



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



Ministry of External Affairs
Government of India



Seminar Booklet

Seminar on
Connectivity Cooperation for a Free, Open,
and Inclusive Indo-Pacific:
Building Economic Resilience through
Enhanced Connectivity

8 April, 2022; 10 am to 1.30 pm (IST)



Concept Note

The Indo-Pacific is a multipolar region with the geographical coverage in the Indian and the Pacific oceans. A free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific that is founded upon a cooperative and collaborative rules-based order is in the interest of all the countries in the region and beyond. The Indo-Pacific obtained renewed vibrancy with Japan's Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP), ASEAN's ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific (AOIP) and India's Indo-Pacific Oceans' Initiative (IPOI). In particular, the IPOI focuses on seven pillars: (i) Maritime Security; (ii) Maritime Ecology; (iii) Maritime Resources; (iv) Capacity Building and Resource Sharing; (v) Disaster Risk Reduction and Management; (vi) Science, Technology and Academic Cooperation; and (viii) Trade, Connectivity and Maritime Transport. Japan is the lead partner country of connectivity pillar of the IPOI.

The perspective of Indo-Pacific is to ensure safe and secure maritime space through an inclusive and multilateral approach among participating countries while ascertaining the ASEAN centrality and to support the rules-based maritime order and regional stability that is based on respect for sovereignty and international law, particularly the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). India's vision for the Indo-Pacific includes ensuring prosperity for all stakeholder nations. Being the centre of gravity of economic growth, Indo-Pacific could drive the world into the path of sustainable and resilient recovery from the current crisis.

Indo-Pacific countries, all of which border the Indian Ocean or the Pacific Ocean, seek to deepen their strategic bonding by enhancing maritime connectivity through

quality infrastructure, free and fair trade, preserving marine resources, tackling climate change, and, enabling digital connectivity, marine safety and maritime security. India and Japan believe that their development cooperation in the Indo-Pacific can contribute to unlocking the potential for an equitable, positive and forward-looking change in the region, and contribute to socio-economic development of Southeast Asia, Africa and Island states in Indian and Pacific oceans. Both Japan and India have agreed to strengthen the collaborative actions to promote the Indo-Pacific through the 7th pillar of IPOI. India's prowess in digital technology coupled with Japan's "Expanded Partnership for Quality Infrastructure Initiative" will facilitate an effective and inclusive implementation of the connectivity pillar of IPOI.

In furtherance of the vision of the leaders of India and Japan, and in recognition of the emergence of the Indo-Pacific, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India, in partnership with the Embassy of Japan in New Delhi (EoJ), and the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) plan to organise the second seminar on connectivity pillar of the Indo-Pacific Oceans' Initiative (IPOI) on 8 April 2022 in virtual mode. The seminar aims to add substance to our efforts towards achieving the vision of our leaders to progress the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI).

In March 2021, the EoJ, MEA and RIS jointly organised the first seminar of this series to explore how Japan can contribute as the lead nation for the connectivity pillar of the IPOI, focusing on the connectivity projects and the needs for the rule-based efforts. The second edition of this Seminar will expand on the previous forum and focus on connectivity as a way to enhance economic resilience in the region in cooperation with partners.

Economic resilience of a country/region is created based on both self-reliance and healthy interdependence among goodwill neighbours or likeminded partners. In this

context, we should shed light on the notion of connectivity in the Indo-Pacific from the aspects of hard and soft infrastructure which links remote economies together, as well as its digital component as technology has become a centerpiece of today's policymaking. In light of this, this seminar aims to (i) foster a shared understanding between Japanese and Indian policymakers and experts from on connectivity as an important tool to enhance economic resilience, and (ii) identify prospective policy areas, resources and opportunities for Japan-India cooperation in efforts to bolster the economic resilience of the two countries with their partners.

The Seminar consists of three parts. The Inaugural Session will set the tone for the seminar by sharing how Japan-India connectivity cooperation under the IPOI has evolved and economic resilience has become an important part of the discussion in enhancing connectivity through bilateral collaboration as well as partnership in the Quad and with ASEAN. Thereafter, the Seminar will be conducted over two working sessions so as to facilitate an in-depth discussion on the connectivity dimension of the Indo-Pacific.

Session I: Quality Infrastructure and Economic Resilience: This session will focus on how infrastructure can enhance economic resilience of a country or a region. It will also review recent experiences in the region that taught us the importance of economic resilience. This session is also expected to explore ways in which enhanced connectivity with shared principles would facilitate economic resilience by looking at case studies of connectivity projects in the region and ideas on future infrastructure-related cooperation.

