



Major Events

Delhi Dialogue X: 'Strengthening India-ASEAN Maritime Cooperation', New Delhi, 19-20 July 2018



Hon'ble Smt. Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister of India with the ASEAN Head of Delegations in the Delhi Dialogue X.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in partnership with the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS); ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS; National Maritime Foundation (NMF), New Delhi; ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta; Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Jakarta organised the 10th edition of the Delhi Dialogue on 19-20 July 2018 in New Delhi. The theme of the 10th Delhi Dialogue was "Strengthening India-ASEAN Maritime Cooperation". Hon'ble Smt. Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister of India; Gen. V.K. Singh, Ministry of State for External Affairs; and Mr. M.K. Akbar, Ministry of

State for External Affairs delivered the Keynote Address in the Ministerial and Special Plenary Sessions, respectively. Amb. Preeti Saran, Secretary (East) gave the Inaugural Address and Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS made the Welcome Address. About 300 delegates including several senior ministers from the ASEAN Member States along with senior level officials, subject experts, eminent scholars, practitioners, diplomats, academicians, researchers, businessmen, business associations across the world attended the conference. The 10th edition of the Delhi Dialogue was a two-day

events, which includes Plenary and Special Plenary Session and a Ministerial Session. The Plenary session covered major themes including Social, Political and Economic aspects of the ASEAN-India partnership i.e. the 3Cs of Connectivity, Commerce and Culture. The Special Plenary Session featured a Keynote Address by Ministry of State in External Affairs of India with the Special Address of Chief Ministers of seven North Eastern States of India. The Ministerial Session featured a Keynote address given by the External Affairs Minister of

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Hon'ble Gen. V.K. Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs, India delivering Keynote Address at the Special Plenary Session on Roundtable with Chief Minister of North East India at Delhi Dialogue X.

India accompanied by the Special Address by Heads of Delegations of ASEAN Member States and ASEAN Secretariat. The 10th edition of Delhi Dialogue ended with Valedictory Session focusing on the Way Forward.

The major themes included in the plenary sessions were Role of North East in Act East Policy with ASEAN, Strengthening Socio-Cultural Links, India-ASEAN Partnership and Emerging Global Order, Maritime Cooperation: A New Framework for India-ASEAN Partnership, ASEAN-India Trade, Investment and Technology, Development Cooperation, SMEs and Regional Development, Tourism Cooperation and Building Smart Cities.

Amb. Preeti Saran, Secretary (East) delivered the Opening Remarks in the Inaugural Session. Hon'ble Gen. V. K. Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs chaired this session, and emphasized the government's thrust on Indo-Pacific maritime cooperation that may unlock

prosperity for the common good of the people and ensure seas as safe, secure and free for all. Chief Ministers of Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura; and Minister of Industries and Commerce of Assam and Dy. Chief Ministers of Arunachal Pradesh attended this ministerial session and spoken about their respective state's perspective in context of ASEAN-India relations.

Plenary session I was themed on the role of North East in India's 'Act East Policy' forging connectivity with ASEAN countries. This session was chaired by Mr. P.D. Rai, Member of Parliament, and Chairman, Northeast MPs Forum. Mr. Ram Madhav, Chairman, India Foundation delivered the Special Address. The panelists of the session were Amb. Pradap Pibulsonggram, Advisor to the Department of ASEAN Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand; Mr. Tarun Vijay, Former Member of Parliament, India; Amb. Gautam Mukhopadhyay, Former

Indian Ambassador to Myanmar; etc. Participants emphasized that both ASEAN and India should work together to complete the unfinished connectivity projects and suggested to introduce airline connectivity with Southeast Asian countries from NER. Moreover, they urged to improve the connectivity across SME clusters to enhance the livelihood of NER people who are primarily engaged in agriculture, livestock, fishery, etc.

Second plenary session on Strengthening Socio-Cultural Links broadly discussed the issues related to socio-cultural engagements between ASEAN countries and India, and the way forward to enhance people-to-people contacts. Prof. Sunaina Singh, Vice-Chancellor, Nalanda University chaired this session. Special Address was given by Dr. Vinay Sahasrabudde, Member of Parliament (MP) and President, Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR),

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New Delhi. Mr. M. J. Akbar, Minister of State for External Affairs made the Keynote Address in this session. The speakers were Dr. Thant Myint U, Chairman, Yangon Heritage Trust, Yangon; Mr. Rajesh Purohit, Director, Indian Museum, Kolkata; Prof. Bernadette G.L. Abrera, Dean, University of the Philippines in Diliman, The Philippines; and Prof. Sabuj Koli Sen, Acting Vice-Chancellor, Visva-Bharati University, Shantiniketan.

