

ASEAN India Centre NEWSLETTER



RIS
Research and Information System
for Developing Countries

AIC
ASEAN-India Centre at RIS

Vol.6, No.2, July – December, 2020

Major Events

6th Roundtable of the ASEAN-India Network for Think Tanks ASEAN-India: Strengthening Partnership in the Post-Covid Era, 20-21 August 2020



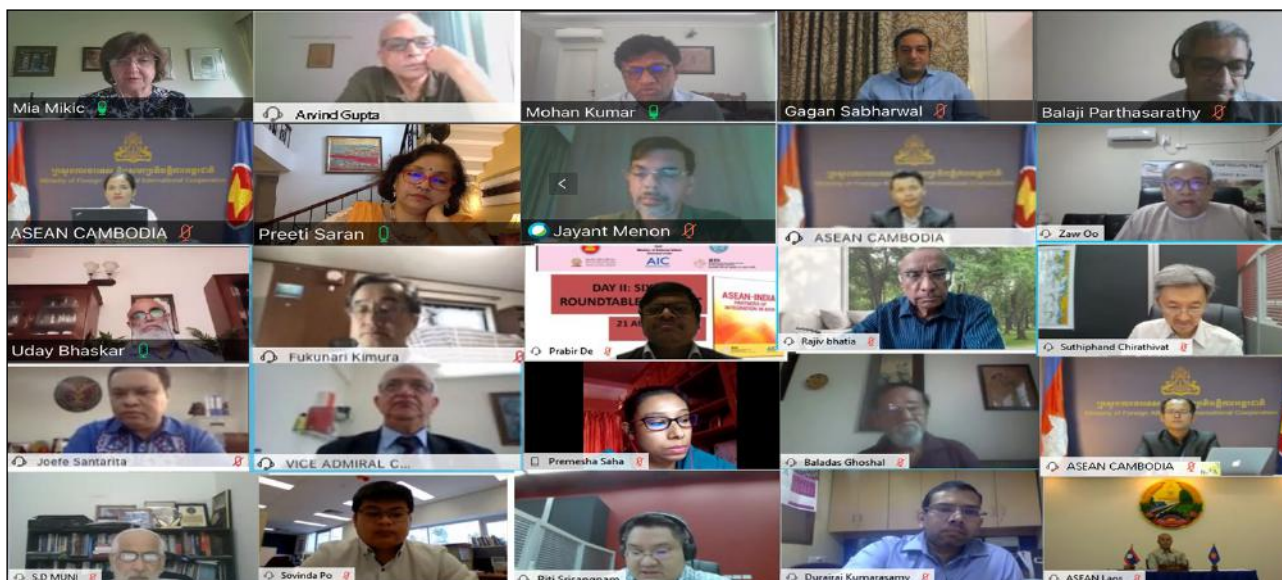
Left to Right: H.E. Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India; H.E. Mr. Don Pramudwinai, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, and H.E. Dato' Lim Jock Hoi, Secretary General, ASEAN Secretariat with other delegates participated in 6th roundtables of the AINTT, 20-21 August 2020.

The ASEAN-India Centre Roundtable was “ASEAN-India: Strengthening Partnership in the Post-Covid Era”. The Roundtable provided scope to experts and scholars from the ASEAN countries and India to exchange views and address the uncertainties due to Covid-19 and further strengthen the linkages in political, economic and socio-cultural areas between them. Leaders of ASEAN and India, namely, H.E. Don Pramudwinai, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Thai-

land; H.E. Dr S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India and H.E. Dato' Lim Jock Hoi, ASEAN Secretary General, delivered the Inaugural Address at this Roundtable, and released the 5th AINTT Proceedings titled “ASEAN-India: Partners of Integration in Asia”. Welcome Remarks was given by Dr. Mohan Kumar, Chairman, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi and Dr. Suthiphand Chirathivat, Chairman, ASEAN

land; H.E. Dr S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India and H.E. Dato' Lim Jock Hoi, ASEAN Secretary General, delivered the Inaugural Address at this Roundtable, and released the 5th AINTT Proceedings titled “ASEAN-India: Partners of Integration in Asia”. Welcome Remarks was given by Dr. Mohan Kumar, Chairman, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi and Dr. Suthiphand Chirathivat, Chairman, ASEAN

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Selected photos of the Delegates Participated in 6th roundtable of the AINTT, 20-21 August 2020

Studies Centre (ASC), Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok. Dr. Prabir De, Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS delivered the Vote of Thanks. More than 400 participants from academia, industry, government and diplomatic community attended the Roundtable through video conferencing.

The Roundtable was divided into five sections, each aimed at facilitating an in-depth discussion on the various aspects relating to the implications of Covid-19 pandemic and identifying the opportunities in the Post-Covid-19 by focused on discussing the changes in the global order; potential scope in the emerging value chains; the significance of Industrial Revolution 4.0 in the New Normal; complementarities and cooperation in the ASEAN Outlook of Indo-Pacific (AOIP) and India's Indo-Pacific Ocean Initiative (IPOI) and Way Forward in further strengthening the ASEAN-India relation in the Post-Covid-19.

Session I was on Changing landscape of global order and

ASEAN-India relations in the Post-Covid Era and chaired by Amb. Jayant Dasgupta, Member, Governing Council, RIS, New Delhi. The distinguished panelists were 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 South-east Asian Studies, Gauhati University, Guwahati and Prof. Lau Sim Yee, Reitaku University, Tokyo and Columnist, New Straits Times, Kuala Lumpur.

Session II was on Emerging Value Chains: Opportunities for ASEAN and India in the Post-Covid-19 Era and the session was chaired by Assist. Prof. Sineenat Sermcheep, Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok. Speakers of the session were 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; Dato' Ramesh Kodammal, Chairman of Goldtex Group of Companies, and Chairman, ASEAN-India Business Council (AIBC), Malaysia and Dr. Saon Ray, Senior Fellow, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), New Delhi.

