

Ministry of External Affairs  
MER Division

**Vote of thanks by Shri Dinesh Bhatia, Joint Secretary (MER) at the  
Conference of Southern Providers: South- South Cooperation:  
Issues and Emerging Challenges  
15 April 2013**

Hon'ble Foreign Secretary Shri Ranjan Mathai  
Amb Wu, Under Secretary General, UNDESA  
Dr Dhar, DG, RIS  
Excellencies, Friends, Ladies & Gentlemen

It gives me immense pleasure to propose the Vote of Thanks at the inauguration of this two-day Conference of Southern Providers: South-South Cooperation: Issues and Emerging Challenges.

The series of programs on aid effectiveness, which culminated in Busan meeting of the Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation in November 2011 made a reference to South-South Partners. This was among few other inspirations leading to the genesis of this Conference of Southern Providers, the first of its kind. The need was felt to understand the paradigms of South-South cooperation in a lucid way and to look at its uniqueness and distinctiveness from the traditional North-South Aid.

In this effort, I would like to express sincere gratitude our keynote speaker and my senior colleague Mr. Ranjan Mathai, Foreign Secretary of India, for his direction and personal guidance in developing this subject which has resulted in this Conference.

I also thank Foreign Secretary Mathai for taking out time from his busy schedule and gracing this occasion and for his inspiring address which no doubt has set the right tone for further deliberations.

On behalf of the Ministry of External Affairs of India, I would like to express sincere gratitude and appreciation to RIS for making this event possible amidst many challenges. I should make a particular mention about the hard work put up by Dr. Biswajit Dhar, Director General of RIS, Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi, Senior Fellow, RIS and their colleagues for meticulously planning this Conference as well as for making logistical and other arrangements. Identifying right people and bringing together policy planners and executioners from Southern countries as well as observers and scholars on this subject was not an easy task.

I would also like to express thanks to Amb. Wu Hongbo, Under Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations for being present among us today and for agreeing to make United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) a partner to this Conference. This has positively contributed to the agenda of our Conference. Needless to reiterate that we will be happy to continue this discussions within broader framework of United Nations.

Without enthusiastic participation of scholars, officials and diplomats from across the world, this Conference would have no meaning. I thank all the distinguished participants who have come all the way from long distances. A word of thanks also to the representatives of media present here. I would also like to thank all those who have contributed to the success of the Conference but could not be present here amidst us.

Last but not the least, I would like to thank officers and team in the Multilateral Economic Relations Division as well as that of Development partnership Administration of the Ministry of External Affairs who worked hard in coordination with RIS and others to make this event possible.

With these words, I thank you all for being with us.

**Thank You.**