

Major Event

Delhi Dialogue VIII - 'ASEAN-India Relations: A New Paradigm' 17-19 February 2016, New Delhi



Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Hon'ble External Affairs Minister, Government of India with other dignitaries of ASEAN countries at the Delhi Dialogue-VIII.

Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Hon'ble External Affairs Minister, Government of India inaugurated the three-day Delhi Dialogue VIII on 17-19 February 2016 at New Delhi, on the theme "ASEAN-India Relations: A New Paradigm". The Dialogue was organised by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), in partnership with the Institute for Defense Studies and Analyses (IDSA); ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS; the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI); Confederation of Indian Industry (CII); All India Association of Industries (AIAI); Indian

Chamber of Commerce (ICC). Political leaders, policy makers, senior officials, business leaders, think tanks, academics from India and ASEAN were participated in this three-day event.

The Delhi Dialogue VIII was broadly divided into three sessions viz. Business Sessions, Ministerial Sessions and Academics Sessions, to facilitated the debate on various aspects on ASEAN - India relations. Some of the panel discussions held during the event were on 'Co-Manufacturing: Creating Manufacturing Value Chains', 'What Do Mega Trade Blocs - RCEP and TPP mean for ASEAN and

India', 'Infrastructure and Sustainable Energy for realizing India ASEAN Economic Integration', 'Promoting Cross-Border Trade with ASEAN: Capitalizing on Comparative Advantage', 'ASEAN-India Cooperation in Start-ups and Digitization', 'ASEAN and the Securities of Asia-Pacific', 'ASEAN-India Ocean Economy Dynamics' and 'Reinvigorating the Civilizational Links'.

The Academic Session focused on themes ranging from the Security of the Asia-

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Pacific, including the threat from extremism; the Ocean Economy Dynamics; Reinvigorating the Civilisational Links; and the Way Forward for ASEAN-India Relations. Amb. Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East), MEA gave a Keynote Address at the Academic Session.

AIC at RIS organised the session on 'Reinvigorating the Civilizational Links' that deliberated on issues like ASEAN and India historical and cultural links, tracing cultural routes, preserving historical and archaeological valuable things and maintaining cultural heritage.



Group Photo, Delhi Dialogue VIII, 18 February 2016, New Delhi.

Ambassador Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS chaired the session. Prof. Himanshu Prabha Ray, Former Chairperson, National Monuments Authority, Ministry of Culture, New Delhi,

Mr. Eddin Khoo, Founder Director of Pusaka Foundation, Malaysia, Prof. Baladas Ghoshal, Secretary General and Director (Academic), Society for Indian Ocean Studies (SIOS), New Delhi, Mr. Sachidanand Sahai, Advisor, Preah Vihear National Authority, Royal Government of Cambodia, & UNESCO Expert for the Archaeological Complex of Sambor Prei Kuk, Cambodia were the panelists.

Prof. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC spoke at the Penultimate Session (Way Forward: Towards 25th Anniversary of ASEAN-India Relations), which was chaired by Amb. Gopinath Pillai, Ambassador-at-large for the Government of Singapore and Chairman of Management Board of the Institute of South Asian Studies, Singapore.



(From left to right) Prof. Sachchidanand Sahai, Advisor, Preah Vihear National Authority, Royal Government of Cambodia & UNESCO Expert for the Archaeological Complex of Sambor Prei Kuk, Cambodia. Prof. Baladas Ghosal, Secretary-General, Society for Indian Ocean Studies and Former Professor and Chair of Southeast Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi. Amb. Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS. Prof. Dr. Himanshu Prabha Ray, Former Chairperson, National Monuments Authority, Ministry of Culture, New Delhi. Mr. Eddin Khoo, Founder Director of Pusaka Foundation, Malay-

ASEAN-India Capacity Building Programme

Fifth Workshop on Regional Cooperation and Integration

9-11 May 2016, UMFCCL, Yangon

Under the Building Trade and Investment Capacity in Myanmar, AIC at RIS in collaboration with the Centre for Economic and Social Development (CESD)

Yangon; Myanmar Ministry of Commerce; and Asia-Pacific Training and Research Network (ARTNeT), United Nations Economic and Social Commission

for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Bangkok, organised the 5th training workshop on "Regional Cooperation and

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and Integration” in Yangon, Myanmar from 9 to 11 May 2016. This training programme was targeted for the Myanmar officials and researchers from various government offices, research institutes and universities, etc. H.E. Soe Win, Dy. Director General, Myanmar Ministry of Commerce made the Opening Speech, followed by remarks of Dr Thomas Bernhardt, CESD, Dr. Mia Mikic, Chief, Trade Policy Section, Trade Policy and Analysis - Trade, Investment and Innovation Division (TIID), ESCAP, Bangkok; Dr. Sunil Mitra, Chairman, IPE-Global, New Delhi; Mr. Yu Yu Naing, Private Sector Development Adviser, Department for International Development (DFID), Myanmar and Dr. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC at RIS.

Dr. Mia Mikic conducted the first session on ‘Trade theory and regional integration’. Second session was conducted by Prof. Ajitava Raychaudhuri, Department of Economics, Jadavpur University, Kolkata on ‘Regional integration in the world: Political and economic dimensions’.

Sixth Workshop on Trade Facilitation: Global Agenda and Regional Priorities, 12-13 May 2016, UMFCCI, Yangon

Under the Building Trade and Investment Capacity in Myanmar, AIC at RIS in collaboration with the Centre for Economic and Social Development (CESD), Yangon; Myanmar Ministry of Commerce; and Asia-Pacific Training and Research Network (ARTNeT), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Bangkok organised the 6th training workshop on “Trade Facilitation: Global Agenda and Regional Priorities”



Group Photo, Fifth Training Workshop on Regional Cooperation and Integration, Yangon,

Dr. Sjamsu Rahardja, Senior Economist, Trade and Competitiveness, The World Bank, Yangon conducted the third session on ‘Regional trade agreements in the context of Myanmar’s development strategy’. Day 1 was concluded with the forth session on ‘Principles and modalities of regional integration: Contrasting stories of ASEAN and BIMSTEC’ by Prof. Ajitava Raychaudhuri. On Day 2, Dr. Mia Mikic conducted three sessions, namely, ‘WTO and regional integration (including a demonstration of the WTO RTA database and ESCAP APTIAD)’, ‘Features of RTAs in Asia and the Pacific’,

and ‘Mega-regionals in Asia [TPP, RCEP, EAEU]’. The last session ‘Myanmar in regional and sub-regional initiatives’ was conducted by Prof. Prabir De.

On the last day of the workshop, Dr. Thomas Bernhardt, Researcher and Policy Analyst, Myanmar Centre for Economic and Social Development (CESD), Yangon conducted the session on ‘Global value chains and preferential trade agreements’. Thereafter, a session was devoted on ‘Databases and analysis’, demonstrated by Prof. Prabir De. The workshop was concluded with the group exercises and issuance of certificates to the participants.

in Yangon, Myanmar from 12 to 13 May 2016. This training programme was targeted for the Myanmar officials and researchers from various government offices, research institutes and universities, private sector, etc. H.E. Soe Win, Dy. Director General, Myanmar Ministry of Commerce made the Opening Address, followed by Remarks of Prof. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC, Dr. Tangfei Wang, Economic Affairs Officer, Trade Facilitation Unit, Trade, Invest-

ment and Innovation Division (TIID), ESCAP, Bangkok and Dr. Thomas Bernhardt, Researcher and Policy Analyst, Myanmar Centre for Economic and Social Development (CESD), Yangon.

Prof. Prabir De conducted the first session on ‘Why trade facilitation?’, while the second and third sessions were conducted by Tangfei Wang on ‘Analyzing trade processes and

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Group Photo, Sixth Training Workshop on Trade Facilitation, Yangon, Myanmar

and procedures: Business Process Analysis (BPA)' and 'Measuring trade facilitation performance: Trade and transport facilitation monitoring

mechanism (TTFMM)', respectively. Capt. Aung Khin Myint, Chairman, Myanmar International Freight Forwarders Association and

Chairman, GMS Freight Transport Association (GMS FRETA), Yangon, conducted the fourth session on 'Business Process Analysis (BPA) of trade procedures in Myanmar'.

On the last day of the workshop, Prof. Prabir De conducted two sessions, namely, 'Trade facilitation in multilateral and regional arrangements' and 'Demonstration of trade facilitation databases and analysis'. The workshop was concluded with the group exercises and issuance of certificates to the participants.

Meeting with Dy. Secretary General, ASEAN Secretariat 17 February 2016, New Delhi

Amb. Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS and Prof. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC had a breakfast meeting with H.E. Dr. AKP Mochtan, Dy. Secretary General (DSG) for Community and Corporate Affairs (CCA), ASEAN Secretariat on 17 February 2016 at New Delhi. The DSG for CCA assists ASEAN SG and he is responsible for providing strategic direction and guidance on research, public affairs and outreach programmes for the ASEAN Community. Amb. Shyam Saran briefed the DSG about the AIC activities and research projects being undertaken at AIC. Both the sides also discussed the opportunities of further collaboration between ASEAN Secretariat and AIC.

Visit of ASEAN Journalists, 18 February 2016, New Delhi

A group of 20 journalists of ASEAN countries visited the AIC on 18 February 2016. The interaction was organized by the XP Division, MEA. Mr. Vikash Swarup, Joint Secretary XP Division, MEA gave an opening remarks. Amb. Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS presented an overview of the ASEAN-India strategic partnership and the changing dynamics of Indian foreign policy. Activities of the AIC were also briefed to the visiting journalists. Amb. Saran also answered the questions raised by the visiting journalists. Vote of Thanks was given by Prof. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC and Mr. Masakui, Director, XP Division, MEA.



Group Photo, ASEAN Journalists with Amb. Shyam Saran

ASEAN Connectivity 2025 Symposium

6 – 7 April 2016, Jakarta

AIC attended the ACCC Seminar on ASEAN Connectivity 2025, which was held at Jakarta on April 6, 2016. Amb. Suresh Reddy, Indian Ambassador to ASEAN and EAS; Mr. Rakesh Upadhaya (First Secretary) and Mr. Srivastava (Second Secretary) were also participated in the interactions. The objective of the symposium was to inform stakeholders about the proposed ASEAN Connectivity 2025 vision, strategy, objectives and initiatives; to solicit input from the stakeholders on the above areas; to allow stakeholders to share their current programs and future priorities in each area and to engage stakeholders on key implementation challenges. The Lao Ambassador to ASEAN gave the opening remarks. Prof. Prabir De presented an overview of India's engagement with ASEAN in trade, development of connectivity, and trade facilitation.



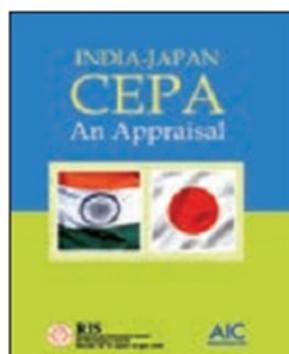
(L to R) Mr D K Srivastava (Second Secretary); Mr Rakesh Upadhayay (First Secretary); Amb. Suresh Reddy; Dr Prabir De attending the ASEAN Connectivity Symposium 2025

Publications



ASEAN-India Air Connectivity Report, AIC - RIS, 2016

AIC at RIS published a Report titled “ASEAN-India Air Connectivity Report”. The Report addresses the issues and challenges concerning the air connectivity between India and ASEAN, especially relating to air cargo that would help to unlock the trade potential of the region by removing constraints and bottlenecks to growth. It also provides a set of recommendations to strengthen air connectivity between India and ASEAN, and enhance economic integration between ASEAN and India.



India-Japan CEPA: An Appraisal of Progress, V S Seshadri, AIC-RIS, 2016

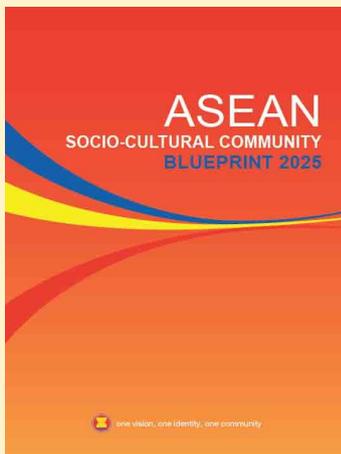
AIC at RIS published a Report titled “India-Japan CEPA: An Appraisal of Progress”. Ambassador V.S. Seshadri was the lead investigator and author of the Report, which was funded by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. This Report reviews the implementation of the CEPA and examines the scope for improvement in its implementations and makes specific recommendations.

Forthcoming Publication

Celebrating the Third Decade and Beyond: New Challenges to ASEAN-India Economic Partnership by Prabir De and Suthiphand Chirathivat (eds.), 2016

India and ASEAN are going to celebrate the 25 years of Dialogue Partnership and 15 years of Summit Partnership in 2017. The challenge is to justify that ASEAN and India have become pivotal for each other (as declared) and to translate this ambition into a political asset. This volume, edited by Prof. Prabir De and Prof. Suthiphand Chirathivat, presents a dozen of freshly written research papers to analyse new challenges to ASEAN-India economic partnership. In one hand, it deals with economic issues such as trade, investment and connectivity, while, on the other, this volume analyses the socio-political and cultural aspects of the ASEAN-India partnership. For further information, please contact prabirde@hotmail.com

ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025



ASEAN's socio-economic progress in these two and a half decades is heralded by remarkable human and sustainable development. At the heart of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) is the commitment to lift the quality of life of its peoples through cooperative activities that are people-oriented, people-centred, environmentally friendly, and geared towards the promotion of sustainable development. The ASCC 2025 opens a world of opportunities to collectively deliver and fully realise human development, resiliency and sustainable development as we face new and emerging challenges together.

The ASCC's strategy and planning mechanism, the ASCC Blueprint, was substantially implemented from 2009 to 2015 and was shown to be effective in developing and strengthening the coherence of policy frameworks and institutions to advance Human Development, Social Justice and Rights, Social Protection and Welfare, Environmental Sustainability, ASEAN Awareness, and Narrowing the Development Gap. More concretely, the ASCC has helped to heighten commitment in the form of policy and legal frameworks, such as the Declaration on Non-Communicable Diseases in ASEAN and the Declaration on Elimination of Violence Against Women and Elimination of Violence Against Children in ASEAN.

The region has also shown collective will, for example, in offering quick, tangible action in humanitarian assistance through the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance (AHA Centre). Underlying these initiatives are important development outcomes spurring social changes in the region: the proportion of people living on less than USD1.25 per day fell from one in two persons to one in eight persons in the last two decades; the net enrolment rate for children of primary school age rose from 92 percent in 1999 to 94 percent in 2012; proportion of seats held by women in parliaments increased from 12 percent in 2000 to 18.5 percent in 2012; maternal mortality per 100,000 live births fell from 371.2 in 1990 to 103.7 in 2012; and the proportion of urban population living in slums decreased from 40 percent in 2000 to 31 percent in 2012. The Report is available at: http://asean.org/?static_post=asean-socio-cultural-community-blueprint-2025

