

ASEAN India Centre NEWSLETTER



RIS
Research and Information System
for Developing Countries

AIC
ASEAN-India Centre at RIS

Vol.6, No.1, January – June, 2020

Major Events

Fourth EAS Conference on Maritime Security and Cooperation Chennai, 6-7 February 2020



Group photo of Delegates (L to R): Vice-Admiral Pradeep Chauhan, Director General, NMF; Mr. Will Nankervis, Assistant Secretary, Indo-Pacific Strategy and Regional Maritime Branch, Australian Government; Mr. Vikram Doraiswami, Additional Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs; Ambassador Foster Gultom, Head of Delegation, Indonesia and Admiral Sunil Lanba, Chairman, NMF.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India in partnership with the Australian Government; Government of the Republic of Indonesia, and, with its knowledge partners, the National Maritime Foundation (NMF), and the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), organised the Fourth EAS Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation on 6 and 7 February 2020 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. Vice-Admiral Pradeep Chauhan, Director General, National Maritime Foundation (NMF), New Delhi, delivered the Welcome Remarks. Key-note Address was delivered by Mr. Vikram Doraiswami,

Additional Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India. Special Remarks were delivered by Admiral Sunil Lanba (Retd.), Chairman, National Maritime Foundation (NMF). Mr. Will Nankervis, Assistant Secretary, Indo-Pacific Strategy and Regional Maritime Branch, Australian Government, and Ambassador Foster Gultom, Head of Delegation, Government of the Republic of Indonesia, also delivered Opening Remarks. The EAS participating countries were represented by officials and experts, and over 100 participants attended two-day conference.

The conference was divided into five key sessions, each aimed at facilitating an in-depth discussion on the various aspects relating to maritime security cooperation. The five sessions were (i) Holistic Maritime Security; (ii) Maritime Safety; (iii) Transition to a Regional Blue Economy; (iv) Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI); and (v) Way Forward.

The first session discussed issues related to threats, challenges and opportunities relating to and emanating from the maritime domain, and, collaborative holistic maritime security. The session was

Continued on page 2



Group Photo of 4th EAS Conference, 6 February 2020, Chennai.

chaired by the Admiral Sunil Lanba (Retd.), Chairman, NMF. The panelists of the session were Vice-Admiral Pradeep Chauhan, Director General, NMF, New Delhi, India; Dr Jade Lindley, University of Western Australia Law School, Australia; Dr. To Anh Tuan, Deputy Director-General, East Sea (South China Sea) Institute, Diplomatic Academy of Viet Nam, Ha Noi, Viet Nam; and Mr. Oleg N. Avdeev, Consul General of the Russian Federation to South India. Speaker highlighted that the domain of maritime security is much larger than military security of the region, and includes both traditional and non-traditional threats, climate change, disaster management and risk mitigation, marine pollution, blue economy, and food security, to name a few. The importance of following a rules-based international order and role of ASEAN centrality were highlighted. Speaker of the session argued that security issues within the maritime domain need to be referenced towards 'common interests and risks', which could lead to convergence rather than concentrating only upon 'threats', which

would lead to a more divergent approach.

The second session, which was on Maritime Safety, discussed issues relating to the safety of human life at sea, both within close-coastal littoral areas as well as the mid-sea areas, and explored viable means of cooperation to enhance maritime safety. The session was chaired by Commodore Sheshadri Vasam (Retd.), Regional Director, National Maritime Foundation (Tamil Nadu Chapter). Rear Admiral Dalbir S Gujral, Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (CSNCO), India; Mr. Masaru Harada, Director, Regional Cooperation Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan; Mr. Tim Sheppard, Counsellor, Australian Border Force; and Captain (N) Arif Badrudin, Vice Head of IMIC & Senior Staff Officer for Operation Strategic, Indonesian Navy were the panelists of the session. The participants of this session identified following aspects important in enhancing maritime safety cooperation: maintenance of peace and stability and security on and over the seas; freedom of navigation and overflight, and, other internationally lawful uses

of the seas and airspace; and the protection and preservation of marine resources, especially a sustainable and responsible fisheries regime.

