

RIS

Annual Report 2003/04 and Work Programme 2004/05



RIS

Research and Information System for the
Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries

RIS **A Think-Tank** **of Developing Countries**

RIS is an autonomous research institution established with the financial support of the Government of India. It is India's contribution to the fulfilment of the long-felt need of the developing world for creating a 'Think-Tank' on international economic relations and development cooperation. RIS has also been envisioned as a forum for fostering effective intellectual dialogue among developing countries.

RIS is also mandated to function as an advisory body to the Government of India on matters pertaining to multilateral economic and social issues, including regional and sub-regional cooperation arrangements, as may be referred to it from time to time. RIS functions in close association with various governmental bodies, research institutions, academicians, policy-makers, business and industry circles in India and abroad. RIS has a consultative status with UNCTAD, NAM and WTO and has conducted policy research and other activities in collaboration with other agencies, including UN-ESCAP, UNCTAD, UNU, Group of 77, SAARC Secretariat, Asian Development Bank (ADB), The World Bank, and the South Centre.

RIS publication programme covers reports, books, monographs, discussion papers and policy briefs. It also publishes three journals namely, *South Asia Economic Journal*, *Asian Biotechnology and Development Review*, *New Asia Monitor* and quarterly newsletter *RIS Diary*.

— Policy research to shape the international development agenda

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RIS Governing Council

(up to date)

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Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission (till May 2004)

Prof. Arjun Sengupta

Chairman, National Commission on Enterprises for the Unorganized/Informal Sector, Government of India (since August 2004)

Vice-Chairman

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Addl. Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs

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Ex-Chairman, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission

Member-Secretary (Ex-Officio)

Dr Nagesh Kumar

Director-General, RIS



DR. ARJUN K. SENGUPTA
Chairman



The Chairman's Message

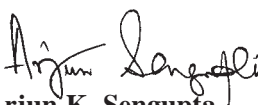
We are living through the age of increasing global integration of economic activities. The process of globalization has also been accompanied by an increasing internationalization of economic policy making with the emergence of WTO. Along side that, regional and bilateral free trade agreements have emerged as important factors shaping the global patterns of production, investment and trade. These trends pose a tremendous challenge for the economic policy makers in developing countries like India. They have to respond to the increasing pressure of implementation of various WTO commitments, preparing their position on the growing agenda of WTO negotiations to protect their interest, evolve bilateral and regional economic cooperation arrangements with other nations to promote their own interest, pursue economic reforms, and take other strategic interventions to promote their economic activity.

This is a tremendous challenge and is to be handled with highly specialized analytical inputs. A country of India's size and international economic interests needs strong and effective think-tanks which can provide such analytical back-up for policy making. RIS was established by the Government of India, in response to a felt need for such capability to assist the policy-makers within the country and in other developing countries facing similar challenges.

It is gratifying to note that RIS has acquired a high level of expertise on various issues of trade negotiations, regional economic integration, investment and technology transfer, among other aspects of development to deliver its mandate. Besides its own policy research initiatives on international economic issues, RIS has been providing analytical inputs to various Ministries of the Government of India.

I am happy to note that the work of RIS in the past year has assisted the process of preparations for multilateral trade negotiations by developing countries especially with the launch of its *World Trade and Development Report* and Policy Briefs on specific topics. RIS is also playing an important role in shaping the agenda of regional economic integration in Asia with its proactive research programmes and policy dialogues on the Asian Economic Community and its research on South Asian economic cooperation, ASEAN-India economic partnership, BIMSTEC, India-China economic cooperation, and bilateral economic relations with key partner countries.

I believe that institutional capacities of the type that RIS represents need to be strengthened in the coming years in the context of growing complexity of policy making process in the context of globalization.


Arjun K. Sengupta
Chairman, RIS

and National Commission on Enterprises
for the Unorganised/Informal Sector
Government of India

An Overview

RIS' work in the areas of policy oriented research, policy dialogue, outreach and networking, crossed new milestones in the year 2003/04. RIS completed major research programmes in each of the four broad fields of its work, viz. World Trading and Financial System, Regional Economic Integration in Asia, South-South Cooperation and New Technologies, and Strategic Responses to Globalization. RIS played an important role in preparations for the Fifth Ministerial Conference of WTO held in Cancun in September 2003. A highlight was the launch of a new series of *World Trade and Development Reports*, presented and discussed in New Delhi and in Cancun on the sidelines of the Ministerial. This Report has been received extremely well by the developing country negotiators, policymakers, international development organizations and researchers. RIS studies have also provided important analytical inputs for policy-making on select issues of negotiation in Doha Agenda, viz. non-agricultural market access (NAMA) and investment, among others.

RIS also contributed to the agenda of regional economic integration in Asia significantly. We followed up on our earlier work on the concept of Asian Economic Community that has begun to get popular with the Prime Minister endorsing it at the Bali Summit of ASEAN and India. To further promote the concept an institutional network New Asia Forum was launched with its dedicated website and a new quarterly *New Asia Monitor*, besides further studies on the roadmap. A study on the *ASEAN-India Vision 2020 – Working Together for a Shared Prosperity* was prepared in consultation with the ASEAN think-tanks for eventual adoption at the Third ASEAN-India Summit held in Laos in November 2004 after further work at the official levels. A study on the *Future Directions of BIMSTEC – Towards a Bay of Bengal Economic Community* was prepared in consultation with think-tanks in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Thailand. A series of India-China policy dialogues was initiated. The third issue of the *South Asia Development and Cooperation Report* was prepared on the eve of the Twelfth SAARC Summit held in January 2004 in Islamabad.

RIS provided inputs to the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in preparations of important summits and other negotiating events, such as the Prime Minister's visit to China, Bali Summit of ASEAN-India, SAARC Summit, G-15 Summit, BIMSTEC Ministerial, among others. Steps were taken to conduct a number of collaborative studies and events jointly with institutions in other parts of India, as well as

other countries as a part of outreach and institutional networking activities. These include joint Seminars on WTO issues organized in Chandigarh and Visakhapatnam and events organized on the sidelines of the WTO Ministerial Conference in Cancun in collaboration with other institutions. RIS was invited to contribute to the preparatory process for UNCTAD XI. A Meeting of the ASEAN-India Network of Think-Tanks was organized to finalise the long term vision paper of ASEAN-India partnership. RIS has been publishing *South Asia Economic Journal* jointly with the Colombo-based Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) and has now launched joint publication of a series of books in collaboration with the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), Singapore. A new series of *Policy Briefs* was launched in the year that has been received extremely well by the policy community. The year also saw media devoting a greater attention to RIS work.

The work programme for 2004/2005, as approved by the Governing Council involves organization of a High-Level Conference on Asian Economic Integration in Tokyo in November 2004, preparations for the next issues of *World Trade and Development Report* and *South Asia Development and Cooperation Report*, major studies on SAFTA, India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Economic Cooperation, India and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Mekong Ganga Partnership, operationalisation of the vision of ASEAN-India partnership, India-China Economic Cooperation, Biotechnology and Asian Development, strategy for export-oriented manufacturing, industry studies on impact of WTO tariff proposals, rules of origin in India's free trade arrangements, among others.

RIS has always had the privilege of leadership of highly eminent people such as Late Shri G. Parthasarathi (1984-95), and the present Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh (1995-98) who have served as Chairmen of the Governing Council. In the same tradition, Dr Arjun Sengupta, a distinguished economist and also Chairman, National Commission on Enterprises for the Unorganized Informal Sector has been appointed as the Chairman of the RIS Governing Council by the Government of India in August 2004. While welcoming him, I would like to put on record our deep sense of gratitude to the outgoing Chairman Shri K.C. Pant for his charismatic leadership, vision and inspiration as Chairman of RIS Governing Council since 1999. We would also like to record our appreciation to the outgoing *ex-officio* members of the Council, namely, Shri Shashank, Foreign Secretary; Shri Dipak Chatterjee, Commerce Secretary; and Shri Rajiv Sikri, Special Secretary (ER) for their interest, support and guidance to the work programme of RIS during their tenure as Members of the Governing Council. We look forward to the vision, guidance and support of our new Chairman, Dr Sengupta and new ex-Officio Members, Shri Shyam Saran, Foreign Secretary; Shri S.N. Menon, Commerce Secretary; and Smt. S. Tripathi, Additional Secretary (ER).

As RIS enters in its twenty-first year, I am confident that we will succeed in living up to the high expectations from us under the valuable direction of the Governing Council, continued support of the Ministry of External Affairs, other sponsors and well-wishers, and with the dedicated work of the faculty and staff.

Nagesh Kumar
Director-General

I. Policy Research

Policy research is the core of RIS work programme. The areas of policy research at RIS fall into four broad categories, viz. World Trade and Financial System; Regional Economic Integration in Asia; South-South Cooperation; and Strategic Responses to Globalization. The major research programmes in each of these broad areas undertaken during 2003/04 and Plans for 2004/05 are summarized below.

A. World Trading and Financial System and Development

A.1. Work Programme on WTO Negotiations and Developing Countries: Cancun Ministerial and the Doha Round

RIS has a large programme for assisting developing countries in WTO negotiations and in their preparations for the WTO Ministerial Conference with analytical studies and policy dialogue. The work programme covered overall process as well as the sectoral negotiations as summarized below.

A.1.1. World Trade and Development Report 2003: Cancun and Beyond [2003/04]

Research Team: Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Dr. Rajesh Mehta, Dr. S.K. Mohanty Dr. Ram Upendra Das and Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi

This Report was prepared and launched as a part of a new series of biennial reports. The first report was prepared on the eve of

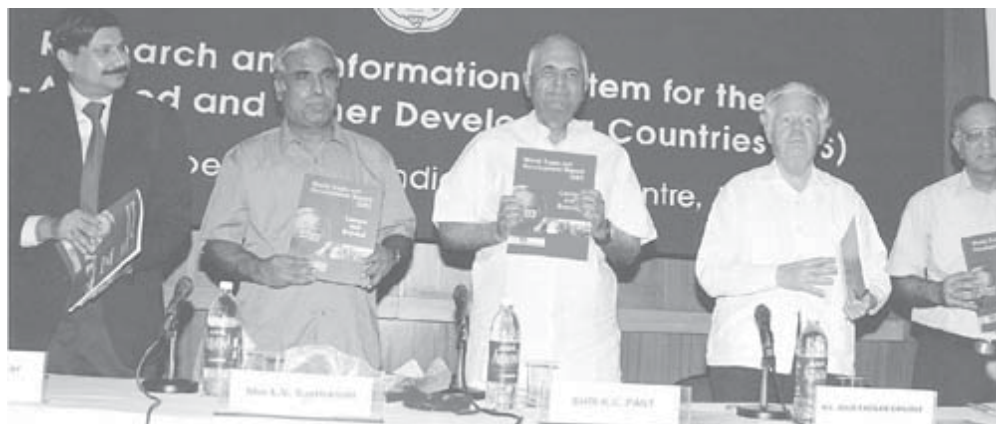
the Fifth Ministerial Conference of WTO held in Cancun in September 2003 and was presented in New Delhi and Cancun on the sidelines of the Ministerial. The RIS Report was hailed as a pioneering publication presenting a developing country perspective on the agenda of multilateral trade negotiations. The Report discusses some emerging trends in protectionism in the developed countries and other asymmetries in the world trading system; examines their implications; and proposes an agenda for reform to improve the development friendliness, and hence the sustainability, of the system. It also reflects on the agenda for negotiation in specific areas such as Singapore Issues, agriculture, non-agriculture market access, IPRs, implementation-related concerns, special and differential treatment, and dispute settlement.

Cancun Launch of World Trade and Development Report 2003



Launch of World Trade and Development Report 2003 in Cancun on the sidelines of the WTO Ministerial Conference. (From Left) Dr. Kamal Malhotra, Senior Advisor, UNDP, New York; Dr. Roman Grynberg, Deputy Director (Trade), Commonwealth Secretariat; Dr. Martin Khor, Director, Third World Network; Hon'ble Shri Satyabrata Mookherjee, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry; Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS; Dr. Murray Gibbs, Director, Asia Trade Initiative, Hanoi; Dr. Bijit Bora, Counsellor, WTO Secretariat; and Mr. Rashid Kaukab, South Centre.

New Delhi Launch of World Trade and Development Report 2003



Shri K.C. Pant, Chairman, RIS (centre) launching RIS Report World Trade and Development Report 2003. Also seen the picture are (from right) Shri Rajiv Sikri, Special Secretary, ER, Ministry of External Affairs; H.E. Mr. Julio Faesler Carlisle, Ambassador of Mexico in India; Shri L.V. Saptrishi, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry; and Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS.

Some Feedback on the World Trade and Development Report 2003: Cancun and Beyond

'This report contains much useful and at times provocative analysis, and merits careful reading'.

— **Dr. Uri B. Dadush**, Director, International Trade Department, The World Bank, Washington DC

'This report provides us and the trade community in the developing world with a valuable overview of, as well as specific inputs and references on, the various dimensions of the Doha negotiations'.

— **Dr. Roumeen Islam**, Manager, Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Unit, World Bank Institute, The World Bank, Washington DC

'We believe that it is a timely and important contribution to the trade discussion from a developing country perspective..... We look forward to receiving your next report when it comes out and to a continuous collaboration in the interim'.

— **Dr. Shoji Nishimoto**, Assistant Administrator & Director, Bureau for Development Policy, United Nations Development Programme, New York

'...a great achievement on the part of RIS in bringing together a host of highly complex negotiating process whose conclusion will affect us all in the developing world'.

— **Ambassador Manaspas Xuto**, Executive Director, The International Institute for Trade and Development (ITD), Bangkok, Thailand

'The Report is a milestone in research coming out of an independent research institution on the subject and it should set an example for much better funded organizations'.

— **Dr. Martin Khor Kok Peng**, Third World Network, Penang, Malaysia

'RIS team has done a remarkable job, considering the breadth of the Report'.

— **Dr. Bijit Bora**, Counsellor, Development and Economic Research, World Trade Organization, Geneva

'This is a very welcome step as a series of Report is more effective than one-off publications. Think-tanks of developing countries should join hands in making this exercise more meaningful and accessible in terms of wider inputs'.

— **Dr. Kamal Malhotra**, Senior Adviser (Policy), Socio-Economic Development Group, Bureau of Development Policy, United Nations Development Programme, New York

'Developing countries would have to remain united in terms of trade negotiations at WTO and such reports come handy for drawing policy insights'.

— **Dr. Roman Grynberg**, Deputy Director, Economic Affairs Division, Commonwealth Secretariat, London

'Asymmetries in the world trading system highlighted by the Report would be useful for furthering the cause of development'.

— **Dr. Murray Gibbs**, Project Coordinator, Asia Trade Initiative, United Nations Development Programme, Hanoi, Vietnam



A.1.2. Policy Dialogue and Policy Briefs on the Agenda of the Fifth Ministerial Conference of WTO [2002/04]

A set of four policy briefs on the specific items of the Cancun Agenda were issued on the eve of the Ministerial to provide inputs to negotiators besides a book on Investment in WTO and several discussion papers. A special issue of the *South Asia Economic Journal* (June 2003) was also devoted to WTO issues.

The Policy Briefs brought out by RIS on the Cancun Agenda were:

- *Cancun Agenda: Trade and Investment – The Way Forward for Developing Countries* (PB #4);
- *Cancun Agenda: Environmental Requirements and Developing Countries Exports – Lessons for National, International and Regional Action* (PB #5);
- *Cancun Agenda: TRIPs and Development Implications and an Agenda for Action* (PB #6); and
- *Cancun Agenda: Geographical Indications and Developing Countries* (PB #7).

The discussion papers that emanated from RIS in this regard were: *Investment on the WTO Agenda: A Developing Country Perspective and the Way Forward for the Cancun Ministerial Conference* (DP #56); *WTO Negotiations Towards Cancun: Implication on Indian Paper and Newsprint Industry* (DP #57); *Implementation Issues in SPS: A developing Country Perspective for Development Agenda on the Meandering Pathways from Doha to Cancun* (DP #58); and *WTO Non-Agriculture Market Access Modalities: A Case Study of Impact on a Developing Country* (DP #59).

RIS also organized a series of seminars in New Delhi, Chandigarh and in Vishakapatnam on WTO issues, as listed later. In addition a number of other events too were organized on the sidelines of the Ministerial Conference in Cancun jointly with other partners to disseminate our work

and the view point. These have been highlighted elsewhere in this Annual Report. RIS has also set up a special webpage at its website on Doha Agenda.

A. 1.3. Possible Multilateral Framework on Investment and Developing Countries: A Research and Advisory Project [2002/04]

Research Team: Dr. Nagesh Kumar

This project, sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce in May 2002, involved preparation of a number of analytical studies on issues concerning possible multilateral framework on investment and its implications for developing countries. As part of the project, RIS provided inputs for India's submissions at the WGTI Meetings. Among the papers prepared include 'Investors' and Home Country Obligations' (which formed the basis of India's submission on the subject that has been co-sponsored by China, Cuba, Kenya, Pakistan and Zimbabwe, WT/WGTI/W/152, dated November 19, 2002), 'Types of Foreign Investment and their Developmental Impact', 'Performance Requirements as Tools of Development Policy', and 'Investment on the WTO Agenda: A Developing Country Perspective and the Way Forward' and were submitted to the Ministry. A paper on "Performance Requirements as Tools of Development Policy: Lessons from Experiences of Developed and Developing Countries" was presented at the Intergovernmental Conference on Trade, Investment and Development, organized by the Ministry of Commerce and UNCTAD in New Delhi on 8-10 April 2003. The material prepared under the framework of the project, among other on related issues, was also consolidated in a book *Protecting Foreign Investment: Implications of a WTO Regime and Policy Options*, and published in collaboration with the Zed Press, London and New York and Academic Foundation, New Delhi for worldwide reach. Consultations were also provided to the Ministry on the agenda of various meetings of the WTO's WGTI, the Committee on TRIMs, and for preparations towards the Fifth Ministerial Conference at Cancun. The project was completed in December 2003.



A.1.4. Market Access for Non-Agricultural Products in Doha Development Round Negotiations: A Research Advisory Project [2002/05]

Research Team: Dr. Rajesh Mehta and Pooja Agarwal

This project has been sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and is a follow-up of an earlier RIS study on the subject. The main objective of this project is to understand the implications of negotiations to further liberalize trade of non-agriculture goods for developing countries like India to assist in the ongoing negotiations at the WTO's Negotiation Group on Market Access (NGMA) and take note of the concerns of India and other developing countries in its work. As a part of this the database created at RIS on the industrial tariffs is kept updated and employed for simulations of implications of various proposals and modalities of tariff reduction that are being proposed in the WTO negotiations. A number of specific simulations were prepared at the specific requests of the Ministry in the preparatory process leading to Cancun and afterwards. Implications of proposals made by the Chairman, Negotiating Group on Non-Agricultural Market Access (NGMA), and one jointly by Canada, EU and the US in run up to the Cancun Ministerial were analyzed and supplied to the Ministry, among other simulations. As a part of the project, a series of analytical studies have been conducted to assist in formulation of India's position for the ongoing NGMA process. In addition, RIS has been regularly providing consultations and comments to the Ministry on the documents and proposals made at the NGMA.

A.1.5. Foreign Direct Investment, WTO and the Host Country Human Development [2003/04]

Research Team: Dr. Nagesh Kumar

RIS was invited by the Hanoi based Asia Trade Initiative of UNDP (UNDP/ATI) to contribute to their programme on trade and

investment designed to provide guidance to the developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region for the WTO Ministerial conference. As a part of this, RIS participated in the Meeting on Trade and Investment organized by UNDP/ATI, and the Institute of International Economics, Nankai University, Tianjin, China on April 1-2, 2003. The study discusses the experience of India in mobilizing and employing FDI inflows (and outflows) in its process of development. It summarizes the evolution of India's FDI policy. It also examines the role of government policy in determining the contribution of FDI to human development. Finally it summarizes the implications of the ongoing debate on the relevance of a multilateral framework on investment under WTO from a human development perspective. The project was completed with the submission of the final version of the paper to UNDP/ATI.

A.1.6. Agriculture Market Access after Cancun [2003/04]

Research Team: Dr. Rajesh Mehta and Dr. J. George

The Draft Cancun Ministerial Text, or Derbez Text, leaned heavily on the joint EC-US framework paper on Agriculture which argued for a formula approach with respect to market access pillar. The main objective of this study is to simulate results based on alternate formula submitted to the WTO. Our results show that the developing countries are being squeezed to provide better market access to the developed countries' agricultural produce. For example, India will have to reduce her average bound tariff in agriculture anywhere in the range 45-83 per cent depending on the blended combination of the formula (suggested for core modality) and the chosen value of "B" coefficient (for the Swiss element) in the blend formula. A draft paper was first presented at a conference organized by Centre for SAARC Studies, Andhra University, on 27-28 March 2004 in Vishakapatnam in collaboration with RIS. A revised version will be issued in Discussion Paper Series.

A.1.7. Environmental Standards Trade Agreements: Challenges for Developing Countries [2004-06]

Research Team: Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi et al.

