



  
**Ministry of External Affairs**  
Government of India



  
ศูนย์อาเซียนศึกษา  
จุฬาลงกรณ์มหาวิทยาลัย  
ASEAN STUDIES CENTER  
CHULALONGKORN UNIVERSITY

**AIC**  
ASEAN-India Centre at RIS



**RIS**  
Research and Information System  
for Developing Countries  
विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली

**6th Roundtable of the ASEAN-India Network of Think-Tanks (AINTT)**

# ASEAN-INDIA: STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIP IN THE POST-COVID ERA

20-21 August 2020  
Through Video-Conference

## Sixth AINTT Roundtable Booklet



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**AIC**  
ASEAN-India Centre at RIS

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## Agenda

[Indian Standard Time]

### Day I: 20 August 2020

**09.30 – 10.00 Registration / Log-in to Webex**

**10.00 – 11.00 Inaugural Session**

**10.00 – 10.10 Welcome Remarks**

- **Dr. Mohan Kumar**, Chairman, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi
- **Dr. Suthiphand Chirathivat**, Chairman, ASEAN Studies Centre (ASC), Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok

**10.10 – 10.40 Opening Remarks**

- **H.E. Mr. Don Pramudwinai**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand
- **H.E. Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar**, External Affairs Minister of India
- **H.E. Dato' Lim Jock Hoi**, Secretary-General of ASEAN

**10.40 – 10.45 Break**

**10.45 – 11.00 Inaugural Session (continued)**

- Online release of 5<sup>th</sup> AINTT proceedings [*ASEAN and India: Partners in Integration in Asia*]
- Vote of Thanks by **Dr Prabir De**, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC), RIS, New Delhi

### 11.15 – 13.00 Session I: Changing landscape of global order and ASEAN-India relations in the Post-Covid Era

Chair: **Dr. Jayant Dasgupta**, Member, Governing Council, RIS, New Delhi

#### *Speakers*

- **Prof. Amitav Acharya**, UNESCO Chair in Transnational Challenges and Governance and Distinguished Professor, American University, Washington, DC
- **Prof. Amita Batra**, School of International Studies (SIS), Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi
- **Prof. Nanigopal Mohanta**, Director, Centre for Southeast Asian Studies, Gauhati University, Guwahati
- **Prof. Lau Sim Yee**, Reitaku University, Tokyo and Columnist, New Straits Times, Kuala Lumpur
- **Prof. Carole Ann Chit Tha**, Member, Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS), Yangon

#### Q&A

### 13.00 – 14.00 Break

### 14.00 – 15.30 Session II: Emerging Value Chains: Opportunities for ASEAN and India in the Post-Covid Era

Chair: **Assist. Prof. Sineenat Sermcheep**, Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok

#### *Speakers*

- **Dato' Ramesh Kodammal**, Chairman of Goldtex Group of Companies, and Chairman, ASEAN-India Business Council (AIBC), Kuala Lumpur
- **Prof. Rupa Chanda**, RBI Chair Professor in Economics, Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Bengaluru
- **Dr. Tham Siew Yean**, Senior Fellow, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore
- **Dr. Saon Ray**, Senior Fellow, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), New Delhi

#### Q&A

### Day II: 21 August 2020

### 09.00 – 09.30 Registration / Log-in to Webex

### 09.30 – 11.00 Session III: New Normal and Significance of 4IR on ASEAN-India Partnership and Future Collaborations

Chair: **Dr. Mia Mikic**, Director, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, United Nations ESCAP, Bangkok

#### *Speakers*

- **Mr. Sovinda Po**, Senior Research Fellow, Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace (CICP), Phnom Penh

- **Mr. Gagan Sabarwal**, Senior Director, National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM), New Delhi
- **Dr. Jayant Menon**, Visiting Senior Fellow, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), Singapore
- **Prof. Balaji Parthasarathy**, International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Bengaluru

#### Q&A

### 11.15 – 13.00 Session IV: ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific (AOIP) and Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI): Complementarities and Cooperation

Chair: **Dr Arvind Gupta**, Director, Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF), New Delhi

#### *Speakers*

- **Vice-Admiral Pradeep Chauhan**, Director General, National Maritime Foundation (NMF), New Delhi
- **Prof. Fukunari Kimura**, Chief Economist, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Jakarta
- **Dr. Premesha Saha**, Associate Fellow, Observer Research Foundation (ORF), New Delhi
- **Prof. Joefe B. Santarita**, Dean, Asian Center, University of the Philippines Diliman

#### Q&A

### 13.00 – 14.00 Break

### 14.00 – 15.15 Session V: Way Forward

Chair: **Dr Mohan Kumar**, Chairman, RIS

#### *Speakers*

- **Amb. Preeti Saran**, Member, Governing Board, Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), New Delhi
- **Dr. Zaw Oo**, Executive Director, Center for Economic and Social Development (CESD), Yangon
- **Mr. Kavi Chongkittavorn**, Senior Fellow, Institute of Security and International Studies (ISIS), Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok
- **Commodore C. Uday Bhaskar**, Director, Society of Policy Studies (SPS), New Delhi

#### Q&A

### 15.15 – 15.30 Concluding Session

Chair: **Dr. Suthiphand Chirathivat**, Chairman, ASEAN Studies Centre (ASC), Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok

#### **Vote of Thanks by**

- **Assoc. Prof. Piti Srisangnam**, Director of Academic Affairs, ASEAN Studies Center, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok
- **Dr. Durairaj Kumarasamy**, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC), RIS, New Delhi

# **Resumes of the Speakers**






**6th Roundtable of the ASEAN-India Network of Think-Tanks (AINTT)**  
**ASEAN-INDIA: STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIP IN THE POST-COVID ERA**  
 20-21 August 2020  
 Through Video-Conference

**Inaugural Session**

**Don Pramudwinai**



H.E. Mr Don Pramudwinai is the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand. He was former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand (2014-2015). He was Ambassador of Thailand to USA (2009-2010); European Union, Belgium, Luxembourg (2004-2007); People’s Republic of China (2000-2004), Switzerland (1994-1998). He was also the Director General of Department of Information (1999-2000) and Director General of Department of East Asian Affairs (1992). He has received Knight Commander of the Most Illustrious Order of Chula Chom Klao in 2004; Knight Grand Cordon of the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant in 2003 and many more.

H.E. Mr Don Pramudwinai is a B.A. (Hons) in Political Science from University of Los Angeles (UCLA). He has a M.A. in International Relations from University of Los Angeles (UCLA) and also from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, U.S.A.

## Subrahmanyam Jaishankar

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H.E. Dr. S Jaishankar is the External Affairs Minister of India. Earlier Dr S Jaishankar was President – Global Corporate Affairs at Tata Sons Private Limited from May 2018. He was Foreign Secretary from 2015-18, Ambassador to United States from 2013-15, Ambassador to China from 2009-2013, High Commissioner to Singapore from 2007-2009 and Ambassador to the Czech Republic from 2000-2004.

He has also served in other diplomatic assignments in Embassies in Moscow, Colombo, Budapest and Tokyo, as well in the Ministry of External Affairs and the President’s Secretariat.

