioning the usefulness and vitality of the term are individuals and groups from non-Global South countries. He explained that 'Global South' is a mindset which has some core principles which have emanated from our habits, from our political culture, from the way we have practiced international relations over the last 7 decades. These values are typified in form of non-intervention, non-interference, non-judgmental, and non-alliance. EAM then explained that 'Global South' is about solidarity, Global South means having a heart, and Global South means willing to share.

Dr. Jaishankar further explained through India's development cooperation examples as to how one can walk the talk in this regard. India was at the forefront of supplying lifesaving COVID vaccines during the pandemic when most of 'Global North' were sitting on vaccines eight times the number

of their population and were unwilling to share it with even a small island next to them. The Minister said that at time India was still vaccinating people and simultaneously were supplying vaccines to 100 countries in the world. This according to the Minister is the difference between 'Global South' and 'Global North'.

Showcasing and discussing these differences between Global South and Global North should not be a roadblock when it comes to cooperation. These differences must be realised and understood in a positive way and both entities must work together for the global good. Underscoring this thought process, Dr Jaishankar said that Global North and Global South must begin with being empathetic, by understanding the problems, by being respectful, by recognising that every country has its sovereignty, every country has its culture, every country has its tradition and solutions must be found in a way in which they are not imposed, that they are organically owned by the society which is actually going to be implementing that solution. The Minister further explained that at the core of all the world's problems and all the world's solutions are people and thus, one needs to be mindful of things that are beyond politics, beyond economics, beyond technology, to also remember who we are and to factor in culture, traditions, heritage. Dr. Jaishankar ended the discussion around the term 'Global South' by defining it in the manner in which the Global South works as a mix of all of this, of political consideration, of economic sharing, of technology spread, but also of cultural sensitivity.

The Minister's next part of the speech was devoted towards India's potential and contribution towards the development of the Global South. He did this by explaining the development that has taken place in India over the decades, and especially the transformational development in the last ten years. In this regard, the Minister explained India's Lunar Missions, Vaccine development and production, and Digital Public Infrastructure, without disregarding the issues of food security where India actually rediscovered its traditions of millets. The Minister explained that millets are very much part of India's tradition and one that was unfortunately diluted, both to our own cost and to that of the planet. He quipped that India is in many ways a demonstrator or a laboratory of an application of change and progress. He also mentioned that India's capacities have grown, its capabilities have grown, and the willingness to share has always been there. Today our ability to share has increased.

The Minister ended his speech by explaining that Global South is actually a movement whose spirit, whose sentiment, whose commitment needs to be harnessed for the betterment of the world in practical ways. The Minister hoped that in this manner, through existing bodies, through mechanisms like G20, through a process like the Voice of the Global South Summit, through South-South cooperation, through bilateral relationships, that countries of the South can find ways by which they can share experiences, and where the South can reinforce each other.

DAKSHIN Workshop on Agriculture



The 1st Dakshin Conference, scheduled for February 2024, focusing on the theme “Global South for Global Prosperity: Leveraging Collective Efforts for Inclusive Growth”, is a significant event anticipated to bring together think tanks from across the Global South. To pave the way for the momentous gathering, DAKSHIN organised a virtual workshop on 17 January 2024, centred around various issues related to Agriculture. This workshop served as a platform for brainstorming the issues and challenges of the agriculture sector in the Global South and moves DAKSHIN one step ahead in compiling a compendium of possible solutions to the challenges in this sector.

The primary goals of the virtual workshop were:

To discuss innovative solutions, best practices, successful flagship schemes of India and other countries of the Global South in the agriculture sector.

To promote development solutions advocated by these countries for their possible replication and adoption among peer countries of the developing world.

To involve think tanks/ universities/research institutions in promoting mutual learning, exchange of experiences and good practices among countries of the Global South.

To identify areas of common

interests and institutional collaboration.

Panellists, subject experts, and over 200 participants joined this virtual workshop from across the Global South, ranging from Fiji to Chile, and all the other countries of the Global South in between. The workshop started with a presentation of Indian schemes and programmes, followed by insights from other countries of the Global South in the following areas of cooperation:

- Food security and nutrition
- Sustainable, inclusive and climate-resilient agriculture
- Funding agriculture infrastructure
- Digitization of agricultural markets

Key Highlights of the Workshop

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, DG RIS, stressed that DAKSHIN, the Global South Centre for Excellence, is India's commitment to bring out development across various sectors with an emphasis on solutions. He called upon stakeholders to engage in shared solutions and shared experiences for coping up with climate change and recommended to bring out a Handbook of best practices in the agriculture sector in the Global South.

