



RIS Diary

— Research shaping the development agenda

Delhi Dialogue X: Strengthening India-ASEAN Maritime Cooperation



Hon'ble External Affairs Minister of India with the ASEAN Head of Delegates of the Delhi Dialogue X.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in partnership with the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS, National Maritime Foundation (NMF), New Delhi; ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta; Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Jakarta organised the 10th edition of the Delhi

Dialogue on 19-20 July 2018 in New Delhi. The theme of the 10th Delhi Dialogue was "Strengthening India-ASEAN Maritime Cooperation". Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Hon'ble External Affairs Minister of India; Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd.) and Mr. M. J. Akbar, both Minister of State for External Affairs delivered the keynote address in the Ministerial and Special Plenary

Sessions, respectively. Amb. Preeti Saran, Secretary (East) gave the inaugural address and Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS delivered the welcome address. About 300 delegates including several senior ministers from the ASEAN Member States along with senior level officials, subject experts, eminent scholars, practitioners,

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The Road to BAPA+40 through Delhi Process IV

South-South Cooperation (SSC) and recent efforts towards the conceptualization of Triangular Development Cooperation (TDC), have come a long way from their modest beginnings and have emerged as important contributors to the global development architecture. Establishment of institutions like New Development Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, and the International Solar

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H.E. President María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, Elect of the 73rd of the UNGA delivering the inaugural address at the conference.

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Distinguished panelists during the deliberations at the conference.

Alliance, bear testimony to the growing impact of the SSC in the global arena. The recent IBSA Declaration on the SSC made in Pretoria on June 4, 2018 reiterated further the principles of the SSC as the cornerstone of development cooperation by the members of the group. The forthcoming United Nations commemorative conference for the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA+40) rests on this checkered and proactive history of SSC.

To deliberate on the theoretical premise of the SSC and how to carry the process forward, RIS had jointly organized with the Ministry of External Affairs, UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), NeST and FIDC an International Conference on “South-South Cooperation and BAPA+40 – Theoretical Perspectives and Empirical Realities” on 13-14 August, 2018 at New Delhi. The focus of this conference was to strengthen theoretical nuances of SSC and expansion of the global understanding of development cooperation – its conceptual framework and relevant empirical validations. The theoretical

construct that was taken up for deliberation in this year’s Delhi Process had focused on creating a structure and an agreement on some of the non-negotiable principles of the SSC and emergence of the development compact as theoretical modeling of modalities involved in the SSC.

H.E. Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, President-Elect of the 73rd Session of the UN General Assembly delivered the inaugural address, and Prof. Amitav Acharya, Distinguished Professor, American University, Washington D.C. gave keynote address. Amb. Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS, chaired the inaugural session and Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS made the welcome remarks. Mr. Jorge Chediek, Director, UNOSSC; H.E. Mr. Daniel Chuburu, Ambassador, Embassy of the Argentina Republic, New Delhi; and Shri T. S. Tirumurti, Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India honored the conference with special remarks.

Discussions in the conference developed to evolve a new

theoretical framework for South-South Cooperation, which could evolve as either a hybrid of the monetarist and structural schools of thought or create a new approach in economics. On one side is the merging of the approaches with the monetarists strongly viewing development and growth to place with macroeconomic stability and the structuralists believing that the structure of the economy matters more in terms of building capacity of the population to undertake sustainable growth even if it is at the cost of macroeconomic stability in the short term. Either a synthesis or a new approach, the deliberations asserted that a theoretical framework should incorporate the core principles of South-South Cooperation.

The conference collectively underscored the importance of building domestic capacity as a pillar of SSC, not just for countries to take ownership of their own growth narrative but also to benefit better from both North-South, South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

During deliberations on impact assessment of SSC, two levels of analysis emerged at the macro and

micro level. The macro level analysis deals with the contributions focused on the reductions of inequalities drawing from the works of Raul Prebisch and Albert Hirschmann, in a multidisciplinary way. The micro level analysis looks at how South-South Cooperation initiatives contribute towards departmental process i.e. local conditions and the respect for various idiosyncrasies. Prominent debates within SSC look at primary questions – What should be the basis for an assessment methodology and what should be the accounting framework for SSC? These questions are not independent of each other and are often juxtaposed. The possibility of applying the principles of SSC in the impact assessment add to the opportunity to improve the initial diagnosis resulting in an improved designing of projects and deliver a more objectively rich impact assessment. To that effect, projects aligned with localised needs will allow for ownership even at the community level. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, noted that SSC works best on the level of project initiatives, drawing upon the micro level.

