

NAM FORWARD

SPECIAL ISSUE, AUGUST 2026

The newsletter of Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation (NAM CSSTC)

RECONNECT

**How digital payments
make us more
connected than ever**

**Bandung Spirit
applied in 2026**



Cover art
by Tjio Mitchello Evan

Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation (NAM CSSTC) is an institution of the Non-Aligned Movement dedicated to advancing South-South and Triangular Cooperation. Based in Indonesia, we facilitates capacity building, technical cooperation, knowledge exchange, and partnership among developing countries and developed countries, as well as the multilateral and international organizations.

NAM Forward

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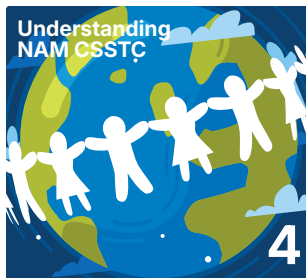
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NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings from NAM CSSTC.

The story of the Non-Aligned Movement is rooted in the Bandung Conference of 1955, where leaders from Asia and Africa articulated a shared vision founded on sovereignty, equality, and mutual respect. The Bandung Spirit was never meant to remain confined to history. It continues to inspire cooperation among nations committed to advancing peace, development, and shared prosperity.

Today's challenges are increasingly interconnected. Climate change, food security, digital transformation, public health threats, and economic resilience affect countries across the Global South in different ways. These realities reaffirm that no nation can succeed in isolation. Meaningful progress depends on partnerships built on trust, solidarity, and the open exchange of knowledge and experience.

This is the spirit behind NAM Forward. More than a newsletter, it is a platform for dialogue, collaboration, and the sharing of ideas across the Global South. Through each edition, we seek to showcase practical solutions, amplify diverse perspectives, and strengthen connections among governments, institutions, and practitioners. In doing so, we reaffirm the enduring relevance of South-South Cooperation as a driving force for a more equitable, resilient, and sustainable future.

I hope you find this Newsletter informative and engaging.

Amb. M. Chandra W. Yudha
Executive Director



Where Cooperation Becomes Action

Turning the Spirit of Solidarity
Into Practical Development
Cooperation

Since the Bandung Conference in 1955 and the establishment of the Non-Aligned Movement in 1961, developing countries have shared a common aspiration: to strengthen their capacity through cooperation based on equality, mutual respect, and solidarity.

Turning these principles into tangible development outcomes requires more than political commitment. It requires institutions that can connect countries, facilitate knowledge exchange, and transform shared experiences into practical solutions.

The Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation (NAM CSSTC) was established to fulfil this role. Based in Indonesia, the Centre serves as a platform that promotes South-South and Triangular Cooperation by facilitating technical cooperation, capacity building, and the exchange of development knowledge among countries of the Global South.

Today, NAM CSSTC continues to support collaborative initiatives that contribute to sustainable

How
Does
NAM
CSSTC
Work?

Knowledge Exchange

Countries share successful policies, innovations, and development experiences



Capacity Building

Training programmes, technical assistance, scholarships and institutional strengthening help develop local expertise.

Vision

To strengthen national capacities and collective self-reliance of developing countries.

Mission

To contribute to accelerating national development by strengthening and expanding South-South Technical Cooperation within the broader framework of international development cooperation.

Every country has knowledge worth sharing, and every partnership creates new opportunities for collective progress.

development while strengthening collective self-reliance among developing countries.

Development is most sustainable when countries learn from one another, not because they face identical challenges, but because they share valuable experiences, practical knowledge, and a common commitment to progress.

Through South-South Cooperation, every country can be both a contributor and a beneficiary. NAM CSSTC helps turn cooperation into practical action by connecting institutions, experts, and development partners.

Technical Cooperation

▶ Governments, experts, and institutions collaborate to address common development challenges

Sustainable Development Impact

▶ Knowledge is transformed into practical solutions that support long-term development across the Global South.

So, what is South-South Cooperation?



Imagine facing a challenge that another country has already overcome. Instead of starting from scratch, you learn from their experience, adapt what works, and share your own knowledge in return.

That is the essence of South-South Cooperation (SSC).

South-South Cooperation is a way for developing countries to work together by sharing knowledge, skills, technologies, and practical experiences. SSC is built on partnership, where every country can both contribute and learn.

What Makes SSC Different?

South-South Cooperation asks,

Who has faced a similar challenge, and what can we learn from them?

Traditional development assistance usually delivers support from donor to recipient, with knowledge often flowing mainly in one direction.

South-South Cooperation is where we work together as partners. We share, adapt, and improve that knowledge together.

How Does It Work?

