



**RIS**  
Research and Information System  
for Developing Countries  
विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली



**Ministry of External Affairs**  
Government of India

**FIDC**

FORUM FOR  
INDIAN DEVELOPMENT  
COOPERATION  
भारतीय विकास सहयोग मंच



# Regional Consultation on “Development of North East India and India’s Act East Policy: A Quest for Synergy”

24-25 October 2017

The Lily Hotel, G.S.Road, Six Mile, Khanapara,  
Opp. Directorate of Agriculture Office, Guwahati, Assam

## AGENDA

Day I: October 24, 2017	
09.00-10.00 am	<b>Inaugural Session</b>
	<p><b>Welcome Address:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi</b>, Director General, RIS</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Santhosh M.R.</b> Chairperson, Centre for Public Health, School of Social Work, TISS, Guwahati Campus</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Amiya Sharma</b>, Executive Director, Rashtriya Gramin Vikas Nidhi (RGVN) Society, Guwahati</li> </ul> <p><b>Keynote Address:</b> Mr. Naveen Verma, Secretary, Ministry of DoNER</p> <p><b>Special Remarks:</b> Mr. Alok Dimri, Joint Secretary (MER), MEA</p> <p><b>Vote of Thanks:</b> Professor Milindo Chakrabarti, Visiting Fellow, RIS</p>
10.00-10.30 am	<b>Tea Break</b>
10.30-12.00 noon	<b>Technical Session I: Synergy between North-East and Act-East Policies – the Rationale</b>
<p>The possibility of synergies between the developmental activities planned for the North Eastern Region of India and India’s initiatives of development cooperation with the countries in the immediate neighbourhood like Myanmar, Nepal, Bangladesh and Bhutan is intense. India’s engagement with countries beyond immediate neighbourhood – Cambodia, Laos PDR and Vietnam has also been increasing rapidly. Expectedly, the mutual benefit accruing to India from such</p>	<p><b>Chair:</b> Ambassador S.T. Devare, Chairman, Research Advisory Council, RIS</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Alok Amitabh Dimri</b>, Joint Secretary (MER), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India</li> <li>• <b>Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi</b>, Director General, RIS</li> </ul>

development cooperation activities will spill over in a more than proportionate manner to the North-Eastern states of India. For such an effort to fructify, it is necessary that a clear convergence between India's Act East Policy and North Eastern Region Vision 2020 is established. Such a convergence can be achieved only when a thorough ground level one on one mapping of interventions both within the North-Eastern region and the countries in the neighbourhood is carried out. The proposed consultation will attempt to develop the future roadmap of such possible synergies that goes beyond the international border India enjoys with its neighbours.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. V. Vualnam</b>, Chief Vigilance Officer, National Textiles Corporation</li> </ul> <p><i>Q&amp;A Session</i></p>
12.00-1.00 pm	<b>Lunch</b>
1.00-2.30 pm	<b>Technical Session II: Border Trade: Current Status and Future Prospects</b>
<p>The states of North-East of India share 5,400 kilometres of international border (about 98 per cent of its entire border area) with China (southern Tibet) in the north, Myanmar in the east, Bangladesh in the southwest, Bhutan to the northwest and Nepal in the west. Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam who do not have immediate national borders with any of the North-Eastern states but, have promising linkages with the region, may also be suitably covered. This makes the region including Tripura a major station for border trade. Steps have been taken to build physical infrastructure to facilitate trade along with creation of institutional infrastructure. Creation of border haats to encourage people to people connect along with trading of goods have also taken place. This session will direct the initiatives forward with discussion on existing and prospective measures.</p>	<p><b>Chair:</b> <b>Prof. N.S. Siddharthan</b>, Hon. Professor of Economics, Madras School of Economics and Hon. Director, Forum for Global Knowledge Sharing</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Prabir De</b>, Professor and Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS, New Delhi</li> <li>• <b>Prof. Gurudas Das</b>, Department of Humanities, National Institute of Technology, Silchar</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Annu Darin</b>, Dy. Commissioner, Office of the Commissioner, Central Excise &amp; Service Tax, Guwahati</li> <li>• <b>Dr Ch Priyoranjan Singh</b>, Department of Economics, Manipur University</li> <li>• <b>Dr. P. K. Anand</b>, Visiting Fellow, RIS</li> </ul> <p><i>Q&amp;A Session</i></p>
2.30-3.00 pm	<b>Tea Break</b>
3.00-4:30 pm	<b>Technical Session III: Developing Regional Value Chains</b>
<p>Value creation in a sustained manner is possible through creation of business opportunities for entrepreneurs of the region is the need of the day. A major area where sufficient attention may help achieve a win-win partnership is to develop primary and secondary sectors of economic activities through enhancing regional value chains involving efforts in trade, agriculture, horticulture-floriculture</p>	<p><b>Chair:</b> <b>Dr S. C. Srivastava</b>, Professor, Rural Development and Agricultural Production, North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU)</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Prof. Milindo Chakrabarti</b>, Visiting Fellow, RIS</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Yogesh Gokhale</b>, Adjunct Faculty, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Anabil Goswami</b>, Co-founder, Arohan Foods, Guwahati</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Jayanta Choudhury</b>, Tripura Central University</li> </ul>