Participants of Session III presented their respective national perspectives on sustainable development with a focus on their national economy. Ambassador Foster Gultom, Head of Delegation, the Government of the Republic of Indonesia, chaired the session. The speakers of the session were Captain Sarabjeet S Parmar, Executive Director, NMF, New Delhi; Mr. John Southwell, Counsellor (Agriculture), Australian High Commission in New Delhi; Mr. Noy Choumneah, Director of APT and EAS Department of the General Department of ASEAN, Cambodia; and Mr. Kajita Takuma, Counsellor, Embassy of Japan in New Delhi. The participants highlighted that of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2030, Goal (SDG) 14, dealing with conserving and

Continued on page 3

sustainably using the oceans, seas and marine resources' for the larger benefit of humankind, was a high priority item, which needed deeper regional and global attention. The concept of 'Mother Ocean' emerged in the session and was widely appreciated.

Session IV discussed the broad tenets of the IPOI and focussed upon the various dimensions of this initiative. The session was moderated by Vice-Admiral Pradeep Chauhan (Retd.), Director General, NMF, New Delhi. Participants argued that the concept of the Indo-Pacific was not driven by any specific country and could be viewed as a concept in the best interest of the region and all countries within the region. A few participants emphasised aspects requir-

ing discussion to arrive at a commonly accepted definition of the term Indo-Pacific, including rules-based international order and highlighted the need for jointly working together to seek common solutions to common risks.

The fifth and the last session on the Way Forward reviewed the previous EAS conferences on Maritime Security Cooperation and summarised the discussions of the current conference, the salient aspects of which could be used to form an action plan. This action plan could be used by the EAS participating countries in enhancing maritime safety, security, and good order at sea, throughout the EAS region, through proactive regional

cooperation amongst the EAS participating countries. The session was co-chaired by Mr. Vikram Doraiswami, Additional Secretary, MEA; Ambassador Foster Gultom, Government of the Republic of Indonesia; and, Mr. Will Nankervis, Assistant Secretary, Indo-Pacific Strategy and Regional Maritime Branch, Australian Government.

At the end, Ambassador Mohan Kumar, Chairman, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi delivered the Valedictory Address. Vote of Thanks was extended by Dr Prabir De, Professor and Head, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC), RIS, New Delhi. ■

Webinar on COVID-19 Challenges and Way Forward, 12 May 2020

AIC **RIS** **AINTT** **Webinar** **ASIAN CONFLUENCE**

ASEAN-India: Coping with COVID-19 Challenges & Way Forward

Brunei Dr. Amin Abdul Aziz Senior Professor Institute of Policy Studies Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD)	Cambodia H.E. Amb. Pou Sothirak Executive Director Cambodia Institute of Cooperation & Peace (CICP)	Indonesia Dr. Yose Rizal Damuri Professor and Head Centre for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS)	Lao PDR Dr. Phouphet Kyophilavong Associate Professor National University of Laos (NUL)	Malaysia Dr. Shankaran Nambiar Senior Research Fellow Myanmar Institute of Economic Research (MIER)	Myanmar Dr. Tin Htoo Naing Vice chairman Myanmar Economic Association (MEA)	The Philippines Dr. Carlos Tabunda Jr. Director ASEAN Studies Centre New Era University (INEU)
Singapore Dr. Jayant Menon Visiting Senior Fellow Institute of South East Asian Studies (ISEAS)	Thailand Dr. Suthiphand Chirathivat Professor Emeritus Chulalongkorn University	Viet Nam Dr. Nguyen Huy Hoang Assoc. Professor Institute of South East Asian Studies (ISEAS), Vietnam Academy of Social Science (VASS)	Moderated by Dr. Mohan Kumar Chairman, RIS	Opening Remarks by Dr. Prabir De Head, AIC	Welcome by Mr. Sabyasachi Dutta Executive Director Asian Confluence	

For participation register at:
https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_9Mftc8_6SaKPi4M6kQ5Vka

12 May, 2020 || 1:30-3:30 PM
Indian Standard Time

@AsianConfluence
@AIC_aseanindia

The ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS jointly with the Asian Confluence organised a webinar on ASEAN-India: Coping with COVID-19 Challenges and Way Forward on 12 May 2020.

