

PRESS RELEASE

SAARC Charter Day
8th December 2017

The Royal Government of Bhutan will be celebrating the establishment of the *South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)*, on Friday, 8th December 2017, in Tashichhodzong, marking the thirty-third anniversary of signing the SAARC Charter in 1985.

A lighting of a thousand butter lamps at the Guru Lhakhang in Tashichhodzong will be led by the Hon'ble Foreign Minister, Lyonpo Damcho Dorji, along with members of the international community, and senior members of the RGoB.

SAARC continues to play an important role in addressing the common issues and challenges faced by our peoples, and in fulfilling our shared aspiration of a peaceful and prosperous region.

SAARC commenced its journey with limited areas of cooperation, which today encompasses diverse areas such as, trade, finance, energy, agriculture, education, connectivity, security, social development, poverty alleviation, science and technology, climate change, countering terrorism and transnational crimes, and illicit use of drugs, among several others. In recent years, SAARC has engaged in new areas of cooperation such as the migration issues and blue economy.

Bhutan remains steadfast in its commitment to the ideals and principles of the SAARC Charter. The RGoB continues working with Member States to achieve our shared goals and aspirations, and to realize the full potential of our region to raise the relevance, vitality and effectiveness of SAARC.

The offering of the thousand butter lamps, on this day, serves as a symbol and sincere gesture of prayers towards achieving the noble goals enshrined in the SAARC Charter.



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Thimphu
5 December 2017