

## EDITORIAL

INSDOC and the community of librarians and information scientists in India take pleasure in extending a warm welcome to the fourth meeting of the SAARC Documentation Expert Committee (SAARC-DEC) which is taking place in India during January 21-22, 1993. SAARC - South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation among the seven member nations in the fields of trade, commerce, education, planning, science, technology, etc. is to stimulate and promote all round economic development. Inter alia, SAARC has accorded priority to the development of facilities for handling and exchange of information particularly in the fields of science, technology and industrial development. This is as it should be because information these days, is the primary input for any production/distribution activity. The first step towards the implementation of SAARC Documentation System was the designation of an institution in each member country to serve as a focal point for interaction on the matters relating to the SAARC Documentation System. INSDOC is the designated focal point of the system in India. Similarly, there is BANSDOC in Bangladesh, Royal Institute of Management in Bhutan, Ministry of Planning and Environ in Maldives, Royal Nepal Academy of Science and Technology in Nepal, Pakistan Scientific and Technological Information Centre in Pakistan and Centre for Development of Information (National Planning Department, Ministry of Policy, Planning and Implementation) in Sri Lanka. The focal points are in constant interaction with each other on the matters of procurement and dissemination of information required by the scientific and technological communities of the respective countries.

In this perspective, INSDOC has been making constant efforts to propagate scientific and technical information of particular interest to the SAARC countries by way of subscribing Annals and Indian Science Abstracts on their behalf. The columns of the Annals of Library Science and Documentation are always open to the information scientist experts from SAARC region to share their findings and views with their counter parts in sister countries.

World is witness to momentous changes with countries in various regions banding themselves together for the purpose of closer cooperation in the matters of science, technology and economic development. We have the examples of EEC countries coming together in Europe and Canada and the USA doing similarly across the Pacific. This should naturally be a valuable pointer to SAARC countries to intensify interaction in the areas of mutual interest.

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