New Normal and Significance of 4IR on ASEAN-India Partnership and Future Collaborations was the third Session and Dr. Mia Mikic, Director, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, United Nations ESCAP, Bangkok chaired the session. The panelists of the session were 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 and Prof.

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Balaji Parthasarathy, International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Bengaluru. Session IV was chaired by Dr Arvind Gupta, Director, Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF), New Delhi and the session was on ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific (AOIP) and Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI): Complementarities and Cooperation. The distinguished panelists of the session were 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, Ob-

server Research Foundation (ORF), New Delhi; Prof. Joefe B. Santarita, Dean, Asian Center, University of the Philippines Diliman and Dr. Evan A. Laksmiana, Senior Researcher, Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Indonesia.

Finally, the session on Way Forward was chaired by Dr Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS. The distinguished panelists of the session were 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 and Commodore C. Uday Bhaskar, Director, Society of Policy Studies (SPS), New Delhi.

In the Concluding Session, Dr. Suthipand Chirathivat, Chairman, ASEAN Studies Centre (ASC), Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok chaired the session and Vote of Thanks were extended by Assoc. Prof. Piti Srisangnam, Director of Academic Affairs, ASEAN Studies Center, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok and Dr. Durairaj Kumarasamy, AIC, RIS, New Delhi. ■

International Webinar on Twenty Years of Mekong-Ganga Cooperation, 5-6 November 2020

The ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS and Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) New Delhi jointly organised the international webinar to commemorate the Twenty Years of Mekong-Ganga Cooperation on 5-6 November 2020. In the Inaugural Session, Dr. T C A Raghavan, Director General, Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), New Delhi and Dr. Mohan Kumar, Chairman, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi delivered the Opening Remarks. Inaugural Address was delivered by Amb. Riva Ganguly Das, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), New Delhi.

The two-days event has covered five technical sessions. The first session was on Shared Culture and Heritage and was

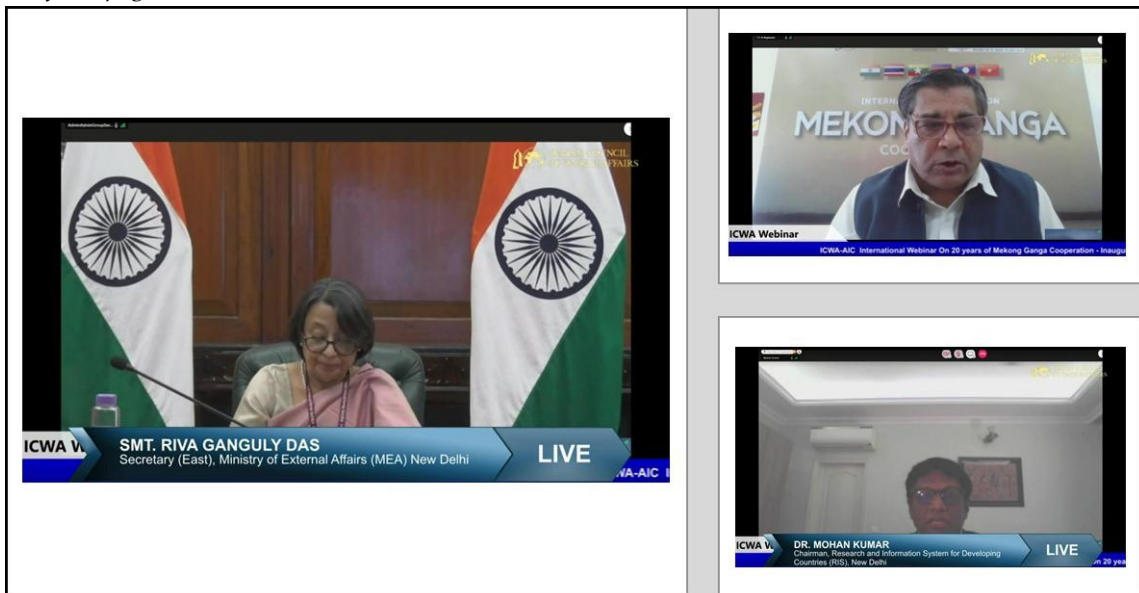


chaired by Dr Anirban Ganguly, Director, Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation (SPMRF), New Delhi. Distinguished panelists of the session were Prof. Parul Pandya Dhar, Associate Professor of South and Southeast Asian Art History, Department of History, Delhi University, Delhi; Dr. Sudha Gopalakrishnan, Director, Sahapedia, and Ms. Niharika Gupta, Head (Research), Sahapedia, New Delhi; Dr.

Sophana Srichampa, Chair, Centre for Bharat Studies (CBS), Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia (RILCA), Mahidol University, Thailand and Dr. Piyarat Soikham, Lecturer, Politics and International Relations, Ubon Ratchathani University, Thailand.

Amb. Sudhir Devre, Formerly Secretary, MEA and Director General, ICWA, New Delhi chaired the second session and

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Left to Right: Amb. Riva Ganguly Das, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), New Delhi; Dr. T C A Raghavan, Director General, ICWA, New Delhi and Dr. Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS, New Delhi addressing at the webinar.

it was on Economic Relations. The speakers of the session were Mr. Madhurjya Kumar Dutta, Director, Trade and Investment Facilitation Department, Mekong Institute (MI), Khon Kaen; Dr. Vo Thi Minh Le, Deputy Head, Department of GMS Studies, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS), Hanoi; Dr. Truong Quang Hoan, Researcher, Institute for Southeast Asian Studies, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS), Hanoi; Dr. Nilanjan Ghosh, Director, Observer Research Foundation (ORF), Kolkata; Mr. Pranav Kumar, Chief, International Trade Policy, and CLMV Business Unit, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), New Delhi and Dr. Temjenmeren Ao, Research Fellow, ICWA, New Delhi.