Availability of Development Finance at a viable rate and its various sources were also discussed. The sessions observed that trade flows are considered natural but investments are strategic and possess the potential of capacity building which is an important consideration for Southern countries. Furthermore, it is imperative for them to realise the effectiveness of local currency in international trade to address their vulnerability. The international rupee SWAP exchanges emerged as a key example. The presence or absence of conditionality is going to define the distinct nature of SSC vis-a-vis credit risk, indebtedness and financial uncertainties from other



The inaugural session of the conference in progress.

forms of development cooperation especially Official Development Assistance (ODA). Knowledge flows mark the progress of development and build capacity to improve the process inherently. Civil Society Organisations also have a major role to play in the process of SSC in setting standards and building successful linkages between the government and the private sector.

The conference opened avenues for a continued dialogue that aimed to seep into the debates at the G20 as well as the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation to be held at Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 20 to 22 March 2019. The development of the future of work, agriculture and

infrastructure were the repeated priority areas for collective Southern development, as highlighted by the G20 Sherpa and the Argentinean Ambassador. The Roundtable brought new research agendas to the fore that engaged upon the running themes of the Delhi Process IV, namely, the methodology for impact assessment and curricular pedagogical initiatives. Realising its aim, the Fourth Delhi Process most of all moved towards creating a network of policymakers, civil society and academic to bring various stakeholders towards collective action.

The detailed agenda of the Conference is available on RIS website for ready reference.



Lead panelists at the international conference on South-South Cooperation and BAPA+40.

Interactive Session with H.E. Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, President-elect of the United Nations General Assembly

An Interactive session with H.E. Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, President-Elect of the 73rd United Nations, General Assembly, was held on SDGs at New Delhi on 11 August 2018. The programme was jointly organized by RIS, Ministry of External Affairs, UN Office in New Delhi and Delhi Haat. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, welcomed all. Dr. Vidhu P. Nair, Director (UNP), Ministry of External Affairs made introductory remarks. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi also moderated interaction with Civil Society representatives. The eminent participants were: Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak, Founder, Sulabh Sanitation and Social Reform Movement; Ms. Sunanda K. Reddy, Chairperson and Consultant, Carenidhi; Ms. Meenu Vadera, Executive Director,



Presentation of the SDGs Volume on India and Sustainable Development Goals: The Way Forward to the H.E. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, President-elect of the 73rd of the UNGA.

Azad Foundation; Ms. Kavita and Mr. Gaurav Chauhan, Navdanya; and Ms. Sneha Dey, Goonj. It was followed by the special address by H.E. Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, President-Elect to UNGA.

On this occasion, RIS also presented its SDG volume-*India and Sustainable Development Goals: The Way Forward to the distinguished guests. Dr. Beena Pandey, Research Associate, RIS extended the vote of thanks.*

Second ASEAN-India Workshop on Blue Economy

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India jointly with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Viet Nam; ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta; Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Jakarta; National Maritime Foundation (NMF), New Delhi and ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS, New Delhi organised the Second ASEAN-India Workshop on Blue Economy on 18 July 2018 at New Delhi. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS delivered the Welcome Address. Opening Remarks were made by Prof. Hidetoshi Nishimura, President of ERIA and H.E. Mr. Ton Sinh Thnah, Ambassador of Vietnam to India. Keynote Address was given by Amb. Preeti Saran, Secretary (East), MEA. The workshop was attended by Head of Delegations of



Amb. Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS and Amb. Preeti Saran, Secretary (East) with the Head of Delegations.

each ASEAN Member State, Senior Officials and experts from ASEAN and India.

The objective of the workshop was to build on the discussions held

at the 1st ASEAN-India Workshop on Blue Economy, 24-25 November 2017 in Nha Trang, Viet Nam, and add on substance to the efforts towards achieving the vision of

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Role of India in Global Order

RIS, jointly with Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML); Dialogue of Civilizations Research Institute (DOC), Berlin; and Dainik Bhaskar organized a Public Lecture by Dr. Jagdish Sheth, Charles H. Kellstadt Professor of Marketing at Goizueta Business School of Emory University, Atlanta, USA, on "Role of India in Global Order" at Nehru Memorial Museum & Library, New Delhi on 3 July 2018.

Dr. Jagdish Sheth is well known for his scholarly contributions in geopolitical analysis. He has to his credit over 50 years of combined experience in teaching and research at the University of Southern California, the University of Illinois, Columbia University, MIT, and Emory University.

Dr. Vinay Prabhakar Sahasrabudhe, President, Indian Council for Cultural Relations



Launching of the Report on "India-Russia Relations in Global Context".

(ICCR), chaired the programme. It started with the welcome remarks by Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; and Shri Shakti Sinha, Director, NMML. Shri Pooran Chandra Pandey, Managing Project Director, Dialogue of Civilizations Research Institute, made introductory remarks.

Shri Deepak Dwivedi, Chairman of the Board and Chief Editor, Dainik Bhaskar, gave special remarks

On this occasion the Report on "India-Russia Relations in Global Context" brought out jointly by RIS and DOC Research Institute, was also released.