Opening Address was delivered by Dr Prabir De, Head, AIC at RIS. Dr Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS chaired the Webinar. The distinguished panelists of the webinar were Amin Abdul

Aziz, Senior Professor, Consultant Professor (ILIA), Institute of Policy Studies, Universiti Brunei Darussalam, Brunei Darussalam; Amb. POU Sothirak, Executive Director, Cambodian

Institute for Cooperation and Peace Cambodia (CICP), Cambodia; Dr. Rizal Darmuri, Head of the Department of Economics, Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Indonesia; Dr. Tin Htoo Naing, Vice-Chairman, Myanmar Economic Association; Shankaran Nambiar, Senior Research Fellow, Malaysian Institute of Economic Research, Malaysia; Dr. Phou-

phet Kyophilavong, Associate Professor, National University Laos (NUL); Dr. Carlos Tabunda, Jr. Director, NEU-ASEAN Studies Center (NEU-ASC), Philippines; Dr. Jay Menon, Visiting Senior Fellow, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), Singapore; Dr. Suthiphand Chirathivat, Professor Emeritus, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand; and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nguyen Huy

Hoang, Deputy Director, ISEAS, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS), Vietnam. The panelists of the ASEAN countries presented their country responses towards COVID-19 and recommendations for India-ASEAN collaboration to tackle the pandemic. Mr Sabyasachi Dutta, Executive Directive, Asian Confluence extended the Vote of Thanks. ■

Webinar on ASEAN-India Trade and Value Chains in Post COVID-19, 22 May 2020

Webinar
ASEAN-India Trade and Value Chains in COVID-19 Era

PANELLISTS

- Dr. Arpita Mukherjee, Professor, ICRIER, New Delhi
- Mr. Johnny Chotrani, COO, Weststar Group & Country Chair, AIBC, Manila
- Dr. Ananta Batra, Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
- Dr. Chayodom Sabhasri, Associate Professor, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok
- Mr. Indronil Sengupta, Co-founder and CEO, Invesify Ltd., Country Chair, AIBC, Hanoi
- Dr. Siddhartha Roy, CEO, SR Associates, and Former Chief Economist, Tata Sons, Mumbai

Special Address by Dato' Ramesh Kodamall, Co-Chairman, ASEAN-India Business Council (AIBC), Kuala Lumpur

Moderated by Dr. Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS, New Delhi

Lead Presentation by Dr. Prabir De, Head, Asian India Center, RIS, New Delhi

Welcome by Dr. Durairaj Kumarasamy, AIC at RIS, New Delhi

Mr. Sabyasachi Dutta, Executive Director, Asian Confluence

For participation register at: <https://forms.gle/gD8H5o1nAihxKmNz9>

22 May, 2020 || 3:00 - 4:30 PM
 Indian Standard Time

AsianConfluence @AIC_aseanindia

lal University, New Delhi; Dr. Chayodom Sabhasri, Associate Professor, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok; Mr. Indronil Sengupta, Co-founder and CEO, Invesify Ltd., Country Chair, AIBC, Hanoi; and Dr. Siddhartha Roy, CEO, SR Associates, and Former Chief Economist, Tata Sons, Mumbai. Panelists argued that MSME, manufacturing, tourism and service sectors faced the hardest hit of COVID-19. Stronger regional cooperation is much need post COVID situation to enhance trade and regional value chain between India and ASEAN. Important recommendations and way forward were also shared by the panelists. Mr Sabyasachi Dutta, Executive Directive, Asian Confluence extended the Vote of Thanks at the end. ■

The ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS and Asian Confluence jointly organised the webinar on ASEAN-India Trade and Value Chains in Post COVID-19 on 22 May 2020. Welcome Address was given by Mr Sabyasachi Dutta, Executive Directive, Asian Confluence. Dr Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS, New Delhi moderated the webinar. Dato' Ramesh Kodamall, Co-Chairman, ASEAN-India