Dr Smita Sirohi, Principal Scientist, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), in her Keynote Address, highlighted the shared goals for ensuring food security for all, making agricultural livelihoods inclusive and economically viable and promoting resilient and sustainable food systems. She shared India's initiatives towards sustainability, risk management, promotion of millets, and development of climate-resilient crops leading to remunerative farming. Key Indian programmes covered were the National Agriculture Development Programme (NADP)/ Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), Crop Insurance Scheme (Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana - PMFBY), Soil Health Card, Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), Farmer-Producer Organisations (FPOs), National Agricultural Markets (eNAM), the Agri-Stack, and Mobile Telephony for Farmers. She endorsed the need to learn from each other to solve the common challenges in the agriculture sector across the Global South.

Discussants were asked to discuss the place of the Indian and global initiatives on agriculture in the context of immersive knowledge sharing among the countries of the Global South. Dr S. R. Rao, Vice President, Balaji Vidyapeeth, highlighted the need for equity in the transfer of technologies, especially related to climate change. He underscored the need for deeper collaborations across relevant actors and stakeholders across the countries of the Global South.

Dr Kalpana Sastry, Managing Director, Aghub, highlighted the momentum attained to evolve agri-start-ups over the recent years. She added that there is a need for enabling agencies to work closely with emerging agriculture start-ups and incubate innovations. Her discussion also covered realising bio-economy, regenerative agriculture and the use of digital technologies.

Think tanks from across the Global South shared their experiences in a dedicated session. Dr Lual A. Deng, Managing Director, Ebony Centre for Strategic Studies (ECSS), shared experiences of South Sudan- the extreme weather events amidst low utilisation of land, lack of agricultural education and investments including in AI for better land utilisation leading to food security. He suggested a better focus on infrastructure development and financial transformation through digital technologies.

Dr Herrick Mpuku, Executive Director, Zambia Institute for Policy Analyses and Research (ZIPAR), Zambia, highlighted challenges faced by the agriculture sector, such as low productivity

mainly due to over-reliance on rainfall and lack of irrigation facilities, poor infrastructure and lack of market information, finance and insurance. Requirements of infrastructure in irrigation systems, roads and the need to supply quality inputs, including seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, etc and access to markets were suggested as solutions. He highlighted the role of the private sector in agricultural markets and the need to revamp and rethink extension services. He also stressed the importance of interaction platforms like DAKSHIN to exchange information on technologies and experiences and learning from each other.

Mr Gregg C. E Rawlins, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA) Representative in the Eastern Caribbean States (ECS), highlighted their work related to school meals programmes and school gardens for nutrition, underscored the need to keep the solutions farmer-centric, and appreciated the role of knowledge sharing that DAKSHIN will play for Global South.

Lady Fane Fakafanua, Chief Operations Officer, Royal Oceania Institute (ROI), Kingdom of Tonga, highlighted issues such as small farm holdings, far-off markets and lack of irrigation systems in the Kingdom of Tonga. She also highlighted the large costs involved in desalination and other projects and informed that multi-cropping systems are practised in the country to address the challenges of trading agricultural items with other regional countries.

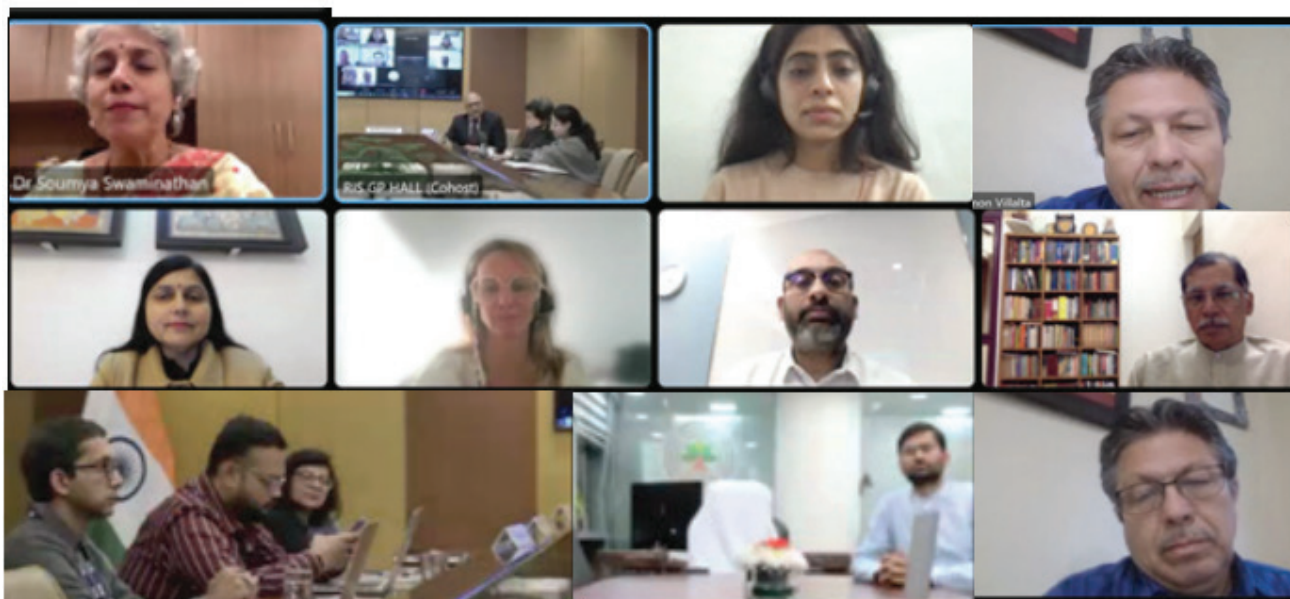
Discussions from the floor were very engaging and informative. Dr Karim M. Maredia, Director, WorldTAP, MSU, USA, highlighted that agriculture is moving from production to agricultural marketing and advocated an increased role of outreach and extension services for agricultural development. He

