For strategic growth in South Asia: Q&A with Dr Sunil Motiwal

SAARC Development Fund’s Partnership Conclave 2018 on “Regional Integration through Project Collaboration and Investments” will be held from July 2-3, 2015 at Indian Institute of New Delhi. It will focus on cross-border projects and projects under the Economic, Social, and Financial Infrastructure projects under the Economic, Social, and Financial Infrastructure projects. The conclave aims to create partnerships and mobilize investment for projects in the region.

**Mr. CED, we start this conversation by asking you to brief us on the SAARC Development Fund and its development role in the SAARC region?**

Thank you for your interest. The SAARC Development Fund (SDF) is a multi-lateral fund established by the Heads of the eight SAARC Member States in 1998. It is managed by the Secretary-Cum-Executive Director, SAARC Secretariat of the SAARC Council of Ministers. The fund has contributed to the development of the region by providing financial support to various projects in the fields of education, health, and infrastructure.

**In your view, how can SDF overlap and contribute significantly to achieving developmental goals in the SAARC region?**

SDF’s mandate is to promote regional cooperation and economic integration. It focuses on infrastructure projects and seeks to create synergies between different sectors. This is done through promoting cross-border projects and projects that benefit multiple countries.

**What is the interpretation of the term “direct benefit to more than one SAARC Member State”?**

The term “direct benefit to more than one SAARC Member State” refers to projects that directly benefit at least two SAARC Member States. These projects are designed to promote regional integration and cooperation.

**What is the status of infrastructure projects funded by the SDF?**

The SDF has funded several infrastructure projects in the SAARC region. Some of these projects include the construction of roads, bridges, and other facilities. The SDF’s role is to provide financial support and to facilitate the implementation of such projects.

**How do you see the role of the SDF in future development projects in the SAARC region?**

The SDF’s role in future development projects will be to continue promoting regional integration and cooperation through funding projects that benefit multiple SAARC Member States. The SDF will also focus on projects that address regional economic challenges and improve the quality of life for people in the SAARC region.