Session II: Digital Connectivity: This session will discuss the countries experiences with digital technology in promoting connectivity including best practices. It will also attempt to identify prospective areas of Japan-India digital connectivity cooperation

from economic and security viewpoints as well as broaden our perspectives on stakeholders, resources and challenges for that effort.

Speakers of this seminar are from India, Japan and ASEAN countries. Inaugural session will be attended by the senior officials from India and Japan. Senior-level participants from India, Japan and ASEAN are expected to participate in the seminar. Outcomes of the seminar would be a conference summary, policy brief/commentary and list of implementable projects. For further information, please contact prabirde@ris.org.in

Agenda

10:00 - 10:30 am IST	Inaugural Session
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening Remarks by Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, New Delhi • Special Remarks Dr. Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS, New Delhi • Inaugural Address by H.E. Mr. Satoshi Suzuki, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of Japan, New Delhi • Keynote Address by Ambassador Saurabh Kumar, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India, New Delhi
10:30 - 11:50 am IST	Session I: Quality infrastructure and economic resilience
	<p>Effective infrastructure promotes sustainable economic growth, healthy interdependence and self-reliance of a region by facilitating economic interaction of different areas, whereas deficient infrastructure aggravates problems such as disaster risk and debt, and even undermines the autonomy of decision making. This session will focus on how hard and soft infrastructure can enhance economic resilience of a country or an area. It will also review recent experiences in the region that taught us the importance of economic resilience. This session is also expected to explore ways in which enhanced connectivity with shared principles would facilitate economic resilience by looking at case studies of connectivity projects in the region and ideas on future infrastructure-related cooperation.</p>
	<p><i>Panelists</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Fauziah Zen, Senior Economist, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Jakarta • Mr. S. Bhardwaj, I.I.S, Dy. Director General, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, New Delhi • Mr. Kurihara Toshihiko, Chief Representative, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), New Delhi • Dr. Constantino Xavier, Fellow, Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP), New Delhi
	<p>Q&A [Session will be moderated by Dr Prabir De, Professor, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC), RIS, New Delhi]</p>

11:50 am - 1:10 pm IST	Session II: Digital Connectivity
	Digital economy and digital technology come at the center of the debate on connectivity. Japan and India are eager to work together, while partnering with reliable technology providers, on the development of critical digital infrastructure such as submarine cables and base stations as well as apps and services for both public and commercial purposes. This session will discuss the countries experiences with digital technology in promoting connectivity including best practices. This session will also attempt to identify prospective areas of Japan-India digital connectivity cooperation from economic and security viewpoints as well as broaden our perspectives on stakeholders, resources and challenges for that effort.
	<p><i>Panelists</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Yang Mee Eng, Executive Director, ASEAN Foundation, Jakarta • Dr. Saurabh Garg, CEO, Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), New Delhi • Dr. Murai Jun, Professor, Keio University, Tokyo • Mr. Nozomu Watanabe, Senior Vice President, NEC Corporation, Tokyo
	<p>Q&A</p> <p>[Session will be moderated by Dr. Prabir De, Professor, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC), RIS, New Delhi]</p>
1:10-1:30 pm IST	Concluding Session
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vote of thanks by Dr Nida Rahman, Young Professional, RIS, New Delhi

Resumes of the Speakers

Sachin Chaturvedi



Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi is currently Director General at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), a New Delhi. He works on issues related to development economics, involving development finance, SDGs and South-South Cooperation, apart from trade, investment and innovation linkages with special focus on WTO. He is also Member, Board of Governors, Reserve Bank of India.

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi has been part of several important initiatives of the Government of India and takes keen interest in transforming economic policymaking towards integrated and evidence based approaches. He is one of the foremost commentators on India's external sector economic engagements and partnerships. He is considered as most dynamic and affable by his peers and has mentored several bright scholars and researchers in the profession.

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi was also the 'Global Justice Fellow' at the MacMillan Center for International Affairs at Yale University (2009-2010) and has served as a Visiting Professor at the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and was a Developing Country Fellow at the University of Amsterdam (1996), Visiting Fellow at the Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla (2003), and Visiting Scholar at the German Development Institute (2007).

Mohan Kumar



Ambassador (Dr.) Mohan Kumar is the Chairman of Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) since June 2018. Ambassador Kumar has had an outstanding career in the Indian Foreign Service lasting 36 years which culminated in his posting as India's Ambassador to France based in Paris. Ambassador Kumar is a francophone and a Francophile. The strategic partnership between India and France grew remarkably under his watch in areas as diverse as defence, space, nuclear and solar energy, investment and culture. He was also actively involved in the Climate Change Accord of Paris in 2015. Prior to this, he was India's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain where he was witness to the momentous events of the "Arab Spring".

