

**4<sup>th</sup> Roundtable on ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks (AINTT)  
7-8 August 2015, Kuala Lumpur**

**Background Note**

1. The increasing complexity of the global economic environment makes it imperative to run and mobilize effective network of institutions, media and business houses involved in the policy dialogue, which can generate considered documents for policy makers to take informed decisions. With the Commemorative Summit 2012, India-ASEAN relations have been elevated to the Strategic Partnership level. The relations between them have been strengthened with ASEAN-India FTA in goods and other initiatives such as agreement for services trade and investment and connectivity projects. The vision statement issued at the Commemorate Summit states that India and ASEAN will strive towards the full, effective and timely implementation of the ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations across the whole spectrum of political and security, economic, socio-cultural and development cooperation, through further strengthening of relevant institutional mechanisms and broadening of the network between government institutions, parliamentarians, business circles, scientists, think-tanks, media, youth and other stakeholders, for the building of a peaceful, harmonious, caring and sharing community in our regions. The mandate to organize roundtable of think-tanks network was given to ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS.

2. The first major initiative in this regard was the International Conference that RIS had organized in 2004 on ASEAN-India Vision 2020 at New Delhi on-behalf of the ASEAN-India Network of Think-Tanks (AINTT). The 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Roundtables of AINTT were held at New Delhi, Vientiane and Hanoi in August 2012, September 2013, and July 2014, respectively. Recommendations of AINTT roundtables were found useful and taken forward for implementation. It was recommended by the ASEAN scholars that we should continue with the AINTT Roundtable in ASEAN countries in order to generate pragmatic policies to support the regional cooperation and integration between India and ASEAN countries. Therefore, AIC has decided to organise the 4<sup>th</sup> Roundtable of AINTT in Kuala Lumpur on 7-8 August 2015 in collaboration with the ISIS Malaysia and ASEAN Secretariat.

3. An inclusive dialogue between the key institutions also essentials for the policy-making process. AINTT is expected to provide long-term perspectives on the development of ASEAN-India relations. At the same time, the ideas that would emerge from the Roundtables of AINTT will help in refining and updating the ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership. The objectives of AINTT roundtable are two-folds:

First, to identify emerging challenges to ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership through interaction with Think-Tanks, and

Second, to identify the feasible policy options to overcome the challenges from the perspective of ASEAN community blueprints.

4. India and ASEAN shall jointly make an effort to not only enhance the integration and economic development but also build a stable and sustainable environment of development. Furthermore, ASEAN and India today are in the spiral geopolitical changes due to new economic trends and strategies in the Asia-Pacific and the Indo-Pacific regions. Quite naturally, the theme of the Roundtable is therefore identified as “ASEAN-India: Strengthening the Ties That Bind”. Therefore, the 4<sup>th</sup> Roundtable will discuss a number of regional issues, which have strategic and economic implications on the process of regional integration of ASEAN and India.

5. The 4<sup>th</sup> Roundtable focuses on the issues on non-traditional security threats, regional security architecture, cultural and historical links, and economic relations; in which scholars will find out the challenges and opportunities, limitations and difficulties, and remedies and resolutions. The Roundtable aims to deal with the issues relating to regional economic architecture such as ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), etc., and discuss India’s engagement in Post-2015 Agenda of ASEAN and draw fresh perspectives on the opportunities, challenges, as well as possible recommendations. The Roundtable will present the way forward and makes a list of recommendations to strengthen the ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership. The tentative Agenda is enclosed.

6. AIC and in consultation with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, Indian Mission in ASEAN, and ISIS Malaysia will identify the participants for the 4<sup>th</sup> Roundtable of AINTT. RIS and ISIS Malaysia will be responsible for all logistical, technical and management arrangements for the event. It will provide the detailed programme and agenda for the event to the participants in due course of time. RIS and ISIS Malaysia will make all arrangements for ASEAN participants to travel to Malaysia and their stay in Kuala Lumpur.