Council (AIBC), Kuala Lumpur delivered the Special Address. The lead presentation was made by Dr. Prabir De, Head, AIC at RIS, New Delhi and Dr Durairaj Kumarasamy, AIC at RIS, New Delhi. The distinguished panelists were Dr. Arpita Mukherjee, Professor, ICRIER, New Delhi; Mr. Johnny Chotrani, COO, Weststar Group & Country Chair, AIBC, Manila; Dr. Amita Batra, Professor, Jawahar-

Webinar on 20 Years of Mekong-Ganga Cooperation, 28 May 2020

20 Years of Mekong-Ganga Cooperation MGC

CHAIR
Amb. Gautam Mukhopadhyay
Senior Visiting Fellow,
Centre for Policy Research (CPR),
New Delhi

LEAD PRESENTATION
Dr. Prabir De
Professor & Head, ASEAN-
India Center (AIC), RIS
New Delhi

PANELLISTS

Mr. Madhuriya Dutta
Director, Trade &
Investment Facilitation,
Mekong Institute (MI),
Khon Kaen, Thailand

Dr. Xaybandith Rasapol
Deputy, Lao National
Chamber of Commerce &
Industry (LNCCI), Vientiane,
Lao PDR

Mr. Thuta Aung
Executive Chairman,
Mandalay Forum for
East Asian Studies,
Yangon, Myanmar

WELCOME BY
Mr. Sabyasachi Dutta
Executive Director,
Asian Confluence,
India

Dr. Saphana Srichampa
Chair, Centre for Bharat
Studies (CBS), Mahidol
University, Bangkok
Thailand

Dr. Vo Thi Minh Le
Deputy Head, Department
for GMS Studies, Vietnam
Academy of Social Sciences
(VASS), Ha Noi
Vietnam

For participation, register at:
<https://forms.gle/EiDEKUmXrHGstg7>

The ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) and Asian Confluence jointly organised the webinar on 20 Years of Mekong-Ganga Cooperation on 28th May 2020. Welcome Address was given by Mr Sabyasachi Dutta, Executive Directive, Asian Confluence and Amb. Gautam Mukhopadhyay, Senior Visiting Fellow, Centre for Policy Research (CPR), New Del-

hi chaired the webinar. The lead presentation was made by Dr. Prabir De, Head, AIC at RIS, Delhi. The distinguished panelists were Mr. Madhuriya Dutta, Director, Trade & Investment Facilitation, Mekong Institute (MI), Kjon Kaen, Thailand; Dr. Xaybandith Rasapol, Director, Lao National Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LNCCI), Vietiane,

Lao PDR; Mr. Thuta Aung, Executive Chairman, Mandalay Forum for East Asian Studies, Myanmar; Dr. Saphana Srichampa, Chair, Centre for Bharat Studies (CBS), Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand; and Dr Vo Thi Minh Leis, Deputy Head, Department for GMS Studies, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS), Ha Noi, Vietnam. Panelists argued that more active cooperation among MGC countries is required to deal with current and post COVID situation. Embassy of India, Yangon and Prof. Amarjiva Lochan also participated in the discussion and presented their views on MGC. Mr Sabyasachi Dutta, Executive Directive, Asian Confluence extended the Vote of Thanks at the end. ■

Webinar on Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on the World Order and the Security Situation in the Indo-Pacific, 12 June 2020

The National Maritime Foundation (NMF) and ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) jointly organised a webinar on Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on the World Order and the Security Situation in the Indo-Pacific on 12 June 2020. Ambassador. P.S. Raghavan delivered the Keynote Address and Vice Admiral Pradeep Chauhan moderated the session. The distinguished panellists were Prof. David Brewster, Australia National University (ANU), Canber-

Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on the World Order and the Security Situation in the Indo-Pacific

Moderator
Vice Admiral Pradeep Chauhan
AVSM & Bar, VSM, IN (Retd.)
Director-General
National Maritime Foundation (NMF)

Keynote Address by
Ambassador P.S. Raghavan
Chairman, National Security Advisory Board (NSAB)
and Former Secretary,
Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)

Speakers

Prof. David Brewster
Australia National University (ANU)
Canberra

Prof. Takemasa Horimoto
Osaka National University (ONU)
Tokyo

Captain Sanjaypraj Singh Parmar
Executive Director
National Maritime Foundation (NMF)
New Delhi

