CONCEPT NOTE · SOUTH ASIA

The Geography of Talent

How can students reach good opportunities wherever they study or live?

Why we are writing

We are the Regional Leaders for Central & South Asia at PRME Students, the global student platform of the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME). We invite PRME Signatory Members in South Asia to help us answer the question above.

Talented students in our region do not have equal access to networks, industry exposure, mentorship or international opportunities. Where a student studies still shapes what they can reach. The Geography of Talent is a student-led regional initiative to understand those barriers and test practical ways to reduce them.

Where we are starting. Our first round of outreach covers seven South Asian countries: India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and Maldives.

This is a working concept. We are sharing it now so that participating Signatory Members can shape it with us.

What the project will do

The project runs in three stages from October 2026 to June 2027, moving from listening, to exchange, to a small student-led pilot.

Stage	What happens	What it produces
Connect Oct 2026–Jan 2027	Reach out to Signatory Members, then map participating countries, universities, student representatives and existing initiatives. Run student-led listening sessions to hear the barriers students face.	A network of interested students and Signatory Members, country summaries and a regional barrier map
Engage Feb–Mar 2027	Hold webinars and student-led knowledge sharing. Discuss mentorship, industry exposure and access across countries.	Cross-border exchange and a shared challenge to work on
Activate Apr–Jun 2027	Test a small student-led pilot, such as opportunity sharing, virtual peer mentoring or a collaborative challenge.	Pilot feedback and a handover plan for the next Regional Leaders

If the pilot works, the longer-term ambition is a University Opportunity Bridge: a standing link between students, mentors and institutions across borders, so that moving abroad is not the only route to opportunity.

What the form asks

- Your institution's details and your PRME faculty co-ordinator
- The challenges students face in reaching opportunities
- How much location affects access, and whether students have had to travel or relocate
- How supportive your institution is
- How accessible opportunities are, and how students find out about them
- An optional space for anything else you would like us to know

Our five objectives

Connect, understand the barriers, exchange, pilot and replicate.

By June 2027 we aim to have

A network of interested students and Signatory Members, a regional overview of the challenges, initial cross-border exchange, a pilot tried, and a summary and handover document.

What we are asking of your institution

We are asking each Signatory Member for a contact and, if possible, a listening session during the Connect stage.

Share your details
Tell us your institution and give us the name and email of your PRME faculty co-ordinator.

Host a listening session
Students at your institution, or a student team it mobilizes, run an online listening session, with a session kit from us.

Share what you learn
Send us the responses so they can feed into your country summary and the regional barrier map.

Stay involved if you can
You may also join webinars with industry speakers in Engage and take part in the pilot in Activate. Both are optional.

How to take part

Please fill in the expression of interest form by 20 December 2026. It takes about five minutes, and responding does not commit your institution to every stage.

forms.gle/674mXosN8KxEum3k9

Questions? Write to the Regional Leaders, Harshith Chakravarthy (Woxsen University) and Vasu Garg (IILM University):
students_south.central.asia@unprme.org

About PRME Students. PRME Students is the global student platform of the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME), a United Nations-supported initiative advancing sustainability and responsible leadership in business and management education. PRME Students Regional Leaders represent nine regions around the world and help connect students and student organizations at PRME Signatory Member institutions with PRME Students programmes and opportunities.