focused on the need to conserve water and its judicious use and added that youth is moving out of agriculture and there is a need to create opportunities to retain it in agriculture. He praised the initiative to develop global knowledge partnerships and collaborations like several others who spoke in the open discussion session

Conclusion

The workshop ended on a positive note, with stakeholders and participants expressing renewed commitment to contribute to DAKSHIN endeavours in the coming days. The insights gained will serve as a valuable foundation for promoting collective efforts for inclusive growth in the Global South.

DAKSHIN Workshop on Health



DAKSHIN – Global South Centre of Excellence organized its second online workshop on the health sector on February 2, 2024. The e-workshop was attended by participants from several countries of the Global South.

The Welcome Address was delivered by Mr. Atul Kaushik, GDC Fellow at RIS, who in his

intervention provided the vision of DAKSHIN and its plan of action for the future. He mentioned that DAKSHIN’s first e-workshop, on the agriculture sector, was held on January 17, 2024, and mentioned the plans to convene more online workshops and an in-person DAKSHIN International Conference soon.

Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, Chairperson, M S Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) chaired the workshop. In her introductory remarks, she gave a brief overview of the health sector in India and in the Global South, and the challenges faced in wake of the pandemic. Dr. Swaminathan explained that Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is binding on

all the countries however, the Alma Ata declaration is yet to be achieved and ratified in majority of the countries. She stated that out-of-pocket and catastrophic expenses are the critical challenges of the UHC. During the pandemic the World Health Organisation (WHO) was tracking how countries were coping up and performing in terms of delivering health care - 70-80% of Low- and Middle-Income Countries suffered collapse in their respective health care systems, especially in the area of immunization and maternal and child health services. TB patients suffered the most and the mortality rates in them were high during this period due to poor access to health services.

The lesson that the world community drew from the pandemic was that the health systems have to be resilient to shocks and digital health tools are an important and helpful avenue to provide health care to the needy. India's experience with respect to digital health is very informative for the world, especially on how to incorporate it into routine health systems. She encouraged further research in this space wherein ethical and regulatory aspects of these new technologies need to be carefully considered. She added that there are huge opportunities to learn from each other following the pandemic wherein solutions can be found quicker and more effectively by collaboration and cooperation. The questions she posed to the gathering was in relation to 'Learning health systems' - One that is continuously improving

by updating knowledge through learning. Researchers and policy makers now have to think as to how can such a system be created. India's program of Vaccine Maitri (Vaccine Friendship) during Covid is a fantastic example of learning.

Dr Basant Garg, Addl. CEO, National Health Authority (NHA), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India delivered the Keynote Address. He provided an overview of successful and innovative Indian health schemes and programmes which are replicable and scalable in other countries of the Global South. He mentioned that inspired from the Antyodaya Yojana, AB-PMJAY (health insurance scheme) covers 40% of the population of the nation and provides insurance cover of Rs 500,000 per person per year. The main focus of the government is towards preventing catastrophic health expenditure by providing health services in the private sector. In the last 5 years more than 60 million treatments been operationalised thereby saving over USD 5 billion by virtue of out-of-pocket expenditure. Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) was launched during the pandemic period wherein citizen's Aadhar (unique identity) and UPI (banking transactions platform) got linked which ultimately led to the success of Co-WIN vaccination platform which played a crucial role in enabling timely access to vaccinations. This initiative of the Indian government led to more than 2 billion vaccinations across the length and breadth of India. Further, Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) has been

assigned to more than 500 million Indian citizens.

India's Digital Public Infrastructure has progressed and developed at a rapid pace in the last decade and the health sector has been one of the major beneficiaries of this infrastructure. It was due such progress and initiatives using public private partnerships that India was able to administer 25 million vaccinations in a single day on multiple occasions. He explained that the focus of the Government of India is towards a holistic approach to healthcare: not only health but also the wellness aspects of health. As a result, there are more than 160,000 Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres across the country with an expanded range of services beyond maternal and child health services. He informed that over 520 million people have been screened under the Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) program and 700 million beneficiaries have benefitted from the Reproductive and Child Health program. Similarly, e-Sanjeevani (National telemedicine portal) has seen a meteoric rise, having served more than 200 million patients.