Dr S. Jaishankar is a graduate of St. Stephen’s College at the University of Delhi. He has an M.A. in Political Science and an M. Phil and Ph.D in International Relations from Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi. He is a recipient of the Padma Shri award in 2019.

He is married to Kyoko Jaishankar and has two sons and a daughter.

## Lim Jock Hoi

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H.E. Dato Lim Jock Hoi is the Secretary-General of ASEAN, Jakarta. Dato Lim Jock Hoi was the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam since 2006. During his tenure, he served as Brunei Darussalam’s Senior Official for the ASEAN Economic Community Pillar (SEOM), APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) and the ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting). He was a member of the High Level Task Force on ASEAN Economic Integration (HLTF-EI) since 2001, serving as the HLTF-EI Chair in 2017. He was Brunei Darussalam’s Chief Negotiator for the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP), as well as for the P4, precursor to the TPP negotiations. Previously, he was also the Co-Chair during the negotiations for the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA), and also served as Brunei Darussalam’s Chief Negotiator for the Brunei Darussalam-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (BJEPA). From June 2011-2017, he was the Chairman of the Governing Board of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA). He was also on the External Advisory Board for the ASEAN 2030 Study being undertaken by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). From February 2001 – July 2005, he was appointed as



Director-General, International Relations and Trade Development, Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources. In September 2005, he was appointed as Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

### **Mohan Kumar**

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Dr. Mohan Kumar is the Chairman of Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) since June 2018. Ambassador Kumar has had an outstanding career in the Indian Foreign Service lasting 36 years which culminated in his being India's Ambassador to France based in Paris. Under his watch, the Indo-French strategic partnership was strengthened and consolidated further in spheres such as defense, space, nuclear & solar energy, smart cities and investment. Earlier, Mohan Kumar was India's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain where he witnessed and dealt with a strategically complex region characterized by events such as the "Arab Spring". He was India's lead negotiator first at the GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) and then at the WTO (World Trade Organization) in crucial areas such as Intellectual Property Rights, Services, Dispute Settlement, Rules and Technical Barriers to Trade. He was a leading member of India's delegation at the WTO Ministerial Conferences held in Marrakesh (1994), Seattle (1999) and Doha (2001). Ambassador Kumar also has strategic understanding of India's ties with some of her key neighbours such as Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Maldives. Ambassador Kumar's specialization thus includes diplomatic practice & foreign policy, strategic partnerships between countries, multilateral negotiations especially trade negotiations, climate change and globalization. Ambassador Kumar holds a Master's in Business Administration (MBA) from the Faculty of Management Studies, University of Delhi and a Doctorate (Ph.D.) from Sciences Po University, Paris. Ambassador Kumar also teaches at the Jindal School of International Affairs and is also Dean and Professor of Diplomatic Practice.

### **Suthiphand Chirathivat**

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Dr. Suthiphand Chirathivat is a Professor Emeritus of Economics and the Executive Director at the ASEAN Studies Center at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand. He is also the Chairman of the Chula Global Network. He served as the Dean of the Faculty of Economics, as well as Chairman of the Economics Research Center and the Center for International Economics at Chulalongkorn University. Dr. Chirathivat

was previously an advisor to the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Transport and Communications, and was included on the Economic Affairs Committee and Foreign Affairs Committee of the Thai Parliament. He represented Thailand at the East Asia Expert Study Group (ASEAN+3) until 2009, and the Comprehensive Economic Partnership in East Asia (ASEAN+6) until 2010. He was recently on the Advisory Committee for the ASEAN 2030 project, run by the Asian Development Bank Institute and other research projects supported by the ASEAN Secretariat. Prof. Suthiphand Chirathivat holds a Doctorate in Economics from the University of Panthéon-Sorbonne, Paris.

### Prabir De

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Dr. Prabir De is a Professor at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi. He is also the Head of ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS. Dr De works in the field of international economics and has research interests in international trade and development. He was a Visiting Fellow of the Institute of Developing Economies (IDE-JETRO), Japan; Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), Tokyo; and Visiting Senior Fellow of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Bangkok. He obtained M.Sc. in Economics from the Calcutta University and Ph.D. in Economics from the Jadavpur University, Kolkata. He has contributed several research papers in international journals and written books on trade and development. His recent book includes *Act East to Act Indo-Pacific: India's Expanding Neighbourhood*, published by the Knowledge World, New Delhi in 2020. He is the Founding Editor of the *Journal of Asian Economic Integration*, published by Sage.

## Session I: Changing landscape of global order and ASEAN-India Relations in the Post-Covid Era

### Jayant Dasgupta

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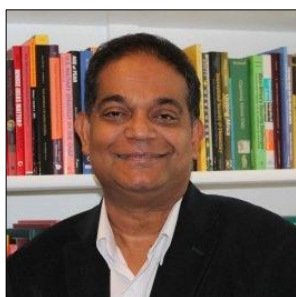
Dr. Jayant Dasgupta, former Ambassador of India to the WTO (2010 - 2014), has served as Secretary, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, Joint Secretary (Trade Policy), Department of Commerce and Director (Exports), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India. He is currently a trade consultant, arbitrator and practicing lawyer, specialising in domestic trade, investment and industrial policy issues, international trade, environmental, food and bio-diversity laws.

Dr. Dasgupta has served as an independent Director (2017-20) on the board of the Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation Ltd. (MMTC) and as a member of the High Level Advisory Group on International Trade of the Department of Commerce (2018-19). He is currently a member of the Committee on International Trade of the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and the Governing Council & General Body of the Research and Development Systems in Developing Countries (RIS).

Dr. Dasgupta has Masters' degrees in Physics, Business Administration, Economics and Social Policy & Planning, a Bachelors' degree in Law and a doctorate in Intellectual Property Law.

### **Amitav Acharya**

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Prof. Amitav Acharya is Professor of International Relations at the School of International Service, American University, Washington, DC. He also holds the UNESCO Chair in Transnational Challenges and Governance since 2011. He was previously Professor of International Relations at York University in Toronto and Professor of Global Governance at the University of Bristol in the UK. He has also taught at the National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. He was a Fellow of the Asia Center, Harvard University, and Fellow of the Center for Business and Government at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

### **Amita Batra**

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Dr Amita Batra is Professor of Economics and Chairperson, Centre for South Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU). Prof. Batra has undertaken research and published extensively on trade policy and economic integration issues in South and Southeast Asia, preferential trade agreements and comparative advantage analysis of India and China. Her most recent Book is titled '*Regional Economic Integration in South Asia: Trapped in Conflict?*', London: Routledge, 2013. She is on the editorial committee of the international journal *Asian Perspective* (John Hopkins University, USA) and member, editorial board of the *Journal of Asian Economic Integration* (Sage). She is honorary member of the Advisory Board of Centre for Advanced Trade Research of the Trade Promotion Council of India. Prof. Batra is also an occasional columnist for Business Standard, a leading financial daily in India. Prof. Batra holds an M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D. in

Economics from the Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, India.

