

ASEAN-India: Partnership for Peace and Prosperity*

H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN



H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN delivering the lecture.

At the 27th ASEAN Summit in Malaysia, the ASEAN Leaders signed the 2015 Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Establishment of the ASEAN Community to formally proclaim the launch of the ASEAN Community on 31 December 2015. ASEAN shall, after 48 years of evolution and development, be realising the dream of a Community where all people, stakeholders and sectors of society can contribute to and enjoy the benefits of an integrated and connected ASEAN encompassing enhanced cooperation in all the political-security, economic and socio-cultural pillars for sustainable, equitable and inclusive development.

With the imminent establishment of the ASEAN Community, ASEAN will bring about even more opportunities and benefits to all ASEAN peoples when barriers will be further eliminated, national systems will be further harmonised, and regional and global integration further enhanced. It has been estimated that

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International Conference on ASEAN-India Cultural Links: Historical and Contemporary Dimensions, 23-24 July 2015, New Delhi

AIC at RIS organised an International Conference on “ASEAN-India Cultural Links: Historical and Contemporary Dimensions” on 23-24 July 2015 in New Delhi. The event was held with support of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India (GoI), and Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). In the inaugural session, Ambassador

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Amb. Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East), MEA, GoI delivering the Keynote Address at the conference. Also seen in picture (from left to right) are Prof. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC; Amb. Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS; Prof. Lokesh Chandra, President, Indian Council for Cultural Relations; and Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS.

Major Events

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Participants of the Conference.

Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East), MEA, GoI delivered the Keynote Address. Prof. Lokesh Chandra, President, ICCR, India gave the Inaugural Address. Ambassador Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS made the Opening Remarks. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS gave the Welcome Address. Prof. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC extended the Vote of Thanks.

First session on “Trade and Maritime Links between South and Southeast Asia” was chaired by Dr. Amara Srisuchat, Ministry of Culture, Thailand. Dr. I Wayan Ardika, Professor of Archaeology, Faculty of Letters, Udayana University, Bali, Indonesia made a presentation on “Early Contacts between India and Bali”. Dr. Himanshu Prabha Ray, Chairperson, National Monuments Authority, Ministry of Culture, New Delhi made a presentation on “Translocality and Mobility across the Bay of Bengal: Nagapattinam in Context”. Dr. Lotika Varadarajan, Tagore National Fellow, National Museum, New Delhi made a presentation on “Indian Patterned Cotton Textile and Trade with East and Southeast Asia”.

Ambassador Vinod Khanna, former Ambassador of India to Bhutan, chaired the second session on “Continuities and Change”. Dr. Amara Srisuchat, Senior Expert in Art and Antiquity, Fine Arts Department, Ministry of Culture, Thailand made a presentation on “Indigenous Thought on Indian Traditions in Thailand”. Dr. Joefer B. Santarita, Dean and Associate Professor, Asian Centre, University of the Philippines in Diliman made a presentation on “Panyupayana: Pre-Islamic Philippines as a Hindu Polity?”. Dr. Le Thi Lien, Assistant for International Cooperation Institute of Archaeology, Vietnamese Academy of Social Sciences made a presentation on “Indian-Southeast Asian Contacts and Cultural Exchange: Evidence from Vietnam at One Time”.

Prof. Sachchidanand Sahai, Advisor, Preah Vihear National Authority, Royal Government of Cambodia, and UNESCO Expert for the Archaeological Complex of Sambor Prei Kuk, Cambodia chaired the third session focused on “Representations of Religions and Rituals”. Dr. Andrea Acri, Research Fellow, Nalanda-

Sriwijaya Centre, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), Singapore made a presentation on “From Sivasasana to Agama Hindu Bali: Tracing the Indic Roots of Modern Balinese Hinduism”. Prof. Madhu Khanna, Tagore National Fellow, National Museum, New Delhi and Visiting Professor of Indic Religion, Centre for the Study of Comparative Religions and Civilisations, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi made a presentation on “Power, Prestige, and Possession: Interwoven Legacies of Ida Pedendas 'Priestesses' in Balinese Hinduism”. Dr. Jasleen Dhamija, Indian Textile Art Historian and Crafts Expert, New Delhi made a presentation on “The Warp and Weft that Linked the World”. A cultural programme was also organised by ICCR on 23 July 2015 where Ms. Madhavi Mudgal and Group gave performance.

Prof. Lokesh Chandra, President, ICCR delivered a Special Address on the second day of the conference. This was followed by the fourth session on “Textual and Traditions and Transmissions” which was chaired by Dr. Andrea Acri. Dr. Sudha Gopalakrishnan, Executive Director, Sahapedia, New Delhi made a presentation on “Transmission on Textual Traditions in South and Southeast Asia: A View from India”. Dr. Thomas M. Hunter, Lecturer in Sanskrit and South-Southeast Asian Studies, Department of Asian Studies, University of British Columbia, Vancouver,

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Fourth Roundtable of the ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks (AINTT) on “ASEAN-India: Strengthening the Ties That Bind”, 7–8 August, 2015, Kuala Lumpur

AIC at RIS in collaboration with the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS), Malaysia, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia organised the Fourth Roundtable of ASEAN-India Network of Think-Tanks (AINTT) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 7 – 8 August 2015. H.E. General (Retd.) Vijay Kumar Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs, India inaugurated the AINTT. H.E. Hon Dato' Seri Reezal Merican Naina Merican, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia delivered the Keynote Address. Tan Sri Rastam Mohd Isa, Chairman and Chief Executive, ISIS gave the Welcome Address. Ambassador Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East), MEA, GoI and Ambassador V.S. Seshadri, Vice-Chairman, RIS delivered the Special Address. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS made the Concluding Remarks.