As a way forward, he explained that the Indian government envisages a citizen-centric health ecosystem and that India will soon have a generation which will be able to envision their longitudinal health records during their lifetime. The health sector pipeline includes Digital Health Informatics module for health professionals, and Interoperability of health information across the nation.

Ms. Archana Vyas, Director, Program Advocacy and Communications, Growth, Opportunity, and Empowerment, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in her role as a discussant informed the audience that the foundation has worked in India for over 20 years and has demonstrated health and developmental models that can be scaled across other countries of the Global South. She stated that Health Diplomacy and cooperation across countries in the health sector is extremely important. She posed a question to the participants: can there be a homogeneous regulatory measure that can be implemented in Low- and Middle-Income Countries so that there is faster production, deployment, and uptake of health products and technologies? She gave the example of the collaborative work being carried out between India and Tanzania around health R&D. She spoke positively about India's digital public infrastructure and the lessons that are being shared with other countries with respect to the delivery chain of vaccines along with an open, and interoperable systems for data exchange. She added that health governance in terms of regulatory measures is another important dimension for collaboration between India and countries of the Global South; cooperation between countries of the Global South is essential for accelerated pace to achieve SDGs.

Dr. Preeti Kumar, Vice President - Public Health System Support at Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) in her role as a discussant started her intervention by valorising India's

Federalism which according to her offers opportunities to learn from within the country and helps in analysing particular Indian states that have done better than the others in the health sector. She mentioned that transitioning from Universal Health Coverage to Public Health Care is the required clarion call, especially for the countries of the Global South. Previously, health education was focused on clinical care; the movement is now towards the current outlook of public health. The speaker claimed that PHFI is the first public private partnership (PPP) institute for Public Health in India that focuses on the robust research and provides technical support to central and state governments in the arena of public health. She also mentioned that five institutions across India have been established to provide contextually relevant education in public health wherein over 1000 public health professionals have emerged from these institutions over the past 20 years. She emphasised that a shift from health to wellness can only occur when Public Health professionals are embedded in the Health and Wellness Centres by providing them education with the right amount of knowledge and skills to serve the communities well.

Jose Ramón Villalta, Executive Director of the Social Initiative for Democracy, El Salvador in his special remarks claimed that Universal Health Care is fundamental. During the pandemic El Salvador had a model that was used to prevent vaccine hesitancy, especially in the indigenous communities of

the country. Majority of the people who were living in the rural area were the ones who were adversely affected. El Salvador has not yet been able to get over the practices of their country model that involve such hesitancy. Mr. Villalta said that certain groups of indigenous communities are using certain practices, which have not proven effective till date; one of the reasons for this is the change in the political scenario of the country. He explained that despite the concrete models required to be used by the indigenous communities during the pandemic, still they have not been implemented formally as the dialogue between these indigenous communities and the Ministry of Health have not happened well.

Ms. Carolina Casullo from Public Policy Implementation Center for Equity and Growth (CIPPEC), Argentina in her special remarks discussed that democracy and development are indivisible concepts and that development can happen only within the framework of democratic institutions. She explained that CIPPEC works on public finances, social inclusion, education and health in Argentina and mentioned that potential areas of cooperation for Global South are in the areas of Digital Health solutions, and communicable and non-communicable diseases. She stated that the best practice in digital health in Argentina was the creation of a National Department of Health Information supported by external financing in 2018 and that there are two residencies in universities that provides training

for professionals in this area. However, the challenge within Argentina is lack of equitable distribution of health services. She mentioned that Argentina has an institutional vaccine policy supported by private sector where there are 20 vaccines on the list. APP VISITAR software is in place to track work carried out by community health workers on the ground. Medication Policy, Thousand Days Plan, National Mental Health Law, National Law on Healthy Eating are some of the other significant best practices in the health sector of Argentina.

During open discussion, a question was asked by Joseph Harold Pierre from CSTRAD (Center for Strategic Development), Haiti about the role of insurance in reducing catastrophic health expenditures in this digital health programme. Dr Basant Garg responded that the

government pays the premium for the poorest 40% population of the country. The government also purchases health services for this segment thus bringing efficiency in the delivery of services. The National Health Authority maintains the IT platform which is used by all stakeholders. It is completely cashless and paperless, and transparent. Mr Raghavendra Guru from India commented that concepts of health governance and resource mobilization have been based on and developed for developed countries. He offered to share his 16 years of work in resource mobilization. Dr Deepak Shrivastava, Professor at Institute of Management Studies, Devi Ahilya University, Indore, India submitted that their university is offering MBA Public Health programme to medical students and would be happy to contribute academically and professionally

for mutual development. Ms. Pamela Vallejo asked if DAKSHIN was looking forward to work directly with some other country in America beyond Argentina and El Salvador, to which Mr Atul Kaushik responded that DAKSHIN aims to work with all countries of the Global South.