RIS has initiated a major work programme on various dimensions of standards especially in context of global value chains. This would largely look into the broad debate on SPS/TBT in agriculture as well as in manufacturing and other sectors. The idea is to develop analytical framework for looking into the wider implications of standards on production, process and international trade specifically with perspective of developing countries. As part of this programme two major initiatives have been taken. One was the study of environmental issues in FTAs across Asia. At the various multilateral fora, including WTO, consideration of environmental issues in international trade, is no more a matter of choice and the linkage is widely being recognized at the normative level as well. There are several economic studies, which acknowledge the possibility of adverse impact of trade liberalization on environment. However, the emergence of the Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and the various other variants of preferential trade agreements, in Asia, pose several challenges for environment management. The problem is that the FTAs are being perceived as quicker mechanism for bypassing the complicated multilateral negotiations. The US-Singapore FTA poses several challenges in this regard. This paper attempted to look into some of these issues. This paper has been issued as a RIS Discussion Paper # 67.

The other initiative as part of this work programme was to launch a network of research institutes and think tanks on standard related issues. This network is being called as Standards and Rules of Trade (START). RIS along with Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS), Copenhagen, Denmark and Institute of Development Studies (IDS), UK are the founder members of the network.



A.1.8. World Trading System and Development: Issues for the Reform of World Trading System and WTDR05 [2004/06]

Following the launch of RIS Report *World Trade and Development Report 2003 (WTDR03)* at the occasion of Cancun Ministerial, RIS has continued to follow the emerging developments in the multilateral trade negotiations. RIS emphasized on the need for reform of decision-making process in the multilateral trading system for its long term sustainability as well as issues for mutual cooperation among developing countries in these negotiations, among other issues for reform to address asymmetries in its presentations at the Preparatory Committee for UNCTAD XI and subsequently at the WTO Public Symposium, organized by the WTO Secretariat in May 2004. RIS followed the negotiations leading to adoption of the July Framework, besides assisting the Ministry of Commerce, where required, and organized a seminar to discuss its implications for developing countries soon after its completion. The preparations for the *WTDR05*, which will focus on issues on the agenda of Sixth Ministerial Conference of WTO, have also started in right earnestness besides ongoing work on sectoral issues such as industrial tariffs, SPS and other issues as summarized above.

A.2. International Monetary and Financial System

The focus of this work programme is to constantly monitor the trends and develop proposals for necessary reforms at the international forums to be taken up by developing countries. The work done during the period under review is summarized below.

A.2. 1. Reform of International Financial Architecture [2003/04]

Research Team: Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Dr. Ramkishan S. Rajan et al.

The economies of developing countries have become highly vulnerable to speculative capital movements in and out of the country with the growing integration



From left: Hon'ble Mr. Koichi Kato, former Secretary General of the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan; Dr Nagesh Kumar, Director General, RIS; Shri K.C. Pant, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and Chairman, RIS; and Ambassador S.T. Devare, Vice-Chairman, RIS at the Building a New Asia: Towards an Asian Economic Community.

“If the 14 of us (viz. ASEAN, India, Japan, China and South Korea) combine into a broader Asian Economic Community, it can promote our overall competitiveness and create a new engine of growth for the entire region.”

— Prime Minister of India at the ASEAN-India Summit, Bali, October, 2003.

of financial markets. The recent economic crises beginning with Mexico in 1994, East Asian crisis of 1997, the Russian crisis of 1998, the Brazilian crisis of 1999 and the Argentinian crisis of 2001 have highlighted the role played by speculative capital movements in triggering off the crisis situations. The frequency of crisis has sparked of a debate on the reform of international financial architecture. In this regard, RIS came out with Policy Brief on (#10) on International Financial Architecture: An Agenda for Reform. RIS also issued the *Policy Brief* #11 on Managing Global Macroeconomic Imbalances in the early part of 2004.

A.2.2. UNCTAD XI and the Development Dialogue for the 21st Century [2003/05]

The Eleventh Session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XI) took place in Sao Paulo on 13-18 June 2004. RIS has a consultative status with UNCTAD. RIS participated in the preparatory process of UNCTAD XI and addressed the PrepCom in Geneva held in February 2004. RIS also took the

initiative to prepare a study on the UNCTAD XI's agenda to assist the developing country policy makers in their preparations.

B. Regional Economic Integration in Asia

B.1: New Asia Research Programme: Towards An Asian Economic Community [2003/06]

RIS has been engaged since 2001 in a major research programme developing a proposal and the way forward of an Asian Economic Community that is broader than the ongoing subregional and bilateral approaches for regional economic integration in Southeast and South Asia and would enable the region to exploit full potential of synergies. The proposed Asian Economic

“It is only inevitable that we seek to take the existing India-ASEAN relationship to a higher level, where we envision an Asian Economic Community, which encompasses ASEAN, China, Japan, Korea and India. Such a community would release enormous creative energies of our people.”

— Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Third India-ASEAN Business Summit, October 21, 2004.

Community could be built in a phased manner with Japan, ASEAN China, Korea (JACIK) providing the initial core. This research programme is supported by the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF), Tokyo and is conducted in collaboration with major policy think-tanks in Asia. In the first phase of the programme conducted during 2001/03, a major international conference on “Building a New Asia:

Towards an Asian Economic Community” was organized by RIS in New Delhi on March 10-11, 2003 in collaboration with the Malaysian Institute of Economic Research, and Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Jakarta. The New Delhi Conference had found a compelling case for the proposed Asian Economic Community and mandated RIS to keep active the network of think-tanks evolved at the conference and continue the work to promote the concept. In the Second Phase of the Programme (2003/06), a number of activities are being undertaken as mandated by the New Delhi Conference. This includes

the launch of a network of policy think-tanks, a quarterly journal, a volume based on the presentations of 2003 conference, organization of New Asia Conferences in 2004 (Tokyo) and 2005 (New Delhi) besides preparation of a number of studies on specific aspects of cooperation. In what follows we summarize the work done during the first year (2003/04) of the Second Phase of the programme and the plans for 2004/05.

B.1.1: New Asia Forum

Research Team: Dr. Nagesh Kumar and Ms. Arti Shukla

RIS has set up the New Asia Forum as a dedicated network of think-tanks in Asia devoted to assist the process of regional integration and thus help in building a New Asia with ideas. The *New Asia Monitor*, a quarterly journal of the Forum, was launched in March 2004 to disseminate the news, viewpoints and analysis on the economic outlook and developments in the region, among the policy circles and think-tanks to promote the cause of regional economic integration. *New Asia Monitor* has been received well. The Forum has also set up a dedicated website www.newasiaforum.org as the melting pot for all the relevant information and resources on the subject. This site is being linked up with those of the think-tanks connected with the Forum. Preparations are on for the High-Level Conference to be organized in Tokyo on 18-19 November 2004 in collaboration with some leading policy think-tanks of Asia.



B.1.2. Research Studies on Relevance and Potential of Pan-Asian Economic Cooperation

Studies have also been launched in areas of simulation of gains from integration, monetary and financial cooperation, energy security, infrastructure development, cooperation in information technology and biotechnology, among other areas.



Pan-Asian Economic Integration: the Way Forward [2004/05]

Research Team: Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Prof. Mukul Asher, Dr. S.K. Mohanty et al.

Building on the work done in the First Phase of the programme, RIS research explores the relative merits of alternative proposals floated for evolving a pan-Asian framework for regional economic integration to find a way forward. The work includes examination of the welfare gains arising from alternative approaches such as the East Asian Economic Community (EAEC) proposal developed by the East Asia Vision Group essentially combining ASEAN+3 (Japan, China and Korea) countries vis-à-vis the JACIK (Japan, ASEAN, China, India and Korea) roadmap developed by RIS as a initial building block of a broader Asian Economic Community. The welfare gains are computed within a computable general equilibrium (CGE) framework. This analysis is complemented by analysis exploring the complementarities and intensity of linkages between India and East Asia. The study also identifies the broad areas of regional economic cooperation, elements of such cooperation and the sequencing. An early version of the study was presented at the High-level Conference on Economic Cooperation organized by the Asian Development Bank in Manila on 1-2 July 2004. As revised version will be presented at the Tokyo conference in November 2004.



Monetary and Financial Cooperation in Asia

[2003/05]

Research Team: Dr. Ramgopal Agarwala, Dr. Sweta C. Saxena and Dr Mirza Allim Baig

As a part of the ongoing work on monetary and financial cooperation in Asia, a proposal of Reserve Bank of Asia (RBA) as an institutional infrastructure has been developed (PB #3). It has been shown that an institutional infrastructure like RBA could enable the region to harness its substantial foreign exchange reserves for its development besides providing a basis of exchange rate stability. Another study on the subject examined relevance of India's monetary integration with East Asia. The analysis shows that significant complementarities in trade exist among these countries, most of them experience similar shocks and labour mobility is already present. These results point to the fact that the cost of adopting a single currency may be minimal, while huge benefits could accrue from enhanced trade. The study, issued as an RIS Discussion Paper (#64), also recognizes the importance of yen for the success of the monetary union in Asia.



Regional Cooperation for Energy Security in Asia

[2003/05]

Research Team: Dr. Barnali Nag et al.

Energy consumption of developing Asian economies like India, China, South Korea, Indonesia and Thailand are increasing rapidly. To meet this increasing demand for energy, these emerging economies will have to increase and diversify their domestic supplies and sources of energy—both conventional as well as non-conventional. In this regard, regional cooperation can play an important role. For instance, it could cover cooperation in exploration in the new economies of Central Asian countries, besides some BIMSTEC and ASEAN countries that have abundant oil and natural gas and renewable energy resources. Cooperation among India, China, Japan and Korea could also cover management of strategic oil reserves, development of a natural gas market in Asia and improvement of energy efficiency and renewable energy.



Besides exploring the role for regional cooperation in energy security in Asia, the RIS study explores into India's energy cooperation possibilities with other countries. As part of this study, a Discussion Paper (#69 on Issues Related to India's Energy Trading with Central Asian Countries) was also brought out by RIS. The paper examines the potential and challenges that India-Central Asia cooperation in energy.

Regional Cooperation in Transport Infrastructure in Asia

[2003/05]

Research Team: Mr. Prabir De

Benefits of geographical proximity in Asia are often lost due to inadequate transport linkages. Against that backdrop, studies on development of transport connectivity have been undertaken in conjunction with RIS work on various approaches to regional cooperation in Asia. In the past year the issue of transport infrastructure has been studied in South Asia (as reported in *South Asia Development and Cooperation Report 2004*). Subsequently transport infrastructure and connectivity was examined in the context of BIMSTEC as reflected in RIS report for BIMSTEC Summit and also issued as a Discussion Paper. Infrastructure development's importance is being studied in the context of the ongoing programme on Asian Economic Community. A paper has been completed on the importance of transport connectivity for regional economic integration which was presented at an ADB conference in July 2004 (RIS Discussion Paper #77). Work is currently on for estimating the financing requirements for infrastructure development in Asia.



IT Cooperation in Asia with a Focus on ASEAN Countries

[2003/05]

Research Team: Prof. K. J. Joseph

Information Technology offers some unique opportunities for regional

cooperation in Asia for mutual benefit. Unlike earlier core technologies, in case of IT, Asia holds the commanding heights. With East Asian countries like Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore and China known for their manufacturing capabilities in the wide range of ICT goods, and India has emerged as IT software and service superpower. RIS is exploring into the potential and prospects of regional cooperation in this key technology for Asian development. A paper that has been already completed examines India-ASEAN cooperation in IT during the recent past and highlights the prospects for the future. It has been argued that India-ASEAN cooperation could be instrumental in addressing the ASEAN divide - the development gap between old and new ASEAN countries. This paper was presented at the ASEAN-India Forum held in Singapore in February 2004 and has been issued as a Discussion Paper. Another paper has explored into the lessons that new members of ASEAN can take from Indian experiences in building capability in IT industry. This has also been issued as a Discussion Paper. Ongoing work covers a series of papers on specific CLMV countries in building production capabilities especially in the IT industry.

Biotechnology and Asian Development [2004-2007]

Research Team: Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi

This is the second phase of the RIS work programme on biotechnology and Asian development launched in 2001 with support from the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India. As part of this programme RIS initiated studies on strategies of various national governments in Asia in the area of biotechnology. This programme also facilitated the publication of *Asian Biotechnology and Development Review* (ABDR) which now appears thrice a year. This programme has also supported developing an informal network of policy makers, researchers and practitioners working on different aspects of biotechnology. In this context RIS has started a series of Asia level policy dialogues organized every two years called Conferences on Biotechnology for Asian



Shri K.C. Pant, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and Chairman, RIS; Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director General, RIS; Mr. Mohsen Tawfik, Director, UNESCO, Dr. Balakrishna Pisupati, Head, Regional Biodiversity Programme, IUCN, Asia; and Mr. Raju B. Barwale, Member CII, National Committee on Biotechnology and Managing Director, Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Company Limited at the Second Conference on Biotechnology for Asian Development.

Development to facilitate exchange of experiences within the region. The second conference was organized by RIS in April 2004 in collaboration with CII, IUCN with the support of DBT and UNESCO. The April conference further strengthened the informal network. RIS is in touch with these institutions for follow up of the recommendations. IUCN Regional Office has entered into a MoU with RIS for institutional collaboration on these issues. The Third conference in the series would be hosted by the Philippines in April 2006. Another ongoing study explores potential and relevance of regional cooperation in biotechnology for Asian development. This paper, conducted in the framework of the ongoing work on Asian Economic Community, deals with the patterns of complementarity in capabilities in Asia, the relevance of regional cooperation for meeting the common needs and suggests a way forward.

B.2. Research Programme on South Asian Economic Integration

South Asian economic integration has been a major area of research at RIS since the early 1990s. RIS studies and analysis have shaped the policy agenda and debates on economic integration in the region. In the period under review, a number of initiatives have been taken in policy research and dialogue to promote the process of regional cooperation.

Launch of South Asia Development Report 2004 in New Delhi



Shri K.C. Pant, Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and Chairman, RIS releasing the South Asia Development and Cooperation Report 2004, in New Delhi. Mr. Shashank, Foreign Secretary received the first copy of the Report. Also seen in the picture (from left); Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director General, RIS; Dr A R Kemal, Director, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Pakistan; Prof Muchkund Dubey, President, CSD, New Delhi; Prof Rehman Sobhan, Executive Director, SACEPS, Dhaka; and Dr Saman Kelegama, Executive Director, Institute for Policy Studies, Colombo.

B.2.1. South Asia Development and Cooperation Report 2004

[2003/04]

Research Team: Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Prof. K.J. Joseph, Dr. Ram Upendra Das, Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi, Dr. Mirza Allim Baig, Mr. Prabir De and Dr. Saon Ray

The *South Asia Development and Cooperation Report 2004* is the third in

the series of Reports launched by RIS to provide an analysis of the macro-economic performance of South Asian economies against the background of global trends and the policy challenges being faced by them with a special focus on the role that regional economic integration could play. An early draft of the present Report was presented and discussed at the Sixth Meeting of the SAARC Network of Researchers, held in Islamabad on December 8, 2003. As per the recommendation of the Meeting of SAARC Network, some advance copies of the Report were sent to the Twelfth SAARC Summit held in Islamabad in January 2004. The Report was released by Chairman, RIS at a seminar organized by RIS in New Delhi on 27 January 2004 followed by a Panel Discussion by noted experts of the region, viz. Professor Muchkund Dubey; Dr A.R. Kemal, Director, PIDE, Islamabad, Dr Rehman Sobhan, Executive Director, SACEPS, Dhaka; and Dr Saman Kelegama, IPS, Colombo. RIS plans discussion meetings on the contents of the Report in other SAARC capitals in collaboration with its network partners.

Some Opinions on

South Asia Development and Cooperation Report 2004

'*South Asia Development and Cooperation Report 2004* is the South Asian counterpart of the *World Development Report* and is looked forward to as eagerly.'

— **Dr. Saman Kelegama**, Executive Director, IPS, Colombo

'The Report is full of many valuable proposals of regional cooperation that merit serious attention by policy makers in the region.'

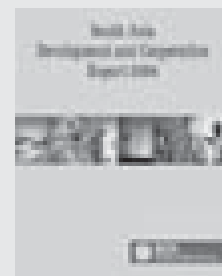
— **Prof. Muchkund Dubey**, President, CSD, New Delhi

'The Report provides a valuable and much needed analysis of South Asia's growth performance and challenges.'

— **Dr. A. R. Kemal**, Director, PIDE, Pakistan

'RIS has done a good job of launching and sustaining the series of *South Asia Development and Cooperation Reports*. Besides their useful analysis, they help in evolving the region's identity.'

— **Prof. Rehman Sobhan**, Executive Director, SACEPS, Dhaka



B.2.2. Monetary Cooperation in South Asia

[2003/04]

Dr. Ramgopal Aggarwala, Dr. Sweta C. Saxena and Dr. Mirza Allim Baig

A study has been also conducted on the potential and prospects of monetary cooperation in South Asia. It discusses the rationale for monetary integration, examines the feasibility of Optimum Currency Area (OCA) in the region and makes some policy recommendations. The revised version of this paper has been issued as RIS Discussion Paper #71. Another contribution on the subject prepared at RIS is a policy brief (#9) on the single currency in South Asia that proposes a way forward for a currency union with a parallel currency to begin with. Both the papers were presented at RIS/SACEPS Seminar on Monetary Cooperation in South Asia held in New Delhi on December 23, 2003. The ongoing work on the subject covers a review of different approaches towards monetary and financial cooperation in Asia.

B.2.3. Towards A Free Trade Area in South Asia

[2001/04]

Research Team: Prof. I.N. Mukherji

This study has been conducted within the framework of the SAARC Network of Researchers. This study attempts to examine the impact of SAPTA on bilateral preferential trade flows on conceded products both from the point of view of India's imports as well as exports since SAPTA negotiations were implemented by the end of 1995. The study shows that import liberalization by India has stimulated preferential imports from Bangladesh both in value and share terms. A first draft of the study has been completed. It was discussed at a seminar organized at RIS. The study is being finalized with the comments and updation with more recent data that has become available. A revised draft of the study has been completed which was presented at the RIS/SACEPS Regional Conference on SAARC in August 2004. The study is being finalized for publication.



(From left): Dr. Saman Kelegama, Executive Director, IPS, Colombo; Prof. Rehman Sobhan, Executive Director, SACEPS, Dhaka; Shri Muchkund Dubey, President, CSD; Dr. Arjun Sengupta, Chairman, SACEPS and Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS at the RIS/SACEPS Workshop.

B.2.3. Regional Economic Integration in South Asia: Measurement of Gains and the Way Forward

[2004/06]

SAARC economic integration process is often viewed with skepticism and perceived as one perpetuating the asymmetries further in a number of key countries such as Bangladesh and Pakistan but sometimes also in Nepal and even Sri Lanka. These apprehensions have affected the pace of regional economic integration in South Asia. Therefore, there is need for a better understanding among the people of the region about the gains from the regional economic integration and opportunity cost of non-cooperation. Against that background, the proposed project will quantify the gains from regional economic integration for the region and for each of the participant country. This will be accompanied by identification of other benefits of regional economic integration such as its potential in facilitating intra-regional FDI flows and building supply capabilities and the pros and cons of regional versus bilateral approaches. The study will also provide a way forward to the region for optimizing the gains from regional economic integration. The findings will be disseminated among the policy makers and other opinion makers through Policy Workshops, RIS *South Asia Development and Cooperation Reports* and Policy Briefs and newspaper columns. It



will be conducted in collaboration with researchers from institutions in different SAARC countries. RIS is currently discussing the proposal with ADB for possible funding. It is expected to be launched in late 2004 and will have an eighteen months time frame.

B.2.4. Regional Cooperation for Food Security and Poverty Alleviation in South Asia

[2003/04]

Research Team: Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi

FAO assigned to RIS a study to look into role of regional and sub-regional cooperation in Asia to address poverty, food security, sustainable agriculture and rural development. The RIS study outlined a strategy to facilitate achievement of a common understanding and modalities for addressing the regional challenges by fostering discussion of the linkages between action by the sub-regional and regional organizations, multilateral and civil society organizations. The RIS study was presented as a background note at the FAO Regional High Level Roundtable on Regional Programmes and Cooperation for Eradication of Poverty and Food Insecurity in Asia and the Pacific held on February 23-24, 2004 at Bangkok, Thailand.

The study presented to FAO is being elaborated further in the context of South Asia in the context of the adoption of SAARC Social Charter and the Independent South Asian Commission on Poverty Alleviation (ISACPA) Report adopted at the Islamabad Summit in January 2004.

B.2.5. Relevance of Investment in India-Sri Lanka Comprehensive Economic Partnership

[2003/04]

Research Team: Dr. Ram Upendra Das and Mr. Jaya Prakash Pradhan

India and Sri Lanka launched a bilateral FTA in 1998 which became operational in 2000. Encouraged by the good experience with FTA in expanding the mutual trade in an equitable and balanced manner, the two governments decided to expand the scope of economic cooperation to cover

investment and services in the framework of a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). A Joint Study Group (JSG) was set up to prepare a blue print of CECA. The Indian Ministry of External Affairs requested RIS to prepare a study on investment for discussions at the Joint Group Meeting. Accordingly, RIS prepared a study on Investment Relations between India-Sri Lanka: Some Analyses and Policy Recommendations and submitted it to the Ministry of External Affairs in July 2003. Subsequently RIS was requested to prepare an integrated draft of the Indian and Sri Lankan inputs for incorporation in the Report of JSG. The JSG concluded its work and finalized its Report at its Meeting held in Candy, Sri Lanka in October 2003.

B.3. Fostering ASEAN-India Economic Partnership

RIS has been supporting the ASEAN-India Partnership with policy research and promoting dialogue and networking of think-tanks. The work accomplished during the period is summarized below.