Research Projects: Ongoing

<p>Exploring Closer Economic Cooperation with East and South East Asia</p>	<p>AIC has undertaken this study with support of the MEA. This study attempts to analyze, among others, the scopes and opportunities in India's closer economic cooperation with East and Southeast Asia.</p>
<p>Assessing Impacts of Economic Corridors</p>	<p>The study develops an economic geography model to be tested with sub-national data, and assesses the impact of economic (transport) corridors in India with special reference to Indian states in terms of growth. Four important corridors, connecting India with eastern neighbours, have been selected, namely, (i) BCIM-Economic Corridor, (ii) East-West Corridor (part of Golden Quadrilateral project), (iii) Trilateral Highway, and (iv) Kalandan multimodal transit transport project. The study is ongoing.</p>
<p>Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) in ASEAN-India Trade</p>	<p>The study analyses the NTMs faced by India in ASEAN and ASEAN in India in select products. Out of 16 NTMs, it considers the major ones, namely, SPS and TBT. The study is based on both primary and secondary data. The study is ongoing.</p>
<p>Emerging Production Networks between India and ASEAN</p>	<p>This study explores India's integration process, especially in manufacturing sectors viz. machinery, electrical & optical products and automobile sector including parts and accessories to start with. Special attention on these sectors stem not only from the fact that they are among key trading sectors between India and ASEAN but this also because these are few important sectors among others where IPN building process as a result of FTA carries emphatic impact for SME's. This study explores the possibilities to build cross-border networks within those industries on which the India has manufacturing capacities and complementarities that match with the demand or supply capacity of ASEAN and vice versa. Besides, this study also makes an attempt to identify the challenges in building the production networks. In particular, the study identifies the gaps in connectivity and trade facilitation in promoting the production networks between ASEAN and India, and provides the possible remedies.</p>

Forthcoming Events – *Dates for Your Diary*

- ◆ 1st Policy Dialogue on Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC), September/October 2016, India
- ◆ 5th Roundtable of ASEAN-India Network of Think-Tanks (AINTT), November 2016, Indonesia
- ◆ 2nd EAS Conference on Maritime Security and Cooperation, November 2016, India
- ◆ 2nd International Conference on ASEAN-India Civilizational Links, December 2016, Indonesia.
- ◆ 1st EAS Conference on Disaster Risk Management and Emergency Response, January 2017, India

About RIS

Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), a New Delhi based autonomous think-tank under the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, is an organization that specializes in policy research on international economic issues and development cooperation. RIS is envisioned as a forum for fostering effective policy dialogue and capacity-building among developing countries on international economic issues. The focus of the work programme of RIS is to promote South-South Cooperation and assist developing countries in multilateral negotiations in various forums. RIS is engaged in the Track II process of several regional initiatives. RIS is providing analytical support to the Government of India in the negotiations for concluding comprehensive economic cooperation agreements with partner countries. Through its intensive network of policy think tanks, RIS seeks to strengthen policy coherence on international economic issues. For more information please visit www.ris.org.in

About AIC

Considering the work of the ASEAN-India Eminent Persons Group (AIEPG), and its Report with recommendations for forging a closer partnership for peace, progress and shared prosperity, the Heads of the State/Government of ASEAN and India at the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit 2012, held at New Delhi on 19-20 December 2012, recommended the establishment of ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) using existing resources at New Delhi. AIC was formally inaugurated by the Honourable External Affairs Minister of the Government of India on 21 June 2013.

AIC serves as a resource centre for ASEAN Member States and India to fill the knowledge gaps that currently limit the opportunities for cooperation. The AIC is closely working with both the ASEAN Divisions of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to undertake and disseminate policy research and provide analytical policy recommendations. For more information please visit <http://aic.ris.org.in>



Contact Us

ASEAN-India Centre
Research and Information System of Developing Countries
Zone-IV-B, Fourth Floor, India Habitat Centre,
Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110003 India, Ph. +91-11-24682177-80
Fax: +91-11-24682173-74. Email: aic@ris.org.in
Visit our website at: <http://aic.ris.org.in>

Other Web links



<http://www.ris.org.in>



Ministry of External Affairs
Government of India

<http://www.mea.gov.in>



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Editor: Prof. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC

Managing Editor: Dr. Durairaj Kumarasamy, Consultant, AIC