FIDC hosts Roundtable on Democratising Development Cooperation

The recent adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adds a more comprehensive framework in institutionalising development cooperation that involves multiple stakeholders. Keeping this broad scenario in view, the Forum for Indian Development Cooperation (FIDC) and RIS organized a Roundtable on "Democratising Development Cooperation through Multi-stakeholder Partnerships" on 9 August 2018 at RIS.

The programme began with welcome address by Prof Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS. Dr Rajesh Tandon, President, PRIA, chaired the session. Prof. Gulshan Sachdeva, Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Carl Gershman,



Dr. Rajesh Tandon, President PRIA chairing the Roundtable on Democratising Development Cooperation.

President, National Endowment for Democracy, USA; and Prof. Maiko Ichihara, Associate Professor, Hitotsubashi University, Japan, were the main speakers.

Prof. Seungjoo Lee, Professor, Chung-Ang University, South

Korea; and Prof. Milindo Chakrabarti, Visiting Fellow, RIS were lead discussants. The session on Democratizing Global Governance Institutions was chaired by Mr. Amar Sinha, Distinguished Fellow, RIS.

Pre-BIMSTEC Summit High Level Consultative Meeting

RIS along with the Institute for Strategic and Socio-Economic Research (ISSR) and Pavilion Group organised the pre-BIMSTEC Summit High Level Consultative Meeting in Kathmandu on 2-3 August 2018. Prof. Dr. Govind Nepal, Acting chairman, ISSR Nepal Chaired the meeting. Hon'ble Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Nepal was the Chief Guest and delivered inaugural speech. Later the group met the Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal.

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, made welcome remarks. Ms. Mashfee Binte Shams, Ambassador of Bangladesh; Mr. Manjeev Singh Puri, Ambassador of India; Ms. W. Swarnalatha Perera,



Participants with Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal, Shri Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli.

Ambassador of Sri Lanka; Mr. U. Tun Nay Lin, Ambassador of Myanmar; Prof. Dr. Bishwambher Pyakuryal, Ambassador to Sri Lanka and Maldives and Shri Piyush Srivastava, Joint Secretary (BIMSTEC and SAARC), Ministry

of External Affairs, Government of India, addressed the participants. The key recommendations of the Consultative Meeting were presented to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal, Shri Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli on 26 August 2018.

Gandhi-Mandela Legacy – Way Forward



H E Dr H N Manzini, High Commissioner designate, South African High Commission delivering the special remarks.

As a precursor to celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and 100th birth anniversary of Nelson Mandela, RIS jointly with South Africa High Commission, New Delhi, Gandhi Peace Foundation and Nehru Memorial Museum Library organised a special programme

“Gandhi-Mandela Legacy: Way Forward” on 26 September 2018 at New Delhi. The programme began with welcome remarks by Shri Shakti Sinha, Director, NMML and Shri Amar Sinha, Distinguished Fellow, RIS. Remarks were given by H E Dr H N Manzini, High Commissioner designate, South African High Commission, New

Delhi made Special Remarks on this occasion. Shri Ram Madhav, Chairman, India Foundation delivered the Keynote Address. Shri Kumar Prashant, Chairman, Gandhi Peace Foundation, who Chaired the programme also spoke on Gandhi-Mandela Legacy. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, DG, RIS extended the Vote of Thanks.

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diplomats, academicians, researchers, businessmen, business associations etc. attended the conference.

The 10th edition of the Delhi Dialogue was a two-day event, which includes Plenary and Special Plenary Session and a Ministerial Session. The Plenary session has covered major themes including social, political and economic aspects of the ASEAN-India Partnership i.e. the 3Cs of Connectivity, Commerce and Culture. The Special Plenary Session has featured a Keynote Address by the Minister of State for External Affairs of India with the Special Address of Chief Ministers of seven North Eastern States of India. The Ministerial Session has featured a Keynote address of the External Affairs Minister of India, accompanied by the Special Addresses of Head of Delegations of each ASEAN Member States and ASEAN Secretariat. The major themes included in the Plenary Sessions are Role of North East in Act East Policy with ASEAN, Strengthening Socio-Cultural Links,



Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd.), Minister of State for External Affairs, India delivering Keynote Address at the Special Plenary Session on Roundtable with Chief Ministers of North Eastern States of India at Delhi Dialogue X.

India-ASEAN Partnership and Emerging Global Order, Maritime Cooperation: A New Framework for India-ASEAN Partnership, ASEAN-India Trade, Investment and Technology, Development Cooperation, SMEs and Regional Development, Tourism Cooperation and Building Smart Cities.

The Delhi Dialogue X was ended with Valedictory Session focusing on the Way Forward. This

session was chaired by Ambassador Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS. H.E. Mr. Chutintorn Gongsakdi, Ambassador of Thailand to India delivered Special Remarks and Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Hon'ble Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, India gave a special remarks. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS extended the vote of thanks to the august dignitaries .



Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs with H.E. Mr. Chutintorn Gongsakdi, Ambassador of Thailand to India, Amb. Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS, Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, DG, RIS, Dr Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC and ASEAN delegates in valedictory session.