Dr. Ewan A. Lukinana
Senior Researcher
Centre for Strategic and
International Studies (CSIS)
Ottawa

Ms. Niharithi Samarathayaka
Research Programme Director
Centre for Naval Analysis (CNA)
Washington DC

Dr. Prabir De
Professor and Head
ASEAN India Centre (AIC), RIS
New Delhi

For participation register at:
<https://forms.gle/RYNWrqjwqjvC18tMXB>

Friday, 12 June 2020
8.30 am to 10.00 am Indian Standard Time

NMF: @nmfindia
AIC: @AIC_aseanindia
Website: maritimeindia.org • aic.ris.org.in

Continued from page 5

Dr. Evan A Laksmanna, and Captain Sarabjeet Singh Senior Research, Centre for Parmar, Executive Director, Strategic and International National Maritime Foundation Studies (CSIS), Jakarta; Prof. (NMF), New Delhi. The dis-Takenori Horimoto, Gifu cussion comprehensively co-Women's University (GWU), vers different dimensions of Tokyo; Ms. Nilanthi Samara- global order, security situation nayake, Research Programme in the Indo-Pacific amid Covid Director, Centre for Naval -19. Panelists shared their con-Analyses (CNA), Arlington; structive ideas and way for-

ward for newer and deeper cooperation in Indo-Pacific. Ambassador Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS shared his perspective on newer opportunities in the Indo-Pacific. Dr Prabir De, AIC at RIS extended the Vote of Thanks at the end. ■

Webinar on One Decade of ASEAN-India FTA in Goods: Achievements and Way Forward, 29 June 2020

ASEAN STUDIES CENTER
CHULALONGKORN UNIVERSITY

asean india
PROGRESS & PROSPERITY

AIC
ASEAN-India Centre at RIS

ASIAN CONFLUENCE
EXPLORATION OF THE FUTURE SPACE

WEBINAR
29 June 2020 | 2 PM IST onwards

One Decade of ASEAN-India FTA in Goods : Achievements and Way Forward

OPENING ADDRESS
Dr. Mohan Kumar
Chairman, RIS,
New Delhi

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Mr Srinivas Gotru*
Joint Secretary (CCCS and IP Division)
Ministry of External Affairs (MEA),
New Delhi

VOTE OF THANKS
Mr. Sabyasachi Dutta
Director
Asian Confluence,
Shillong

SPECIAL ADDRESS
Amb. N Ravi
Formerly Secretary (East), MEA &
Advisor, Centre for Public Policy,
IIM Bangalore,
Bengaluru

Dr. Suthipand Chirathivat
Chairman, ASEAN Studies Center
Chulalongkorn University,
Bangkok

Dato' Ramesh Kodammal
Co-Chairman, AIBC,
Kuala Lumpur

PRESENTATION (INDIA)
Dr. Prabir De
ASEAN-India Centre (AIC), RIS,
New Delhi

PRESENTATION (ASEAN)
Dr. Piti Srisangnam
ASEAN Studies Center
Chulalongkorn University,
Bangkok

PANELISTS

Dr Rajan Sudesh Ratna
UNESCAP,
New Delhi

Dr Amita Batra
Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU)
New Delhi

Dr Rupa Chanda
IIM Bangalore,
Bengaluru

Dr Masudur Rahman
The University of Waikato,
Hamilton

Mr Pranav Kumar
Confederation of Indian Industry (CII),
New Delhi

Dr. Surendar Singh
EEPC India,
New Delhi

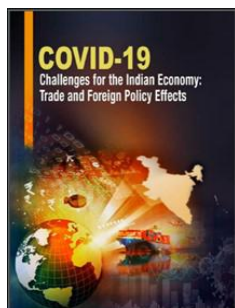
Read
"A Decade and More of the India - ASEAN FTA" by Amb. N Ravi,
available at <http://aisc.ics.org.in/aisc-documentary>

