



# RCAS Commentary

## D-8 Summit and the New Era of Global Cooperation

Sujit Kumar Datta

Deputy Director, The Hong Kong Research Center for Asian Studies (RCAS)

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## About RCAS

香港亞洲研究中心| The Hong Kong Research Center for Asian Studies (RCAS) is a nonprofit research organization focusing on Asian affairs. It is a newly established institution founded in February 2022 by Dr. Nian Peng in Haikou and subsequently moved to Hong Kong in September 2023. We currently have an international research team with nearly 100 resident/nonresident researchers from China and other countries.

RCAS aims to become a leading research institute and think tank on Asian affairs in the Indo-Pacific region. To date, RCAS has conducted research programs on maritime disputes in the South China Sea (SCS), China's relations with the Indo-Pacific states, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), terrorism/counterterrorism in the Afg-Pak region, and so on. It is committed to promoting maritime cooperation, regional integration, and regional peace in the Indo-Pacific region at large.

RCAS has published nearly ten books in Chinese and English and more than 20 papers in SSCI/SCOPUS/CSSCI-indexed journals. Recent English publications include *Populism, Nationalism and South China Sea Dispute: Chinese and Southeast Asian Perspectives* (Singapore: Springer Nature, 2022); *Pakistan's Foreign Policy: Contemporary Developments and Dynamics* (London: Routledge, 2022); *Crossing the Himalayas: Buddhist Ties, Regional Integration and Great-Power Rivalry* (Singapore: Springer Nature, 2021); *The Reshaping of China-Southeast Asia Relations in Light of the COVID-19 Pandemic* (Singapore: Springer Nature, 2021); *Territorial Disputes, The Role of Leaders and The Impact of Quad: A Triangular Explanation of China-India Border Escalations* (2023); *Managing the South China Sea Dispute: Multilateral and Bilateral Approaches* (2022); *China-Pakistan Cooperation on Afghanistan: Assessing Key Interests and Implementing Strategies* (2022); *Hedging Against the Dragon: Myanmar's Tangled Relations with China since 1988* (2021); and *China-Pakistan Conventional Arms Trade: An Appraisal of Supplier's and Recipient's Motives* (2020).

RCAS has also published hundreds of articles, and its researchers have been interviewed in various local and international media outlets, such as *The Diplomat* in the United States, *East Asian Forum (EAF)* in Australia, *Bangkok Post* in Thailand, *Jakarta Post* in Indonesia, *Lian He Zao Bao*, *Think China* in Singapore, *South China Morning Post (SCMP)*, *China-US Focus* in Hong Kong, *CGTN*, *Global Times*, *World Affairs* in China. RCAS researchers have actively participated in international conferences or study visits in the United States, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Myanmar, Cambodia, and other places.

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Address: 1507B, EASTCORE1, No.398, Kwun Tong, Kooloon, Hong Kong  
Ph: 00852 2397 7886|Email: [hkrcas@163.com](mailto:hkrcas@163.com)|Web: [www.rcas.top](http://www.rcas.top)

## D-8 Summit and the New Era of Global Cooperation

*Sujit Kumar Datta*

The 11th D-8 Summit in Cairo, Egypt, is a significant milestone for Bangladesh regarding South-South cooperation. As the current chair of the D-8 alliance, Bangladesh has pledged to reach new heights in South-South cooperation by demonstrating its leadership. In preparation for international relations, South-South has emerged as an important concept. Established in 1997, the D-8, or Developing Organization, aims to promote economic empowerment among eight politically oriented developing countries.



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The organization's member countries are Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nigeria, and Türkiye. The 11th D-8 summit opens a new horizon for South-South positioning, an important opportunity to enhance strategic partnership and position among developing countries. The main objective of the D-8 organization was to accelerate economic and social development in developing countries.

The organization seeks to strengthen economic relations among member countries through trade, agriculture, industry, government, and energy sectors. In 1997, this issue was witnessed through various votes and passed at the beginning of the Imbul outside world.