The third AINTT Roundtable Proceedings entitled “ASEAN-India Economic Relations: Opportunities and Challenges” and the proceedings of the Delhi Dialogue VII entitled “ASEAN-India: Shaping the Post-2015 Agenda” was also released at the fourth AINTT. The theme of the fourth Roundtable was “ASEAN-India: Strengthening the Ties That Bind”. The Roundtable, attended by the senior diplomats, government officials, academicians and policymakers, discussed regional



(From left to right) Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; Amb. Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East), MEA, GoI; Hon Dato' Seri Reezal Merican Naina Merican, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia; Tan Sri Rastam Mohd Isa, Chairman and Chief Executive, Institute of Strategic and International Studies Malaysia; General (Retd.) Vijay Kumar Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs, GoI; and Amb. V. S. Seshadri, Vice-Chairman, RIS.

economic issues such as ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), etc., and also discussed India's engagement in Post-2015 Agenda of ASEAN. The Roundtable had five sessions, namely: (i) Non-Traditional Security Threats, (ii) Regional Security Architecture, (iii) New Dimensions of ASEAN-

India Economic Partnership, (iv) ASEAN-India Cultural Links: Historical and Contemporary Dimensions, and (v) Post-2015 Agenda of ASEAN and the Way Forward. The Roundtable concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Prof. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC and Tan Sri Rastam Mohd Isa, Chairman and Chief Executive, ISIS, Malaysia.



(From left to right) Amb. V. S. Seshadri, Vice-Chairman, RIS; Amb. Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East), MEA, GoI; Tan Sri Rastam Mohd Isa, Chairman and Chief Executive, Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS), Malaysia; Hon Dato' Seri Reezal Merican Naina Merican, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia; General (Retd.) Vijay Kumar Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs, GoI; Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; and Prof. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC.

Roundtable on ASEAN-India Air Connectivity, 28 September 2015, New Delhi

AIC at RIS organised a Roundtable on “ASEAN-India Air Connectivity” in New Delhi on 28 September 2015. Prof. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC made the Welcome Remarks. Ambassador Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS delivered the Opening Address. Ambassador Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East), MEA, GoI delivered the Keynote Address. Mr. Anil Srivastava, Joint Secretary (AS), Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), GoI delivered the Special Address.

The first session of the Roundtable focused on “Air Transportation between India and Southeast and East Asia”. Dr. Sanat Kaul, Chairman, International Foundation for Aviation, Aerospace and Development (IFFAAD), New Delhi chaired it. Ms. Pooja Kapur, Joint Secretary (ASEAN ML), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) delivered the



Amb. Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS and AIC, delivering the opening address at the Roundtable. Also seen in picture (from left to right) are Prof. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC; Mr. Anil Srivastava, Joint Secretary (AS), Ministry of Civil Aviation (MOCA), GoI; Amb. Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East), MEA, GoI; Ms. Pooja Kapur, Joint Secretary (AML), MEA, GoI.

Special Address. This was followed by a presentation on “ASEAN-India Air Connectivity Report” by Prof. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC. Dr. Shefali Juneja, Director, MoCA gave Special Remarks. This session also had a Panel Discussion with leading stakeholders such as Mr. Mittu Chandilaya, Managing Director

and Chief Executive Officer, Air Asia India; Mr. Anand Pandey, General Manager, Air India; Mr. Rajan Malhotra, Associate Director, IndiGo; Ms. Ragini Chopra, Vice President, Jet Airways; and Mr. Debashis Saha, Associate Vice President, Spice Jet.

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Roundtable on ASEAN-India: Integration and Development, 27 October 2015, New Delhi

AIC at RIS organised the Roundtable on “ASEAN-India: Integration and Development” on 27 October 2015 in New Delhi. The event also marked the release of AIC study entitled “ASEAN-India Development and Cooperation Report 2015”. The event was a curtain raiser to the 13th ASEAN-India Summit and 10th East Asia Summit held at Kuala Lumpur on 21-22 November 2015.

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS made the Welcome Remarks. Ambassador Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East), MEA, GoI delivered the Keynote Address. Ambassador Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS delivered



Amb. Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East), MEA, GoI releasing the report. Also seen in picture (from left to right) are Prof. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC; Amb. Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS; Mr. Shreekanth Somany, Chairman, CII (NR), and Chairman and Managing Director of Somany Ceramics Ltd.; Ms. Pooja Kapur, Joint Secretary (AML), MEA, GoI; and Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS.

the Special Address. Mr. Shreekanth Somany, Chairman, CII (NR) and Chairman and Managing Director of Somany Ceramics Ltd., also

gave a Special Address. Prof. Prabir De, Coordinator of AIC made a presentation on ‘ASEAN-India Development and Cooperation

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EAS Conference on Maritime Security and Cooperation, 9–10 November 2015, New Delhi

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), in partnership with AIC, RIS and the National Maritime Foundation (NMF) organised an International Conference on “Maritime Security and Cooperation” for the East Asia Summit (EAS) participating countries in New Delhi on 9–10 November 2015. All the EAS countries nominated their officials to the Conference, and overall 100 participants including senior officials attended this two-day event. The Conference was divided into six sessions aimed at facilitating an in depth debate on maritime security and cooperation. The Conference discussed, analysed and put together the various components that would help strengthen cooperation among EAS participating countries in the maritime domain. Ambassador Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East), MEA, GoI delivered the Keynote Address. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS delivered the Welcome Remarks. Ambassador V. S. Sheshadri, Vice-Chairman, RIS made the Opening Remarks. Dr. Vijay Sakhuja, Director, National Maritime Foundation gave Special Address. Mr. Deepak Shetty, Director General of Shipping made the special remarks. There were three technical sessions dealing with the key issues and challenges on Maritime Security and Cooperation and Maritime Connectivity. Prof. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC extended the Vote of Thanks.

