

ASEAN India Centre NEWSLETTER



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

AIC
ASEAN-India Centre at RIS

Vol.3, No.2, July-December, 2017

Major Events

Delhi Dialogue IX – 'ASEAN-India Relations: Charting the Course for the Next 25 Years', 4-5 July 2017, New Delhi



Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Hon'ble External Affairs Minister, Government of India with other dignitaries of ASEAN countries at the Delhi Dialogue IX.

Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Hon'ble External Affairs Minister, Government of India inaugurated the two-day Delhi Dialogue IX on 4 July 2017 at New Delhi, on the theme "ASEAN-India Relations: Charting the Course for the Next 25 Years". This dialogue is being organised by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in collaboration with the Observer Research Foundation (ORF); Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI); Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS), Singapore; SAEA Group Research, Singapore; Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Jakarta;

Institute of Strategic and International Studies, Malaysia; Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam; Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) and ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS. It is supported by the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER); Confederation of Indian Industry (CII); Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry of India (ASSOCHAM); All India Association of Industries (AIAI), Mumbai; and Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), Kolkata. Political leaders, policy makers, senior officials, business leaders, think tanks, academi-

cians from India and ASEAN participated in this two-day event. The Delhi Dialogue was attended by Gen. (Dr) V.K. Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs; Mr. Sarbananda Sonowal, Chief Minister of Assam; Mr. Pham Binh Minh, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Foreign Affairs, Viet Nam; U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister, Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor, Myanmar and Mr. Hirubalan V P, Deputy Secretary-General for ASEAN Political-Security Community Department, ASEAN Secretariat.

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Major Events

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The Delhi Dialogue 9 was broadly divided into three sessions viz. Ministerial Sessions, Business Sessions, and Academics Sessions to facilitate the debate on various aspects on ASEAN India relations. Some of the panel discussions held during the event were on 'International economic trends and their impact on India and ASEAN', 'India-ASEAN Trade

Relations', 'India-ASEAN Partnership: Building Regional Network to promote SMEs and Women's Empowerment', 'India-ASEAN Infrastructure Investments: Current Scenario and the Way Forward', 'Trade and Tourism through Connectivity - Focus North East and East', 'Regional Geopolitics: Great Power Politics in the Asia-Pacific', 'New Con-

nectivity Paradigm in the Asia-Pacific', 'Technology, Innovation and Big Data', and 'Socio-Cultural Engagement and Diaspora Links'. Prof. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC was a Pannellists at the Panel Discussion on New Connectivity Paradigms in the Asia-Pacific and made a presentation on the ongoing India's connectivity projects with several ASEAN countries. ■

ASEAN-India Connectivity Summit: "Powering Digital and Physical Linkages for Asia in the 21st Century", 11-12 December 2017, New Delhi



In picture (from left to right) Ms. Shobana Kamineni, President, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII); Gen. (Dr) V.K. Singh (Retd), Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India; Shri. Nitin Gadkari, Hon'ble Minister for Road, Transport and Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India; H.E. Phan Tam, Deputy Minister of Ministry of Information and Communications of Vietnam, Government of Vietnam; and Amb. Preeti Saran, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS organized the first ever ASEAN-India Connectivity Summit (AICS) on 11-12 December 2017 at New Delhi. AICS was organized to

commemorate the 25 years of ASEAN-India dialogue partnership. The objective of AICS was to discuss and identify potential of collaboration across the various modes of connectivity with a special thrust on digital connectivity. Ms. Shobana Kamineni, Presi-

dent, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) gave the Welcome Address and moderated the Inaugural Session. Gen. (Dr) V.K. Singh (Retd), Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India delivered the Special Address. H.E. Phan Tam, Dep-

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Deputy Minister of Information and Communications of Vietnam, Government of Vietnam was also given Special Address in this session. The Keynote Address was made by Shri. Nitin Gadkari, Hon'ble Minister for Road, Transport and Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India.

This Two-Day Summit was consisting of one inaugural ses-

sion, followed by one special plenary, six plenary and four parallel sessions. The event was attended by government officials, policy-makers, investors, business leaders, trade bodies and associations and entrepreneurs of ASEAN countries and India. The special plenary session was on "Connectivity: *Mega Corridors - India's Initiatives, Distance and Reach - A New Look at the Maps*", chaired by Mr. Rajat M.

