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experiences of
regional and
inter - regional
cooperation:
relevance for
SAARC



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FOREWORD

The emergence of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) has drawn considerable academic interest in and outside the region. The magnitude and intensity of scholarly debate and research on regional cooperation in the South Asian context and various problems and issues related to the same have been intense, particularly in past few years. As a consequence, regional cooperation has become one of the growth areas in South Asian studies. The Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS) in its modest capacity has been taking active part in various such studies, and has provided itself as a forum for independent deliberation on the subject.

The present book is an outcome of a research project undertaken by the Faculty members of the institute in mid-1987. It is a pioneering study in so far as review of existing literature and other secondary data on the subject has been complemented by extensive and interesting primary information generated through field survey conducted among the academia, professionals and other opinion-making sections in all SAARC and ASEAN countries. The draft findings of the project presented and deliberated at an inter-regional workshop held at BIISS proved to be extremely useful in preparing the manuscript.

The book, it is hoped, would be useful to all those who would be interested not only in SAARC and ASEAN as two Third World regional groupings but also in the dynamics of inter-state relations in the two regions and their interactions with the problems and prospects of regional and inter-regional cooperation.

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