Vice Admiral Premvir Das, Former Commander-in-chief, Eastern Naval Command, Indian Navy chaired the first Session focused on “EAS Perspectives on the Maritime Domain”. In this Session,



Amb. Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East), MEA, GoI delivering the Keynote Address at the conference. Also seen in picture (from left to right) are Prof. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC; Dr. Vijay Sakhuja, Director, National Maritime Foundation; Amb. V. S. Sheshadri, Vice-Chairman, RIS; Mr. Deepak Shetty, Director General of Shipping; and Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS.

the speakers included Commodore Uday Bhaskar, Director, Society for Policy Studies, New Delhi; Mr. Yoshihiro Katayama, Director, Maritime Security Policy Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), Japan; Commander Benjamin Cote, Department of State, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, United States of America; and Ms. Nguyen Thi Lan Anh, First Secretary (Political), Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam, MoFA, Vietnam.

Admiral Suresh Mehta, Former Chief of Naval Staff, Indian Navy chaired the second session focused on “Emerging Security Architecture in the Asia-Pacific Region”. Dr. C. Raja Mohan, Head, Strategic Studies and Distinguished Fellow, Observer Research Foundation (ORF), New Delhi; Mr. Jonathan Kenna, Assistant Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia; Captain Sheldon Williams, Defence Adviser, High Commission of Australia in India; Amb. Benito B. Valeriano, Assistant Secretary, Maritime and Ocean Affairs Office, The Philippines; Ms. Phasporn Sangasubana, Dy. Director General, Department of ASEAN Affairs, Ministry of Foreign

Affairs, Thailand; and Mr. Mathew A. Palmer, Department of State, United States of America (USA).

Dr. Chirs Chung, Director, Strategic and Defence Policy Section, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Government of Australia chaired the third session on “Maritime Connectivity: Building for Trade”. Mr. Deepak Shetty, Director-General, DG Shipping, Government of India; Prof. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC; and Mr. Ahmad bin Abdul Zalil, Director, Maritime Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), Malaysia were the speakers for the session.

Mr. Kwa Chong Guan, Senior Fellow, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore chaired the fourth session focused on “Blue Economy and Maritime Conservation”. Prof. S. K. Mohanty, RIS and Dr. Kishore Kumar, Centre for Ocean and Environmental Studies (COES), New Delhi were the speakers.

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Major Events

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The fifth session deliberated on “Cooperative Delivery of ‘Common Public Good’ at Sea”. Dr. Vijay Sakhuja, Director, National Maritime Foundation (NMF) chaired this session. Vice Admiral Shekhar Sinha, Former Flag Officer Commanding-in-chief, Western Naval Command, Indian Navy; Commander Christopher Wall, Australia Border Force; Captain Sheldon Williams, Defence Adviser, Australian High Commission in India; Commander Abhijit Singh, Fellow, Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA), New Delhi; Prof. Shankari

Sundraman, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi; and Mr. Liu Jinsong, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of China in India were the speakers.

The sixth session had a panel discussion that focussed on the Way Forward. Amb. V.S. Sheshadri, Vice-Chairman, RIS chaired it. Amb. Sheshadri briefed the session and presented all the crucial points that were discussed in the two-day Conference. Some of the points which came forward were the importance of navigation, effective implementation of declaration over

South China Sea, how to address piracy and armed robbery, sharing of national experiences by participants, greater maritime security, cooperation in dealing with piracy, cyber security, developing suitable maritime architecture to address threats, greater recognition of values, protection and preservation of marine resources, improving the existing maritime structure, maintaining freedom of navigations, etc.

Prof. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC addressed the concluding session and extended the Vote of Thanks.



Officials of the EAS countries at the Conference.

Roundtable on ASEAN-India: Integration and Development

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Report 2015’. There were two technical sessions dealing with the key issues and challenges on ASEAN-India strategic partnership and new architecture of global and regional integration.

Amb. Rajiv Bhatia, Former Director General, Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), New Delhi chaired the first Session focused on “ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership: Progress and Development Dimensions”. In this session, Mr. Rajat Nag, Distinguished

Fellow, National Council of Applied Economics Research (NCAER), New Delhi delivered the Special Address. Prof. Arpita Mukherjee, Indian Council of Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), New Delhi; Prof. Gurudas Das, National Institute of Technology (NIT) Silchar; and Dr. C. Veeramani, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR), Mumbai were the speakers in the session.

The second session had a panel discussion on “New Architecture of Global and

Regional Integration: Challenges and opportunities for Asia”. Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Senior Fellow, Centre for Policy Research (CPR), New Delhi chaired the session. In this session, the panelists included: Mr. Ravi Capoor, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, Government of India; Dr. Ajit Ranade, Chief Economist, Aditya Birla Group; and Prof. Amita Batra, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi. Prof. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC extended the concluding remarks and Vote of Thanks.