Session III was on New Economy and Sectoral Cooperation and was chaired by Amb. Rajiv Bhatia, Distinguished Fellow, Gateway House, Mumbai and Former Director General, ICWA, New Delhi. Mr. Alounkone Boulommavong, Deputy Director General, Institute of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of

Foreign Affairs of the Lao PDR, Vientiane; Dr. Huy Hoang Nguyen, Director, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS), Hanoi; Dr. Sunil Shukla, Director, Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), Ahmedabad; Dr. Reena Marwah, Delhi University, Delhi and Dr. Nomes Bolia, Professor and National Coordinator of ASEAN PhD Fellowship Programme, IIT Delhi, Delhi were the distinguish speakers of the session.

The fourth session was on People-to-People Contacts and Amb. Preeti Saran, Member, Governing Council, ICWA, New Delhi chaired the session. The panelists of the session were Dr. Vannarith Chheang, President, Asian Vision Institute (AVI), Phnom Penh; Dr. Vo Xuan Vinh, Vietnam Academy of Social Science (VASS), Hanoi; Dr. Surat Horachaikul, Director, India Studies Centre, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok; Dr. Shristi Pukhrem, Senior Research Fellow, India

Foundation, New Delhi and Dr. Rajeev Ranjan Chaturvedy, Former Visiting Fellow, RIS, New Delhi.

Session V was on Way Forward: Toward the Third Decade of MGC and was chaired by Dr. Sanjaya Baru, Member, Governing Council, ICWA, New Delhi. Dr. Myo Thant, Senior Advisor, Myanmar ISIS, Yangon, and Former Principal Economist, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Manila; Prof. Suthiphand Chirathivat, Chairman, ASEAN Studies Centre, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok; Dr. Nani Gopal Mahanta, Director, Centre for Southeast Asian Studies, Gauhati University, Guwahati; Prof. Nitya Nanda, Director, Council for Social Development (CSD), New Delhi and Dr. Prabir De, AIC at RIS, New Delhi were the speakers of the session.

The Closing Remarks and Vote of Thanks were made by Dr Nivedita Ray, Director (Research), ICWA, New Delhi and Dr Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC at RIS, New Delhi. ■

Webinar on Challenges and Prospects for Energy Connectivity in the Covid-19 Era, 24 July 2020

The ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS jointly with the Economic Research Institute of ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Jakarta; Energy Studies Institute, National University of Singapore, Singapore; and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) organised a webinar on “Challenges and Prospects for Energy Connectivity in the Covid-19 Era” on 24 July 2020. Panellists were from prominent think-tanks and universities of South Asia and Southeast Asian countries. About 40 participants attended, viewed the webinar discussion and took part in the Q&A session. Ambassador Mohan Kumar, Chairman, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) made the Opening Remarks. Special Remarks was extended by Mr Ghanshyam Prasad, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Power (MoP), Government of India, New Delhi. Remarks were given by Dr Philip Andrews-Speed, Senior Principal Fellow, Energy Studies Institute (ESI), National University of Singapore (NUS), Singapore and Dr Anbumozhi Venkatachalam, Senior Energy Economist, Economic Research Institute of ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Jakarta. Vote of Thanks was given by Dr Bhupendra Kumar Singh, Director and Head - Energy Security, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), New Delhi.

The webinar has covered two major sessions, which include examining key energy trends in

Webinar
Challenges and Prospects for Energy Connectivity in the Covid-19 Era
 Through Video-Conference

Inaugural Session
 Friday, 24 July, 2020 at **India** 10.00am (IST) **Indonesia** 11.30am (WIB) **Singapore** 12.30pm (SGT)

Dr Mohan Kumar
 Chairman, RIS
 New Delhi

Mr Srinivas Gotru
 Joint Secretary (IP Division)
 Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)
 Government of India
 New Delhi

Mr Ghanshyam Prasad
 Joint Secretary
 Ministry of Power (MoP)
 Government of India
 New Delhi

Dr Anbumozhi Venkatachalam
 Senior Energy Economist
 ERIA, Jakarta

Dr. Philip Andrews-Speed
 Senior Principal Fellow
 ESI-NUS
 Singapore

Dr Bhupendra K. Singh
 Director and Head-
 Energy Security, CII
 New Delhi

Session I: Examining Key Energy Trends in South and Southeast Asia
 Friday, 24 July, 2020 at **India** 10.45am (IST) **Indonesia** 12.15pm (WIB) **Singapore** 1.15pm (SGT)

Dr Rajib Kumar Mishra
 Director - Business
 Development and Marketing
 PTC India Ltd.
 New Delhi

Dr M Tamim
 Professor
 Bangladesh University of
 Engineering and
 Technology (BUET)
 Dhaka

Dr Philip Andrews-Speed
 Senior Principal Fellow
 ESI-NUS
 Singapore

Mr. K. S. Bandyopadhyay
 Chief General Manager
 NTPC Vidyut Vyapar
 Nigam Ltd. (NVVN)
 New Delhi

Mr Ashish Garg
 General Secretary
 Independent Power
 Producers' Association
 Nepal (IPPAN)
 Kathmandu

Mr. K K Majumdar
 Former General Manager
 Indian Oil Institute of
 Petroleum Management
 (IIPM)
 Gurugram

Session II: Challenges and Prospects for Energy Cooperation between India and Southeast Asia
 Friday, 24 July, 2020 at **India** 1.00pm (IST) **Indonesia** 2.30pm (WIB) **Singapore** 3.30pm (SGT)

Dr Christopher Len
 Senior Research Fellow
 Energy Studies Institute (ESI)
 National University of
 Singapore (NUS)
 Singapore

Dr P C Pant
 Former Advisor
 Ministry of New and
 Renewable Energy
 Government of India
 New Delhi

Prof. Atul Kumar
 Dean (Academic) and Professor
 Department of Energy and
 Environment, TERI School
 of Advanced Studies
 New Delhi

Mr. Peter Godfrey
 Managing Director
 Asia Pacific
 The Energy Institute (EI)
 Singapore

Mr. Ichiro Kutani
 Senior Research Fellow,
 The Institute of
 Energy Economics, Japan
 Tokyo

Dr. Daniel del Barrio Alvarez
 Assistant Professor
 Department of
 Civil Engineering,
 The University of Tokyo,
 Tokyo

the South and Southeast Asia; and challenges and prospects for energy cooperation between India and Southeast Asia. Both the sessions discussed the crucial features of energy and energy connectivity in the South and Southeast Asian regions and the way forward.