### **Nani Gopal Mahanta**

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Prof. Nani Gopal Mahanta is currently Professor and Head of the Department, Political Science and Director, Global Studies Centre, Gauhati University, Assam, India. His research interest includes issues of Peace and Conflict Resolution, Human Development and Security, Insurgency, Ethnicity and Identity Politics. He was a Rotary World Peace Fellow in the University of California, Berkeley from 2002-2004. As a World Peace fellow he travelled to various parts of the world including Europe and South Asia for his internship and empirical work. Dr. Mahanta has published articles in various journals and has written a number of books and often appeared as an expert in media. Dr. Mahanta has also been a visiting fellow to International Peace Research Institute (PRIO), Norway, Oslo.

### **Lau Sim Yee**

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Dr. Lau Sim Yee is a Malaysian, but he resides in Tokyo since 1983. He is a Professor at Reitaku University, Japan. He teaches international economics, development economics and Southeast Asian studies in the Faculty of Economic and Business Administration, and Asian economy in the Graduate School of Economics. He holds a Ph.D. in International Cultural Studies from Tohoku University, Japan. He also received a Master of Engineering and a Bachelor of Engineering from Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan. Lau Sim Yee was the founder and the Executive Director of Myanmar Economic Resources Institute (MERI), which is based in Yangon. MERI is a private and independent think tank established in Myanmar from February 2011 to March 2017. Its mission is to promote economic development in Myanmar by providing independent analytical insights and solutions to government, business community, and non-profit organizations. From April 2014 to March 2017, he served as a non-Executive Director for the Myanmar Consolidated Media Ltd., which publishes Myanmar Times both in English and Myanmar languages. Presently, he is a fellow of Asian Dialogue Society, and he was a fellow of the 21st Century Trust of UK, Salzburg Seminar of Austria. He is presently a columnist of New Straits Times Malaysia.

Lau Sim Yee has since 1991 contributed to and still working on, among other things, academic research on economics such as consumer behaviors, trade and investment, development and inequality, human resources development. He has assisted in a wide spectrum of policy studies in many developing countries spanned more than 30 countries. He has travelled more than 60 countries in the last quarter of century mainly for the purpose of field researches, economic conferences and capacity building workshops. His multi-lingua abilities give him added advantages in understanding the need to bridge the gap created between observed reality and theories as well as between policy formulation and business practices. Hence, he advocates always the necessity for the theoretical adaptation in providing alternative views for enhancing development in the developing world.

### **Carole Ann Chit Tha**

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Prof. Carole Ann Chit Tha joined the SEAMEO Regional Centre for History and Tradition (SEAMEO CHAT) as Deputy Director in February 2005. Since February 2008, she takes full responsibilities of the Centre as Acting Director.

She completed her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the History Department of the University of Yangon in the years 1972 and 1978, respectively. She started her professional career as a tutor at the Department of History, Mawlamyine Degree College, which is an affiliate college of the University of Yangon.

She has been active in promoting regional cooperation particularly in the area of history and tradition. In May 1999, she presented a research paper in higher education in Myanmar at the Second ASEAN University Network (AUN) Educational Forum held in Vietnam National University, Hanoi, Vietnam. She also participated in the workshop on Human Rights and Responsibilities jointly organized by the Government of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of Australia in September 2001.

## Session II: Emerging Value Chains: Opportunities for ASEAN and India in the Post-Covid Era

### Sineenat Sermcheep

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Dr. Sineenat Sermcheep is Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand. She is also a Chairperson of the Center for Labor Development and Management. She received her Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Utah and is currently an Assistant Professor in Economics. She was Associate Dean of Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University and Director of Research Affairs, ASEAN Studies Center, Chulalongkorn University. Her academic interests involve the issues related to foreign direct investment, digital economy, trade in services, movement of labour, economic integration, and ASEAN. Her recent publications include Services Export and Economic Growth in ASEAN Countries in *Journal of Asian Economic Integration* (2019), *India-Thailand Partnership: Way Towards Greater Cooperation in Celebrating the Third Decade and Beyond: New Challenges to ASEAN-India Economic Partnership* (2018), and *Outward Foreign Direct Investment in ASEAN* (co-eds) (2017).

### Ramesh Kodammal

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Dato' Ramesh Kodammal is the Chairman of Goldtex Group of Companies, a company which he founded since 1973 specialising in import & export of garments and textiles, as well as manufacturing of home furnishings. Dato' Ramesh is the Chairman of ASEAN-India Business Council Malaysian Chapter and the Chairman of ASEAN-India Business Council (AIBC). He is currently a Council Member for the Malaysia Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (MAICCI) from 2013 till today. He is also the Member of the Malaysia National Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation (MANCPEC). Dato' Ramesh actively promotes the interests of the business community between ASEAN-India and he has been actively involved in the visits by Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi to Malaysia as part of this initiative. He has actively participated in various international forums and seminars representing Malaysia as a moderator and speaker. Among the posts which Dato' Ramesh has held previously include the Deputy President of Kuala Lumpur Selangor Indian Chambers of Commerce (KLSCCI), Vice President Of Malaysia Associate Indian Chambers & Industries and Treasurer of National Chambers of Commerce and

Industries Of Malaysia (NCCIM). He currently till holds various positions in other non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

### **Rupa Chanda**

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Dr. Rupa Chanda is the RBI Chair Professor of Economics at IIM Bangalore. She has earlier worked as an Economist at the IMF and briefly served as Head, UNESCAP Sub regional Office for South and South-West Asia in New Delhi. Prof. Chanda received her PhD in Economics from Columbia University and her Bachelors from Harvard University. She teaches Macroeconomics and International Trade and has received teaching awards. Her research interests include the WTO, trade in services, regional integration and migration. She has undertaken research and consulting assignments for international and Indian organizations and has published extensively in the form of books, journal articles, book chapters, and reports. She is active professionally as a research guide, reviewer, and member of committees. She was member of the WHO's Review Committee on the functioning of the International Health Regulations (2015-16) and the WHO's Expert Advisory Group, International Recruitment of Health Personnel (2019-20).

### **Tham Siew Yeap**

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Dr. Tham Siew Yeap is Visiting Senior Fellow at ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute and Professor Emeritus, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. She was formerly Director and Professor of International Trade at Institute of Malaysian and International Studies (IKMAS), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. Her research interests cover trade in goods and services as well as foreign direct investment (FDI). She has published extensively on trade-related issues in books and journals such as Journal of Contemporary Asia, Emerging Markets, Finance and Trade, Asian Economic Panel and Prague Economic Papers, besides co-editing several books published by international publishing houses. She has a PhD in Economics from University of Rochester, USA.

### **Saon Ray**

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Dr Saon Ray is Senior Fellow, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), New Delhi. An economist specializing in industry and international trade issues, her areas of interest include global value chains, technological

upgrading of Indian industries, free trade agreements and trade creation effects, technology transfer, foreign direct investment, efficiency and productivity of firms, energy and climate change related issues. She has published widely on these issues in books and journal articles. Her Ph.D. in Economics from the Jawaharlal Nehru University examined the role of intellectual property rights in transferring technology to developing countries.

