



**RIS**  
Research and Information System  
for Developing Countries  
विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली



# Asia-Pacific Forum 2018

## Public Symposium on Protecting the Global Trading System and the Role for Multilateralism

22 November 2018  
Silver Oak Hall, India Habitat Center, New Delhi

### Background / Rationale:

We are witnessing an unprecedented rise in protectionism in the world. As a result, the multilateral rules-based global system is coming under severe challenges. It can have extremely serious repercussions for the global economies causing sharp declines in international trade flows and widespread unemployment, particularly in the developing countries. Therefore, multilateralism and globalization need to be defended and promoted by the international community. In addition, the emergence of new technologies on the global scene is creating new opportunities and challenges, which have to be effectively dealt with in the interest of regional integration. The global importance being accorded to the Sustainable Development Goals and its linkages with various sectors of the national, regional and global economy, including in the Indo-pacific Region, needs to be deeply examined. Obviously, the growing services sector in the region also merits focus of attention. According to some estimates, the Services sector in the ASEAN region is expected to contribute more than 70 per cent to the GDP in the medium term from the current 50 per cent.

12:00 - 1:00

### Registration

13:00 - 13:15

Welcome remarks by

- **Mr. Kazumasa Kusaka**, Chairman and CEO, JEF
- **Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi**, Director General, RIS

13:15 - 13:35

Keynote address: **Ms. Preeti Saran**, formerly Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), India

Special Remarks: **Amb. Amar Sinha**, Distinguish Fellow, RIS

13:35 - 13:45

Photo session

13:45 - 14:55

### Panel Session 1: Trade and New Technology

While the multilateral trade framework has allowed greater market access, specific trade policy regimes (for example, the Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and the Information Technology Agreement (ITA)) and some forms of non-tariff barriers may have perpetuated the divergence in production capacities across countries. Overtime, only a few developing countries could carry out successful industrialization. Similar regimes would perhaps, also contribute to concentration of innovation and production of futuristic technologies covering Industry 4.0, genomics, biotechnology material

sciences, nano-technology etc. in a handful of countries. Integration into new age supply chains therefore, would largely be linked with trade induced knowledge flows. Industrial dynamism in Asia-Pacific region, though impressive is not uniform, and regional and multilateral trade regimes would have significant influence on technology driven competitiveness. Halting development track of multilateral trade dialogue due to the disengagement of advanced economies and emerging protectionism would adversely affect developing countries, denying them the right to negotiate not only the space for development but also that of industrialization.

Guide Questions:

- What has been the experience of countries on export led growth in the manufacturing sector?
- What has been the contribution of high-technology products in trade performance?
- What is the level of GVC participation and value addition?
- How can trade regimes be designed from global and regional perspectives to allow domestic capacities?

Session Chair and Moderator: **Amb Amar Sinha**, Distinguished Fellow, RIS

Panelists:

- [Dr. Man-Jung Mignonne Chan](#), Chair and CEO, Out-of-the Box Consultancy
- **Datuk Seri Jayasiri Jayasena**, Former Secretary General, Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), Malaysia
- **Amb. Murray McLean AO**, Chairman, Dunmore McLean Pty Ltd.
- [Prof. Simon Tay](#), Chairman, Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA)
- [Mr. Nuttawut Laksanapanyakul](#), Consultant, Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI)

14:55 – 15:10

Coffee Break

15:10 – 16:25

***Panel Session 2: Imperatives for Regional Integration: Growing Role of Service Sector***

With greater application of information technology and deeper financial integration in developing countries, services trade has intensified along with diversification of the nature and forms of services delivery. The contribution of services to national income in developing countries has been substantial; most notably accounting for about 50 per cent of GDP in the LDCs. Moreover, services would contribute more than 70 per cent of GDP in the ASEAN region. Not only the advanced economies and developing economies that have embraced increasing pace of service orientation but this phenomenon is widespread across countries in South Asia, East Asia and other regions of the world. FTAs and RTAs that fueled regional economic integration in the last decade particularly the mega-FTAs including RCEP, CFTA, CPTPP has revealed radical changes in the scope and rules of trade negotiations especially in the areas of harmonization and streamlining of non-tariff barriers (NTBs) and market access commitments in services. Barring the issues of national treatment and market access commitments, services negotiations reflect other important areas such as rules & regulations for foreign direct investment into services sectors, regulations for e-commerce platforms offering services trade, and contours of Mode 3 and

