

Established in December 1985, SAARC provides a platform for the peoples of South Asia to work together in a spirit of friendship, trust and understanding in order to promote the welfare of the peoples of South Asia; to accelerate economic growth, social progress, cultural development, and active collaboration in technical and scientific fields, in the region; and to provide all individuals the opportunity to live in dignity and to realize their full potentials.

SAARC attaches high priority to the promotion of people-to-people contacts in the region, to strengthen confidence among the peoples of South Asia through dialogue, understanding and goodwill. With a view to enriching and supplementing inter-governmental efforts, inter alia, to promote socio-economic and cultural development in the South Asia Region, the Association strongly encourages interaction across the region among professional bodies, private corporate sector, and **creative artists**.

H.E. MR. MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM GHAFORI

Director (Afghanistan)
SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu