



## Conference on Biotechnology for Asian Development

RIS in collaboration with CII and IUCN (Regional Biodiversity Programme-Asia) organized the Second Conference on Biotechnology for Asian Development: Regional Cooperation for Ensuring Access and Capacity Building, on April 7-8, 2004 in New Delhi. The Conference was supported by UNESCO and the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India. Shri K.C. Pant, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and Chairman, RIS inaugurated the Conference.

Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director General, RIS; Mr. Mohsen Tawfik, Director, UNESCO, New Delhi, 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 also addressed the inaugural session.

The Conference began with session on Biotechnology and Food Security in Asia: Priorities and Challenges, chaired by Prof. Naiyyum Choudhury, Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS), Bangladesh. The panelists included Dr Gerard Barry, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Philippines; Dr Daniel Gustafson, FAO, New Delhi; Dr. Ajay Parida, M.S. Swaminathan Foundation, Chennai; and Dr. Kiran K. Sharma, ICRISAT, Hyderabad.

Dr. Suman Sahai, Gene Campaign, New Delhi chaired the second session on Biotechnology and IPR Regime: International Developments and Policy Options. Dr. Jayashree Wattal, WTO, Geneva; Dr. Mikyung Yun, Korea Institute for International Economic Policy, South Korea; Dr Balakrishna Pisupati, IUCN Regional Biodiversity Programme Asia, Sri Lanka; Mr. Praveen Anand, Anand Anand, New Delhi; and Dr K. K. Tripathi, Advisor, Department of Biotechnology, Government of India were the main panelists.

The third session on Trade, Labeling, Traceability and Issues in Biosafety Management was chaired by Dr. Balakrishna Pisupati, Regional Biodiversity Programme, IUCN Asia. The panelists were: Dr. Heike Baumuller, ICTSD, Geneva; Dr. Suman Sahai, Gene Campaign, New Delhi; Dr. S. R. Rao,



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.

Department of Biotechnology, India; Mrs. Gothami Indikadahena, Department of Commerce, Sri Lanka; Prof. Liu Yan, Nanjing Institute of Environmental Sciences China; and Dr. Paresh Verma, Shriram Bioseed Genetics (I) Ltd., Hyderabad.

Dr. S. R. Rao chaired the Special Panel discussion on Agricultural Biotechnology in India. The main panelists in the session were: Mr. Vivek Singhal, President, All India Biotech Association (AIBA), New Delhi; Dr Vibha Dhawan, Tata Energy Research Institute, New Delhi; Dr. A. R. Sadananda, E. G. Technologies & Service Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad; Dr. Sandhya Tewari, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), New Delhi; Ms. Sonu Jain, *Indian Express*, New Delhi; and Dr. Sivramiah Shanthu Shantharam, Biologistics International, USA.

Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS chaired the session on Socio-Economic Analysis and Studies on Biotechnology. The main panelists in the session were: Dr. Halla Thorsteinsdottir, University of Toronto, Canada; Dr. Brigitte van Beuzekom, OECD, France; Dr. José B. Falck-Zepeda, ISNAR/IBS, the Netherlands; Dr. Derek Russell, National Resource Institute, Australia; Prof. Bharat Ramaswami, Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi and Dr. Raju B Barwale, Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Company Limited.

The session on Public-Private Partnerships in Biotechnology: Issues, Modalities and Lessons was chaired by Dr. S. R. Nair, Managing Director, Biotech Consortium India Ltd. Dr. Ben Peczon, Coalition of Biotechnology, The Philippines; Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi, RIS.; Dr. Lakshmi V. Venkatesan, Oppoutunia, New Delhi; and Dr Rajeswari Raina, NISTADS, New Delhi were the panelists.

Dr A.P. Kulshreshtha, Director, Centre for Science Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries chaired the session on Country Specific Experiences and Options for Asian Regional Cooperation in Biotechnology. The Panelists in this session were: Dr. Nares Damrongchai, APEC Center for Technology Foresight, Thailand; Prof. Naiyyum Choudhury, Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS), Bangladesh; Mr. Rana Nazir Mehmood, WWF, Pakistan; Prof. Bui Chi Buu, Director, CLRRI, Vietnam; and Dr. Manoranjan Hota, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India.

The session on Perspectives from International Agencies was chaired by Mr. Mohsen Tawfik, Director, UNESCO, New Delhi. Dr. José B. Falck-Zepeda, and

## UNCTAD XI and the Development Dialogue for the 21st Century

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 made a presentation at the Hearings organized by the UNCTAD Secretary-General in Geneva. 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. A shorter version of the study was issued in the form of *RIS Policy Brief* "UNCTAD XI and the Development Dialogue for the 21st Century" for circulation at the Conference.

