

**Confidence Building Measures
and
Security Cooperation in South Asia**
Challenges in the New Century



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Preface

The Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS), in collaboration with the German Embassy in Dhaka, organized a three-day international conference on *Confidence Building Measures and Security Cooperation in South Asia: Challenges in the New Century* in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 3-5 November 2001. About 100 distinguished scholars, policy makers and opinion builders from Bangladesh and abroad, including 11 from the other South Asian countries and four from Germany, participated in the conference.

Professor AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, then Hon'ble Minister for Foreign Affairs, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, inaugurated the conference as Chief Guest on 3 November 2001. Ambassador C M Shafi Sami, then Chairman, Board of Governors of BIISS, presided over the inaugural session. Major General A M Mansur Ahmed, then Director General of BIISS, and H.E. Mr. Dietrich Andreas, Ambassador of Germany to Bangladesh, made the opening statements at the inaugural session. Mohammad Humayun Kabir, Conference Coordinator and Acting Research Director of BIISS, offered the vote of thanks. At the concluding session, held on 5 November 2002 and presided over by Ambassador C M Shafi Sami, the Conference Coordinator presented the draft summary of the proceedings of the conference.

The conference was split into seven working sessions spread over two and a half days. Nineteen papers were presented,

and open discussion followed each of the presentations before summing-up by each session chairman. The first outcome of the conference was the fruitful exchange of ideas amongst a select group of experts, policy makers and opinion moulders and their appreciation of each other's viewpoints and perspectives on various issues relating to the conference theme. And the more tangible outcome, of course, is this volume, which actually is a compilation, in most cases, of the revised version of the papers presented in the conference. I thank the distinguished participants for their active and learned deliberations.

Regrettably, out of the nineteen papers presented, two papers have not been included in this book, not because of their quality but mainly for not being revised. Even after revision, some papers might as well appear dated, as scholarship in the fast changing world of ours is usually overtaken by events.

I take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to the Chief Guest of the conference and to all the chairmen of its sessions for their guiding and inspiring words. I most sincerely appreciate the cooperation I had received from my colleagues in organizing the international conference. I am particularly indebted to some of my senior colleagues for their encouragement to get the book published. In this regard, I must mention the names of Ambassador Mufleh R. Osmany, Chairman, Board of Governors of BISS, Major General S.M. Shahabuddin, Director General of BISS, and Dr. Abdur Rob Khan, Research Director of BISS.

I place on record my most sincere thanks to the German Embassy in Bangladesh for their generous grant towards organizing such a big international conference. Having held several such conferences jointly, the collaborative relationship between the BISS and the German Embassy in Dhaka is now founded on mature friendship.

I most sincerely thank Mrs. Shahina Rahman, Managing Director of the Academic Press and Publishers Limited, for having published this big volume in a rather short span of time. I recognize with all humility the help and assistance extended to me in very many ways by many of my friends and members of the staff.

Not to compensate but just as token appreciation, very special words are for my wife Rosy and son Nayeem for being so very understanding and a constant source of inspiration.

I thank all the authors for their contributions to this volume. However, one disclaimer is that the views expressed in this book are strictly their own and may not necessarily reflect those of the Editor or of the BISS.

Mohammad Humayun Kabir
BISS, Dhaka
October 2002

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