Third plenary session on India-ASEAN Partnership and Emerging Global Order and was chaired by Ambassador Shyam Saran, Former Foreign Secretary of India and Chairman, RIS, New Delhi. Prof. Hidetoshi Nishimura, President, ERIA gave the Special Address in this session. The panelists of the session were Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director, Social Development Division, UNESCAP, Bangkok; Mr. Rajeev Kher, Distinguished Fellow, RIS, and former Commerce Secretary of India; Prof. C Rajamohan, Director, ISAS, Singapore; and Dr. Kuik Cheng-Chwee, Associate Professor, National University of Malaysia (UKM), Malaysia. This session discussed the role of ASEAN and India in the sphere of emerging global order, how to mitigate rise of new trade protectionism and uphold shared responsibility for shaping the global order as 'Asia's Century'.

In the next Ministerial Ses-

sion, Ambassador Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS made the Welcome Remarks, and Keynote Address was delivered by Hon'ble Smt. Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister of India. Respective Head of Delegations of ASEAN member states and ASEAN Secretariat also delivered the Special Address in this session. The respected delegates were H.E. Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Singapore; H.E. Mr. Abdul Mutalib Yusof, Minister of Communications of Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Mr. Kyaw Tin, Union Minister, Ministry of International Cooperation, Myanmar; H.E. Mr. Nguyen Quoc Dung, Vice Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Vietnam; H.E. Mr. Thongphane Savanphet, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Lao PDR; Dr. A.M. Fachir, Vice Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Indonesia; H.E. Ms. Maria Hellen B. de la Vega, Senior Official and Former PH SOM Leader to ASEAN, The Philippines; H.E. Mr. Chaisiri Anamarn, Special Envoy / Advisor, Foreign Minister of Thailand; H.E. Mr. Pickhun Panha, Ambassador of Cambodia to India, New Delhi; H.E. Mr. Dato' Hidayat Abdul Hamid, High Commissioner of Malaysia to India; and H.E. Dr. Hoang Anh Tuan, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Political Security Community, ASEAN. In this session, proceedings of DD IX was released and a presentation of

Outcomes of 2nd ASEAN-India Blue Economy Workshop was made by Prof. Hidetoshi Nishimura, President, ERIA, Indonesia. Vote of Thanks was extended by Amb. Preeti Saran, Secretary (East), MEA.

The fourth plenary session was themed on Maritime Cooperation: A New Framework for India-ASEAN Partnership. This session was chaired by Commodore Uday Bhaskar, Director, Society for Policy Studies (SPS). The session also presented an AV Presentation on ASEAN-India Maritime Cooperation. Vice-Admiral G Ashok Kumar, AVSM, Deputy Chief of Naval Staff, India delivered the Special Address. The session panelists were Dr. Tang Siew Mun, Senior Fellow & Head, ASEAN Studies Centre (ISEAS), Singapore; Capt. S S Parmar, National Maritime Foundation (NMF), New Delhi; Dr. Adina Binti Kamarudin, Deputy Director General, Maritime Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia; Prof. Shankari Sundararaman, Centre for Indo-Pacific Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi; and Mr. Siswanto Rusdi, Founder Director, National Maritime Institute, Jakarta. The session on creating a new framework for ASEAN-India partnership on maritime cooperation discussed various challenges and the way forward for collaborative efforts

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in the area of maritime security and maritime domain.

Plenary session V on Development Cooperation: Strengthening the ASEAN-India Partnership was chaired by Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, DG, RIS. Special Address was made by Mr. David Rasquinha, Managing Director, EXIM Bank of India, Mumbai. Mr. Prashant Agrawal, Joint Secretary (DPA I), MEA; and Mr. B. V. N. Rao, Chairman, Transportation & Urban Infrastructure, GMR Group, New Delhi; were the speakers in the session. The session discussed various challenges and presented way forward for collaborative efforts in development cooperation.