B.3.1. ASEAN-India Vision 2020: Working Together for a Shared Prosperity

[2003/04]

The ASEAN-India Summit held in Bali had put a lot of emphasis on the preparation of an ASEAN-India Vision 2020 Paper by RIS and the ASEAN think-tanks. RIS prepared a draft vision paper on ASEAN-India relationships on the basis of extensive consultations within the country with the different stake-holders. This draft was presented and discussed at a National Consultative Workshop organized in Delhi in December 2003. It was later circulated among the ASEAN Think-Tanks through the ASEAN Secretariat. RIS organized a Consultative Meeting on March 4-5, 2004 with heads or senior officials of ASEAN think-tanks connected with ASEAN-ISIS and other experts to discuss and finalize the document with their inputs. The Document finalized at this meeting was submitted to the official process as a Track II input for further work at the official process and eventual adoption at the Third

Summit. The document presents a broad long-term vision of the evolving partnership and appends an action plan for achieving these vision in different areas.

B.3.2. India-ASEAN Eminent Persons Lecture Series

[ongoing]

The Lecture Series has been coordinated by RIS since 1998 to promote people-to-people contacts and generate ideas for taking the ASEAN-India partnership forward. The Lecture Series has involved many distinguished personalities such as Prime Minister Mahathir, Prime Minister Thaksin, Dr C. Rangarajan and Dr Narayanamurthy from India. RIS has also published a volume based on the texts of lectures delivered upto 2002. During the period under review, it was decided to launch the next phase of the programme and a list of potential invitees was drawn up including the ASEAN Secretary-General H.E. Ong Keng Yong at a mutually convenient time.

B.3.3. India-ASEAN Partnership: Towards Operational Steps

[2005/06]

India's engagement with ASEAN as a part of her Look East Policy has progressed steadily to an annual Summit level interaction since 2002. The leaders of India and ASEAN countries at their Second Summit in October 2003 in Bali signed the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation that provides for a Free Trade Arrangement between India and ASEAN to be implemented over ten years. The leaders of ASEAN and India are clearly aiming at further deepening of economic integration of their economies beyond the implementation of an FTA in trade of goods and services as is clear from the proposed adoption of a Long-term Vision 2020 paper prepared by think-tanks led by RIS at the Laos Summit in 2004. The proposed project aims to provide research and policy advisory services to the concerned governments on the policy steps that need to be taken to exploit their synergies fully. In particular, it will advise the governments on operationalization of the Framework Agreement and further



Shri Rajiv Sikri, Special Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs (middle), Dr Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS (left) and Shri C.M. Bhandari, Joint Secretary (MER), Ministry of External Affairs at the National Consultations on ASEAN-India Vision 2020.

elaboration of the Vision 2020 of the partnership. It will also make further proposals for deepening of the economic integration between ASEAN and India. RIS has been in touch with ADB for raising resources for this project. RIS has already launched studies on one aspect of the negotiations, viz. rules of origins.

B.3.4. Exploring Mekong-Ganga Partnership

[2004/05]

Research Team: Prof. K.J. Joseph et al.

The broad objective of the project is to analyse the present status and future prospects for trade and investment between India and the three countries in the GMS, viz. Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam. Apart from identifying certain areas of mutually beneficial cooperation, the proposed study intends to come up with an advocacy document for public education on the relevance of mutual cooperation. As the countries under study are the less developed among the ASEAN, the proposed initiative has to be seen against the backdrop of India's commitment towards helping ASEAN bridging the development divide between Old and New ASEAN member countries. India's commitment to bridging the ASEAN divide has been stated in the Framework Agreement between India and the ASEAN on the one hand and the India-ASEAN Vision 2020 as proposed by RIS and ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks.



(Left to right): Ambassador S.T. Devare, H.E. Dr. Sun Xiaoyu, Vice-President, DRC; Ms. Zhang Qi; Dr. Guo Lihong; Dr. Zhang Xiaojie; Dr. Han Jun; Dr. Sun Lanlan; and Mr. Zhao Shenghua at the RIS/DRC India-China Policy Dialogue.

B.5.1. Studies on India-China Cooperation

[2004/05]

Research Team: Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Dr. S.K. Mohanty and Mr. Prabir De

The main objective of the studies is to assist the work of the India-China Joint Study Group (JSG) that has been set up following the visit of the Indian Prime Minister to China in June 2003 to explore the feasibility of the two countries moving towards a comprehensive economic partnership agreement and draw up a programme for development of India-China trade, investment and other economic exchanges over the next five years. Director-General, RIS is a member of the JSG and the Ministry of External Affairs has requested RIS to conduct studies to assist the work of JSG. To provide inputs for the work of JSG, the study seeks to analyze the patterns of trade and investment linkages between India and China and examine the case for a preferential or free trade arrangement or a comprehensive economic cooperation agreement to exploit the synergies between the two countries. In particular, the study covers the context and relevance of China-India economic cooperation and potential of investment flows between India and China. Some draft papers have already been submitted to the Ministry of External Affairs for presentation at the Meetings of JSG.

B.5.2. India-China Policy Dialogue [ongoing]

RIS has established contacts with a number of Chinese think-tanks to facilitate policy

dialogue and exchange of views on development issues of mutual interest. Following the visit of DG-RIS to the Development Research Centre (DRC) of the State Council of China in April 2003 and subsequent discussions, a high-level delegation of DRC led by Dr Sun Xiaoyu, Vice-President and Vice-Minister visited RIS in March 2004 when a Joint Policy Dialogue on certain issues concerning economic reforms and macroeconomic performance, trade and WTO related issues took place. Subsequently DRC proposed an MoU to be signed between the two institutions to continue such dialogue and invited RIS to visit DRC.

B.6. Economic Cooperation with Central Asian Republics [2003-]

Research Team: Dr. Raj Chikkara, Dr. Ramgopal Agarwala and Dr. Ram Upendra Das

RIS has launched a work programme on India-Central Asia Economic Relations. The work programme covers preparation of a number of research/policy papers and organization of seminars. A seminar was organized in collaboration with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in Delhi in October 2003 where some of the in-house studies were presented along with those by experts from other institutions. RIS and CII are now bringing out a publication based on these presentations at the seminar. A follow-up seminar is also proposed to be organized in Mumbai in 2005. These studies prepared will be further elaborated and published.



(From left): Shri Digvijay Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, delivering the inaugural address at the Seminar on Economic Cooperation between India and Central Asia; Dr Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS; Mr V.K. Mathur, Chairman, CII Central Asia Committee; and Ms. Supriya Banerjee, Head CII's International Desk.

C. South-South Cooperation, New Technologies and Development

C.1. Building New Bridges In South-South Cooperation: A Study of India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Economic Cooperation

[2004/05]

Research Team: Prof. K. J. Joseph, Dr. S. K. Mohanty, Shri Prabir De, Dr. Mirza Allim Baig and Dr. Saon Ray

The Ministerial meeting of IBSA held in March, 2004 in New Delhi, in tune with Brasilia Declaration emphasized the importance of concrete trilateral cooperation in civil aviation, infrastructure, job creation and small, medium and micro enterprises, science and technology, information technology, tourism, energy, defence and social sectors covering health, education etc. The Ministers agreed that the IBSA countries can reinforce the economic strength of each other by synergizing their complementarities in area of industry, services, business and technology which in turn could create a market of 1.2 billion people, 1.2 trillion dollars of GDP and foreign trade of 300 billion dollars. It was also decided that each country could conduct studies to examine the potential for economic and commercial partnership and

the ways and means for increasing trade and investment flows among the three countries. Against this background the present study, supported by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, explores the possibilities of strengthening trade (goods and services) and investment relations between these countries.

C. 2. IOR-ARC: Institutional Mechanisms for Trade and Investment Facilitation in Strategic Sectors

[2003/05]

This study undertaken as a part of the work programme of the Indian Ocean Rim Academic Group in collaboration with the Institute for Policy Studies aims to prepare a policy paper on ways and means of exploiting the synergies between Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) in select strategic sectors such as infrastructure, energy, high technology. A concept paper had been prepared. However, the project has not been completed due to resources problems faced by both RIS and IPS. RIS will be exploring possibilities of completing it in consultation with IPS for presentation at the next IOR-ARC Ministerial Meetings in Iran.

C.3. Relevance of Investment in India-GCC Partnership

[2004/05]

Research Team: Dr. Mirza Allim Baig, Dr. Saon Ray et al.

India and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) are entering into a free trade arrangement in order to facilitate exploitation of their complementarities for mutual development. RIS has been commissioned by the Department of Commerce to examine the relevance of investment forming a part of such an arrangement. The study will assess the feasibility and potential of including investment in the FTA with the economies in question. First, it will analyse the existing investment flows by looking at the trends, patterns, as well as the potential for two way flows between the countries. This assessment will provide a background to the second issue that will examine the policy

regime for investment in the countries. The objective behind this would be to identify the barriers to investment that exist at present and the constraints that affect the realization of the potential. It will also identify areas in which investment could be encouraged in the future. The third aspect that the study will deal with is the potential negotiating issues that would encourage bilateral investment.

C. 4. Regional Trading Arrangements and Developing Countries [2004/05]

Research Team: Dr. Nagesh Kumar and Dr. S.K. Mohanty

The Commonwealth Secretariat has sponsored the study at RIS to examine motivation for the rapid proliferation of regional trading arrangements in different parts of the world, particularly among developing countries. The broad ambit of the study covers certain critical issues including choice of appropriate approach for making the regional process enduring and meaningful for developing countries. The study is also examining whether South-South or North-South RTA is appropriate in serving the interest of these countries. The issue of unintended risks of RTAs among such countries is discussed in the light of experiences of certain regional groupings. The performances of selected RTAs in different continents are evaluated to examine the efficacy of second wave of regionalism for developing countries, and providing guidance for evading mortality of RTAs among Third World countries.

C.5. Biotechnology and Development [2004-2005]

Research Team: Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi

In order to specifically address the broad socio-economic challenges emanating from introduction of biotechnology, RIS has launched several studies with support from different agencies. Life Science Division of UNESCO, Paris has supported a series of studies on various aspects of rice in Asia. Some of these studies would be published in the forthcoming issue of *Asian*

Biotechnology and Development Review (ABDR). The contributors include leading policy makers, commentators and practitioners. RIS would be working on some aspects of Cartagena Biosafety Protocol in context of India's commitments. The issues include liability and compensation, capacity building and analyzing the concept of precautionary principles in the wider context of multilateral environmental agreements. The Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF), Government of India would be the key partner in this initiative. RIS would organize a National Consultation on the above stated issue in collaboration with MoEF. Apart from subject experts, practitioners and policy makers, people from key international organizations would be invited to address the issues. There is also a proposal to work on impact of Bt cotton on Indian economy and agriculture. The study is likely to be conducted in collaboration with Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad and Gujarat Institute for Development Research (GIDR), Gujarat. The All India Biotech Association Southern chapter is likely to be the key partner for data collection.

C.6. South-South Cooperation and the Digital Divide: the e-South Framework

Research Team: Prof. K.J. Joseph

The purpose of the study is to explore the potential of South-South cooperation in addressing the digital divide. A background paper was prepared for the RIS Report for UNCTAD XI and has been issued as a Discussion Paper.

This paper argues that the present approach, which aims at proliferating the use of ICTs in developing countries, by neglecting its production, is likely to perpetuate technological dependence of the South. Hence the e-strategies and policies in the South need to integrate both production and use. In this process much could be gained by South-South cooperation because, unlike the earlier general-purpose technologies, in case of ICTs substantial capabilities exist in the South. While there



are certain initiatives at the regional and bilateral levels to foster cooperation, the paper calls for an e-South Framework Agreement to facilitate a broad based approach to pool the resources in such a way that economies of scale and scope are achieved and risks minimized.

D. Strategic Responses to Globalization

The process of globalization of the world economy has thrown many policy challenges that require to be supported by analytical inputs. RIS work in this area deal with some of the important emerging challenges for the policy as summarized below.

D.1. A Strategic Approach to Strengthening the International Competitiveness in Knowledge-based Industries [2002/05]

Project Team: Dr Nagesh Kumar, Prof K.J. Joseph, Dr Neelam Singh, Dr V.K. Kaul, Dr Aradhna Agarwal and Dr Padma Suresh

This project seeks to analyze the relative roles of affiliation with MNEs and FDI, own technological effort and outward investments of national enterprises in promotion of knowledge intensive exports in India with a view to draw strategic policy lessons. This two- year project was launched with the financial support of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Government of India.

As a part of the project, a quantitative analysis of the factors affecting enterprise-level export performance for a panel data set, covering about 4000 Indian enterprises classified in 30 broad industry groups over the 1989-2000, has been completed and reported in RIS Discussion Papers # 42-44 and submitted to DSIR. This was followed by the launch of field studies for five industries to refine the findings of quantitative analysis in the light of observations from the field and to prepare a set of policy recommendations. The

fieldwork is being conducted in collaboration with Professor K.J. Joseph (RIS): IT Hardware, Dr Aradhana Agarwal (KMC, DU): Pharmaceutical; Dr Padma Suresh (DU): Non-Electrical Machinery Industry; Dr V.K. Kaul (DU): Chemical Industry; and Dr Neelam Singh (LSRC, DU): Automotive Industry.

The research team completed the field survey in the first quarter of 2004. This will be followed up by a seminar to discuss the findings and draw policy lessons for submission to policy makers in the second quarter of 2004. The findings will be presented and discussed with the stakeholders at a National Workshop to be organized in the second half of 2004 and the report will be submitted to DSIR by the end of 2004. RIS plans to bring out the industry studies in the RIS Discussion Paper Series and a book is planned to be published based on the work done under the project.

D.2. International Food Safety Regulation and Processed Food Exports from Developing Countries: A Comparative Study of India and Thailand [2002/05]

Research Team: Dr. Rajesh Mehta and Dr. J. George

This is an ongoing study being conducted in collaboration with Australian National University; La Trobe University, Melbourne; Thammasat University, Bangkok; and International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), USA under the sponsorship of the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). Trade conflicts relating to food safety standards, and the effectiveness of the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement and the related WTO dispute settlement procedures in resolving these disputes have become a major focus of world trade negotiations. These issues are of particular importance for developing countries trying to exploit their potential for expanding processed food exports. This study aims to examine the policy, institutional and technical problems faced by processed food exporters in

developing countries in meeting these requirements, and to identify appropriate policy measures to address them while recognizing the legitimate concerns in importing countries about safety and quality. During the last nine months the project teams have conducted field surveys of exporters for canvassing of questionnaire in Hyderabad and Bombay. A monograph based on papers presented at the international workshop organized within the framework of the project in March 2003 has been submitted for publication as a book to Macmillans. Presentations were made by the project team at ACIAR-TU Conference “International Food Safety Standards and Processed Foods Exports from Developing Countries”, March 19, 2004 at Bangkok, Thailand.

D.3. Foreign Direct Investment, Development and WTO: The Case of India

Research Team: Dr. Nagesh Kumar

The study, sponsored by the Asian Development Bank, discusses the experience of India in mobilizing and employing FDI inflows (and outflows) in its process of development. It also briefly summarizes the approach of India towards international investment agreements in general and towards the attempt of developed countries in establishing a GATT type framework for investment in WTO, in particular. The study begins with a discussion of the evolution of India's policy towards FDI in the context of economic reforms of 1991. It then summarizes the approach of India towards the international investment agreements including bilateral investment treaties, TRIMs and the possible multilateral framework on investment. It outlines the broad trends and patterns in FDI inflows and outflows since especially in the 1990s after the policy reforms. It examines the impact of FDI in terms of various parameters of development. It also highlights the role of government policy in determining the impact of FDI inflows. Finally, it drives some policy lessons for the Asian Development Bank and its member governments for their FDI policy and some considerations for their approach to the

discussion on the proposed multilateral framework on investment in WTO. RIS was invited to make a presentation of the paper at a Conference organized by the ADB in Manila on August 11-13, 2003. Subsequently the final version of the report was submitted to the Bank.

D.4. Industrial Restructuring and Export Competitiveness of the Textiles and Clothing Sector in South Asia in the Context of MFA Phase-out [2001/04]

Dr. Ram Upendra Das and Dr. Beena P.L.

This project forms part of the research agenda of the SAARC Network of Researchers on Global, Financial and Economic Issues assigned to the National Focal Point for India, that is RIS, for implementation. The phase-out of the MFA quotas by first January 2005 under the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC) of WTO presents both challenges and opportunities for the SAARC countries. The textile and clothing sector has emerged as the most important source of foreign exchange for almost all the SAARC countries. Hence, challenges for maintaining export competitiveness and industrial restructuring need to be analyzed on an urgent basis. This study explores the issues related to the sustainability of textile and apparel export growth of the SAARC member countries. The data on patterns of textiles and garments exports from South Asian countries have been analyzed to examine the trends in their international competitiveness. This has been followed up by a field survey to gather insights into the potential of restructuring at the regional level in strengthening international competitiveness and draw policy implications.

D.5. Implications of the WTO Tariff Proposals for Indian Industry

The process of non-agriculture market access negotiations is being conducted by Negotiating Group of Market Access (NGMA) under the premises of WTO. A number of modalities for tariff reduction

have been proposed with the main emphasis on a non-linear formula. Further to its studies on Non-Agricultural Market Access, RIS has been looking at implications for specific industries.

D.5.1. WTO Tariff Proposals and Small-scale Industries

[2003/04]

Research Team: Dr. Rajesh Mehta and Ms. Pooja Agarwal

A number of products have been reserved for exclusive manufacture by Indian small-scale industries. RIS has undertaken a study to assess the implications of present round of WTO negotiations on these products. Further the structure and levels of bindings, base rates from where negotiations would start and tariff incidence for the products reserved for the exclusive manufacture of Indian small-scale industries have been studied. Finally, the likely post negotiations scenario for Indian small-scale industries has been presented. The study finds that at present around 66 per cent items of Indian small-scale industry are bound, generally higher than all-India level. Preliminary results based on alternate scenarios suggest that the tariff reduction under WTO-NGMA can cause up to 53 per cent reduction in the current bindings of the reserved products. Some of this analysis was reported in the RIS Discussion Paper #74. Detailed results have been published in a monograph *WTO Negotiations and Indian Small Scale Industry* published by Federation of Indian Micro and Small & Medium Enterprises (FISME), jointly with the Office of the Development Commissioner (SSI), and RIS in July 2004.

D.5.2. WTO Tariff Proposals and Indian Pulp and Paper Industry

[2004/05]

Research Team: Rajesh Mehta and Ms. Pooja Agarwal

A position paper was prepared and discussed with the representatives of the paper and newsprint industry at the request of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Central Pulp and Paper Research Institute (CPPRI). CPPRI has now approached us for launching a detailed study

for the benefit of the industry. It will be conducted in consultation with the industry bodies.

D.6. Short-term Forecasting of India's Exports

[2002/05]

Research Team: Dr. Rajesh Mehta, Ms. Sushma Bhat and Ms. Parul Mathur

This is an ongoing study supported by the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India to develop an econometric model of India's export sector that is able to provide short-term forecasts and to provide forecasts in March and September updated taking note of the changing external/domestic factors for the Department of Commerce. RIS research team has been regularly submitting the forecasts of Indian exports to the Ministry. An attempt is also made to refine the forecasts.

D.7. Strategy for Export Oriented Manufacturing

[2004/05]

Research Team: Dr. S.K. Mohanty

This research study sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce seeks to develop a comprehensive export strategy to improve India's share in the global economy. For achieving this objective, the study is to identify the required restructuring of the domestic manufacturing sector to meet the specific requirements of importing countries. Keeping in view the Post-Cancun situation in the global economy, the study is to explore the possibilities of venturing in to new markets for exports apart from maintaining linkages with traditional trade partners. Export competitiveness of India is to be examined for selected number of products in the light of 'Medium term export strategy' of India. Taking into account the changing global standards of exports in important export destinations of India, and persistently evolving WTO rules, the study is also to examine the possibility of extending certain state-sponsored WTO-compatible incentives/schemes to domestic industries to enable them to manufacture export-oriented products for specific export markets.

D.8. State, FDI and Export of Software and BPO Services from India

[2004/05]

Research Team: Prof. K. J. Joseph

While the developing countries are known for their comparative advantage in the production of services primarily on account of the low labour cost, the restrictions on the mobility of labour across national boundaries prevented them from reaping the benefits of this cost advantage. However, the emergence of information communication technology and the innovations therein have made possible the “splintering off” of the services from its provider and thus leading to the offshoring of various services which hitherto remained untraded. India with its large pool of skilled manpower at lower cost has recently emerged as a major provider of software and other services and also a major location for the offshoring of services. Against this background this study examine various policy measures and institutional interventions made by both the central government and different regional governments in facilitating India’s emergence as a major player in the world market for software and services. The study also examines the relative role played by foreign direct investment in making India a success story in IT and software. The study was commissioned by UNCTAD as a background paper for the *World Investment Report 2004*.

D. 9. Quantifying the Contribution of Technological Change to Economic Development: Case of Biotechnology

[2003-05]

Research Team: Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi

RIS with support from OECD launched a detailed study on identifying the various contours of dynamics of biotechnology research and industry in India with the perspective of its quantification. In this regard, one faces several constraints like definition of biotechnology with the

perspectives of covering different economic activities, identifying the quantum of investments and status of various firms and their economic contributions. In India, there is a major challenge to develop a reliable source of data about status and development of biotechnology across different sectors. This project addresses some of these constraints and attempts to evolve a policy response.

