

Press Release

ASEAN-India Centre at RIS

The Vision Document adopted by Heads of State/Government of India and ASEAN countries at the Commemorative Summit held in New Delhi on December 20, 2012 called for setting up of an ASEAN-India Centre. Accordingly, the ASEAN-India Centre has been established at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi. Honourable Shri Salman Khurshid, External Affairs Minister of India, inaugurated the Centre in New Delhi on June 21, 2013.

The ASEAN-India Centre will work to strengthen India's cooperation with ASEAN in its realization of the ASEAN Community by 2015, comprising three pillars, namely, the ASEAN Political Security Community, the ASEAN Economic Community and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community.

The Centre will encourage cooperation between India and ASEAN in support of sub-regional development within the frameworks of Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MCG), Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multisectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines-East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA), Cambodia-Laos-Vietnam-Development Triangle Area (CLV-DTA), Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT), Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) and the ASEAN Mekong Basin Development Cooperation (AMBDC), and other areas. The Centre will undertake studies on each of these sub-regional developments and recommend practical measures whereby India-ASEAN Cooperation could synergize with initiatives under these developments.

It will promote India-ASEAN Cooperation in the inter-linked areas of water, energy and food security, and the use of appropriate technologies to this end. The Centre will network with relevant institutions, both public and private, in India and in

ASEAN member countries to develop practical project proposals for governments to consider.

Further, the Centre will promote enhanced India-ASEAN connectivity, through supporting the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity and the ASEAN ICT Master Plan 2015. The Centre will monitor implementation of connectivity projects, evaluate their impact and recommend new initiatives.

The India-ASEAN Centre at RIS will serve as a Resource Centre on ASEAN Countries and on India to fill the knowledge gap that currently limits the opportunities for cooperation. RIS will create a linked website for the India-ASEAN Centre, which will collate useful materials on India-ASEAN Cooperation and update them on a regular basis.

The Centre will also undertake regular networking activities with relevant public/private agencies, organizations and think tanks in India and ASEAN countries, with the aim of providing up-to-date information, data resources and sustained interaction, for promoting India-ASEAN Strategic Partnership. In each of the areas detailed above, there will be a business component, which will be pursued as an integral objective.