Register at :
<https://forms.gle/QRZqwnxbmqjtp48S?>

Opening Address and chaired the webinar. Special Address was given by Prof. Suthipand Chirathivat, Chairman, ASC, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok and Dato' Romesh Kodamal, Co-chair, ASEAN-India Business Council (AIBC), Kuala Lumpur. Dr. Prabir De and his team and Dr Piti Srisangnam, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok made the lead presentations. The distinguished panelists were Dr. Rajan Ratna, UN-ESCAP SSWA, New Delhi; Prof. Amita Batra, JNU, New Delhi; Mr. Pranav Kumar, CII, New Delhi; Prof. Rupa Chanda, IIMB, Bengaluru; Dr. Masudur Rahman, University of Waikato, Hamilton; Dr. Surendar Nanda, EEPC India, New Delhi, speakers shared a constructive ideas and way forward to strengthen trade, investment and regional value chain between India and ASEAN. Mr Sabyasachi Dutta, Director, Asian Confluence extended the Vote of Thanks. ■

The ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS jointly with ASEAN Studies Centre (ASC) at Chulalongkorn University and Asian Confluence organised the webinar on One Decade of ASEAN-India FTA in Goods: Achievements and Way Forward on 29 June 2020. Welcome Address was given by Dr Prabir De, AIC at RIS. Dr Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS delivered the

AIC Publications (January – June 2020)



COVID-19: Challenges for the Indian Economy - Trade and Foreign Policy Effects, ASEAN India Centre at RIS, New Delhi and EEPIC India, 2020

The report covers three important issues: first, what is the magnitude of the impact the COVID-19 crisis on Indian economy – is it shallow or deep, and the scope to rebound, particularly India's export; second, India's immediate challenges in managing the recovery; and third, the long-term structural challenges of Indian economy. Each chapter of this report has outlined key recommendations to navigating through the present crisis and the policy responses. The report suggests that a comprehensive strategy addressing the impact of the current crisis may put the Indian economy back on the sustained growth path and strengthen the coun-



ACMECS - MGC Linkages and India as Development Partner: Potential Areas of Cooperation, AIC Working Paper No. 1, January 2020 by Prabir De, Durairaj Kumarasamy and Sreya Pan

This article has investigated the linkages between ACMECS and MGC, identifies the complementarities between ACMECS and MGC Plan of Actions (POA) and discusses the potential areas of cooperation.



ASEAN-India Energy Cooperation: Current Status and Future Scope of Cooperation, AIC Working Paper No. 2, March 2020 by Prabir De and Durairaj Kumarasamy

The article attempts to examine current status of energy cooperation between ASEAN and India and discusses the future scope in energy cooperation between them. It also presents a set of policy recommendations in order to achieve energy security between ASEAN and India.



Journal of Asian Economic Integration, Vol.2, No.1, April 2020

- ◆ Export Sophistication and Trade Elasticities
- ◆ Integration in Manufacturing Trade in Asia: A Cross-country Scenario with Special Reference to India
- ◆ Political Economy of ASEAN Open Skies Policy: Business Preferences, Competition and Commitment to Economic Integration
- ◆ E-commerce and Digital Connectivity: Unleashing the Potential for Greater India-ASEAN Integration
- ◆ Energy Market Integration in Northeast Region of India: Efficiencies, Vulnerabilities and Strategic Implications for Asia
- ◆ Why CBA and NIMBY Syndrome Are Important Challenges to China's BRI?

Research Publications (January – June, 2020)

- De, Prabir (2020) *Act East to Act Indo Pacific: India's Expanding Footprints*, Knowledge World, New Delhi
- Raihan, Selim and Prabir De (eds.) (2020) *Trade and Regional Integration in South Asia: A Tribute to Saman Kelegama*, Springer Nature, Singapore
- De, Prabir (2020) "Bay of Bengal Integration: The New Agenda" in S. Raihan and P. De (eds.) *Trade and Regional Integration in South Asia: A Tribute to Saman Kelegama*, Springer Nature, Singapore
- De, Prabir (ed.) (2020) *Twenty Years of BIMSTEC: Promoting Regional Cooperation and Integration in the Bay of Bengal Region*, Routledge India, New Delhi - Reprint
- De, Prabir (2020) "Indo-Pacific Initiative: Some Preliminary Thoughts", *Journal of Indian Ocean Studies*, Vol. 26, No. 2

AIC Commentary Series



No. 1, January 2020

A Decade and More of the India - ASEAN FTA by N Ravi

This article discusses the trends of ASEAN-India trade in the context of before and after ASEAN-India FTA and analyses how has India fared on the ASEAN trade front for the last two decades. The article also suggests the steps to promote trade between India and ASEAN.