The RIS study begins by highlighting the growing asymmetries in the world trading system especially since the Uruguay Round was completed and the critical need for a thorough reform. It then summarizes the emerging trends in the international financial architecture that point to the urgency of reform to prevent the recurrence of economic crisis of the type faced by East Asian and Latin American countries in recent past. Against that backdrop the RIS study presents various issues for the agenda for UNCTAD XI. These include revival of the spirit of global interdependence and need for resurrecting UNCTAD as a forum of analytical underpinning for promoting development.

In the context of the one of the key themes of UNCTAD XI on Assuring Development Gains from the International Trading System, RIS report offers several proposals for the consideration of the world body such as a development assessment of the world trading system, establishment of a WTO Watchdog of developing countries, proposals for reform of decision-making at WTO, proposals for effective special and differential treatment provisions, and proposals on a framework agreement on movement of natural persons. RIS emphasizes the importance of policy space in making FDI work for building competitive productive capacities in developing countries. It feels that UNCTAD could assist developing countries in making the provisions for transfer of technology in various WTO Agreements effective and binding. Finally, the study offers several proposals for promotion of South-South Cooperation including the importance of a new and more ambitious round of GSTP trade negotiations, mechanisms of South-South trade facilitation, promotion of South-South FDI and technology transfers and South-South cooperation in addressing the digital divide. It develops a proposal for an e-South Framework

to promote intra-South cooperation in the area of ICTs.

The copies of this *RIS Policy Brief* were made available to the country delegations through Indian delegation and were also circulated at the civil society forum that was held in conjunction with the Conference. Contact for further details: [dgooffice@ris.org.in](mailto:dgooffice@ris.org.in).

## India-China Economic Relations: Some Explorations

There seems to be a case for deepening of economic relations between India and China and exploit the synergies for common benefit. A Joint Study Group has been set up following the visit of the PM 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. 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 will cover the following themes: The Context of China-India Economic Cooperation; Foreign Direct Investment Flows between India and China; Welfare Gains from India-China FTA/CECA; and Other Areas of Economic Cooperation. Contact for further details: [dgooffice@ris.org.in](mailto:dgooffice@ris.org.in).

## State, FDI and Export of Software and BPO Services from India

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. No wonder, 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 examined 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 examined 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* to be published by UNCTAD. Contact for further details: [jose@ris.org.in](mailto:jose@ris.org.in).

## Rules of Origin Issues in India's Economic Partnership Agreements with Other Countries

Rules of Origin (RoO) have emerged as one of the many important issues of inter-governmental negotiations under various trading arrangements, in general and between India and other countries/regions, in particular. Given the complexity of issues on the subject, RIS is conducting a study on "Rules of Origin Issues in India's Economic Partnership Agreements with Other Countries: An Approach Paper on Change in Tariff Heading Criterion", sponsored by Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India. The study specifically focuses on the analytics of the change in tariff classification criterion and on identification of items at HS 6-digit level that do not qualify for stipulations of tariff shifts at HS 4-digit level of trade classification.

The study also forms a part of the agenda of the Expert Group on Preferential Rules of Origin, set up by the Government of India, 2004. RIS is represented on this expert group. A preliminary draft of the study was presented in the Third Meeting of the Expert Group on 16 July 2004 at New Delhi. Contact for further details: [upendra@ris.org.in](mailto:upendra@ris.org.in)

## Strategy for Export Oriented Manufacturing

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

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# Dhaka Seminar on Follow-up of SAARC Summit Decisions and Launch of the *South Asia Development and Cooperation Report 2004*

The South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS), Dhaka; Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka; and RIS jointly organized a Seminar on Follow-up of SAARC Summit Decisions concerning SAFTA and Energy Cooperation and the Launching of the RIS *South Asia Development and Cooperation Report 2004* in Dhaka, Bangladesh on May 18, 2004. Mr M Morshed Khan, Hon'ble Minister for Foreign Affairs, Government of Bangladesh was the Chief Guest and Mr Reaz Rahman, Hon'ble Advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was the Special Guest. Professor Rehman Sobhan, Chairman, CPD and Executive Director, SACEPS chaired the inaugural session.

