

ASEAN India Centre NEWSLETTER



RIS
Research and Information System
for Developing Countries

AIC
ASEAN-India Centre at RIS

Vol.5, No.1, January -June, 2019

Events

Delegation from Vietnam Visited AIC at RIS, 17 January 2019



Group photo with Vietnam Delegates.

A delegation of 60 students from the Vietnam National University (VNU), University of Social Sciences, headed by Prof. Dr. Do Thu Ha, visited AIC at RIS on 17 January 2019. Prof. Shankari Sundararaman, RIS activities. Dr Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC at RIS made the presentation on India's Act East Policy and India-ASEAN relations, followed by Q&A. ■

Delegation from Indonesia Visited AIC at RIS, 28 February 2019

A two-member delegation from the Indonesian Foreign Affairs Ministry visited AIC at RIS on 28 February 2019. Visit was linked to discuss Indonesia's Indo-Pacific programme and understand India's connectivity initiatives in Indo-Pacific region. The two members of the Indonesian Foreign Affairs Ministry were Ms. Ernawati, Deputy Director for South and Central Asia, Policy Development and Analysis Agency, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic Indonesia and Ms.



Group photo with Indonesian Delegates.

Ida Humaidah, Assistant Deputy Director, Policy Analysis and Development Agency, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic Indonesia.

Dr Prabir De made a presentation on India-ASEAN economic relations and India's connectivity initiatives. ■

Media Delegation from Mongolia Visited AIC at RIS, 1 March 2019



Group Photo with media delegation from Mongolia.

About 20 members of a media delegation from Mongolia visited AIC at RIS on 1 March 2019. Dr. Prabir De made a presentation on “India-Mongolia relations”, followed by an interaction with the delegation members. Ms Sreya Pan, Research Associate, RIS was also present. Dr. De also handed over a copy of his book entitled “Enhancing Economic Relations between India and Mongolia” to the Head of the Delegation. ■

Launch of Journal of Asian Economic Integration, ASEAN Studies Centre, Chulalongkon University, Bangkok, Thailand, 6 June 2019

ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS jointly with ASEAN Studies Center (ASC) and India Studies Centre (ISC) at Chulalongkorn University organised the launch of Journal of Asian Economic Integration at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand on 6 June 2019. Prof. Suthiphand Chirathivat, Executive Director, ASC made the Opening Remarks. Dr. Mia Mikic, Director, Trade, Investment and Innovation, UNESCAP, Bangkok gave Special Remarks. The Journal of Asian Economic Integration (JAEI), jointly published by the ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS and ASEAN Studies Center (ASC) of Chulalongkorn University, covers a wide range of topics in economics relating to



Release of Journal of Asian Economic Integration

Asia, including investigation of current research, international comparisons and country studies. There was a panel discussion on “Asian Integration: Emerging Trends and Challenges”, which was moderated by Dr. Piti Srisangnam, Director, Academic Affairs, ASEAN Studies Centre, Chulalongkorn University. The panelists were Dr. Mia Mikic;

Dr. Charit Tingsadadh, Associate Professor and former Director, Centre for European Studies, Chulalongkorn University; Dr. Prabir De, Professor and Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS, New Delhi; and Dr. Witada Aunkoonwattaka, Economic Affairs Officer, UNESCAP. Dr. Prabir De delivered the Vote of Thanks. ■

Trilateral Highway and Its Implication on India's Northeast: Interaction with Tamu Border Authority, Tamu, Myanmar, 9 April 2019



Group photo with Mr. Nandan Singh Bhaisora, Consul General, Mandalay; India Study Team head by Dr. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC and Prof. Priyaranjan Singh, Manipur University with Tamu Border Authority and other stake holders.