The first session was on Examining Key Energy Trends in South and Southeast Asia and the session was chaired by Dr Anbumozhi Venkatachalam, Senior Energy Economist,

ERIA, Jakarta. The distinguished panelists were Dr. M Tamim, Professor, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Dhaka; Dr. Philip Andrews-Speed, Senior Principal Fellow, Energy Studies Institute (ESI), National University of Singapore (NUS), Singapore; Mr. K. S. Bandyopadhyay, Chief General Manager, NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Ltd. (NVVYN), New Delhi; Mr Ashish Garg, General Secretary, Independent

Continued on page 6

ent Power Producers' Association Nepal (IPPAN), Kathmandu and Mr. K K Majumdar, Former General Manager, Indian Oil Institute of Petroleum Management (IOIPM), Gurugram.

The second session was Challenges and Prospects for Energy Cooperation between India and Southeast Asia. Dr Christopher Len, Senior Research Fellow, ESI, NUS, Singapore moderated the session. The speak-

ers of the session were Prof. Atul Kumar, Dean (Academic) and Professor, Department of Energy and Environment, TERI School of Advanced Studies, New Delhi; Mr. Peter Godfrey, Managing Director Asia Pacific, The Energy Institute (TEI), Singapore; Mr. Ichiro Kutani, Senior Research Fellow, The Institute of Energy Economics, Japan, Tokyo and Mr. Daiel del Barrio Alvarez, Assistant Professor, Depart-

ment of Civil Engineering, The University of Tokyo, Tokyo.

In the Closing Remarks, organisers outlined the major discussions and highlighted the major policy recommendations derived from the webinar. Finally, Vote of Thanks was extended by all the organisers, starting by Dr Anbumozhi Venkatachalam; Dr Christopher Len; Dr Bhupendra Kumar Singh, and Dr Prabir De. ■

Webinar on India-Indonesia Relations: The Andaman-Ache Perspective, 29 July 2020

The ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS in collaboration with the Asian Confluence and Pondicherry University organised a webinar on India-Indonesia Relations: The Andaman-Ache Perspective on 29 July 2020. The Welcome Remarks delivered by Mr. Sabyasachi Dutta, Executive Director, Asian Confluence and Amb. Rajiv Bhatia, Member, GC, Asian Confluence moderate the webinar. H.E. Mr. Sidharto Reza Suryodipuro, Ambassador of Indonesia to India and H.E. Mr. Pradeep Kumar Rawat, Ambassador of India to Indonesia delivered the Inaugural Address. Special Remarks was delivered by Dr. Nazamuddin, SE., MA, Department of Development Economics, Syiah Kuala University, Banda Aceh. Mr Kuldeep Rai Sharma, Member of Parliament, Port Blair, A&N delivered the Special Address. Lead

ASIAN CONFLUENCE **AIC** **ASEAN-INDIA CENTRE** **INDIA-INDONESIA RELATIONS: The Andaman-Ache Perspective**

WEBINAR

Chair	Inaugural Address	Special Address	Special Remarks
Amb. Rajiv Bhatia Member, GC, Asian Confluence	H.E. Sidharto Reza Suryodipuro Ambassador of Indonesia to India	H.E. Pradeep Kumar Rawat Ambassador of India to Indonesia	Mr. Kuldeep Rai Sharma* Member of Parliament Port Blair, A&N
Mr. Shreshall Malge* Director, Ministry of Home Affairs Government of India	Dr. Nazamuddin, SE., MA, Department of Development Economics, Universitas Syiah Kuala Banda Aceh	Mr. Sabyasachi Dutta, Executive Director Asian Confluence	
Dr. Prabir De Head, ASEAN-India Centre, RIS, New Delhi <small>*to be confirmed</small>	Mr. Girish Arora President, Andaman Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Port Blair	Dr. Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury Senior Fellow, Observer Research Foundation (ORF), Kolkata	Dr. Vijay Sakuja Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF) New Delhi
Mr. Vijay Roy Chief Editor, Echo of India, Port Blair	Dr. A. Subramanyam Raju, Centre for Maritime Studies, Pondicherry University, Puducherry		

Context
India and Indonesia eyeing to reach target of \$50 bn trade by 2025 are contemplating new areas of investments including through Aceh-Andaman connectivity which would unlock immense business opportunities in a range of sectors, including health care, tourism, energy, construction, agro-processing and fisheries.

**29 July, 2020;
Wednesday
4 PM: Indian Time
5.30 PM: Jakarta Time**

Panel Discussion

#AsianConfluence **#Asconwebseries** **#AsconBayOfBengalSeries** **www.asianconfluence.org** **Registration link :** <https://forms.gle/5etd8ayXvPnkA9>

Presentation made by Dr. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC, RIS, New Delhi. The distinguished panelists were Mr. Girish Arora, President, Andaman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Port Blair; Dr. Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury, Senior Fellow, Observer Research

Foundation (ORF), Kolkata; Dr. Vijay Sakuja, Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF), New Delhi; Mr. Vijay Roy, Chief Editor, Echo of India, Port Blair and Dr. A Subramanyam Raju, Pondicherry University, Puducherry. ■

Webinar on Brahmaputra - Ayeyarwady Dialogue: India-Myanmar Cooperation for Vibrant and Prosperous Border Zones, 4 September 2020

The ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS jointly with the Asian Confluence and The Mandalay Forum organized a webinar on Brahmaputra - Ayeyarwady Dialogue: India-Myanmar Cooperation for Vibrant and Prosperous Border Zones on 4 September 2020. Welcome Address was made by Mr Sabyasachi Dutta, Executive Directive, Asian Confluence. The session was chaired by Amb. Gautam Mukhopadhyay, Former Indian Ambassador to Myanmar and Special Remarks was delivered by Mr. Keiichi Onozawa, South Asia Regional Representative, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), Japan. Dr. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC, RIS, New Delhi made the Theme Presentation. The esteemed panelists of the session were Dr Myo Thant, Founder and Chief Economist, Parami Roundtable Thinktank and Senior Advisor, MISIS, Yangon; Dr. Zaw Oo, Executive Director, CESD Myanmar, Yangon; Dr. Myo Myo Myint, Director, CEES Myanmar, Yangon; Prof. Priyoranjan Singh, Manipur University, Imphal; Dr. Palin Khundongbam, Chairman and Managing Director, Shija Hospital and Research Institute, Imphal and Dr. R.K. Shivachandra, Convenor, Act East Policy Committee, Government of Manipur. The Concluding Remarks were presented by

AIC
ASEAN-India Centre at RIS

ASIAN CONFLUENCE
ENGAGING THE THIRD SPACE

The Mandalay Forum
For East Asian Studies

Brahmaputra - Ayeyarwady Dialogue: India-Myanmar Cooperation for Vibrant and Prosperous Border Zones

4 September 2020

Inaugural Session
2:00 PM to 3:15 PM India
3:00 PM to 4:15 PM Myanmar

Panel Discussion
3:30 PM to 5:00 PM India
4:30 PM to 6:00 PM Myanmar

Inaugural Session

Keynote Address

Dr. Najma Heptulla,
Hon'ble Governor of Manipur, India

Inaugural Address

H.E. Mr. Saurabh Kumar,
Ambassador of India to Myanmar

Special Address

H.E. Mr. Moe Kyaw Aung,
Ambassador of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to India

Theme Presentation

Dr. Prabir De,
Head, AIC, RIS, New Delhi

Welcome Remarks

Mr. Sabyasachi Dutta,
ED, Asian Confluence, India East Asia Centre

Session 2 : Panel Discussion

Panelists

Dr. Myo Thant, Founder and Chief Economist, Parami Roundtable Thinktank and Senior Advisor, MISIS, Yangon

Dr. Myo Myo Myint, Director, CEES Myanmar, Yangon

Dr. Palin Khundongbam, Chairman and Managing Director, Shija Hospital and Research Institute, Imphal

R.K. Mr. Shivachandra Singh, Convenor Act East Policy Committee, Government of Manipur

Prof. Priyoranjan Singh, Manipur University, Imphal

Dr. Ch Ibohal Meitei, Director, Centre for Entrepreneurship and Skill Development, Manipur University, Imphal

Concluding Remarks

Prof. Thuta Aung, Mandalay Forum for East Asian Studies, Mandalay

Prof. Thuta Aung, Mandalay Forum for East Asian Studies and Dr. Ch Ibohal Meitei, Director, Centre for Entrepreneurship and Skill Development, Manipur University, Imphal. The eminent speakers emphasized on the immediate

need for P2P and bus connectivity, revival of the border haats- shared culture links, increased investment for soft and hard infrastructure linkages, human resource and border area development schemes to enhance the cooperation. ■

Webinar on Rejuvenating South Asia: Bouncing Back Strong, 10 October 2020 and 21 October 2020

The ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS jointly with Council for Social Development (CSD); Asian Confluence and BRIEF organised the webinar on Rejuvenating South Asia: Bouncing Back Strong on 10 October 2020 and 21 October 2020 as a Part I and Part II series.

In the Part I of the series, Welcome Address was delivered by Mr Sabyasachi Dutta, Executive Director, Asian Confluence. The session was chaired by Dr. Sanjay Kathuria, Senior Visiting Fellow, Centre for Policy Research (CPR) and Former Lead Economist, the World Bank. Special Remarks was given by Mr Rajat Nag, Member, Governing Board, Asian Confluence and Former Managing Director, Asian Development Bank (ADB). The distinguished panellists were Dr Nisha Taneja, Professor, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER); Dr. Selim Raihan, Executive Director, SANEM and Professor, Dhaka University; Dr. Ganeshan Wignaraja, Executive Director, Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute of International Relations and Strategic Studies (LKI), Colombo; Prof. Nitya Nanda,

Webinar on Rejuvenating South Asia: Toward New Sources of Competitiveness
 Two Part Series
 10 October 2020, Saturday | 6 pm – 8 pm IST (Part - 1)

Chair
Dr Sanjay Kathuria
 Senior Visiting Fellow, Centre for Policy Research (CPR) & Former Lead Economist, the World Bank

Special Remarks
Mr Rajat Nag
 Member, Governing Council, Asian Confluence & Former Managing Director, Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Panelists
Dr Nisha Taneja (ICRIER), **Dr Selim Raihan** (SANEM and Dhaka University), **Dr Ganeshan Wignaraja** (Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute of International Relations and Strategic Studies (LKI)), **Dr Rajan Ratna** (UNESCAP-SWA), **Prof. Nitya Nanda** (CSD), **Mr Afaq Hussain** (BRIEF)

Welcome
Mr Sabyasachi Dutta
 Executive Director, Asian Confluence

For registration: <https://forms.gle/sd19Wb21PXqmZG7>

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Director, Council for Social Development (CSD) and Mr Afaq Hussain, Director, Bureau of Research on Industry & Economic Fundamentals (BRIEF)

In the Part II of the series held on 21 October 2020, Prof. Nitya Nanda, Director, Council for Social Development (CSD) gave the Welcome Address. The webinar was chaired by Dr. Sanjay Kathuria, Senior Visiting Fellow, Centre for Policy Research (CPR) & Former Lead Economist, the World Bank. Mr. David Rasquinha, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Export-Import Bank of India. The distinguished panelists were Prof. Amita Batra, Chairperson, Centre for South Asian Studies (CSIS), SIS, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU); Dr Paras Kharel, Research Director, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and