ASEAN-India Eminent Person Lecture Series

ASEAN-India Eminent Person Lecture by H.E. Mr. Evan Garcia, Foreign Affairs, Under Secretary, The Philippines, 17 July 2015, New Delhi

AIC at RIS in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India, and ASEAN Secretariat organised the ASEAN-India Eminent Person Lecture Series. H.E. Mr. Evan Garcia, Foreign Affairs Under Secretary, The Philippines delivered the lecture on “India-Philippines Relations: Means and Ways of Strengthening the Relationship” in New Delhi on 17 July 2015. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS made the Welcome Remarks. Ambassador V. S. Sheshadri, Vice-Chairman, made the Opening Remarks. Ambassador Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East), MEA, GoI delivered the Special Address. H.E. Mr. Evan Garcia spoke on the current horizon of cooperation and interaction between



Amb. Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS and AIC delivering the Opening Address. Also seen in picture (from left to right) are Prof. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC; Amb. Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East), MEA, GoI; H.E. Mr. Evan Garcia, Foreign Affairs Under Secretary of Philippines and Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS.

the two countries and suggested concrete steps to ensure that the level of engagements continue to deepen and broaden in the years to come. Prof. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC extended the Vote of Thanks.

2nd Nehru-Rizal Memorial Lecture by H.E. Albert F. Del Rosario, 14 October 2015, New Delhi

AIC at RIS organised the Second Nehru-Rizal Memorial Lecture at Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), New Delhi on 14 October 2015. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS made the Welcome Remarks. Ambassador Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS made the Opening Remarks. Ms. Monika Mohta, Additional Secretary (South), MEA made the Special Remarks. H.E. Albert F. Del Rosario, Secretary (Minister) of Foreign Affairs, Republic of the Philippines delivered the lecture on “Challenges and Opportunities: The Way Forward for Philippines-India Relations”. The lecture was



H.E. Albert F. Del Rosario, Secretary (Minister) of Foreign Affairs, Republic of the Philippines, delivering the lecture. Also seen in picture (from left to right) are Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; Amb. Ms. Ma Teresita C. Daza; Amb. Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS; Ms. Monika Mohta, Additional Secretary (South), MEA, Government of India; Prof. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC.

followed by an interactive session in which representatives from the Philippines, senior officials, and academicians participated. Prof. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC extended the Vote of Thanks.

ASEAN-India Eminent Person Lecture by H.E. Mr. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN, 10 December 2015, New Delhi

AIC at RIS organised the ASEAN-India Eminent Person Lecture on “ASEAN-India: Partnership for Peace and Prosperity” by H.E. Mr. Le Luong Minh, Secretary General, ASEAN on 10 December 2015 in New Delhi. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS made the Welcome Remarks. Ambassador V. S. Sheshadri, Vice-Chairman, RIS made the Opening Remarks. Ambassador Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East), MEA, GoI delivered the Special Address. Prof. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC extended the Vote of Thanks.



H.E. Mr. Le Luong Minh, Secretary General, ASEAN, delivering the lecture. Also seen in picture (from left to right) are Prof. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC; Amb. V. S. Sheshadri, Vice-Chairman, RIS; Amb. Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East), MEA, Government of India; Ms. Pooja Kapur, Joint Secretary (AML), MEA, Government of India; and Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS.

Book Release

Release of Report on “India-Korea CEPA: An Appraisal of Progress”, 8 September 2015, New Delhi

AIC at RIS organised the launch of the Report “India-Korea CEPA: An Appraisal of Progress”, authored by Ambassador V. S. Sheshadri, Vice-Chairman, RIS in New Delhi on 8 September 2015. Ambassador Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East), MEA, GoI released the Report and delivered the Special Address. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS delivered the Welcome Address. Ambassador Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS delivered the Inaugural Address. Ambassador V.S. Sheshadri made a presentation about the Report, followed by open discussion. Prof. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC extended the Vote of Thanks.

This Report reviewed the implementation of India-Korea CEPA in the last five years since it came into effect on January



Amb. Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East), MEA, GoI releasing the report. Also seen in picture (from left to right) are Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; Amb. V. S. Sheshadri, Vice-Chairman, RIS and AIC; Amb. Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS; Shri Sanjay Chadha, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, Government of India.

2010. This Report has focused on three main issues: (i) how has been the implementation of CEPA progressed?; (ii) is there any scope for improvement in implementation?; (iii) is there a case to upgrade the

CEPA or do we need to proceed with caution? This Report has highlighted several measures for the effective implementation of CEPA between India and Korea. Copy of the Report is available at AIC website.

ASEAN-India Eminent Person Lecture by Dr. Geetesh Sharma, President, Indo-Vietnam Solidarity Committee, Kolkata, at Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam on 27 August 2015

AIC at RIS in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India, The University of Social Sciences and Humanities (USSH), Academy of Politics Region-II and the War Remnants Museum in HCMC organised a lecture under the ASEAN-India Eminent Person Lecture Series. The lecture was delivered by Dr. Geetesh Sharma on “India and Vietnam: Ever Growing Relations” on 27 August 2015 at Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

8th South Asia Economic Summit (SAES), 7–8 December 2015, Islamabad

The 8th South Asia Economic Summit (SAES) under the theme ‘Regional Cooperation for Sustainable Development in South Asia’ was organised by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Islamabad in partnership with Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka; RIS, New Delhi; South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Kathmandu; and Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS), Colombo. The event was held in Islamabad, Pakistan on 7 – 8 December 2015. RIS Director General Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, and Dr. Prabir De, Professor, RIS and Coordinator, AIC attended the Summit as key panellists. RIS publications, namely, the Proceedings of the 7th SAES entitled “Towards South Asia Economic Union” and the Special Issue of the *South Asia Economic Journal* (SAEJ) were released at this event.