No. 2, February 2020

E-commerce and Digital Connectivity: Unleashing the Potential for Greater India-ASEAN Integration by Shouvik Kishore Majumdar, Angana Parashar Sharma and Srishti Majumdar

This article outlines the policies and initiatives on digital connectivity and e-commerce in ASEAN and India. It covers the international and regional agreements that are engaged by these nations. It also discusses the challenges in e-commerce and digital connectivity, and presents recommendations to strengthen India-ASEAN e-commerce platform.



No. 3, March 2020

Two Decades of Mekong-Ganga Cooperation: Odyssey of Friendship and Prosperity by Rajeev Ranjan Chaturvedy

The Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) has completed two decades of establishment. This article reviews the achievements and identifies the opportunities in the third decade. It presents a detailed discussion on the progress achieved and the next course of actions.



No. 4, April 2020

The Spectre of Covid-19 on ASEAN: Effect and Response by Kingsuk Saha and Rajeev Ranjan Chaturvedy

The Covid-19 has caused devastating effects on human health and massive economic disruption. This article discusses the steps taken by the ASEAN countries to fight against the pandemic and the economic and strategic policies in the changing scenario of world order.



No. 5, May 2020

ASEAN-India Cooperation in Handling Corona Pandemic by Vijay Sakhuja

ASEAN and India are fighting against the Covid-19 pandemic that transcends regional boundaries and across the globe. This article discusses six major reasons for the need of greater ASEAN-India cooperation and presents a list of recommendations to address the Covid-19 pandemic.



No. 6, June 2020

ASEAN-India Response to Covid-19: A Silver Lining Amidst the Health Crisis by Prabir De, Durairaj Kumarasamy and Sreya Pan

ASEAN and India have been facing similar challenges and risks in this Covid era. This article briefly covers the common challenges and India's engagements in ASEAN countries in response to Covid-19. It also discusses possible cooperation strategy to cope up with the emerging scenario.

Forthcoming Events

- ◆ 6th ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks (AINTT), 20-21 August 2020 (Through Video-Conference)
- ◆ International Conference on 20 years of Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC), October/November 2020 (Through Video-Conference)
- ◆ Delhi Dialogue XII, December 2020 (Through Video-Conference)

Webinar on COVID-19: South Asia's Response, 2 May 2020

ASIAN CONFLUENCE
ENVIRONMENT • TRADE • ECONOMY

A Global Webinar

COVID-19: South Asia's Response

Jointly organized with
AIC
BIRUNI INSTITUTE
LKI
SANEM
sawtee
SDPI

May 2, 2020 || 3:30-5:30 PM, IST

Speakers:
 Mr. Nazir Kabiri, Executive Director, Biruni Institute, Afghanistan
 Dr. Selim Raihan, Executive Director, SANEM, Bangladesh
 Amb. Dago Tshering, Former Ambassador of Bhutan to India, Bhutan
 Dr. Amita Batra, Professor, JNU, India
 Dr. Puspa Sharma, Executive Director, SAWTEE, Nepal

Moderated by:
 Dr. Vaqar Ahmed, Joint Executive Director, SDPI, Pakistan
 Dr. Ganeshan Wignaraja, Executive Director, LKI, Sri Lanka
 Amb. Rajiv. K. Bhatia, Distinguished Fellow, Gateway House, India

Special Remarks by:
 Dr. Prabir De, Head, ASEAN-India Center, RIS, India

Opening Remarks by:
 Mr. Sabyasachi Dutta, Executive Director, Asian Confluence, India

For participation, please fill up the Google Form to get the Zoom link:
<https://forms.gle/TWkZiELt6HGLDaGk8>