Environment (SAWTEE)

Dr Vagor Ahmed, JI Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI); Mr Pranav Kumar, Chief, International Trade Policy, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII); Dr Nazir Kabiri, Executive Director, Professor, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC), RIS; Dr Prabr De, Executive Director, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE)

Vote of Thanks
Sabyasachi Dutta
 Executive Director, Asian Confluence

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Webinar on Rejuvenating South Asia: Bouncing Back Strong
 Two - Part Series
 21 October 2020 | 6 pm IST onward (Part - 2, final)

Chair
Dr Sanjay Kathuria
 Senior Visiting Fellow, Centre for Policy Research (CPR) & Former Lead Economist, the World Bank

Welcome
Prof. Nitya Nanda
 Director, Council for Social Development (CSD)

Special Remarks
Mr. David Rasquinha
 Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Export-Import Bank of India

Panelists
Prof. Amita Batra (CSIS), **Dr Paras Kharel** (SAWTEE), **Dr Vagor Ahmed** (SDPI), **Mr Pranav Kumar** (CII), **Dr Nazir Kabiri** (AIC), **Dr Prabr De** (SAWTEE)

Vote of Thanks
Sabyasachi Dutta
 Executive Director, Asian Confluence

For registration: <https://forms.gle/KgdPo2IzRh7YeEs8>

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Economics and Environment cy, Cen- Federation of Indian Sabyasachi Dutta, Executive (SAWTEE); Dr Vaqar Ahmed, Industry (CII); Dr Nazir Kabiri, Director, Asian Confluence. Jt. Executive Director, Sustaina- Executive Director, Biruni In- The second part of the South ble Development Policy Insti- stitute; Dr Prabir De, Coordi- Asia Webinar Series discussed tute (SDPI); Mr Pranav Kumar, nator, AIC at RIS. Vote of the way forward for South Chief, International Trade Poli- Thanks was extended by Mr Asia in the coming times. ■

Web Dialogue on Deepening India-Sri Lanka Ties in the New World Order, 29 October 2020

The Asian Confluence in association with the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS and Pathfinder Foundation, Sri Lanka hosted the Web Dialogue on “India-Sri Lanka Relations: Deepening India - Sri Lanka Ties in the New World Order” on 29 October 2020. Welcome Address was given by Sabyasachi Dutta, Executive Director, Asian Confluence and Dr T C A Reghavan, Director General, ICWA chaired the Inaugural Session.

Opening Remarks were delivered by Prof. Sachin Caturvedi, Director General, RIS and Amb. Bernard Goonetilleke, Chairman, Pathfinder Founda- tion. Adm. Jayanath Colom- bage (retired), Foreign Secre-

Web Dialogue on Deepening India - Sri Lanka Ties in the New World Order
 29 October 2020 | 2:00 pm India Time & Sri Lanka Time

Chair
 Dr. T C A Reghavan
 Director General, ICWA

Keynote Address
 Adm. Jayanath Colombage (ret.)
 Foreign Secretary, Sri Lanka

Welcome
 Mr. Sabyasachi Dutta
 Executive Director, Asian Confluence

Opening Remarks
 Amb. Bernard Goonetilleke
 Chairman, Pathfinder Foundation

Prof. Sachin Caturvedi
 Director General, RIS

tary, Sri Lanka gave the Key- note Address. The Session II was Panel Discussion and the session was moderated by Amb. Ashok Kantha, Director, Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS), and former Indian High

Commissioner to Sri Lanka. The distinguished speaker of the session were Dr. Ganeshan Wignaraja, Executive Director, Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute of International Relations and Strategic Studies (LKI), Colombo; Prof. Rohan Samarajiva, Founding Chair of LIR-NEasia, Colombo; Mr. Vish Govindasamy, Group Manag- ing Director, Sunshine Hold- ings PLC and Deputy Chair- man, The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, Colombo; Dr. Sa- matha Mallempati, Research Fellow, Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), New Delhi; Prof. Biswajit Nag, Indi-

Web Dialogue on Deepening India - Sri Lanka Ties in the New World Order
 29 October 2020 | 3:00 pm India Time & Sri Lanka Time

Chair
 Amb. Ashok Kantha
 Director, ICS & former Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka

Valedictory Address
 Amb. Gopal Bagloy
 High Commissioner, High Commission of India to Sri Lanka

Speakers
 Dr. Ganeshan Wignaraja
 Senior Research Associate, Overseas Development Institute, London

Prof. Rohan Samarajiva
 Founding Chair of LIRNEasia

Mr. Vish Govindasamy
 Group Managing Director, Sunshine Holdings PLC and Deputy Chairman, The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce

Vote of Thanks
 Dr. Prabir De
 Professor, AIC, RIS, New Delhi

Dr. Samatha Mallempati
 Research Fellow, ICWA, New Delhi

Prof. Biswajit Nag
 Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi

Mr. Manjeet Singh Negi
 Vice President, State Bank of India, Sri Lanka

Continued on page 10

an Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), Delhi and Mr Manjeet Singh Negi, VP (Credit), State Bank of India (SBI), Colombo. Valedictory Address was delivered by Mr. Gopal Baglay, High Commissioner of India, Colombo. Dr. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC at RIS, New Delhi

extended the Vote of Thanks of the session. The discussion tried to assess the opportunities and challenges on the current agendas of collaboration, bring together a renewed narrative of cooperation between

both the countries in the post-COVID era. The Dialogue was aimed at connecting academics and policymakers to brainstorm and ideate on the different mechanisms and find new avenues of cooperation in the changing world order. ■

Webinar on ASEAN-India Partnership in the Post-Covid-19, 10 November 2020

The ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) organised a webinar on ASEAN-India Partnership in the Post-Covid-19 on 10 November 2020. The Webinar was organised as the run-up to the 17th ASEAN-India Summit 2020. Welcome Remarks was given by Dr Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC at RIS. Chair's Remarks was delivered by Dr. Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS and he also chaired the webinar. Remarks were given by Mr. Ferdy Nico Yohannes Piay, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, New Delhi; Mr. Aung Aung Myo Thein, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, New Delhi; H.E. Mr. Simon Wong, High

