Sixth Conference on Asian Economic Integration: Agenda for East Asia Summit

New Delhi, 12-13 November 2007

RIS organized a High-Level Conference on ‘Asian Economic Integration: Agenda for the East Asia Summit’ in collaboration with the Institute of South East Asian Studies (ISEAS), Singapore; and the Institute of Developing Economies (IDE)/JETRO, Tokyo, and supported by the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF), Tokyo on 12-13 November 2007 in New Delhi. The Conference was aimed at contributing to the process of regional economic integration in Asia and to provide inputs for the Third East Asia Summit (EAS), held in Singapore on 21 November 2007 with leaders of 10 ASEAN countries, Japan, China, South Korea, India, Australia and New Zealand.

The Conference was Sixth in a series of the High-Level Conferences on the subject launched by RIS in March 2003 and conducted in collaboration with other think-tanks in Asian countries. The previous Conferences have been held in New Delhi (March 2003), Tokyo (November 2004), and Taiyuan, P.R. of China (September 2005), New Delhi (November 2005) and Singapore (2006).

Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs, Government of India inaugurated the conference at a session chaired by Dr. Arjun Sengupta, Member of Indian Parliament and Chairman, RIS. Hon’ble Mr. Mukherjee also released the book Asia’s New Regionalism and Global Role – Agenda for the East Asia Summit, brought jointly by RIS and ISEAS, Singapore. Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS; Ambassador K. Kesavapany, Director, ISEAS, Singapore; Dr. Arjun Sengupta, M.P. and Chairman, RIS; Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, Hon’ble Minister of External Affairs; Dr. Hidetoshi Nishimura, Special Advisor to IDE President on ERIA, IDE/JETRO, Tokyo; and Prof. Yao Chaoceng, Shanxi University of Finance and Economics, Taiyuan, P.R. of China at the inaugural session of the conference.

Sessions on Global Trade Governance and the Role of the South

Geneva, 5 October 2007

RIS, jointly with South Centre, Geneva organized two-part sessions at the WTO Public Forum 2007 held in Geneva on 5 October 2007. This provided the forum for an integrated discussion linking academic and practitioner perspectives on how the rapidly changing context of global geo-political and economic relations should be addressed through a more active role of the South in: (a) participating in global economic governance institutions such as the WTO; and (b) improving the ability of the WTO to facilitate Southern participation in its governance processes to improve the development-orientation of the ongoing negotiations.

The panel event aimed at a better understanding of both the theory and practice of improving WTO governance mechanisms to enhance its ability to promote development outcomes. The speakers included H.E. Dr. A. M. Maruping, Ambassador of Lesotho and LDC Coordinator; H.E. Mr. Faizal Ismail, Ambassador of South Africa to WTO and NAMA 11 Coordinator, Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS; Mr. Vicente Paolo Yu, GGDP Coordinator, South Centre; Dr. Carolyn Deere, Oxford University; Dr. Manfred Elsig, World Trade Institute; University of Bern; and Mr. Mayur Patel, Oxford University.

The Sessions attracted sizeable attendance and intensive discussion from the floor.
RIS/ITEC Programme on International Economic Issues and Development Policy (IEIDP)
Over the years RIS, in conjunction with the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC)/SCAAP Programme of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, has been conducting a Programme on International Economic Issues and Development Policy (IEIDP) for participants from developing countries with a view to inculcate an enhanced understanding on challenges and opportunities associated with the processes of globalization and development.

The Programme is designed to expose the participants to the growing complexities of global economic issues and negotiations and build their analytical skills on them. This is a part of the overall capacity-building exercise of RIS activities.

The programme covers modules of intensive instructions on global economic issues and negotiations of contemporary relevance, interspersed with study trips and workshops. Participants would also be expected to prepare and make presentations on select issues in consultation with the Programme Faculty.