Asian Confluence
 Asian Confluence Programs
www.asianconfluence.org

@AsianConfluence
 #asconwebsiteseries

The ASEAN-India Centre for Policy Institute (SDPI), (AIC) jointly with Asian Confluence, BIRUNI Institute, Afghanistan; Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute (LKI), Sri Lanka; SANEM, Bangladesh, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Nepal and Sustainable Develop-

ment Policy Institute (SDPI), Pakistan organised the webinar on COVID-19: South Asia's Response on 2 May 2020. Opening Remarks was given by Mr Sabyasachi Dutta, Executive Director, Asian Confluence. Special Remarks was given by Dr. Prabir De, AIC at RIS, New Delhi. The Webinar was moderated by Amb. Rajiv. K. Bhatia, Distinguished Fellow, Gateway House, Mumbai. Eminent panelists were: Mr. Nazir Kabiri, Executive Director, Biruni Institute, Afghanistan; Dr. Selim Raihan, Executive Director, SANEM, Bangladesh; Amb. Dago Tshering, Former Ambassador of Bhutan to India, Bhutan; Dr. Amita Batra Professor, JNU, India; Dr. Puspa Sharma, Executive Director, SAWTEE, Nepal; Dr. Vaqar Ahmed, Joint Executive Director SDPI, Pakistan; Dr. Ganeshan Wignaraja Executive Director, LKI, Sri Lanka. Mr Sabyasachi Dutta, Director, Asian Confluence extended the Vote of Thanks. ■

Research Projects: Ongoing

<p>ERIA Study on Trilateral Highway</p>	<p>Trilateral Highway (TH) has the potential to become an economic corridor. At the same time, completion of TH assumes high significance for ASEAN-India cooperation. Chairman's Statement of ASEAN-India Summit, held at Singapore 2018, suggested to complete a study on how to make Trilateral Highway an economic corridor, and requested ERIA to conduct the study. AIC at RIS has been taken on-board by ERIA to do the India country study of the TH.</p>
<p>ASEAN-India Development and Cooperation Report 2020</p>	<p>India's engagement with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is at the heart of its Act East Policy. As a regional bloc, ASEAN has developed much faster than any of the other blocs in the Asia-Pacific. AIC at RIS has produced the first issue of the AIDCR in 2015. In last four years, ASEAN-India relations have went through several challenges. This is a time we analyse the new challenges and come out with possible responses and solutions. In this background Report on AIDCR 2020 will provide a comparative analysis of the global and regional economies; examine the impact and implications of India-ASEAN integration in view of emerging Indo-Pacific; assess policy priorities, effectiveness, implementation imperatives and challenges; and discuss themes central to the economic sustainability of the region, including public and foreign policy. The Report will be written with the help of both internal and external experts.</p>

Research Projects: Ongoing

<p>Emerging Production Networks between India and ASEAN</p>	<p>This study explores the possibilities to build cross-border networks within those industries on which 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.</p>
<p>Implications of ASEAN Economic Community 2025</p>	<p>The establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in 2015 is a major milestone in the regional economic integration agenda in ASEAN. The AEC Blueprint 2025, adopted by the ASEAN Leaders, is aimed towards achieving the vision of having an AEC by 2025 that is highly integrated and cohesive; competitive, innovative and dynamic; with enhanced connectivity and sectoral cooperation; and a more resilient, inclusive, and people-oriented, people-centred community, integrated with the global economy. ASEAN member states aim to complete the AEC by 2025. The implementation of AEC carries economic and strategic implications for India. This study being carried out with aim to analyse the economic implications of AEC for India with particular reference to regional connectivity.</p>

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 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 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://www.aic.ris.org.in>



Contact Us

ASEAN-India Centre (AIC)
 Research and Information System of Developing Countries (RIS)
 Zone-IV-B, Fourth Floor, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road,
 New Delhi - 110003, India,
 Tel. +91-11-24682177-80; Fax: +91-11-24682173-74
 E-mail: durairaj@ris.org.in
 Visit our website at: <http://aic.ris.org.in>

Editor: Dr. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC

Managing Editor: Dr. Durairaj Kumarasamy, AIC