In the inaugural session, Dr Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS made a presentation on the *South Asia Development and Cooperation Report 2004*. This was followed by open discussion and the speech by the Chief Guest. The Chief Guest and participants paid rich compliments to RIS for producing the Report that has over time become one of the most authoritative sources of analysis on development and cooperation in South Asia. Dr Rehman Sobhan made the concluding remarks.

The second session addressed theme of Implications of Building a South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA). Mr Tofail Ahmed, former Minister of Commerce and Industry, Government of Bangladesh was the Chief



Mr M Morshed Khan, Hon'ble Minister for Foreign Affairs, Government of Bangladesh (second from right). Also seen in the picture (from left) are Dr Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS; Mr Reaz Rahman, Hon'ble Advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Professor Rehman Sobhan, Chairman, CPD and Executive Director, SACEPS; and Dr. Debapria Bhattacharya, Executive Director, CPD.

Guest and Mr M. Syeduzzaman, former Finance Minister chaired the session. Dr Dushni Weerakoon, Research Fellow, Institute of Policy Studies, Colombo and Professor Mustafizur Rahman, Research Director, CPD made presentations on the theme of the session. Dr Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS, New Delhi; Dr Mustafa Abid Khan, Deputy Chief, Bangladesh Tariff Commission; and Major General (Retd) Amjad Khan Chowdhury, Chief Executive Officer, Pran Group, Dhaka were the main discussants.

The theme of the third session was Discussion on Energy Cooperation in South

Asia. Mr Iqbal Hasan Mahmud, Hon'ble State Minister for Power, Government of Bangladesh was the Chief Guest and Mr Syed Manzur Elahi, Former Member, Advisory Council of the Caretaker Government chaired the session. Professor M P Lama, Centre for South Asian Studies, JNU, New Delhi made the thematic presentation on Energy Cooperation in Asia. The main discussants were Mr Nuruddin Mahmud Kamal, former Chairman, Power Development Board; and Mr Md Aziz Khan, Chairman, Summit Group of Companies and Khulna Power Company Ltd.

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products for specific export markets. Contact for further details, [skmohanty@ris.org.in](mailto:skmohanty@ris.org.in).

## Regional Trading Arrangements and Developing Countries

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. Contact for further details: [dgooffice@ris.org.in](mailto:dgooffice@ris.org.in).

## Policy Notes/Other Consultations

- A Note on "US-India Economic Partnership" was made available to the office of Foreign Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India on April 5, 2004.
- Project Report 2004-05 Forecasts of India's Exports: A Disaggregated Analysis by Countries and Commodities" submitted to the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry on April 19, 2004.
- Submitted notes on "Comparison of units of Indian Textile items as per their bound rates in EC/US Treaty and DGCIS import statistics", and "Final bound rate of Indian industrial products and applied tariffs for the year 2001 and 2004-05 as per HS-1996 and 2002 (Tentative) concordance" to the Ministry of Commerce on May 6, 2004.

- RIS participated in the meeting on "PTA with MERCOSUR – finalisation of list of products and tariff preferences to be given by India to MERCOSUR" held in the Ministry of Commerce on May 12, 2004.
- Subsequently inputs on "Sensitivity Analysis of Indian Industrial Products on MFN Basis: An Input for Indo-Mercosur PTA" were provided to the Ministry of Commerce on May 24, 2004 for the on going negotiations on India-MERCOSUR FTA/PTA.
- Submitted notes on "India: Applied Basic Import Duty/Tariff Rates at 8-digit based on HS-2002 Classification of Non-agriculture items (Tentative)"; "INDIA: 6-digit HS-1996 Profile of Non-Agriculture items along with their Applied tariff for the year 2000-01 and Final Bound Rate (Tentative)"; and "India: List of Non-agriculture items based on 6-digit HS 1996 Classification" and "India: Applied Basic Import Duty/Tariff Rates at 8-digit based on HS-2002 Classification" to the Ministry of Commerce on June 4 and 17, 2004.

## **Dr Nagesh Kumar, Director-General**

- Made a presentation on Building an Asian Community at Second Indo-Japan Dialogue on Ocean Security, organized in New Delhi on April 5-7, 2004.

- Made a presentation at the Afro-Asia Civil Society Seminar, organized by CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economic & Environment in New Delhi on April 13-15, 2004.

- Released to the Press ESCAP's *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific - 2004* in New Delhi on April 16, 2004.

- Participated in the Meeting of Experts on Asian Regional Currency Bond Fund, organized by Planning Commission, New Delhi on April 19, 2004.