The primary objectives of the D-8 were:

- Increase trade and investment between member countries

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Ph: 00852 2397 7886|Email: [hkrcas@163.com](mailto:hkrcas@163.com)|Web: [www.rcas.top](http://www.rcas.top)

- Adopting technical plans to ensure signature development
- Strengthen communication through technology and knowledge
- Globalization of developing countries

The 11th D-8 summit takes place at a special moment when issues such as the global economy, climate change, and technological change have created new challenges and opportunities for developing countries.

The main topics of the conference were:

- Trade Cooperation: Increasing intra-trade by reducing tariff and non-tariff barriers between member countries
- Tackling Climate Change: Joint initiatives aimed at protecting the environment and increasing the use of renewable energy
- Technological Innovation: Planning to harness the Digital Economy's Opportunities and the Fourth Industrial Revolution
- Human Resource Development: Education Development and Skill Enhancement Schemes

The D-8 can become a model for cooperation among member countries and other developing countries in the Southern perspective. South-South cooperation differs from North-South cooperation because it is based on equality, mutual respect, and exchange of experiences. There is enormous potential for trade between the D-8 countries. In 2021, D-8's domestic trade was about \$130 billion. The conference set a target of reaching \$500 billion by 2030. Efforts to form a free trade area among member countries are significant. The risks of climate change are severe for developing countries.

The D-8 countries plan to collaborate on renewable energy production, forestry, and reducing carbon emissions. Countries like Bangladesh, where the impacts of climate change are very evident, can directly benefit from this cooperation. At the D-8 conference, member countries agreed to seize the opportunities of the fourth industrial revolution. Member countries can advance technological development by cooperating in the digital economy, e-commerce, and fintech sectors.

Bangladesh is one of the important member countries of D-8. At the 11th summit, Bangladesh reflected on its economic and strategic priorities. Bangladesh's expected benefits from D-8 include Trade expansion, entering new markets, and increasing export earnings. Coping with the effects of climate change: Obtaining the necessary

technology and funding through international cooperation. Human Resource Development: Exchange experience and training with member countries.

There are some challenges in realizing the potential of D-8. Notable challenges include:

- Political instability: Internal political instability of member countries.
- Lack of funding: Lack of adequate funding for joint projects.
- Lack of adequate policies and frameworks: Developing an effective policy for cooperation.

Addressing these challenges requires effective diplomacy, long-term planning, and mutual trust and cooperation among member states.

The 11th D-8 Summit ushered in a new era of South-South cooperation. It has provided a powerful platform for developing countries to work together to address common challenges and seize opportunities. D-8 is an important platform for Bangladesh that has created unique opportunities for economic development, climate change mitigation, and technological advancement.

However, realizing these potentials requires effective leadership and coherent and sustainable strategies. The success of the D-8 could become a model for South-South cooperation, opening new horizons for the entire developing world. Platforms like the D-8 can be a powerful means of promoting solidarity and achieving economic prosperity among developing countries through South-South cooperation.

The 11th D-8 Summit is an important platform for Bangladesh, where the country has demonstrated its leadership qualities and set a new benchmark in South-South cooperation. This conference was an excellent success for Bangladesh regarding trade, economy, and field..

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## About Author



Sujit Kumar Datta is Deputy Director, Hong Kong Research Center for Asian Studies (RCAS), Hong Kong, and the former Chairman and Professor in the International Relations Department at the University of Chittagong, Bangladesh. Dr. Datta graduated with a BA (Honors) and MA degree in International Relations from the Jahangiragar University and completed his PhD in International Politics from the School of Political Science and Public Administration, Shandong University, China. After that, he had worked at the BRAC Training Division (BTD) as a faculty member. He had joined in the department of International Relations, University of Chittagong, Bangladesh as a Lecturer in January, 2010. Dr. Datta has authored several articles and book chapters in renowned national and international peer-reviewed journals (Web of Science, Scopus indexed). Email:datta.ir@cu.ac.bd.