



International Conference

Mekong – India Cooperation: *Linking Markets, Fostering Trade*

in collaboration with
Institute of Foreign Policy Studies (IFPS)
Calcutta University, Kolkata

supported by
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC, Bern

The Oberoi Grand, Kolkata
23-24 June 2011

Agenda

Day I: 23 June 2011

09.00 - 09.30	Registration
09.30 – 10.15	Inaugural Session
09.30 – 09.35	Welcome address by Dr. Prabir De, Fellow, RIS
09.35 – 09.45	Special address by Dr. Biswajit Dhar, Director General, RIS
09.45 – 09.55	Address by Mr. Michel Gressot, Senior Adviser, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC, Bern
09.55 – 10.10	Inaugural address by Shri Shyamal Kumar Sen, Formerly Governor of West Bengal, Chief Justice of Uttar Pradesh, and Chairperson, West Bengal Human Rights Commission
10.10 – 10.15	Vote of thanks by Dr. Shantanu Chakrabarti, Reader, University of Calcutta, & Convenor, Academic Committee, IFPS, Kolkata
10.15 – 10.30	Tea / coffee break
10.30 - 11.45	Working Session I: Promoting Economic Cooperation between India and Mekong: Opportunities and Challenges [Panel discussion] Chair: Dr. Biswajit Dhar, Director General, RIS
10.30 – 10.45	Ambassador Alok Sen, Kolkata
10.45 – 11.00	Dr. Mia Mikic, Economic Affairs Officer, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Bangkok
11.00 – 11.15	Mr. Sunanda K Datta-Ray, Former Editor, The Statesman, Kolkata, and Visiting Senior Fellow, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore
11.15 – 11.30	Mr. Michel Gressot, Senior Adviser, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC, Bern
11.30 – 11.45	Q&A, and Wrapping –up by Chair
11.45 – 13.00	Working Session II: Mekong – India Trade: Prospects and Challenges Chair: Prof. Suthiphand Chirathivat, Dean, Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok
11.45 – 12.05	<i>Challenges and Prospects of Trade between Mekong and India</i> , by Dr. Amita Batra, Associate Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi

12.05 – 12.15	Discussant: Dr. Bibek Ray Chaudhury, Assistant Professor, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), Kolkata
12.15 – 12.35	<i>Bilateral Relations, Trade Flows and Regional Growth: A Study on Trade Relations of China and India with Mekong Region</i> by Dr. Dibyendu Maiti, Assistant Professor, Institute of Economic Growth (IEG), New Delhi
12.35 – 12.45	Discussant: Dr. Partha Pratim Pal, Associate Professor, Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Kolkata
12.45 – 13.00	Q&A, Wrapping-up by Chair
13.00 – 13.45	Lunch break
13.45 – 15.15	Working Session III: Connecting India and Mekong: Trade Facilitation for Regional Economic Integration Chair: Prof. Ajitava Raychaudhuri, Jadavpur University, Kolkata
13.45 – 14.05	<i>Bilateral trade costs and trade facilitation</i> , Dr. Yann Duval, Economic Affairs Officer, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Bangkok
14.05 – 14.15	Discussant: Dr. Saikat Sinha Roy, Associate Professor, Jadavpur University, Kolkata
14.15 – 14.35	<i>Mekong – India economic corridor</i> , Dr. Prabir De, Fellow, RIS, New Delhi
14.35 – 14.45	Dr. Nguyen Huy Hoang, Deputy Director-General, Institute for Southeast Asian Studies, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences, Ha Noi
14.45 – 15.00	Q&A, and Wrapping-up by Chair
15.00 – 15.15	Tea / coffee break
15.15 – 16.15	Working Session IV: Mekong – India Cooperation: Cambodia Perspective Chair: Prof. J K Ray, Former Chairman, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS), and Research Coordinator, IFPS, Kolkata
15.15 – 15.45	Presentation of theme paper by Mr. Sorin Sok, Fellow, Cambodia Peace Research Institute (CPRI), Phnom Penh
15.45 – 16.00	Discussant: Mr. Sanjay Pulipaka, Fellow, MAKAIAS, Kolkata
16.00 – 16.15	Q&A, and Wrapping-up by Chair
16.15 – 17.15	Working Session V: Mekong – India Cooperation: Lao PDR Perspective Chair: Prof. Tridib Chakraborty, Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University, Kolkata
16.15 – 16.45	Presentation of theme paper by Dr. Leebouapao, Director General, National Economic Research Institute (NERI), Vientiane, Lao PDR
16.45 – 17.00	Discussant: Dr. Shantanu Chakrabarti, Calcutta University, Kolkata
17.00 – 17.15	Q&A, and Wrapping-up by Chair
19.00	Dinner [by invitation]