This Year’s programme would be held from 18 February to 14 March 2008. It will be attended by 10 participants coming from different countries such as Russia, Uzbekistan, Oman, Estonia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and Sri Lanka. For further details, please contact: upendra@ris.org.in

Industrial Clusters in East Asia
Industrial clusters play an important role in industrial development in a country. As a part of the ERIA work programme a study of industrial clusters is being organised to understand the patterns and conditions of industrial agglomeration in the region and impact of regional economic integration on industrial organization in Asia, and industrial policies including FDI policies and technology policies.

As a part of this larger study, RIS has undertaken a study of automotive clusters in the National Capital Region and in and around Chennai to understand the patterns of clustering in India and challenges faced by them at potential for regional cooperation in Asia.

The study aims at drawing policy inferences for strengthening the process. Similar studies are being conducted in a number of East Asian countries. These will facilitate learning from cross-country experiences. For further details, please contact: dgoffice@ris.org.in

Africa-India Partnership in the 21st Century
RIS has been conducting research on India-Africa economic relations. It organized an international workshop jointly with the Commonwealth Secretariat, London in June 2007 on the role of emerging countries like India in African development.

RIS has planned to organize an international conference on the Africa-India Partnership on 2 April 2008 in the context of the forthcoming India-Africa Forum Summit.

The Conference will be attended by experts and scholars from African policy think-tanks and Indian institutions and will deliberate on emerging patterns of trade, investment, technology transfers and development cooperation between India and Africa and identify the potential and challenges. For further details, please contact: sachin@ris.org.in

Towards Inclusive Globalization: Evolving a “Southern Consensus” on Globalization and Development
RIS has initiated a preliminary dialogue with the Global Development and Environment Institute (GDAE) at the Tufts University in the US and Research Centre for Economic Changes (CENIT) based in Argentina, among other partners, to develop a major global research programme identifying development policies that have been successful (as well as those that have not) to help facilitate a discussion on a strategic response of developing countries to globalization. It also proposes an agenda for evolving a more development-friendly global economic governance.

The programme will cover preparation of several studies and organization of a high-level international conference in New Delhi bringing together leading development thinkers and policy makers. For further details, please contact: dgoffice@ris.org.in

China, India and Russia in the Global Economy: Enhancing Trade and Cooperation
In the last several years China, India and Russia have emerged among the most dynamic economies of the world. In 2006, the share of China, India and Russia in the global GDP, by current US $ exchange rate, amounted to 5.53 per cent, 1.88 per cent, and 2.05 per cent, respectively. On recalculating by purchasing power parity the GDP shares of China, India and Russia are even more impressive – 15.1 per cent, 6.3 per cent and 2.6 per cent respectively, and thus the total contributions by three countries to the global economy would approach the mark of 24 per cent.

The main objective of this study is to look into issues such as (i) Russia, India and China in the world policy and economy; the current and near-term perspective of objective prerequisites for trilateral cooperation; and (ii) bilateral relations within the trilateral format as a basis for trilateral cooperation: attainments and problems. For further details, please contact: rajeshmehta@ris.org.in

Notes prepared for the Government of India:
- Note on Prospects for India-Indonesia Trade Cooperation was submitted to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on 15 October 2007.
- The Report “Resurgent China: Imperatives for India” was made available to the Ministry of External Affairs on 23 October 2007.
- The Report “Deepening Financial Cooperation in Asia: An Indian Perspective” was made available to the Ministry of External Affairs on 23 October 2007.
- Inputs for the 12th Meeting of the ASEAN-India Working Group (AIWG), held on 30-31 October 2007 in Jakarta, were provided to the Ministry of External Affairs on 26 October 2007.
- The Report on IBSA Academic Seminar held at Johannesburg, South Africa was sent to the Ministry of External Affairs on 31 October 2007.
- A Note on India’s Economic Relations with EAS Countries and Inputs for the agenda of the Third EAS were provided to the Ministry of External Affairs on 2 and 3 November 2007.
- Note for Commerce Secretary, for the 13th SAARC CEC Meeting in Dhaka, 21 November 2007 was prepared and sent.
- A Note on Export and Employment Growth in India was sent to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on 24 December 2007.
- A Note on India and China in the 21st Century was sent to the PMO on 25 December 2007 in the context of the Prime Minister’s visit to China.
Seminar on the Third East Asia Summit and Future Prospects