The Second Meeting of the BIMSTEC Network of Policy Think Tanks, 8–9 October 2015, Bangkok

The Second Meeting of the BIMSTEC Network of Policy Think Tanks was held in Bangkok, Thailand on 8 – 9 October 2015. Delegations from all the BIMSTEC member states participated in the meeting. Prof. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC attended the meeting. This one and a half day meeting discussed many important issues relating to BIMSTEC regional cooperation and integration process. It has been decided that BIMSTEC Think Tank Network will submit research proposals to BIMSTEC Secretariat on BIMSTEC connectivity, BIMSTEC value chains and BIMSTEC People-to-People contacts for financial support. RIS has been asked to lead the project on BIMSTEC connectivity.



Think Tank Representatives of BIMSTEC Countries.

Roundtable on ASEAN-India Air Connectivity

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Mr. Satendra Singh, Former Director-General, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), New Delhi chaired the second session focused on “ASEAN-India Open Sky: Opportunities and Challenges”.

The experts included Mr. Kapil Kaul, Chief Executive Officer (South Asia), Centre for Aviation (CAPA); Mr. Amber Dubey, Head of Defence and Aerospace, KPMG; Mr. Jitendra Singh, Associate Vice President, Delhi International Airport Ltd.;

Mr. Deepak Dadlani, Former Chairman, Air Cargo Association of India (ACAAI), etc. The concluding session had remarks by Prof. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC. Dr. Durairaj Kumarasamy, Consultant, AIC extended the Vote of Thanks.

The Seventh Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum (APTFF), 20–21 October 2015, Wuhan

The 7th Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum (APTFF) was held in Wuhan, China on 20–21 October 2015. The APTFF 2015 was organised by ESCAP, ADB and China International Electronic Commerce Center (CIECC), with support of multiple ministries and agencies in charge of trade, trade facilitation, logistics and foreign affairs in China. Prof. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC attended the event as a key panellist. He was a panelist in the session on 'Deepening Regional Integration through Trade Facilitation.' At the 7th APTFF, international organisations and development agencies reviewed the on-going activities on trade facilitation in Asia-Pacific countries, particularly with reference to countries of the ASEAN region and suggested an agenda for trade facilitation.

International Conference on ASEAN-India Cultural Links: Historical and Contemporary Dimensions

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Canada made a presentation on "The Bhagavad-Gita Sections of the Old Javanese Bhismaparwa: Text Building and the Formation of the State in Premodern Indonesia". Dr. Ding Choo Ming, Visiting Senior Fellow, ISEAS made a presentation on "Reworking of Indian Epics in the Hands of Malay and Javanese Authors in the Past". Ms. Malini Saran, Independent Researcher, New Delhi and Ambassador Vinod Khanna, Former Ambassador of India to Bhutan jointly made a presentation on "Camille Buluke's Ramakatha-Utpatti aur Vikas: an Important Reference Work for Scholars in the Field of Ramayana Studies".

Prof. Himanshu Prabha Ray, Chairperson, National Monuments Authority, Ministry of Culture, New Delhi chaired the fifth session focused on "Sacred Geographies and Localisations of Beliefs". Dr. Sachchidanand Sahai, Advisor, Preah Vihear National Authority, Royal Government of Cambodia, and UNESCO Expert for the Archaeological Complex of Sambor Prei Kuk, Cambodia made a presentation

on "Archaeology as Soft Power or Power of Plurality in ASEAN-India Cultural Contexts". Dr. John Guy, Florence and Herbert Irving Curator of South and Southeast Asian Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York made a presentation on "Siva's Land: Understanding the Religious Landscape in Early Southeast Asia". Prof. Popo Danes, Architect, Bali, Indonesia made a presentation on "Ancient Architectural Influences between Bali and Majapahit".

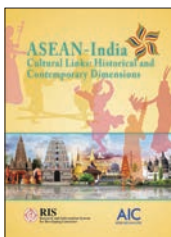
Dr. Sudha Gopalakrishnan, Executive Director, Sahapedia, New Delhi chaired the sixth session focused on "Evolving Artistic Expressions: From Tradition to Modernity". Dr. Padma Subramanyam, President Nrithyodaya, Chennai made a presentation on "Natyashastraic Links in Indonesia, Thailand and Cambodia". Mr. Datuk Ramli Ibrahim, Chairman, Sutra Foundation, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia made a presentation on "Framing Cultural Connections". Ms. Pallavi Aiayr, Journalist and Author, Jakarta, Indonesia made a presentation on "Bollywood and Bhima: Historical Resonance and

Contemporary Appeal in India-Indonesia Cultural Ties".

The seventh session deliberated on "Writing Our Own Histories: Changing Methodologies". Prof. Ding Choo Ming, Visiting Senior Fellow, ISEAS chaired the session. Prof. Farish Ahmad-Noor, Associate Professor, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore made a presentation on "An Unwilling Divorce: Colonial-Era Epistemology and the Division of South and Southeast Asia". Dr. Parul Pandya Dhar, Associate Professor of South and Southeast Asian Art History, University of Delhi made a presentation on "Monuments, Motifs, Myths: Architecture and Its Transformations in India and Southeast Asia". This was followed by Audio-Visual Presentation on "The Golder Land" by Mr. Vikram Lall.