- Made a presentation on The State of Research in India on South East Asia and Suggestions for the Future, at the Seminar on Perspectives on South East Asia, organized by the Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla and co-sponsored by the School of International Studies JNU; and the Asia Project, India International Centre, in New Delhi on May 3, 2004.

- Chaired the seminar presentation on "Impact of Globalization on South Asian Economic Development" at Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi on May 3, 2004.

- Delivered a talk on "WTO-Doha/Cancun Beyond" for the participants of the Second Advanced Course on Asia for Foreign Diplomats (ACAFD) organized by the Foreign Service Institute, Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on May 5, 2004.

- Participated in the Seminar to discuss the draft of the *World Investment Report 2004*, Part Two, organized by UNCTAD in Geneva on May 24-25, 2004.

- Addressed the session on Developing Countries in a Changing Trading System - Issues and Challenges at the WTO Public Symposium on 'Doha Development Agenda: Multilateralism at a Crossroads' at the WTO Headquarters, Geneva on May 25-27, 2004. Also Made a presentation on South-South Cooperation organized by CUTS-Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment in Geneva on May 26, 2004 during the WTO's Public Symposium.

- Participated in the Discussion Meeting on Economic Development in India with Special Focus on Employment Generation, organized by Bharatiya Jnanpith, New Delhi on May 31, 2004.

- Participated in the Informal Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Research Network on Trade (ARTNET) Core Institutions, organized by UN-ESCAP in Bangkok on June 24-25, 2004.

## **Dr. Rajesh Mehta, Senior Fellow**

- Presented a paper and made a presentation on "WTO Non-agriculture Market Access Modalities: The Post Cancun Issues and Implications for Indian Industrial Tariffs" at the Workshop on Major Issues in the WTO and Implications for India, April 30 and May 1, 2004 at ASCI Hyderabad.

- Submitted a paper entitled "Regionalism and South-South Trade: India - Mercosur Trade Cooperation in Assorted Manufactured Goods" at the Pre-UNCTAD-XI: Forum on Regionalism and South-South Cooperation: The Case of India and Mercosur, Rio De Janeiro, June 9, 2004.

- Submitted a presentation "India: Regional Trading Arrangements" for UNDP-ATI (Asia Trade Initiative) - Consultative Meeting on Regional and Bilateral Trade Agreements in Asia, entitled "Bilateral and Regional Free Trade Agreements from a Human Development Perspectives" ITD, Bangkok, 25-26, June 2004.

## **Dr. K.J. Joseph, Sr. Visiting Fellow**

- Presented a paper on "The National Innovation System that made India's IT Success Possible: Are there any lessons for New ASEAN Member Countries?" in the First Asialics International Conference on Innovation Systems and Clusters in Asia: Challenges and Regional Integration, organized by NISTDA, JICA & Globalics, in Bangkok on April 1-2, 2004.

- Delivered a lecture on the "Role of ICT in Transforming Indian Economy" for the In-service Training Programme for IAS officers (17-20 years of seniority) at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie on June 30, 2004.

## **Shri S. K. Mohanty, Fellow**

- Made a presentation on the prospects of India's export in the context of changing global situation, particularly in the Post-Cancun period, in the Ministry of Commerce on April 2, 2004.

- Made a presentation on the implications of different provisions of the Marrakesh Agreement on the export prospects of India's handicraft exports in the Department of Handicraft, Ministry of Textile, on April 12, 2004.

## **Dr. Ram Upendra Das, Fellow**

- Discussant in a conference on "Development in Open Economies" organized by Jamia Millia Islamia and United Nation Conference on Trade and Development

(UNCTAD) at India International Centre, New Delhi, on April 1-3, 2004.

- Made a presentation on "Different Dimensions of SAFTA Treaty and Negotiations: A Way Ahead" at *Roundtable on SAFTA: Agenda for Trade Liberalization* organized by SCCI in cooperation with FNST and AUS Aid, April 28, 2004, Lahore.

- Participated in the meetings of the Expert Group on Preferential Rules of Origin, set up by Government of India, held on May 11, and May 21, 2004.

## **Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi, Fellow**

- Presented a paper on "The Role of Intellectual Property Rights in the equitable sharing of benefits IPR-related provisions of the CBD" at External Advisory Board (EAB) meeting on 'Genomics and Benefit Sharing with Developing Countries', organized by European Commission in Cairo on April 26, 2004.

- Presented a paper on "Trade Related Environment Issues and WTO: Options before Developing Countries" at Department of Environmental Science, C. C. S. University, Meerut on May 15, 2004.

- Panel Discussant at a workshop on 'Economic Impacts of Biotechnology,' organized by OECD, Paris, on May 26, 2004.