Commissioner, High Commission of the Republic of Singapore, New Delhi; and H.E. Mr. Pham Sanh Chau, Ambassador, Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, New Delhi. Keynote Address was delivered by Ambassador Riva Ganguly Das, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). The 2nd edition of ASEAN-India Development and Cooperation Report (AIDCR) 2021: Avenues for Cooperation

in Indo-Pacific was released by MEA. In the panel discussion, distinguished panelists were Dr. Yose Rizal Damuri, Head of Department of Economics, Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Jakarta; Prof. Arpita Mukherjee, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), New Delhi; Dato' Ramesh Kodamal, Co-Chair, ASEAN-India Business Council (AIBC), Kuala Lumpur and Dr. Huy Hoang Nguyen, Director, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS), Hanoi. The panelists were made important suggestions in order to enhance ASEAN and India relation. Dr Durairaj Kumarasamy, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC), RIS extended the Vote of Thanks. ■



AIC Publications (July – December 2020)

ASEAN and India: Partners in Integration in Asia, 2020

The proceedings of the Fifth Roundtable of AINTT entitled “ASEAN and India: Partners of Integration in Asia” presents a detailed account of discussions of the Fifth AINTT Roundtable, held in Jakarta on 6-7 January 2018. It also presents 5th AINTT Roundtable summary, speeches and the set of papers presented at the Roundtable. This set of papers cover some important areas of cooperation between ASEAN and India, namely, maritime security cooperation; services trade and investment; cultural heritage; educational cooperation; and way forward for AEC 2025 and India. This volume is an important resource for the current phase of ASEAN-India partnership and the new engagements.



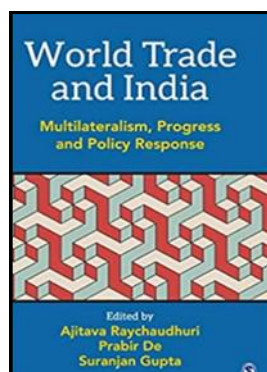
ASEAN-India Development and Cooperation (AIDCR) 2021: Avenues for Cooperation in Indo-Pacific, 2020

The ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) come out with the 2nd edition of ASEAN-India Development and Cooperation (AIDCR) 2021: Avenues for Cooperation in Indo-Pacific. AIDCR 2021 presents the scope, challenges, and opportunities in deepening the ASEAN-India partnership. The objective of the Report is to promote ASEAN-India integration with a particular focus on current challenges unleashed by the Covid-19 pandemic, and the regional cooperative mechanisms that could provide solutions to them. This Report is an independent assessment of various economic and social relations between ASEAN and India.



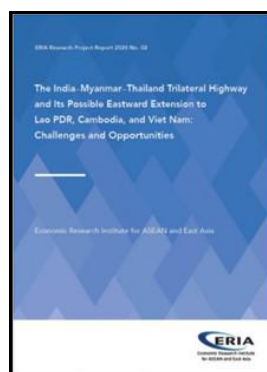
World Trade and India: Multilateralism, Progress and Policy Response, Eds. Ajitava Raychaudhuri, Prabir De and Suranjan Gupta, Sage, 2020

World Trade and India: Multilateralism, Progress and Policy Response discusses mitigating strategies that would help the Indian economy in building resilience to trade shocks and improve competitiveness of exports. The book unravels the complex interconnections between multilateralism and developing economies like India, and presents a detailed evaluation on where the nations stand today in global trade. It offers policy suggestions for a better future.



The Study Report on The India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway and Its Possible Eastward Extension to Lao PDR, Cambodia and Viet Nam: Challenges and Opportunities-Interactive Report by Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), ERIA Research Project Report, 2020

The Trilateral Highway (TLH) exemplifies the connectivity between India and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). It connects India, Myanmar, and Thailand, and is linked with ASEAN’s connectivity plans. Still a project under construction, its potential contribution to the economic growth and development of the region. This study examines the maximising of these objectives through a proposed extension of TLH to Lao PDR, Cambodia, and Viet Nam.



Indo-Pacific Cooperation: AOIP and IPOI, AIC Working Paper No.3, October 2020 by Pradeep Chauhan, Prabir De, Sarabjeet Singh Parmar and Durairaj Kumarasamy



The Indo-Pacific has been gaining new geopolitical construct over the last few years. There is also a growing consensus in understanding the geographical scope and economic and strategic approaches towards Indo-Pacific. The Indo-Pacific obtained renewed vibrancy when ASEAN, in June 2019, and India, in November 2019, came out with their respective Indo-Pacific visions, namely, the ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific (AOIP), and, the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI), respectively. This article reviews the perspectives of Indo-Pacific that are shared by different countries and discusses the key elements of the IPOI and the AOIP, as also ensuing areas of cooperation, where ASEAN and India can work together for the integration of the region.

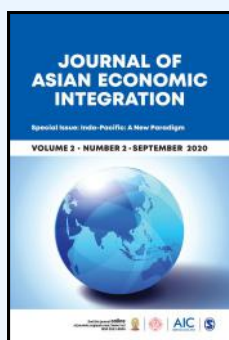
Mekong-Ganga Policy Brief, Special Issue on 20 Years of Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC), December 2020



The Special Issue of Mekong-Ganga Policy Brief (MGPB) is published to commemorate the twenty years of Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC). This Special Issue presents a set of articles published in previous issues of MGPB since March 2007. It includes articles, speeches and statements issued on Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) time to time since 2007.

