

DAKSHIN

Global South Centre of Excellence

Background

Inspired by the discussions among leaders of the Global South during the 1st Voice of Global South Summit held on 12-13 January 2023, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi announced that India would establish a Global South Centre of Excellence (DAKSHIN). In fulfilment of India's commitment, DAKSHIN was inaugurated by him during the 2nd Voice of Global South Summit held on 17 November 2023.

As the eight-decade old model of global governance slowly changes, countries of the Global South must take their destiny in their own hands and shape the emerging order. The priority now for them is to identify simple, scalable and sustainable solutions that can transform our societies and economies. Following the Indian philosophy that the world is one family, DAKSHIN aims to amplify the voice of the Global South and eventually

become a platform for sharing of knowledge and development solutions amongst the countries of the Global South. It will seek ways to forge stronger collaboration with counterparts in the Global South countries to exchange knowledge, experiences, and capacities in the spirit of South-South Cooperation. As a major voice of the Global South, it aims to share the ideas, concerns and perspectives of Southern Countries about the traditional and emerging developmental challenges.

DAKSHIN has already made a remarkable start in collaboration with some of its leading partners in Global South representing think tanks, academia and universities as well as governmental and non-governmental organizations. Following India's approach to development cooperation, which is consultative, outcome-oriented, demand



Inauguration
of

DAKSHIN

Global South Centre of Excellence

by

Shri Narendra Modi

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

17 November 2023

driven, people-centric and respectful of the sovereignty of partner countries, together they aim to develop vibrant, constructive and practical approaches to address the serious challenges being faced by the Global South with a focus on sectors of their interest and the application of digital technology solutions.

Vision

Foster knowledge sharing and mutual learning for building capacities and developing sustainable, affordable, and locally relevant solutions. This involves collating resources, experiences and strategies to overcome developmental challenges the Global South faces, and promote globally inclusive partnerships.

Mandate

DAKSHIN, in association with its partners in India and in Global South countries, will facilitate dialogue, handholding and support for identified and mutually agreed initiatives in the Global South under the overall guidance of respective governments and agencies.



India Hosts 3rd Voice of Global South Summit on 17 August 2024

Aims and Objectives

DAKSHIN will serve as an accelerator and multiplier of social and economic development growth in the Global South, driving the realization of Agenda 2030 and localization of SDGs through the following activities:

- Facilitation of cross-continental exchanges of ideas.
- Development of evidence-based policy frameworks.
- Ensuring the availability and accessibility of global public goods.
- Promotion of transformational opportunities for development cooperation.
- Encouragement of peer learning for outcome driven development strategies.

Modalities

Knowledge Creation and Sharing

The Centre will promote research and the sharing of knowledge, particularly on development practices and experiences related to sustainable development, based on the contributions of each partner country.

Capacity Building and Skill Enhancement

The Centre would promote training and capacity building initiatives, facilitate skill development and enable exchange of human resources. It will also conduct fellowship programmes in mutually identified areas, for scholars and professionals from the Global South, with the support from relevant Ministries and agencies.

Technology Sharing

The Centre would facilitate the development and sharing of technology in mutually identified critical areas for resilient and sustainable development, with the support of concerned Ministries and agencies.



There is heterogeneity across countries of the South, but homogeneity in challenges. India grapples developmental challenges and surmounts them, a valuable element in this platform, and that of Global South Centre of Excellence, is sharing of experiences.

BIBEK DEBROY

Former Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister
New Delhi, India

Collectively Evolving a Universal Global Development Framework

India's development partnerships cover all geographies and diverse sectors of the Global South, aiming to evolve and promote an inclusive and balanced global socio-economic development.

Health

- Promoting traditional medicines
- Setting up of regional hubs for healthcare
- Improving mobility of health professionals
- Deploying simple and scalable digital health solutions



Education

- Vocational training
- Digital distance education
- Skilling and employability



Connectivity Infrastructure

- Diversification of global supply chains
- Linking developing countries to value chains



Banking and Finance

- Deployment of digital public goods for increasing financial inclusion
- Electronic-payments
- E-governance



Climate Finance and 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



A Global-South Science and Technology Initiative will be launched by DAKSHIN to share India's expertise with other developing nations as announced by the Prime Minister in the Voice of Global South Summit.



Amidst heightening geopolitical fault lines, a common platform on the concerns of the Global South is compelling. The Global South Centre of Excellence will have a central role in highlighting lesser-developed and more vulnerable countries on a global stage.

DUSHNI WEERAKOON

Executive Director

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Initial Focus Areas

Agriculture



DAKSHIN champions a unified voice for shared agricultural challenges across diverse nations, emphasizing collaboration with singular focus on addressing common issues in agriculture sector. Through initiatives such as crop insurance, sustainable agriculture and market development, it underscores the need for partnerships to foster inclusive solutions beyond borders. DAKSHIN works to strengthen systems for sustainable agricultural production,

processing and leveraging digital technologies for sustainable agriculture.

