



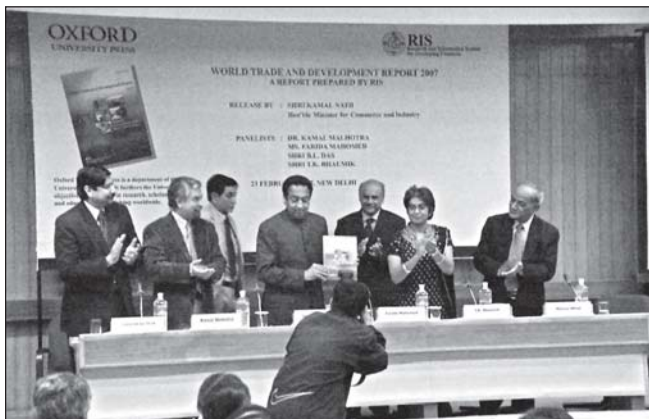
A Series of Major Events at RIS

Finance Minister Releasing RIS' Report on Regional Cooperation for Infrastructure Development at RIS/ UNESCAP Policy Dialogue, 21-22 March 2007



(From left): Dr. Nagesh Kumar; Dr. Kim Hak-Su, Executive Secretary, UNESCAP; Hon'ble Finance Minister Mr. P. Chidambaram; Dr. Arjun Sengupta, M.P. and Chairman, RIS; Hon'ble Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Mr. Jairam Ramesh; and Mr. Shivshankar Menon, Foreign Secretary. (See report on page 3).

Commerce Minister Launching RIS' World Trade and Development Report 2007, 23 February 2007



(From left): Dr. Nagesh Kumar; Dr. Kamal Malhotra; Hon'ble Minister for Commerce and Industry Mr. Kamal Nath; Mr. Manzar Khan, Hon'ble Ms Farida Mahomed; and Mr. T.K. Bhaumik at the launch (See report on page 2).

External Affairs Minister Inaugurates Regional Conference on SAARC, 19 March 2007



(From left): Dr. Nagesh Kumar; Dr. Arjun Sengupta, M.P. and Chairman, RIS and Co-Chairman, SACEPS; Hon'ble External Affairs Minister Mr. Pranab Mukherjee; Mr. Sayed Babar Ali, Co-Chairman, SACEPS; and Dr. Sridhar Khatri, Executive Director, SACEPS, Kathmandu. (See report on page 2).

RIS organizes a Session on Pan-Asian Economic Integration at GDN Conference in Beijing, 15 January 2007



(From left): Prof. Zhang Yunling; Dr. Masanori Kondo; Dr. Hadi Soesastro; Dr. Pradumna B. Rana; and Dr. Nagesh Kumar at the RIS' session at GDN Conference (See report on page 3).

Regional Conference on Economic Cooperation in SAARC

RIS and SACEPS, Kathmandu, jointly organized a one-day "Regional Conference on Economic Cooperation in SAARC: SAFTA and Beyond", in New Delhi on 19 March 2007, ahead of the SAARC Summit, held in New Delhi in the first week of April 2007.

Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, Hon'ble Minister for External Affairs, delivered the inaugural address. Dr. Arjun Sengupta, M.P. and Chairman, RIS and Co-Chairman, SACEPS; Mr. Sayed Babar Ali, Member of the Economic Advisory Board, Government of Pakistan and Co-Chairman, SACEPS; and Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS also addressed the inaugural session.

In his address, Mr. Mukherjee said that SAARC region has to become a dynamic component of the larger process of regional cooperation. A small beginning has been made in this regard. The South Asian Free Trade Agreement is a visible symbol of the recent progress but there are many difficulties that remain to be overcome. The full implementation of SAFTA would go a long way towards enabling the region to fulfill its undeniable potential. He, therefore, urged that the realization of genuine free trade in the region is not undermined by linking it to extraneous political considerations.

The first session of the conference on theme "SAFTA: Prospects and Challenges" was chaired by Prof. Muchkund Dubey,

President, CSD, New Delhi. Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS made the theme presentation and Prof. Rehman Sobhan, Chairman, CPD, Dhaka; Dr. Akmal Hussain, Member, Economic Advisory Board to the President of Pakistan; and Ms. Poonam Barua, Public Affairs Management, New Delhi were the panelists.

The session on "Regional Connectivity and Trade Facilitation in South Asia", chaired by Ambassador Leela Ponappa, Vice-Chairperson, RIS, had presentations on SAARC Multimodal Transport System by Dr. Rahamtullah, CPD, Dhaka; Facilitating Overland Trade in South Asia by Dr. Prabir De, RIS; and Trade Facilitation and Customs Valuation in SAFTA by Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi, RIS. The panelists were: Ambassador Rajiv Sikri, former Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs; and Dr. Sultan Rahman Hafeez, DDG, South Asia Department, Asian Development Bank, Manila.



