



Our [OneSouthAsia Conversations](#) explore ideas for regional cooperation in economic connectivity, climate resilience, and human development. The bimonthly, online chats are open to the public and organized by the World Bank's South Asia Regional Integration and Engagement team.

Highlights and Key Ideas

A video recording of our latest #OneSouthAsia Conversation is available [here](#). A text summary will be posted shortly on our [website](#).

Our [11th #OneSouthAsia conversation](#) explored how innovative solutions can be scaled across countries in South Asia to build a collective climate resilience.

Key ideas discussed at the event included:

- Given the magnitude of climate change challenges, South Asian countries need innovative and collaborative solutions that can be scaled across borders at low-costs and for maximum impact.
- Crowdsourcing data using low-cost tools can help fill data and information gaps in the government and institutional sectors. Some initial work on crowdsourcing data on flood risks, coastal erosion, and air pollution is underway in South Asian countries.
- While there is need for technologies that offer hyper-local solutions, many South Asian countries have common airsheds, watersheds, and weather systems like monsoons. They stand to gain from sharing resources, expertise, learning modules, and cross-border capacity-building. Some collaborations on sharing data and learnings on hydromet services are taking place, but more needs to be done.
- Technology can be a part of the solution, but not the whole of it. The use of technology needs to be complemented with raising awareness, behavioral change, tapping into local experiences and traditional knowledge, and fostering collaborations.

Abid Omar

Founder, Pakistan Air Quality Initiative (PAQI)



"When it comes to (air pollution) data, it is important to compare apples with apples. We would like to see the same kind of networks, using the same technology to be scaled up across the region. A partnership needs to happen between each neighborhood, each city, their governments and regional governments to say that air pollution is a regional challenge, a transboundary issue, and solutions that come have to be devised together."

Anil Pokhrel

Chief executive, National Disaster Risk Reduction & Management Authority, Nepal



" There is a combination of three words spoken in Nepali, Hindi and Sanskrit: *Tan, Man, Dhan*. We need to connect these three segments: i) institutions and individual experts (*tan*); ii) ideas (*man*) iii), the financial and technical partners (*dhan*), who can weave in all threads. If we interconnect these three, we can identify few areas like early warning systems or air pollution where we can collaborate for collective resilience."

Kunal Prasad

Co-founder, Cropin, India



" The best thing about technology is that it is agnostic to a location. Once you build a model, it can easily be replicated, and the cost of implementation goes down as you keep scaling it. We have built a particular technology and we are seeing a validation of our models, where 84% farmers see benefit of these advisories. If there is value at an economic level for a every single farmer, replicating it across geographies in South Asia is easily possible."

Vindya J Wijesinghe

Innovation Officer, National Innovation Agency



"There is an information gap in the country (Sri Lanka). We need high-end technologies to give concise climate modelling, but at the ground level, we need basic information. For this, we need local information which could come from crowdsourcing, and by encouraging young start-ups to provide ground level technologies and local low-cost social solutions."



Cecile Fruman

Director, Regional Integration and Engagement, South Asia, World Bank

" Technology can be a part of the solution, but not the whole of it. Governments, private companies, citizens are looking at solutions holistically, and are coming up with solutions that have applications beyond borders and can be taken to scale. Scale is important here given the magnitude of climate change challenge in the region."

Tell us what you think

Your feedback is important. Please click [here](#) or use the QR code on the right to answer a four-question survey about how we can improve future #OneSouthAsia events.



Follow all our activities supporting regional cooperation

The #OneSouthAsia Conversation series has examined regional responses to air pollution, digital tools to advance human development, plastic pollution of the ocean, women entrepreneurship, food trade, and COVID-19. All past events are available [here](#), with links to video recordings, text summaries, blogs, and related World Bank reports.

Keep up with all our activities supporting regional cooperation in economic connectivity, climate resilience, and human development:

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