The Conference ended with the Way Forward presented by Ambassador Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS and the Vote of Thanks by Prof. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC.

Publications



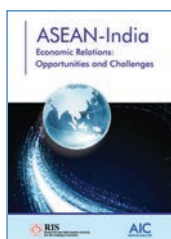
ASEAN-India Cultural Links: Historical and Contemporary Dimensions, AIC – RIS, 2015

AIC at RIS published the proceedings of the ASEAN-India Cultural Links: Historical and Contemporary Dimensions. This proceedings have the collection of research papers presented by eminent scholars from ASEAN countries, India and several other countries at the Conference. This single volume is a valuable reference for ASEAN-India cultural relations.



ASEAN-India Development and Cooperation Report 2015, AIC – RIS, 2015

AIC at RIS published the Report titled “ASEAN-India Development and Cooperation Report (AIDCR) 2015”. AIDCR has covered a series of cross-cutting economic issues in line with the Vision Statement of ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit 2012. This Report is published by the Routledge.



ASEAN-India Economic Relations: Opportunities and Challenges, AIC – RIS, 2015

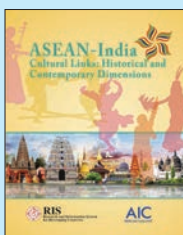
AIC at RIS published the proceedings of the third Roundtable on ASEAN-India Network of Think-Tanks (AINTT) entitled “ASEAN-India Economic Relations: Opportunities and Challenges”. The book has several chapters on ASEAN-India relations, and also presents key areas of cooperation between ASEAN and India.



India-Korea CEPA: An Appraisal of Progress, AIC – RIS, 2015

AIC at RIS published a Report titled “India-Korea CEPA: An Appraisal of Progress”. Ambassador V.S. Seshadri was the lead investigator and authored the Report, which was funded by the MEA, Government of India. This Report reviews the implementation of the CEPA in the last five years since it came into effect. It has sought to examine if there is scope for improvement in its implementation and makes specific recommendations.

ASEAN-India Cultural Links: Historical and Contemporary Dimensions



India-ASEAN relations have witnessed remarkable growth in recent years. At the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit 2012 in New Delhi, ASEAN-India relations elevated to the Strategic Partnership level. The relations have received new momentum under the current Act East Policy. The relationship is set to deepen in days to come as the two sides step up their collaboration across a range of economic and strategic issues, including trade and connectivity, culture, people-to-people contacts, transnational terrorism, and maritime security. At the Commemorative Summit, the leaders of ASEAN countries and India welcomed the

Report of the Eminent Persons Group and in their Vision Statement and, in particular, encouraged “the study, documentation and dissemination of knowledge about the civilisational links between ASEAN and India”. Shared historical ties, culture and knowledge have added a valuable dimension to India’s sustained interactions with Southeast Asia. The ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS organised an International Conference on “ASEAN-India Cultural Links: Historical and Contemporary Dimensions”, which was held at New Delhi on 23 – 24 July 2015. This Proceedings present all the papers, speeches and summary of the Conference in a single volume. It is a valuable reference book for scholars, researchers, and policymakers.

Publications

World Trade Report 2015



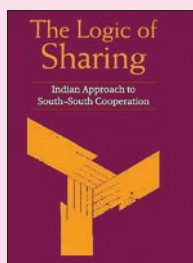
RIS has been bringing out its flagship publication the World Trade and Development Report (WTDR), an invaluable policy research resource for policymakers, development economists, civil society organisations and those concerned about development and policy space for the South. The present WTDR was brought out on the occasion of the Nairobi Ministerial and in the background of mega regionals like TPP, TTIP and others. The vast majority of developing countries have underlined the need for fulfilment of the commitments made by the developed world for the Doha Round. The WTDR argues that multilateralism is under serious challenge from the new approach of some of the countries towards norm setting outside the multilateral fora. These new agreements exclude a lot of countries from norm-setting. Thus, there is an urgent need for inclusive arrangement in global economic governance that allows participation of all countries in the global trade. Increased physical costs of participating in trade invoked by high technical standards, procedural requirements and Non-Tariff Measures would not help the developing countries. The Report emphasises that in case the Doha Round is abandoned, the biggest losers will be the developing countries. It also underlines that while flexibility is required, remaining firm on core issues like food security concerns and a special safeguard mechanism in agriculture is needed to help developing countries to cope with surges in imports and a crash in prices. It should also be underlined that TPP's standards are a matter of concern in areas like labour, environment, government procurement and intellectual property rights that imperil public health objectives of the developing countries. The WTDR also makes a number of suggestions and relevant policy recommendations for consideration by those who are interested in issues related to global trade and economic development. The Report is available at www.ris.org.in

ASEAN-India Development and Cooperation Report 2015



India's reengagement with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is one of the most important developments of the contemporary period. As a regional bloc, ASEAN has developed much faster than any of the other blocs in the Asia-Pacific. With ASEAN and India working towards establishing a Comprehensive Free Trade Area (FTA) through Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP), their cooperation will be key to promoting economic stability, competitiveness, growth and integration in the region. ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) has published the ASEAN-India Development and Cooperation Report 2015 (AIDCR). One of the objectives of the Report is to bring together ideas, perspectives and experiences as part of our efforts to promote ASEAN-India integration in the context of ASEAN Economic Community (AEC). It presents comprehensive regional cooperation and integration issues, not only on partnership between ASEAN and India but also on East Asia Summit (EAS) Group relations. The publisher of this Report is Routledge, New Delhi.