Nag, Distinguished Fellow, NCAER, New Delhi and the Special Address given by Mr. M.J. Akbar, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India, followed by lead presentation made by Dr. Prabir De, Professor, RIS and Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS, New Delhi. Ms Anita Prakash, Director General of Policy Design Department, Economic Research Institute of



In picture (from left to right) Mr. Rakesh Bharti Mittal, President-Designate, CII & Vice Chairman, Bharti Enterprises; Shri Manoj Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State for Communication (Independent Charge), Government of India; HE Mr Tauch Chankosal, Secretary of State, Ministry of Public Works and Transport, The Kingdom of Cambodia; Amb. Preeti Saran, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India; and Dr Prabir De, Professor, RIS and Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS.

India (ERIA), Indonesia; Mr Ronald Butiong, Director for Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination, ADB, Philippines; Vice Admiral Pradeep Chauhan, Director, National Maritime Foundation; and Mr Ryoji Furui, Industrial Researcher, Jetro India and Representative of Ministry of Economy, International Trade and Industry of Japan were the panelists of the session.

The Plenary Session I on "ASEAN-India Digital Connectivity: *Towards an Interconnected Digital Economy*" was chaired by Mr N K Goyal, President, CMAI Association of India. Mr Rakesh Kumar Bhatnagar, Director, Telecom Export Promotion Council and Mr Prabhash Singh, Member Technology, Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications delivered

the Special Address. The lead Speaker of the session was Mr V. Raghunandan, DDG(IR), DoT, Government of India. The panelists for the session were Mr. Shyamal Ghosh, Chairman, TEPC; Mr. U Soe Thein, Director General, Department of Posts and Telecommunications, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Myanmar; Dr Thavisak

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Manodham, Director General of Department of Information Communications Technology, Ministry of Post and Telecommunication, Lao PDR; Mr Sanjay Nayak, CEO and Managing Director, Tejas Network; and Mr. Rajiv Mehrotra, Chairman & CEO, VNL. The session discussed how India's digital revolution can help ASEAN countries to strengthen their digital capability.

Mr. Ajay Singh, Chairman, CII, National Committee on Aviation and Managing Director, Spicejet chaired the Panel Discussion on "Sustainable Infrastructure: Aviation". The Special Address was given by Ms. Shefali Juneja, Director, Ministry of Civil Aviation. Mr. Kapil Kaul, CEO, Centre for Asia Pacific Aviation (CAPA), Mr Pradeep Panicker, Chief Commercial Officer – Aero Business, Delhi International Airport Ltd.; Mr Koustav M Dhar, Chief Executive, Officer and Director, Zoom Air; and Mr. Amar Abrol, MD and CEO, Air Asia were speakers in this session. The session highlighted India's offer for the open skies in cargo to ASEAN and relaxation in FDI regime would encourage ASEAN FDI through "Make in India" and enhance initiatives for regional cooperation programme between India and ASEAN.

The parallel session on "Sustainable Infrastructure: Maritime" was chaired by Mr Anil Devli, CEO, Indian National Ship Owner's Association (INSA), and Special Address

was delivered by Dr Malini V Shankar, DG Shipping, Ministry of Shipping. Two lead presenters of the session were Mr. S.K. Gangwar, Member (Technical), Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) and Ms. Sangeeta Sharma, Sr. VP In-Charge, (L&PS Division), Shipping Corporation of India Ltd; Mr. Arvind Kumar, TERI; and Mr Basant Singh Brar, Delhi Unit Head & Head of Software, Safesea India Pvt Ltd. In this session, the panelists was Mr Malay Chatterjee, Former CMD, KIOCL Ltd and Managing Director, Safesea India Pvt Ltd. The session had explored the advantageous side of signing ASEAN-India Maritime Transport Cooperation Agreement (AIMTCA) with ASEAN and also urged for short sea shipping service between India and ASEAN to enhance maritime cooperation between them.