D.10. Study on Trends, Structure and Competitiveness of Indian Seed Industry

[2004/05]

Research Team: Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi

International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Washington D.C. has approached RIS to carry out a study on Indian Seed Industry to analyse the structure, progress and degree of competitiveness of the seed industry since the introduction of New Seed Policy in 1988. The study is also designed to look into the implications of the new IPR regime (after January 2005) for the seed sector and consequent changes following the Seeds Act 2001. Apart from this the study would also look into other issues like magnitude and nature of FDI in the Seed Industry. The study would be launched in October 2004 and is likely to be completed by May 2005.

D.11. Special Economic Zones and FDI in China: Lessons for India

[2004/05]

Research Team: Dr. A.K. Kundra

This study has been launched to understand the reasons behind the success of China in attracting large magnitudes of export-oriented FDI which now account for nearly 55 per cent of its manufactured exports and 80 per cent of high technology exports. This study will involve field work in China to gather first-hand insights and draw policy lessons for India. This study is being conducted with the support of the ICSSR.

II. Policy Advisory Services

RIS continued its efforts of fulfill the mandate of rendering policy advisory services to the Government of India and others. Given below is a selective list of the inputs provided to the Ministries and other governmental and non-governmental bodies:

- **Negotiations of the Indo-Thai Bilateral Free Trade Agreement (FTA):** RIS provided inputs for India's offer list of products and consultations to the Ministry of Commerce for the meetings of the Joint Negotiating Group for the FTA. RIS also prepared a policy note on Rules of Origin (RoO) Provision for the Draft Framework Agreement on India-Thailand FTA and submitted it to the Ministry of Commerce.
- **Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Study Group:** RIS prepared a study on Investment Relations between India-Sri Lanka: Some Analyses and Policy Recommendations and submitted it to the Ministry of External Affairs on July 17, 2003.
- **Prime Minister's Visit to China:** RIS provided a Note on India-China Economic Relations and consultations to the PMO as a part of the preparations for the visit of the Prime Minister to China in June 2003.
- **Second ASEAN-India Summit, Bali, October 2003**
 - RIS prepared a Note on ASEAN-India Partnership and Beyond and

submitted it to the PMO to serve as inputs for the preparations for the ASEAN-India Summit held on October 7, 2003. Inputs were also provided for the preparations of the Second India-ASEAN Business Summit, held in New Delhi on September 4, 2003.

- RIS participated in the Meeting of the ASEAN-India Joint Coordination Committee (JCC), held in New Delhi in April 2003 and briefed it on the progress towards preparation of the ASEAN-India Vision 2020.
- **Twelfth SAARC Summit, Islamabad, January 4-6, 2004:** In preparation of the summit, RIS prepared and submitted to the Government notes and inputs on Economic Cooperation in the SAARC Region; Road to a Single Currency for South Asia; and Moving Forward on SAFTA.
- **SAARC Network of Researchers:** RIS represented India at the Sixth Meeting of the SAARC Network of Researchers and Seminar on Poverty Alleviation held in Islamabad on December 8-9, 2003. RIS was also part of the Indian Delegation at the Seminar on Regional Poverty Profile, organized by the SAARC Secretariat and UNDP in Kathmandu on December 11-12, 2003.

- **IOR-ARC Ministerial Meetings:** RIS represented India at the meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Academic Group held in conjunction with IOR-ARC Ministerial Conference in Colombo, Sri Lanka on October 7, 2003.
- **India-South Korea Joint Commission:** RIS prepared a Note on India-South Korea Economic Partnership to serve as inputs for the Joint Commission Meeting held in December 2003.
 - Note on WTO Non-Agricultural Market Access Modalities Post-Cancun Scenario was provided to the Ministry of Commerce.
 - Subsequently RIS submitted several papers/notes to and held consultative meetings with the officials of Trade Policy Division, Department of Commerce, on NAMA negotiations.
- **G-15 Summit, Caracas:** Inputs were provided to the Ministry of External Affairs for their preparations for the Twelfth G-15 Summit, Caracas, Venezuela, February 27-28, 2004.
- **BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting:** RIS prepared the Paper on Future Directions of BIMSTEC: Towards A Bay of Bengal Economic Community (BoEC), and made it available to the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India on January 31, 2004 for the Ministerial Meeting of the BIMSTEC Member Countries, held in Phuket, Thailand in February 2004.
- **Joint Study Group on India-Singapore Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement:** RIS provided inputs to the JSG on the tariffs and trade policy.
- **Joint Study Group on India-China Comprehensive Economic Cooperation:** RIS is represented on the India-China JSG set up as a follow-up of the Prime Minister's visit and is assisting its work with a number of studies.
- **Revised Forecasts of India's Exports:** RIS prepared a study on 2003-04 Revised Forecasts of India's Exports: A Disaggregated Analysis by Countries and Commodities, Paper III of the Research Project on Modelling of Export Sector for Short-term Forecast, and submitted it to the Ministry of Commerce on September 11, 2003.
- **Fifth Ministerial Conference WTO, Cancun, September 2003:**
 - RIS assisted in preparation for the Cancun Ministerial with detailed studies on possible multilateral framework on investment and on non-agricultural market access (NAMA) in addition to other subjects. Several discussion papers and four policy briefs were prepared specifically on the agenda of the Ministerial for the benefit of the negotiators. In addition, RIS prepared the *World Trade and Development Report 2003: Cancun and Beyond* which was presented and discussed in New Delhi and Cancun on the sidelines of the Ministerial.
 - In addition, at the request of the Ministry of Commerce, RIS provided comments on two papers submitted to the WTO's Negotiating Group on Non-Agricultural Market Access (NGMA), viz. TN/MA/W/35: Possible Options by Negotiation Group on Market Access Chairman, 11 August 2003; and Joint Paper by Canada, European Communities and United States on Non-Agricultural Market Access: Modalities, 11 August 2003 on August 13, 2003.

III. Fostering Policy Dialogue: Conferences, Symposia and Workshops

RIS/ADB Seminar on Monetary and Financial Cooperation in Asia

As a part of follow-up activities to carry forward its work on different aspects of economic cooperation in Asia, RIS, jointly with Asian Development Bank, New Delhi, organized a Seminar on Monetary and Financial Cooperation in Asia in New Delhi on December 11, 2003. Shri Shripad Naik, Hon'ble Minister of State for Finance, Government of India delivered the inaugural speech. Ambassador S.T. Devare, Vice-Chairman, RIS; Mr Louis De Jonghe,

Country Director, ADB; and Dr Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS also addressed the inaugural session. The first business session on Monetary and Financial Cooperation in Asia, chaired by Ambassador S T Devare, had three presentations: Economic Integration and Re-emergence of Asia (with focus on Monetary and Financial Cooperation) by Dr Pradumna B. Rana, Director, Regional Economic Monitoring Unit, ADB, Manila; Financial and Monetary Cooperation in Asia: Problems and Prospects by Dr Mihir Rakshit, Project Director, ICRA; and Towards an Asian Economic Community by Dr Nagesh Kumar.

Dr Ashok Lahiri, Chief Economic Advisor, Ministry of Finance, Government of India chaired the second session on Global and Regional Economic Outlook. This session had two presentations: Asian Economic Monitor by Dr Srinivasa Madhur, Principal Economist, ADB/REMU; and India's Long-run Growth Performance by Dr Sudipto Mundle, Chief Economist, ADB/INRM. Dr Suman Berry, Director-General, NCEAR and Dr Shubhashis Gangopadhyay, Director, IDF were the main Discussants. The participants, among others, included representatives from business and industry circles, research institutes, academia, government departments, and media.



Shri Shripad Naik, Hon'ble Minister of State for Finance (third from left) at the inaugural session of the Seminar. Others in the picture (from left to right) are: Dr Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS; Ambassador S.T. Devare, Vice Chairman, RIS; and Mr. Louise De Jonghe, Country Director, ADB.

RIS/SACEPS Workshop on Monetary Cooperation in South Asia

RIS, jointly with South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS), Dhaka, Bangladesh, organized a Workshop on Monetary Cooperation in South Asia: Potential and Prospects on December 23, 2003 in New Delhi. The workshop began with remarks by Dr Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS; Prof Rehman Sobhan, Executive Director, SACEPS, Dhaka; and Dr Arjun Sengupta, Chairman, SACEPS.

Shri Muchkund Dubey, President, CSD, New Delhi chaired the first session on monetary cooperation in South Asia; potential and prospects. Dr Mirza Allim Baig, Research Associate, RIS made the thematic presentation. Dr Saman Kelegama, Executive Director, Institute for Policy Studies, Sri Lanka; Professor I N Mukherji, School of International Studies, JNU; Professor Sunanda Sen of Academy for Third World Studies and Dr Ramgopal Agarwala, Senior Advisor, RIS were the panelists.

The second session on macroeconomic coordination in South Asia was chaired by Dr Sudipto Mundle, Chief Economist, ADB, New Delhi. The panelists in this session were: Dr Ramgopal Agarwala, Senior Advisor, RIS; Dr Arjun Sengupta and Prof Rehman Sobhan.

RIS/CII Seminar on Economic Cooperation between India and Central Asia

RIS, jointly with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), organized a Seminar on Economic Cooperation between India and Central Asia, in New Delhi on October 17, 2003. Shri Digvijay Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, Govt. of India, delivered the inaugural address. Dr Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS; and Mr. V.K. Mathur, Chairman, CII Central Asia Committee also addressed the inaugural session.

The first business session on Geo-Strategic Perspectives and Framework for Trade and Investments was chaired by Dr S.R. Hashim, Member, Union Public Service Commission. The panelists in this session were: Air Commodore Jasjit Singh, Director, Centre for Strategic and International Studies; Dr Raj Chhikara, Visiting Senior Fellow, RIS; Mr P. Stobdan, Research Fellow, IDSA; Mr Anil Chugh, Larsen and Toubro; Mr P K Mahapatra, Director, Ministry of Commerce, Govt. of India; and Dr Ram Upendra Das, Fellow, RIS.

Mr. Rajiv Sikri, Special Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India, chaired the second working session on Trade and Investment: Focus on the Energy Sector. The panelists included: Ms Barnali Nag, Research Associate, RIS; Mr S.N. Jha, Director, India Petrocom Pvt Ltd; Mr Bikash Bora, Ex-Chairman and Managing Director, ONGC and Oil India Ltd; and Dr Nimmi Kurian, Associate Research Professor, Centre for Policy Research.

A large number of representatives from government, business and industrial circles, diplomatic missions, research institutes, academia and media attended the seminar and participated in the discussions on the issues that were raised by the panelists during their presentations.

India-China Policy Dialogue

RIS hosted a high level delegation from Development Research Centre (DRC) of State Council of China which visited India from March 9-15. The delegation was led by H.E. Dr. Sun Xiaoyu, Vice-President (Vice Minister), DRC. The other members of the delegation were: Dr. Guo Lihong, Director-General, Research Dept. of Technology Economy, DRC; Dr. Zhang Xiaoji, Director-General, Research Dept. of Foreign Economic Relations, DRC; Dr. Han Jun, Director-General, Research Dept. of Rural Economy, DRC; Ms. Sun Lanlan, Director-General, International Cooperation Department, DRC; Ms. Zhang Qi, Division-Chief, Research Dept. of Foreign Economic



(From left): Ambassador S.T. Devare, Vice-Chairman, RIS; Mr Rajiv Sikri, Special Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India; and Dr Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS, at the Inaugural Session of the Meeting of the ASEAN-India Think-Tank.

Relations, DRC; and Mr. Zhao Shenghua, Division Chief, International Cooperation Department, DRC.

The delegation held detailed discussions with RIS on establishing exchange and cooperation between RIS and DRC on March 10. The session was co-chaired by H.E. Dr. Sun Xiaoyu and Ambassador S.T. Devare, Vice-Chairman, RIS. It was followed by “RIS/DRC Policy Dialogue on China and India in the Global Economy”. The programme of the Dialogue included three sessions.

The first session on Economic Development in China and India in the context of Globalization was co-chaired by Dr. Sun Xiaoyu and Ambassador S.T. Devare. It had two presentations: Implications of China’s Opening-up Policy on Economic Development (DRC), and India’s Economic Performance under Liberalization (RIS). The second session on Regional Economic Integration in Asia was co-chaired by Dr. Sun Xiaoyu and Dr Sanjaya Baru, Editor, *Financial Express* and had one presentation on India’s Strategy towards Regional Economic Integration in Asia (RIS) and on the Chinese Strategy towards Regional Economic Integration (DRC). The third session was on WTO and Agriculture in China and India. Dr. Sun

Xiaoyu and Professor G.K. Chadha, Vice-Chancellor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi co-chaired it. It had two presentations: China’s Agricultural Development after WTO Accession (DRC) and India’s Agricultural Trade Policy and WTO (by Dr Rajiv Mehta, Member-Secretary, Commission on Agriculture Costs and Prices).

A Report of the Policy Dialogue and the Presentations are available on RIS website.

During their stay in New Delhi, the Chinese delegation also called on Hon’ble Shri K.C. Pant, Hon’ble Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. Discussion meetings were also organized by RIS at National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), New Delhi; and National Institute of Information Technology (NIIT), New Delhi. RIS also organized interactive sessions for the delegation in Mumbai at Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Export-Import Bank of India, and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

DRC has proposed to enter into an MoU with RIS to continue the Policy Dialogue initiated in Delhi in March 2004 and has invited RIS to bring a delegation to DRC.

National Consultations on ASEAN-India Vision 2020

As per the mandate of the ASEAN-India Summit, the Ministry of External Affairs has been nominated RIS to coordinate the network of think-tanks from India and ASEAN countries as well as preparation of the ASEAN-India Vision 2020 Paper.

As mandated, RIS has prepared a Draft Paper from Indian side. In order to finalize the paper, RIS organized National Consultations on ASEAN-India Vision 2020 in New Delhi on December 26, 2003 involving different stakeholders and experts to receive their views and comments to the Draft Paper prepared by it. Shri Rajiv Sikri, Special Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India chaired the

consultations which were divided in five broad working groups to facilitate thematic discussion on the contents of the paper. These five working groups dealt with issues related to the future of ASEAN-India partnership; economic cooperation in trade, investment, monetary and finance; science and technology, HRD, pharma, agriculture, and SMES; and tourism and culture, people-to-people contacts and academic networks. More than 80 participants, including senior officials from different ministries/departments of the Government of India; representatives from business and industry circles, research institutes, and diplomats, took part in the intensive discussions on various aspects of the issues raised in the RIS paper.

Consultations with ASEAN Think-Tanks on Vision 2020

The Second ASEAN-India Summit held in Bali in October 2003 endorsed the idea of a network of Think-Tanks from India and ASEAN preparing a *ASEAN-India Vision 2020* paper to provide a long-term vision and road map for the evolving India-ASEAN partnership. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has assigned to RIS to coordinate this Network and prepare the Vision Paper in consultation with the think-tanks from the ASEAN countries to be adopted at the third ASEAN-India Summit in Laos.

RIS organized a high-level Meeting of ASEAN Think-Tanks in New Delhi on 4-5 March to finalize the draft “ASEAN-India Vision 2020: Working Together for Shared Prosperity” with ASEAN inputs. This Meeting was attended by heads or senior representatives of the ASEAN Think-tanks associated with ASEAN-ISIS network and other policy institutions. RIS had held extensive consultations with think-tanks and other stakeholders within the country in the course of preparation of the Draft paper (*RIS Diary*, October 2003, and January 2004.)

Ambassador S.T. Devare, Vice-Chairman, RIS welcomed the delegates

from ASEAN countries to the Meeting. Mr Rajiv Sikri, Special Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India made opening remarks at the inaugural session.

The Meeting covered five sessions: “ASEAN-India Vision 2020 Broad Contours”, chaired by Ambassador S.T. Devare; “Roadmap for ASEAN-India Economic Cooperation: Trade, Investment, Monetary and Finance”, chaired by Dr Chookiat Panaspornprasit, Director, Institute of Security and International Studies, Thailand; “Transport, Infrastructure and Energy”, chaired by Ms Nguyen Thu Huong, Deputy Director, Institute of International Relations, Vietnam; “Science and Technology, Exchange of Development Experience, HRD, Pharma, Agriculture, and SMEs, chaired by Mr. Bounnheuang Songnavong, Deputy Director, Institute of Foreign Affairs, Lao PDR; and “Tourism and Culture, People-to-People Contacts and Coordination in International Negotiations”, chaired by Ms Felia Salim, Member of Board of Governors of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Jakarta. The final session to adopt the revised version of the draft vision paper was chaired by Ambassador Devare.

The ASEAN Think-Tanks represented at the Meeting from the ASEAN countries were: Institute of International Relations, Vietnam; Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Indonesia; University Brunei Darussalam; The Institute of Security and International Studies, Thailand; Institute of Strategic and International Studies, Malaysia; Asia Centre, University of the Philippines; Institute of Strategy and Development Studies, Philippines; Singapore Institute of International Affairs; Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), Singapore; Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace, Cambodia; Institute of Foreign Affairs, Lao, PDR; besides officials of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and the local Missions. RIS proposes to keep the Network of ASEAN-India Think-Tanks, thus evolved, active by regular interactions.



(From left): Prof Rehman Sobhan, Executive Director, SACEPS, Dhaka; Dr Arjun Sengupta, Chairman, SACEPS; Prof. Muchkund Dubey, President, CSD, New Delhi; and Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS at the Brainstorming on Post-Islamabad Summit Agenda.

India-ASEAN Forum New Delhi

RIS has launched an India-ASEAN Forum to facilitate a brainstorming on different facets of India-ASEAN partnership on a regular basis. The Forum has been set up in response to a long felt desire of individuals concerned with the India-ASEAN relations to have a forum for dialogue and consultations on a regular and continuous basis. The first brainstorming session of India-ASEAN Forum was organized on the theme of India-ASEAN Vision 2020 in RIS on July 18, 2003. Ambassador S.T. Devare, Vice-Chairman, RIS chaired the meeting which was attended by a large number of participants from government, business, industry, academic and diplomatic circles. Ambassador A.N. Ram, former Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs and Mr. Rajiv Sikri, Additional Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs also made introductory remarks.

Brainstorming on Post-Islamabad Summit Research Agenda

RIS, jointly with the South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS), Dhaka, organized a brainstorming session on Post-Summit Research Agenda of SAARC Economic Cooperation, on January 27, 2004 in New Delhi. Prof Muchkund Dubey, President, CSD, New Delhi chaired the meeting. The prominent speakers who addressed the

participants were Prof Rehman Sobhan, Executive Director, SACEPS, Dhaka; Dr A R Kemal, Director, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Pakistan; Dr Arjun Sengupta, Chairman, SACEPS; and Dr Saman Kelegama, Executive Director, Institute for Policy Studies, Colombo.

International Seminar on WTO and Implications for South Asia, Visakhapatnam

An International Seminar on WTO and Implications for South Asia was organized jointly by Centre for SAARC Studies, Andhra University; GITAM Institute for Foreign Trade; Department of Economics, Andhra University; and RIS on March 27-28, 2004 at Visakhapatnam. The inaugural session was chaired by Prof. Panduranga Rao. Prof Y.C. Simhadri, Vice-Chancellor, Andhra University delivered the inaugural address. Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS delivered the keynote address.

The first session on Trade Cooperation for Development and Poverty Alleviation was chaired by Prof. V.L. Rao. Prof. Ganti Subrahmanyam chaired the second session on WTO and South Asian Agriculture.

The special session on Linking Socially Responsible Globalization with National Governance, Decentralization, Reforms and Poverty Eradication: The Challenge for WTO, was chaired by Prof. R.V.R. Chandrasekhara Rao. Prof. I.N. Mukherji chaired the third session on WTO Singapore Issues–South Asia.

The fourth session on Health and IPR's was chaired by Prof. B. Bhattacharya. The fifth session on WTO-China's Entry – Implications for South Asia was chaired by Prof. V.V. Bhanoji Rao. Summing Up session was chaired by Dr. Ponna Wignaraja. Prof. K.C. Reddy, made preliminary remarks. Prof. C.S. Venkata Ratnam, Prof. V.V. Bhanoji Rao and Prof. A.R. Bhuyan participated.

Workshop on WTO, Agriculture and Intellectual Property Rights, Chandigarh

This Workshop was jointly organized at Chandigarh by the RIS and Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development (CRRID), on May 30, 2003.

Before the commencement of the Workshop a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between RIS and CRRID, Chandigarh with a view to promoting academic cooperation in the areas of international and development economics from the perspective of developing countries. The MOU was signed by Shri S.T. Devare, Vice-Chairman, RIS and Mr. Rashpal Malhotra, Director, CRRID.

After the Inaugural Remarks by RIS Vice-Chairman, Shri S.T. Devare, two presentations were made from RIS side: (1) By Dr. S.K. Mohanty, Fellow, on Implications of WTO Agreement on Agriculture for South Asian. (2) By Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi, Fellow, on Intellectual Property Rights: Plant Variety Protection and Biodiversity Issues. The presentations were followed by discussions on the issues raised.

National Workshop on the WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

RIS, jointly with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, organized a National Workshop on the WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures on February 27, 2004 in New Delhi. Dr S.R. Hashim, Member, Union Public Service Commission, inaugurated the workshop. Shri R. Gopalan, Jt Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry made a keynote address in the inaugural session. Dr Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS and Dr Rajesh Mehta, Senior Fellow, RIS also addressed the inaugural session. RIS, since June 2002, has been engaged in multi-country research study on “Food Safety Standards



(From left): Dr Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS; Prof Y.C. Simhadri, Vice-Chancellor, Andhra University; Prof. D. Panduranga Rao; and Dr. K. C. Reddy, Hony. Director, Centre for SAARC Studies, Andhra University.

and Processed Food Exports from Developing Countries: A Comparative Study on India and Thailand”. The objective of the workshop was to provide an opportunity for various stakeholders to come together and discuss issues of Agreement on SPS Measures.