Prof. T C James, Visiting Fellow, RIS in his Vote of Thanks encapsulated the proceedings by mentioning the potential of scaling digital health practices in other nations, how contextualization of public health practice is an important dimension, and Ethical and logical management of health policies. The workshop ended on a positive note with a resolve to keep the discussion channels open and meeting again, including at the forthcoming in person DAKSHIN Conference.

DAKSHIN Workshop on Digital Solutions

The workshop threw light on the prominent digital public goods like Aadhaar (Unique Identity), Unified Payment Interface (UPI), Digilocker, Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance (UMANG), Open API (Application Programming Interface) Platform (API Setu), Co-Win Vaccination Platform, Government e-Market Place (GeM), Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA), Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Mission (ABDM), Telemedicine (eSanjeevani), e-Courts, etc that



are bringing digital transformation in the Indian landscape. New offerings of Digital India Land Record Modernisation Programme or National Language Translation Mission Global South News Update (Bhashini) are getting added on a regular basis in the bouquet of digital solutions available to Indians. These digital public goods offerings have seen a swift acceptance by individuals and businesses, which has led to improvement of financial and social inclusion in India. The concept behind India Stack is universal in nature, wherein offered open APIs and digital public goods can be adopted by individuals/businesses/nations, as per their requirements. The technical frameworks offered under India Stack can be adopted by any country, which desires to implement the digital offerings. The workshop also drew home the point that these offerings do not require any proprietary technology which would rule out its adoption in other desiring countries. Participants were happy to know that India is willing to share these technologies with the countries of the Global South on demand driven basis.

Along with an exposition of some of the Indian offerings, the workshop aimed to explore digital offerings being developed in other countries of the Global South, with the aim of simplifying the lives of citizens of the Global South. The overarching theme of the workshop was towards the deployment of digital public

goods for accelerated economic development, and promoting innovations and best practices through digital solutions.

The specific aims of the workshop were as follows:

- Discuss innovative digital solutions, technology interventions of India & other countries of the Global South.
- Reach out to relevant stakeholders for providing technology support in order to develop needed infrastructure and conducive environment for R&D and innovation in Global South countries.
- Explore the possibility of technology standardisation and technology sharing among developing countries.
- Work towards skill enhancement and capacity building of relevant agencies involved in technology landscape.
- Promote development solutions advocated by these countries for their possible replication and adoption among peer countries of the developing world.
- Involve think tanks/universities/research institutions in promoting mutual learning, exchange of experiences and good practices among Global South countries.
- Identify areas of common interests and institutional collaboration.

Some of the highlights of workshop were:

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, DG, RIS stressed that DAKSHIN welcomes all by bringing in the idea of sharing India's contributions in terms of our development paradigm. DAKSHIN could bring in the digital solutions workshop which would showcase not only India's success that we are seeing at the sectoral level but also with our partners who have hugely contributed in terms of taking the issues forward and that has contributed both in terms of identifying new projects, new ideas and new possibilities.

Mr Rohit Rathish, Joint Secretary Development Partnership Administration III, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, chaired the session introduced the audience to India's development cooperation activities which include development partnership in socio economic development projects and initiatives with partner countries across the world. Currently, India has a portfolio that includes about USD \$32 billion worth of projects under concessional loans in about 70 countries of the Global South and about USD \$4 billion worth of grant projects across the developing world mostly centred within India's own neighbourhood.

Mr Saurabh Kumar Tiwari, Joint Secretary, Direct Benefit Transfer Mission, Government of India explained the paradigm of digital public infrastructure in India and how India has used it to deliver welfare services to the citizens. The JAM Trinity, where

A is for AADHAAR (for Digital Identity), M is for the mobile phone, and J is for Jan Dhan has brought about effective financial inclusion that was extremely useful during the pandemic when, just with a press of a single button in-kind food grain transfers were carried to 800 million people.

Col. Nikhil Sinha, Director (Enforcement), Unique Identification Authority of India, Government of India, talked about the leakages and gaps in the benefit transfer system of India in the past and explained how the current system has been able to solve most of the problems related to leakages and duplication. 1.5 billion AADHAARs have been generated in India and the country has fully achieved the SDG target 16.9 which talks about providing a legal identity to all its citizens well before the year 2030. He explained that through the basic layers, a host of services can be built and gave the example of India administering over two billion plus vaccine during the pandemic.