and SMEs.  The conceptual idea of Technical Session II on Regional Value Chain is to introduce the concept of regional value chain; followed by the issues and policy perspectives in regional value chain specific to North East of India; and ultimately the successful and failed interventions in the North East India and its possible expansion in the neighbouring countries in this regard.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Kanak Haloi</b>, Professor &amp; Head, National Institute of Rural Development &amp; Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Guwahati</li> </ul> <p><i>Q&amp;A Session</i></p>
4.30-5.00 pm	<b>Tea Break</b>
5.00 – 6.00 pm	<b>Technical Session IV Natural Resources, Water and Energy</b>
North East India being rich in natural resources and one of the important global biodiversity hotspots, the session will focus on the status and role of natural resources in contributing to the sustainable development and energy security of this region and beyond its international boundaries through improved people to people contact.	<p><b>Chair:</b> <b>Dr. Amiya Sharma</b>, Executive Director, Rashtriya GraminVikas Nidhi (RGVN) Society, Guwahati</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr Tapas Kumar Giri</b>, Associate Professor, Rajiv Gandhi Indian Institute of Management, Shillong</li> <li>• <b>Dr Abhinandan Saikia</b>, Assistant Professor, Centre for Ecology, Environment and Sustainable Development , Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Guwahati</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Barun Barpujari</b>, RGVN</li> </ul> <p><i>Q&amp;A Session</i></p>
7.00 pm	<b>Dinner</b>
<b>Day II: October 25, 2017</b>	
9.00-10.30am	<b>Technical Session V: Education, Health and Tourism</b>
Among the social sectors health care sector is one area which has a vast scope of improvement and the benefits could be enjoyed by the citizens residing in this region as well as by the citizens of the neighbouring countries. Additionally, a critical reason attributed to the outmigration of the youth in North-East apart for employment opportunities has been education. Further, the potential of linking the South East Asian countries with the North Eastern part of India through creating and sustaining an attractive tourism circuit that makes use of the unique features of this region in terms of Bio-diversity, religious practices (Buddhism), Adventure sports, Music etc. cannot be overemphasized as well.  This session will cover these issues in an incisive manner.	<p><b>Chair:</b> <b>Prof. Pulin B. Nayak</b>, Former Director, Delhi School of Economics</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Smt. Mamta Shankar</b>, Economic Advisor, Ministry of DONER</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Kh. Palin</b>, Founder and Head, Shijah Hospitals, Imphal</li> <li>• <b>Prof. T. C. James</b>, Visiting Fellow, RIS</li> <li>• <b>Shri Manoj Kumar Das</b>, Director, Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship, Guwahati</li> <li>• <b>Dr. J.V. Madhusudan</b>, Professor, Department of Education, North Eastern Hill University</li> </ul> <p><i>Q&amp;A Session</i></p>
10.30 – 11.00 am	<b>Tea Break</b>

11.00-12.00 noon	<b>Technical Session VI: Connectivity and Physical Infrastructure</b>  <b><i>Chair:</i> Mr. P. K. Barua, M.D., Assam Gas Company Limited, (Rtd.)</b>  <b><i>Speakers:</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Alok Borah</b>, EXIM Bank</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Pratim Bose</b>, Hindu Business Line</li> </ul> <b><i>Q&amp;A Session</i></b>
12. 00 – 1.00 pm	<b>Valedictory Session</b>  <b><i>Chair:</i> Professor Braj Behari Kumar</b> , Chairman, Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)  <b><i>Welcome:</i> Dr. Kh Palin</b> , Vice-Chairman, North East Advisory Council, FICCI, Guwahati  <b><i>Conference Report:</i> Prof. Milindo Chakrabarti</b> , Visiting Fellow, RIS  <b><i>Special Remarks:</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Seshadri Chari</b>, Member, Governing Council, RIS and Strategic and Foreign Policy Analyst and Journalist</li> </ul> <b><i>Valedictory Address:</i> Professor Braj Behari Kumar</b> , Chairman, Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)  <b><i>Concluding Remarks:</i> Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi</b> , Director General, RIS  <b><i>Vote of Thanks:</i> Dr. Amiya Sharma</b> , RGVN
1.00 – 2.00 pm	<b>Lunch &amp; Departure</b>