Dato' Ramesh Kodammal, Co-Chair AIBC (ASEAN), Kuala Lumpur chaired the sixth plenary session on ASEAN-India Trade, Investment and Technology. Ms. Rita Teoatia, Commerce Secretary of India delivered the Special Address. Mr. Karan Singh Thakral, Executive Director, Thakral Group of Companies, Singapore and Ms. Shanti Shamdasani, President ASEAN International Advocacy and Council Member, AIBC, Indonesia were the speakers in the session. This session discussed the synergies and complementarities between India and ASEAN in goods, services and investment and chalked out ways for enhancing trade and investment relations between India and ASEAN. The session also highlighted India's partici-

pation in Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and how it would boost trade and investment opportunities between India and ASEAN.

Parallel session I on SMEs and Regional Development was chaired by Amb. Gautam Mukhopadhyay, former Indian Ambassador to Myanmar. Special Address was made by Ms. Pacita Juan, Chair AWEN and Co-Chair, India ASEAN Women Business Forum, Manila. The panelists of this session were Dr. Sunil Shukla, Director, Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), Ahmadabad; Mr. Johnny Chotrani, Chairman, Philippine India Business Council, ASEAN-India Business Council; and Mr. R. Ravindran, Chairman, SAEA Group Research, Singapore & Member AIBC. The session looked at the scope and opportunities of stronger cooperation in SMEs and adheres to the benefits of regional development in both ASEAN and India.

e-Commerce and Digital connectivity was the theme of the second parallel session. This session was chaired by Prof. Abhijit Das, Head, Centre for WTO Studies, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), New Delhi. Special Address was delivered by Mr. Gagan Sabharwal, Senior Director, Global Trade Development, The National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM), New Delhi.

The speakers were Mr. Vikram Singh, Country Manager, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), The Philippines; Mr U Minn Naing Oo, Managing Director, Allen & Glendhill Myanmar, Yangon; and Mr. Shouvik K Majumdar, Executive Director, QuantumLaMA Consulting, and Director, Vantedge Global Solutions, New Delhi. e-Commerce and Digital Connectivity has become increasingly important in India as well as ASEAN countries in recent years. Whilst the 'ASEAN market' is collectively large, there are significant challenges to develop e-commerce in some countries, like Myanmar. Parallel session II was devoted on discussion with this important contemporary issue.

Third parallel session on Tourism Cooperation was chaired by Ambassador Rajiv Bhatia, Distinguished Fellow, Gateway House, Mumbai. H.E. Ms. Maria Hellen B. de la Vega, Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Philippines, and Dr. Gulshan Sharma, Director General, International Chamber of Services Industry (ICSI), New Delhi were the speakers of this session. The session highlighted the developments in tourism sector and new avenues of cooperation between India and ASEAN. Since the year 2019 has been identified as ASEAN-India Tourism Year to facilitate and promote

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tourism between the regions, this session discussed the policy directions and way forward to enhance ASEAN-India cooperation in tourism.

Parallel session IV on Building Smart Cities was chaired by Amb. Amar Sinha, Distinguished Fellow, RIS, New Delhi. Special Address was given by Mr. Kunal Kumar, Joint Secretary & Mission Director, Smart Cities, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, India. The panelists were Prof. P.S.N Rao, Director, School of Planning and Architecture (SPA) Delhi; Mr. Jonathan Tow, Director-General (South Asia & Sub-Saharan Africa), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore; and Mr. Sanjeev Sanyal, Principal Economic Adviser, Ministry of Finance, India; This session discussed the challenges and opportunities on building smart cities; and how India and ASEAN countries can consistently work together to achieve transformative, inclusive and sus-



Hon'ble Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Amb. Hardeep Singh Puri delivering the Special Remarks at Delhi Dialogue X.

tainable urban development using latest technology, innovations and digital solutions. The session also discussed the avenues of cooperation for developing ASEAN-India smart city networks.

The DD X ended with Valuedictory Session focusing on the Way Forward. This session was chaired by Ambassador Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS. H.E. Mr. Chutintorn Gongsakdi, Ambassador of Thailand to India delivered the Special Remarks and Amb. Hardeep Singh Puri, Hon'ble Minister of

Housing and Urban Affairs, India gave a Special Remarks. Finally, Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS extended the Vote of Thanks. The two-day events of 10th Delhi Dialogue also organised a Cultural Programme performed by Ms. Madhavi Mudgalon on 19 July 2018. Amb. Preeti Saran, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs hosted the Reception and Smt. Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister of India hosted Dinner Banquet for the participants. ■

Second ASEAN-India Workshop on Blue Economy, New Delhi, 18 July 2018

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India jointly with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Viet Nam; ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta; Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Jakarta; National Maritime Foundation (NMF), New Delhi and ASEAN-India Cen-

tre (AIC) at RIS, New Delhi organised the Second ASEAN-India Workshop on Blue Economy on 18 July 2018 at New Delhi. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS gave Welcome Address; Prof. Hidetoshi Nishimura, President of ERIA and H.E. Mr. Ton Sinh Thnah, Ambassador of Vietnam to In-

dia. Keynote Address was given by Amb. Preeti Saran, Secretary (East), MEA, India. The workshop was attended by Head of Delegations from each ASEAN Member-State, Senior Officials and experts from ASEAN and India.