When facing a common challenge, countries can work together by sharing their best ideas, policies, and technologies. They learn from one another by talking about what works and tweaking those ideas to fit their own situations. Each country then puts these solutions into practice at home. In the end, everyone grows together, building stronger institutions, better policies, and lasting friendships along the way.

Today's challenges are increasingly interconnected. Climate change, food security, digital transformation, public health, and economic resilience affect countries across the Global South in different ways, but no country has all the answers.

Countries can discover practical solutions more quickly, strengthen their own capacities, and build partnerships that create lasting impact by learning from one another.

In the end, every country has something to teach. Every country has something to learn. We can grow stronger together by sharing knowledge, experience, and innovation.



Reconnecting the Global South Through Digital Payments

QRIS, Digital Public Infrastructure, and the Next Chapter of South-South Cooperation



by **Tuhu Nugraha Dewanto**
Principal, Indonesia Applied Digital
Economy & Regulatory Network (IADERN)

The 1955 Bandung Conference established an enduring foundation for co-operation among countries in Asia and Africa. Its emphasis on solidarity, peaceful coexistence, mutual respect, and shared development continues to inspire collaboration across the Global South.

As countries navigate a rapidly changing digital economy, the Bandung Spirit can be renewed through practical forms of co-operation that directly support citizens, businesses, and national development. Digital connectivity, particularly in financial services,



offers one such opportunity.

For the Global South, Digital Public Infrastructure, or DPI, matters because it offers a way to develop technology as a public good. Well-designed DPI can lower the cost of participating in the digital economy, widen access to essential services, and allow innovation to grow on interoperable foundations. Payments are one of its most practical layers.

Indonesia's Quick Response Code Indonesian Standard, or QRIS, illustrates this possibility. Developed by Bank Indonesia together with the payment industry, QRIS created a common national standard that different payment providers can use. Its cross-border reach already connects Indonesia with several Asian economies, while work towards linking QRIS with India's Unified Payments Interface could extend this architecture further.

The strategic opportunity is larger than bilateral convenience. Imagine QRIS eventually communicating with payment infrastructures across NAM

member states and the wider Global South—from Kenya and South Africa to Colombia's Bre-B, Peru's interoperable wallet and QR-payment ecosystem, and Brazil's Pix.

These systems are not identical. Colombia's Bre-B was designed as an interoperability layer connecting existing instant-payment providers. Peru introduced interoperability requirements that enable major wallets and banking applications to communicate across previously separated networks. Brazil's Pix demonstrates how central-bank-led payment infrastructure can achieve national scale. Together, they reveal an emerging constellation of locally developed payment systems designed around different economic and institutional needs.

Connecting these systems could give South-South co-operation a more tangible economic form. An Indonesian micro-enterprise could receive payment from a Brazilian buyer through familiar domestic applications. A Kenyan entrepreneur



could transact with an Indonesian partner without navigating several layers of intermediaries. A Colombian student or South African traveller could pay a small merchant in Yogyakarta with clearer costs and fewer frictions.

This is not only about convenience. For countries seeking to leapfrog older and more expensive financial infrastructure, interoperable QR and instant payments can widen merchant participation, support tourism and small-scale trade, and bring more economic activity into transparent digital channels. They can connect local innovation to global commerce while allowing each country to develop its payment infrastructure according to its own priorities and circumstances.

The objective is therefore not to promote QRIS as a single model for every country. A more meaningful ambition is to build bridges among national payment systems. NAM member states, observer countries, and other Global South partners could

exchange experience and explore co-operation on technical standards, local-currency settlement, consumer protection, cybersecurity, data governance, and dispute resolution.

This is technology for the public good in a tangible form: public infrastructure that expands people's economic agency while respecting different national circumstances.

The next chapter of the Bandung Spirit can be advanced not only through dialogue and declarations, but also through practical systems that bring societies closer together. When an Indonesian merchant, an Indian student, a Kenyan entrepreneur, a Colombian traveller, and a Brazilian buyer can transact through trusted systems rooted in their own countries, South-South solidarity becomes part of everyday economic life.

Solidarity gave the Global South a shared vision. Interoperable digital infrastructure can help translate that vision into shared opportunity.



