



Singapore Conference on South Asia-East Asia Economic Cooperation and Pan-Asian Integration

RIS organized this conference on South Asia-East Asia Economic Cooperation and Pan-Asian Integration jointly with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Singapore Centre for Applied and Policy Economics (SCAPE-NUS), Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS), and Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) on 29-30 November 2006 in Singapore. The first day of the conference was devoted to presentation of studies conducted by ADB on South Asia-East Asia cooperation and potential of cooperation in select sectors. The second day programme organized by RIS and ISEAS was devoted to issues in broader economic integration and the agenda of the East Asia Summit.

The first session on "Approaches for Pan-Asian Economic Integration" was chaired by Ambassador K. Kesavapany, ISEAS. It had following presentations: Relevance and Approaches for a Broader Asian Community by Dr. Nagesh Kumar, RIS; Towards a Comprehensive Economic Partnership in East Asia: The Japanese Perspective by Dr.



From left: Dr. Tetsuya Watanabe; Dr. Nagesh Kumar; Ambassador K. Kesavapany; and Dr. Denis Hew at the session on Pan-Asian Economic Integration of the Conference.

Tetsuya Watanabe, Director, Office of East Asian Economic Integration and Development, METI, Japan; and ASEAN's Role in fostering Pan-Asian Economic Integration by Dr. Denis Hew, ISEAS. It was followed by a Panel Discussion on Regional Economic Cooperation in Asia: Agenda for the East Asia Summit moderated by Dr. Nagesh Kumar, DG-RIS and included Panelists: Dr. Mukul

Asher, LKYSPP: Cooperation in Services in Asia; Ambassador Sudhir Devare, ISEAS: Regional Cooperation for Energy Security; and Dr. Tan See Seng, IDSS: A Strategic perspective.

The Conference had participation of a large number of policy makers, business people and academics based in Singapore and other Asian countries.

Seminar on Emergence of China and India - Implications for African Development

The emergence of China and India as major economic powers have created new opportunities for integration with other developing countries, particularly in the African region.

To take a stock of this emerging scenario which holds great promise for wider South-South cooperation, RIS, jointly with Export-Import Bank of India, organized a Seminar on Emergence of China and India - Implications for African Development on 5 October 2006 in New Delhi.

The Seminar was chaired by Ambassador L.K. Ponappa, Vice-Chairperson, RIS.

At the Seminar the discussion was initiated by Dr. Andrea-Enrico Goldstein, Senior Economist, OECD Development Centre, Paris, who has led an OECD Development Centre Study on the subject.

The presentation was discussed and commented upon by Mr. S.R. Rao, Executive



From right: Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS; Dr. Andrea-Enrico Goldstein; Ambassador L.K. Ponappa; Mr. S.R. Rao; and Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi at the Seminar.

Director, Export-Import Bank of India, and Dr Sachin Chaturvedi, Fellow, RIS. It was followed by the open discussion in which a

large number of participants from business and industry, government, academic and research circles took part.

Emergence of Large Developing Countries: Implications for Co-Developing Countries

The last decade has seen a continued growth in the South-South trade and investment linkages. The share of South-South trade in global trade increased from 34 per cent in 1990 to around 43 per cent by the end of the decade and it is growing at a rate of 10 per cent per year, which is more than twice that of the recorded rate of growth in global trade. Such unprecedented growth in South-South trade may be seen against the fact that during the last few decades the developing countries have built up substantial industrial-technological capabilities which in turn provided scope for exploiting synergies among themselves by sharing of knowledge and technologies on the one hand and investment on the other. In particular, emergence of large countries in the developing world such as China, India, Brazil and South Africa (henceforth emerging economies) has created new avenues for South-South Cooperation while also creating some apprehensions. There are concerns, for instance, that Chinese exports of mass production items have caused serious concern; and some studies have predicted the possibility of cropping up of recession in the African economies in the event of continued onslaught of China, especially in sectors such as garments, etc. Some other studies identify the integration process of these emerging developing countries as great opportunity for fellow developing and least developed countries, especially from African region provided they tap the complementarities for maximizing the growth and prosperity.