Mr Nitin Mishra, Chief Technical Officer and President of Network Enablement, Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), stated that DPI and DPGs are India's hallmark initiatives for the world in general and Global South in particular. While AADHAAR provided the foundational building block for authentication and authorisation, UPI provided the rails for the digital financial transactions in the ecosystem, and similar health related services were also

provided in the realm of ABDM.

Mr Ajay Kumar Choudhary, Non-Executive Chairman and Independent Director, NPCI, explained that development of an innovative digital solutions is generally the result of a delicate interplay between underlying digital public infrastructure, institutional arrangement, and the policy initiatives. IMPS connects over 800 member banks and processes average monthly transaction totalling 5.5 billion with a transaction value of USD 70 billion. The RuPay Card, an indigenous card payment network offering a range of debit, prepaid, and credit facilities to diverse consumer needs through 1,250 plus banks currently processes average monthly transactions totalling 160 million with a transaction value of USD 3 billion.

Professor S Rajagopalan, Visiting Faculty, International Institute of Information Technology, talked about how other countries of the Global South can leverage India's experience in delivering benefits to their citizens, and learn from India's experience. He explained that India will in turn learn from other's experiences to take our systems to the next generation. Thus, it is mutual learning and learning by doing.

Mr Yorokee Kapimbua, Founder and Director of Centre for Policy Research Africa from Botswana explained that he is looking into Technology and Entrepreneurship as a model for

Botswana to bring the masses who are not bankable into the financial system through an inclusive informal economy, and is looking into ways that Botswana can create 'Youth Innovation Districts' to make sure that young people who are actually forming the bulk of Africa can learn from the experience of Indian counterparts and private sector in particular.

Mr John H Stanfield from ASRAPI, Mauritius praised India's evolution in the realm of digital sector and raised the critical point of not re-inventing the wheel i.e., how best to act collaboratively and in cooperation. He hoped that consumers in the Global South will not be merely seen as consumers, and exporters of raw material like it happened in the previous industrial revolutions.

Dr Alexandra Tosovic Stanovich, Research Fellow at the Institute for International Politics and Economics from Serbia described the situation of Serbia and how they analyse and implement the digital transformation for development in their country, and the usage of digital technology in the agriculture economy.

Mr José Ramón Villalta, Director of Social Initiative for Democracy (ISD) from El Salvador talked about the process of democratisation of scarce resources in the societies and the challenges associated with them. He shared examples from El Salvador where the problems of fake news and misinformation

are rampant causing various governance challenges especially in the regions dominated by the indigenous population. However, those digital solutions have been a boon for the health and agriculture sector.

In the Q&A session, a question was raised whether ONDC could have a future in the B2B space. The panellist replied that at the moment the scale of B2B in ONDC is low but in future it will increase with network effects. Other panellists responded to questions by summarising India might not

have developed solutions for everything yet, but other countries of the Global South can learn from India's experience in DPIs which has been a fifteen-year journey, while also responding to questions about the interoperability of payment system in other countries and the licensing aspect of UPI Switch.

Capacity Building Programme on Triangular Cooperation

RIS and DAKSHIN organised a capacity development programme on Triangular Cooperation from 12 to 14 February 2024. It was an integral component of the ongoing broader RIS-GIZ study recognising the emerging significance of this modality within the framework of International Cooperation. It was attended by 11 participants from 9 diverse institutions, encompassing academia, development

cooperation practitioners, civil society, and other stakeholders. The programme was designed to orient the participants towards an integrated and multidimensional understanding of Triangular cooperation and covered modules: Global Architecture of International development cooperation, including Triangular and South-South cooperation, India's development cooperation

and key features of Triangular cooperation. Besides, eminent Indian experts provided nuanced insights into various facets of Triangular Cooperation, the Global Architecture for International Development Cooperation, and India's distinct contributions in the arena of development cooperation.



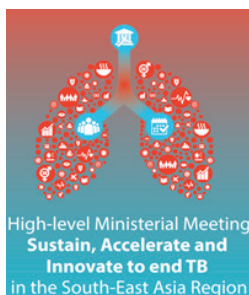
Participants at the Capacity Building Programme

Global South News on Development Cooperation

Cabinet approves MoU between India and Kenya



The Union Cabinet of India was apprised on 18th January, 2024 of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on 5th December, 2023 between the Government of the Republic of India through the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the Government of the Republic of Kenya through the Ministry of Information, Communications and digital Economy on cooperation in the field of sharing successful Digital Solutions implemented at Population Scale for Digital Transformation. India Stack Solutions are a DPIs developed and implemented by India at population scale to provide access and delivery of public services and over the period, MeitY has entered into MoUs/MoCs/Agreements with its counterpart organizations/agencies from various countries to promote cooperation and exchange of information in the ICT domain.