Bringing together leaders of 16 major and most dynamic countries in Asia-Pacific, EAS has emerged as an important forum for dialogue on regional cooperation related issues. The Prime Minister of India attended the third session of the East Asia Summit (EAS) held in Singapore on 21 November 2007. To take stock of the outcome of the recent EAS in Singapore and discuss the future prospects, RIS, jointly with the Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS), New Delhi, organized a Seminar on 18 December 2007.

At this Seminar a Panel comprising, Dr. Mukul G. Asher, Professor, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore and an adjunct Senior Fellow, RIS; Mr. M.K. Venu, Senior Editor, The At this Seminar a Panel comprising, Dr. Mukul G. Asher, Professor, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore and an adjunct Senior Fellow, RIS; Mr. M.K. Venu, Senior Editor, The Economic Times; Dr. Ramgopal Agarwala, Senior Adviser, RIS; and Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS were nominated by the Ministry of External Affairs to participate in the Seminar and make key presentations from India.

At the first theme of the conference on Global Imperatives, Dr. Nagesh Kumar made a keynote presentation on ‘Towards a More Inclusive Global Economic Governance: Role of IBSA’. At the second theme on Challenges of Connectivity, Dr. Rajat Nag, among others, underlined that there is indeed a strong opportunity for South Asian countries to benefit from intensifying regional ties. As a regional policy dialogue becomes stronger and barriers are gradually eliminated, or at least substantially reduced, economic integration will intensify in the next decade or two.

Further, as the region continues to build its economic infrastructure and new cross-border projects are implemented, these will not only intensify trade in goods and services, but also facilitate the movement of people. Easing existing cross-border impediments to trade and labour movements, will likely be the strongest economic driver over the coming decade. Economic cooperation and integration will be possibly the key pillar of the region’s future development. A large number of participants from business, industry, academic, government, and media circles participated.

IBSA Academic Seminar and launching of RIS Report on IBSA

On the eve of the IBSA Summit an IBSA Academic Seminar was organized in Johannesburg on 15-16 October 2007.

Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS and Dr. S.K. Mohanty, Fellow, RIS were nominated by the Ministry of External Affairs to participate in the Seminar and make key presentations from India.

At the first theme of the conference on Global Imperatives, Dr. Nagesh Kumar made a keynote presentation on ‘Towards a More Inclusive Global Economic Governance: Role of IBSA’. At the second theme on Challenges of Connectivity, Dr. Nagesh Kumar made a keynote presentation on India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Economic Cooperation: Towards a Comprehensive Economic Partnership. The theme of Economic Connectivity was followed up further by Dr. S.K. Mohanty in his presentation on Development Dimensions of IBSA Cooperation and Challenges of Connectivity in the Region.

At this seminar the RIS publication entitled Trinity of the South: Potential of India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Partnership was also launched.

Seminar on Regional Cooperation and Integration Prospects in Asia

New Delhi, 5 December 2007

RIS organized a Seminar on Regional Cooperation and Integration Prospects in Asia on 5 December 2007.

Mr. Rajat Nag, Managing Director-General, Asian Development Bank, Manila delivered a talk on the theme of the seminar. Dr. Parthasarathy Shome, Advisor to the Finance Minister Chaired the Seminar. The talk was followed open discussion.

In his talk Dr. Rajat Nag, among others, underlined that there is indeed a strong opportunity for South Asian countries to benefit from intensifying regional ties. As a relevant for private investment.

Further, as the region continues to build its economic infrastructure and new cross-border projects are implemented, these will not only intensify trade in goods and services, but also facilitate the movement of people. Easing existing cross-border impediments to trade and labour movements, will likely be the strongest economic driver over the coming decade. Economic cooperation and integration will be possibly the key pillar of the region’s future development. A large number of participants from business, industry, academic, government, and media circles participated.