The first session on “Overview of SPS Agreement” was chaired by Dr S R Hashim. Dr Rajesh Mehta, Prof J. George, Sr Consultant, RIS; and Mr Augustine Peter, Director, Ministry of Commerce, were the facilitators. The second session on “Risk Analysis in SPS Agreement” was chaired by Mr Prem Narain, Jt Secretary (Plant Protection), Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India. The theme of the third session was “SPS Related Disputes in WTO” which was chaired by Mr Abhijit Das, Director, Ministry of Commerce and had Mr James Nedumpara of UNCTAD as facilitator. Mr R. Gopalan chaired the fourth session on Experiences of Implementing SPS Measures by Ministries/Departments and EPCs. In this session interventions were made by Dr P S Chandurkar, Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine & Storage; Dr O.R. Reddy, Jt Director, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation; Mr S K Srivastava, Director (Trade), Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying; Dr R K Mahajan, Asstt. Director-General (PFA), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; Mr A K Shrivastav, Dy Asstt. Director-General (PFA); representatives from other Ministries/Departments of Government of India and EPCs. Dr Rajesh Mehta chaired the concluding session at

RIS at Cancun

RIS organized two Panel Discussions and co-hosted some sessions at the Cancun Trade and Development Symposium (CTDS) on the sidelines of the WTO Ministerial Conference in Cancun, as summarized below:



(Right to left): Dr. Richard Tarasofsky, Prof. Frederick M. Abbott, Dr. Carlos Correa, Mr. Dilip G. Shah, and Dr. Nagesh Kumar at the Panel Discussion on TRIPs organized by RIS in Cancun on the sidelines of WTO Ministerial.

Panel Discussion on TRIPs and Development: Priorities for Developing Countries, September 11, 2003

Thus Panel was organized jointly with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). The panelists included Dr. Carlos Correa, Professor, University of Buenos Aires; Mr. Dilip G. Shah, Secretary General, Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance; Dr. Frederick M. Abbott, Professor of International Law, Florida State University College Law; and Dr. Richard Tarasofsky, Special Advisor on Trade & Biodiversity, IUCN.

Panel Discussion on International Trade and Biotechnology Goods, September 6, 2003

The panelists were Ricardo Melendez-Ortiz, Executive Director, International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development, Geneva; Dr. Chantal Line Carpentier, Head, Environment, Economy, and Trade Program Commission for Environmental Cooperation, Canada; and Dr. Peter Munji, Southern Environmental and Agricultural Policy Research Institute, Kenya.

Sessions co-hosted at the Cancun Trade and Development Symposium

RIS also co-hosted three sessions at Cancun Trade and Development Symposium (CTDS). These included **Foreign Direct Investment and Sustainable Development** (September 12 morning); **Standards and Market Access** (September 11 morning); and **Post Doha Marginalisation of LDC Concerns** (September 12 afternoon). The co-organizers, among others, included International Institute for Sustainable Development, Royal Institute of International Affairs, Center for International Environmental Law, Global Development and Environment Institute, Tufts University, World Resources Institute, CUTS, FICCI, Consumers Association, Bureau Européen des Unions de Consommateurs, International Lawyers and Economists Against Poverty, Centre for Policy Dialogue (Bangladesh), ADB, Africa Resource Centre, EU-LDC Network, and South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics & Environment.

Apart from the above events Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS made a key presentation at the session on "Recovering Spaces for Development Policy: Special & Differential Treatment, Innovation, and Sustainable Development" at CTDS, organized by Christian Aid and International Center for Trade and Sustainable Development on September 12, 2003.

Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi, Fellow, RIS also made a key presentation on "Biotechnology, Trade and Biosecurity at the Global Biodiversity Forum, organized by UNEP, IUCN and Mexican Centre for Environmental Law at Cancun. He also made three other presentations at CTDS: "Standards and Agricultural Exports of Developing Countries: Case of South Asia" in a session on Standards and Market Access on September 11, 2003; "TRIPs and Geographical Indications: Concerns of Developing Countries" in a session on TRIPs and Development: Priorities for Developing Countries on September 11, 2003; and "Special and Differential Treatment" on September 12, 2003.



(From left): Mr Augustine Peter, Director, Ministry of Commerce; Dr Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS; Dr S.R. Hashim, Member, Union Public Service Commission; Shri R. Gopalan, Jt Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry; and Dr. Rajesh Mehta, Senior Fellow, RIS at the inaugural session of the National Workshop on the WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.

which Shri R Gopalan made the concluding remarks and Mr Augustine Peter extended the vote of thanks.

National Symposium on Trade and Globalization: The Agenda Towards Cancun

RIS was invited to organize and host a session on the Implementation Issues at the National Symposium on Trade and Globalization: The Agenda Towards Cancun, organized by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India; UNDP and UNCTAD in New Delhi on August 18-19, 2003. The eminent panelists at the session included Mr. Kamal Malhotra of UNDP (New York), Ambassador S. Narayanan, and Mr. R. Gopalan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Professor J.George, (RIS). Dr. Nagesh Kumar was also invited to make a presentation on Investment Policy in the session on Singapore Issues.

Workshop on A Strategic Approach to Strengthening the International Competitiveness in Knowledge-based Industries

RIS organized a Workshop on A Strategic Approach to Strengthening the International Competitiveness in Knowledge-based Industries on July 24, 2003. The programme of the workshop spread over two sessions. The first session, which

addressed the theme of “Quantitative Analysis of Various Factors in Enterprise Level Export Performance”, was chaired by Professor N.S. Siddharthan, Head, V.K.R.V. Rao Centre for Studies in Globalization, Institute of Economic Growth. This session had a presentation by Shri Jaya Prakash Pradhan, Consultant, RIS. The Second session focused on Case Studies of Select Industries and was chaired by Dr. A.K. Kundra, former Secretary, Government of India. The following industry studies, based on the findings of concerned Consultants of the project, were taken up for discussion in this session: Automobile Industry by Dr. Neelam Singh, Lady Shri Ram College; The Indian Pharmaceutical Industry by Dr. Aradhna Aggarwal, Kirori Mal College and ICRIER; and Non-Electrical Machinery Industry by Dr. M. Padma Suresh, Sri Venkateswara College, and the Industrial Chemicals Industry by Dr. V.K. Kaul of the Delhi University South Campus.



From right: Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Prof. N.S. Siddharthan, Mr. Ashwani Gupta, and Mr. Jaya Prakash Pradhan at the Workshop on A Strategic Approach to Strengthening the International Competitiveness in Knowledge-based Industry.

Seminars/Discussion Meetings at RIS

Date	Seminar/Discussion Meeting	Chairperson	Presentation
22/5/2003	Meeting on Cancun Agenda and Beyond	Professor G.K. Chadha, Vice-Chancellor, Jawaharlal Nehru University	Mr. Martin Khor, Director, Third World Network, Penang, Malaysia
28/5/2003	Development Cooperation: Prospects between India and Other Developing Countries	Shri S.T. Devare, Vice-Chairman, RIS	Dr. Gyanu Raja Shrestha, Tax Officer, Ministry of Finance, Nepal; Mr. Abdurrahim Okhunov Abduraxmonovich, Senior Research and Economic Analyst, The University of World Economy and Diplomacy, Uzbekistan; and Mr. Abdel Hamid Saba Elregal, Economic Analyst, Ministry of Foreign Trade, Egypt ITEC (Visiting Fellows at RIS)
8/8/2003	'Development' in the Doha Development Round!	Mr. Prabir Sengupta, Director General, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, and former Commerce Secretary	Professor Muchkund Dubey, President, Council for Social Development (CSD), New Delhi; Shri S.N. Menon, Additional Secretary (TPD), Department of Commerce, Govt. of India; and Mr. Shishir Priyadarshi, WTO Secretariat, Geneva.
22/8/2003	A Free Trade Area in South Asia	Professor Muchkund Dubey, Chairman, CSD	Professor I.N. Mukherji, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University
28/11/2003	TRIPS and the Indian Patents Act	Professor Muchkund Dubey, Chairman, CSD	Dr B. K. Keayla, Centre for Study of Global Trade System and Development
4/12/2003	Geographical Indications and Traditional Knowledge	Dr T.K. Viswanathan, Secretary, Legislative Department, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India	Dr Doris Estelle Long, Professor, The John Marshall Law School, Chicago; Dr Anwarul Hoda, former Deputy Director General, WTO; and Dr Suman Sahai, Gene Campaign
30/1/2004	Recent Trends in Chinese Economic Performance and Future Prospects	Ambassador C.V. Ranganathan, former diplomat	Professor Fan Gang, Director, National Economic Research Institute, Beijing.

Outside Presentations by Members of RIS Faculty

Dr Nagesh Kumar, Director-General

- Participated in the Workshop on Trade and Investment in the Context of the WTO organized by the UNDP at Tianjin, China, on April 1-2 2003.
- Made a presentation on the Relevance of Asian Economic Community at the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation (CAITEC), Beijing on April 3, 2003.
- Made a presentation on A Framework for India-China Economic Partnership at the Development Research Centre (DRC) of the State Council on April 4, 2003 in Beijing.
- Released to the Press the ESCAP's *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific* on 17 April 2003 at the UNIC, New Delhi.
- Participated in the Peer-Review Meeting on the Draft *World Investment Report 2003* at UNCTAD, Geneva on 12-13 May 2003.
- Made a keynote presentation on the issue of Performance Requirements: Tools for Development Policies at the International Conference on Trade and Development organized by Ministry of Commerce, Govt. of India, in cooperation with UNCTAD in New Delhi on May 18-20, 2003.
- Made a presentation on India's Approach to RTAs in East Asia at the Trade Forum Meeting jointly organized by the APEC Study Center and Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC), held in Phuket, Thailand, on 25th May 2003.
- Delivered a seminar presentation on the Relevance of Asian Economic Community on June 17, 2003 the Institute of Developing Economies (IDE) of JETRO, Tokyo on June 16-17, 2003.
- Participated in the Workshop for the Project on Foreign Direct Investment and Economic Development: Lessons from East Asian Experiences held on 18-19 June 2003 at Fukuoka, Japan and organized by the World Bank Institute.
- Attended the Meetings of the Board of Governors and General Body of ISID on July 21, 2003.
- Chief Guest at the function organized by the Export-Import Bank of India in Mumbai on July 28, 2003 to give away the International Economic Research Annual Awards (IERA) 2002 instituted by the Bank.
- Participated as Panelist in the session on 'Investment Policy' at National Symposium on Doha Development Agenda – Some Contentious Issues, organized by ASSOCHAM in New Delhi on August 2, 2003.
- Made a key presentation on Singapore Issues at the Workshop on Cancun Draft Ministerial Declaration, organized by the National Working Group on Patent Laws in New Delhi on August 4, 2003.
- Made a presentation on FDI in India at the Finalization Conference for the Country Studies on Foreign Direct Investment, organized by Asian Development Bank in Manila on August 11-13, 2003.
- Delivered a brown-bag seminar on the Relevance of Asian Economic Community at the ADB headquarters in Manila on August 12, 2003.
- Made a presentation on the theme of Investment at the Workshop on WTO CII-BDI Interface on Doha Development Agenda, organized by CII in New Delhi on August 19, 2003.
- Released to Media the UNCTAD's *World Investment Report 2003* at a function organized by UN Information Centre, New Delhi, September 4, 2003.
- Participated in the Fifth Ministerial Conference of WTO and related events in Cancun on September 9-13, 2003, as reported elsewhere.
- Addressed at the Saturday Discussion Group at India International Centre on the theme of Cancun Agenda, New Delhi on September 6, 2003.
- Delivered a talk on the Cancun Ministerial Conference of WTO to the Association of Indian Diplomats in New Delhi on September 24, 2003.
- Participated in the first Consultation Meeting on Technology, Development Strategies and International Trade Rules (TEDIT), organized by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) in Geneva on October 20, 2003.
- Participated in the Thirty-Third Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development, New Delhi on October 30, 2003.
- Was a key Panelist on Trade, Investment and Development: A Post-Cancun Perspective at the International Conference on The Doha Development Agenda: Cancun and After, organized by Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Contemporary Studies in collaboration with China Association for International Friendly Contacts (CAIFC), China in New Delhi on November 7, 2003.

- Delivered Keynote Address at the seminar on Promoting SME Business Synergies: Focus – Africa, ASEAN and CIS, organized by The National Small Industries Corporation Ltd at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi on November 20, 2003 coinciding with the India International Trade Fair.
- Chaired a Session at the National Symposium on Relevance of GM Technology to Indian Agriculture and Food Security, organized by Gene Campaign in New Delhi on November 26-27, 2003.
- Co-chaired the session on Regional Cooperation: Indian Experience at the First India-Serbia and Montenegro Dialogue, co-sponsored by the Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi and Institute of International Policy and Economics, Belgrade and held in New Delhi on December 5-6, 2003.
- Keynote Address at the seminar on WTO: Post-Cancun – Issues and Implications organized by the Foundation for Peace and Sustainable Development in collaboration with the Department of Business Economics, University of Delhi South Campus on December 5, 2003 in New Delhi.
- Made a presentation at the ASEAN-India Academic Exchange Programme organized by the Educational Consultants India Ltd. and the Ministry of HRD on December 18, 2003.
- Panelist at the Round Table Discussion on “Is SAARC at the End of the Road: Alternatives for India” organized by PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry in New Delhi on December 30, 2003.
- Keynote Speaker at the Seminar on Progress Towards an Asian Economic Community – Recent Developments in October 2003, organized by the Association for Asian Union, in New Delhi on January 17, 2004.
- Addressed the valedictory session on Longer-Term Vision of ASEAN-India Partnership: Towards an Asian Economic Community at the ASEAN-India Roundtable on ASEAN-India Economic Relations: The Road Ahead, organized by Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore, February 9-10, 2004, Singapore.
- Guest Speaker at the Seminar on Indo-Pak Composite Dialogue: Issues and Prospects organized by the Council for Indian Foreign Policy in New Delhi on February 14, 2004.
- Addressed the Hearings at the Preparatory Committee (Prepcom) for UNCTAD XI, Geneva on February 23-24, 2004.
- Participated in the first Meeting of the India-China Joint Study Group in Beijing, March 21-24, 2004.
- Delivered a Public Lecture on Foreign Direct Investment and Economic Development” organized by the GITAM Institute of Foreign Trade (GIFT), in Visakhapatnam on March 27, 2004.

Dr. Rajesh Mehta, Senior Fellow

- Was a Visitor at IFPRI, Washington between first week of April 2003 to last week of May 2003.
- Made a presentation on Millennium Round of WTO Negotiations: Impact on Indian Small Scale Industry (co-author), for Cancun Ministerial Conference of WTO: Issues for SMEs, organized by FISME and Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Contemporary Studies in New Delhi on August 29, 2003.
- Presented a policy paper on Non-agriculture Market Access: Issues and Priorities for Developing Countries, at Symposium on WTO's Agenda for 5th Ministerial Conference, organized by WTO Cell of Kurukshetra University on August 25, 2003.
- Made a presentation on Market Access for Non-Agriculture Products: Towards Cancun at a Seminar on Reflection on Cancun Ministerial of WTO: Issues and Options, organized by FICCI, SAARC Chamber of Commerce & Industry and CUTS on August 14, 2003.
- Made a presentation on The Issues of Non-agriculture Market Access at the Conference on Issues at Cancun and the Way Forward, sponsored by the Delegation of the European Commission to India, and organised by Administrative Staff College of India in New Delhi on October 8, 2003.
- A discussant on Regional Trade Policies in the Workshop entitled Trade Policies of the South Asian Countries organized jointly by ICRIER and World Bank in New Delhi on October 16-17, 2003.
- Made a presentation on Food Safety Regulations and Processed Food Products: A Developing Country Perspective at the Workshop on Agricultural Diversification and Vertical Integration in South Asia, organized jointly by FICCI, ICRISAT and IFPRI, in New Delhi on November 5-6, 2003.
- Presented a paper SPS Measures and Non-Tariff Barriers: Perspectives of Small Holder Livestock Producers in Developing Countries at International Workshop on Livestock and Livelihoods: Challenges and Opportunities for Asia, organized by NDDB, and FAO at Anand (Gujarat) on November 10-12, 2003.
- Made a presentation on Structural Change in Indian Poultry Sector: The Case of India at

the three-day International Seminar on Structural Change in the Livestock Sector – Social, Health, and Environmental Implications for Policy Making organized by FAO Livestock, Environment and Development Initiative, January 27-29, Bangkok.

- Made a presentation on WTO-Non-Agriculture Market Access: The Issues and Implications for Indian Industrial Tariffs under Alternative Modalities at two-day seminar on WTO – Its Role in Trade Liberalization and Emerging Issues, organized by the Maharashtra Cosmopolitan Education Society's Allana Institute of Management Science in Pune on February 9-10, 2004.
- Presented a paper on India's Exports by Countries and Commodities: on the Estimation of a Forecasting Model Using Panel Data at the 40th Annual Conference of the Indian Econometric Society, held in Bangalore on February 13-15, 2004.
- Presented a paper on Indian Economy: Implication of Opening Up at the seminar on The Future of the Global Economy: Regional Trajectories and Global Institutions, organized jointly by JNU and Centre de Sciences Humaines (CSH), on March 15-16, 2004, in New Delhi.
- Presented Indian Country paper on International Food Safety Standards and Processed Food Exports: Preliminary Results of the Firm-level Survey In India (co-author) at ACIAR-TU Conference International Food Safety Standards and Processed Foods Exports from Developing Countries, March 19, 2004 at Bangkok, Thailand.

Dr. K.J. Joseph, Senior Visiting Fellow

- Delivered a keynote address on Globalisation and Indian Electronics Industry at the Workshop on Electronics Sweatshops, organized by Centre for Education and Communication, jointly with Asia Monitor Resource Center, Hong Kong on December 2-3, 2003, New Delhi.
- Participated in interactive discussions on the presentation on Challenges of Indian Economy by Dr S P Gupta, Member, Planning Commission, at Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi, on January 5, 2004.
- Made a presentation on the Role of Trade and Investment policies and their linkages for



Dr. K.J. Joseph, Senior Visiting Fellow at the ISEAS ASEAN-India Forum Meeting.

harnessing ICT for Development, at the Seminar on Trade and Investment Policies for the Development of the IT Sector of the Greater Mekong Subregion, organized by UNESCAP, Bangkok, Thailand on February 5-6, 2004.

- Presented a paper on India-ASEAN Cooperation in Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs): Issues and Prospects, at the First ASEAN-India Forum, ASEAN-India Economic Relations: The Road Ahead, (Jointly with Prof Givindan Parayil, NUS, Singapore) organized by the Institute of South East Asian Studies (ISEAS) on February 9-10, 2004 in Singapore.
- Made presentation on Enabling SMEs to Survive under Globalization: Can ICTs Help? at National Productivity Council during the National Productivity fortnight celebrations in New Delhi on February 24, 2004.

Dr. S.K. Mohanty, Fellow

- Made a presentation on the “Towards India-ASEAN FTA and Beyond” in the International Seminar on “India-ASEAN: Post-Summit Perspective”, held in Hyderabad on July 3-5, 2003.

Dr. Ram Upendra Das, Fellow

- Presented a paper on Trade Liberalization and Development: Challenges for South Asia at the South Asia Workshop on Analysis of Trade Liberalization for Poverty Alleviation organized by IFPRI and World Bank in Colombo, April 21-25, 2003.
- Made a presentation at a Seminar on Indo-Uzbek Economic Relations along with Dr. Ibrahim R. Mavlanov, Ambassador of Uzbekistan, organized by the Indian Institute of Finance on July 22, 2003.
- Participated in the Fourth Meeting of the Joint Negotiating Group on India-Thailand Free Trade Agreement, organized by the Ministries of Commerce, Governments of India and Thailand, New Delhi, July 24-26, 2003.



Dr. S. K. Mohanty, Fellow, RIS speaking at a seminar.

- Presented a paper on Implications of India-Thailand Free Trade Agreement on Trade and Poverty in India, organized by OXFAM GB in New Delhi on August 22, 2003.
- Presented a paper on Fostering Trade and Commerce for Mutual Benefit in the Seminar on SAARC: Partners in Peace and Progress, organized by ICSSR and Federation of Indian Publishers in association with the SAARC Book Development Council in New Delhi on August 27, 2003.
- Made a presentation on Trade-Development Linkages: Implication and Policies for the South Asia Region at the Sixth Meeting of the SAARC Network of Researchers on Global Financial and Economic Issues, held in Islamabad, on December 8-9, 2003.
- Participated in the Planning Workshop for the preparation of SAARC Regional Poverty Profile 2004 organized by SAARC Secretariat and UNDP, Kathmandu, Nepal, December 11-12, 2003.
- Acted as a Rapporteur on International Trade – Diaspora hubs and the Global Market at Second Pravasi Bhartiya Divas, organized by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, and FICCI, New Delhi, January 9-11, 2004.
- Discussant in a Seminar on Towards an Alternative Transitional Development State Paradigm in East Asia: The Experiences of China, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand, organized by Chulalongkorn University and Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Bangkok, Thailand, January 30-31, 2004.
- Participated in the meeting on India-Bangladesh FTA and SAFTA with five-member visiting business delegation from Bangladesh, organized by CII in New Delhi on February 5, 2004.
- Presented paper in a Seminar on “India and Central Asia: Classical to Contemporary Period” organized by Indian Council for Cultural Relations and Astha Bharti, New Delhi, 3 March 2004.
- Nominated as a Member of *Expert Group on Preferential Rules of Origin*, set up by the Government of India, 2004.

Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi, Fellow

- Chief Discussant at the CERNA, Centre of Industrial Economics of French Ministry of Industrial Affairs Discussion Meeting on Biotechnology in India, held in Paris on May 14, 2003.
- Made a presentation at the Seminar on IPR and Benefit Sharing, organized by National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI) in Lucknow on June 2, 2003.
- Made a presentation at the Science Technology Policy Ad Hoc Working Party Meeting on Biotechnology Statistics, organized by OECD in Paris on May 12-13, 2003.
- Participated in the Discussion Meeting on Biotechnology and Development, held in Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore on June 6, 2003.
- Made a presentation on Trade, IPR and Biosafety: Some Issues of Concern for South Asia, at the Regional Session of the Conference of Biodiversity Forum (GBF), organized by IUCN in Dhaka on June 16, 2003.
- Panelist at the Workshop on Geographical Indications, organized by RGICS, New Delhi, August 8, 2003.
- Participated in the Seminar on the Evolution of Policy in the South African Pharmaceutical Sector in the context of the TRIPs Agreement, organized by NCAER in New Delhi on August 25, 2003.
- Panelist at the discussion meeting on Agriculture and WTO, organized by IIFT in New Delhi on August 30, 2003.
- Participated in the events related to the recent Fifth WTO Ministerial Conference held in Cancun (Mexico), as reported elsewhere.
- Presented a paper on Asian Regional Needs and Priorities: The Agenda Ahead, at the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) on Biotechnology, organized by DBT on October 6-7, 2003.
- Keynote address on Trade and Environment Issues and Free Trade Agreements in Asia: The Post Cancun Challenges at the Workshop on Trade and Biodiversity at IUCN’s Asian Regional Conservation Forum (RCF), Colombo, December 11, 2003.



Dr. Ram Upendra Das, Fellow, RIS at the Sixth Meeting of the SAARC Network of Researchers on Global Financial and Economic Issues, Islamabad, December 8-9, 2003.

- Presented a paper on Relevance of GM Technology to Indian Agriculture and Food Security, organized by Gene Campaign on November 26-27, 2003.
- Presented a paper on Evolving a National System of Biotechnology Innovation: Some Evidence from Singapore at the International Symposium on New National Innovation System organized by STEPI, Seoul on October 28-November 1, 2003.
- Presented a paper on Emerging regime of Intellectual Property Rights and Challenges Before India at Indian Institute of Advanced Study, (IIAS), Shimla on November 12, 2003.
- Participated in the Panel Discussion on Innovation for Productivity, organized by National Productivity Council, New Delhi on February 12, 2004.
- Participated in the Round Table meeting at the University of Cairo on Possible Areas of Cooperation with RIS at University of Cairo. The meeting from Egyptian side was led by Prof. Mustapha Kamel Al-Sayyid, March 25, 2004
- Presented a paper on Genomics and Benefit sharing with Developing Countries at the External Advisory Board (EAB) meeting of a European Commission funded project on Genomics and Benefit Sharing with Developing Countries being undertaken by University of Central Lancashire (UCL), UK. on March 26, 2004 at Cairo, Egypt.

Dr. Ramgopal Agarwala, Sr. Consultant

- Delivered Dr. S.N. Sen Memorial Lecture on Towards a Multipolar world of International Finance at the 86th Conference of the Indian Economic Association, Kolhapur on December 29, 2003.



Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi, Fellow, RIS speaking at a seminar.

Dr. J. George, Consultant

- Presented a paper on Standards & Market Access – Need for a Proactive Agenda and Acted as a resource person at the conference on South Asian Agenda for the Cancun Ministerial Conference of the WTO, organized jointly by South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Kathmandu and Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS), Jaipur in Kathmandu, Nepal on July 24-25, 2003.
- Made a presentation on Impact of WTO Regime on the Pesticide Industry at the IV Asia Pacific Crop Protection Conference, organized jointly by FICCI and PMFAI in New Delhi on September 18-19, 2003.
- Made a presentation on Agriculture Issues Confronting SA and chaired a Session on at the Regional Seminar cum Training Programme on Post Cancun Agenda for South Asia, jointly organized by South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), and Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS), Kathmandu, November 30-December 2, 2003.

Dr. Mirza Allim Baig, Research Associate

- Joint presentation with V. Narasimhan and M. Ramachandran on Exchange Market Pressure and the Reserve Bank of India's Intervention Activity at Third International Convention of Asia Scholars, held at Singapore National University on August 19-22, 2003.

Shri Prabir De, Research Associate

- Paper on 4-Stages Data Envelopment Analysis in Measuring Seaport Efficiency, presented by Prof. Ro-Kyang Park, Chosun University, South Korea (co-author) at the 6th International Conference of International Association of Maritime Economists, Seoul, September 3-5, 2003.
- Presented a paper on Container Port System Concentration in East Asia, which won a full fellowship from the Conference Organizer, at the 6th International Conference on Coastal and Port Engineering in Developing Countries (COPEDEC), Colombo, September 15-19, 2003.
- Attended India-France Investment Summit, held at the French Senate, Paris on November 13, 2003.
- Made a presentation on Changing Profile of Regional

Integration Arrangements in South and Southeast Asia at the International Workshop on Facilitation of Trade and Transport Cooperation between India and China, organized by the South Asia Research Society, Kolkata, (sponsored by ICSSR) and held at Kolkata on November 26-28, 2003.

- Participated in the North East Business Summit, organized by the Indian Chamber of Commerce, Kolkata, and Department of North East Region, Government of India, January 20-21, 2004, New Delhi.
- Participated in the Twenty Five Years of Economic Reforms in China, organized by Institute of Chinese Studies, held in New Delhi on March, 10-12, 2004.

Dr. Saon Ray, Research Associate

- Participated in the Indo-Korea Economic Summit held on December 10, 2003 at New Delhi.
- Presented a paper on Economic reforms and efficiency of firms: the Indian manufacturing sector during the nineties as a Award Finalist at the Fifth Annual Global Development Conference on 'Understanding Reform' on January 28-30, 2004 at New Delhi.
- Presented a paper on Technological progress as an engine of growth in the EU at the seminar on 'The Future of the Global Economy: Regional Trajectories and Global Institutions, organized by CSH, New Delhi and ITD, SIS, JNU on March 15-6, 2004.



Participants at the discussion meeting on Recent Trends in Chinese Economic Performance and Future Prospects at which Professor Fan Gang, Director, National Economic Research Institute, China initiated the discussion. Ambassador C.V. Ranganathan, former diplomat, chaired the meeting.

IV. Capacity Building and Training Programmes

I. Visiting Research Fellowships in International Economic Issues and Development Policy Research

Under the its Visiting Fellowship Programme on International Economic Issues and Development Policy RIS receives three research scholars or senior officials from developing countries for four months each. During this period the Visiting Fellows get an orientation in contemporary international economic policy issues and work on a research project jointly with RIS faculty. The programme is conducted in conjunction with the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. Three Visiting Fellows, viz. Dr. Gyanu Raja Shrestha, Tax Officer, Ministry of Finance, Nepal; Mr. Abdurahim Okhunov, Senior Research and Economic Analyst, The University of World Economy and Diplomacy, Republic of Uzbekistan; and Mr. Abdel Hamid Saba Elregal, Economic Analyst, Ministry of Foreign Trade, Arab Republic of Egypt conducted their research under this programme at RIS.

RIS organized a Discussion Meeting on May 28, 2003 on the broad theme of India's development cooperation with Nepal, Uzbekistan and Egypt respectively.



From left: Mr. Abdel Hamid Saba Elregal, Economic Analyst, Ministry of Foreign Trade, Arab Republic of Egypt; Mr. Abdurahim Okhunov, Senior Research & Economic Analyst, University of World Economy and Diplomacy, Uzbekistan; Ambassador S.T. Devare, Vice-Chairman, RIS (in Chair); Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS; and Dr. Gyanu Raja Shrestha, Tax Officer, Ministry of Finance, Internal Revenue Office, Nepal.

Ambassador S.T. Devare, Vice-Chairman, RIS chaired the Discussion Meeting. At this workshop, the three ITEC Visiting Fellows presented their papers prepared in consultation with RIS faculty during their period of fellowship at RIS.

2. Contributions to Other Training Programmes

RIS received the IES probationers undergoing training at the Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi for an orientation and lecture at RIS. The Members of the RIS faculty have also delivered lectures at the training programmes conducted at the Foreign Service Institute, IIFT, LBS Academy, among others. They are reported below:

Dr Nagesh Kumar, Director-General

- Delivered a lecture on India's Relations with ASEAN at the 43rd National Defence College Course, at the National Defence College, New Delhi on August 1, 2003.
- Was a Panelist at a discussion meeting on Cancun WTO Ministerial Meeting, organized by the School of Social Sciences, JNU in New Delhi on September 19, 2003.

Dr. Rajesh Mehta, Senior Fellow

- Delivered a lecture on Econometric Forecasts of India's Export at teachers/scientists training course on Impact Assessment of Prevailing Technologies for Sustainable Agriculture via Econometric Empiricism, at IASRI, Pusa, February 20, 2004
- Delivered a lecture Trade Reforms and their Impact on Indian Economy at the Faculty Development Programme in Management, organized by Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, on March 9, 2004.

Dr. K.J. Joseph, Visiting Senior Fellow

- Delivered a lecture on ICT and the Economy, at the Academic Staff College, JNU on November 16, 2003.
- Delivered a lecture on Technological Changes in Less Developed Countries: Analytics and Methods at VV Giri National Labour Institute, Noida for the refresher course in Research Methodology on November 18, 2003.

Dr. Ram Upendra Das, Fellow

- Delivered two lectures on WTO at the 41st Diploma Course in Development Journalism for mid-career journalists from Europe, Asia, Africa, and South America at the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi, October 27 and 29, 2003.
- Delivered a lecture on Regional Trade Agreement: Implications for India and Multilateral Trading System for the Advance Course on WTO for the Senior Officials of the Government of India, at the Indian

Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi, February 9-11, 2004.

Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi, Fellow

- Addressed the Orientation Programme on WTO and the New Trade Regime organized by IIFT in New Delhi on September 23, 2003.
- Delivered a lecture on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and Technical Barriers to Trade at the Advanced Course on WTO for Officers of the Indian Administrative Service, organized by the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi on February 9, 2004.

Dr. J. George, Consultant

- Facilitated a Capacity Building Session on Critical Chain Project Management: An Effective Methodology for Optimizing Project Resources under the programme on Imperative of Project Implementation and Monitoring for senior officers of engineering departments of Haryana Government, at Haryana Institute of Public Administration, Gurgaon on November 20, 2003.
- Addressed the participants of the WTO and Indian Economy: The Basics of the New World Trade Order, organized by Centre for Law, Intellectual Property and Trade, Delhi at the Indian Law Institute on January 24, 2004.
- Delivered a lecture on TRIPS: Pharma and Traditional Knowledge during the Orientation Programme of Advance Course on WTO for IAS Officers at IIFT, New Delhi on February 12, 2004.
- Delivered a lecture on Quantifying SPS Measures: Analytical Challenges in Trade Policy for Developing Countries at IASRI Capacity Building Programme, New Delhi on February 20, 2004.
- Delivered UGC Extension Lecture on Food Security Regulations and Agriculture: A Case of India at the Department of Economics, Jamia Milia Islamia, New Delhi on March 3, 2004.

V. Outreach, Global Presence and Networking

In order to increase the international visibility and outreach RIS is making attempt to participate in major international events relevant to the work of RIS. As a part of this RIS participated in the Fifth Ministerial Conference of WTO held in Cancun as a consultative organization of WTO Secretariat. RIS has also obtained a consultative status with UNCTAD and participated in the preparatory process of UNCTAD XI held June 2004.

Collaborative Activities on WTO Issues

Steps have also been taken to strengthen networking with other policy think-tanks and a number of collaborative events were organized. In respect of the WTO related studies, RIS established institutional links with Geneva based International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development, Geneva and co-hosted a couple of Sessions in collaboration with ICTSD at the Cancun Trade and Development Symposium (CTDS) held in Cancun on the sidelines of the WTO Ministerial Conference in September 2003. RIS also organized two Panel Discussions in Cancun on the sidelines of the WTO Ministerial besides a well-attended seminar on the *World Trade and Development Report 2003*. RIS also co-hosted a Session at the National Symposium on the Agenda of WTO Ministerial, organized by UNDP, UNCTAD and Ministry of Commerce in New Delhi in August 2003.

As a part of its outreach activities and capacity building in national institutions, a joint Workshop on WTO Agreement on Agriculture and IPRs was organized in Chandigarh in May 2003 in collaboration with Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development (CRRID), Chandigarh. An MoU for the institutional collaboration with CRRID was also signed at the occasion. A Joint Conference on WTO and Implications for South Asia was also organized in Visakhapatnam in March 2004 in collaboration with Centre for SAARC Studies, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam. Links have been developed with Central Pulp and Paper Research Institute (CPPRI), Saharanpur, U.P. for research on impact of WTO tariff negotiation on the paper industry. RIS hosted the Meeting of the Policy Analysis and Advisory Network for South Asia (PAANSA) on August 5, 2003 in collaboration with ADB and IFPRI. UN-ESCAP has invited RIS to be a core



A session of RIS/DRC India-China Policy Dialogue. (Left to right): Dr. Ramgopal Agarwala; Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS; interpreter, Dr. G. K. Chaddha, Vice-Chancellor, Jawaharlal Nehru University; H.E. Dr. Sun Xiaoyu, Vice-President, DRC; Ms. Zhang Qi; Dr. Guo Lihong; Dr. Zhang Xiaoji; and Dr. Han Jun.



Distinguished participants at the PAANSA Meeting held in New Delhi,

institution for the Asia-Pacific Research Network on Trade (ARTNET).

Networking for Regional Cooperation in Asia

Institutional links have also been strengthened in connection with the work programme on regional economic integration in Asia. RIS organized joint seminars with South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS), Dhaka on Prospects for South Asian Economic Integration before as well as after the Islamabad Summit of SAARC. RIS continued to collaborate with SAARC Secretariat in Kathmandu and represent India at the Meetings of “SAARC Network of Researchers on Global, Finance and Economic Issues” besides the study team set up by the SAARC Secretary General for preparing the “SAARC Poverty Profiles”. A Study on Future Directions of BIMSTEC was prepared in consultation with Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka; Institute for Policy Studies (IPS), Colombo; and International Institute for Trade and Development, Bangkok. RIS continued to publish the *South Asia Economic Journal* jointly with the IPS, Colombo. An MoU was also signed with ITD.

Institutional networking with ASEAN think-tanks received a considerable boost with the setting up of an ASEAN-India Network of Think-Tanks (AINTT). A Meeting of AINTT was hosted by RIS in March 2004 to finalize the draft of ASEAN-India Vision 2020 – Working Together for a Shared Prosperity. A number of prominent think-tanks of ASEAN participated in the Meeting. These include, among others, Brunei Darussalam Institute of Policy Studies; Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Indonesia; Institute of Strategic and International Studies, Malaysia; Asian Center, University of the Philippines; Singapore Institute of International Affairs; Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), Singapore; The Institute of Security and International Studies, Thailand; Institute of International Relations, Vietnam. RIS also supported ISEAS in organization of the ASEAN-India Forum held in Singapore in February 2004 with two key presentations made by RIS faculty members. RIS and ISEAS are now collaborating in joint publishing of books of mutual interest.

A highlight of institutional networking during the period under review was the launch of a policy dialogue process with the Development Research Centre (DRC) of the State Council of China. Following the visit of DG, RIS to DRC in April 2003, a high-level delegation led by H.E. Dr. Sun Xiaoyu, Vice-President (Vice-Minister), DRC visited RIS in March 2004 when a joint Policy Dialogue on “China and India in the Global Economy” was conducted. Subsequently, RIS and DRC have signed a MoU for sustaining such dialogue on an annual basis. A delegation of scholars from China Centre for Contemporary World Studies, Beijing was received on April 2003. Contacts established with Chinese Academy



A section of ASEAN delegates at the meeting of ASEAN-India Think-Tanks on ASEAN-India Vision 2020.

of International Trade and Economic Cooperation (CAITEC), Beijing were strengthened and DG, RIS delivered a lecture during his visit to China on April 2003. RIS participated in APEC Study Centres/PECC Trade Forum held in Phuket in May 2003, where a presentation on India's approach for Asia's Regionalism was made for the first time. RIS continued its contacts with Asia Pacific Foundation, Canada and was represented by Dr S.L. Rao, Member of RIS Governing Council at the Second Canada-India Dialogue held in Vancouver, Canada in March 2004.

RIS launched the New Asia Forum as an network of institutions active in Asian regional agenda as per the mandate of the New Delhi Conference in March 2003. As reported elsewhere, the Forum has its own dedicated website www.newasiaforum.org and a journal.

Among international organizations, a study was conducted with Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific of Food Agriculture Organization. A joint Conference on Monetary and Financial Cooperation in Asia was organized with ADB besides participation by RIS in a ADB multi-country project. RIS conducted a study for Hanoi-based Asia Trade Initiative (ATI) of UNDP. Commonwealth Secretariat, London approached RIS to conduct a study on regional economic integration among developing countries.

To sum up contacts by way of collaborative activities have been established with the following international, and regional policy think-tanks and civil society organizations.

International Organizations

FAO, Regional Office for Asia and Pacific
UNCTAD, Geneva
Commonwealth Secretariat, London
UNESCO, Paris
IUCN-Asia Region, Colombo, Sri Lanka
South Centre, Geneva
International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development, Geneva

International Institute for Sustainable Development, Canada
International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Washington DC

Regional Organizations

Asian Development Bank, Manila
South Asia Centre for Policy Studies, Dhaka
UNDP Asia Trade Initiative, Hanoi
UN ESCAP, Bangkok
Third World Network, Malaysia
NAM Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation (NAM-CSSTC), Indonesia

National Institutions in Other Countries

International Institute for Trade and Development (ITD), Bangkok
Thammasat University, Bangkok
Australian National University, Australia
University of Melbourne, Australia
Brunei Darussalam Institute for Policy Studies, Brunei
University Brunei Darussalam, Brunei
Institute of Foreign Affairs, Lao PDR
Asia Centre, University of the Philippines
Institute of International Relations, Vietnam
Institute of Security and International Studies, Bangkok
Institute of Developing Economies of JETRO (IDE/JETRO), Chiba, Japan.
Institute for South East Asian Studies, Singapore
Singapore Institute for International Affairs, Singapore
Malaysian Institute of Economic Research, Malaysia
Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Indonesia
Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Japan
Royal Institute for International Affairs, London
Institute of Policy Studies, Sri Lanka
Pakistan Institute for Development Economics, Islamabad
Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP), Korea
Ethiopian Development Research Institute, Ethiopia

China Centre for Contemporary World Studies, China
 Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation, China
 Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, China
 Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok
 Centre for Economic Development and Administration, Kathmandu
 University of World Economy and Diplomacy, Uzbekistan
 Asia Pacific Foundation, Canada
 University of Buenos Aires, Argentina
 Centre for Policy Dialogue, Dhaka

Institutions within India

Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)
 Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)
 The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)
 PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry
 Federation of Indian Small and Medium

Enterprises (FISME)
 Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT)
 Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
 Indian Council of Social Science Research
 Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development (CRRID), Chandigarh
 Centre for SAARC Studies, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam
 Centre for Indian Ocean Studies (CIOS), Osmania University, Hyderabad
 Asia Centre, Kolkata
 Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID), New Delhi
 Centre for Northeast India, South and Southeast Asia Studies, OKD Institute of Social Change and Development, Guwahati
 CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics and Environment, Jaipur

RIS has been visited by a large number of delegations and visitors from across the world (a select list is at Annex I).

Annex I

Select Visitors/Delegations

- H.E. Mr. Julio Faesler Carlisle, Ambassador, Embassy of Mexico, and Ms Melba Pria, Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico on July 17, 2003 as a part of the preparations towards the Cancun Ministerial Conference of the WTO.
- Dr. Srinivasa Madhur, Principal Economist, ADB Headquarters; Dr. Sudipto Mundle, Deputy Country Director, and Dr. Hiranyo Mukhopadhyaya of the India Resident Mission, ADB on September 19, 2003.
- A delegation consisting Mr. Yu Hongun, Director, China Centre for Contemporary World Studies (CCCWS), Beijing; Mr. Zhou Yuyun, Research Fellow, CCCWS; Mr. Mou Hong, Researcher, CCCWS; Mr. Feng Wei and Mr. Chen Ying, Assistant Researchers, CCCWS; and Mr. Shi Xiaohu, CCCWS; along with Air Commodore Jasjit Singh, Director, Centre for Strategic Studies, India on 16 April 2003.
- Dr. Stephen J. McGurk, Regional Director, IDRC Regional Office for Southeast and East Asia, Singapore and Dr. Evan Due, Senior Regional Programme Specialist, Social and Economic Policies, International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Singapore on August 29, 2003.
- Ms Robin L. Turner, Institute of International Studies, University of California, Berkeley on July 10, 2003.
- A two member delegation from UNCTAD, Geneva on April 21, 2003 and had discussions regarding the evaluation of the work programme of UNCTAD on trade and environment.
- Dr. Jean-Pierre A. Verbiest, Assistant Chief Economist, Economics and Research Department, Asian Development Bank, Manila on April 29, 2003.
- Dr. Martin Khor Kok Peng, Third World Network, Malaysia on May 22, 2003.



Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS making a presentation at CAITEC, Beijing, China, April 2003.

- Professor Gerd Junne, University of Amsterdam, on May 23, 2003.
- Mr. Nguyen Huu Dien, First Secretary and Mr. Nguyen Minh Tuan, Economic Attache, Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, New Delhi visited RIS and had discussions on the issues concerning cooperation among Asian Countries on June 9, 2003.
- Dr Steven M. Jaffee, Senior Economist, Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Economic Policy, The World Bank, Washington, USA and Dr Spencer Henson, Associate Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics and Business/Consumer Studies, University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada, on June 26, 2003.
- H.E. Mr. See Chak Mun, High Commissioner of Singapore and Dr. Edmund Chia, First Secretary, High Commission of Singapore, New Delhi on August 5, 2003.
- Mr. Adrian White of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Office of Trade Negotiations), Australia on August 8, 2003.
- Dr. Lau Sim Yee, Programme Advisor, Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Tokyo, Japan on August 18, 2003.
- Mr. Tom Pengelly of the Adam Smith Institute, London on August 21, 2003.
- Prof. Hideki Esho, Professor of Economics, Hosei University, Tokyo and Professor Etsuro Ishigami of Fukuoka University, Japan on August 26, 2003.
- CEOs of a number of leading paper companies including Mr. Gautam Thaper, Ballarpur Industries; Mr. Harsh Pati Singhania of J.K. Paper Ltd.; Mr. M. Mishra Star Paper Mills; Mr. Ved Krishna, Yash Papers Ltd.; and others on September 19, 2003
- Ms. Junko Saito, First Secretary, Embassy of Japan, New Delhi on August 6, 2003.
- Mr. Jae-duk Kim, Commercial Attache (First Secretary), Embassy of the Republic of Korea, New Delhi and Mr. Yong Soo Shin, Senior General Manager, Hyundai Motor India Ltd. on September 19, 2003.
- Mr. Kyu-Ock Park, Counsellor for Economic Affairs, Embassy of the Republic of Korea, New Delhi on September 26, 2003.
- H.E. Mr Q.A.M.A. Rahim, Secretary General, and Mr Rajiv Chander, Director, SAARC Secretariat on December 17, 2003.
- Mr Saifullah Syed, Chief, Policy Assistance Branch, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand and Mr Daniel Gustafson, FAO Representative in India and Bhutan, FAO Office, New Delhi on November 4, 2003.
- Ms Lisa Filipetto, Assistant Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Mrs Michella Marginson, Deputy High Commissioner, High Commission of Australia, New Delhi on December 8, 2003.
- Dr Saman Kalegama, Executive Director, IPS, Sri Lanka, Mr Tejeshwar Singh, Managing Director, and Mrs Ritu Vajpayee-Mohan, Consultant from Sage Publications on December 24, 2003.
- Dr Mukul G. Asher, Professor, Public Policy Programme, National University of Singapore on October 14, 2003.
- Mr John Wainio, Senior Agricultural Economist and Mr Rip Landes, Senior Economist, ERS, USDA on October 7, 2003.
- Dr Garry Pursell, World Bank, October 17, 2003.
- Dr Jose Benjamin Falck-Zepeda, Economist/Research Officer, International Service for National Agricultural Research, CGIAR, The Netherlands on October 20, 2003.
- Mr Nizar Assanie, Senior Research Analyst, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, Vancouver on October 23, 2003.
- Mr Nguyen Minh Tuan, Embassy of Vietnam, New Delhi on October 24, 2003.
- Mr Tom Rotherham, Associate: CSR, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), Canada on November 3, 2003 for discussion on barriers to trade with OECD countries.
- Dr Peter Draper, Research Fellow, The South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA), South Africa, on November 5, 2003.
- Ms Etsuyo Arai, Area Studies Center, South Asian Studies Group, Institute of Developing Economies (IDE-JETRO), Chiba, Japan on November 12, 2003.
- Mr Chang Qing, Counsellor (Science and Technology), Embassy of the People's Republic of China, New Delhi on November 12, 2003.
- Mr Nesar Ahmad, Staff Reporter, *The Bangladesh Observer*, Mr Sabuj Younus, Staff Reporter, *The Daily Jugantor* of Bangladesh and Mr Moresi T. Ruahma' *The*



Members of the CCCWS Delegation at RIS.

National, Papua New Guinea; presently trainees at IIMC, New Delhi on November 12, 2003.

- Dr Pradeep Ray, Lecturer in International Business, School of International Business, The University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia on December 30, 2003.
- Professor Sueo Kojima, Professor, School of Asia 21, Asian-Japan Research Center, Kokushikan University, Tokyo, Japan and Dr Shuji Uchikawa, South Asian Studies Group, Institute of Developing Economies, Japan External Trade Organization, Chiba, Japan on January 2, 2004.
- Prof V. Balasubramanyam, Lancaster University, UK on January 12, 2004.
- Prof. Satya Paul, University of Western Sydney, Australia on January 12, 2004.
- Dr Sisira Jayasuriya, Director, Asian Economic Centre, University of Melbourne, Australia on January 13, 2004.
- Dr Baldev Raj Nayar, Professor Emeritus, Department of Political Science, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada on January 20, 2004.
- Dr Ifzal Ali, Chief Economist, Asian Development Bank, Manila on January 28, 2004.
- Mr Jacques Berthelot, Economist, Institute Polytechnique Ecole Nationale Supérieure Agronomique de Toulouse, France on January 28, 2004.
- Dr Mariechel J. Navarro, Manager, ISAAA, Philippines and Dr Marganta Esclar, Manager, ISAAA, UK on January 29, 2004.
- Dr Shujiro Urata, Professor, Waseda University and Faculty Fellow, Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry, IAI, Tokyo, Japan on January 30, 2004.
- Mr. Kyu-Ock Park, Economic Counselor, South Korean Embassy, New Delhi, February 4, 2004.
- Dr Manas Bhattacharya, Senior Development Economist and Mr K S Ravichandran, Programme Officer, Subregional Office for South Asia (SRO-New Delhi), International Labour Organization, on February 15, 2004.
- Dr Rahul Sen, Fellow, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore on February 17, 2004.
- Mr. Akbar Zaidi, Executive Editor, *South Asian Journal*, Pakistan, February 23, 2004.
- Mr Chang Qing, Counsellor; and Mr Zheng Li, Third Secretary (Science & Technology), Embassy of China, New Delhi on March 8, 2004.
- Dr Ashok Gulati, Director, Market and Structural Studies Division, IFPRI, Washington DC. on March 16, 2004.
- Ms. Siu-Lin Leow, Deputy High Commissioner and Dr. Edmund Chia, First Secretary, High Commission of the Republic of Singapore, New Delhi, March 22, 2004.

WTO Ministerial



WTO Director-General Dr. Supachai addressing the inaugural session of the Fifth Ministerial Conference held in Cancun in September 2003. RIS was represented by Dr. Nagesh Kumar and Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi at the Ministerial Conference. RIS also organized number of events on the sidelines.

VI. Publication Programme

RIS publication programme covers Reports and Books, Discussion Papers, Journals, etc. A new series of Policy Briefs was launched in the year under review to communicate results of RIS research specific policy issues to the policy makers. A new quarterly journal *New Asia Monitor* was also launched.

Books and Reports

World Trade and Development Report 2003: Cancun and Beyond

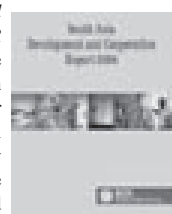
The *World Trade and Development Report 2003* examines the trends and asymmetries in the emerging multilateral trading system from a development perspective. It also outlines an agenda for developing countries for the Cancun Ministerial and beyond to restore the development focus and - more importantly - popular confidence in the multilateral trading system.



The Report argues that the trade liberalization should be seen as a 'means' and not the 'end by itself'. The 'end' beyond any doubt should be sustainable development in all parts of the world, with principles of efficiency and equity providing the basis.

South Asia Development and Cooperation Report 2004

The *South Asia Development and Cooperation Report 2004* (SADCR 2004) argues that the region can face challenges posed by globalization much more effectively as a group rather than individually. The regional economic integration can, by exploiting the synergies, expand the economic opportunities available and strengthen the growth prospects. The



recent experiences with economic integration, in the region, suggest that it leads to expansion of trade and development in a balanced and sustainable manner. In the light of these experiences and against the backdrop of

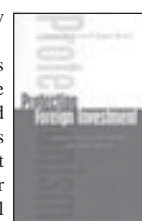
mushrooming regional trading blocs in different parts of the world, the Report finds a compelling case for the region expeditiously effecting its transition into an economic and monetary union by implementing SAFTA, forming a SAARC Customs Union and introducing a South Asian parallel currency, as an intermediate step to a single currency.

Among the key sectors presenting opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation, *SADCR 2004* selects transport infrastructure. Transport infrastructure is not only an important determinant of economic development but is also critical in exploiting the gains of economic integration resulting from geographical proximity. The Report also presents a detailed analysis of the capabilities, potential and challenges for mutually beneficial cooperation in the area of biotechnology that has tremendous promise for promoting food security and hence alleviation of poverty and hunger in the region.

Protecting Foreign Investment: Implications of a WTO Regime and Policy Options

by Carlos Correa and Nagesh Kumar, Zed Books Ltd., London and Academic Foundation, New Delhi in association with RIS.

This book examines implications of the rich countries' insistence that the rules which were supposed to be confined to trade issues now be extended by means of new agreements protecting foreign direct investment. The authors examine whether there is really a case for a new multilateral framework on investment within the WTO and propose various options for developing countries in resisting what amounts to a new form of Western protectionism, including how a development dimension could be incorporated in any new agreement, if the member countries of the WTO decide to proceed with negotiations.



Reforms, Labour Markets, and Social Security in India

by Ramgopal Agarwala, Nagesh Kumar and Michelle Riboud, (eds), Oxford University Press, New Delhi for the World Bank Institute and RIS.

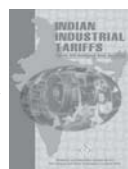
This volume analyses social security policies for India focusing on the unorganized sector, which accounts for 90 per cent of India's labour force. The authors contend that existing social security policies for the formal sector cannot simply be extended to the informal one. They highlight the need for an alternative for this vulnerable segment of the



workforce. The essays draw upon relevant experiences of developed as well as developing countries in this area to support the argument. The volume stresses the need for a unique social security system designed specifically for India. Cautioning against mere import of existing systems from other countries and juxtapositioning these in the Indian framework, the contributors suggest several alternatives for policy-makers.

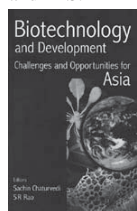
Indian Industrial Tariffs: Towards WTO Development Round Negotiations

by Rajesh Mehta, 2003, RIS, New Delhi



Biotechnology and Development: Challenges and Opportunities for Asia

by Sachin Chaturvedi and S. R. Rao (eds.), published jointly by Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore and RIS.



The Contributors to the volume draw policy lessons from country experiences in capability building in Asia, in particular on the role of regional cooperation. It is clear that the Asian countries need not only technical assistance for capacity building, but also financial support to upgrade their facilities to meet challenges emerging from the introduction

of new organisms. As most of the Asian economies face common challenges including the management of biodiversity resources, cooperative efforts may prove fruitful. An examination of regional cooperation in Europe and ASEAN may help in identifying a roadmap. Volume Editors present a synthesis of key lessons emanating from different contributions.

Unpublished Reports

Report of the *First India-China Policy Dialogue: China and India in the Global Economy*, available at www.ris.org.in

Integrated Study on the India and Mauritius Free Trade Agreement. Submitted to the Ministry of Commerce, Govt. of India.

WTO Non-Agriculture Market Access Modalities: The Post Cancun Issues and Implications for Indian Industrial Tariffs. Submitted to Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Govt. of India.

WTO Non-Agriculture Market Access Modalities: Identification of Possible Items Sensitive to Indian Imports at 6-Digit and 8-Digit HS Level. Submitted to Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Govt. of India.

2003-04 Forecasts of India's Exports: A Disaggregated Analysis by Countries and Commodities (Paper II). Submitted to the Ministry of Commerce, Govt. of India.

2003-04 Forecasts of India's Exports: A Disaggregated Analysis by Countries and

Commodities (Paper III). Submitted to the Ministry of Commerce, Govt. of India.

International Food Safety Standards Processed Food Exports: Preliminary Results of the Firm-Level Survey in India.

Policy Briefs

- #1 *Relevance of an Asian Economic Community*
- #2 *Initiative for Closer Economic Cooperation with Neighbouring Countries in South Asia*
- #3 *Reserve Bank of Asia: Institutional Framework for Regional Monetary and Financial Cooperation*
- #4 *Cancun Agenda: Trade and Investment – The Way Forward for Developing Countries*
- #5 *Cancun Agenda: Environmental Requirements and Developing Countries Exports – Lessons for National, International and Regional Action*
- #6 *Cancun Agenda: TRIPs and Development Implications and an Agenda for Action*
- #7 *Cancun Agenda: Geographical Indications and Developing Countries*
- #8 *Energy Cooperation in South Asia: Potential and Prospects*
- #9 *Road to a Single Currency for South Asia*
- #10 *International Financial Architecture: An Agenda for Reform*
- #11 *Managing Global Macroeconomic Imbalances: The US Current Account Deficit, Exchange Rate Flexibility and Asian Reserves*
- #12 *Future Directions of BIMSTEC: Towards A Bay of Bengal Economic Community (BoBEC)*

Discussion Papers

- #45 *Possibility of Close Economic Cooperation between India and Singapore* by S.K. Mohanty, 2003.
- #46 *Towards a Multipolar World of International Finance* by Ramgopal Agarwala and Gauri Modwel, 2003.
- #47 *Towards an Asian Economic Community: Exploring the Past* by Vineeta Shanker, 2003.
- #48 *Regional Trade Liberalisation under SAPTA and India's Trade Linkages*



with South Asia: An Empirical Assessment by S.K. Mohanty, 2003.

#49 *A Road to Common Prosperity – Examination of An FTA between India and China* by Li Wei, 2003.

#50 *ASEAN's Contribution to the Building of an Asian Economic Community* by K.Kesavapany, 2003.

#51 *India and the Asian Economic Community* by Mukul G. Asher and Sadhna Srivastava, 2003.

#52 *Performance Requirements as Tools of Development Policy: Lessons from Experiences of Developed and Developing Countries for the WTO Agenda on Trade and Investment* by Nagesh Kumar.

#53 *Economic Cooperation between India and Central Asian Republics with Special Reference to Uzbekistan* by Abdurahim Okhunov Abduraxmonovich, 2003.

#54 *Nepal-India Bilateral Trade Relations Problems and Prospects* by Gyanu Raja Shrestha, 2003.

#55 *Economic Cooperation Between India and Egypt*, Abdel Hamid Saba Elregal, 2003.

#56 *Investment on the WTO Agenda: A Developing Country Perspective and the Way Forward for the Cancun Ministerial Conference* by Nagesh Kumar, 2003.

#57 *WTO Negotiations Towards Cancun: Implication on Indian Paper and Newsprint Industry* by Rajesh Mehta and Pooja Agarwal, 2003.

#58 *Implementation Issues in SPS: A Developing Country Perspective for Development Agenda on the Meandering Pathways from Doha to Cancun* by Rajesh Mehta and J. George, 2003.

#59 *WTO Non-Agriculture Market Access Modalities: A Case Study of Impact on A Developing Country* by Rajesh Mehta and Pooja Agarwal, 2003.

#60 *"Ecosystemic Multifunctionality" – A Proposal for Special and Differentiated Treatment for Developing Country Agriculture in the Doha Round of Negotiations* by A. Damodaran.

#61 *Evolving a National System of Biotechnology Innovation Some*

Evidence from Singapore by Sachin Chaturvedi, 2003.

#62 *Short-term Forecasting of India's Export: Developing a Framework by Countries and Commodities* by Rajesh Mehta and Parul Mathur, 2003.

#63 *Rise of Service Sector Outward Foreign Direct Investment from India: Trends, Patterns, and Determinants* by Jaya Prakash Pradhan, 2003.

#64 *India's Monetary Integration with East Asia: A Feasibility Study* by Sweta Chaman Saxena, 2003.

#65 *Liberalization, Foreign Direct Investment Flows and Economic Development: The Indian Experience in the 1990s* by Nagesh Kumar, 2003.

#66 *How Do Infrastructure Facilities Affect Regional Income? An Investigation with South Asian Countries* by Prabir De, 2003.

#67 *Environment Issues in Free Trade Agreements in Asia and the Post-Cancun Challenges: Issues and Policy Options* by Sachin Chaturvedi, 2004.

#68 *Biotechnology in South Asia: Issues, Concerns and Opportunities* by Sachin Chaturvedi, 2004.

#69 *Issue Related to India's Energy Trading with Central Asian Countries* by Barnali Nag, 2004.

Journals

South Asia Economic Journal

- *South Asia Economic Journal* (Vol. 4 No. 1) January-June 2003.

(Special Issue on the WTO, South Asian Agriculture and IPRs).

- *South Asia Economic Journal* (Vol. 4 No. 2) July- December 2003.

(Special Issue on Financial Liberalization, Corporate Financial Structuring and Governance: The Case of India.

- *South Asia Economic Journal* (Vol. 5 No. 1) January-June 2004.

Asian Biotechnology and Development Review

- *Asian Biotechnology and Development Review*, Vol. 5(3), July 2003..
- *Asian Biotechnology and Development Review*, Vol. 6(1), November 2003.
- *Asian Biotechnology and Development Review*, Vol. 6(2), March 2004.





New Asia Monitor

- *New Asian Monitor*, Vol. 1 No. 1, March 2004.

Newsletter

- *RIS Diary*, Vol. 1 No. 2, April 2003.
- *RIS Diary*, Vol. 1 No. 3, July 2003.
- *RIS Diary*, Vol. 1 No. 4, October 2003.
- *RIS Diary*, Vol. 2 No. 1, January 2004.

Outside Publications by RIS Faculty Members

- Baig, Mirza Allim *et al.* 2003. "Exchange Market Pressure and the Reserve Bank of India's Intervention Activity". *Journal of Policy Modeling*, Vol.25(8), pp.727-748, November.
- Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2003. "Development in Biotechnology: International Initiatives, Status in India and Agenda before Developing Countries". *Science, Technology and Society* 8:1 (2003), Sage Publications, New Delhi.
- Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2003. "GEAC and Biotechnology: Which Way and What For?". *Economic and Political Weekly*, April 24.
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- Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2003. "Agricultural Biotechnology and Emerging Trade Regime at WTO: Some Issues of Concern". In *Trade and Biodiversity* (ed.). IUCN Regional Biodiversity Programme, Colombo, October.
- De, Prabir. 2003. "Movement of Containers through National Waterways". *Indian Ports*, Vol. 35, No. 1.
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- De, Prabir. 2004. "An Alternative Approach to Efficiency Measurement of Seaports". *Maritime Economics & Logistics*, Vol. 6 No. 1, January.
- George, J. 2003. "Culture of Agriculture in WTO Negotiations". *Trade and Development Monitor: Cancun Special*. South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Kathmandu, September.
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VII. Documentation Centre

RIS Documentation Centre serves as a well stocked-up-to-date library on literature related to issues like world economy, international trade, world trading system, international monetary and financial system, South-South economic cooperation including regional economic cooperation schemes like SAARC, ASEAN, IORARC, North-South cooperation, capital flows, FDI, technology transfers and MNCs, technological capacity building, agriculture and food security, new technologies such as IT and biotechnology, environment and sustainable development, etc.

It caters not only the research staff of the RIS but also to researchers, policy makers, etc. from the government, academic, business and industry circles.

The collection of the research material at the RIS Documentation Centre has been growing constantly. It has been enriched by not so easily available publications, i.e. occasional papers/working papers/reprints/reports, unpublished documents, etc. obtained with the help of networking exercises with the national and international organizations/institutions. It has a fair collection of electronic documents and is equipped with Internet facilities. RIS has introduced Delnet (Delhi Library Network) services for acquiring references and ascertaining availability of the documents and journals in Delhi libraries.

RIS Documentation Centre also maintains press clippings on over 80 subjects of common interest of users.

RIS Online Documentation Centre
www.ris.org.in/
www.newasiaforum.org

In order to facilitate dissemination RIS publications, online RIS website has been renovated completely. Most of the output of RIS, viz. Research Reports, Policy Briefs,

An image of RIS Home Page



Discussion Papers, conference reports, journals and newsletters can now be downloaded by users anytime. The site is also registered with various search engines.

RIS had also set up a special webpage on Doha Development Agenda in preparation of Cancun Ministerial at its website polling together all the RIS resources on the subjects.

In addition, RIS also hosts another website www.newasiaforum.org as a dedicated website for promoting regional economic cooperation in Asia. This website pools together resources and links from all over the world on the subject besides RIS work.

RIS Webpage on Doha Development Agenda



A view of the RIS documentation Centre.

VIII. Human Resources

Faculty



Dr Nagesh Kumar, Director General
M.A., M.Phil, Ph.D.

Specialisation: FDI and technology transfers, industrial and technology development policies, world trading system, regional economic integration, economic reforms and development, knowledge-based industries and development.



Dr Rajesh Mehta, Senior Fellow
M.A., Ph.D.