Pulse Revolution for Addressing Protein Malnutrition

The eleventh STIP Forum Lecture on 'Pulse Revolution for Addressing Protein Malnutrition' was delivered on 7 August 2018 by Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education & Director General, ICAR, and was chaired by Dr. Rajendra Singh Paroda, Former DG, ICAR, and Chairman, Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Science (TAAS). Prior to present position, Dr. Mohapatra held the position of Director-cum-Vice Chancellor of the prestigious Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi. And earlier to this, he worked as the Director of National Rice Research Institute (formerly CRRI), Cuttack.



Dr. Rajendra Singh Paroda, Former DG, ICAR, and Chairman, Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Science (TAAS) delivering the lecture.

Dr. Rajendra Singh Paroda is an agricultural scientist and currently serving as Chairman of the Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS). He is a former

Director General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Government of India.

Frugal Innovation for Health Care

The twelfth STIP Forum Lecture on the topic "Frugal Innovation for Health Care" was delivered by Prof. Balram Bhargava, Secretary, Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and DG, ICMR, on 10 September 2018. It was chaired by Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, Government of India, Prof. Bhargava is Professor of Cardiology at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, and serves as the Executive Director for Stanford India Biodesign Centre, School of International Biodesign (SiB).

As reported earlier, the Science Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP) Forum was set-up with the objective of promoting debate on various aspects of Science, Technology and Innovation Policy. The Forum would go beyond disciplinary boundaries by taking into account inter-sectionality of S&T and In oration. It aims to



Prof. Balram Bhargava, Secretary, Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and DG, ICMR delivering the lecture.

bridge the gap between the science and society for dissemination of scientific achievements as well as for generalizing debate of societal aspirations and promoting responsible research and innovations. The monthly lecture series has been launched to sensitize public on science, technology and

innovation policy. The collaborative Institutes are Research and Information System (RIS), The Energy Resources Institute (TERI), Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), Indo-French Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Research (CEFIPRA), Vigyan Prasar and India Habitat Centre (IHC).

RIS Participation at HLPF, 2018

RIS delegation comprising of Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General and Dr Sabyasachi Saha, Assistant Professor participated at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF), 2018 at the UN Headquarters in New York during 10-13 July 2018. The RIS delegation participated in the meetings at the HLPF jointly with the Government of India delegation lead by Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and the delegation from UN India. As part of this visit, in order to further partnership for implementation of SDGs in India and globally, particularly in the Southern countries, RIS delegation met senior officials at the Permanent Mission of India to the UN and the UN agencies. This gave RIS the opportunity to take forward the dialogue with these agencies in continuation to similar engagements during Sustainable Development Summit in 2015 and the HLPF in 2017.

RIS participated in key HLPF review meetings on "Review

of SDGs implementation: SDG 11 - Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable" and "Review of SDGs implementation: SDG 17 - Strengthening the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development". RIS team also participated in the side event on "Financing for Development: Progress and Prospects 2018". Lastly, Director General, RIS participated as a panellist in the side-event on "Capturing the impact of South-South Cooperation in the SDG era" at the UN Office on South-South Cooperation on 13 July 2018.

Official Banquet

Apart from the above engagements, Director General, RIS, Professor Sachin Chaturvedi hosted a dinner at New York on 14 July 2017 in honour of Hon'ble Shri Hardeep Singh Puri for the official Indian delegation, including the Permanent Mission of India to the UN and for partner agencies in UN and beyond in order to broaden the scope of engagement on SDGs across partner institutions from various countries and the UN agencies.

The high-level banquet was attended by Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India; H.E. President María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, President-elect of the United Nations General Assembly; Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director, UN HABITAT; Prof Arvind Panagariya, Columbia University; Amb Syed Akbaruddin, India's Ambassador & Permanent Representative to the United Nations; Amb Tanmay Lal, Deputy Permanent Representative of India to UN; Mr Yuri Afanasiev, UN Resident Coordinator for India; Mr Jorge Chediek, Director, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation; Amb Lakshmi Puri; among others. The banquet was also graced by senior officials from the Government of India, Ambassadors/Permanent Representatives from various Southern Countries and Heads/representatives from other UN divisions.

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the leaders in making progress in ASEAN-India cooperation in the maritime domain as a key facet of the ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership. The specific activities and areas where ASEAN and India can work together identified at the end of the Workshop would act as the foundation on which ASEAN and India can develop a Plan of Action to progress further in this cooperation. The outcome of the Workshop was reported

in the Ministerial Session in the Delhi Dialogue X, which was held on 19-20 July 2018 at New Delhi. The Workshop was divided into four sessions to facilitate an in-depth discussion on Blue Economy to identify specific areas where ASEAN and India can cooperate and work together. The four sessions were Blue Economy and Maritime Connectivity; Technology in Aid of Blue Economy; Development of

Blue Economy and Maritime Safety and Diplomacy, and Blue Economy.