### Session III: New Normal and Significance of 4IR on ASEAN-India Partnership and Future Collaborations

#### Mia Mikic

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Dr Mia Mikic is Director, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division in United Nations ESCAP, Bangkok. She also coordinates the Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade (ARTNeT), an open network of research and academic institutions and think-tanks in the Asia-Pacific region and covering all key means of implementation of the Sustainable development Goals (more details on [artnet.unescap.org](http://artnet.unescap.org)). Previously, she was Professor of International Economics at the University of Zagreb, and Senior Lecturer at the University of Auckland. She is the author of *International Trade* (Macmillan, 1998), co-author of *Trade Statistics in Policymaking – A handbook of commonly used trade indices and indicators* (United Nations, 2009), journal and technical papers, and has edited or co-edited several volumes, most recently with Bruno Jetin, *ASEAN Economic Community- A model for Asia-wide regional integration?* (Palgrave, 2016). She led a development of the Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Agreements Database of ESCAP which monitors trade performance of the trade agreements for the regional economies. She oversees preparation of Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report, a flagship publication of ESCAP in area of trade and investment. Her current work focuses on the impacts of preferential and multilateral trade liberalization, services trade liberalization, non-tariff protection, frontier technologies use for inclusive future of work, and evidence-based policymaking in trade, investment and innovation. She has Masters in International Business from the St. Mary's College of California and a Doctorate in Economics from the University of Zagreb.



## Sovinda Po

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Mr. Sovinda Po is a Senior Research Fellow at the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace (CICP), Phnom Penh. He is also a regular contributor to East Asia Forum, The Diplomat, The Interpreter, and Australian Outlook. His research interests include small state's foreign policy and the international relations of Mainland Southeast Asia.

## Gagan Sabarwal

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Mr. Gagan Sabarwal has been with NASSCOM since 2008. He has rich experience of close to 20 years, out of which 16 years has been with IT-BPO industry. Before joining NASSCOM, was managing APAC region for NIIT Ltd, one of the largest learning and training solution provider. He has been part of various IT businesses that specialised in IT Products, Services and e-Learning solutions and worked extensively in International markets. At NASSCOM, Mr Sabarwal leads the International Affairs team as strategic function. He represents industry's views at various business and bilateral forums. He often referred to as advisor to Government - regular at Governmental meetings on WTO, GATS, FTA, DTAA, Totalisation and other bilateral/multilateral agreements. He works closely with Governments, Administration and Agencies around the world to take up issues that impede on industry's growth in host markets. Issues related with major markets of the industry such as US, UK, EU & Canada take up most part of his work. He is also working very closely with major emerging markets viz. Japan and China to help industry diversify from major markets.

## Jayant Menon

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Dr. Jayant Menon is Visiting Senior Fellow at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute) in Singapore, following his early retirement from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Manila, Philippines. At ISEAS, he continues his work on trade and investment issues in the region but with more of a research focus, and co-edits the *Journal of Southeast Asian Economies*. Prior to this, he was Lead Economist in the Office of the Chief Economist at ADB. He joined ADB in 1999 and has worked in research and operational departments, including the ADB Institute in Tokyo. In 2020, he will be at ISEAS in Singapore as a Visiting Senior Fellow. Prior to joining ADB, he worked as an academic in Australia for more than a

decade, mainly at the Centre of Policy Studies at Monash University at its original campus in Clayton, Melbourne. He has also worked at the University of Melbourne, Victoria University, and the American University in Washington, DC. Dr. Menon holds adjunct appointments with the Australian National University, University of Nottingham, UK and the Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (IDEAS), Malaysia. He has served as a Board Director of the Cambodia Development Resource Institute and on the Advisory Board of the University of Nottingham Campus in Malaysia. He also serves on the editorial board of several academic journals. He has authored/edited 15 books, more than 40 chapters in books and 70 articles in peer-reviewed journals.

### **Balaji Parthasarathy**

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Dr. Balaji Parthasarathy is Professor at the International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore, and co-founder of the Institute's Center for Information Technology and Public Policy. His interests focus on the relationship between technological change, economic globalization, and social transformation. Within this focus, his work follows two threads. One thread examines the impacts of public policy and firm strategies on the organization of production and innovation in the ICT industry. Another thread deals with ICTs for Development, exploring how the deployment of ICTs can transform social relationships, especially in underprivileged contexts. His research has covered the political-economy of late-industrialization, e-governance, e-waste, information access, social innovation, and smart cities. His current interest centers around the implications of the Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning based platform economy for labour markets and work practices. Balaji earned an undergraduate degree from the Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, and a PhD from the University of California Berkeley.

## **Session IV: ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific (AOIP) and Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI): Complementarities and Cooperation**

### **Arvind Gupta**

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Dr Arvind Gupta is the Director of Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF), New Delhi. Dr Gupta was retired from Indian Foreign Service. He was former Deputy National Security Adviser and Secretary, National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS), (2014-17). He was also Joint Secretary, NSCS on deputation from Ministry of External Affairs; 1999-2007. He dealt with a wide range of

national security issues within the NSC structures. He had wide ranging interaction in official capacity with delegations of other countries. Former Director General, Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis (IDSA), New Delhi (2012-14); Lal Bahadur Shastri Chair National Security, IDSA, 2008-2011. He had conducted track 2 level interactions with think tanks of other countries. He served in Indian diplomatic missions in Moscow, London, and Ankara. He had also dealt with Afghanistan, Kashmir, Soviet Union, Russia, and Central Asia in the Ministry of External Affairs. He has written four books and co-edited several. His book *How India Manages Its National Security* was published by Penguin Random House in 2018.

### **Pradeep Chauhan**

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Vice Admiral Pradeep Chauhan is currently the Director-General of the National Maritime Foundation, which is India's foremost resource centre for the development and advocacy of strategies for the promotion and protection of India's maritime interests. He has had an illustrious, four-decade-long career in the Indian Navy, with as many as four sea-going commands, culminating in his command of the aircraft carrier, the *Viraat*. As a Flag Officer, he conceptualised and executed the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS). He has been Chief of Staff of the Western Naval Command and the Commandant of the Indian Naval Academy (Ezhimala). He has been commended three times by the President of India for sustained distinguished service. He is a much sought-after thought-leader and a prolific writer with over 85 published professional articles and papers to his credit. The admiral is on the visiting faculty of the higher-command establishments of all three of India's defence services, as also tri-Service establishments, including the National Defence College, New Delhi. He has also been advising the government through his interaction with the ministries of Defence, External Affairs, and the National Security Council Secretariat.

### **Fukunari Kimura**

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Prof. Fukunari Kimura is the Chief Economist for Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) and Professor, Faculty of Economics, Keio University. He was born in Tokyo in 1958. He received his Bachelor of Laws from the Faculty of Law, University of Tokyo in 1982. He then received Master of Science

and PhD titles from the Department of Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1990 and 1991, respectively. He worked for the Department of Economics, State University of New York at Albany as Assistant Professor in 1991-1994, and in the Faculty of Economics of Keio University as Associate Professor in 1994-2000. In particular, he has recently been active in writing academic/semi-academic books and articles on international production networks and economic integration in East Asia.