The objective of the work-

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Amb. Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS and Amb. Preeti Saran, Secretary (East) with the Workshop Delegates.

-shop was to build on discussions held at the 1st ASEAN-India Workshop on Blue Economy on 24-25 November 2017 in Nha Trang, Viet Nam, and add on substance to the efforts towards achieving the vision of the leaders in making progress in ASEAN-India cooperation in the maritime domain as a key facet of the ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership. The specific activities and areas where ASEAN and India can work together identified at the end of the workshop would act as the foundation on which ASEAN and India can develop a Plan of Action to progress further in this cooperation. The outcome of the workshop was reported in the Ministerial Session in the Delhi Dialogue X, which was held on 19-20 July 2018 at New Delhi.

The workshop was divided into four sessions to facilitate an in-depth discussion on Blue Economy for identifying specific areas, where ASEAN and India can cooperate and work together. The four sessions were Blue Economy and Mari-

time Connectivity; Technology in Aid of Blue Economy; Development of Blue Economy and Maritime Safety and Diplomacy, and Blue Economy.

The first session was on Blue Economy and Maritime Connectivity and this session was chaired by Dr. Fauziah Zen, Senior Economist, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Jakarta. The panellists of the session were Mr. Nur Azman Abdul Rahim, Dy. Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia; Amb. Yogendra Kumar, Former Indian Ambassador to the Philippines; Dr. Nguyen Chu Hoi, Associate Professor, VNU University of Science, Vietnam National University (VNU), Hanoi; and Dr. Prabir De, Professor, RIS & Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS, New Delhi. The session broadly discussed the issues of maritime connectivity and provided a framework for strengthening maritime connectivity in the context of Blue Economy. The session also highlighted specific activi-

ties, where ASEAN and India can jointly work towards enhancing maritime connectivity such as development of ports, building connectivity between islands, facilitating maritime logistics, etc.

Second session on Technology in Aid of Blue Economy discussed the ways in which technology can be harnessed in aid of Blue Economy. The session mainly focused on the use of space-based technologies to facilitate safe use of oceans by the provision of oceanography services and use of space to aid resource mapping of oceans. This session was chaired by Dr. Adina Binti Kamarudin, Deputy Director General, Maritime Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia. Dr. Prakash Chauhan, Director, Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS), ISRO, Department of Space, Government of India, Dehradun and Dr. M.A. Atmanand, Director, National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai were the

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Group Photo of the Second Blue Economy Workshop Delegates.

were the speakers of the session.

The third session on Development of Blue Economy has discussed the conceptual development of Blue Economy, which was chaired by Ambassador Yogendra Kumar, former Ambassador of the Philippines. In this session, Special Address was delivered by Mr. Sanjay Panda, Joint Secretary (IOR), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), India. The panelists of the session were Dr. S. K. Mohanty, Professor, RIS, New Delhi; Dr. Syarif Syahrial, Director, Directorate of Venture Capital Management, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Jakarta; Dr. Piti Srisangnam, Assistant Professor, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok; Mr. Rajeev Ranjan Chaturvedy, Visiting Fellow, Office of Executive Deputy Chairman, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore; and Dr.

Vu Thanh Ca, Associate Professor, Ha Noi University of Environment and Natural Resources, Ha Noi. The session explored the characteristics of the Blue Economy and discussed the policy prescription in the context of ASEAN-India cooperation.

Amb. S.T. Devare, Chairman, Research Advisory Council, RIS chaired the Session IV. This session was on Maritime Safety and Diplomacy and Blue Economy. Speakers of the session were Mr. Jonathan Tow, Director-General (South Asia & Sub-Saharan Africa), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore; Dr. Malini V. Shankar, DG Shipping, Government of India, Mumbai; Commodore Nishant Kumar, Director, D&ISA Division, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), India; Mr. Basilio Araujo Dias, Assistant Coordinating Deputy for Maritime Security and Sovereignty, Coordinating Minister for Maritime Affairs, Indonesia; Captain (IN)

Sarabjeet S Parmar, Senior Fellow, National Maritime Foundation (NMF), India; and Mr. Sai Myo Tint, Director, Department of Marine Administration, Ministry of Transportation and Communications, Myanmar. The session discussed the threats and challenges to maritime security and the man-made threats like piracy, sea-borne terror, drug trafficking and transnational crime and natural calamities like tsunami, cyclone etc. that have the potential to disrupt adversely trade and economic activities of India and ASEAN countries.