Finally, in the valedictory session, H.E. Mr. Ton Sinh Thanh, Ambassador of Vietnam to India extended the closing remarks. Mr. Anurag Bhushan, Joint Secretary (ASEAN ML), MEA delivered the valedictory address, while Dr. Prabir De, Coordinator of AIC summarized the workshop and delivered the vote of thanks.

Capacity Building Programme

New Course on Trade and Sustainability



Participants of the ITEC Capacity Building Programme on Trade and sustainability with RIS faculty members.

RIS organized the first ITEC Course on 'Trade and Sustainability' from 9 to 20 July 2018 in New Delhi. More than 25 participants including middle level government officials, policy practitioners and academicians from different

developing countries participated in the programme.

The programme broadly covered the themes, such as Production and Trade, Regulatory Framework, Biodiversity etc. RIS faculty-members, eminent experts gave

inputs on the comprehensive perspective on these topics. The detailed agenda of the programme is available on the RIS website. The programme was coordinated by Prof. S. K. Mohany, RIS

New Course on Sustainable Development Goals



Participants of the ITEC Capacity Building Programme on SDGs with RIS faculty members.

RIS conducted the first edition of the ITEC Capacity-Building Course on the 'Sustainable Development Goals' under the auspices of Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, from 6 to 17 August 2018 at New Delhi.

More than 32 participants including middle-level government officials/diplomats, policy

practitioners and scholars from 24 countries participated in the programme.

The programme broadly covered following modules – SDGs and National Strategy; SDGs and Social Sector Issues; SDGs and Economic Development; Environmental Sustainability; Cross-cutting Issues and Means of Implementation; and

Global Partnership for SDGs and Localisation Efforts.

Besides RIS in-house faculty, eminent experts were invited to present comprehensive perspective on the topics for the benefit of participants. The detailed agenda of the programme can be accessed at RIS website.

Breakfast Seminar Series



Keeping in view the crucial developments in the ongoing round of negotiations in the RCEP, the 26th RIS Breakfast seminar was organized on 29 August 2018. The seminar focused on 'Issues in RCEP negotiations'. Mr. Rajeev Kher, currently, Distinguished Fellow at RIS and Former Commerce Secretary of India; and Amb. (Dr.) V. S. Sheshadri, Former Vice-Chairman at RIS and now with the CCI were lead speakers. Their presentations were followed by intense discussion with the participants.



The 27th Seminar in this series was held on 28 September 2018 at RIS on 'Chabahar: A Port too Far?' was presented by Mr Subhomoy Bhattacharjee, Consultant, RIS. Ambassador D.P. Srivastava, India's former Ambassador to Iran and currently Senior Fellow & Cluster Leader, Vivekananda International Foundation, New Delhi, chaired the Seminar. A large number of participants attended and also took part in the discussion. A Policy Brief has also been brought on the same topic, and has been uploaded on RIS website.

The 25th Breakfast Seminar on the topic of 'Growth and Development Models: Contemporary Perspectives' by Prof. Milindo Chakrabarti, Visiting Fellow, RIS, was held on 24 July 2018 at RIS. Prof. Pulin Nayak, former Director, Delhi School of Economics, chaired the seminar. A large number of participants benefited from deliberations.

Contributions to Outside Policy Dialogues

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi

Director General

- Participated in the third meeting of the National Panel for the formulation of the Technology led Innovation Policy organised by Department of Science & Technology on 4 July 2018 at New Delhi.
- Moderated the Panel Discussion on 'SDG 16: Follow up and Review' at the launch programme of CHRI's latest report, SDG 16 India: Mapping the Data Gap organised by Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative on 4 July 2018 at New Delhi.
- Participated in the Third Meeting of Drafting Committee of Blue Economy held at NITI Aayog on 6 July 2018 at New Delhi.
- Participated in the Panel Discussion on 'Tapping Exports: What Holds India Back' held at the Make in India Emerging Entrepreneur Summit & Awards 2018, organised by the India Today, 6 July 2018 at New Delhi.
- Participated in the Official Meeting on Review of SDGs Implementation: SDG 11 - Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable organised by the United Nations during High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on 11 July 2018 at New York.
- Participated in the meeting on Data for SDG-17 organised by the UN Office for South-South Cooperation during High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on 13 July 2018 at New York.
- Made a presentation in the session on Technology in Agriculture at the Conceptualization Meeting on Coalition for Agricultural Profitability & Sustainability (CAPS) organised by TERI on 18 July 2018 at New Delhi.
- Participated in the First meeting of the Steering Committee on Blue Economy held at NITI Aayog on 3 August 2018 at New Delhi.
- Made a presentation on 'Moving for One World: Social Connect

of Financing' at the TEDx/FMS organised by University of Delhi on 5 August 2018 at New Delhi.