The Centre aims to promote innovations and best practices in climate-smart agriculture, aligning with key flagship programmes of India, including the National Agriculture Development Programme (NADP) (*Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana* (RKVY), the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), the Crop Insurance Scheme (Prime Minister *Fasal Bima Yojana* - PMFBY), Soil Health Card, the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), the National Agriculture Market (eNAM), Agri-Stack, and mobile telephony for farmers.

Health



DAKSHIN would strive to amplify the collective concerns of the Global South in shared health challenges by emphasizing collaborative approaches and seeking inclusive solutions beyond borders. Programmes like CoWIN, National Telemedicine Service, Health Protection Scheme and Rural Health Mission in India highlight efforts to ensure accessible, innovative healthcare delivery while fostering partnerships with global relevance. These experiences can be shared for common

challenges. The aim is to provide universal access to quality health services, including digital solutions, the promotion of traditional medicines, the development of regional healthcare hubs, and the mobility of health professionals. This is supported by flagship initiatives launched by India, such as the Health Assurance Scheme (Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana - PM-JAY), the Health Infrastructure Digital Mission (Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission - ABDM), COVID Vaccine Intelligence Network (Co-WIN), the National Telemedicine Service (eSanjeevani), and Maternal and Child Health/Communicable Disease/Non-Communicable Disease programmes.



Geo-political tensions are creating pressures in the countries of the Global South. In this context, the idea of establishing a Global South Centre of Excellence as announced by the Prime Minister of India is a positive move.

FAHMIDA KHATUN

Executive Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue
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As an emerging economic power and a reservoir of knowledge, India is well poised to host the Global South Centre of Excellence. Its focus on people centric development is a testament of its commitment to global peace, harmony and progress.

CHEWANG RINZIN

Deputy Chamberlain to His Majesty The King of Bhutan and Director of the Royal Institute for Governance and Strategic Studies Phuentsholing, The Kingdom of Bhutan



India's developmental assistance promotes regional connectivity in South Asia, the least integrated region in the world. This has helped accelerate the development of its neighbours, laying the foundation for the economic transformation of South Asia.

C. RAJA MOHAN

Senior Fellow
Asia Society Policy Institute, New Delhi, India



Digital Solutions

DAKSHIN aims to address shared digital transformation challenges in the Global South. Based on collaborative strategies, it seeks to offer inclusive solutions. Initiatives such as Director Benefit Transfer, Digi locker, Unified Payment Interface (UPI), Aadhaar (Unique Identity), Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) and JAM (Jandhan-Aadhar-Mobile) Trinity in India represent significant strides in accessible, innovative digital platforms. Similarly, many platforms are being introduced in other countries of the Global South. All these initiatives emphasize partnership and global relevance in advancing digital solutions and can help develop a common approach to tackling for challenges across the Global South.

Priority Initiatives for the next three years

DAKSHIN has initiated engagements with think tanks of countries of the Global South in the three focus areas in its first year of operation. Going forward, based on meetings held so far with these think tanks and the needs expressed during these engagements, DAKSHIN proposes to initiate work on the following sectors/issues in the next three years:

Education

In addition to fostering linkages with key educational institutions, Dakshin would also promote efficient and inclusive education across the Global South, aligning with the priorities outlined in SDG4 and India's National Education Policy. Efficient governance systems to enable absorption of good practices and success stories from each other, skill enhancement in sectors and businesses most relevant to countries of the Global South, and use of digital technologies in spread of education in an inclusive manner are the areas in which DAKSHIN can move forward to establish training and capacity building programmes. Subjects prioritised include training of young civil servants in information, communication and technology (ICT), digitalisation in public procurement procedures, and impact assessment of public policies.

Climate Technologies

A wide range of climate technologies is crucial for the decarbonization of the Global South. India has taken several innovative initiatives in the sphere of climate technology, particularly in the areas of renewable energy-based technologies, climate smart agriculture, carbon capture and digital technologies that can be shared with countries of the Global South. Similar initiatives by other countries in the Global South can also be shared on the DAKSHIN platform. It is proposed to engage with think tanks with requests for technology sharing to enable the developing countries to benefit from frugal technologies developed and evolved within the Global South.

Connectivity

The current phase of globalization is characterized by connectivity. Many countries in the Global South have announced their own connectivity strategies or are participating in initiatives led by other partners or multilateral organizations. These initiatives vary in terms of their origins, priorities, resource commitments, and partnerships. India's connectivity initiatives are integrated into its various strategic and development partnerships as well as trade agreements. They are further advanced through specific policies like the Act East Policy, Connect Central Asia Policy, India-Africa Dialogues etc. These efforts are mainly linked to key initiatives such as the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), the Asia-Africa Growth Corridor, Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR), the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), Project Mausam, and others. Given the significant infrastructure deficit in the Global South, connectivity improvement is crucial for these countries to compete in global markets and participate in global value chains. In consultation with Global South partners, DAKSHIN would promote sustainable connectivity projects that prioritize transparency, sustainable financing, and high-quality infrastructure.

Prime Minister Proposes Development Compact for Trade, Financing, Technology and Capacity Building

Five Modalities of India's Development Compact

- Capacity Building for Sustainable Growth
- Grants
- Project Specific Concessional Finance
- Technology Sharing
- Trade for Development



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