- Presented a paper on "Status of Biotechnology in India and Emerging Asian Cooperation in Biotechnology Statistics" at the Fifth Ad Hoc Meeting on Biotechnology Statistics, organized by OECD, Paris on 24-May 25, 2004.

- Presented a paper on "Development of Biotechnology in India: Challenges and Policy Options" at a symposium entitled The Future of India's Biotechnology and Chemical Sectors under the Indo-US High Technology Cooperation Programme organized by Asia Society in New York on June 10, 2004.

## **Shri Prabir De, Research Associate**

- Attended and presented a paper entitled "International Container Port System Concentration: How Does It Look Like", at the First Northeast Asia Logistics Conference, organized by the Inha University, South Korea held at Incheon, South Korea, during April 27-29, 2004.

- Presented a paper entitled "Trade, Infrastructure and Transaction Costs: Imperatives for Asian Economic Cooperation", at the Institute of Developing Economies (IDE-JETRO), Japan, on April 30, 2004.

# Discussion Meeting on the Agenda of UNCTAD XI

RIS organized a seminar on June 4, 2004 to discuss the agenda the Eleventh Session of UNCTAD, which was held in Sao Paulo, Brazil from June 13-18, 2004. As reported earlier in this issue, RIS has prepared a study to contribute to the agenda of UNCTAD XI. A brief version of the RIS study was issued as a *Policy Brief*.

The seminar was chaired by Prof. Muchkund Dubey, President, Council for Social Development (CSD), who has taken keen interest in the development of UNCTAD since his tenure as a Permanent Representative of India to UN. The panelists were Dr Charan Wadhwa, President, Centre for Policy Research (CPR); Mr T K Bhaumik, Senior Advisor, CII; Prof. Ashok Parthasarathi, Centre for Studies in Science Policy, School of Social Sciences, JNU; and Mr Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Director (RMTR), Ministry of Commerce, Government of India.

UNCTAD is the focal point within the United Nations System for integrated treatment of trade and development, finance, technology, investment, among other issues. It is credited for a number of initiatives in the area of trade and



(From left): Dr Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS; Dr Charan Wadhwa, President, CPR; Professor Muchkund Dubey, President, CSD; Mr T K Bhaumik, Senior Advisor, CII; and Prof. Ashok Parthasarathi, JNU.

development such as in evolving the generalized system of preferences (GSP) given by developed countries to developing countries, taming the international commodity markets, evolving the law of the sea, a set of multilaterally agreed principles for control of restrictive business practices although its attempts to bring about codes of conduct on multinational corporations did not succeed. The relevance of the organization is, if at all, more critical in the current era of globalization than in the 1960s when the organization was set up.

Prof. Dubey highlighted the important work of UNCTAD in the earlier years of its establishment and raised concerns about the erosion of its effectiveness in the recent period owing to pursuit of globalization by developed countries.

Dr Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS introduced the contents of the RIS study on the subject. The copies of the *RIS Policy Brief* were circulated among the participants who represented academia, research institutes, business and industry circles, government departments and media.

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Dr Joel Cohen, ISNAR/IBS, IFPRI/ISNAR the Netherlands; Dr. Eija Pehu, World Bank, Washington D.C.; Dr. Paul Sidhu Singh, Senior Agricultural Specialist, World Bank, New Delhi; Dr. Peter H. Chase, US State Department, Washington D.C.; Ms. Liz Fajber, International Development Research Centre, New Delhi; and Capt. K. Vishwanathan, Swiss Agency for Development & Cooperation, New Delhi were the panelists.

In the Concluding Session: Future Agenda, Dr. M.K. Bhan, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, New Delhi delivered the valedictory address. Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS; Dr. Balakrishna Pisupati, Head, Regional Biodiversity Programme, IUCN Asia; Dr. Ben Peczon, President, Coalition of Biotechnology,

The Philippines; Dr. Nares Damrongchai, APEC Center for Technology Foresight,

Thailand; and Dr. Sandhya Tewari, CII, New Delhi also addressed the concluding session.

## Editorial Board Meeting of the *ABDR*

A meeting of the Editorial Board of *Asian Biotechnology and Development Review (ABDR)* was held on April 6, 2004 at RIS, New Delhi. It was attended by board members and a large number of experts and leading commentators in the field of biotechnology as special invitees. Apart from the listed agenda the discussion covered a wide range of issues.