Mr. P K Pujari, Former Secretary, Ministry of Power chaired the third parallel session which was on "Sustainable Infrastructure: Energy". Mr. Ghanashyam Prasad, Director, Ministry of Power delivered the Special Address with lead presentation. The speakers of the session were Dr D K Khare, Director, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy; Mr. S K Roy Mohapatra, Chief Engineer, (Power System), Central Electricity Authority; Ms Bharati, Joint Secretary (Transmission), Ministry of Power; Mr. P.C Maithamm,

Scientist 'G', Ministry of Non Renewable Energy (MNRE); Mr. S.K Baruah, CMD, NRL; and Mr. Ratul Puri, Chairman, Hindustan Power Projects Private Limited (HPPPL). The session discussed that along with conventional energy, renewable energy has created a new room for future ASEAN-India energy cooperation.

The forth parallel session on "Sustainable Infrastructure: Islands Connectivity" was moderated by Dr Vijay Sakhuja, Former Director, National Maritime Foundation (NMF). Admiral R.K Dhowan, Chairman, National Maritime Foundation (NMF) gave the Special Address, and followed by lead presentation of Vice-Admiral Pradeep Chauhan, Director, National Maritime Foundation (NMF). Mr. Madhu Bhavi, Chief Engineer, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Harbour Works, Ministry of Shipping; Dr Prabir De, Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre at RIS; and Mr Carmello L Arcella, Executive Director, Civil Aeronautics Board, Philippines were the panelists of the session. The session had discussed investment opportunities in cruise tourism, water sports, fisheries, ro-ro shipping, ports and harbours, and transportation, and discussed the challenges that need to be addressed in order to sustain the progress.

The second day of the conference was started with the plenary session II, "Sustainable Infrastructure: Roads and High-

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ways”, which was chaired by Mr. Ajit Gulabchand, President, Construction Federation of India (CFI) and Chairman & Managing Director, Hindustan Construction Company Limited. Special Address was delivered by Mr. Yudhvir Singh Malik, Secretary, Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways. The panelists were Mr. U Zaw Min Oo, Director General, Department of Road Transport Administration, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Myanmar; Mr. S.K. Chaudhary, Chairman & Managing Director, IRCON International; Mr. Nagendra Nath Sinha, Managing Director, National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation; Mr. Takema Sakamoto, Chief Representative, JICA India Office and Ms. Lai Lai Awe, Chair Person, Mandalay Minn Express, Myanmar. The



In picture (from right to left) Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi; Mr Nadeem Panjetan, Chief General Manager – LoC Group, EXIM Bank; Mr S Selvakumar, Joint Secretary (ABC), Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance; Mr Prashant Agarwal, JS (DPA –I), Ministry of External Affairs; and Mr Pankaj Tandon, Vice President - T&D-SAARC, KEC International.

Speakers highlighted that sustainable physical infrastructure would strengthen the regional economic and people to people contacts.

Mr Jitendra Kumar, Adviser (NRE), NITI Aayog chaired the plenary session III on “ASEAN-India Connectivity: *Transforming Northeast*”. Special Address was delivered by Shri Naveen Verma, Secretary, Ministry of DoNER, Government of India, and Mr. P.D Rai, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) made the Special Remarks. The speakers of the session were Mr Harmit Singh Sethi, Deputy Executive Director, Dalmia Bharat Limited; Ms Sripriya Ranganathan, JS (BM), Ministry of External Affairs; Ms. Mamta Shankar, Adviser, Ministry of DoNER; and Mr. Pradeep Bagla, Co-Chairman, CII North East Council & MD, Amrit Cement Ltd. The participants argued that Northeast has potential in various sectors like tourism, organic farming, horticulture, sports, textile and handloom, health and education. These areas could be explored for future trade with ASEAN and can contribute to the ASEAN-India value chain process.

The forth plenary session was on “ASEAN Connectivity Master Plan: *Harnessing Opportunities*” which was chaired by Mr Shailesh Pathak, CEO, L&T Infrastructure Development Projects Limited. Mr. Lim Cheen, Director, ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta made the Special Address with lead presentation. In this session, the panellists included Mr Akhilesh Kumar Srivastava,

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CGM (IT), National Highways Authority of India (NHAI); Mr Parvesh Minocha, Group Managing Director – Transportation, Feedback Infra Private Limited; Mr Nathan K Suppiah, Vice President of Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers and Secretary General of the Malaysian National Shippers' Council, Malaysia. For successful regional cooperation, the panelists discussed the importance of building synergy between Indian projects and the ASEAN Connectivity Master Plan.