Ambassador Kumar has enormous expertise in the area of international trade and multilateral negotiations - he was India's lead negotiator first at the GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) and then at the WTO (World Trade Organization) in crucial areas such as Intellectual Property Rights, Services, Dispute Settlement and Environment. He has served on multiple GATT/WTO panels relating to dispute settlement.

Ambassador Kumar oversaw India's bilateral ties with Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Maldives from 2005 to 2007 as Joint Secretary at the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi. Ambassador Kumar holds a MBA from the Faculty of Management Studies, University of Delhi and a PhD from Sciences Po, Paris. Ambassador Kumar is Dean, Office of the International Affairs and Global Initiatives, O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonapat, India. He is also Professor of Diplomatic Practice at the School of International Affairs at the above University. Ambassador Kumar is author of a book entitled "Negotiation Dynamics of the WTO: An Insider's Account", published by Palgrave Macmillan (2018).

Suzuki Satoshi



H.E. Ambassador Suzuki was appointed as Ambassador of Japan to India in October 2019 and to Bhutan in December 2019. His previous overseas positions include South Korea, United Kingdom, Indonesia and Austria. He also worked at International Atomic Energy Agency as a senior staff from 2009-2014.

Prior to taking his post as Ambassador of Japan to India, he served as Deputy Minister for Foreign Policy from 2017 and was responsible for overall foreign policymaking in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Before it, he has held various positions in Tokyo including Director-General, Intelligence and Analysis Service, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2016-2017) and Executive Assistant to the Chief Cabinet Secretary, Prime Minister's Office (2006-2008). He has experience in a wide range of areas such as national security, intelligence, counter-proliferation as well as global issues such as cyber security, outer space and counter-terrorism. He holds MA degree from the School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1984.

Saurabh Kumar



Ambassador Saurabh Kumar is a career diplomat and served as Ambassador of India to Myanmar (2019-21) and Iran (2015-18), before taking up his current assignment as Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs on 1 January 2022. In New Delhi, he handled China related work in different capacities- as Under Secretary (1993-95) and as Director (2004-07), and that related to Pakistan (1995-97). He was Joint Secretary (Counter Terrorism and Policy Planning) and Joint

Secretary in the National Security Council Secretariat between 2012 and 2015. Abroad, he served in Hong Kong, Indonesia and Fiji Islands in different capacities, and was the Deputy Chief of Mission in China (2007-08) and Italy (2008-12).

Fauziah Zen



Dr. Fauziah Zen is Senior Economist in Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Jakarta. She is a faculty member of Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Indonesia. She is also a visiting professor in Hitotsubashi University and a guest lecturer in University of Tokyo, both in Japan.

With more than 15 years of experience under her belt, her current research includes various subjects in Infrastructure Financing especially Public-Private Partnership (PPP), ASEAN Connectivity, Social Security, and Disaster Risk Resilience within East Asia region. She obtained her Bachelor and Master of Engineering from Institute of Technology Bandung, Indonesia, and Master and PhD from Hitotsubashi University, Japan.

S. Bhardwaj

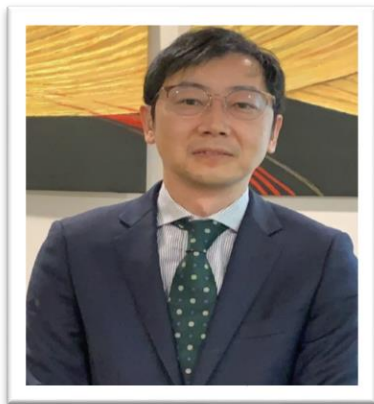


Mr. Shlok Bhardwaj is an Engineering Graduate from N.I.T. Warangal (Telangana). He did his Masters in Engineering from Delhi Technological University (erstwhile DCE). Thereafter, he was select in Indian Engineering Services (I.E.S.) exam and joined service in Government of India. Presently, Mr. Shlok is posted as Deputy Director-General in Ministry of commerce at

New Delhi; and is looking after Logistics. As Mission Director of National E-

procurement Mission Mode Project of Government of India, Mr Shlok implemented on e-procurement in all States/UTs whose new version is Government E-Marketplace (GEM) portal. Mr. Shlok is a qualified ISO: 9000/ 2000 Lead Auditor. He was nominated as an Auditor for Prime Minister's Award for '*Excellence in Public Administration*' 2016 - Soil Health Card Project in East Sikkim. He was also auditor for BIS *National Quality Awards* 2013 instituted by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) for selection of industries.