Against that backdrop, this study will map out the role of emerging countries in development of developing countries with special reference to Africa. In particular, the study will begin by documenting the rise of emerging economies and their growing importance in terms of various parameters of the global economy and integration. Then the study will examine the importance of emerging economies as markets for African countries, followed by these countries emerging as sources of investments and technology. Finally, the study will discuss the role that emerging economies are playing and may play in shaping the global economic architecture and make it more development friendly including the world trading system. The study will be concluded with some broad lessons for international development policy that could facilitate a fuller exploitation of the potential of such cooperation between emerging economies and other developing countries especially in Africa. The study will be undertaken with the support of the

Commonwealth Secretariat, London. The Secretariat plans to also organize a consultative meeting on the study report. Contact for details: dgoffice@ris.org.in

Regional Financial Cooperation for Infrastructure Development in Asia

Benefits of geographical proximity in Asia are often lost due to inadequate transport linkages. Studies on development of transport connectivity therefore have been undertaken in conjunction with RIS work on various approaches to regional cooperation in Asia. Transport infrastructure and connectivity has earlier been examined in the context of SAARC and BIMSTEC. The importance of the development of infrastructure is being studied in the context of the ongoing programme on Asian Economic Community. The focus of the current work has been on the role of regional financial cooperation for meeting these requirements. Asian countries together hold two thirds of world's foreign exchange reserves. However, because of lack of a regional framework, it is not possible to harness them for region's massive infrastructure deficit. RIS study is developing a proposal for a regional mechanism for financing of infrastructure development. A paper was prepared and presented at the High-Level Conference on Asian Economic Integration held in November 2005. More detailed work on the subject working out the modalities and institutional infrastructure for giving effect to such cooperation is being undertaken during 2006/07, as a part of a study sponsored by the Department of Commerce to assist the UN-ESCAP in its policy dialogue on the subject. RIS will be cohosting with UN-ESCAP a high-level Policy Dialogue on the subject on 21-22 March 2007 in New Delhi with senior participation from the entire region. The RIS study will be presented at the Dialogue. Contact for details: ragarwala@ris.org.in

Impact of EU/USGSP Scheme on India's Trade

The Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India has requested RIS to conduct a detailed study relating to the EU/USGSP Scheme. The US and EU have re-examined the continuation of GSP scheme to developing countries. This study will analyse following aspects: (a) Impact of new EU GSP Scheme on India's exports, including taking into account exports of key competitors, to the EU following repeal of the Drug Window with effect from July 1, 2005 and coming into force of the GSP scheme on January 1, 2006. (b)

Utilization of Preferences by India under the EU GPS and US GSP Schemes. (c) The likely trade impact on Indian exports with the possible withdrawal of GSP benefits to India by the US. This study is being conducted as a part of RIS Research Advisory Project on NAMA sponsored by Ministry of Commerce. Contact for details: rajeshmehta@ris.org.in

Negotiations for Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between India and Korea

As part of negotiations of trade in goods, of India-Korea CEPA, RIS has undertaken a detailed study, for Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India. The study will identify (i) tariff lines (at HS-6/8 digit) which are sensitive for India and on which no tariff concessions are to be offered, (ii) sectors/tariff lines which are of export interest to India and which India needs to aggressively negotiate with ROK for tariff removal or at least substantial tariff reduction, and (iii) sectors/tariff lines which are of export interests to ROK *vis-a-vis* India and suggest whether on these India could offer tariff elimination or substantial tariff reduction. Contact for details: rajeshmehta@ris.org.in

Afghanistan as a Member of the SAFTA Agreement: An Analysis of Its Economic Implications

Afghanistan will be joining SAARC during the forthcoming SAARC Summit to be held in New Delhi in 2007. This would also necessitate Afghanistan to become a member of the SAFTA Agreement. The economic implications of this development need to be understood in a comprehensive manner. Against this backdrop, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India has approached RIS to conduct a study, the preliminary report of which has been submitted. Besides analyzing economic implications of Afghanistan's membership of the SAFTA Agreement, the study also assesses the possibilities of its reconciliation with India-Afghanistan PTA. In addition, the study explores into possibilities of identifying HS 6-digit items which could be included by Afghanistan under SAFTA; identifying items of export interest to India; a possible sensitive list that India could maintain *vis-à-vis* Afghanistan; identifying products where product-specific rules would be required; finding opportunities for strengthening trade-investment linkages and potentials for investment cooperation with Afghanistan within SAFTA framework – emphasizing the need for expanding the scope of SAFTA Agreement. Contact for details: upendra@ris.org.in

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Third Asian Biotechnology and Development Conference

The Third Asian Biotechnology and Development Conference was held on 9-10 November 2006, in Manila, which saw participation of 220 people from Australia, India, Indonesia, Italy, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore and the United States. The Conference was part of a series initiated by RIS in 2002 and was organized in collaboration with the Biotechnology Coalition of the Philippines among other organizations.