- Panelist in the session on 'India's Contribution to Democracy Promotion' at the Workshop on Democratic Cooperation in Asia: India and International Perspectives organised by Brookings Institution India Centre on 10 August 2018 at New Delhi.
- Participated in the meeting of the National Committee on International Trade organised by CII on 24 August 2018 at New Delhi.
- Participated in the 4th Meeting of the Drafting Committee on National Maritime Policy organised by NIIT Aayog on 29 August 2018 at New Delhi.
- Participated as Member in the Twenty Ninth Meeting of the Board of Management, TERI School of Advanced Studies on 31 August 2018 at New Delhi.
- Participated in CII Africa Committee Meeting for the year 2018-19 organised by CII on 5 September 2018 at New Delhi.
- Panelist at the Session on 'Agricultural Trade Policy and Recent Developments' at the Indian Agriculture Outlook Forum 2018 organised by Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) on 11 September 2018 at New Delhi.
- Made a presentation on 'Role of Trade, Investment and Finance as formative factors in Strategic Neighborhood' organised by National Defence College on 14 September 2018 at New Delhi.
- Participated in the First Meeting of the Working Group on 'Logistics, Infrastructure and Shipping (including trans-shipments) held at NITI Aayog on 14 September 2018 at New Delhi.
- Panelist at the Session on National implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the G20 at the Panel on 2030 Agenda implementation by the G20 organised by DIE/ German Development Institute on 17 September 2018 at Buenos Aires.

- Panelist at the Session on 'Why G20 - Africa Cooperation Matters for Global Development' organised by DIE/German Development Institute on 17 September 2018 at Buenos Aires.
- Participated in the Discussion meeting on Elements for the outcome document of the Second United Nations High Level Conference on South-South Cooperation organised by Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Argentina on 18 September 2018 at Buenos Aires.

Prof. T. C. James

Visiting Fellow

- Participated as Panellist for sessions on Artificial Intelligence and Patents and the Curious Case of Rasagula on 10 July, 2018 in the WIPO-India Summer School organised by MNLU, Nagpur and Rajiv Gandhi National Institute for Intellectual Property Management (RGNIPM).
- Participated in the National Symposium on Creating Conducive Environment for Ayurveda Research organized by the Center for Complementary and Integrative Health, Savitribai Phule University of Pune on 18th August, 2018 and made presentations on Governance and Funding and also Social Sciences and Public Health.

Dr K. Ravi Srinivas

Visiting Fellow

- Delivered a Talk on Technology Assessment in India at TA Workshop held at Berlin on 13 September 2018.
- Made a presentation at RRI Practice Project Meeting held at Berlin on 14 September 2018.

Dr Priyadarshi Dash

Assistant Professor

- Made presentation on "Connectivity Linkages in Central Asia as Drivers of Trade and Investment promotion between India and Central Asian Countries" in Fifth India-Central Asia Dialogue

Contributions to Outside Policy Dialogues

organized by ICWA in Samarkand, Uzbekistan on September 13-14, 2018.

- Made presentation on “Trade in Local Currency” in the Delhi Process-IV on South-South and Triangular Cooperation: Theoretical Perspectives and Empirical Realities held in New Delhi on August 13-14, 2018.
- Made presentation on “Priorities in BIMSTEC” in the Panel Discussion in the Pre-BIMSTEC Summit Consultative Meeting held on August 2-3, 2018 in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Dr. Durairaj Kumarasamy

Consultant, AIC at RIS

- Made a Presentation on “Improvement in Regional Value Chain between India and Vietnam” at International Conference on India-Vietnam Strengthening Economic Ties organised jointly by Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Centre for Vietnam Studies and Embassy of the

Socialist Republic of Vietnam and Indian Council of Social Science Research at New Delhi on 26-27 July 2018.

- Participated in Roundtable Discussion on Potential Downside of Regional Connectivity in BBIN, held at the Australia High Commission in New Delhi on 14 August 2018.



Shri Amar Sinha, Distinguished Fellow, RIS speaking at the second session dealing with Afghanistan at IISS-NESA Southern Asia Security Conference held on 12-14 October 2018 at Muscat, Sultanate of Oman.

Forum for Indian Science Diplomacy

Under the RIS-NIAS joint programme on Science Diplomacy, supported by Department of Science and Technology (DST), the *Forum for Indian Science Diplomacy (FISD)* was launched on October 4, 2018. FISD endeavours to create an interface between scientists, diplomats, strategic thinkers, policy makers, business, and scholars involved in different facets of science diplomacy, for knowledge sharing. The forum attempts to redefine the Science Diplomacy narrative, in theory and practice, from the Indian perspective and the global South. In the pursuit of inclusive, sustainable and socially responsible development, Science diplomacy has an important role. Some of the current activities under FISD include RIS-NIAS joint programme on Science Diplomacy; RIS-ITEC course on Science Diplomacy; Science Diplomacy and Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) as well as other activities at RIS like Blue Economy Forum (BEF), Forum on Indian Traditional Medicine (FITM) and Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP) Forum.