Special Issue: Indo-Pacific: A New Paradigm

Journal of Asian Economic Integration, Vol.2, No.2, September 2020



- ◆ Indo-Pacific Order and Japan-India Relations in the Midst of COVID-19
- ◆ Sino-US Disorder: Power and Policy in Post-COVID Indo-Pacific
- ◆ Malaysia's Posture in the Indo-Pacific Construct
- ◆ Development of BIMSTEC Free Trade Area for Thailand in Indo-Pacific
- ◆ Criminal Threats Undermining Indo-Pacific Maritime Security: Can International Law Build Resilience?
- ◆ Impact of Oil Price Tumble in 2020 and US Retrenchment on the Stability of the Gulf Region

Research Publications (July–December, 2020)

- ◆ De, Prabir. 2020. *Emerging Bay of Bengal and Northeast India*. Centre for South East Asian Studies (CSEAS), GU Occasional Paper No. 2, Guwahati University, Guwahati
- ◆ De, Prabir. 2020. "Trade Facilitation in Times of Pandemic: Practices from South and South West Asia". ARTNeT Working Paper, AWP 198, UNESCAP, Bangkok, September. pp. 1-57.
- ◆ Mohammad Masudur Rahman, Chanwahn Kim and Prabir De, 2020. "Indo-Pacific cooperation: what do trade simulations indicate?", *Journal of Economic Structures*, Springer; vol. 9(1), pages 1-17.
- ◆ Raychaudhuri, Ajitava., De, Prabir and Gupta, Suranjan. (Eds.) 2020. *World Trade and India: Multilateralism, Progress and Policy Response*, Sage, New Delhi.
- ◆ De, Prabir and Durairaj Kumarasamy. 2020. "Facilitating Trade in India: What Matters the Most" Chapter 15 in *World Trade and India: Multilateralism, Progress and Policy Response*, Eds. Ajitava Raychaudhuri, Prabir De and Suranjan Gupta, Sage, New Delhi.
- ◆ De, Prabir, Priyadarshi Dash and Durairaj Kumarasamy. 2020. The Trilateral Highway and Northeast India: Economic Linkages, Challenges, and the Way Forward, in *The India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway and Its Possible Eastward Extension to Lao PDR, Cambodia, and Viet Nam: Challenges and Opportunities-Background Papers*. ERIA Research Project Report FY2020 no.02b, Jakarta: ERIA, pp.B1-1 – 46.
- ◆ Raihan, Selim, Ganeshan Wignaraja, Vaqar Ahmed, Puspa Sharma, Nazir Kabiri and Prabir De. 2020. "The Pandemic and Economic Fallout in South Asia", *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 55, No. 46. November

AIC Commentaries (July – December 2020)



No. 7, July 2020

India's Engagement with Island Nations in Western Indian Ocean: Towards an Inclusive Indo-Pacific by Prabir De, Durairaj Kumarasamy and Sreya Pan

This article discusses India's engagement with island nations in the western Indian Ocean and briefly discusses the pathways towards an inclusive Indo-Pacific. The commentary also covers the potential cooperation between India and island nations in the Indian Ocean



No. 8, August 2020

India-ASEAN Engagement in the Covid-19 Period by Baladas Ghoshal

This commentary analyses India's engagement with ASEAN amidst shifting geo-political landscape in the Southeast Asian regional and disruptions caused by Covid-19 pandemic. It suggests a new strategy of India-ASEAN engagement.



No. 9, September 2020

Emerging Perspective of Indo-Pacific Initiatives by Prabir De and Durairaj Kumarasamy

This commentary investigate the perspectives of Indo-Pacific proposed by different stakeholders and the common key elements and areas of cooperation that the countries share on Indo-Pacific. This commentary also identifies the possible areas of cooperation leading to greater integration of the Indo-Pacific region.



No. 10, October 2020

Can India Take the Advantage of Covid-19 to Influence Manufacturers Moving Out of China? by Rahul Nath Choudhury and Pravin Jadhav

This commentary addresses the crucial factors that determine India's plan to be an attractive destination in the manufacturing sector. This commentary discusses the major challenges that India face in the process of attracting investments that are moving out of China. It also covers competitiveness and complementarities in terms of engaging in production networks for ASEAN and India.



No. 11, November 2020

Trade, Protectionism and Self-Reliance: A Sense of Déjà vu by Biswajit Mandal and Saswati Chaudhuri

This commentary attempts to find the connectedness between the recent lockdown induced economic upshots and the contemporary global trend of moving towards a deglobalized era. With a historical perspective this commentary examines how the entire world has been brilliant balancing between free trade and protectionism for centuries. It also explores the relevance of Atmanirbhar Bharat in the context of such new normal.



No. 12, December 2020

ASEAN-India Cooperation through Technical Education Partnership by Nomesh Bolia

This commentary discusses the educational cooperation between ASEAN countries and India. It also highlights India's flagship ASEAN PhD fellowship programme and its benefits for the ASEAN countries. Besides, the commentary discusses the possibilities of sharing India's expertise for collaboration and support with ASEAN countries.

Research Project: Ongoing

Trade, Connectivity and Maritime Transport in Indo-Pacific	<p>In the 14th East Asia Summit (EAS) held in Bangkok on November 2019, Indian Prime Minister announced the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiatives (IPOI) for promoting maritime cooperation in the wider Indo-Pacific region. The seven pillars of cooperation are (i) Maritime Ecology, (ii) Maritime Security, (iii) Maritime Resources, (iv) Capacity Building and Resource Sharing, (v) Disaster Risk Reduction and Management, (vi) Science, Technology and Academic Cooperation, (viii) Trade, Connectivity and Maritime Transport. The proposed study focuses on India's vision on Indo-Pacific and its geographical contours of Indo-Pacific with respect to trade, connectivity and maritime cooperation in Indo-Pacific.</p>
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Forthcoming Events

- ◆ Delhi Dialogue XII, 2021
- ◆ Fourth ASEAN-India Blue Economy Workshop, 2021
- ◆ Third ASEAN-India Cultural and Civilizational Links Conference, 2021
- ◆ Fifth EAS Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation, 2021
- ◆ Seventh ASEAN-India Network of Think-Tanks (AINTT), 2021

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 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.ris.org.in/aic>

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