Finally, in the Valedictory Session, H.E. Mr. Ton Sinh Thanh, Ambassador of Vietnam to India has given the Closing Remarks. Mr. Anurag Bhushan, Joint Secretary (ASEAN ML), MEA delivered the Valedictory Address. Dr. Prabir De, Professor, RIS and Coordinator of AIC extended the Vote of Thanks. ■

Policy Dialogue on Act East and North East, New Delhi, 28 October 2018



L to R: Mr. Ravi Capoor, Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam, Guwahati; Mr. Ram Muivah, Secretary, NEC; Mr. Naveen Verma, Secretary, Ministry of DoNER; Ms. Mamta Shankar, Economic Advisor, Ministry of DoNER; Dr. Prabir De, Professor, AIC at RIS; H.E. Mr. Chutintorn Gongsakdi, Ambassador of Thailand to India.

Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) & North East Council (NEC) in collaboration with the ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS organized the Policy Dialogue on Act East and India's North East on 28 October 2018 in New Delhi. The Welcome Address was made by Ms. Mamta Shankar, Economic Advisor, Ministry of Development of Northeastern Region (DoNER), Government of India. Mr. Ram Muivah, Secretary, North East Council (NEC) and Mr. Ravi Capoor, Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam, Guwahati delivered the Special Address in the Inaugural Session. Keynote Address was given by H.E. Mr. Chutintorn Gongsakdi, Ambassador of Thailand to India. Mr Naveen Verma, Secretary, DoNER delivered the Inaugural Address.

This one-day Policy Dialogue had two segments; first was a lead presentation on Act East and Northeast India's Eco-

economic Integration with South-east Asia and second part was panel discussion. The lead presentation was made by Dr. Prabir De, Professor, RIS and Coordinator of AIC. In his presentation, Dr. De discussed about Northeast India's trade and investment linkages and production networks with South Asia and Southeast Asia. He presented the key challenges and the future potentials of the region. He further emphasized that there is huge potential for cross-border value chains between Northeast India, Bangladesh and Myanmar in areas such as processed food, refined petroleum products, pharmaceuticals and preparation, health, education, tourism and transport and communication. In addition, there are huge investment opportunities in Northeast India in the following sectors: agri-horticulture, organic farming, waste management, construction, power generation, tourism, health and wellness. He suggested having

greater engagement of states in AEP, building economic zones in states having border, special funding for border infrastructure development with Government of India's support and coordination among ministries, engage industry associations, state ITIs, IITs, etc. for training and capacity building on trade and most importantly completing the ongoing connectivity projects.

The panel discussion was on the strategic and economic linkages between North East India and the eastern neighbourhood, its challenges and discussed the way forward. The session was chaired by Dr. Ramgopal Agarwala, Distinguished Fellow, NITI Aayog. In his special address, Mr. Kenichi Yokoyama, Country Director, Asian Development Bank (ADB) Indian Resident Mission focused on ADB's engagement in the Northeast

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India in particular with Assam. He suggested building information portal of Northeast that would provide updated information on economic and infrastructural environment of the states. On the other, implementation and completion of all connectivity projects are much needed to facilitate the development of Northeast. Industries with potential to serve neighbouring markets and ASEAN need to be identified and promoted in NER, and

harmonization of custom procedures and other trade facilitation measures would help facilitate Northeast's trade. The panelists of the session were Mr. M P Bezbaruah, Formerly Member, NEC and Secretary (Tourism) to the Government of India; Ms. Priya Mathur, Consultant, The World Bank; Amb. Gautam Mukhopadhyay, Former Indian Ambassador to Myanmar; Dr. Priyoranjan Singh, Professor, Manipur University; Dr. Gurudas Das, Professor, National Institute of

Technology (NIT) Silchar; and Mr. Sabyasachi Dutta, Director, Asian Confluence. The session explored several potential areas like tourism, connectivity, banking facilities, border trade to enhance trade and development in the NER.