(From left): Dr. Prabir De; Dr. Rahamtullah; Ambassador Leela Ponappa (in Chair); Ambassador Rajiv Sikri; Dr. Sultan Rahman Hafeez; and Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi at the Session on "Regional Connectivity and Trade Facilitation in South Asia".

Prof. Rehman Sobhan chaired the session on "Strengthening the SAARC Process" which had a presentation on Monitoring of SAARC Programmes and Policies by Prof. M.P. Lama, JNU. The panelists were: Mr. Ibrahim Hussain Zaki, former Secretary General, SAARC and former Minister of Planning, Maldives; Ambassador A.N. Ram; Prof. S.D. Muni, ORF; Dr. Mohan Man Sainju, Chairman, IIDS, Kathmandu; Dr. Satish C. Jha, Member, Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister and former Chief Economist, ADB; and Dr. Sridhar Khatri, Executive Director, SACEPS, Kathmandu.

Hon'ble Mr. Kamal Nath Launches RIS' World Trade and Development Report 2007



(From left): Hon'ble Mr. Kamal Nath speaking at the launch function of the WTDR 2007.

Mr. Kamal Nath, Hon'ble Minister for Commerce and Industry, launched RIS' *World Trade and Development Report 2007 – Building a Development-Friendly World Trading System* at a function, organized jointly by RIS and the Oxford University Press in New Delhi on 23 February 2007. The Report, prepared by a RIS team, has been published jointly by RIS and Oxford University Press.

The programme began with the welcome remarks by Mr. Manzar Khan, Managing Director, OUP. Thereafter, Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director General, RIS presented briefly the main highlights of the Report. A large number of participants from government departments, research institutes, academia, business and industry circles, diplomatic missions, and media attended.

Mr. Kamal Nath expressed his concern over the stalemate that continues to beset the current round of WTO negotiations. But he lauded the efforts of RIS in providing the valuable analytical support to the developing countries by bringing out such a useful and timely Report. He underlined the fact that developing countries lost out in the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations as they lacked such analytical support.

The launch of the *WTDR 2007* was followed by a panel discussion. The eminent panelists included: Dr. Kamal Malhotra, Senior Adviser, UNDP, New York; Ms Farida Mahomed, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Republic of South Africa; and Mr. T.K. Bhaumik, Chief Economist, Reliance Industries Ltd.

The panelists complimented RIS for producing this important Report which puts forward the viewpoints of developing countries on critical issues of concern to them in the current round of world trade negotiations.

RIS-UNESCAP High-Level Policy Dialogue on Regional Cooperation for Infrastructure Development and Financing

RIS and UNESCAP, Bangkok jointly organized the Policy Dialogue in New Delhi on 21-22 March 2007. The inaugural session began with the opening remarks by Dr. Arjun Sengupta, M.P. and Chairman, RIS. Dr. Kim Hak-Su, Under-secretary General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of UNESCAP delivered the welcome address. Mr. P. Chidambaram, Hon'ble Minister of Finance, released the Report prepared by RIS on *Regional Cooperation for Infrastructure Development in Asia: Towards A Regional Mechanism for Public-Private Partnership*. Mr. Jairam Ramesh, Hon'ble Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Mr. Shivshankar Menon, Foreign Secretary, and Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS, also addressed the inaugural session. About 100 government ministers, officials and academics and private sector CEOs, representing 20 countries participated in the deliberations.

The Session I on "Regional Cooperation for Infrastructure Financing in Asia" was chaired by Dr. Bambang Susantono, Hon'ble Deputy Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Cooperation, Indonesia. Dr. Ramgopal Agarwala, Senior Adviser, RIS presented the RIS study report.

The Session II on "Financing Infrastructure in Asia and the Pacific: Role of Revenue Bonds" was chaired by Ambassador L.K. Ponappa, Vice-Chairperson, RIS. Prof. Naoyuki Yoshino, Keio University, Japan; and Mr. Toshiro Nishizawa, Deputy Director General, JBIC Institute made presentations. Dr. Jayanta Roy, Principal Adviser, CII; and Mr. Pang Yee Ean, Senior Vice President, Ascendas India were the panelists.

The Session III had the panel discussion on "Financing Infrastructure Investment: Lessons from Asia-Pacific Experiences". Dr. John Hewson, Executive Chairman, Elderslie Finance Corporation Ltd and former Leader of the Australian opposition was the moderator. The panelists included: Mr. Gao Jian, Vice Governor, China Development Bank, China; Mr. N.K. Madan, Vice President, India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited; Prof. G. Naidu, Consultant, Malaysia; and Mr. Mark Yeo, Managing Director, IMC Pan Asia Alliance Pte Ltd, Singapore.

The Session IV on "Experiences in Infrastructure Financing in Asia-Pacific" was chaired by Dr. Kim Hak-Su. It had presentations by Ms. Rita Nangia, Director, Asian Development Bank, Manila giving a regional lender perspective; and by Mr. Sanjeev Moholkar, JBIC, New Delhi giving a bilateral donor's perspective. The panelists were: Mr. Shyam Sundar Sharma, Joint Secretary, National Planning Commission, Nepal; and Mr. Sharat

Goyal, Assistant Vice President, Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Limited (ILFS), New Delhi.

The Session V on "Issues and Challenges of New Mechanisms for Infrastructure Financing" was chaired by Dr. Ravi Ratnayake, Director, (PDD), UNESCAP. Mr. Evgeny Vinokurov, Senior Analyst, Strategic Planning Coordinator, EDB made the

presentation on Eurasian Development Bank. Mr. Ruben S. Reinoso, Jr. Assistant Director-General, National Economic and Development Authority, Philippines; and Dr. Partha Mukhopadhyay, Centre for Policy Research (CPR), New Delhi were the panelists.

The Session VI on "Innovative Regional Mechanisms for Financing Infrastructure Investment" included the presentation of the Draft Policy Outcome by Dr. Kim Hak-Su. It was commented upon by eminent panelists, viz. Dr. Bambang Susantono, Hon'ble Deputy Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Cooperation, Indonesia: Mr. Narayana

Murthy, Chairman, Infosys Technologies Ltd, India; Dr. John Hewson, Executive Chairman, Elderslie Finance Corporation Ltd; Mr. Amarananda Abeygunasekara, Additional Director General, External Resource Department, Ministry of Finance and Planning Secretariat, Sri Lanka; Ms. Shyamala Shukla, Director, Ministry of Finance, India; and Mr. Mohanjit Singh, Joint General Manager & Head (North), L&T Infrastructure Finance Company Limited, New Delhi.

Dr. Kirit S. Parikh, Member, Planning Commission of India, delivered the valedictory address.



(From left): Dr. Ramgopal Agarwala; Mr. Suwat Wanisubut; Hon'ble Dr. Bambang Susantono, Deputy Minister, Indonesia (in Chair); Ms Seung-yeon Lee; and Dr. Hiren Sarkar at the Session I.

RIS' Session on Asian Economic Integration at GDN Conference in Beijing

A new dynamic and integrated Asia is emerging with the resurgence of China and India as engines of growth, recovery of Japan from a decade old recession, rise of Asian middle class as source of final demand, high and growing proportion of intra-regional trade and investments. There is also an attempt to build on this growing 'functional' interdependence to more institutionalized forms of cooperation. ASEAN has played an important role in evolving a framework for broader cooperation by bringing together major Asian countries like Japan, China, India and South Korea as dialogue partners. These dialogue partners are all working on ASEAN+1 FTAs and are also studying bilateral FTAs between themselves. There is need for building on these sub-regional and bilateral attempts a broader regional framework to provide a seamless market facilitating exploitation of synergies more effectively. The East Asia Summit (EAS) was launched in Kuala Lumpur in 2005 with the participation of ASEAN10, Japan, China, South Korea, India and also of Australia and New Zealand. By giving to the leaders of the largest and most dynamic economies of Asia a forum for dialogue, EAS is expected to facilitate the cause of community building in Asia.

Against that backdrop, RIS organized a special Panel Discussion on "Pan-Asian Economic Integration: Its Relevance, Approaches and Challenges" at the GDN Annual Conference 2007 held in Beijing on 15 January 2007. The Panelists discussed the relevance and possible approaches for pan-Asian economic integration and the challenges that it may face.

Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS presented the theme paper. The Distinguished Panelists were : Dr. Hadi Soesastro, Executive Director, CSIS, Jakarta (Moderator); Prof. Zhang Yunling, Director, Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing; Dr. Masanori Kondo, International Christian University, Japan; and Dr. Pradumna B. Rana, Senior Adviser, OREI, Asian Development Bank. It was followed by an open discussion.



Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General

- Made a presentation on FDI and Development at the Workshop on India-Canada Trade and Investment Scenario, organized by the South Campus, University of Delhi on 5 January 2007.
- Participated in the meeting on SAARC called by the Foreign Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs on 17 January 2007.
- Delivered a lecture on "WTO and India" at the Refreshers' Course on 'Development Economics and Indian Scenario' for the Indian Statistical Service Officers, organized by the Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi on 19 January 2007.
- Made a presentation on "Integration in Asia: Lessons from EU" at the Seminar on Uniting People: Jean Monnet and the Construction, at India International Centre in New Delhi on 2 February 2007.
- Delivered a lecture on "WTO and Development" at the Training Programme on International Economics, Terms of Trade and WTO for the Officers of the Indian Statistical Service, organized by IIPA, New Delhi on 6 February 2007.
- Made a presentation at the Session on "Asian Dynamism and Challenges for Synergising Internal and External Cooperation of South Asia" and Co-Chaired, Session II on "Perspectives of Relations between South Asia and Other Regions" at the Conference on SAARC 2015: Expanding Horizons and Forging Cooperation in a Resurgent Asia, held in New Delhi on 10 February 2007.
- Participated in the Inter-Ministerial Meeting on Enhancing Intra-SAARC Trade, organized by the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi on 20 February 2007.
- Delivered a Talk on "Prospects of an Asian Economic Community" to the IFS Probationers of the 2006 Batch at the Foreign Service Institute, New Delhi on 22 February 2007.
- Delivered the Valedictory Address at the Training Programme on International Economics, Terms of Trade and WTO for the Officers of the Indian Statistical Service, organized by IIPA in New Delhi on 2 March 2007.
- Made a presentation at the session on "IP Rights, Foreign Direct Investment and International Technology Transfer" at the WIPO National Roundtable on the Economics of Intellectual Property, organized by WIPO and IIT, Delhi on 6 March 2007.
- Presentation on Asian Regionalism at the "Fostering Trade through Private-Public Dialogue – Expert Meeting on Regional Integration in India" organized by ICRIER and International Trade Centre, UNCTAD/WTO in New Delhi on 28 March 2007.
- Participated in the Meeting of Heads of Institutions involved in Economic Research Institute of ASEAN; and in the Session with Senior Economic Officials Meeting for informal briefing, organized by IDE-JETRO, Japan in Manila on 31 March 2007.

Dr. Rajesh Mehta, Senior Fellow

- Delivered a lecture on "Environment Standard: SPS and TBT" to the Officers of the Indian Statistical Service at a Training Programme on "WTO: Agreements and Issues", organized by IIPA on 7 February 2007.
- Delivered a lecture on the "Non-Agricultural Market Access" at the Training Programme on International Economics, Terms of Trade and WTO Issues for the Probationers of Indian Statistical Service, at IIPA, on 28 February 2007.
- Participated in the International Seminar on "Saving Doha and Delivering on Development", organized by Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in New Delhi on 12-13 March 2007.
- Participated in the seminar on "India-Bangladesh Trade" organized by NCAER, in New Delhi on 20 March 2007.

Dr. S. K. Mohanty, Fellow

- Participated in the Seventh IOR-ARC Ministerial and Academic Group meetings, held in Tehran, Iran on 3 March 2007.

Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi, Fellow

- Made presentations on "Dynamics of Biotechnology Research and Industry in India"; and on "Emerging Anchor Countries: Implications for Global Governance" at the Workshop on Managing Global Governance: Major Challenges and Main Actors, organized by German Development Institute, Bonn on February 7-9, 2007.
- Made a presentation on "SPS and TBT Issues in WTO and Agricultural Exports" at the Training Programme on WTO for the MMTC Officials, organized by IIFT on 20 February 2007.
- Participated in the Roundtable meeting on "South-to-South Collaboration in Genomics Innovation", organized by University of Toronto, Canada on 26 February 2007.
- Made a presentation on "SPS and TBT Issues in WTO" at the Training Programme for African Diplomats at IIFT, on 15 February, 2007.

Dr. Ram Upendra Das, Fellow

- Participated in the meeting with Foreign Secretary on 'SAARC' on 17 January 2007, New Delhi
- Participated in the Expert Group Meeting on Rules of Origin at the Ministry of Commerce, on 18 January 2007 in New Delhi.
- Speaker for the Session on "Intra-Asian Trade Flows" at the 2nd Asian Textile Conference, held on 19 January 2007 in New Delhi.
- Delivered lecture on "Agreement on Textile and Clothing" organized by IIPA on 8 February 2007 in New Delhi.
- Delivered a lecture on "SAFTA: Potentials and Constraints" in the Seminar on SAARC Economic Cooperation, organized by IDSA-ICRIER on 16 March 2007 in New Delhi.

- Delivered a lecture on "Issues in Trade Policy" during Programme on Development and Planning Models, organized by IEG, on 22 March 2007 in New Delhi.
- Respondent on "Prospects of Asian Integration" at the Expert Group Meeting on Regional Integration in Asia, organized by ITC/UNCTAD/WTO and ICRIER, on 29 March 2007 in New Delhi.

Dr. Somesh K. Mathur, Fellow

- Presented paper on "TRIPS and Its Impact on Developing Countries Including India" at WIPO Roundtable Conference, organized by IIT Delhi and WIPO on March 6-7, 2007 in New Delhi.