The Logic of Sharing: Indian Approach to South-South Cooperation



India's development cooperation programmes reflect the broad principles that inform Indian foreign policy in general. In essence, they reflect sovereign equality and belief in friendly relations with all countries, particularly India's neighbours coupled with opposition to colonialism and a continued commitment to the amplification of human freedom and the creation of equitable conditions for the peaceful and harmonious development of nations. Indian nationalist leader Mahatma Gandhi underlined that while juxtaposition of peace and prosperity is not contrivance for establishing moral prospects, the two conditions are indissolubly linked. Such pragmatism is evident in the genesis and evolution of India's development cooperation policy. Independent India has a history of successful cooperation with other developing countries. The extension of Indian resources and expertise to the global South, which dates back to the early 1950s, became institutionalised under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC) established in 1964. Although the scale of India's development cooperation has been modest, it has expanded along with the country's emergence as a rapidly growing economy, at a time when development assistance available from other major emerging economies has also been growing significantly. Authored by Prof. Sachin Chatirvedi, Director General, RIS, *The Logic of Sharing: Indian Approach to South-South Cooperation* has been published by the Cambridge University Press (CUP), New Delhi.

Important Visitors Received

- A team from ASEAN Studies Centre of the Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand visited AIC and had meeting with Coordinator, AIC on 31 July 2015. The delegates were Dr. Piti Srisangnam and Ms. Anupama D. Masali. They discussed the ASEAN-India economic relations, and the scope and opportunities of collaboration between the two centres.
- Mr. Nicolas Kohler, University of Cambridge visited AIC and had meeting with Coordinator, AIC on 2 September 2015 to discuss India's Act East Policy and various aspects of ASEAN-India relations.
- Mr. Edmund Chia, Deputy High Commissioner and Minister-Counsellor, High Commission of the Republic of Singapore, New Delhi visited AIC and had meeting with Coordinator, AIC on 26 October 2015 to discuss Singapore-India economic relations and ASEAN-India connectivity projects.
- Mr. Yuichiro Motomura, President and CEO, Padeco, Mr. Mieko Ishikawa, Project Consultant, Padeco and Mr. Ashwin Sinha, Alar Infrastructure, India visited AIC and had meeting with Coordinator, AIC on 12 October 2015 to discuss investment opportunities in connectivity projects in Northeast India.
- Mr. Thomas Edwardsen, Political Officer - External Unit, Asia Pacific Region, Political-Military Affairs and Ms. Riju Srimal, Indian Desk Officer, U.S. Department of State, Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs visited AIC and had meeting with AIC officials on 3 November 2015 to discuss ASEAN-India relations.
- A team from Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP) visited AIC and had meeting with Coordinator, AIC on 10 November 2015. The visitors were Dr. Lee Wong, Research Fellow, Department of Asia Pacific, KIEP and Ms. Lee Jung Me, Research Fellow, Department of Asia-Pacific, KIEP. They discussed issues relating trade relations in Asia and role of ASEAN dialogue partners.
- A team from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) visited AIC and had meeting with Coordinator, AIC on 20 November 2015. The visitors were Dr. Mai Seki, Research Fellow, JICA, Tokyo and Ms. Yamuda Eiji, Research Fellow, JICA. The visitors exchanged views on infrastructure development and poverty eradication in context of large connectivity projects, particularly in borderlands.
- Mr. P. P. Srivastava, Member of Governing Council, Asian Confluence and Mr. Sabayasachi Dutta, Director, Asian Confluence visited RIS and had meeting with Coordinator, AIC on 23 November 2015. Visitors exchanged views on ASEAN-India relations and the role of Northeast India under the Act East Policy.
- A delegation from China visited AIC and had meeting with Coordinator, AIC on 2 December 2015. The Chinese delegates were Dr. Fan HE, Managing Director, Head of Research Department, Chief Economist, Caixin Insight Group, Beijing; Dr. Xie Huaizhu, Division Chief, Research Bureau, Division of International Finance Study, The People's Bank of China, Beijing; Dr. Lu Yue, Assistant Professor, China Institute for WTO Studies, UIBE, Beijing, China; and Dr. Aravind Yelery, Associate Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, Delhi. They discussed China's investments in infrastructure projects in India and Southeast Asia.
- Dr. Sebastian Saez, Lead Economist, The World Bank Group in India visited AIC and had meeting with Coordinator, AIC at RIS on 4 December 2015. Dr Saez exchanged views on trade and industrial competitiveness in India.
- A Japanese delegation from the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) visited AIC and had meeting with Coordinator, AIC on 16 December 2015. The Japanese delegates were Mr. Nobuyoshi Wakabayashi, Representative for Asia Pacific Region, the Overseas Human Resources and Industry Development Association and Representative, AMEICC Secretariat, AEM-METI, Economic and Industrial Co-operation Committee, Bangkok; Mr. Kazumi Nishikawa, Executive Director, Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) and Special Advisor to the Minister, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), Japan; and Mr. Ichiro Abe, Representative of METI for South Asia, METI, Japan and Director of JETRO New Delhi. Visitors discussed prospects of large scale connectivity, investment value chain and related issues.

