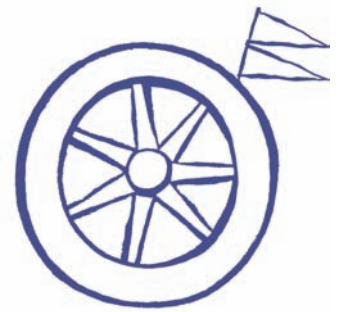




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SASNET

# SASNET Seminar

– in collaboration with the Centre for East and South-East Asian Studies (ACE)

## Ms. Parul Sharma

CSR Advisor, Group Assurance, Sandvik AB

holds a lecture about:

# A Globalised South Asia and Human Rights



Parul Sharma is a Master of Law graduate from the Dept. of Law, Stockholm University, and has worked on a PhD thesis on “Childhood Protection and Child Rights; Lex ferenda; Breaking the Cycle of Violence within the Child” at the National Law School of India University (NLS) in Bangalore. Between 2000 and 2006 Paul Sharma worked as a human rights adviser to the Delegation of the European Commission to India, Bhutan, Nepal, Maldives and Sri Lanka. From August 2008, she is working as Advisor on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) for the Swedish company Sandvik AB.

**Wednesday 10 September 2008, 13.15–15.00**

**Venue: Java Hall, Centre for East and South-East Asian Studies (ACE),  
Scheelevägen 15 C, ground floor (next to Asia Library)**

All are welcome!

Sidsel Hansson   Lars Eklund

Swedish South Asian Studies Network, SASNET

## **Abstract:**

A current increased interest in the role of business operations in society has been promoted by heightened business debates about human rights conditions in the South Asian region. Consumers have become sensitive to the CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) performance of the companies from which they buy their goods and services.

These trends have contributed to the pressure on companies to operate in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable way. Issues like environmental damage, improper treatment of workers, and faulty production leading to customers' inconvenience or danger, are highlighted in the media. Some investors and investment fund managers have begun to take account of a corporation's CSR policy in making investment decisions.

The question however remains; are companies actually aware of what is going; for instance who is paying physically and materially for India's 500 new special economic zones? Who is affected by Pakistan's unconstitutional changes in women's rights legislations and labour rights in order speed up import-export in and to the country? Why are Bangladeshi academics and politicians claiming that Bangladesh has a friendlier investment climate today?

Who decides, and whose interests are taken into consideration? Are investing companies aware of human rights atrocities linked to rapid investment strategies in South Asia?