A high-level meeting on TB for South-East Asia region was held in Gandhinagar, India

On 18th January, 2024, the World Health Organisation reported on its website the high-level meeting on TB held on 16-17 August, 2023 with the overall objective of undertaking reinvigoration of political commitment for sustained, accelerated and innovative approaches towards ending TB in the Region and arrive at a joint approach at the United Nations High-Level Meeting (UNHLM) 2023.

Cameroon starts world's first malaria vaccine program for children



Cameroon becomes the first country to routinely give children a new malaria vaccine as the shots are rolled out in Africa. The campaign started on 22nd January 2024 was described by officials as a milestone in the decades-long effort to curb the mosquito-spread disease on the continent, which accounts for 95% of the world's malaria deaths. "The vaccination will save lives. It will provide major relief to families and the country's health system," said Aurelia Nguyen, chief program officer at the Gavi vaccines alliance, which is helping Cameroon secure the shots produced by GlaxoSmithKline (GSK). GSK has said it can only produce about 15 million doses of Mosquirix a year and some experts believe a second malaria vaccine developed by Oxford University and approved by WHO in October 2023 might be a more practical solution. That vaccine is cheaper, requires three doses and India's Serum Institute said they could make up to 200 million doses a year.



Revolutionizing Agriculture Together: India-Africa Unite for Farm Mechanization

The India-Africa Dialogue on Farm Mechanization, held in January at the Ludhiana Exhibition Hall in India, brought together a diverse group of experts, practitioners, researchers, machinery manufacturers, financial institutions, and policymakers from both India and various African nations to foster South-South learning on farm mechanization. The event was jointly organized and represented a collaborative initiative by institutions including the International Crops Research Institute for the Arid and Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), the All India Agricultural Machinery Manufacturers Association, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare of the Government of India, Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), CGIAR- Excellence in Agronomy (EiA), and Udan Media and Communications in Ludhiana, India.



India ready to share experiences on leveraging technology to transform governance

India launched the Global DPI Repository at the second Voice of the Global South Summit in November 2023 along with a social impact fund of USD 25 million to fast-track the implementation of DPI in developing countries.

G77 leaders call for a 'fair global system' for developing countries in Uganda summit

More than 130 member states, including India, took part in the third South Summit in the Ugandan capital Kampala on 21-22 January, 2024 under the theme "Leaving No One Behind," to boost co-operation in trade, investment, sustainable development, climate change, the eradication of poverty and the digital economy.





Pacific Island Countries Join in South-South Advocacy for Renewable Energy

Fiji inaugurated an 18.25 kW solar generation system at the Fiji State House. The system – funded by the India-UN Development Fund, and delivered in close partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) – will supply the House with annual clean energy production of approximately 20,000 units of electricity. This will save 7,400 Fijian dollars of annual spending on energy costs.



Will share infra planning tool PM GatiShakti with neighbouring countries

India will share the PM GatiShakti initiative with some of the neighbouring countries free of cost as the infrastructure planning tool is helping in effective planning and implementation of projects. Over 1,400 layers of data, including those related to land, ports, forests, and highways, are available on the PM GatiShakti portal.



Strengthening the Humanitarian System: From India to South Asia

The launch of the Strengthening the Humanitarian System in India (SHSI) report in New Delhi provided a series of useful reflections on the content as a detailed overview of India's humanitarian structures and policies, while also providing forward-looking options for implementing some of its recommendations. The meeting covered some topics of clear importance for India but also for humanitarian actors in other countries to consider, particularly issues of migration, disaster risk reduction and preparedness that are of growing importance globally given the increasing threats of climate-related disasters.



Indonesia echoes Global South interests at global AI forum

During the Ministers' Closed Consultations on the Interim Report of the UN Secretary General's High-level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence held in Slovenia on 4th February 2024, the Indonesian Deputy Minister of Communication and Informatics Nezar Patria explained that the Global South comprises developing countries in Asia, Africa, and the South Pacific, which have been showing continued progress in terms of the utilization of AI technology in various sectors. He underscored that the international community should ensure the implementation of equality among nations to enable the Global South to take part in driving global AI development.



Cuba and Brazil agree on strategic cooperation in health care

The meeting of the Brazil-Cuba Binational Management Committee (CGBBC) concluded on 8th February, 2024 at Havana, Cuba with the signing of three agreements, which ratified the coincidence of strategic areas and high priority healthcare projects for the two countries.



Launch of UPI services in Sri Lanka, Mauritius symbol of Global South cooperation -

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 12th February, 2024, along with the President of Sri Lanka, H.E. Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe and the Prime Minister of Mauritius, H.E. Mr. Pravind Jugnauth jointly inaugurated the launch of Unified Payment Interface (UPI) services in Sri Lanka and Mauritius, and also RuPay card services in Mauritius.