Dr. Prabir De, Associate Fellow

- Participated on the International Conference India Infrastructure Investment Forum 2007, organized by CII and Commonwealth Business Council (CBC), in New Delhi, on 15-16 January 2007.
- Participated in the Bilateral Dialogue on India-Japan Cooperation, organized by the IDSA and Japan Institute for International Cooperation in New Delhi on 17-18 January 2007.
- Participated in the research workshop on "Role of Infrastructure in Reducing Trade Costs", organized by the Asian Development Bank Institute, Tokyo on 29-30 January 2007.
- Participated in the International Conference on "Meeting India's Infrastructure Needs with Public-Private Partnerships: The International Experience and Perspective", organized by the World Bank, held in New Delhi on 5-6 February 2007.
- Made a presentation on "Cooperation in Infrastructure Sector between India and Myanmar: Scopes and Opportunities" at the International Conference on India – Myanmar Trade and Commerce, organized by the Indian Chamber of Commerce, Kolkata and Myanmar Chamber of Commerce & Industries, Mumbai, in Kolkata on 15 February 2007.
- Presented a paper on "Enhancing India's Merchandise Exports to China: Issues and Ways Forward", at the National Seminar on India-China Border Trade: Strategy for Frontier Development, organized by ICSSR North Eastern Regional Centre, Shillong at Gangtok, Sikkim, on 5-6 March 2007.
- Participated in the meeting on Kunming Initiative, organized by CPR and Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS), Delhi University in New Delhi on 8 March 2007.
- Participated in the Symposium on Japan-India Strategic Partnership in the Era of Asian Regional Integration, organized by CII and Government of Japan in New Delhi on 9 March 2007.
- Made a presentation on "The Importance of Trade Costs: A Gravity Model Application" at the 3rd ARTNeT Capacity Building Workshop on Trade Research, organized by UNESCAP, Bangkok on 26-30 March 2007.

Current Research/Advisory Activities

Potentials for Trade in Services under SAFTA Agreement

Intra-regional trade in SAARC is expected to rise significantly as an effect of SAFTA. However, it is understood that full potential of SAFTA will not be realized until its scope is expanded to cover trade in services and investments. This is because the economies of SAARC member states are dominated by services sector.

In view of this, at the 7th Meeting of the SAARC Network of Researchers on Global Financial and Economic Issues, held on 5-6 May 2005 in Kathmandu, it was unanimously agreed that a study on this subject would be commissioned by the SAARC Secretariat with RIS working as the coordinator of the study. Subsequently, the Declaration of the Thirteenth SAARC Summit, held in Dhaka in November 2005, emphasised on the importance of trade in services and investment and called for a study. The study has been launched by RIS for the SAARC Secretariat with support of the ADB. Broadly, the study aims at assessing the potentials for and constraints in regional cooperation in trade in services under the SAFTA Agreement as also to make policy recommendations for augmenting intra-SAARC trade in services.

RIS is hosting an inception workshop for the study in cooperation with SAARC Secretariat in May 2007 participated by resource persons from all the SAARC member states. For further details contact: dgoffice@ris.org.in

RIS Launches Asian Biotechnology Innovation and Development Initiative

Asian Biotechnology Innovation and Development Initiative (ABIDI) was launched at a day-long workshop organized by RIS in New Delhi on 25 January 2007, in collaboration with the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India. At this meeting more than 12 representatives from different Asian countries participated. The idea was to bring together the policy community, academics and interested institutions for facilitating greater understanding on policy aspects related to innovation and development of biotechnology. During the launch meeting of ABIDI, it was realized that Asian countries should evolve an analytical framework for policy-makers in the area of biotechnology, relevant to the region's requirements. Since in a globalized world innovation is influenced by several interdependent regional systems, it would be useful to launch this initiative at the Asian level.

Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director General, RIS made the opening remarks and Prof. Anthony Arundel delivered the keynote address. The perspectives on ABIDI were discussed by Dr. S. R. Rao, Adviser, DBT. Ms. Brigitte Vanbeuzekom of OECD also gave an overview on biotechnology statistics collection plan of OECD. The outside participants at the meeting included: Dr. Nina Gloriani, The Philippines; Dr. Virginia G. Novenario-Enriquez, The Philippines; Dr. Prasartporn Smitamana, Thailand; Ms Watcharin Meerod, Thailand; Dr. Karim Maredia, MSU; Prof. Dongsoon Lim, South Korea; Dr. Ann Jinhui, China; Dr. Bambang Purwantara, Indonesia; Dr. Durga Datta Dhakal, Nepal; Prof Phua Kai Hong, Singapore; and Dr. Anil Jayasekera, Sri Lanka.

Policy Notes prepared for the Government of India

- Note on "A Vision for the Second Decade of BIMSTEC" was prepared for and sent to the Ministry of External Affairs on 11 January 2007.
- Note on "Towards a Prosper-Thy-Neighbour Policy for Southern Asia: Some Proposals" in the context of India's Chair of SAARC and BIMSTEC was prepared and sent to the Ministry of External Affairs on 28 February 2007.