Seminar on Governance Matters: Examining the Dimensions of Governance Relevant for Private Investment

The issue of the role of institutions and governance in determining investment and growth has been highlighted in the literature, although the empirical evidence is rather poor because of measurement and data problems. RIS organized a Seminar on Governance Matters: Examining the Dimensions of Governance Relevant for Private Investment on 27 December 2007.

Dr. Meenakshi Rishi, Associate Professor of Economics, Albers School of Business and Economics, Seattle University made a presentation on the subject based on her recent empirical study. Professor Mannmohan Agarwal, School of International Studies, International Trade and Development, JNU, New Delhi chaired Seminar. The presentation was followed up by open discussion.
The first business session, which addressed the theme of Asia’s New Role in Global Economy and the Relevance of Asian Economic Integration, was chaired by Mr. Gopal Pillai, Commerce Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

It had key presentations on Regional Cooperation and Asia’s New Role in the Global Economy by Dr. Sultan Rahman Hafeez, Deputy Director General, ADB, Manila; Relevance of Broader Asian Economic Integration and Approaches by Dr. Nagesh Kumar, RIS; and Towards a Vision of an Integrated East Asia: Comprehensive Economic Partnership of East Asia (CEPEA) and ERIA by Dr. Hidetoshi Nishimura, Special Advisor to IDE President on ERIA, IDE/JETRO, Tokyo. The distinguished panelists included: Ambassador K. Kesavapany, Director, ISEAS, Singapore; and Dr. Brian Lynch, Director, New Zealand Institute of International Affairs.

It was followed by the session on Regional Trade and Investment Liberalization: Building Blocs and Emerging Approaches, chaired by Professor Muchkund Dubey, President, CSD. The key presentations included ASEAN and Broader Economic Integration in Asia by Dr. Josef T. Yap, President, Philippine Institute for Development Studies, Manila; ASEAN+6 versus ASEAN+3 Approaches for Regional Economic Integration: Lessons from CGE Simulations by Dr. S.K. Mohanty, RIS and Dr. Sanjib Pohit, NCAER; Asia-India Trade Relations and Growth: Implications for Regional Economic Integration Policy by Professor Tran Van Hoa, Director, ASEAN Research Program, CSES, Victoria University, Australia (in absentia); and Trade Costs in Asia: Importance of Trade Facilitation and Improved Connectivity by Dr. Prabir De, RIS. Dr. Rahul Sen, Fellow, ISEAS, Singapore; and Dr. Amita Batra, Hindu College, University of Delhi were the discussants.

Dr. Sultan Rahman Hafeez, Deputy Director-General, ADB, Manila chaired the session on Monetary and Financial Cooperation in Asia. The key presentations were: Towards Asian ‘Bretonwoods’ by Dr. Ramgopal Agarwala, Senior Adviser, RIS; Asian Exim Banks Cooperation by Mr. T.C. Venkat Subramanian, Chairman and Managing Director, Export-Import Bank of India; Financial Cooperation for Infrastructure Development in Asia by Dr. Hiren Sarkar, Chief, Development Policy Section (PDD), UN-ESCAP, Bangkok; and Financial Cooperation in East Asia Summit by Dr. Dennis Hew, Senior Fellow, ISEAS, Singapore.

The session on Strategic Relevance of Asian Regionalism had Ambassador Kesavapany, Director, ISEAS, Singapore in Chair. The Distinguished Panelists included: Professor Yao Chaocheng, Shanxi University of Finance and Economics, Taiyuan, P.R. of China; Dr. Brian Lynch, Director, New Zealand Institute of International Affairs; Mr. M.K. Venu, Senior Editor, The Economic Times; Ambassador P.S. Sahai, CRRID, Chandigarh.