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) chaired the plenary session V on “Building Connectivity: *Line of Credit*”. Special Address was given by Mr S Selvakumar, Joint Secre-

tary (ABC), Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, followed by lead presentation of Mr Nadeem Panjetan, Chief General Manager – LoC Group, EXIM Bank. The speakers were Mr Prashant Agarwal, JS (DPA –I), Ministry of External Affairs; and Mr Pankaj Tandon, Vice President – T&D-SAARC, KEC International. India has proposed a Line of Credit of US\$ 1 billion to promote projects that support physical and digital connectivity between India and ASEAN. In addition, India has set-up a Project Development Fund of US\$ 77 million to develop manufacturing hubs in CLMV countries. Participants of AICS recommended that ASEAN countries should submit innovative proposals to

effectively utilise the LOC and sign the MoUs with India.

Plenary session VI on “Financing Infrastructure” was moderated by Mr Vinayak Chatterjee, Chairman, CII Economic Affairs Council and Chairman, Feedback Infra Private Limited. Special Address made by Mr. Subhash Chandra Garg, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance. The panelists were Mr. Ichiro Hayashidani, Chief Representative, JBIC Representative Office; and Mr Ankur Kathuria, Vice President, Transaction Advisory Services, Ernst & Young LLP. The speakers of the session discussed financial framework to invest in infrastructure in India and ASEAN. ■

Joint International Workshop on India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Relations, 6-7 September, Kolkata



Group photo of the participants attended the Joint International Workshop on India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Relations on 6-7 September 2017, Kolkata.

ASEAN – India Centre (AIC) at Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi, ASEAN Stud-

ies Center and Indian Studies Center, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, in collaboration with Maulana Abul

Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS), Kolkata and Centre for Studies in In-

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International Relations and Development (CSIRD), Kolkata organised a joint international workshop on “India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Relationship: Way Towards a Stronger ASEAN-India Partnership” on 6-7 September 2017 at MAKAISAS, Kolkata. Dr Prabir De, Professor, RIS and Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS, New Delhi delivered the Welcome Address; Prof. Suthiphand Chirathivat, Executive Director, ASEAN Studies Center, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok introduced the background of the Workshop; Amb. Rajiv Bhatia, Distinguished Fellow, Gateway House, Mumbai, and Former Indian Ambassador to Myanmar gave the Special Address; and Dr Binoda Mishra, Director, Centre for Studies in International Relations and Development (CSIRD), Kolkata made the Concluding Remarks. The objectives of this workshop are to (i) identify the challenges that India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral relationship has been facing in the context of ASEAN-India partnership; (ii) present the strategies and policies to be undertaken in order to strengthen the trilateral relationship; and (iii) publish the research findings to the attention of the policy-makers. The event was attended by over 25 delegates, which included academic researchers, government officials and foreign official’s representatives. The workshop was divided into seven sessions which included an opening session, a session each focusing on Dynamics of Trilateral Cooperation; Foreign Policy and Security issues; Cultural Links; Trade and Investment related issues.

First session on “Dynamics of Trilateral Cooperation” was chaired by Prof. Suthiphand Chirathivat, Executive Director, ASEAN Studies Center, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok. Speakers of the session were Dr Chayodom Sabhasri, Associate Professor, Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Dr Gurudas Das, Professor, National Institute of Technology (NIT) Silchar, Assam and Dr Durairaj Kumarasamy, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS, New Delhi. The Special Remarks was delivered by the Amb. Rajiv Bhatia. Speakers of the session addressed the need for improving basic infrastructure to support the trade and investment climate in the sub-region. Speakers also emphasized on trade facilitation, and, removing the non-tariff measures in order to reduce service link costs to facilitate regional production networks. Prof. Ishani Naskar, Department of Political Science, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata chaired the Second Session on “Trilateral Relationship: Defining the Contours”. Dr Piti Srisangnam, Director of Academic Affairs, ASEAN Studies Center, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok and Prof. Zaw Oo, Executive Director, Centre for Economic and Social Development (CESD), Yangon and Mr. Adithya Kumar, Development and Communications Officer, CESD, Yangon were the speakers in this session and Dr Surat Horachaikul, Founder Director, Indian Studies Centre, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok gave remarks for this session. In

this Session speakers highlighted the historical development of India-Myanmar-Thailand relations and its hidden international trade potential.