The theme of the conference was "Biotechnology Opportunities for Developing Countries". The conference began with Dr. Edgar DaSilva reading a backgrounder on Asian Biotechnology Conferences written by Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director General, RIS. Thereafter Dr. Edgar DaSilva requested Dr. Estrella Alabastro, Secretary of Department of Science and Technology, Philippines to release the special issue of RIS publication, *Asian Biotechnology and Development Review* on "Bioethics in Asia". Dr. William Padolina, Deputy Director-General of the International Rice Research Institute gave the welcome address. Dr. Hubert Gijzen gave an idea of UNESCO's interest in biotechnology. Dr. Estrella Alabastro delivered the keynote address.

The session on "World Perspectives on Biocommercialization" was chaired by Dr. Gurinder



Dr. Estrella Alabastro addressing the gathering. Also seen in the picture are Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi and Dr. Edgar DaSilva.

Shahi. It had presentations by Dr. S. R. Rao, Advisor to the Department of Biotechnology of India; Atty. Peter Tabor, International Economist, US Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service; Dr. Saturnina Halos; and Dr. Patricio Faylon, Executive Director, Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development of the Department of Science and Technology.

The session on Essential Issues was chaired by Dr. Edgar DaSilva. It had presentations by Dr. Wendy Craig of the Biosafety Unit, ICGEB; Dr. Hector Quemada, Western Michigan University; and Dr. Ernesto del Rosario and his colleagues at University of the Philippines.

The session on medical biotechnology was chaired by Dr. Jaime Montoya, Executive Director, Philippine Council for Health

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Trade Facilitation Measures in South Asian FTAs: An Overview of Initiatives and Policy Approaches

Several South Asian countries have joined the current wave of bilateral and sub-regional free trade agreements (FTA) in the region. The number of FTAs has gone to as high as 23 in the region of which one is a sub-regional trade grouping (BIMST-EC) and one regional trade agreement (SAFTA) while there are 21 bilateral trade agreements in the region. Though the intra-regional trade has expanded over the years but is far below its potential as not enough attention is being paid on the launching of trade facilitation (TF) measures. RIS with support from ARTNeT, UN-ESCAP, Bangkok, launched a study to take a stock of incorporation of TF measures in the various FTAs in South Asia. The study also looked into the individual initiatives being made by the South Asian countries for advancement of trade facilitation especially in context of Articles V, VIII and X. The TF measures assumes importance in the context of intra-regional trade in South Asia infrastructural constraints at the land custom stations, under the Article V, is the major challenge to be addressed. The current text of FTAs are not very assuring in this regard. As the paper shows not enough is being attempted to overcome TF related constraints. Except in Indo-Singapore FTA, which later graduated to comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA) not

many FTAs have detailed provisions for capacity building and for measures related to infrastructure development. The study explored if regional cooperation may help achieve some of these objectives as is being attempted through SAARC. Contact for details: sachin@ris.org.in

Policy Notes prepared for the Government of India

- Inputs were provided to the Ministry of External Affairs for the Tenth Meeting of ASEAN-India Working Group scheduled for 16-17 October 2006.
- Inputs on India's trade and investment in East Asian countries were provided to the Ministry of External Affairs on 19 October 2006.
- Notes on "Financial and Monetary Cooperation in Asia" and "Disaster Management in Asia" were made available to the Ministry of External Affairs on 15 November 2006 in preparation of the East Asia Summit.
- Note on Some Points on ASEAN-India Summit and Note on Some Points for Interventions at Foreign Ministers Lunch at EAS were provided to the Ministry of External Affairs on November 27.
- Report on the Meetings on Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) held in Jakarta on 4 November 2006 and on 1-2 December 2006 was provided to the Ministry of External Affairs on 5 December 2006.

RIS Governing Council Meeting

The Meeting of the RIS Governing Council was held on 9 November 2006. Prof. Arjun K. Sengupta, Chariman, RIS chaired the Meeting. They discussed in detail the current and future research programme of the RIS.