In the Concluding Session, the Valedictory Address was delivered by Mr. Biman Dutta, Member, NEC and Vote of Thanks was extended by Ms. Mamta Shankar, Economic Advisor, Ministry of DoNER. ■

Visit of the Thailand Delegation, New Delhi, 26 November 2018



Group Photo: Visit of the Thailand delegation to India.

King Prajadhipok's Institute (KPI) conducted a study visit to India titled "Politics and Governance in Democratic System for Executives" from 26 November to 1 December 2018. On the visit of the Thailand delegation to India, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS organised an interaction session on "India's Economic Reformation in 21st

Century" on 26 November 2018 in Pravashi Bharatiya Kendra, New Delhi. Over 60 delegates from Thailand and India attended the session and discussed the India-Thailand relation in the present global context. Thailand delegation was headed by Prof. Surat Horaichakul, Director of India Studies Centre, Chulalong-

korn University, Bangkok. The discussion was initiated by Dr. Prabir De, Professor, RIS and Coordinator of AIC. Prof. Baladash Ghosal joined the interactive session as a special invitee. The conversation was mainly focused on Act East Policy and Northeast India's Economic Integration with Southeast Asia. ■

Kolkata Dialogue 2018: “Indo-ASEAN Partnership: Ensuring Peace and Prosperity in the Indo-Pacific Region & Beyond” Kolkata, 29 November 2018



Group Photo with Prof. Suthipand Chirathivat, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand and Mr. Anurag Bhushan, Joint Secretary (ASEAN-ML) Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India at Kolkata Dialogue 2018 on 29 November 2018, Kolkata.

Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) organized the Kolkata Dialogue 2018 with support of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India on 29 November 2018 in Kolkata. The conference covered various aspects of India-ASEAN relations such as social security issue to ensure peace and prosperity in the Indo-pacific region and beyond; emerging issues of trade by untapping the potentialities of the region; and importance of trade, commerce and business development to execute India's objectives of 'Act East Policy'. Dr. Prabir De, Professor, AIC at RIS presented a paper on the recently completed study on Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs): Evidence from ASEAN-India Trade in the Plenary Session I. In the presentation, he discussed about the implications of NTMs on trade between India and ASEAN and perspective of export and import firms and their experience on NTMs that are hindering trade between India and ASEAN. Mr. Anurag Bhushan, JS (ASEAN), MEA delivered the Keynote Address.

Connecting ASEAN, Kolkata, 13 December 2018



Indian Electrical and Electronic Manufacturing Association (IEEMA) organised a special session on “Connecting ASEAN” on 13 December 2018 at Kolkata. IEEMA aims to bring sustainable energy ecosystem in Eastern India, which has been visualized as the energy hub of the country to increase the growing efficiency and viability of energy supply to meet customer demands. West Bengal has a unique advantage to become a lever to ASEAN connectivity and other East Asian countries by virtue of its economic potential and industrialization. In this context, on behalf of ASEAN- India Centre (AIC) at RIS, Prof. Prabir De made a lead presentation entitled “India-ASEAN Partnership: Shared Value and Common Destiny” to highlight the significance of ASEAN and India relationship and the further scope on cooperation.

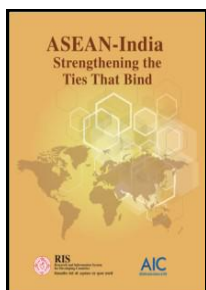
Forthcoming Events

- ◆ Third International Conference on ASEAN-India Cultural and Civilizational Links, Bangkok, Thailand
- ◆ Sixth Roundtable of ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks (AINTT), Bangkok, Thailand
- ◆ Fourth EAS Conference on Maritime Security and Cooperation, India
- ◆ Third ASEAN-India Workshop on Blue Economy, India