- Note on "Asia Pacific Bank for Infrastructure Investment" was prepared and sent to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on 2 March 2007.
- Inputs on Globalisation were provided to the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance on 29 March 2007.
- Inputs on sensitive products were provided for negotiations on India-Korea Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Seminar on International and Product Diversification, R&D and Innovative Capabilities



(From left): Dr. Nagesh Kumar; Prof. N.S. Siddharthan and Dr. Rakesh B. Sambharya at the seminar.

RIS organized a Seminar on International and Product Diversification, R&D and Innovative Capabilities in the World's largest Multinational Corporations on 12 January 2007. Prof. N.S. Siddharthan, Head, V.K.R.V. Rao Centre for Studies in Globalisation, Institute of Economic Growth, chaired the Seminar.

Dr. Rakesh B. Sambharya, Professor of Management & International Business, School of Business, Rutgers University, Camden, USA made the presentation on the subject. His presentation was followed by the open discussion in which participants took active part.

Consultative Meeting on Implications of the WTO Negotiations on Indian Paper and Newsprint Industry

RIS and CPPRI jointly organized a consultative meeting on Implications of the WTO Negotiations on Indian Paper and Newsprint Industry in New Delhi on 19 January 2007. The seminar opened with remarks by Dr. T.K Roy, Director, CPPRI. Dr. Rajesh Mehta, Senior Fellow, RIS initiated the discussion with his presentation on "The Implications of the WTO Tariff Proposals on Indian Paper and Newsprint Industry". It was followed by intensive discussion from the senior participants from Government and the Indian paper and newsprint industry. They included Mr. S.P. Maurya, Director, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India; Mr. Anil Kumar, Executive Director & CEO, Shreyans Industries Limited; Mr. R. Narayan Moorthy, Secretary General, Indian Paper Manufacturers Association (IPMA); Mr. S.P. Gupta, Narsingh Dass & Company; Mr. A.K. Bhargava, Secretary General, Indian Agro and Recycled Paper Mills Association (IARPMA); and Mr. Ranjan Kumar, Khatema Fibres Ltd.

Latest Publications

Book

International Competitiveness & Knowledge-based Industries in India, Editors: Nagesh Kumar and K.J. Joseph
RIS and Oxford University Press, 2007

ISBN 10: 0-19-568671-3

The book analyses the international competitiveness of India's exports through an empirical analysis covering a sample of more than 4000 enterprises. A detailed study of five key knowledge-based industries – electronic, pharmaceuticals, chemical, automotive, and non-electrical machinery – provides an in-depth coverage of the issue. The focus is on corporate strategies such as scale of operations, technological dynamism, multinational affiliation, and outward investment. The volume advocates a strategic approach to enhance export competitiveness of enterprises in India and outlines policy lesson for the government, industry bodies, and enterprises.



Report

Economic Considerations of Biosafety and Biotechnology Regulations in India

RIS, International Food Policy Research Institute, and South Asia Biosafety Program, 2007

This Report is based on the proceedings of the conference which brought together Indian stakeholders and well-known international and Indian economists and regulatory experts working on agricultural biotechnology and biosafety regulations, from domestic production and consumption to international trade, information exchanges, and environmental issues.



Mekong-Ganga Policy Brief

This new publication seeks to disseminate the policy-related research, news, viewpoints, and information about resources among the policy circles and think-tanks to promote the cause of deeper cooperation between India and Mekong countries.



RIS Policy Brief

#30 *Restoring Afghanistan-Pakistan-India-Bangladesh-Myanmar (APIBM) Corridor: Towards a New Silk Road in Asia*

Development of APIBM corridor along with adoption of transport and transit agreements in South Asia to allow through movement of vehicles, along with development or construction of modern border crossings in South Asia in order to facilitate transit of both passengers and freight, and adoption of facilitation measures and simplified customs procedures for efficient clearance of goods across the border points, could be important priorities for SAARC. APIBM corridor with appropriate interconnections with Nepal and Bhutan, could over time become an important 'arc of advantage and shared prosperity' in South Asia and broader Asia.

Discussion Papers

#118 *Trade Facilitation Measures in South Asian FTAs: An Overview of Initiatives and Policy Approaches* by Sachin Chaturvedi

Several South Asian countries have joined the current wave of bilateral and sub-regional free trade agreements (FTA) in the region. The dynamics of regional cooperation is supported by the rapid economic expansion which is creating complementarities for trade expansion. Though the intra-regional trade has expanded over the years, it is far below its potential as not enough attention is being paid on the launching of trade facilitation (TF) measures. This paper makes an effort to take a stock of various FTAs in South Asia from the point of view of incorporation of TF measures in the text of FTAs. It also looks into the individual initiatives being made by the South Asian countries for advancement of trade facilitation.