Third Session on “Foreign Policy, Security and Regional Cooperation” was chaired by Amb. Rajiv Bhatia. In this session, speakers were Dr Surat Horachaikul and Prof. Ishani Naskar, Department of Political Science, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata and the remarks delivered by Dr Binoda Mishra, Director, Centre for Studies in International Relations and Development (CSIRD), Kolkata. Participants focused on bilateral cooperation centring on defence cooperation between India and Myanmar, and India and Thailand, and argued that there is need for better coordination among the political class, the bureaucracy and the private sector within the Trilateral Cooperation framework in order to achieve optimum mutual benefit.

Fourth Session on “Connectivity Dimensions of Trilateral Relationship”, which was chaired by Prof. Shantanu Chakraborty, Convener, Institute of Foreign Policy Studies (IFPS), Calcutta University, Kolkata. The panelists were Prof. Suthiphand Chirathivat, Executive Director, ASEAN Studies Center, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Dr Sineenat Sermcheep, Director of Research Affairs, ASEAN Studies Center, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Dr Shwe Hein, Secretary, Thilawa SEZ Management Committee, Myanmar, Dr

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Dr Prabir De, Professor, RIS and Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS, New Delhi. Lt General J R Mukherjee, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd) and Vice President, Centre for Eastern and North Eastern Regional Studies, Kolkata (CENERS-K), Kolkata gave remarks. Participants argued that this sub-regional cooperation may yield larger benefits as a connector to almost all other regional cooperation along with individual member country benefit.

Prof. H S Vasudevan, Calcutta University, Kolkata chaired the fifth session on "Cultural Links: Past and Current State of Affairs" and the speakers were Prof. Suchandra Ghosh, Department of History, Calcutta University, Kolkata and Dr Binoda Mishra, Director, Centre for Studies in International Relations and Development (CSIRD), Kolkata. The remarks were delivered by Dr Vinay Kumar Srivastava, Acting Director, MAKAIAS, Kolkata and Prof. Swapna Bhattacharya, Visiting Faculty, Department of Buddhist Studies, Calcutta University, Kolkata in this session. Participants suggested that

educational cooperation among the three countries such as faculty exchange programme, scholars exchange programme, etc., can promote mutual understanding in the Trilateral Cooperation.

Sixth session on "Trade and investment relations among India, Myanmar and Thailand" was chaired by Prof. Ajitava Raychaudhuri, Jadavpur University, Kolkata. The session panelists were Dr Sineenat Sermcheep, Associate Research Fellow, Indian Studies Center, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Dr Anupama D. Masali, Associate Research Fellow, Indian Studies Center, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Prof. Lawrence Surendra, Chairman and Professor, The Sustainability Platform, Bengaluru and Dr Dipankar Dey, Guest Faculty, Department of Business Management, Calcutta University and Former Dean, IBS Kolkata. The remarks were made by Prof. Arijita Dutta, Department of Economics, Calcutta University, Kolkata. Participants commented that the trilateral cooperation has im-

mense investment opportunities, whereas increased connectivity is the key to deeper integration with the ASEAN and South Asian countries. The workshop was aimed at facilitating an in-depth discussion on various aspects relating to the experiences of India, Myanmar and Thailand with respect to new initiatives and ideas, that would help formulate an actionable policy agenda for strengthening the Trilateral Cooperation. The workshop put forward various recommendations to facilitate the trilateral relationship towards a new direction.