Research Projects: Ongoing

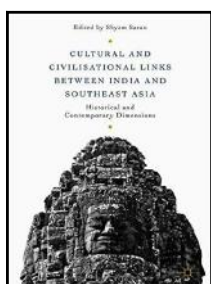
Emerging Production Networks between India and ASEAN	This study explores the possibilities to build cross-border networks within those industries on which India has manufacturing capacities and complementarities that match with the demand or supply capacity of ASEAN and vice versa. Besides, this study also makes an attempt to identify the challenges in building the production networks. In particular, the study identifies the gaps in connectivity and trade facilitation in promoting the production networks between ASEAN and India, and provides the possible remedies.
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, it considers the major ones, namely, SPS and TBT. The study is based on both primary and secondary data.
Sailing to Suvarnabhum: Cultural Routes and Maritime Networks:	The project is envisaged to revive the lost maritime routes between India and Southeast Asian countries. This study will also identify the gaps in listing of sites and filling in lacuna by a holistic and multi-layered perspective. This study would redefine the concept of cultural landscapes and allow for a fresh, multi-faceted approach to understand the past and present-day relationships. This study aims to set-up a platform for collaborative and evidence-based research on ancient and historical interactions across the Indian Ocean. It will also make an attempt to revive India's regional archives and research on maritime routes and coastal settlements.
India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Relationship: Way Towards a Stronger ASEAN-India Partnership	The objectives of this study are to (i) identify the challenges that India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral relationship has been facing in the context of ASEAN-India partnership; (ii) present the strategies and policies to be undertaken in order to strengthen the trilateral relationship; and (iii) publish the research findings to the attention of the policymakers, and dissemination of research findings. This study is jointly carried out in collaboration with the ASEAN Studies Center (ASC), Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok.
Implications of ASEAN Economic Community 2025	The establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in 2015 is a major milestone in the regional economic integration agenda in ASEAN. The AEC Blueprint 2025, adopted by the ASEAN Leaders, is aimed towards achieving the vision of having an AEC by 2025 that is highly integrated and cohesive; competitive, innovative and dynamic; with enhanced connectivity and sectoral cooperation; and a more resilient, inclusive, and people-oriented, people-centred community, integrated with the global economy. ASEAN member states aim to complete the AEC by 2025. The implementation of AEC carries economic and strategic implications for India. This study being carried out with aim to analyse the economic implications of AEC for India with particular reference to regional connectivity.

AIC Publications (July–December 2018)



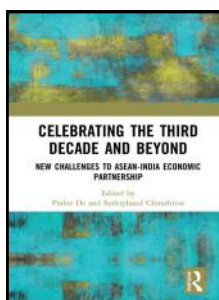
ASEAN-India Strengthening the Ties That Bind, AIC-RIS, 2018

This is the proceedings of the Fourth Roundtable of the ASEAN-India Network of Think-Tanks (AINTT), which was held on 7-8 August 2015 at Royale Chulan, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. It is part of the process of strengthening the ASEAN-India relationship that RIS had initiated to generate new ideas and suggestions for strengthening ASEAN-India Partnership. This report presents several ideas and suggestions that were emerged from the deliberations at the AINTT on following themes: non-traditional security threats, regional security architecture, and new dimensions of ASEAN-India economic partnership, ASEAN-India cultural links and post-2015 agenda of ASEAN.



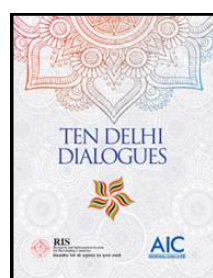
Cultural and Civilisational Links between India and Southeast Asia, Palgrave Macmillan, 2018

This book presents research papers on India's cultural links with Southeast Asia, with particular reference to historical and contemporary dimensions. It traces ancient trade and maritime links, Chola Empire and Southeast Asia, religious exchanges (the Hindu, Buddhist and Islamic heritage), language, scripts and folklore, performing arts, painting and sculpture, architecture, role of the Indian Diaspora, contemporary cultural interaction, etc.



Celebrating the Third Decade and Beyond: New Challenges to ASEAN-India Economic Partnership, Routledge, 2018

This book, a reprint by Routledge, reviews the past and suggests ways to further strengthen economic partnership. It primarily deals with the economic integration issues between ASEAN and India, assesses policy priorities, effectiveness, implementation imperatives and challenges. Each chapter in this book intends to capture essential features of the crosscutting issues and attempts to draw some policy implications.



Ten Delhi Dialogues, AIC-RIS, 2018

This book presents agenda and summary of nine editions of Dialogues. The Track 1.5 process of Delhi Dialogue was initiated in 2009 to discuss all aspects of ASEAN-India partnership and find ways and means to strengthen it. It involves participation of policy makers, business and industry circles, diplomatic community, think tanks and members from academia to deliberate on various facets of ASEAN-India relationship.



Act East: ASEAN-India Shared Cultural Heritage, AIC-RIS, 2018 (Forthcoming)

This book presents historical and contemporary dimensions between India and Southeast Asia with particular reference to cultural heritage. One of the recommendations of this book is to continue our efforts to preserve, protect, and restore cultural heritage that represents the civilisational bonds between ASEAN and India. The book serves as a knowledge product for policymakers, academics, private sector experts; and good resources on cultural heritage.

