

**30 May 2018**

**Secretary General, SAARC's Visit to SAARC Development Fund**

Thimphu, Bhutan: Dr. Sunil Motiwal, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of SAARC Development Fund (SDF) welcomed the Secretary General of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), H.E. Mr. Amjad Hussian B Sial at SDF Secretariat in Thimphu, Bhutan on 30 May 2018. The Secretary General is on a visit to Bhutan along with Mr. Sangay Chewang, Director, Bhutan, and Mr. M.H.M.N. Bandara Director, Sri Lanka.

Under the leadership of CEO, SDF, all the departments of SDF presented insights and discussed the recent developments under each department with the Secretary General. Dr. Motiwal updated the Secretary General about the activation of Infrastructure Window of SDF by in-principle approval of two important infrastructure projects in energy sector in the SAARC region. These include waste to energy project in Sri Lanka with participation of India and hydropower project in Nepal with participation of Bangladesh and India. He expressed confidence that the projects would help SDF to achieve its development goals in the region and promote welfare and prosperity of the people in the SAARC region.

Dr. Motiwal also discussed various challenges in South Asia and opportunities to enhance economic connectivity in the region. He also updated the Secretary General about various potential cross border regional connectivity projects in renewable energy, transport, trade and commerce under active consideration of SDF to co-finance. The Secretary General acknowledged the positive developments and emphasized on the need to overcome various barriers and challenges by working together in close coordination and harmony.

H.E. Secretary General, SAARC appreciated SDF for its tireless efforts to achieve its mandate of promoting the welfare of the people, improving their quality of life and accelerate economic growth, social progress and poverty alleviation in the SAARC region and assured his support to SDF

Dr. Motiwal expressed sincere gratitude to the Secretary General for his motivational visit to the SDF Secretariat at Thimphu, Bhutan.



H.E. Mr. Amjad Hussain B. Sial with Dr. Sunil Motiwal, CEO, SDF at SDF Secretariat, Thimphu, Bhutan