Towards the end, Prof. Suthiphand Chirathivat, ASEAN Studies Center, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok and Dr Prabir De, Professor, RIS and Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS, New Delhi summed up the proceedings. Closing Remarks was given by Prof. J K Ray, National Professor, Kolkata. Finally, Vote of Thanks was delivered by Dr Arpita Basu Roy, Senior Fellow, CSIRD, Kolkata.■

ASEAN-India Forum on "Philippines and India: Strengthening ASEAN-India Partnership", 21 November 2017, Manila

To commemorate 25 years of ASEAN-India Partnership, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS in collaboration with ASEAN India Business Council, Asia Pacific Pathways to Pro-

gress Foundation, Inc., Philippines; Insperon, Philippines; New Era University, Philippines and Embassy of India, Manila, Philippines organised a ASEAN-India Forum on

Philippines and India: Strengthening ASEAN-India Partnership at Manila on 21 November 2017. Mr. James Manzanero, COO, Eagle

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Broadcasting Corporation gave the Welcome Remarks, Hon. Manuel Antonio J. Teehankee, Undersecretary for International Economic Relations, Department of Foreign Affairs, The Philippines made a Special Address, H.E. Ambassador Jaideep Mazumda, Ambassador of India to the Philippines delivered the Keynotes Address. Dr Carlos C. Tabunda, Director, ASEAN Studies Centre, New Era University (NEU) extended the Vote of Thanks.

The Forum was divided into four sessions to identify the challenges and way forward in



Group photo of the participants attended the ASEAN-India Forum on 21 November 2017, Manila.

strengthening India and Philippines relationship through exploring the Philippine's perspective on economic cooperation, political convergence and

strategic partnerships and how India's Act East Policy have gained the momentum; to explore the trade and connectivity aspects of ASEAN-India relations with particular focus on the Philippines; to endorse people-to-people links and cultural relations and a session on discussing the challenges to India-Philippines relations and highlight the way forward. Dr Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC at RIS and Dr Carlos Tabunda Jr., Director, ASEAN Studies Center, NEU extended the Vote of Thanks. ■



Group photo of the participants attended the ASEAN-India Forum on 21 November 2017, Manila.

Kolkata Roundtable on "ASEAN@50 and ASEAN-India@25", Calcutta University, 22 December 2017, Kolkata

To commemorate the 25 years of ASEAN-India Partnership and 50 years of ASEAN, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS in partner with Institute of Foreign Policy Studies (IFPS) of Calcutta University and Centre for Studies in International Relations and Development (CSIRD) organised a roundtable on "ASEAN@50 and ASEAN-India@25" at Calcutta Univer-



Participants of the ASEAN@50 and ASEAN-India@25 roundtable meeting

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-sity, Alipore Campus, Kolkata on 22 December 2017. Welcome Address was given by Prof. Shantanu Chakraborty, IFPS, Calcutta University. Opening Speech was given by Prof. Hari Vasudevan. Ambassador Sar-

bajit Chakravarti delivered the Special Address. Panellists in this roundtable were Mr Ambarish Dasgupta, Founder Director of Intueri Consulting, Lt Gen John Mukherjee; Dr Ishani Naskar, Professor, Rabindra

Bharti University, Kolkata; Maj. Gen Arun Roye, CNRES-K, Kolkata; and Dr Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC. Finally, Dr Binoda Mishra delivered the Vote of Thanks and summarised the roundtable. ■

Visit of ASEAN Journalist, 4 July 2017, RIS, New Delhi

A group of 20 journalists of ASEAN countries visited the AIC at RIS on 4 July 2017. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi gave Opening Remarks. Amb. Hardeep Singh Puri, Chairman, RIS presented an overview of the ASEAN-India strategic partnership and the changing dynamics of Indian foreign policy. Activities of the AIC were also briefed to the visiting journalists. Amb. Puri also answered



Group Photo, ASEAN Journalist with Amb. Hardeep Singh Puri

the questions raised by the visiting journalists. Vote of Thanks was given by Dr Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC. ■

ASEAN Diplomat Meet, 7th July 2017, RIS, New Delhi



Group Photo, ASEAN Diplomate with Amb. Hardeep Singh Puri and Amb. Suresh Reddy, ASEAN Mission to Jakarta.