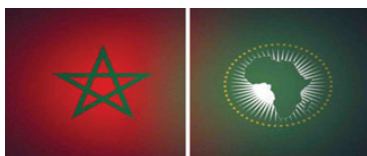
India Contributes USD 1 Million to the India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation

India presented its annual contribution of \$1 million to the India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation (IBSA Fund) on 19th February, 2024 at the United Nations, New York. Building on India's extensive bilateral and multilateral engagements fostering sustainable development through South-South cooperation, this renewed commitment to the IBSA Fund is yet another example of India's commitment to addressing development challenges such as poverty, hunger, and climate change across developing nations through a South-South cooperation lens.



WTO backs India's proposal to cut remittance cost, Global South countries to benefit most

India has garnered support from many of the World Trade Organization (WTO) members, including the European Union, for its proposal to reduce the cost of cross-border remittances. Reduced transaction costs for trade and business can make Indian businesses more competitive, contributing to overall growth. Lower costs could incentivise formal money transfer channels, potentially reducing reliance on informal methods.



Morocco rises to second-largest African investor in Africa

With foreign direct investments reaching over \$800 million in 2021, Morocco has become the second largest African investor on the continent, after South Africa, and the largest in West Africa, as reported by the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

About Global South Centre of Excellence (GSCE) - DAKSHIN

Desirous of human-centric globalisation, countries of the Global South have a lot to learn from each other's development experiences. They all agree on the importance of South-South Cooperation and collectively shaping the global agenda. Inspired by the discussions among leaders of the Global South on these issues during 1st Voice of Global South Summit held on January 12-13, 2023, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India announced that India will establish a Global South Centre of Excellence (GSCE) – DAKSHIN. DAKSHIN was inaugurated during the 2nd Voice of Global South Summit held on November 17, 2023. Established at Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), DAKSHIN aims to assist partners in the identification and implementation of scalable and sustainable solutions that can transform the economies and societies of Global South countries. It will be the endeavour of DAKSHIN to identify development solutions or best practices of any of the developing countries, which can be scaled and implemented in other members of the Global South. It will act as an accelerator and multiplier for the Global South toward realisation of Agenda 2030 and localisation of SDGs. It will amplify cross-continental exchange of ideas, creation of evidence-based policy frameworks, global public goods, transformational opportunities for development cooperation, and encourage peer learning in developing countries emphasising outcome driven collective action.

Modalities

- **Knowledge Creation & Sharing** DAKSHIN will promote research, sharing of knowledge, particularly development practices and experiences on sustainable development, based on each partner country's contributions.
- **Capacity Building & Skill Enhancement** DAKSHIN will promote training and capacity building initiatives, facilitate skill development and exchange of human resources, and conduct fellowship programmes, in mutually identified areas, for scholars and professionals from the Global South.
- **Technology Sharing** DAKSHIN will facilitate development and sharing of technology in mutually identified critical areas for resilient and sustainable development.

Collectively Evolving a Universal Global Development Agenda

DAKSHIN will forge development partnerships covering all geographies and diverse sectors of the Global South for evolving and promoting an inclusive and balanced global socioeconomic development, including in particular the sectors mentioned below:

- **Agriculture** - Strengthening systems for sustainable agricultural production, processing and leveraging digital technologies for sustainable agriculture; promoting innovations and best practices on climate smart agriculture.
- **Health** - Enhancing universal access to quality health services, including digital solutions; promoting traditional medicines; developing regional healthcare hubs and improving mobility of health professionals; deploying simple and scalable digital health solutions.
- **Digital Solutions** - Deployment of digital public goods for accelerated economic development; promoting innovations and best practices through digital solutions.
- **Education** - Vocational training; digital distance education; skilling and employability.
- **Banking & Finance** - Deployment of digital public goods for increasing financial inclusion, electronic-payments, e-governance etc.
- **Connectivity Infrastructure** - Diversification of global supply chains; linking developing countries to value chains.
- **Climate Finance & Technology**- Innovative climate finance models; coalition for development, diffusion and deployment of emerging green technologies; promotion of 'Lifestyle For Environment' or LiFE initiative and the use of circular economy.

Further, a Global-South Science and Technology Initiative is also proposed to be launched by the Centre to share science and technology related expertise within developing nations.

To begin, DAKSHIN proposes to commence development cooperation with knowledge, experience, and technology sharing among developing countries and undertake capacity building in three sectors: Agriculture, Health and Digital Solutions.

About The Dakshin News

The Global South Centre of Excellence is established at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) in taking forward scalable and sustainable solutions that can transform the Global South economies and societies. The Dakshin News, a development and knowledge sharing initiative, would serve as a platform for exchange of ideas on common challenges and new approaches for evolving a new development paradigm. The Dakshin News, being the Voice of Global South, aims to bring together academicians, experts, think tanks, practitioners, community based organisations, policy makers, business and industry circles for their active engagement through exchange of ideas and innovative practices that can help the Global South for ensuring inclusive sustainable growth. For more information, please contact: info-gsce@ris.org.in.

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