The theme of the session that came after it was on Emerging Comprehensive Economic Partnership of EAS Countries: A Business Perspective and was chaired by Ambassador Arjun Asrani, Chairman, India-Japan Forum. It had presentations on Business Strategies and Roles of Major Japanese Companies and the significance of ERIA by Dr. Tetsuji Kawamura, Professor, Faculty of Economics, Hosei University; Promoting Economic Cooperation between India and South Korea: A Business Perspective by Dr. Soon Cheoul Lee, Fellow, KIEP, Seoul; and Business Potential of CEPEA: An ASEAN Perspective by Dr. Chayodom Sabhasri, Center for International Economics, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok. Dr. Jayanta Roy, Principal Adviser, CII was the discussant.

Mr. Jairam Ramesh, Hon’ble Minister of State for Commerce and Industry delivered a valedictory address at the concluding session, chaired by Ambassador Leela K. Ponappa, Vice-Chairperson, RIS. Ambassador K. Kesavapany, Director, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore; and Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS also spoke at the valedictory session. Dr. Ram Upendra Das, Fellow, RIS presented the report of the conference. The Conference was participated by nearly 100 delegates comprising heads of policy think-tanks in EAS countries, policy makers, media and members of civil society.

RIS has issued the report of the Conference in RIS Policy Brief No.33 which was circulated to the delegations at the East Asia Summit.
Deepening India–Bangladesh Economic Cooperation: Challenges and Opportunities by Prabir De and Biswa N. Bhattacharyya

Abstract: In recent years, South Asia has received growing attention as a region that is integrating successfully into the global economy. To maximize the benefits in terms of faster growth and poverty reduction, the region will need to strengthen regional and bilateral cooperation in several areas. In this context, closer bilateral cooperation and integration between major South Asian countries, such as between India and Bangladesh, will strengthen the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and help ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of their activities. Cultural, trade, and economic exchanges between the two countries, are at long standing. Rapid domestic economic development and mutual cooperation have demonstrated broad prospects for further cooperation between the two countries. A remarkable growth in two-way trade between India and Bangladesh has resulted in a robust growth of the economies in the region. Compared with their strength, much potential exists for developing trade and economic relations between the two countries. This paper discusses various opportunities and associated prospects and problems in strengthening the India–Bangladesh economic cooperation and integration agenda in the context of SAARC.
Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General

- Addressed the 54th Session of UNCTAD’s Trade and Development Board, held in Geneva on 3 October 2007 on Regional Economic Integration in Asia.
- Nominated by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India to participate the IBSA Academic Seminar held at Johannesburg, South Africa on 15-16 October 2007 on eve of IBSA Summit.
- Participated in the 3rd Meeting of the Track Two Study Group on CEPEA held in Bangkok on 26-27 October 2007.
- Participated in the Inter-Ministerial Meeting in preparation of the SAARC Committee on Economic Cooperation held in the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, New Delhi on 16 November 2007.
- Participated in the Meeting of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP), held in ICWA, New Delhi on 15 November 2007.
- Chaired a session on Impact of ICT at the Workshop on ICT Measurement for Knowledge Economy, organized by the Department of Information Technology (DIT), Ministry of Communications and Information Technology and Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in New Delhi on 20 November 2007.
- Participated in the preparatory Meeting of the India-Indonesia Joint Study Group held in the Department of Commerce, New Delhi on 10 November 2007.
- Participated in the Forty-Second Meeting of the Board of Governors of ISID held in 7 December 2007.
- Participated in a meeting of the Selection Committee for selecting candidates for the IOR-ARC Chair, held in the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on 11 December 2007.
- Participated in the Consultation Meeting on the Regional Study on Trade in Services under the India-Indonesia Joint Study Group held in Bangkok on 26 November 2007 in New Delhi.
- Participated in the Meeting with Commerce Secretary, Ministry of Commerce Secretary on the Agenda of 13th SAARC Commission in New Delhi on 5 October 2007.
- Made a presentation on India-ASEAN Economic Relations: a Way Forward at the National Conference on ASEAN Summit 2007: Opportunities and Challenges for India, organized by the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies (IPCS) on 26 November 2007 in New Delhi.
- Participated in the Meeting on Indo-Korea-CEPA Negotiations, held under Chairmanship of Commerce Secretary, Ministry of Commerce & Industry in New Delhi on 5 December 2007.

Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi, Fellow

- Made a presentation on Global Economic Scenario and Emergence of South at the National Conference on Strategies for Sustainable Economic Turn Around, organized by Indraprastha University, New Delhi on 16 October 2007.
- Made a presentation on Trade Facilitation and Regional Integration: Emerging Trends from South Asia at the Inter-Regional Forum on Trade Facilitation and Regional Trade Agreements, organized by UN-ESCA, Amman, Jordan on 14 November 2007.
- Made a presentation on GPNs and Indian Biopharmaceutical Industry: Emerging Linkages and Prospects at the International Workshop on Global Production Networks and Decent Work: Recent Experience in India and Global Trends, organized by IILS, ICSSR, IHD and ISCE, Bangalore on 19 November 2007.
- Made a presentation on Vulnerability and Kani Case in India at the GenBenefit – Vulnerability Workshop, held in Cape Town, South Africa on 28-30 November 2007.
- Made a presentation on Global Experience with ABS: Emerging Evidence from India and South Africa at the Workshop on India’s Experiences on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing, held in New Delhi on 18 December 2007.
- Made presentation on Changing Structure of Indian Seed Industry: Policy Prospects and Emerging Lessons at the South Asian Conference on Trade and Development entitled Harnessing Gains from Trade: Domestic Challenges and Beyond, held in New Delhi on 20 December 2007.

Dr. Ram Upendra Das, Fellow

- Participated in the Discussion Meeting on Economic Cooperation in the South Asian Region organized by the British High Commission in New Delhi on 5 October 2007.
- Participated in Meeting on India-Indonesia JSG held in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on 10 October 2007.
- Participated in the Annual Meeting of IITEC Institutions, organized by Ministry of External Affairs on 12 October 2007.
- Delivered Lecture on Implications of WTO for Developing Countries, to Foreign Journalists, organized by IIMC in New Delhi on 15 October 2007.
- Speaker at the Meeting on Export Development and Inclusive Growth, organized by CII in New Delhi on 22 October 2007.
- Participated in the First India-Indonesia JSG Meeting on India-Indonesia CECA, held in Jakarta on 30-31 October 2007.
- Participated in the Meeting with Commerce Secretary on the Agenda of 13th SAARC Committee on Economic Cooperation (CEC) Meeting, held on 16 November 2007.
- Delivered Lecture on India’s Economic Integration with ASEAN: Prospects & Challenges, organized by FSI in New Delhi on 21 November 2007.
- Presented paper on Trade-FDI-Poverty Linkages in a Regional Grouping: Some Evidence from South Asia in International Conference on Regional Economic Integration Beyond Europe, organized by German Development Institute, Bonn, December 19-20, 2007. Also Discussant of the paper on Understanding the Emerging Pattern of Regional Trade and Economic Cooperation in Asia presented by Biswanath Bhattacharyay at the Conference.
- Participated in Meeting on IITEC held in the Ministry of External Affairs on 26 December 2007.

Dr. Somesh K. Mathur, Fellow

- Presented a paper on Convergence among Countries in Latin America held at the Department of Economics, University of Puebla, Mexico on 22 November 2007.

Continued on page 7
Continued from page 5
(Latest Publications)

of Science and Technology, New Delhi, October 15-16.

Popular Columns

De, Prabir. 2007. Trade imbalance with China must be rectified. The Financial Express, December 19.
Kumar, Nagesh. 2007. ‘Leveraging Asian resurgence for sustaining rapid growth’. The Financial Express. 14 August
Kumar, Nagesh. 2007. ‘East Asia Summit and broader economic integration in Asia’. The Jakarta Post. 21 November.
Kumar, Nagesh. 2007. ‘Should India forge an FTA with ASEAN’. The Economic Times. 27 November.