FISD has a dedicated website (www.fisd.in), showcasing diverse activities and deliverables of the joint Science Diplomacy programme. The forum share resources, created in collaboration with policy makers, academicians and practitioners engaged in Science Diplomacy. It would undertake capacity building initiatives for scientists and diplomats, from India and other developing countries. Moreover, it will organise lectures, seminars, research and consultation activities to discuss issues related to Indian Science Diplomacy.

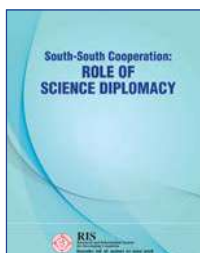
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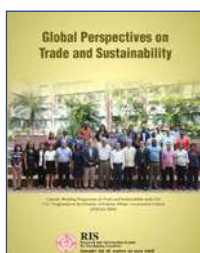
Recommendations for Fourth BIMSTEC Summit
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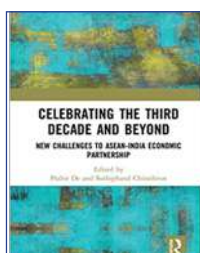
Sustainable Development Goals: Perspectives from Developing Countries
RIS, New Delhi, 2018



South-South Cooperation: Role of Science Diplomacy
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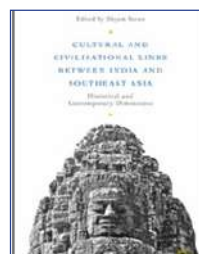
Global Perspectives on Trade and Sustainability
RIS, New Delhi, 2018



Celebrating the Third Decade and Beyond: New Challenges to ASEAN-India Economic Partnership, Edited by Prabir De and Suthiphand Chirathivat, Routledge, 2018, ISBN: 9781138484788

This book reviews the ASEAN-India relations and suggests the ways to further strengthen the economic partnership. It

primarily deals with the economic integration issues between ASEAN and India, and assesses policy priorities, effectiveness, implementation imperatives and challenges. Each chapter in this book tries to capture essential features of the crosscutting issues and attempts to draw some policy implications. It will be a valuable reference for policymakers, academics and practitioners.



Cultural and Civilisational Links between India and Southeast Asia: Historical and Contemporary Dimensions, Edited by Shyam Saran, Palgrave Macmillan 2018, ISBN: 9789811073168

The book presents the study undertaken by the ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) on India's cultural links

with Southeast Asia, with particular reference to historical and contemporary dimensions. The book traces ancient trade and maritime links, Chola Empire and Southeast Asia, religious exchanges (the Hindu, Buddhist and Islamic heritage), language, scripts and folklore, performing arts, painting and sculpture, architecture, role of the Indian Diaspora, contemporary cultural interaction, etc.



Ten Delhi Dialogues, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) - Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), 2018, ISBN: 8171221378

This book has been published to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Delhi Dialogue. This book presents a summary of all past Delhi Dialogues, and

serves as a ready reckoner for all those interested in ASEAN-India relations.

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by T.C. James and Namrata Pathak, September 2018, New Delhi

RIS DIARY

Vol. 14 No. 3, July 2018

SOUTH ASIA ECONOMIC JOURNAL

Vol. 19, No. 2 (July - December 2018)

Contributions to Outside Publications by RIS Faculty

Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2018. "Global partnership needed to achieve Sustainable Development Goals. *The Asian Age*, 9 July.

Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2018. 'Dynamics of India's development cooperation under the framework of 'Development Compact'. Financing the UN Development System: Opening Doors, United Nations MPTP Office. pp.75-78.

Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2018. 'India's Approach to Multilateralism and Evolving Global Order'. *Indian Foreign Affairs Journal*, Vol. 13 (2), April-June 2018, pp. 128-135.

De, Prabir (2018) "BIMSTEC must scale new heights", *East Asia Forum*, 25 August 2018.

Delegations received at RIS

- Dr. Justin Vaisse, Head, Policy Planning in the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in charge of Paris Peace Forum along with Mrs. Solweig Ogereau and Mr. Samantha Bonbayl, Second Counsellor, Embassy of France in India on 3 July 2018.
- Dr. Rishi Kumar Tyagi, Coordinator, Asia-Pacific Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology and Bioresources (APCoAB), Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI), Bangkok, Thailand on 26 July 2018.
- Four member delegation led by Ms. Huang Yihua, Deputy Director-General of Research Office of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC); and members included: Ms. Wang Xiaoying, Division Director, Research Office, IDCPC; Mr. Wu Hang, Second Secretary, Research Office, IDCPC on 26 September 2018.
- Delegation from the Tanzania/Mozambique Centre for Foreign Relations (CFR) on 14 August 2018. It was led by Amb. Ombeni Y. Sefue, Chairperson of the Governing Council of (CFR) and members included: H.E. Mr. Baraka H Luvanda, High Commissioner of Tanzania, New Delhi; Dr Richard Mbunda, Lecturer, Political Economy, Department of Political Science, University of Dar es Salaam; Dr. Lucy Shule, Lecturer (International Relations and Conflict Resolution), Deptt. of International Relations and Diplomacy; Mozambique/Tanzania Centre for Foreign Relations; Dr. Bernard Achiula, Deputy Director, Planning, Finance and Administration, Tanzania-Mozambique Centre for Foreign Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation participated in the discussion meeting.