## Premesha Saha

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Dr. Premesha Saha is an Associate Fellow with ORF's Strategic Studies Programme. Her research focuses on Southeast Asia, East Asia and the South Pacific — spanning the Eastern Indian Ocean and the emerging dynamics of the Indo-Pacific region. Premesha's other research interests include: Indonesia's maritime strategy, India and Southeast Asia, India's Act East Policy, Asia-Pacific multilateralism.

Previously she has been an Associate Fellow at the National Maritime Foundation; Indo-Pacific Security Studies (FIPPS) Fellow sponsored by the US State Department at Daniel K. Inouye Asia Pacific Centre for Security Studies (DKI APCSS), Honolulu, Hawaii; Visiting Fellow at Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) Jakarta; Visiting Fellow at Lemabaga Ilmu Pengetahuan (LIPI) Jakarta; and Darmasiswa Scholar sponsored by the Indonesian Ministry of Education and Culture at Universitas Katolik Indonesia Atma Jaya, Jakarta.

Premesha has completed her PhD from the Centre of Indo-Pacific Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. She has published extensively in peer reviewed journals like *Maritime Affairs*, *The Indonesia Quarterly*, *The Defence Security Brief*, *Journal of the Indian Ocean Region* and newspapers and magazines like The Jakarta Post, The Hindu, The Foreign Policy, Australian Financial Review. She has also published chapters in edited books published by Pentagon Press, Harper Collins.

## Joefe B. Santarita

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Dr Joefe B. Santarita is currently the Dean and Professor of the University of the Philippines' Asian Center (UPAC). He also serves as the Chairperson of the UP Tri-College Ph.D. Philippine Studies Program and is a faculty affiliate of the UP Open University ASEAN Graduate Studies Program. Dr. Santarita has completed his doctoral degree in South Asian Studies from the National University of Singapore, his master's degree in Asian Studies at the UPAC and his bachelor's degree in History and Community Development from UP Visayas. His research interests and publications focus on Indian Studies, Migration Studies, Philippine Culture and Society, Maritime History, and ASEAN Studies. His most recent publications include 2018 Philippine Development Report (Hainan Normal University 2019), "Panyupayana: The Emergence of Hindu Polities in the Pre-Islamic Philippines" in Cultural and Civilisational Links between India and Southeast Asia: Historical and Contemporary Dimensions (Palgrave Macmillan 2018); and "Challenges to Implementing Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs): Effects on Human Capital Mobility in Southeast Asia" in CIFAL Philippines Discussion Paper (Centre International de Formation des Autorités et Leaders-Philippines 2018). Moreover, Dr. Santarita was recipient of several awards and grants such as the Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence Program, German Academic Exchange Service' sponsored International Deans Course, Southwest Pacific Dialogue Art and Culture Scholarship and the Japan-ASEAN Youth Fellowship among others. He also received the 2016-2018 and 2019-2021 One UP Professorial Chair Awards, UPD Centennial Professorial Chairs, and several International Publication Awards since 2012. In 2019, he was awarded Gawad Tsanselor para sa Natatanging Guro, the University's highest distinction for exemplary performance in teaching.

## Session V: Way Forward

### Preeti Saran

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Amb. Preeti Saran joined the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) in 1982, and spent a career spanning 36 years as a professional diplomat, serving overseas as well as in India. Her overseas assignments include the Indian Embassies in Russia, Bangladesh, Egypt and Geneva. Between 2008 to 2013, she served as India's Consul General in Toronto, Canada, after which she was appointed as India's Ambassador to Vietnam between 2013 to 2016.

At the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi, Mrs. Saran has served in diverse positions, including in the Indian Council of Cultural Relations and in the North America and East Asia Divisions. She was Joint Secretary in the SAARC Division between 2005 to 2007 and later Joint Secretary Northern Division handling relations with Nepal and Bhutan. In February 2016, Mrs. Saran was appointed as Secretary (East), in the Ministry of External Affairs, where she served till her superannuation in September 2018. In this capacity, she was responsible for policy formulation of India's relations with countries in East Asia, South East Asia, Canada and Latin America. Her other responsibilities included supervision of the work of Divisions dealing with External Publicity, Counter Terrorism, ASEAN, Mekong-Ganga Cooperation, BIMSTEC, SAARC, Parliament and Coordination, and Hindi and Sanskrit.

Mrs. Saran has been a senior member of Indian delegations to several bilateral and multilateral events, including at the Summit Level. She represented India as Sherpa/SOM leader at the BRICS Summit (Xiamen, September 2017), BIMSTEC Summit, ASEAN-India Annual Summits, East Asia Summit, ASEAN Regional Forum and the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation mechanism. She played an active role in the organization of major multilateral/international events such as the BRICS-BIMSTEC Outreach Summit in Goa in 2016; ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit in Delhi in 2017; 11th World Hindi Conference in Mauritius in 2018 and the 9th and 10th editions of the ASEAN-India Delhi Dialogue in 2017 and 2018.

During her assignment in Geneva between 2002 to 2005, Mrs. Saran was extensively dealing with UN Organisations/specialized agencies such as the WIPO, UNCTAD, South Centre and all economic matters on behalf of the Permanent Mission of India. In addition, she participated in meetings of the Human Rights Commission.

After her superannuation from Government Service in September 2018, Mrs. Saran was elected by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) as an independent Member of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) for a four-year term from 2019-2022. The CESCR monitors the implementation of the international Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. In October 2019, Mrs. Saran was nominated as a member of the Governing Council of the Indian Council of World Affairs

## Zaw Oo

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Dr Zaw Oo is Executive Director of the Centre for Economic and Social Development, an independent think-tank dedicated to inclusive development in Myanmar. Previously, he was the Presidential Economic Advisor from 2012-2016, serving as a principal advisor on finance, industry, commerce and labour issues. In 2012, Dr Zaw Oo contributed to the Framework of Economic and Social Reform, a strategic policy framework that guided comprehensive reforms in Myanmar and he was subsequently assigned to negotiate a historic decision of Paris Club in cancelling US\$ 6 billion or 60 per cent of Myanmar's debt.

He is presently a member of National Minimum Wage Setting Committee as well as an independent advisory member in several inter-ministerial committees such as pulses, rubber, fishery and a few other taskforces. He holds graduate degrees from Columbia University and American University in international development, finance and banking, and political economy and certificates from Harvard University and Turin University. He also taught at Chiang Mai University from 2006 to 2011.

## Kavi Chongkittavorn

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Mr Kavi Chongkittavorn was former editor-in-chief and executive director of Myanmar Times. He has been a journalist for more than three and half decades covering Thai and regional politics for the Bangkok-based The Nation. He began his career as a reporter in 1981 and became the paper's foreign news editor in 1986. Then, he was asked to explore Indochina—first as Bureau Chief in Phnom Penh, Cambodia (1988-1990) and later on in Hanoi, Vietnam (1990-1992). In 1988, he was awarded Jefferson Fellowship, East -West Center. From 1994-1995, he went to Oxford University as a Reuter Fellow and in 2000-2001 to Harvard University as Nieman Fellow. He served as a member of jury and from 2005-2008 as its chair of Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize organized by UNESCO. He was an Asia Studies Fellow at East West Center in Washington from April to June 2018. He is currently a senior fellow at Chulalongkorn University's Institute of Security and International Studies and a columnist of Bangkok Post.

