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Poor and developing countries of the world are facing many issues that prevent them to fully enjoy the benefits of the interconnected world economies and globalization; there are several factors: history, climate, proximity to market economies, education, healthcare, political stability, and infrastructure to name just a few. Landlocked countries have no direct access to ocean or sea ports; some of them do not even have modern international airports; these countries are doubly disadvantaged since they have to depend on neighboring countries for the transportation of their exports and imports.

This roundtable discussion focuses on such Asian countries as Nepal, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and others. Why are these countries unable to engage actively in international business? What are their obstacles to receiving foreign direct investments? Nepal, Mongolia, and Kazakhstan have a huge land mass and natural resources. What might be the priorities these countries can pursue?

**Discussions Questions**

1. What is a landlocked country?
2. What are the challenges for a landlocked country for global engagement?
3. Do climate and bordering countries matter? How?
4. What are their obstacles to receive foreign direct investments?
5. Nepal, Mongolia, and Kazakhstan have a huge land mass and natural resources; what might be the priorities these countries can pursue to internationalize their businesses?