COVER STORY

Reconnect: From 1955 Bandung to Today

Why Shared Purpose
Still Matters



In 1955, representatives from twenty-nine Asian and African countries gathered in Bandung with a shared belief: that cooperation among newly independent nations could help shape a more just and equitable world. At a time marked by geopolitical tensions and decolonisation, the Bandung Conference offered a different vision—one rooted in sovereignty, mutual respect, peaceful coexistence, and solidarity. More than a diplomatic gathering, it represented a collective aspiration for countries to determine their own paths while supporting one another through dialogue and cooperation. More than seven decades later, the global landscape has changed dramatically. Yet many of the challenges facing developing countries remain interconnected. Climate change, food insecurity, widening digital divides, public health risks, and sustainable development continue to require



collaborative solutions that no single nation can achieve alone. The Bandung Spirit reminds us that cooperation is not simply a response to challenges—it is a strategic choice for building shared progress.

Beyond History

The significance of Bandung extends beyond the conference itself. Its legacy lives in the principles that continue to guide collaboration among countries of the Global South. While the context has evolved, the fundamental idea remains unchanged: nations with shared experiences can learn from one another, exchange practical knowledge, and develop solutions that reflect their own priorities and realities. This spirit later inspired the establishment of the Non-Aligned

Movement in 1961, strengthening political solidarity among developing nations. Over time, cooperation expanded beyond diplomacy to include technical collaboration, capacity building, and sustainable development. Today, South-South Cooperation represents this evolution. It enables countries to share expertise, technologies, public policy innovations, and development experiences through partnerships built on equality and mutual benefit.

Reconnecting with a Shared Purpose

In today's interconnected world, cooperation is no longer limited by geography. A successful agricultural innovation in one country can strengthen food security in another. A disaster risk management strategy



developed in one region can help communities elsewhere become more resilient. Digital transformation, public health, water management, and climate adaptation increasingly benefit from shared knowledge across borders. These examples demonstrate that the Bandung Spirit is not preserved in archives or commemorations alone. It continues to take shape whenever countries work together to address common challenges. For NAM CSSTC, this shared purpose remains central. By facilitating South-South and Triangular Cooperation, the Centre serves as a platform where knowledge, experience, and innovation can be exchanged to support sustainable development across the Global South. Rather than looking back with nostalgia, reconnecting with Bandung means

embracing its values as a guide for future collaboration. It is about recognising that solidarity becomes meaningful when translated into concrete action and measurable impact. As global challenges become increasingly complex, the need for trust, partnership, and collective learning becomes more relevant than ever. The question is no longer whether cooperation matters, but how we can strengthen it to create a more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable future.

NAM CSSTC in 2026: Bridging the Global South

From January to July 2026, NAM CSSTC actively drove capacity building, institutional partnerships, and regional engagement across the Global South. On 2 February, the leadership officially transitioned from Ambassador Diar Nurbintoro, who opened the year presenting key initiatives at the CIRDAP Knowledge Sharing Series, to newly appointed Director Ambassador M. Chandra Widya Yudha.

Under Ambassador Chandra's direction, the Centre expanded its diplomatic and policy outreach through key international forums. NAM CSSTC contributed to regional development discussions, including the Caribbean Development Cooperation meeting, the South-South Ocean Accounting Exchange in Bogor, and the UN at 80 seminar. Bilateral exchanges were further strengthened during meetings with Sri Lankan Ambassador Sashikala Premawardhane, the Pacific Islands Development Forum, and a high-level courtesy visit from the Director-General of CIRDAP focused on



NAM Executive Director attending "UN at 80" discussion in Jakarta - 11 March 2026



NAM Executive Director meeting with the Head of Asia Africa Conference Museum in Bandung - 6 May 2026



Coordination Meeting with Universitas Padjadjaran - 7 May 2026



South-South Ocean Accounting Exchange in Bogor, Indonesia - 30 March-1 April 2026



Meeting with the Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Indonesia H.E. Sashikala Premawardhane - 8 April 2026



Coordination Meeting with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia - 6 February 2026

sustainable rural development.

Institutional growth and knowledge sharing remained central to the Centre's efforts throughout the period. NAM CSSTC co-hosted a Green Building webinar with Universitas Gadjah Mada and CIRDAP, visited the historic Asia-Africa Conference Museum, and collaborated with Universitas Padjadjaran through a strategic working visit and a public lecture exploring the modern relevance of the Non-Aligned Movement.

NAM CSSTC capped off this dynamic period in July by welcoming an official delegation from the African Union Commission to explore deeper Indonesia-AU cooperation, followed by active participation in the 2026 Asia Africa Festival in Bandung. Together, these continuous engagements reinforce the enduring legacy of the Bandung Spirit and solidify NAM CSSTC's position as a pivotal hub for South-South technical collaboration.