Mode 4 issues. Besides traditional services such as transportation, construction, travel, etc, the prospects of services trade are immense in several IT-enabled services like financial services, tourism, business process outsourcing, consultancy, accounting & management services, and so on. Further, Global Value Chains offer scope of specialization and fragmentation of services particularly in logistics, transport, finance, communication and other sectors feeding trade in goods. This wave of services orientation demands a careful examination of all pertinent issues with respect to trade and investment faced by the economies in the Asia-Pacific region. Although the merits of broadening of services negotiations remain undisputed, the plurilateral route of services negotiations e.g. TISA may pose challenges to the ruled-based multilateral trading system. Guide Questions:

- How to leverage the advancement in technology like larger spread of mobile telephony, artificial intelligence, 3D printing, etc in expanding services trade between countries?
- What are the additional regulatory firewalls and preparedness required to protect the domestic consumers especially data protection and access and related aspects?
- What are the promising services sectors and sub-sectors for broad-based engagement in services trade in the Asia-pacific region?
- How to deal with the new disciplines in services trade such as negative list approach, mutual recognition, data privacy, state owned enterprises, domestic regulations, etc.?

Session Chair and Moderator: **Mr. Naoyuki Haraoka**, Executive Managing Director, JEF Panelists:

- **Prof. Choong-Yong Ahn**, Professor Emeritus, College of Business and Economics, Chung-Ang University (CAU)
- **Prof. Prabir De**, Professor, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)
- **Prof. Gary Hawke**, Emeritus Professor, Victoria University of Wellington (VUW)
- [Ms. Anita Prakash](#), Director General for Policy Relations, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA)
- [Prof. Shujiro Urata](#), Dean and Professor, Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies (GSAPS), Waseda University
- **Prof. Zhang Jianping**, Director General, Center for Regional Economic Cooperation, Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation (AITEC), MOFCOM

16:25 – 16:40

Coffee Break

16:40 – 17:45

*Panel Session 3: Importance and Roles of SDGs in the Indo-Pacific Region: Strategies for Attainment of SDGs*

South Asia, East Asia, South East Asia, Oceania and the Pacific offer tremendous lessons of development transitions and catching-up. SDGs redefine sustainability goals for the region and call for inclusive economic growth to fully overcome poverty related deprivations. Poverty, inequality, hunger, shortage of decent work and social security and skill gaps are prominent in the region and reflect poorly on the promise of inclusive development. Many of these aspects have a multi-dimensional character and interconnect among SDG targets have to be fully appreciated and realised as part of the strategy. The region scores low on sustainable consumption, sustainability of cities and environmental protection. The region also faces challenges on parameters related to health and well-being, water and sanitation, infrastructure and governance. Regional cooperation has been a time tested tool for all countries in the region and deeper engagements are already in the making. New challenges are climate change and disaster resilience and opportunities are there in terms of blue economy led development. In appreciating development needs of countries, leading nations in the region would have to support development efforts in countries that have lower resource and capacity base, particularly the CLMV. Creation of regional public good and promotion of peace would go a long way is fulfilling the SDGs.

Guide Questions:

- What are the critical challenges in the context of the SDGs in the region?
- How to define holistic approach on multi-dimensional deprivations and promote localisation of SDGs in that regard? (focus on local capacities and monitoring)
- What could be future strategies of inclusive development encompassing entrepreneurship, livelihood and skills in the lower end of the pyramid? (focus on stakeholder collaboration and private sector participation in SDGs)
- What could be the mechanisms to focus on regional public goods? (focus on climate change and resilient infrastructure)

Session Chair and Moderator: **Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi**, Director General, RIS

Panelists:

- **Dr. Yose Rizal Damuri**, Head of Department of Economics, Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)
- **[Dr. Tri Thanh Vo](#)**, Economist, Central Institute for Economic Management (CIEM)
- **[Dr. Josef Yap](#)**, Professorial Lecturer, University of the Philippines School of Economics (UPSE)
- **[Prof. Saikat Sinha Roy](#)**, Jadhavpur University

17:45 – 17:55

*Closing Remarks:*

- **Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi**, Director General, RIS
- **Mr. Kazumasa Kusaka**, Chairman and CEO, JEF