There was a great emphasis in the discussion on wide dissemination of the journal for which it was suggested to go for social science indexing of the journal. There was also an emphasis on making *ABDR* a peer reviewed journal as ICT has at least six such journals.

It was suggested that *ABDR* should explore funding possibilities from various sources such as Sasakawa Foundation, Pew Institute and such other agencies. There was also an idea to link up the contents of *ABDR* with ongoing projects like Biotechnology, Biodiversity Initiatives (BBI) and OECD project on collection of biotechnology statistics, which would not only internationalized the contents but also would provide financial support to the publication.

The support from UNESCO and Department of Biotechnology, Government of India was appreciated by the board.



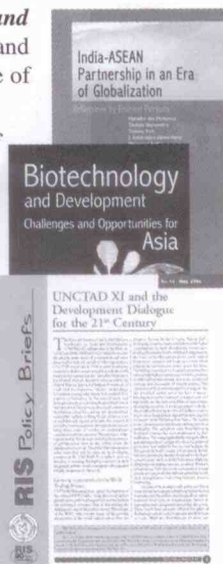
Participants of the Second Conference on Biotechnology for Asian Development: Regional Cooperation for Ensuring Access and Capacity Building, on April 7-8, 2004 in New Delhi.

# Latest Publications

## Books

**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.

**India-ASEAN Partnership in An Era of Globalization: Reflections by Eminent Persons** (Second imprint), published jointly by Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore and RIS.



## Policy Brief

**#13 UNCTAD XI and the Development Dialogue for the 21st Century**

## Discussion Papers

**#70 India-ASEAN Cooperation in Information and Communication Technologies: Issues and Prospects** by K.J. Joseph & Govindan Parayil, 2004

Against the backdrop of India-ASEAN cooperation since the early 1990s, and the recent initiatives towards taking the partnership to new heights, the present paper 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. For India, it could help diversifying its software export markets on the one hand and facilitate reviving its lagging hardware sector. Also, an exploitation of the synergies between India's software capability and the hardware capability of old ASEAN could facilitate enhancing the IT capability in Asia as a whole – a prerequisite for making 21st century Asia's century. While, a good beginning has been made at the instance of Governments and private sector, the paper calls for hastening the process and highlights certain specific areas for focused actions.

**#71 Monetary Cooperation in South Asia: Potential and Prospects** by Sweta Chaman Saxena and Mirza Allim Baig, 2004

This paper examines the potential and prospects of monetary cooperation in South Asia. A close appraisal of optimum currency area criteria, macroeconomic convergence criteria, and geo-political factors suggests that there are huge potential and growing prospects for monetary cooperation in the region. The study recognizes that monetary cooperation is essential for growth and prosperity in the region, but a lot more needs to be done to achieve the goal of monetary and economic union. The paper suggests road map on the way to the full form of monetary cooperation in the region.

**#72 National Innovation Systems and India's IT Capability: Are there any lessons for ASEAN Newcomers?** by Nagesh Kumar and K J Joseph, 2004

This paper traces the factors that have led to the build-up of substantial IT capability by India. It is shown that the National System of Innovation evolved overtime as an outcome of the policies initiated by the government, has been instrumental in facilitating India's IT success. These included, but not limited to, development of a system of higher education in engineering and technical disciplines, creation of an institutional infrastructure for S&T policy making and implementation, building centres of excellence and numerous other institutions for technology development. In addition, the institutional interventions like the setting up of the software technology parks were highly helpful for IT exports. The paper then draws lessons from the Indian experience for the new members of ASEAN, viz. Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam in their attempt in harnessing the potential of ICTs. The paper argues that though the road ahead is long as well as rocky, much could be learned from India in to facilitate their leapfrogging. The paper also underscores the need for cooperating with India in developing their IT capabilities.

**#73 ASEAN-India Economic Relations: Current Status and Future Prospects** by Rahul Sen, Mukul G. Asher and Ramkishan S. Rajan

This paper analyzes recent trends in merchandise trade, services, investments, and manpower flows between India and ASEAN, and assesses future prospects for economic cooperation. Since India's Look-East policy initiated in the early 1990s, there has been steady progress in economic cooperation and supporting institutional structures between India and ASEAN. There has also been a welcome diversification of India's trade with ASEAN both in terms of the share of individual members in total trade, and goods and services being traded. The analysis in the paper is consistent with the view that India's economic structure is largely complementary to ASEAN economies, and therefore there are significant opportunities for mutual gain. In Indian policy and business circles,

ASEAN continues to be regarded as an economically important region. The paper however argues that a mindset change is needed among ASEAN policy makers and businesses before potential for mutual gains can be fully tapped. The paper concludes with specific suggestions for expanding cooperation between India and ASEAN countries.