Ambassador L.K. Ponappa, Vice Chairperson, RIS; Shri G.K. Pillai, Commerce Secretary; Shri N. Ravi, Secretary (East & ER), Ministry of External Affairs; Dr. Anup K. Pujari, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance (representing Finance Secretary and Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs); Dr. Y.P. Kumar, Adviser (G), Ministry of Science and Technology (representing Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology); and Commodore C. Udaya Bhaskar, VSM participated in the Governing Council Meeting. The Meeting of the Governing Council was followed by the Meeting of the General Body of RIS.

- Key presentations from the Conference on South Asia-East Asia Economic Cooperation and Pan-Asian Integration, organized by jointly by RIS with ADB and three Singapore-based institutes, on 29-30 November 2006, were provided to the Ministry of External Affairs on 5 December 2006.

Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General

- Discussed in the Plenary Session III on "Global Comparisons" in the International Seminar on Knowledge Based Industries, Employment and Global Competitiveness, organized by the Forum for Global Knowledge Sharing in New Delhi on 7 October 2006.
- Participated in the First Meeting of the Study Steering Group on Area: FDI in R&D Sector, organized by the Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC) in New Delhi on 11 October 2006.
- Presented to the press UNCTAD's Annual Publication *World Investment Report 2006* at UN Information Centre, New Delhi on 16 October 2006.
- Participated in the Kick-start Meeting of the GISD-SDC Partner Institutions for GMS, organized by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation in New Delhi on 16 October 2006.
- Delivered a Special Address on "Can India Catch Up with China?" at the 'Seminar on Achieving the Asian Miracle in India', organized by the Department of Economics, Jesus and Mary College, New Delhi on 27 October 2006.
- Participated in the preparatory meeting on Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), organized by the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Jakarta and Institute of Developing Economies (IDE-JETRO), Japan in Jakarta on 4 November 2006.
- Delivered a Talk on "Regional Trade Blocs" at the 41st Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD), organized by the Foreign Service Institute, Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on 7 November 2006.
- Moderator at the session on "Economic Relations between Korea and India" at The Korea-India Economic Forum, organized by *The Economic Times* in Mumbai on 23 November 2006.
- Participated in the Finalization Workshop for the Study on Economic Cooperation between East Asia and South Asia, organized by ADB in Singapore on 27-28 November 2006.
- Participated in the Workshop on Economic Research Institute on ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) hosted by Secretary-General, ASEAN on 1-2 December 2006 at ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta.
- Speaker in the session on "How India is managing the new paradigm in globalization - the lessons", in FICCI-KAF Colloquium on Globalization: Change Management and New Roles Views from India and Germany, organized by FICCI and Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAF) in New Delhi on 9 December 2006.

- Participated in the interactive session on "Making Globalization Work for India" with Prof. Joseph Stiglitz, University Professor, Columbia University, organized by ICRIER in New Delhi on 19 December 2006.
- Speaker at the Session on Global Issues at the Seminar on "Towards Consensus in Indian Foreign Policy", organized by the ICWA in New Delhi on 22 December 2006.
- Participated in the Meeting with a Group of Economists for Pre-Budget Consultations called by the Hon'ble Finance Minister of India in New Delhi on 30 December 2006.

Dr. Rajesh Mehta, Senior Fellow

- Delivered a lecture on "India's Regional Trading Agreements" at the Training Course for IES Officers, Institute of Economic Growth (IEG), 12 October 2006.
- Participated in the "Agriculture Summit 2006: Reforms for Empowering the Farmer", organized jointly by the Ministry of Agriculture, and FICCI, October 18-19, 2006.
- Delivered a lecture on "Non-Agricultural Market Access (NAMA)" at the Training Course for IES Officers, Institute of Economic Growth (IEG), Delhi on 30 October 2006.
- Presented a joint paper on "Meeting Food Safety Standards in Export Markets: Issues and Challenges Facing Firms Exporting from Developing Countries" at the IATRC Summer Symposium, Food Regulation and Trade: Institutional Framework, Concepts of Analysis and Empirical Evidence, Bonn, Germany, 2006.
- Participated in the international conference on "India and the Global Economy" organized by ICRIER on the occasion of their Silver Jubilee in 2006-07 on 6-7 November 2006 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- Presented Summary of the detailed paper on "TBT Measures and South Asia" at CENTAD South Asia Conference on Trade & Development 2006 Multilateralism at Crossroads: Reaffirming Development Priorities, on 19-20 December, 2006.