International Student Gathering during Asia Africa Festival - 12 July 2026



Meeting with Director General of CIRDAP Dr. Chandra Shekara - 15 April 2026



Meeting with a Delegation from the African Union Commission - 10 July 2026



Leadership Handover Ceremony from Amb. Diar Nurbintoro to Amb. M. Chandra W. Yudha - 2 February 2026



Meeting with the Secretary General of Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF), Ms. Arpana Pratap - 19 June 2026

Connecting Ideas for a Cleaner Energy Future



The transition to a cleaner and more sustainable energy future is not something that any country can achieve alone. It requires new ideas, shared knowledge, and opportunities for researchers and institutions to learn from one another.

This spirit of cooperation was reflected in the 8th International Energy Conference ASTECHNOVA 2025, held on 8–9 October 2025 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. It was organised by Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), in collaboration with the Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation (NAM CSSTC). Carrying the theme “Beyond Net Zero: Pathways to Climate Positive Energy Systems,” ASTECHNOVA 2025 explored innovative approaches to building energy systems that are not only cleaner, but also more sustainable and resilient.

ASTECHNOVA 2025 was therefore more than a conference on energy. It was an opportunity to bring people and ideas together around a shared challenge. Through partnerships between universities, researchers, and institutions, knowledge can move across borders and contribute to solutions that are relevant to the Global South.

For NAM CSSTC, the collaboration with UGM reflects the importance of scientific partnerships as part of South-South Cooperation. When knowledge and innovation are shared, research can become a bridge between countries, and a practical contribution towards a cleaner, more resilient energy future.

From Scholarship to Shared Capacity: A Journey of Learning from The Gambia to Indonesia



Education is one of the most practical ways through which South-South Cooperation can create lasting impact. By connecting people, institutions, and knowledge across developing countries, educational cooperation can strengthen individual capacities while contributing to broader national development.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia and Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), the Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation (NAM CSSTC) implements a scholarship programme that provides eligible candidates from NAM Member States with opportunities to pursue postgraduate studies at one of Indonesia's leading higher education institutions.

One recent achievement came from The Gambia, where Mr. Lamin

Samura successfully completed his Master of Science in Economics at UGM in July 2026.

Mr. Samura's successful completion therefore marks another step in NAM CSSTC's continuing efforts to strengthen South-South Cooperation through education, knowledge exchange, and capacity building. His journey reflects a broader principle: development becomes more sustainable when countries invest in people and create opportunities to learn from one another.

Every educational exchange creates the possibility of knowledge being shared, experience being carried across borders, and new partnerships taking shape. Through initiatives such as the Scholarship Programme, NAM CSSTC seeks to turn these possibilities into practical contributions to collective capacity and shared progress across the Global South.

Coconut Tissue Culture Workshop Programme

Accelerating Coconut Replanting with Tissue Culture and Collaborative Innovation

7-11 October 2026

Palm Crops Assembly and Testing Center (BRMP Palma), Mapanget, North Sulawesi, Indonesia

NAM CSSTC, along with the International Coconut Community and the Ministry of State Secretariat of the Republic of Indonesia, will hold an International Workshop on Coconut Tissue Culture. It aims to strengthen technical capacity and regional cooperation among ICC member countries in the application of conventional and biotechnological approaches to coconut propagation, particularly tissue culture, in order to address the critical shortage of high-yielding coconut seedlings, accelerate the delivery of elite, high-quality planting materials, and support large-scale, long-term coconut replanting programmes aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals on sustainable agriculture, food security, climate resilience, and global partnership.



Meeting with the Director General of International Coconut Community (ICC) - 19 February 2026





Building Resilient Smallholder Livelihoods

Climate-Smart Solutions
for Food, Nutrition, and
Income Security

26-30 October 2026

NAM CSSTC, together with CIRDAP and the Ministry of State Secretariat of the Republic of Indonesia, will conduct an International Training on Food Security. It aims to strengthen participants' understanding of climate-smart agriculture (CSA) and its role in enhancing smallholder resilience; equip stakeholders with practical tools to integrate income, food and nutrition-sensitive approaches into agricultural planning; facilitate cross-country learning and exchange of innovative practices in the Asia-Pacific region; build capacity to design, implement, and scale CSA interventions that empower smallholders, especially women and youth; and promote policy dialogue for enabling environments that support resilient livelihoods and sustainable food systems.

LET’S BUILD SOMETHING TOGETHER

We are powered by community, collaboration, and impactful partnerships. As the official newsletter distributed to key stakeholders, diplomats, and policymakers across **121 NAM Member Countries**, your contribution reaches the decision-makers who matter.

How can you collaborate & contribute?

- Share your thoughts, analysis, or expert perspectives in articles & insights.
- Feature your upcoming events & programmes or co-host joint initiatives with us.

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