**#74 WTO Market Access Negotiations and Indian Small Scale Industry** by Rajesh Mehta and Pooja Agarwal

A large section of Indian small-scale industrial sector had been protected from the plundering rivalry of the large-scale industries. The ongoing trade liberalization and globalization talks can put these industries in problem. This paper assesses the implications of present round of WTO negotiations on Indian products, which are for exclusive manufacture by small-scale sector. As a first step the analyses of the Uruguay Round Commitments, Doha declaration and member countries' proposals, with special emphasis on the developing countries taking India as the case study, has been conducted. 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 has been studied. Finally the likely post negotiations scenarios for Indian small-scale industries have been presented. The study finds some interesting results. At present around 66 per cent items of Indian small-scale industry are bound, which is higher than all India level. India cannot a priori exclude any item from negotiation in the present round. Our preliminary results based on alternate scenarios proves that the WTO-NGMA formula would cause the 53 per cent reduction in the current bindings of the products reserved for the exclusive production of small-scale industry in India.

**#75 Transport Cooperation in BIMST-EC: Issues and Way Forward** by Prabir De

The major contributing factor to rising regional integration across many parts of the world has been improved integrated transport systems which has facilitated nesting of regional and/or sub-regional markets. This paper finds that the scale of intra-regional infrastructure disparity in BIMST-EC is quite significant resulting in wider scope for stronger economic interdependence in the region. The paper concludes that although at present there is limited interdependence among BIMST-EC members in terms of intra-regional trade, a stronger and desirable intra-regional trade is contingent upon improved transport network among BIMST-EC countries. This is not a difficult task as these countries not only belong to the same geographical rim but also they have a strong historical and cultural bond.

## Journal

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

**Articles:** *What Type of Competition Policy and Law Should a Developing Country Have?* by Ratnakar Adhikari and Malathy Knight-John; *India's Informal Trade with Sri Lanka and Nepal: An Estimation* by Nisha Taneja, Muttukrishna Sarvananthan, Binod K. Karmacharya and Sanjib Pohit; *The Impact of Policy Reforms on Labour Productivity, Price Cost Margin and Total Factor Productivity: The Nepalese Experience* by Kishor Sharma; *Institutions, Economic Structure and Poverty in Pakistan* by Akmal Hussain; *Agricultural Growth and Welfare: A Study on Indian States* by Atanu Sengupta, Jadab Chandra Bhattacharya and Manabendu Chattopadhyay. **Notes, Book Reviews, and Documents.**

## Outside Publications of RIS Faculty Members

Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2004. Contributed a write up on "Debate on Agri Biotechnology in India" for TERI's Annual Magazine TerraGreen.

De, Prabir. 2004. "India in the BIMST-EC: Some Issues", *India Quarterly*, Vol. LIX, Nos. 3 & 4.

Jospeh, K. J. 2004. "SMEs under Globalisation: Can ICTs Help?" *Productivity News*, Special Supplement, May.

Kumar, Nagesh. 2004. "India" in *Managing FDI in a Globalizing Economy: Asian Experiences* by Douglas H. Brooks and Hal Hill (eds.), New York: Palgrave Macmillan for Asian Development Bank.

Mehta, Rajesh. 2004. "India: State of the Economy" *The South Asian Journal*, published by Free Media Foundation and facilitated by South Asian Free Media Association (SAFMA), in April-June, No. 4, pp. 92-103.

Mehta, Rajesh. 2004. "Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures: Outstanding Implementation Concerns" *Focus WTO* special focus on "Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, May-June issue.