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(Faculty News)

RIS Diary January 2008

Continued from page 6

RIS organized a Seminar on Regional Cooperation in Asia: Lessons from the Nordic Cooperation on 16 November 2007. Mr. Caj Lars Soderlund, Senior Adviser to the President of Finland of the Nordic Council of Ministers made a presentation on the subject and initiated the discussion. Dr. Ramgopal Agarwala, Senior Adviser, RIS chaired. A number of participants took part in the open discussion that followed the presentation of Mr. Caj Lars Soderlund.

Dr. Prabir De, Fellow

Participated in the International Conference on Intermodal Logistics, organized by the Asian Institute of Transport Development (AITD), New Delhi; Planning Commission, New Delhi; and UNESCAP, Bangkok, in New Delhi on 8-9 October 2007.

Presented a paper on Indian IT Industry: A Model for South-South Cooperation International Seminar on IT Industry in India-Prospects, Retrospects and Policies, organized by the Department of Economics, Jamia Millia Islamia in collaboration with the Ministry of Science and Technology, and ICSSR on 1-2 November 2007.

 Participated in the International Meet on Solidarity on Health Issues, organized by the Ministry of Labour, Ministry of External Affairs and the French Prime Minister’s Delegation in New Delhi on 21 December 2007.

Korea, India keen on FTA... and then pan Asia

Economic conference in Delhi

A two-day high-level conference on Asian Integration is being held here from November 28-29, 2007 (EASI), scheduled to take place in Singapore next year. The conference would discuss the economic relevance of Asian economic integration and the prospects for trade and finance, according to the RIS (Rajiv Gandhi) Indian Institute of Development Economics (RIS).

RIS Diary January 2008

Continued from page 6

RIS in Media

With Asean pact in limbo, India now looks at E Asia

Statesmen News Service

NEW DELHI, Nov. 13: With a free trade agreement (FTA) on the Prime Minister’s agenda when he attends the Asean summit in Singapore next week, India is keen to conclude negotiations in the AFTA (Asia-Pacific Free Trade Area) on its own terms.

De, Prabir. 2007. Trade imbalance with China must be rectified. The Financial Express, December 19.
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Meetings of the Governing Council and General Body of RIS

The Meetings of the RIS Governing Council and General Body were held on 20 December 2007 in RIS. Prof. Arjun Sengupta, Chairman, RIS chaired the Meetings. The Meetings discussed the current research agenda and the future work programme of the RIS. The members who participated in the Meetings included: Mr. N. Ravi, Secretary (East), also representing the Foreign Secretary and Mr. Malay Mishra, Joint Secretary (MER), Ministry of External Affairs; Dr. Arvind Virmani, Chief Economic Adviser, Ministry of Finance; Commodore C. Uday Bhaskar, VSM, former Director, Institute of Defence Studies & Analysis; and Dr. R. Saha, Adviser, Ministry of Science & Technology, representing Secretary, Department of Science & Technology).

Briefing on India’s Economic Performance and Future Prospects for Visiting Parliamentarians from the UK, Europe and the US


The Delegation included: Dr. Ashok Kumar (Labour); Lord Bhikhu Parekh (Labour); Lord Adam Patel (Labour); Baroness Sandra Verma (Conservative); Lord Mohammed Sheikh (Conservative); Mr. Shailesh Vara (Conservative); Baroness Usha Prashar (Crossbench); Lord Kamlesh Patel (Crossbench); Lord Karan Bilimoria (Crossbench); Lord Diljit Rana (Crossbench); and Mr. Virendra Sharma, MP; from UK; and Mr. David Geerets and Mr. Claude Moraes from European Parliament; and Hon'ble Swati Dandekar from the USA.

These distinguished parliamentarian were at the invitation of the Public Diplomacy Division, Ministry of External Affairs.

During the interactive session, Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS briefed the visiting parliamentarians on the RIS work programme, followed by a detailed presentation on the performance of Indian economy in recent years. He also spoke about the prospects and outlook for the Indian economy and challenges that it faces.

The presentation was followed by open discussion in which the visiting parliamentarian took part.

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

RIS Research and Information System for Developing Countries

RIS Diary January 2008