ASEAN Diplomats visited the AIC at RIS on 7th July 2017. Amb. Hardeep Singh Puri, Chairman, RIS gave a presenta-

tion on the significance of ASEAN-India strategic partnership given the dynamic changes in geo-political scenario. ASEAN Diplomat had a fruitful interaction with Amb. Puri. Finally, Vote of Thanks was given by Dr Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC. ■

Visit of Delegation from Chulalongkorn University, Thailand to ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS, 11, August 2017, New Delhi

Young scholars and research team from ASEAN Studies Centre and India Studies Centre of Chulalongkorn University (CU) Bangkok visited the ASEAN-India Centre at RIS on August 2017. The delegation was headed by Dr Surat Horachai-kul, Director, Indian Studies Center, Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS Welcomed the Delegates and gave Opening Remarks. His Excellency Mr. Chutintorn Gongsakdi, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thai-



Delegates from Chulalongkorn University with Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi.

land to India gave Special Remarks. Dr Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC gave presentation on India-Thailand Relation-

ship. Followed by young scholars, Delegates and RIS faculty members had exchanged views on India-Thailand relations. ■

The ASEAN Quiz, 1 September 2017, New Delhi



ASEAN Delegates and Grand Finale Contestants.

The Royal Thai Embassy, in collaboration with the ASEAN New Delhi Committee and the ASEAN-India Centre at RIS, organized 'The ASEAN Quiz' on 1st September 2017 at Arya Auditorium, New Delhi. The event marked the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of ASEAN and the 25th anniversary of ASEAN-

India Dialogue Relations and aimed to spread awareness of ASEAN and its achievements among the Indian public especially Indian youths, leading to greater understanding of the organization and its Member States, their peoples and their interactions with India over the last 25 years. A total 150 teams from various schools

and colleges across Delhi NCR participated in the Quiz, which was focused on ASEAN.

His Excellency Mr. Chutintorn Gongsakdi, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand to India and current Chair of ASEAN, New Delhi Committee, gave a keynote address before the Grand Finale. A special vote of

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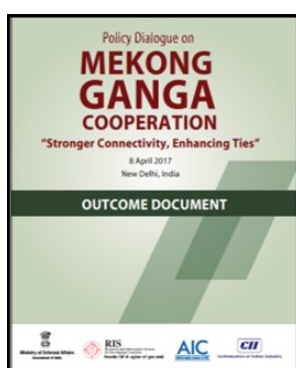
thanks was presented by Mr. bassy, who thanked the Quiz a huge success. Dr. Apirat Sugondhabhirom, Minister & Deputy Chief of Mission of the Royal Thai Embassy, New Delhi, thanked the Quiz a huge success. Dr. Durairaj Kumarasamy from ASEAN New Delhi Committee, AIC attended the programme. ■

Publications



India - Myanmar - Thailand Trilateral Cooperation (IMT-TC): Way towards a Stronger ASEAN - India Partnership

AIC - RIS published the Outcome Document of the event “Joint International Workshop on India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Relations”, held on 6-7 September, 2017, Kolkata. The report titled as “India - Myanmar - Thailand Trilateral Cooperation (IMT-TC): Way towards a Stronger ASEAN - India Partnership”. The Report summarise the two days conference, which covers trade, investment and skill development, connectivity, cultural cooperation, cooperation in educational sector, institutional cooperation and security cooperation etc. The Report also put the recommendations that are made in the workshop. The Report is a valuable reference for policymakers, academics and practitioners. ■



Outcome Document of “Policy Dialogue on Mekong Ganga Cooperation: Stronger Connectivity, Enhancing Ties”

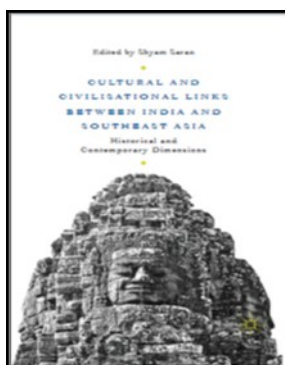
The Outcome Document comprises all the areas like physical and digital connectivity; trade and investment and value chains; cultural relations and people-to-people context and harnessing the diversity that were discussed in the Policy Dialogue Conference of Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC), entitled ‘Stronger Connectivity and Enhancing Ties’ at New Delhi on 8 April 2017. The conference recommendation presented in the Outcome Document will be useful for policy makers, academicians, practitioners and stakeholders involved in the MGC process. ■