Research Publications (July–December 2018)

- Biswal, Komal (2018) Book Review “Act East: Enhancing India’s Trade with Bangladesh and Myanmar across Border”, by Export-Import Bank of India, Mumbai in *South Asia Economic Journal*, Vol.19, No.2, pp. 275-278.
- De, Prabir and Suthipand Chirathivat (2018) *Celebrating the Third Decade and Beyond: New Challenges to ASEAN – India Economic Partnership*, Routledge, New Delhi, 2018.
- De, Prabir. (2018) “Look East to Act East: Shaping the ASEAN-India Partnership in the Third Decade”, in Rumel Dahiya and Udai Bhanu Singh (eds.) *ASEAN-India Relations: A New Paradigm*, IDSA, New Delhi.
- De, Prabir (2018) “Building Connectivity for ASEAN-India Value Chain” in Harsh V. Pant (ed.) *Charting the Course for India-ASEAN Relations for the Next 25 Years*. ORF, New Delhi.
- De, Prabir (2018) “Connectivity 2.0 for South Asia Economic Union” in Paras Kharel (ed.) *South Asian Cooperation: Issues New and Old*, SAWTEE, Kathmandu.
- De, Prabir (2018) “Indo-Pacific Cooperation: Some Thoughts on Connectivity” in Latin Mansingh, Anup K Mudgal and Udai Bhanu Singh (eds.) *Purbasa: East Meets East: Synergising the North-East and Eastern India with the Indo-Pacific*, Pentagon Press, New Delhi.
- De, Prabir (2018) “Developing Economic Corridors in South Asia: Priorities and Tasks Ahead” in SAARC Secretariat (ed.) *Next Steps to South Asian Economic Union: A Study on Regional Economic Integration*, Kathmandu.
- De, Prabir (2018) “Trade Facilitation Measures for South Asia Economic Union” in SAARC Secretariat (ed.) *Next Steps to South Asian Economic Union: A Study on Regional Economic Integration*, Kathmandu.
- De, Prabir (2018) “BCIM Economic Corridor and Northeast India: Need for Inclusive Development Agenda” in Gurdas Das and C Joshua Thomas (eds.) *BCIM Economic Cooperation: Interplay of Geo-Economics and Geo-Politics*, Routledge, New Delhi.
- Ghatak, Sunetra (2018) Book Review “Dawn of the Solar Age: An End to Global Warming and to Fear” by Prem Shankar Jha, SAGE Publications, pp.280 in in *South Asia Economic Journal*, Vol.19, No.2, pp. 270-278.
- Kumarasamy, Durairaj (2018) Book Review “Integrating South and East Asia: Economics of Regional Cooperation and Development”, by Jayant Menon and T.N. Srinivasan (Eds.), Oxford University Press, 2018, pp. 397, in *South Asia Economic Journal*, Vol.19, No.1, pp. 140-143.

About RIS

Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), a New Delhi based autonomous think-tank under the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, is an organization that specializes in policy research on international economic issues and development cooperation. RIS is envisioned as a forum for fostering effective policy dialogue and capacity-building among developing countries on international economic issues. The focus of the work programme of RIS is to promote South-South Cooperation and assist developing countries in multilateral negotiations in various forums. RIS is engaged in the Track II process of several regional initiatives. RIS is providing analytical support to the Government of India in the negotiations for concluding comprehensive economic cooperation agreements with partner countries. Through its intensive network of policy think tanks, RIS seeks to strengthen policy coherence on international economic issues. For more information please visit www.ris.org.in

About AIC

Considering the work of the ASEAN-India Eminent Persons Group (AIEPG), and its Report with recommendations for forging a closer partnership for peace, progress and shared prosperity, the Heads of the State/Government of ASEAN and India at the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit 2012, held at New Delhi on 19-20 December 2012, recommended the establishment of ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) using existing resources at New Delhi. AIC was formally inaugurated by the Honorable External Affairs Minister of the Government of India on 21 June 2013 at RIS. AIC serves as a resource centre for ASEAN Member States and India to fill the knowledge gaps that currently limit the opportunities for cooperation. The AIC is closely working with both the ASEAN Divisions of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to undertake and disseminate policy research and provide analytical policy recommendations. For more information please visit <http://www.ris.org.in/aic>

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