## Commodore C. Uday Bhaskar

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Commodore C Uday Bhaskar, Director, Society for Policy Studies, New Delhi retired from the Indian Navy in early 2007 after 37 years service, and has the rare distinction of having headed three think-tanks. He was previously Director, National Maritime Foundation (2009-2011) and earlier with the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA), New Delhi from 1989 where he served as a Senior Fellow, Deputy Director (1996-2004) and later as Offg. Director of the Institute till late 2005. Subsequently he was appointed Member-Secretary of the Government of India Task Force on 'Global Strategic Developments' - a report submitted to the Prime Minister of India.

Bhaskar was Editor of *Maritime Affairs* and *Strategic Analysis*; and was on the Editorial Board of *Contemporary Security Policy* (USA). He has edited books on nuclear, naval/ maritime and international security related issues; and has contributed over 60 research articles / book chapters to journals and books in India and abroad. He has been a guest lecturer at the Indian NDC; NATO College, Rome and the Foreign Service Institute, US State Dept. He was a Visiting Scholar in International Security at the McGill University, Montreal, Canada under the aegis of the Centre for International Peace and Security Studies (CIPSS); and a CICOPS Fellow, University of Pavia, Italy. Recipient of the Vishist Seva Medal (VSM) and the Prime Minister's Letter of Commendation, he is a Life member of the United Service Institute (USI); and is on the Advisory Panel of the India International Centre (IIC); and the India Habitat Centre (IHC) in New Delhi.

Bhaskar is President, Association for Middle Eastern Studies, New Delhi and a Council member of the Takshashila Foundation, Bengaluru. He is a regular op-ed contributor to the print/ web and audio-visual media and has hosted a weekly show on national TV; he also contributed a daily column to the *Statesman* during the January 1991 War for Kuwait.

Comde Bhaskar delivered the Air Marshal Malse memorial lecture under the auspices of CASS, Pune in September 2018; and the Admiral Adhar Kumar Chatterjee Memorial Lecture in Kolkata in March 2019.



## Concluding Session

### Piti Srisangnam

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Dr Piti Srisangnam is the Director for Academic Affairs, ASEAN Studies Center, Chulalongkorn University and Assistant Professor of Economics, Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University. He holds a Ph.D. degree in Economics from the University of Melbourne (Australia), and an M.A. degree in International Economics and Finance from Chulalongkorn University (Thailand). He has been teaching International Economics and Microeconomics for bachelor and master degree students at Chulalongkorn University since 2002.

He has been Deputy Director for Academic Affairs of the Centre for European Studies from 2010 to 2012 and Deputy Director for Academic Affairs on the ASEAN Studies Center in 2012, both at Chulalongkorn University, before he became Director of the Center in 2013. He has published several papers in journals and books e.g. on the economic development in Southeast Asia, on trade in services among ASEAN member states, on regional economic integration of ASEAN and of the European Union, on the economic reform and SME development in Thailand, on ASEAN-India relations. Apart from academic works, he also hosts 3 radio programs related to current issues in ASEAN and manages “Sachinomi Sushi” Japanese restaurant which serves only the best quality fresh sushi and Japanese food located in downtown area of Bangkok on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of Central Plaza Rama III.

### Durairaj Kumarasamy

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Dr. Durairaj Kumarasamy is Consultant (Assistant Professor Rank) at ASEAN-India Centre (AIC), Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) since March 2015. He obtained his Ph.D. in Economics from Department of Economics, Pondicherry University (Central University), Puducherry. His academic qualifications include M.S. in Applied Econometrics and M.Phil. in Economics. He was “Think Tank Initiative Fellow” at Institute of Economic Growth (IEG), New Delhi. He also worked as Consultant at Institute of Economic Growth (IEG), New Delhi before joining RIS. He was a visiting faculty member of the Jamia Milia Islamia (central University), New Delhi. His research broadly covers topics in International Trade, Foreign Direct Investment and Applied Econometrics. He has published research papers in referred international and national journals, edited volumes and research reports.

# **Background of Sessions**



## Background of Sessions

### Session I: Changing landscape of global order and ASEAN-India relations in the Post-Covid Era

The Covid-19 pandemic has far-reaching impacts and implications for economies across the world. Both ASEAN and India have been facing similar challenges and risks. The pandemic time is also posing anti-globalisation and anti-multilateralism threat that may distort the global supply chains or derail the emergence of new value chains. Learning from the best practices may help the countries to effectively build a resilient and sustainable world. In such a situation, ASEAN and India shall collaborate not only to strengthen and protect the multilateralism and reform the multilateral system but also to promote a more inclusive, responsive and participatory international governance architecture. This session will discuss the changing contours of the global order and the role of ASEAN and India in building a resilient society post-Covid.

### Session II: Emerging Value Chains: Opportunities for ASEAN and India in the Post-Covid Era

The Covid-19 outbreak has disrupted many established value chains in scale and severity. However, with the rise in demand for new products and services, further emergence of value chains between ASEAN and India is more promising. Given the variations in the production of goods and services, economic complementarities between India and ASEAN are the added strength to build and strengthen the value-added stages needed for stronger value chains. Mitigating supply chain risks at this economic downturn is the priority. Working together for building more sustainable and resilient supply chains can help the region emerge healthier from the COVID-19. The nature of trade flows and value chains may likely be technology-, climate- and health- driven. Sectors like pharmaceutical, healthcare, education, green energy, traditional medicine offer new trade and value chains opportunities. Besides, if

facilitated, production and services networks in digital connectivity, e-commerce, cross border delivery services, logistics business, tourism, start-ups, etc. may take shape between ASEAN and India. In view of the above, this session will discuss the current scenario of value chains between ASEAN and India, opportunities and the challenges to unlock the potentials in the Covid era.

### **Session III: New Normal and Significance of 4IR on ASEAN-India Partnership and Future Collaborations**

The 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR) is an emerging concept deriving from technological advancement and disruptive developments in the industrial sector worldwide in the past few years. However, there is a discourse arguing that Industry 4.0 is not only integrating technologies but also concerning the whole ecosystem of how to acquire, share, use, organise data and resource to make the product/service deliver faster, cheaper, more effective and most important, more sustainable. In the Covid era, the Industry 4.0 offers many good lessons. The Artificial intelligence, machine learning, robotics, Internet of Things, blockchain and big data hold the potential to take India and ASEAN relations to new heights, particularly in this uncertain time. ASEAN and India are working in the 4IR such as through ASEAN Digital Integration Framework Action Plan (DIFAP) 2015-2025. In recent months, the Application of AI and ML has helped countries to control the spread of COVID-19. Are ASEAN and India ready to leapfrog into Industry 4.0? Both need enhanced approach to deal with the challenges brought out by the global pandemic. A collaborative strategy to utilise each other's advantages while dealing with the challenges of 4IR is, therefore, also suggested. Given above, this session will discuss the significance of 4IR on ASEAN-India relations and scope of collaborations.