Dr. S.K. Mohanty, Fellow

- Presented a paper on "Towards India-SACU PTA: Emerging Policy Option" at the Seminar on 'India-SACU PTA: Opportunities and Challenges' organized by ASSOCHAM on 6 October 2006.
- Participated in the Workshop on "Post-Doha Agenda for Developing Countries" on 30-31 October, 2006 and "Third ARTNeT Consultative Meeting of Policymakers and Research Institutions" organized by UNESCAP on 1-2 November, 2006 in Macao, China.

- Participated in the Seminar on "Employment and Development - Good Jobs, Bad Jobs", organized by ICRIER in New Delhi on 13 November 2006.

Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi, Fellow

- Made a presentation on "ABS and Kani Case in India" at the Inaugural Meeting of the GenBenefit Project, on 2-3 November 2006, organized by University of Central Lancashire, London.
- Made a presentation on "Biofuels in India" at the Department of Energy, Alternative Fuels and Energy Technology Division, Manila, on 10 November 2007.
- Made a presentation on "National System of Bio-innovation in Singapore and India: Lessons for Other Developing Countries" at the Integrated Policies for Bio-Innovations in Agriculture and Health in Asia, organized by Asian Institute of Technology, AIT, Pathumthani, Thailand, on 13-14 November 2006.
- Made a presentation on "Agricultural Biotechnology-based (Green) Enterprise Development for Sustainable Rural Livelihood and Economic Growth: Opportunities with Biofuel in Select Asian Economies" at the Second Meeting of the Technical Committee of APCAEM, Suwon, Republic of Korea, on 20 November 2006.
- Made a presentation on "Recent Biotechnology Policy Initiatives in India" at KRIBB, Daejeon, South Korea on 21 November 2006.
- Made a presentation on "Trade and Environment and TRIPs" at the ICAI's Post Qualification Course in International Trade Laws and WTO on 6 December 2006.
- Made a presentation on "Biosafety and Trade Related Issues" at the National Orientation Course on Biosafety Considerations for Evaluation of Transgenic Crops organized by NBPGR, New Delhi on 7 December 2006.
- Made a presentation on "Biotechnology Statistics and Policy Priorities: Where are the Gaps?" at the Workshop on Measuring the Outputs and Impacts of Biotechnology, OECD, Paris, on 11 December 2006.
- Made a presentation on "Innovation, Environmental Ethics and Corporate Responsibility" at the Workshop on Bioethics for Indian Society organized by UNESCO-NISTADS, New Delhi on 14 December 2006.

Dr. Ram Upendra Das, Fellow

- Delivered a lecture on "WTO Issues from Developing Countries' Perspective" at Indian Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi, on 20 October 2006.

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Third Asian Biotechnology and Development Conference

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Research and Development. Presentations were made by Dr. Gurinder Shahi; Dr. Nina Gloriani Barzaga of the University of the Philippines and Nagoya City University Graduate School of Medical Sciences; and Dr. Filipinas F. Natividad.

Two major issues, intellectual property rights and ethics were covered in the session on Enabling Issues run by Dr. Reynaldo Ebor, Executive Director, Philippine Council for Advanced Science and Technology Research and Development. Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi of RIS brought out the major concerns regarding plant variety protection, patents, protection of traditional knowledge and folklore, access to biodiversity and benefit sharing. Another presentation on Ethics was made by Bishop Jesus Varela.

The session on "Advancement and Prospects in Agri-Biotechnology in Asia: Status and Priorities" was chaired by Dr. George Fuller, Executive Director, CropLife Asia. In the overview lead paper, Dr. Randy Hautea described the global trends in agri-biotechnology.

Dr. Bharat Char, Mahyco Research Centre, Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Co., Lt., of Jalna, India, described efforts being made to bring Bt eggplant to commercial production. Dr. Jerry Flint, Director, Technical Development-Asia Pacific, Monsanto, described the history of Bt corn development and factors leading to its successful commercial deployment in the Philippines. Dr. Rhodora R. Aldemita, Chief Science Research Specialist, Philippine Rice Research Institute described the pioneering work of Ingo Potrykus and Peter Beyer in building in beta carotene into rice. Dr. Kiran K. Sharma, of Genetic Transformation Laboratory, ICRISAT described completed and ongoing research at ICRISAT to alleviate poor production in drought susceptible areas. Dr. Dennis Gonsalves, Center Director, Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center, Hawaii, related his success with papaya resistant to the papaya ring spot virus (PRSV) in Hawaii and his experience in transferring the technology to Thailand.