Myanmar's Integration with the World: Challenges and Policy Options, Edited by Prabir De and Ajitava Raychaudhuri, Palgrave Macmillan, New Delhi

This book comprehensively investigates the challenges to Myanmar's access to the global market. Myanmar is a late entrant in the global trade and investment scenario after years of isolation. However, it has large untapped potentials for trade and investment in minerals, agro and forest based industries, other labour intensive industries, services like tourism, IT, etc. The book explores the implication of democratic transition of Myanmar, the progress of Myanmar's industry and infrastructure, its international linkages and feasible options for integrating more in regional economic groups and also analyses how far Myanmar could exploit the global value chain. ■

Forthcoming Publications



Cultural and Civilisational Links between India and Southeast Asia: Historical and Contemporary Dimensions, Edited by Amb. Shyam Saran, Palgrave Macmillan, New Delhi

The book presents the results of the study undertaken by the ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) on India's cultural links with Southeast Asia, with particular reference to historical and contemporary dimensions. It traces ancient trade and maritime links, Chola Empire and Southeast Asia, religious exchanges (the Hindu, Buddhist and Islamic heritage), language, scripts and folklore, performing arts, painting and sculpture, architecture, role of the Indian Diaspora, contemporary cultural interaction, etc. ■

Online Course on "Non-Tariff Measures (NTM) and the Data Collection 2017" VI-UNCTAD, 10 July – 27 August 2017

Dr Durairaj Kumarasamy, Consultant, AIC at RIS completed the online course on "Non-Tariff Measures (NTM) and the data collection 2017", 10 July 2017 to 27 August 2017. The Online Course was developed by the Virtual Institute and the Trade Analysis Branch (TAB) of UNCTAD's Division on International Trade in Goods and Services and Commodities, and funded by the Government of Finland. The topics and techniques covered in this course are currently an active research area in economics. The online course on economic analysis of non-tariff measures aims to provide researchers and practitioners involved in trade policy research with the necessary conceptual understanding and empirical tools to assess the impact of NTMs on trade flows and welfare. Such impact assessment of different NTMs is an indispensable prerequisite for the formulation of a consistent and pro-sustainable-development trade policy. In the third edition of this online course 83 academics and government officials from 47 countries were successfully completed the course.

Research Projects: Ongoing

Assessing Impacts of Economic Corridors	The study develops an economic geography model to be tested with sub-national data, and assesses the impact of economic (transport) corridors in India with special reference to Indian states in terms of growth. Four important corridors, connecting India with eastern neighbours, have been selected, namely, (i) BCIM-Economic Corridor, (ii) East-West Corridor (part of Golden Quadrilateral project), (iii) Trilateral Highway, and (iv) Kalandan multimodal transit transport project.
Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) in ASEAN-India Trade	The study analyses the NTMs faced by India in ASEAN and ASEAN in India in select products. Out of 16 NTMs, it considers the major ones, namely, SPS and TBT. The study is based on both primary and secondary data.
Emerging Production Networks between India and ASEAN	This study explores the possibilities to build cross-border networks within those industries on which the India has manufacturing capacities and complementarities that match with the demand or supply capacity of ASEAN and vice versa. Besides, this study also makes an attempt to identify the challenges in building the production networks. In particular, the study identifies the gaps in connectivity and trade facilitation in promoting the production networks between ASEAN and India, and provides the possible remedies.

Forthcoming Major Events (January to June 2018) - Dates for your Diary

- ◆ 5th Roundtable of ASEAN-Indian Network of Think-Tanks, 6-7 January 2018, Kuala Lumpur
- ◆ ASEAN India @ 25 : Retrospection and Way Ahead, 12 January 2018, New Delhi
- ◆ Workshop on “Understanding the Digital Economy: What is it and How is it Transforming Asia”, Jointly with Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), 21-22 February 2018, New Delhi
- ◆ Third EAS Conference on Maritime Security and Cooperation, April 2018

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

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 Honourable External Affairs Minister of the Government of India on 21 June 2013. 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 both the ASEAN Divisions of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to undertake and disseminate policy research and provide analytical policy recommendations. For more information please visit <http://aic.ris.org.in>



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