# Important Visitors/Delegations Received

- Mr Kipkorir Ali Rana, Deputy Director General, WTO and Mr Shishir Priyadarshi, Counsellor, WTO Secretariat on April 14, 2004.
- Mrs Adiyatwidi Adiwoyo, Executive Director and Mr Achmad Rofiie, Adviser, NAM Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation (NAM CSSTC), Indonesia on April 26, 2004.
- Prof Sun Jian Zhong, Vice President; Prof Dong Ji Bin, Vice President, Academy of Social Science; and Prof Yao Chao Cheng, Academic Dean, Faculty of International Trade; and Mr Ye Bing Xun, Director, International Cultural Exchange and Consulting Centre, Shanxi University of Finance and Economics, China on April 23, 2004 for interaction with RIS faculty members.
- Mr. Akiyama, Chairman Ship Occan Foundation; Amb. Aftab Seth, former Ambassador of India to Japan; Vice Admiral Mihir Roy, and others for discussion regarding the forthcoming India-Japan Dialogue in Tokyo, on June 3, 2004.
- Mr Raymond Z. Renfro, Director, Capacity Building and Training, Asian Development Bank Institute, Tokyo on April 20, 2004.
- Mr Peter O'Brien, Team Leader, European Union/SAARC Trade and Investment Report, Belgium on June 7, 2004.
- Mr Peter Mumford, South/SE Asia Economist, Economic Policy Department, Foreign & Commonwealth Office, London and Ms Cordelia Fernandez, Economic Adviser, British High Commission, New Delhi on June 8, 2004.
- Prof Mukul Asher, Professor, Public Policy Programme, National University of Singapore on April 1, 2004.
- Prof. Bibek Debroy (RGF) and Dr. Tamsyn Barton, DFID on May 12, 2004.
- Dr Sanjib Baruah, Centre for Northeast India, South and Southeast Asia Studies (CENISEAS), OKD Institute, Guwahati, Assam on June 1, 2004.
- Mr R. Viswanathan, Jt Secretary (ITP), Ministry of External Affairs on June 2, 2004.
- Dr K V Narasimham, Associate Professor, Rai Business School, Rai University, New Delhi on April 2, 2004.
- Ms Arati R. Jerath, former Chief of Bureau, *Indian Express* and presently with Stratkom Strategic Communications, New Delhi on April 5, 2004.
- Dr Mikyung Yun, Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP), Seoul on April 6, 2004.
- Ms Heike Baumuller of ICTSD, Geneva on April 13, 2004.
- Mr Kyu-Ock Park, Counsellor and Arnab Kumar Hazara, Economic Advisor, Embassy of the Republic of Korea, New Delhi on April 13, 2004.
- Dr. (Mrs) Vijay Katti, Chairperson, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi, April 14, 2004.
- Mr. S B Das, Secretary, Kolkata Port Trust, Kolkata on April 16, 2004
- Ms. Astuko Kamiike, Japan on April 20, 2004.
- Mr M.C. Verma, IAS (retd), Director and Mr I S Gupta, International Trade & Law Institute, New Delhi on April 27, 2004.
- Mr Anirudh Tewari, IAS, Deputy Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance on April 29, 2004.
- Ms. Cao Jing, Second Secretary, Embassy of China, May 10, 2004
- Prof Manubhai Shah, Chairman Emeritus, Consumer Education and Research Centre, Ahmedabad on May 12, 2004.
- Prof. Gurudas Das, Dept. of Economics, Northeastern Hill University, Shillong on May 14, 2004.
- Dr Rajiv Kumar, Principal Economist, East and Central Asia Department, Asian Development Bank, Manila on May 14, and June 9, 2004.
- Dr Sandeep Waslekar, President, Peace Initiatives, Mumbai on May 28, 2004
- Dr Raj Chikara, World Bank on May 28, 2004.
- Amb. C V Ranganathan, former Indian Ambassador to China, June 3, 2004.
- Mrs Pratima Dayal, Senior Economist, Asian Development Bank Indian Resident Mission, New Delhi on June 3, 2004.
- Ms Tashi Kaul, Director WTO Affairs, White & Case LLP, Washington, June 3, 2004.
- Dr Aseema Sinha, Assistant Professor, Political Science, University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA on June 9, 2004.
- Ms. Prema Gera, Programme Advisor, UNDP, June 9, 2004.
- Dr C. S. Deshpande, Executive Director, Maharashtra Economic Development Council, Mumbai and Mr S S Bhandare, Chief Executive Officer, Bombay First, Mumbai on June 23, 2004.
- Mr. Siddharth Nambiar, Member-Launch Programme, *Business & Economy*, New Delhi on June 29, 2004.

## About the RIS

The Research and Information System for the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (RIS) is an autonomous research institution established with the financial support of the Government of India. RIS is India's contribution to the fulfilment of the long-felt need of the developing world for creating a 'Think Tank' on global issues in the field of international economic relations and development cooperation. RIS has also been envisioned as a forum for fostering effective intellectual dialogue among developing countries.

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RIS' publication programme covers books, research monographs, discussion papers and policy briefs. It also publishes journals entitled, *South Asia Economic Journal*, *Asian Biotechnology and Development Review*, and *RIS Diary*.

*RIS Diary* appears in January, April, July and October. It is available from RIS or can be downloaded from RIS website.



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