#119 *India-Sri Lanka Bilateral Free Trade Agreement: Six Years Performance and Beyond* by Saman Kelegama and Indra Nath Mukherji

India-Sri Lanka Bilateral Free Trade Agreement signed in 1998 was a pioneering attempt in the direction of trade liberalization in South Asian region. This paper examines the performance of the Agreement in the first six years of its coming into being and draws lessons from its success that could be relevant in the context of SAFTA and other such initiatives.

#120 *Relevance of 'Policy Space' for Development: Implications for Multilateral Trade Negotiations* by Nagesh Kumar and Kevin P. Gallagher

This paper makes a compelling case for public intervention for fostering industrial development. Evidence suggests that present day developed countries have extensively employed infant industry protection, industrial policy and performance requirements, soft intellectual property protection

regimes, subsidies, government procurement and regional economic integration among other policies in their process of industrialization. A development-friendly outcome of the Doha Round would provide flexibility from the TRIPs and TRIMs obligations for facilitating transfer of technology and building up local capabilities in developing countries besides allowing them adequate space for pursuing infant industry protection in the tariff reduction commitments.

#121 *India's Rising Role in Asia* by Mukul G. Asher

This paper analyses recent developments in India's external economic relations, with particular reference to Asia. India's demonstrated capacity to sustain moderately high growth over a prolonged period, primarily led by private-sector companies provides an avenue for global risk diversification for major economic powers. The paper demonstrates that India's qualitative and quantitative integration with the rest of Asia (and the world) is far deeper than commonly perceived. India must continue with the integration process; and with efforts to shift to 8 to 10 per cent sustained growth path if it is to reduce poverty and improve quality of life of its 1.1 billion people. The paper strongly urges India's political parties, media, and other elites to strategically and vigorously pursue country's core economic and strategic interests to meet challenges arising from competing nations.

Journals

● ***Asian Biotechnology and Development Review***, Vol. 9 No. 2, March 2007

Contents: *Transnational Factors and National Linkages: Indian Experience in Human Vaccines* by Y. Madhavi; *GM Cotton in Gujarat: General Madness or Genuine Miracle?* by Sudarshan Iyengar and N. Lalitha; *Plant Biosecurity in India - Status and Strategy* by R. K. Khetarpal and Kavita Gupta; *Biotechnology Inventions and the Patent Regime* by T.V.S. Ramamohan Rao; *WTO Ruling on the EU-US Biotech Products Dispute: A Review of Issues* by Biswajit Nag and Debashis Chakraborty; Document; Bio Web; New Arrival; and Bio Stat.

● ***New Asia Monitor***, Vol. 4, No. 1, January 2007

Outside Publications of RIS Faculty Members

Research Papers

Chaturvedi, Sachin 2007. "Asian Biotechnology Information and Development Initiative for Biotechnology Assessment and Policy Relevant Indicators". *Current Science*, 92(6), March 25.

Chaturvedi, Sachin 2007. "Trade Facilitation Measures in South Asian FTAs: An Overview of Initiatives and Policy Approaches". *ARTNeT Working Paper Series*, No. 28, January 2007.

Chaturvedi, Sachin (co-author). 2007. "Industry Association and Technology-based Growth in India". *The European Journal of Development Research*, 19(1), March.

Das, Ram Upendra. 2007. "Technological advances and industrial characteristics: Some evidence from developed and developing countries." *Economics Bulletin*, Vol. 15, No. 4 pp. 1-13.

De, Prabir. 2007. "Impact of Trade Costs on Trade: Empirical Evidence from Asian Countries". *ARTNeT Working Paper No. 27*, UNESCAP, Bangkok.

De, Prabir. 2007. "Empirical Estimates of Trade Costs for Asia". Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), Tokyo.

Kumar, Nagesh. 2007. "Foreign Direct Investment." in *The Oxford Companion to Economics in India* by Kaushik Basu (ed). New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Kumar, Nagesh. 2006. "Liberalisation, Foreign Direct Investment Flow and Development: Indian Experience in the 1990s" in *Economic Reforms in India: An Appraisal* by R. Sthanumoorthy (ed.). Hyderabad: The ICFAI University Press.

Mehta, Rajesh. 2007. "South Asia and WTO: A Summary"; "The Impact of WTO on India"; and "WTO and the Poultry Industry in India" (co-author) in *WTO and South Asia* by Imtiaz Alam (ed.). SAPNA: South Asian Studies, Vol.: XI.

Mehta, Rajesh (co-author). 2007. "Challenging Avenues in Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary Agreement for India: A Case Study of Select Processed Food Products" in *Agricultural Diversification and Smallholders in South Asia* by Joshi, P., Ashok Gulati and Ralph Cummings Jr. (eds.). pp. 441-477. New Delhi: Academic Foundation.

Mehta, Rajesh (co-author). 2007. "TBT Measures and South Asia" in *South Asia Yearbook on Trade & Development 2006, Multilateralism at Crossroads: Reaffirming Development Priorities* by Chimni, B. S. et al. (eds.). New Delhi: Wiley-India.