RIS has been conducting a new study entitled "Trilateral Highway and Its Implication on India's Northeast Region". In connection with this study, a four-members study team, led by Dr Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC at RIS, visited Moreh and Tamu and met with Tamu Border Trade officials at Tamu, Myanmar on 9 April 2019. The

meeting was attended by Indian Consul General, Mr. Nandan Singh Bhaisora. Besides, Prof. Priyaranjan Singh, Manipur University also attended the meeting. The meeting was attended by District Collector, Tamu; Department of Trade, Customs; Trade Chambers from Moreh and Tamu, and other stake holders and busi-

ness community from India and Myanmar. Deliberations were held on border trade, procedures, impediments, setting up a Joint Border Trade Committee, rupee trade, early completion of connectivity projects, e-visa, border pass, air and bus connectivity, Motor Vehicle Agreement and various other issues. ■

Stakeholder Consultation on Trilateral Highway and Its Implication in Northeast India, Imphal, 10 May 2019

Department of Industries, Manipur Government organised a stakeholder consultation on Trilateral Highway and its Implication in Northeast India on 10 May 2019. Mr. C. Arthur Worchuiyo, Director of Trade, Commerce and Industries made Welcome Address and gave Introductory Remarks. Prof. Priyaranjan Singh gave Special Remarks. Dr. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC at RIS made a presentation on the research project. Stakeholders from business groups, industries,



Participants at Stakeholder Consultation Meetings

government shared their observations and suggestions to the study team. Mr. Peter Saam, MCS, Deputy Secretary

(Textiles, Commerce and Industry), Government of Manipur extended the Vote of Thanks. ■

RIS Seminar on Act East: India's Trade at Northeastern Border, New Delhi, 3 June 2019



Participants at RIS Seminar chaired by Amb. Gautam Mukhopadhyay

RIS organised a Seminar on on “Act East: Trade in North-east India”. His presentation broadly covered challenges and opportunities in trade with neighbouring countries under the Act East Policy (AEP). In particular, he talked about previous and recent field visits to Northeast India and drew findings and policy recommendations in order to unlock the potentials of North-east region and various border connectivity projects and initiatives. Mr. Vanlalruata Fanai, Assistant General Manager, Research and Analysis Group, EXIM Bank was the discussant. The seminar was attended by research scholars, government officials, diplomats and students. ■

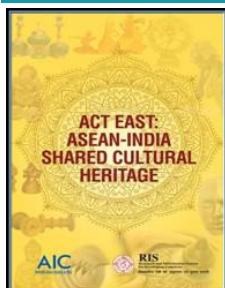
Research Publications (January – June, 2019)

- ◆ De, Prabir, Sunetra Ghatak, and Durairaj Kumarasamy (2019) “Assessing Economic Impacts of Connectivity Corridors in India: An Empirical Investigation”, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 54, No.11
- ◆ De, Prabir and Durairaj Kumarasamy (2019) “Assessing Linkages between Trade Costs and Trade: Applications of Gravity Model”, Chapter 13 in *India's Trade Analytics: Patterns and Opportunities*, Ed. Biswajit Nag and Debashis Chakraborty, Sage Publication, New Delhi
- ◆ De, Prabir (2019) “Building a Better Belt and Road”, *East Asia Forum*, 25 April 2019.
- ◆ De, Prabir (2019), “Act East to Act Indo-Pacific: Agenda for the New Government”, *Economic Times*, 1 June 2019.

Forthcoming Events

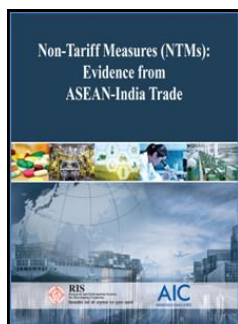
- ◆ Third ASEAN-India Blue Economy Workshop, Bangkok, 12 September 2019
- ◆ Third International Conference on ASEAN-India Civilizational Link, Hanoi, October 2019
- ◆ Delhi Dialogue XI, December 2019
- ◆ Sixth Roundtable of ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks (AINTT), Bangkok, 2019

AIC Publications (January – June 2019)



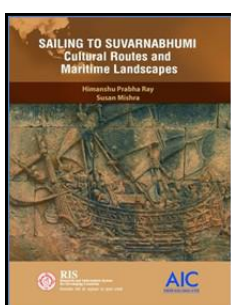
Act East: ASEAN-India Shared Cultural Heritage, AIC and RIS, 2019

This book presents essays on India's cultural links with Southeast Asia, with particular reference to the cultural heritage. This book presents a set of papers which were presented at the 2nd International Conference on "ASEAN-India Cultural Links: Historical and Contemporary Dimensions", held at Jakarta on 19 January 2017.



Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs): Evidence from ASEAN-India Trade, AIC and RIS, 2019

This Report presents perspectives of exporting and importing firms on ASEAN-India trade and their experiences on NTMs that are hindering the trade between them. The Report has used both primary and secondary data. The Report has also reviewed awareness and perception on NTMs, FTAs and trade facilitation related issues. The Report has used various methods to assess the incidence of NTMs and its impacts on ASEAN-India trade, both at the country and sectoral levels. The Report has also analysed the regulatory environment, identified the regulatory gaps and presented a series of recommendations in order to ease the burden of NTMs on the ASEAN-India trade.



Sailing to Suvarṇabhūmi: Cultural Routes and Maritime Landscapes, Himanshu Prabha Ray and Susan Mishra, AIC and RIS, 2019

The book is the outcome of the study undertaken at the AIC at RIS on 'Sailing to Suvarṇabhūmi: Cultural Routes and Maritime Landscapes', covering various themes of India and Southeast Asia civilizational interactions. This publication deals with civilizational aspects between Southeast Asia and India.

Research Projects: Ongoing

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

Research Projects: Ongoing

<p>Emerging Production Networks between India and ASEAN</p>	<p>This study explores the possibilities to build cross-border networks within those industries on which India has manufacturing capacities and complementarities that match with the demand or supply capacity of ASEAN and vice versa. Besides, this study also makes an attempt to identify the challenges in building the production networks. In particular, the study identifies the gaps in connectivity and trade facilitation in promoting the production networks between ASEAN and India, and provides the possible remedies.</p>
<p>Implications of ASEAN Economic Community 2025</p>	<p>The establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in 2015 is a major milestone in the regional economic integration agenda in ASEAN. The AEC Blueprint 2025, adopted by the ASEAN Leaders, is aimed towards achieving the vision of having an AEC by 2025 that is highly integrated and cohesive; competitive, innovative and dynamic; with enhanced connectivity and sectoral cooperation; and a more resilient, inclusive, and people-oriented, people-centred community, integrated with the global economy. ASEAN member states aim to complete the AEC by 2025. The implementation of AEC carries economic and strategic implications for India. This study being carried out with aim to analyse the economic implications of AEC for India with particular reference to regional connectivity.</p>
<p>Study on Linkages between ACMECS and MGC and Possible Synergy</p>	<p>Both Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC) and Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) have several linkages. Both aim to enhance peace, stability and shared prosperity for all in a sustainable manner. The diversity of the region presents an opportunity for greater economic integration. India plays an increasingly greater role as a growth centre of the world and continues to attract global attention. Given the scope for further integration between India and Mekong countries, there is a need of mutual cooperation and discussion on strengthening multi-dimensional regional integration through cultural links, connectivity and economic ties. This study aims to analyze, among others, economic linkages between ACMECS and MGC, and present the challenges and opportunities for further cooperation. Therefore, this study would generate new ideas that would help formulate an actionable policy agenda for strengthening the MGC-ACMECS socio-economic linkages.</p>

About RIS

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

About AIC

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



Contact Us

ASEAN-India Centre (AIC)
 Research and Information System of Developing Countries (RIS)
 Zone-IV-B, Fourth Floor, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road,
 New Delhi - 110003, India, Tel. +91-11-24682177-80
 Fax: +91-11-24682173-74, E-mail: aic@ris.org.in; aicthinktank@gmail.com