Research Projects: Ongoing

Exploring Closer Economic Cooperation with East and South East Asia	AIC has undertaken this study with support of the MEA. This study attempts to analyse, among others, the scopes and opportunities in India's closer economic cooperation with East and Southeast Asia.
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, viz.: (i) BCIM-Economic Corridor, (ii) East-West Corridor (part of Golden Quadrilateral project), (iii) Trilateral Highway, and (iv) Kalandan multimodal transit transport project. The study is ongoing.
Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) in ASEAN-India Trade	The study analyses the NTMs faced by India in ASEAN and by ASEAN in India in select products. Out of 16 NTMs, the study considers the major ones, viz., SPS and TBT. The study is based on both primary and secondary data. The study is ongoing.
Emerging Production Networks between India and ASEAN	This study explores India's integration process, especially in manufacturing sectors, viz. machinery, electrical & optical products and automobile sector including parts and accessories to start with. Special attention on these sectors stem not only from the fact that they are among key trading sectors between India and ASEAN but also because these are some of the important sectors among others where IPN building process as a result of FTA carries emphatic impact for SME's. 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 Events

- Delhi Dialogue VIII, 17-19 February 2016, New Delhi
- Fifth Roundtable of ASEAN-India Network of Think-Tanks (AINTT), June 2016

ASEAN-India: Partnership for Peace and Prosperity*

Continued from page 1...

by 2030, ASEAN will become the fourth largest global economy. Intra-ASEAN trade will increase from less than 25 per cent of the present total to 30 per cent five years after the launch of the ASEAN Community, by 2020.

To realise such a vision, ASEAN would continue to promote and strengthen its external engagement. A strong, united and prosperous ASEAN Community is a vital element in ensuring peace, stability and prosperity in East Asia and Asia-Pacific. India, as a most populous nation with historical and cultural similarities and shared interests, and which is both land and sea-linked to ASEAN, will always be one of ASEAN's most important partner.

As ASEAN and India continue to implement the activities listed in the Vision Statement, the work-at-hand is to ensure that the implementation is effective with high-impact and mutually-beneficial cooperation projects. Let me briefly touch on four areas where further efforts should be invested:

First, the Leaders of ASEAN and India expressed their strong commitment to realise the trade and economic potentials of the strategic partnership. With a combined market of over 1.8 billion people and a GDP of 4.6 trillion US dollars, and a relative geographical proximity, there are huge potentials waiting to be tapped in ASEAN-India trade, investment and economic cooperation. We need to promote and devise measures to ensure that the ASEAN-India FTA benefits the business communities on both sides. Deeper private sector engagement is vital to enhance our economic ties. Given the importance of the RCEP to both ASEAN and India in the implementation of the agreement signed at the side-lines of the recent ASEAN Summit, the two sides have to work closely to achieve the target of concluding the negotiations in 2016.

Second, ASEAN is embarking on a bold and long-term strategy to improve regional, physical, institutional and people-to-people connectivity. Enhanced ASEAN connectivity would promote ASEAN centrality in the regional architecture, facilitate the building of an ASEAN Community and serve as a foundation for enhanced connectivity beyond the region. This is in-line with the commitment of the Leaders to further strengthen ASEAN-India connectivity. Expanding and improving road, rail, maritime and air linkages will be crucial to further increase ASEAN-India trade and investment. The development of the Mekong-India Economic Corridor, the construction of the new India-Myanmar-Lao PDR-Vietnam-Cambodia Highway and the extension of the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway would further promote transport infrastructure linkages, and contribute to the increase in two-way trade and investment. In the meantime, the ASEAN-India air connectivity can be strengthened via greater liberalisation of air services, both goods and passengers. In this regard, the ASEAN-India Air Services Agreement should be concluded at the soonest. Concrete efforts should be directed to support the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity in areas where India has strong expertise and interest.

Third, ASEAN and India need to continue the momentum gained in their cooperation to support the narrowing of the development gaps in the region. India's support to the Initiative for ASEAN Integration through implementation of programmes in entrepreneurship training, English language and ICT have contributed significantly the enhancement of the capacities of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam. Enhancing cooperation in bridging the development gaps needs to be continued and further promoted.

Fourth, ASEAN and India need to deepen their cooperation and promote closer coordination on regional and international issues, through more constructive dialogues and activities in existing mechanisms that promote peace and security, such as the ASEAN Regional Forum, ASEAN-Europe Meeting, and East Asia Summit. Such cooperation and coordination can be manifested at global fora such as the United Nations where ASEAN and India share common positions on most major issues, especially those on respect for the fundamental principles of international law and international relations. India is highly respected for its non-violence culture and ASEAN is well-known for its support for the principle of non-use of force and moderation. This will contribute to advance the mutual common interests of promoting peace, stability and prosperity in the East Asia and wider Asia Pacific regions.

Three years have since passed following the elevation of the ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations to a Strategic Partnership. Engagement is intensifying. It is imperative for ASEAN and India to be committed in pursuing a multi-track approach to nurture the Strategic Partnership effectively.

Moving forward, as immediate priorities, ASEAN and India could, among others, focus on promoting two-way trade and investment. This includes the continuation of the ASEAN-India trade consultations and the re-activation of the ASEAN-India business summits, as well as increased private sector interactions, further promotion of people-to-people connectivity, cultural exchanges, education, among others.

As an immediate neighbour and a key partner of ASEAN, we look forward to enjoying India's support in realising our ASEAN Vision 2025 in the interests of peace, stability, cooperation and harmony in the region and friendship between our peoples.

**An excerpt from the Speech of H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN, delivered at AIC on 10 December 2015 in New Delhi.*

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 organisation that specialises 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. The AIC is serving 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 Division 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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