Popular Column

Agarwala, Ramgopal. 2007. "First bridge the infrastructure deficit: we must get the public-private partnership modalities right on viability gap funding". *The Financial Express*. 13 February.

RIS Programme on International Economic Issues and Development Policy Concluded



IEIDP Participants with RIS Faculty.

The Programme on "International Economic Issues and Development Policy (IEIDP)", sponsored by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, under ITEC/SCAAP Programme, was organized in RIS from 19 February-16 March 2007. Fourteen participants, which included Ms. Farida Mahomed, Hon'ble Member of Parliament,

South Africa, took part in this programme. The other participants were: Ms. Seema Ramnarain, South Africa; Mr. Said Al Riyami, Oman; Mr. Ram Hittoo, Mauritius; Mr. Nagabila Oumarou, Burkina Faso; Mr. Samnang Yeap, Cambodia; Mr. Rafael Fernando Velasquez Zepeda, Honduras; Ms. Sharon Bell Gracia, Suriname; Ms. Maria Luciana Sayanes, Argentina; Dr.

Ibragim Mavlanov, Uzbekistan; Ms. Evgeniya Nefedova, Russia; Mr. Khut Chandara, Cambodia; Mr. Nguyen Van Ha, Vietnam; and Mr. Somboune Phomdouangdy, Lao PDR.

The IEIDP programme began on 19 February 2007 with welcome remarks and programme-orientation by Dr. Ram Upendra Das, Fellow & Programme Coordinator, RIS. Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director General, RIS delivered the inception lecture. He also made a presentation on World Trading System and Development in the opening session.

The programme covered major modules on WTO and developing countries, global economic governance, South-South cooperation, regional economic integration, and emergence of Indian economy.

The IEIDP programme also included presentations by the participants themselves. The participants also visited a number of scientific and industrial establishments during their four-week long stay at RIS.

At the valedictory session held on 16 March 2007 certificates were distributed to the participants. The participants provided feedback on the programme. Ms. Arundhati Das, Under Secretary, MEA also made remarks.

Important Visitors/Delegations Received

- Mr. PRV Ramanan, Chairman, Govt. of India, Expert Group on Rules of Origin, on 10 January 2007.
- Mr. Venugopal, Editor, *Hindu Businessline* on 12 January 2007.
- Mr. Ashok Kumar, Deputy Director General, Federation of Indian Export Organization, New Delhi, on January 15, 2007.
- Mr. Sunil Jain, Joint Secretary (MER), Ministry of External Affairs on 30 January 2007.
- Ambassador K.K. Bhargava on 31 January 2007.
- Prof. Rehman Sobhan, Chairman, CPD, Dhaka, Bangladesh on 8 February 2007.
- Prof. Horimoto, Takenori, Faculty of Policy Studies/Graduate School, Shobi University, Japan on 12 February 2007.
- Dr. Manmohan Agarwal, Dean, School of International Studies, JNU on 13 February 2007. JNU on 13 February 2007.
- H.E. Mr. Charles Chauvel, New Zealand Member of Parliament; H.E. Mr. Graeme Water, High Commissioner of New Zealand; and Ms Tui Dewes, Second Secretary, High Commission of New Zealand on 15 February 2007.
- Mr. Richard Joyce, University of London on 21 February 2007.

- Prof. IN Mukherji, School of International Studies, JNU on 28 February 2007.
- Dr. Tadateru Hayashi, Economist/Country Programs Specialist, Country Coordination and Regional Cooperation Division, South Asia Department, Asia Development Bank (ADB), on 28 February 2007
- Ms Heather Ward, Deputy High Commissioner, New Zealand High Commission, New Delhi, on 1 March 2007.
- Prof. Masao Oka, Faculty of Economics, Musashi University, Tokyo, on 5 March 2007.
- Prof. Junko Maru, Faculty of Economics, Musashi University, Tokyo, Japan, on 5 March 2007.
- Prof. Masamitsu Sato, Fellow, Research Institute of Musashi University, Tokyo, Japan, on 5 March 2007.

- Dr. Tetsuji Kawamura, Faculty of Economics, Hsei University, Japan, on 5 March 2007.
- Prof. Yoriuzumi Watanabe, Professor of International Economy, Kieo University on 8 March 2007.
- Mr. Bruce Stokes, Economist, *National Journal*, Washington on 14 March 2007.
- Dr. Amitava Mukherjee, Chief Technical Adviser, on Poverty Reduction UNESCAP, Bangkok on 15 March 2007.
- Mr. Regis Avanthay, Head, Global Issues and Sustainable Development Division, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Switzerland; and Dr. Sailendra Narain, Chairman, Centre for SME Growth & Development Finance, Mumbai on 23 March 2007.

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

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

Managing Editor: Tish Kumar Malhotra