Kurihara Toshihiko (Toshi)



Mr. Kurihara Toshihiko (Toshi) is Chief Representative of Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), Representative Office in New Delhi and covers all JBIC operations and geopolitical research mainly in India, also Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka. He is also a Director of the Board, National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation, which is both India-Japan government-based development entity for all-across-Indian industrial corridors. He is also a geo-economic researcher of Nihon University Graduate School of Social and Cultural Studies (GSSC), specially on India's foreign and economic policies. Over his two-decade global banking career, he has engaged in wide range of international banking operations from mega project financing deals to treasury/comptroller professions.

Constantino Xavier



Dr. Constantino Xavier is a Fellow in Foreign Policy and Security Studies at CSEP, and a Non-resident Fellow at the Brookings Institution. He leads the Sambandh Initiative on Regional Connectivity, which examines India's political, security and economic relations with the South Asian neighbourhood.

He is currently writing a book on how democratic values influence India's foreign policy, with case studies on Nepal, Sri Lanka and Myanmar based on new archival sources and interviews. He is also part of several policy dialogues between India, the European Union and other Indo-Pacific powers, and frequently comments for the media.

Yang Mee Eng



Dr. Yang Mee Eng is the Executive Director at ASEAN Foundation, Jakarta. She worked in private and government sectors for over 26 years. She was most recently the Senior Vice President at Alphacap. There, she assisted SMEs companies and led the development and execution of Bloconomic Expo 2019, a platform aimed at creating a vast network of blockchain entrepreneurs and developers in the fast-evolving blockchain companies. Prior to that, she was the CEO of Gameview, the largest mobile game publisher in Malaysia, where she oversaw three offices in Malaysia, China and Thailand.

Saurabh Garg



Dr. Saurabh Garg took charge as the CEO, Unique Identification Authority of India in April, 2021.

Dr. Garg is an IAS officer of Odisha Cadre and has worked as Joint Secretary in the Departments of Expenditure and Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India; as Secretary in the Departments of Agriculture, Industries and Urban Development at the Government of Odisha; apart from working at the district level in Kalahandi, Keonjhar and Sambalpur in Odisha. He was on a secondment as Adviser at the World Bank, Washington DC. Prior to joining the IAS, he was with the Tata Administrative Service.

He has worked on areas like digitalizing agriculture, direct income transfer scheme for farmers, formation of the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF); improving the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policies; preparing the framework for digital payments; revamping of the gold sector policies and has led negotiations for the Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs).

Dr. Garg holds a Ph.D in International Economics and Development from the Johns Hopkins University, USA; an MBA from IIM, Ahmadabad and a B.Tech from IIT Delhi. He was a Chevening Gurukul scholar at the LSE, London.

Jun Murai



Prof. Jun Murai is a distinguished professor at Keio University. Prof. Murai received his Ph.D. in Computer Science, Keio University in 1987, majored in Computer Science, the Internet and Computer Communication. He established the JUNET, the first network in Japan connecting multiple universities, in 1984. In 1988, he established the WIDE Project, a Japanese Internet research consortium. Has long been engaged in research related to Internet technology platforms, and is known as the Father of the Internet in Japan and in international circles as the Internet Samurai.

He is a Special Advisor to the Japanese Cabinet and an Advisor to the Digital Agency serves on many other governmental committees, and is active in numerous international scientific associations. He was inducted into 2011 IEEE Internet Award / the 2013 Internet Hall of Fame (Pioneer) / 2019 the Knight of the Legion of Honor by the French Government / 2020 The NEC C&C Prize.

Nozomu Watanabe



Mr. Nozomu Watanabe is corporate executive, Network Services Business Unit, NEC Corporation. He joined NEC Corporation in April 1988. His career started as an engineer of mobile radio access technology. From 1998 to 2003, he was Division Manager of Telecom MODUS Ltd. (UK), where he engaged to launch development center of mobile base station equipment for global market.

In 2011, he was assigned to General Manager of Mobile Radio Access Network Division, responsible for mobile base station equipment business for telecom carriers. In 2017, he was assigned to General Manager of Wireless Network Development Division, responsible for wireless network development. In 2018, he was promoted to Corporate Executive and he is currently responsible for 5G and next generation network solution technology development as Network Service Business Unit CTO.