Day II: 24 June 2011

09.30 – 10.30	Working Session VI: Mekong – India Cooperation: Thailand Perspective
	Chair: Prof. O P Mishra, Jadavpur University, and Secretary, Global India Foundation, Kolkata
09.30 – 10.00	Presentation of theme paper by Dr. Chayodom Sabhasri, Associate Professor, Chulalongkorn University, and Prof. Suthiphand Chirathivat, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok
10.00 – 10.15	Discussant: Dr. Lipi Ghosh, Professor, Dept. South and Southeast Asian Studies, Calcutta University, Kolkata
10.15 – 10.30	Q&A and Wrapping-up by Chair
10.30 – 10.45	Tea/Coffee Break
10.45 – 11.45	Working Session VII: Mekong – India Cooperation: Vietnam Perspective
	Chair: Prof. Bhaskar Chakraborty, Calcutta University, Kolkata
10.45 – 11.15	Presentation of theme paper by Dr. Nguyen Huy Hoang, Deputy Director General, Institute for Southeast Asian Studies, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences, Ha Noi
11.15 – 11.30	Discussant: Dr. Kingshuk Chatterjee, Dept. of History, Calcutta University, Kolkata
11.30 – 11.45	Q&A and Wrapping-up by Chair
11.45 – 13.00	Working Session VIII: Emerging Areas of Mekong–India Cooperation
	Chair: Dr Mia Mikic, UNESCAP, Bangkok
11.45 – 12.05	<i>Harnessing Southern Capabilities for Addressing Southern Problems: Prospects for India-Mekong Cooperation in Information & Communication Technology</i> , by Prof. K J Joseph, Centre for Development Studies (CDS), Trivandrum
12.05 – 12.15	Discussant: Mr. Suparno Maitra, Head (Eastern Region), NASSCOM, Kolkata
12.15 – 12.35	<i>Current Status of Vietnam's Bio-industry and Prospects for India-Vietnam Collaboration</i> , by Dr. Vu Nguyen Thanh, Associate Professor, Food Industries Research Institute (FIRI), Ha Noi
12.35 – 12.45	Discussant: Mr. Rajneesh Kumar Gaur, Scientist, Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, New Delhi
12.45 – 13.00	Q&A and Wrapping-up by Chair
13.00 – 13.45	Lunch break
13.45 – 14.15	Special Address by Prof. Saugata Roy, Hon'ble Minister of State for Urban Development, Government of India
14.15 – 15.45	Working Session IX: Indian Investment in Mekong: Drawing a Business Facilitation Agenda
	Chair: Dr. Sailendra Narain, Chairman, CESMED, Mumbai
14.15 – 14.30	<i>Product and Market Opportunities in Mekong Region</i> , Prof. K Rangarajan, Head, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) Kolkata
14.30 – 14.45	<i>India – Mekong Business Potentials and Investment Opportunities</i> , Dr. Siddhartha Roy, Economic Adviser, Tata Group, Mumbai
14.45 – 15.00	<i>India – Vietnam Cooperation in Higher Education</i> , by Prof. Dr. Vo Van Sen, President, University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Ho Chi Minh City

15.00 – 15.15	<i>Investment Opportunities in Vietnam</i> , by Mr. Le Hung Quoc, President, Ho Chi Minh City Union of Friendship Organizations (HUFO), Ho Chi Minh City
15.15 – 15.30	<i>MDEC and India - Vietnam Trade and Investment Opportunities</i> , by Dr. Trinh Minh Anh, Dy. Director General, National Committee for International Economic Cooperation (NCIEC), Ha Noi
15.30 – 15.45	Q&A and Wrapping-up by Chair
15.45 – 16.00	Tea/Coffee break
16.00 – 17.30	Working Session X: Panel Discussion on Future Directions of Mekong – India Cooperation Chair: Ambassador Krishnan Srinivasan, Former Foreign Secretary, Government of India
16.00 – 16.15	Mr. Sorin Sok (Cambodia)
16.15 – 16.30	Dr. Leebouapao (Lao PDR)
16.30 – 16.45	Prof. Suthiphand Chirathivat (Thailand)
16.45 – 17.00	Dr. Nguyen Huy Hoang (Vietnam)
17.00 – 17.15	Dr. Biswajit Dhar (India)
17.15 – 17.30	Q&A and Wrapping-up by Chair
17.30 – 18.00	Valedictory Session
17.30 – 17.45	Valedictory address by Prof. Suranjan Das, Vice-Chancellor, Calcutta University, and Director (Hony.), IFPS, Kolkata
17.45 – 18.00	Summary of Conference and Vote of Thanks by Dr. Prabir De