### **Session IV: ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific (AOIP) and Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI): Complementarities and Cooperation**

The acceptance of the Indo-Pacific as a single strategic construct linking the contiguous waters of the western Pacific and the Indian Ocean has gained currency in the last few years. Ocean is the common thread that connects this vast Indo-Pacific region. The prime focus of Indo-Pacific is, therefore, centered around ocean, where India and ASEAN occupy important strategic positions. Given the economic potential of Indo-Pacific region, some of the Indo-Pacific countries and regions have already announced their own visions of Indo-Pacific such as ASEAN, the USA, Japan, Australia, France, India and Indonesia. ASEAN has introduced the ASEAN Outlook of Indo-Pacific (AOIP) in June 2019. Indian Prime Minister in his speech at the 14th East Asia Summit in November 2019 introduced the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI). With the announcement of the AOIP and IPOI in 2019, Indo-Pacific has started receiving attention globally. AOIP and IPOI show commonalities and also scope of cooperation. Therefore, this session will present the complementarities and scope of cooperation between ASEAN and India particularly in view of changing global order in the

backdrop of ongoing Coronavirus pandemic. Session will also review the progress in implementing the above initiatives and the tasks ahead.

## **Session V: Way Forward**

With ASEAN and India working towards establishing Indo-Pacific, the cooperation between them will be the key to economic stability, competitiveness, growth and integration in the region. In 2025, ASEAN will become an economic community and India a US\$ 5 trillion economy and the third largest economy in the world, next to the USA and China. Therefore, India–ASEAN relations will continue to underpin trans-regional strength of Asia and the rising Indo-Pacific. However, the ASEAN-India region faces multidimensional challenges, and also opportunities in the third decade. If India and ASEAN are to jointly address the challenges, India–ASEAN relations must embed new ideas, new processes and partnerships, and new frontiers of development. Being the penultimate session, this session will present the Way Forward. Session will host a panel discussion with key/lead panellists of the 6<sup>th</sup> AINTT. It will draw a set of actionable projects and also guide us about the next course of AINTT.

# Concept Note



## Concept Note

1. The strategic partnership of India and ASEAN stands on the strong foundation of our shared geographical, historical and civilisational ties. There has been an uninterrupted flow of the people, ideas and material goods between our two regions dating back to several millennia which has left its imprints on all facets of culture and civilization be it religion, art & architecture, language & literature, cuisine, crafts & textiles, music, dance & drama.
2. The ongoing efforts to strengthen ASEAN-India ties envisage to build upon our shared glorious past. It is in this context, ASEAN and India graduated from Sectoral Partners in 1992 to Dialogue Partners in 1996 to Summit-level Partners in 2002 to finally become Strategic Partners in 2012. The breadth of our partnership is covered by not less than 30 Dialogue Mechanisms cutting across various sectors such as defense, commerce, telecommunications, agriculture, energy, environmental issues, tourism etc. Presence of all ten ASEAN Leaders in New Delhi in January 2018, to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ASEAN-India ties, testifies to the importance, both sides accord to our Partnership. India's Act East Policy, which provides the guiding framework, to take forward the ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership to the next level.
3. Both ASEAN and India have a common vision for the future, built on a commitment to inclusion and integration, belief in sovereign equality of all nations irrespective of size, and support for free and open pathways of commerce and engagement. With the increasing focus on the oceans, cooperation in the maritime domain is becoming increasingly important under the overall rubric of ASEAN-India cooperation. Both sides have articulated their concepts/outlooks for the further development of the Indo-Pacific, which have many areas of convergence.
4. The world is reeling under the COVID-19 pandemic. The disease has been relentless in taking its toll. Apart from the Public Health challenges, the pandemic has thrown up severe socio-economic repercussions. The lock downs, closures, social distancing and travel restrictions have disrupted all economic activity and resulted in huge losses in livelihoods. The impact of the economic crisis is deep-rooted and spans over all the

sectors of economy. There remains a significant degree of uncertainty over the severity and duration of the global outbreak and the trajectory of the global economic recovery once the outbreak has been contained. With the global economic landscape shift, ASEAN and India need to work more closely to explore new sources of growth and prosperity.

5. The increasing complexity of the global challenges make it imperative to run and mobilize effective network of institutions, media and business houses involved in the policy dialogue, which can generate useful documents for policymakers to take informed decisions. Think-tanks generate new ideas in formulating public policy. They make significant contributions in shaping the future discourse of our leadership. The AINTT, as an initiative, has successfully enabled our academic community in the region, to come together, on a common platform for exchange of views. The last five roundtables of AINTT were held at New Delhi (2012), Vientiane (2013), Hanoi (2014), Kuala Lumpur (2015), and Jakarta (2018), respectively. The last five rounds of the AINTT made important contributions towards policy decisions by the ASEAN countries and India, thereby further strengthening the ASEAN-India partnership. Besides, rich set of literature on ASEAN-India relations has been produced from each of these roundtables.
6. In the prevailing uncertainties due to COVID-19, the 6<sup>th</sup> AINTT will be organised through Video Conference by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), Thailand. The AIC and the ASEAN Studies Centre (ASC) of the Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok will be the co-partners.
7. Given above, the broad objectives of the 6<sup>th</sup> AINTT roundtable are primarily two-fold:

First, to identify emerging challenges to ASEAN-India relations in the post-COVID era through interaction among prominent think-tanks. The roundtable will offer new ideas for a greater integration of ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) with India and identify collaborative opportunities in the region.

Second, to identify practical policy options to increase areas of convergence and enhance cooperation on Indo-Pacific from the perspective of ASEAN-India partnership.

8. The sessions matching with aforesaid objectives are identified as follows:
  - Session I: Changing landscape of global order and ASEAN-India relations in the post COVID-19 Era
  - Session II: Emerging Value Chains: Opportunities for ASEAN and India in the post COVID-19 Era
  - Session III: New Normal and Significance of 4IR on ASEAN-India Partnership and Future Collaborations
  - Session IV: ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific (AOIP) and Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI): Complementarities and Cooperation
  - Session V: Way Forward



***Session I: Changing Landscape of Global Order and ASEAN-India Relations in the post Covid-19 Era***

9. The COVID-19 pandemic has far-reaching implications for the world. The pandemic is also posing anti-globalisation and anti-multilateralism threat. In such a situation, ASEAN and India can collaborate to promote a more inclusive, responsive and participatory international governance architecture. The Session I (Changing Landscape of Global Order and ASEAN-India Relations in the post COVID-19 Era) will discuss the changing contours of the global order and the role of ASEAN and India in building a resilient society post COVID-19.

***Session II: Emerging Value Chains: Opportunities for ASEAN and India in the post Covid-19 Era***

10. The COVID-19 outbreak has disrupted established value chains in scale and severity. However, the rise in demand for new products and services, presents an opportunity for both ASEAN and India. The economic complementarities between ASEAN and India can provide for sustainable and resilient supply chains driven by technology, that will help the region emerge healthier from the pandemic. Sectors like pharmaceutical, healthcare, education, green energy, traditional medicine offer new opportunities. Besides, if facilitated, production and services networks in digital connectivity, e-commerce, cross-border delivery services, logistics business, tourism, start-ups, etc. may emerge as important components of the ASEAN-India economic portfolio. Session II (Emerging Value Chains: Opportunities for ASEAN and India in the post COVID-19 era) will discuss the current scenario of value chains between ASEAN and India, opportunities and the challenges to unlock the potentials in the post COVID era.