7. We encourage the participants in each technical session to present a background paper at the Roundtable. Subsequently these papers would be expanded and would be distributed amongst the policymakers and other relevant stakeholders either in the form of discussion papers or compiled volume.

8. Indian External Affairs Minister will deliver the Inaugural Address, while the Foreign Minister of Malaysia will deliver the Keynote Address at the 4<sup>th</sup> Roundtable of AINTT. Besides, Secretary General of ASEAN Secretariat may join as a special guest. The Roundtable will be attended by about 25 participants (two persons from each of the ASEAN member countries, two representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat and three from Indian side). Besides, HOMs of ASEAN Missions in Kuala Lumpur, Indian Embassy and Indian Mission in ASEAN will also attend and/or send their representatives at the Roundtable.

9. Outcomes of the 4<sup>th</sup> Roundtable will be used in the preparation of the 13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-India Summit to be held at Kuala Lumpur later this year.

10. For further information about ASEAN-India Centre, please visit <http://aic.ris.org.in> If you have any further queries on AINTT, please contact Dr. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC and AINTT, e-mail: [prabirde@ris.org.in](mailto:prabirde@ris.org.in)



## **4<sup>th</sup> Roundtable on ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks (AINTT)** *ASEAN-India: Strengthening the Ties That Bind*

**7-8 August 2015, Kuala Lumpur**

### **Tentative Agenda**

#### **7 August 2015**

- 08:30 – 09:15 Registration**
- 09:15 – 10:45 Opening Session**
- 09:15 – 09:25** Welcome Remarks by **Tan Sri Rastam Mohd Isa**, Chairman & Chief Executive, ISIS Malaysia
- 09:25 – 09:35** Special Remarks of **Ambassador Shyam Saran**, Chairman, RIS
- 09:35 – 10:50** Special Address by **H.E. Le Luong Minh**, Secretary General, ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta
- 10:50 – 10:10** Keynote Address by **H.E. Datuk Seri Anifah Aman**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia (tbc)
- 10:10 – 10:30** Inaugural Address by **H.E. Sushma Swaraj**, External Affairs Minister of India (tbc)
- 10:30 – 10:35** Release of AIC-RIS Publication on ASEAN-India Partnership
- 10:35 – 10:40** Vote of Thanks
- 10:40 – 10:45** Group Photograph
- 10:45 – 11:00 Tea/ Coffee Break**
- 11:00 – 12:30 Session 1: Non-traditional Security Threats**
- This session will cover the issues relating to non-traditional security such as maritime security, cyber security and transnational crime including international terrorism.
  - Four speakers
- 12:30 – 13:30 Lunch**
- 13:30 – 15:00 Session 2: Regional Security Architecture**
- The session will deal with existing and emerging regional security architectures and discuss the challenges countries have been facing in the region.
  - Four speakers

**15:00 – 15:30 Tea/ Coffee Break**

**15:30 – 17:00 Session 3: New Dimensions of the ASEAN-India Economic Partnership**

- This session deals with the issues relating to regional economic architecture such as ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)
- Four speakers

**17:00 – 18:00 AINTT Business and Networking Meeting (for participating institutes)**

**18:30 – 20:00 Welcome Dinner**

**8 August 2015**

**09:00 – 09:30 Special Address by Ambassador Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India (tbc)**

**09:30 – 11:00 Session 4: ASEAN-India Cultural Links: Historical and Contemporary Dimensions**

- The focus of this session is to discuss past and present cultural links between ASEAN and India and to suggest a way forward to strengthen the links.
- Four speakers

**11.00 – 12.30 Session 5: Post-2015 Agenda of ASEAN and Way Forward**

- This session will discuss the India's engagement in Post-2015 Agenda of ASEAN and draw fresh perspectives on the opportunities, challenges, as well as possible recommendations
- This session presents the way forward and makes a list of recommendations to strengthen the ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership.
- Four speakers

**12:30 – 12:45 Wrapping up and Vote of Thanks**

**12:45 – 14:00 Lunch**