Specialisation: Trade policies of South Asia, regional trading blocs, econometric modelling, trade and development, tariff and non-tariff barriers.



Prof. K.J. Joseph, Senior Visiting Fellow
M.A., M. Phil, Ph.D.

Specialisation: International trade and finance with particular emphasis on issues arising in the WTO, Agreement on Agriculture, TRIPS, TRIMS, bio-diversity.



Dr. S.K. Mohanty, Fellow
M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D.

Specialisation: WTO issues, regional trading arrangements, human development and social sector issues, economic reforms, food security and productivity analysis, services sector.



Dr Sachin Chaturvedi, Fellow
M.A., Ph.D.

Specialisation: National Innovation System and Biotechnology, Biodiversity Conservation, Intellectual Property Regime and Indigenous Knowledge System, Food Security, Trade and Standards



Dr Ram Upendra Das, Fellow
M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D.

Specialisation: Regional economic cooperation; rules of origin; trade, growth and technology; labour market implications of economic reforms and the WTO Agreement on Textiles and Clothing.



Shri Saikat Sinha Roy, Research Associate (on leave)
M.Sc., M.Phil

Specialisation: Applied trade and development, and economic statistics.



Dr. Barnali Nag, Research Associate
M.A., Ph.D.

Specialisation: Energy and environment economics (till April 2004)



Dr. Mirza Allim Baig, Research Associate
M.A., M.Phil, Ph.D.

Specialisation: Open economy, macroeconomic issues



Shri Prabir De, Research Associate
M.Sc. in Economics

Specialisation: Regional economics



Dr. Saon Ray, Research Associate
M.Sc., Ph.D.

Specialisation: Economics of technology, microeconomics (till October 2004)

Other Affiliated Scholars

Visiting Fellows

Dr. A.K. Kundra, *(formerly Secretary, Department of Mines, Government of India), ICSSR Senior Fellow* (part time) (since February 2004)

Dr. Raj Chhikara, *Visiting Senior Fellow*

(August 2003-January 2004)

Senior Economist, World Bank and formerly Programme Director, Asian Development Bank Institute, Tokyo

Dr. Sweta C. Saxena, *Visiting Fellow* (during May-June 2003)

Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, University of Pittsburgh, USA

Other Faculty

Dr. J. George, Senior Consultant (upto May 2004)

Shri Jaya Prakash Pradhan, Consultant (upto July 2003)

Ms. Parul Mathur, Research Assistant (upto July 2004)

Ms. Sunayana Mehra, Research Assistant (upto August 2004)

Visiting Fellows under RIS Visiting Fellowship Programme on International Economic Issues and Development Policy Research

(February 3, 2003 to June 2, 2003)

Dr. Gyanu Raja Shreshta
Tax Officer, Ministry of Finance, Internal Revenue Office, Nepal

Mr. Abdel Hamid Saba Elregal
Economic Analyst, Ministry of Foreign Trade, Arab Republic of Egypt

Mr. Abdurrahim Okhunov,
Senior Research & Economic Analyst, University of World Economy and Diplomacy, Uzbekistan

External Research Advisors/ Consultants (Part time)

Dr Ramgopal Agarwala,
formerly of the World Bank

Dr. I.N. Mukherji,
Jawaharlal Nehru University

Dr. Neelam Singh,
Lady Sri Ram College, University of Delhi

Dr. Aradhna Aggarwal,
K.M. College, University of Delhi

Dr. M. Padma Suresh,
Sri Venkateswara College, University of Delhi

Dr. V.K. Kaul,
University of Delhi, South Campus

Dr. Sanjeeb Pohit
National Council of Applied Economic Research

Dr. R. G. Nambiar
Director, Sardar Patel Institute of Economic and Social Research

Mr Mohammed Saqib
Rajiv Gandhi Foundation

Consultant



Shri Sujit Kumar Ray
M.A., M.Phil



Shri U.S. Rana
M.A., Economics



Dr. Beena Pandey
M.A., Ph.D.



Mrs. Pooja Aggarwal
M.A., Economics



Ms. Arti Shukla
M.Sc., International Relations



Ms. Oindrila De
M.A., Economics

Research Assistants

Other Staff Members

Shri Ganapati Bhat

Finance & Administrative Officer

Publications & Documentation Centre

Shri Tish Kr. Malhotra, *Publications Officer*

Mrs. Sarita Kapoor, *Documentation Officer*

Computer/Databases Unit

Mrs. Sushma Bhatt, *Research Associate/Computer Programmer*

Shri C.S. Puri, *Computer Programmer*

Finance & Administration

Shri V. Krishnamani, *Accounts Officer*

Shri D.P. Kala, *Desk Officer*

Shri N.N. Krishnan, *Private Secretary to DG*

Mrs. Sheela Malhotra, *Pers. Assistant*

Shri Ramesh Chand, *Administrative Assistant (Programmes)*

Shri Harkesh, *Dispatch Clerk*

Mrs. Anu Bisht, *Receptionist*

Research Support

Ms. Kiran Wagh, *Private Secretary*

Mrs. Sujata Taneja, *Pers. Assistant*

Shri Phool Singh, *Jr. Pers. Assistant*

Shri Sanjeev Sharma, *Jr. Pers. Assistant*

Shri Surender Kumar, *Jr. Pers. Assistant*

Mrs. Poonam Khurana, *Jr. Pers. Assistant*

Project Support

Mrs. Poonam Malhotra, *Data Entry Operator*

Ms. Ritu Taneja, *Jr. Project Assistant*

Shri Vivek Kumar, *Jr. Project Assistant*

Shri Pradeep Kumar, *Publication Assistant*

Ms. Sushila, *Jr. Library Assistant*

Ms. Jyoti Goel, *Jr. Library Assistant*

Support Staff: Shri Satyavir Singh (Staff Car Driver), Shri Balwan, Shri Pradeep, Shri J.B. Thakuri and Shri Raju.

IX

Financial Statements

THAKUR, VAIDYANATH AIYAR & CO.

Chartered Accountants
New Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai
Patna, Chandigarh and Hyderabad

212, Deen Dayal Marg, New Delhi – 110002

Phones: 23236958-60, 23237772

Fax: 23230831 Gram: AUDIT

E-mail: tvand@vsnl.com

Auditor's Report

We have audited the attached Financial Statements comprising the Balance Sheet of Research and Information System for the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries, New Delhi as at 31st March 2004, and also the annexed Income and Expenditure Account of the Society for the year ended on that date.

The Financial Statements are the responsibility of the management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conduct our audit in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in India. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material mis-statements. An audit includes examining, on test basis evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by the management as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

We report that:

- i) We have obtained all information and explanations, which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of the audit.
- ii) The said accounts are in agreement with the books of accounts maintained by the Society.
- iii) In our opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the Society as far as appears from our examination of books.
- iv) In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to explanations given to us, the said accounts subject to accounting policies and notes to the accounts given in Schedule 7 and our separate report dated 27th September, 2004 addressed to the Members of Governing Council, give a true and fair view:
 - 1) in the case of the Balance Sheet, of the state of affairs of the Society as at 31st March 2004.
 - 2) in the case of the Income and Expenditure Account, of the surplus for the year ended 31st March 2004.

For Thakur, Vaidyanath Aiyar & Co.
Chartered Accountants

Sd/-
(K.N. Gupta)
Partner

Place: New Delhi

Date: September 27, 2004

Research and Information System for the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries, New Delhi
(Society Registered under the Societies Registration Act of 1860)
Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2004

Particulars	Schedule	As At 31.3.2004	As At 31.3.2003
LIABILITIES			
Research And Development Fund	1	11750488.72	10147048.30
Asset Fund (Assets Created Out of Grant-in-Aid from GOI)	2	30305368.00	31347298.00
Asset Fund (Assets Created Out of Various Sponsored Projects)		1949519.00	2317155.00
UNSPENT BALANCES			
A. Sponsored Projects As Per Schedule Attached (Non-FCRA)	3	1765017.00	1728765.40
B. Sponsored Projects As Per Schedule Attached (FCRA)		7400955.30	3594114.30
Current Liabilities And Provisions	4	363916.00	649468.50
Total		53535264.02	49783849.50
ASSETS			
Fixed Assets (Assets Created Out of Grant-in-Aid from GOI)	5	30305368.00	31347298.00
Fixed Assets (Assets Created Out of Various Sponsored Projects)		1949519.00	2317155.00
AMOUNT RECOVERABLE			
A. Sponsored Projects As Per Schedule Attached (Non-FCRA)	3	1467319.00	1789980.88
B. Sponsored Projects As Per Schedule Attached (FCRA)		-	200891.00
Current Assets, Loans, And Advances, Etc. (Non-FCRA)	6	12412102.72	10735301.32
Current Assets, Loans, And Advances, Etc. (FCRA)		7400955.30	3393223.30
Total		53535264.02	49783849.50
Significant Accounting Policies And Notes On Accounts	7		

Schedules 1 to 11 form an integral part of Accounts.

Subject to our report of even date.
Examined and found correct.

New Delhi

Dated: September 27, 2004

Sd/-
Chartered Accountants

Sd/-
Fin. & Administrative Officer

Sd/-
Director General

Research and Information System for the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries, New Delhi
(Society Registered Under the Societies Registration Act of 1860)
Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31st March, 2004

INCOME	Schedule	Current Year Amount Rs.	Previous Year Amount Rs.
Grant-in-aid received from Ministry of External Affairs		13700000.00	13700000.00
Amount Transferred from Sponsored Projects (Excess amount transferred on completion of projects)	3	1302048.52	3075267.76
Income from Royalty, Publications etc.		46636.00	19712.00
INTEREST EARNED			
On Term Deposits		232367.00	1023209.00
On Savings Account		164695.00	188079.00
On Loans Employees/Staff		13320.00	10155.00
Other Miscellaneous Income		73410.50	33129.00
Transfer to Assets Fund (Depreciation on Fixed Assets acquired out of Grant-in-Aid from Government of India/Sponsored Projects)	2	2002392.00	2204473.05
Total		17534869.02	20254024.81
EXPENDITURE			
Establishment Expenses	8	7784734.00	8198056.00
Other Administrative Expenses	9	5545003.60	4322445.63
Expenses Incurred on Purchase of Fixed Assets Out of Grants Received from Government of India, transferred to Assets Fund	5	599299.00	1305543.00
Depreciation on Fixed Assets acquired out of Grant-in-Aid from Government of India/Sponsored Projects	5	2002392.00	2204473.05
Surplus transferred to Research and Development Fund	1	1603440.42	4223507.13
Total		17534869.02	20254024.81
Significant Accounting Policies and Notes on Accounts	7		

Schedule 1 to 11 form an integral part of Accounts.

Subject to our report of even date.
Examined and found correct.

New Delhi

Sd/-

Chartered Accountants

Sd/-

Fin. & Administrative Officer

Sd/-

Director General

Dated: September 27, 2004

Research and Information System for the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries
Sources and Utilization of Funds for the Year Ended 31st March 2004

Sources	Amount (Rs.)	Amount (Rs.) Current Year
Grant-in-Aid received from Ministry of External Affairs		13700000.00
Grants/fees received from various sponsored projects (Non-FCRA)	5091506.00	
Grants/fees received from various sponsored projects (FCRA)	6478866.00	11570372.00
Interest earned:		
On Term Deposits	232367.00	
On Savings Account	164695.00	
On loans: employees/staff	13320.00	410382.00
Income from royalty, publications etc. and other misc. income		120046.50
Utilization	Total	25800800.50
Expenses incurred out of core grant received from Ministry of External Affairs to meet:		
1. Recurring expenditure	13329737.60	
2. Non-recurring expenditure	599299.00	13929036.60
Expenses incurred on sponsored projects (Non-FCRA)	3259406.00	
Amount refunded to the sponsoring agency	171138.00	
Expenses incurred on sponsored projects (FCRA)	2471134.00	5901678.00
Total Expenditure		19830714.60
Surplus transferred to the Research and Development Fund		1603440.42
Adjustment of opening/closing balances of unspent/recoverable grants from non-FCRA and FCRA)		4366645.48
	Total	25800800.50

Subject to our report of even date
Examined and found correct.

New Delhi

Sd/-
Chartered Accountants

Sd/-
Finance & Administrative Officer

Sd/-
Director General

Dated: September 27, 2004

'Farmers more protected in developed countries'

HT Live Correspondent
Chandigarh, May 30

LEADING FARM sector expert Dr S.K. Mohanty from Research and Information

System for Non-aligned and Other Developing Countries.

Addressing a workshop on "WTO: Agriculture and Trade", he said that farmers in developed countries are more protected than their counterparts in the developing countries.

He said that farmers in developed countries are more aggressive in the present-day price war.

The workshop was jointly organised by RIS and Centre for Research and Information

'India Should Fight It Out At Cancun'

The second draft of the Cancun ministerial text is sharply tilted towards the interests of the developed world and India and other developing countries should fight it out at Cancun, says Nagesh Kumar, director general of Research and Information System for Non-aligned and Other Developing Countries.

Dr Kumar discussed the provisions of the new draft and its potential implications with trade negotiators from the second draft.



Dear Mr Jaitley
NAGESH KUMAR ON CANCUN MEET

Like the first draft, the new draft is not categorical about reduction commitments. It is left on blue-box subsidies (payments based on fixed area and yields) allowing such subsidies up to 5 per cent of the total value of production.

Comparison of the second draft with the first. The second draft is definitely more tilted towards the interests of the developed world.

and draft has been picked from the paper submitted by the EC and the US. The counter proposal of India and 16 other developing countries, including Brazil and China has largely been ignored.

adoption of the second proposal of the chairman of the negotiating group in market access for non-agriculture products submitted recently. While the first proposal of the chairman asked India to accept a 10 per cent tariff reduction, the second proposal is at least better than the EU-US.

Canada's proposal which would have required India to bring about 100 per cent reduction in tariffs.

However, India should not lose sight of its own proposal of adoption of lower formula of tariff reduction (equal percentage reduction for all members) compared to the prevailing tariff level.

In the area of the proposed tariff reduction, India should not lose sight of its own proposal of adoption of lower formula of tariff reduction (equal percentage reduction for all members) compared to the prevailing tariff level.

Adopting of equal & differential (EAD) and implementation of the proposed tariff reduction.

stressed on the need for giving more attention to the environmentally sensitive goods and suggested that the trading should be the lines of social responsibility.

"Under the influence of biased international prices, over 7.4 per cent of food products are rejected in the world market," he said.

The workshop was aimed at bringing greater awareness among experts in the field.

Openness sought in WTO decisions

OUR ECONOMY BUREAU
New Delhi, 1 September

The World Trade and Development Report 2003.

Cancun Should Commit To Development, Says Pant

OUR ECONOMY BUREAU
New Delhi, Sept 1

The negotiations on trade liberalisation need to respect the principle of less-than-full reciprocity for the developing countries, Planning Commission deputy chairman K.C. Pant said here on Monday.

Speaking at a seminar on "Development of World Trade: Development Report", brought out by the Research and Information System for Non-aligned and Other

Developing Countries, Pant said that the negotiations on trade liberalisation need to respect the principle of less-than-full reciprocity for the developing countries.

Pant: Issue-based pact with friendly nations needed

Press Note Series
New Delhi

PLANNING COMMISSION

RIS, CRIID sign MoU on academic cooperation

Feature News Service

Chandigarh, May 30

The Agreement on Academic Cooperation (AAC) is a highly significant and historic treaty for the developing world.

Mr S.K. Mohanty said that the AAC is a highly significant and historic treaty for the developing world.

developing countries would increase exports as compared to the imports, besides offering an increase in prices. In fact, reduction of trade barriers would have a significant impact on the global prices.

The meeting was attended by the members of the developing countries and their representatives from the following countries: Argentina, Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam, and Zimbabwe.

The meeting was held in the presence of the representatives of the following countries: Argentina, Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam, and Zimbabwe.

The meeting was held in the presence of the representatives of the following countries: Argentina, Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam, and Zimbabwe.

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The meeting was held in the presence of the representatives of the following countries: Argentina, Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam, and Zimbabwe.

Post-Cancun: Committee On Agriculture To Begin Discussions Next Week

ANITI SEN
New Delhi, Sept 24

The Committee on Agriculture (CoA) of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) will start next week to continue discussions on the modalities for negotiating an agreement on agriculture.

The Cancun ministerial meeting, held from September 20-24 in Mexico, failed to

domestic support and export subsidies.

Speaking at FE, Research and Information System (RIS) for the Non-aligned and other Developing Countries director general Nagesh Kumar said that since the draft text was not agreed to in the ministerial, it did not have any binding force.

He said, "The draft text cannot be used as the basis for negotiations as no agree-

likely to begin without reference to any text. "The Harbin text circulated earlier this year has been left far behind. The draft ministerial text, too, cannot be used. I think that the CoA will not use any text for starting its discussion and will instead focus on individual issues."

The agreed draft ministerial text circulated in Cancun was rejected by developing

includes countries like India, China, Brazil, South Africa, Philippines and Argentina are promising reduction in import and export duties by the EU and the US.

The group agreed that it would discuss the higher tariff

formula for reducing tariffs, the developing countries should be allowed to use the

some tariff lines, the Swiss formula could be used, for

the US formula for products where they want to protect their market.

Mr Pant said that while Africa emerging as a strong force in the Cancun ministerial meeting, one should not be surprised if West African countries producing raw materials also

The WTO secretary has directed the General Council to hold a meeting in December to discuss progress in all areas which include agriculture, non-agriculture, Singapore issues and Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).

Trade between India and Thailand currently stands at

communication, space technology, bio-technology, tourism, infrastructure development, healthcare services and construction.

Trade between India and Thailand currently stands at

Poor nations hit by \$300 bn farm subsidies of EU, US

HT Correspondent
New Delhi, September 1

TRADE-DISTORTING domestic and export subsidies worth \$300 billion doled out by the US and EU have hurt the farm exports of developing countries in a big way.

Developing countries including India have lost agriculture exports worth \$40 billion due to such subsidies. These subsidies have led to lower incomes for farmers in the developing world while EU-US continue to resist phasing out and eventual elimination of farm subsidies.

While the \$300 billion subsidies have been doled out to support 3-4 per cent of EU-

US population in farm sector, 10-15 per cent population in developing countries have been hit by the subsidies.

This was brought out in a 100-page world trade and development report 2003 compiled by Research and Information System for the Non-aligned and other developing countries. Planning Commission Deputy Chairman K.C. Pant who is also chairman of RIS released the report.

The study assumes significance in the run up to Cancun summit of WTO commencing next week in Mexico. The report has concluded that over 70 per cent of Indian population dependent on agriculture has been

either directly or indirectly hit by inequitable trading terms sought to be set by the EU-US subsidies.

The report which has been put together after extensive research and analysis has pointed out that agriculture was not the only area where the EU-US in developed economies gave subsidies. Industry sector is no exception, the report pointed out.

About 38 per cent of research carried out by domestic companies in the US has been funded from taxpayers' money. Similarly, European Union does on R&D and investment subsidies worth 17 billion euro annually.

The general council meeting of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) held last week has indicated that the sixth ministerial may not be possible before 2005. This has set to rest speculation of a ministerial in 2004 related to Cancun.

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Morning After The Cancun Cancan

KUNHINTA CHAKRABORTY

THE last day of fiesta is always the best, and the morning after, always the worst, because when the depredations of the night before have been shovelled away, life just slips back into its dull monotony. In that how the World Trade Organisation

billions—but in reality very few commitments on improved market access were honoured. The melon turned out to be a sour lemon, for while the hungry South opened its doors to wicker wealth, the Rich gave only

gradually. The WTO issues tied to the Agreement on Agriculture

ANITI SEN
New Delhi, Oct 30

The general council meeting of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) held last week has indicated that the sixth ministerial may not be possible before 2005. This has set to rest speculation of a ministerial in 2004 related to Cancun.

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Indo-Thai FTA To Be Free Of Products Of 'Mutual Interest'

ANITI SEN & HIRNA SIDDIQUI

New Delhi, July 30

India and Thailand have decided to exclude all products from the proposed free trade agreement (FTA) which would

communication, space technology, bio-technology, tourism, infrastructure development, healthcare services and construction.

Trade between India and Thailand currently stands at

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Sixth WTO Ministerial Unlikely Next Year

ANITI SEN

New Delhi, Oct 30

Nagesh Kumar, who was in Geneva at the time of the meeting, said FE that since Hong Kong had asked for at least a year's time for preparation to hold the sixth summit, there was little room for a meeting next year.

Dr Kumar said official negotiations for the sixth ministerial would be held in

presidential elections, it is almost certain now that the next ministerial will not be before the beginning of 2005," he said.

According to WTO guidelines, a ministerial should be held every two years. Since the fifth ministerial was held in

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No ROO Means No Room For Making FTA With Thailand Work

ANITI SEN

New Delhi, Oct

Although the free trade agreement between India and Thailand has been signed, the important agreement on rules of origin (ROO) of the products to be traded is yet to be reached.

Without an agreement on ROO, the FTA cannot be implemented as it would not be possible to determine which product should be considered as originating from the two countries and

which should be from FTA and

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Exports Zoom 16% In Sept

OUR ECONOMY BUREAU

New Delhi, Nov 2

Exports jumped to healthy 15.93 per cent in September, from 4.39 per cent in August, pushing up the cumulative growth rate to 9.99 per cent during the first half of this fiscal. Export growth rate during the first five months of this fiscal (April-August) is 8.99 per cent, "relatively low," however, it is expected that the growth rate will be around 10 per cent in the second half of the fiscal.

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