***Session III: New Normal and Promoting ASEAN-India Partnership in 4IR***

11. The 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution (4IR) is an emerging concept deriving from technological advancement and disruptive developments in the industrial sector worldwide in the past few years. The Artificial intelligence, machine learning, robotics, Internet of Things, blockchain and big data hold a great potential for the future of ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership. In recent months, the Application of AI and ML has helped countries to control the spread of COVID-19. Are ASEAN and India ready to leapfrog into Industry 4.0? Session III (New Normal and Significance of 4IR on ASEAN-India Partnership and Future Collaborations) will discuss the significance of 4IR on ASEAN-India relations and scope of future collaborations.

***Session IV: ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific (AOIP) and Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI): Complementarities and Cooperation***

12. Contemporary global discourse has taken on a decidedly maritime hue with the ‘Indo-Pacific’ gaining the centre stage. The use of the expression ‘Indo-Pacific’ has been increasingly prevalent in the regional and global discourse. The “ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific”, resonates with India’s Indo-Pacific Vision and Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) as articulated by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the 14<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit, in positioning ASEAN-centrality as a foundational tenet of the Indo-Pacific, but also as a vital principle for promoting cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region, with

ASEAN and ASEAN-led mechanisms. The Session IV (ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific (AOIP) and Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI): Complementarities and Cooperation) will discuss the scope of cooperation between ASEAN and India in the light of commonalities and complementarities of AOIP and IPOI. Session will seek to provide policy recommendations on the ASEAN-India Cooperation on the Indo-Pacific.

***Session V: Way Forward***

13. ASEAN-India cooperation will be the key to economic stability, competitiveness, growth and integration in the Indo-Pacific region. In the rapidly changing times, ASEAN-India Strategic partnership must embed new ideas to remain relevant. Session V being the penultimate session will present the Way Forward. Session will host a panel discussion with key/lead panellists of the 6<sup>th</sup> AINTT. It will draw a set of actionable projects and also guide us about the next course of AINTT.
14. The proceedings of the 5<sup>th</sup> AINTT roundtable will also be released at the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the AINTT roundtable.
15. Participants of each technical session will be invited to present a research paper at the roundtable. Subsequently, these papers would be expanded/revised and distributed amongst the policy-makers and other concerned stakeholders either in the form of working paper or compiled volume. AIC and ASC will also publish the proceedings of the roundtable.

## About the AINTT

The increasing complexity of the global economic environment makes it imperative to establish an effective network of institutions, media and business houses involved in the policy dialogue, which can generate considered documents for policymakers to take informed decisions. With the Free Trade agreement (FTA) between India and the ASEAN effective from 1 January 2010, India-ASEAN partnership has taken a new shape. In 2017, the ASEAN and India celebrate their 25 years of dialogue partnership and 15 years of summit- level interaction.

India's engagement with the ASEAN is at the "heart" of its Act East Policy. We are convinced that India's future and our economic interests are best served by greater integration with our Asian partners. The implementation of the ASEAN-India FTA in 2010 has opened up new vistas of trade cooperation between the two partners. With both sides showing active interest to deepen and widen process of economic integration through agreements on services, investment, etc., there would be an increasing array of issues on culture, connectivity and commerce, which need to be addressed to strengthen partnership between India and the ASEAN. Deliberations between these organisations would help provide well - considered policy inputs to the governments.

Promoting a long-term cooperative partnership based on equality, shared ownership and mutual respect would enable both India and the ASEAN achieve long- term national and regional development goals. To realise this objective, policy dialogue among relevant institutions, media and business community from India and the ASEAN assumes utmost importance. These deliberations would not only help in promoting awareness about the potential of the India-ASEAN partnership, but would also help in exploring new vistas for strengthening regional cooperation.

The Roundtable of the ASEAN-India Network of Think-Tanks (AINTT) is an outcome of Indian Prime minister's Statement at the 7th India-ASEAN Summit, where he suggested establishment of an India-ASEAN Roundtable, comprising think-tanks to bridge knowledge gap. One of the primary objectives of this Roundtable is, therefore, to provide policy inputs to the governments of India and the ASEAN countries on the future areas of cooperation. The RIS was identified as the nodal point from India to organise the Roundtable. Another purpose of the interaction between think-tanks is to deepen the ASEAN-India partnership through policy research and advocacy. The RIS envisages this forum as high-quality research platform for the policymakers, academics, professionals, and the research communities. The last five roundtables of the AINTT were held at New Delhi (2012), Vientiane (2013), Hanoi (2014), Kuala Lumpur (2015) and Jakarta (2018). The RIS has been involved in interacting with think-tanks, particularly from the ASEAN region, for a number of years. The first major initiative in this regard was the International Conference that RIS organized in 2004 on ASEAN-India Vision 2020 at New Delhi on behalf of the ASEAN India Network of Think-Tanks (AINTT).

The AINTT was formed following a decision taken by the Leaders of the ASEAN and India at their First Summit, held in November 2002. Besides coordinating with think-tanks as a part of the India-ASEAN engagement, the RIS is also actively involved in several other think-tank networks. The AINTT Secretariat is located at the ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS.

To know more about this Network, please contact **Dr Prabir De** at [prabirde@ris.org.in](mailto:prabirde@ris.org.in) or **Dr Durairaj Kumarasamy** at [durairaj@ris.org.in](mailto:durairaj@ris.org.in)

## About RIS

Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), a New Delhi based autonomous think-tank under the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, is an organization that specializes in policy research on international economic issues and development cooperation. RIS is envisioned as a forum for fostering effective policy dialogue and capacity-building among developing countries on international economic issues. The focus of the work programme of RIS is to promote South-South Cooperation and assist developing countries in multilateral negotiations in various forums. RIS is engaged in the Track II process of several regional initiatives. RIS is providing analytical support to the Government of India in the negotiations for concluding comprehensive economic cooperation agreements with partner countries. Through its intensive network of policy think tanks, RIS seeks to strengthen policy coherence on international economic issues. For more information please visit [www.ris.org.in](http://www.ris.org.in)

## About AIC

Considering the work of the ASEAN-India Eminent Persons Group (AIEPG), and its Report with recommendations for forging a closer partnership for peace, progress and shared prosperity, the Heads of the State/Government of ASEAN and India at the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit 2012, held at New Delhi on 19-20 December 2012, recommended the establishment of ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) using existing resources at New Delhi. AIC was formally inaugurated by the Honorable External Affairs Minister of the Government of India on 21 June 2013 at RIS. AIC serves as a resource centre for ASEAN Member States and India to fill the knowledge gaps that currently limit the opportunities for cooperation. The AIC is closely working with the Indo-Pacific Division of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), India to undertake and disseminate policy research and provide analytical policy recommendations. For more information, please visit <http://www.aic.ris.org.in>



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