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Core IV-B, Fourth Floor, India Habitat Centre
Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110 003, India., Ph. 91-11-24682177-80
Fax: 91-11-24682173-74, Email: dgoffice@ris.org.in
Website: www.ris.org.in



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The Why and How of the RCEP



Rajeev Kher

Distinguished Fellow, RIS

The ongoing negotiation for a sixteen nation Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP) is a challenge and opportunity rolled into one, for India. Forty nine percent of the World population lives in this region. The region contributes 29 percent (2013) to the global GDP and 27.2 percent (2013) to the global share of trade in goods and services. India's exports have been showing erratic performance for some years now, current account deficit has increased significantly and India admittedly, seems to have lost competitiveness in some product areas of traditional strength. Oil prices keep rising and domestic currency depreciation has caused some concern. While the latter helps our export potential, the trade balance is bound to be under pressure because of the former. Therefore, efforts to expand markets, restore competitiveness and restore certainty in trade flows is an imperative for the Government. China has been reported to be vacating the low technology-low wage areas of manufacturing and is moving upwards in terms of the technology content of its products and services, facilitating greater value realization from its exports. In such circumstances an opportunity is being created for India and some other developing countries and RCEP comes as an important tool to fructify this opportunity before India.

India's present trade architecture with the RCEP countries can be divided into two segments. Those countries with whom India has a bilateral trade agreement and those with whom India does not have such agreements. India has trade agreements with all except China, New Zealand and Australia. India and China are also part of another regional preferential trading arrangement – the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA). This agreement is much less ambitious and focusses on tariffs alone. Besides, other members are some developing countries and some LDCs. This agreement, to respond to global challenges, must expand its membership to include members such as Iran and Central Asia and deepen its provisions to include disciplines on non-tariff issues. Therefore, RCEP is the only available mechanism for India to setup a rules-based framework for trading with China. In a purely geo-political context much is happening in this region by way of strategic cooperation. It is well-nigh impossible to perceive a situation where a country of India's size, ambition and economic heft keeps itself out of such a formation. Because of the aforesaid reasons India must continue to participate in the ongoing RCEP negotiations and pursue an aggressive agenda to address some of the outstanding issues of concern.

RCEP also provides an opportunity to take a comprehensive look at our domestic policies. Just as the industry is wary of the RCEP, Government Departments responsible for economic sectors, are equally resistant in committing themselves to potential reforms, which will be triggered by RCEP. It would require negotiating skills of high order and commitment not just in the Department of Commerce but across all other departments relevant for the purpose, besides other non-government stake-holders, particularly the industry. The region, besides India, comprises 15 economies of which at least 11 are well-integrated in the global economy. They all have significant focus on international trade, substantially participate in regional and global value chains, and are well-integrated among themselves. The above arguments establish the compelling need for India to join RCEP. It can also open several market opportunities and help bring discipline on undesirable aspects of China's Trade Policy. The Government's continued pursuit of reform and sustained respectable rates of growth, raise a certain confidence in the capacity of Indian economy to be able to bear the transformative disturbance that joining the RCEP might cause.

Further, experience shows that Indian industry has responded to challenges valiantly and come out successfully from such challenges in the past. Therefore, sector after sector needs to take a critical view of itself to re-invent its competitive strengths. In view of the initial pressures that RCEP may potentially bring on some sectors, the negotiations will have to find ways of accommodating such sectors so that some amount of protection is available during the course of implementation of the RCEP. A large part of the negotiations so far has centered around the tariffs. In the initial phase parties began with two categories of tariffs for FTA and non-FTA partners, respectively. India's concerns have to some extent been accommodated now by the introduction of the concept of 80 per cent \pm 6 which implies that for FTA partners, the coverage of tariff reduction/elimination would be 80 to 86 per cent, whereas for non-FTA partners the coverage could be 74 to 80 per cent of tariff lines. Within this understanding India needs to carve out a course for itself so that the objective of integration, liberalization and concurrent short term protection of weaker segments of industry, is achieved.

Needless to say, a trade agreement is only a commercial contract among parties and they are free to include any provisions which serve the objectives behind the agreement as long as they do not conflict with the international law. Therefore, it offers immense flexibility of form and content depending upon the capacity and will of the parties involved. RCEP has the potential to be a game changer for India but requires rigorous background work and craftsmanship.

Excerpted from the RIS Policy Brief No. 84, October 2018, prepared by Mr Rajeev Kher, Distinguished Fellow, RIS. Formerly Secretary, Government of India.