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- Visited the United States between 26 October-17 November 2006 under International Visitors Leadership Programme of US Department of States on the theme 'US Trade Policy'. During this period made a number of presentations in leading institutions and held meetings with eminent experts on topics such as global economic issues, world trade, trade blocs, WTO and issues from developing countries, etc.
- Participated in the meeting on "Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation" programme organized by the Ministry of

MoU Signed between KIEP, Korea and RIS

Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP), Korea and RIS have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to promote academic cooperation in the area of regional economic cooperation in Asia, multilateral trade negotiations and other international economic and development issues. KIEP and RIS intend to facilitate academic cooperation initiatives in the areas of joint research, policy dialogue, publications for national, regional and international fora, and capacity building.

The modalities for fostering mutual academic cooperation would be: undertaking of collaborative research projects; conducting training workshops/preparing modules; organizing joint conferences/seminars for informed debate; exchange of research faculty members; dissemination of knowledge through joint publications; seeking of external joint research activities; exchange of publications brought by the two institutions; and library and information exchange between the two institutions.

External Affairs, Govt. of India, New Delhi, on 28 November 2006.

- Delivered a lecture on "India's Engagements under Regional Trading Agreements", at The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, New Delhi, on 6 December 2006.
- Participated in the Twenty-First Anniversary of the SAARC Charter at SAARC Disaster Management Centre, New Delhi on 8 December 2006.
- Speaker at the "Roundtable on Regional Economic Cooperation in South Asia" on the occasion of 'SAARC Charter Day', organized by FICCI, New Delhi, on 8 December 2006.
- Keynote Speaker on "Professionalisation of Engineers in WTO/GATS Environment and Challenges Ahead" at the 4th National Conference on 'Towards International Competitiveness of Indian Engineers - Challenges Ahead' organized by Engineering Council of India, New Delhi on 15 December 2006.

Dr. Pooja Sharma, Fellow

- Made a presentation, on "India's Trade and Investment Relationship with East Asia and rest of South Asia", at the Project Finalization Workshop, Asian Development Bank Study on Economic Cooperation between East Asia and South Asia, held on 27-28 November 2006 in Singapore.

Dr. Somesh K. Mathur, Fellow

- Presented papers on "TRIPS and Copyright Provisions" and "Dispute Settlement Process: A Review" at the Asian Law and Economics Association Meeting held in Bangalore on 8-9 December 2006.
- Presented the Country Report on the Indian IT Industry at the E-Governance Course organized by the Korean Agency for Digital Opportunity and Promotion, Seoul (Korea) on 22 November-1 December 2006.
- Presented a paper on "TRIPS and Health" at the Italian Health Economics Association Meeting held at Venice on 16-17 November 2006.
- Presented a paper on "Indian IT Industry: Past, Present and Future and a Tool for National

Development" at the Joint Conference of KEBA, RCIE, and KIET on Globalization and Regional Economic Development held on 15-16 December 2006 in Gyeongju, Korea.

Dr. Prabir De, Associate Fellow

- Participated in the National Conference on 'Building Infrastructure: Challenges and Opportunities', organized by Planning Commission, Government of India at New Delhi on 7 October 2006.
- Participated in the 10th ASEAN-India Working Group Meeting, organized by the Ministry of External Affairs, at New Delhi on 16-17 October 2006.
- Participated in the roundtable discussion on 'China: Today and Tomorrow', organized by the Observer Research Foundation at New Delhi, on October 17, 2006.
- Presented a paper on "Empirical Estimates of Trade Costs for Asia" at LAEBA 2006 Third Annual Conference on 'Regional Integration and Regional Cooperation in Asia and Latin America: The Role of Regional Infrastructure', organized by the ADB Institute and Inter-American Development Bank at Seoul on 16-17 November 2006.
- Presented a paper on "Role of China, India and Thailand in Trade Facilitation in GMS Countries" at a Regional Conference on 'Advocacy for Trade & Investment Facilitation in the GMS Region', organized by SDC-CUTS-UNESCAP in Bangkok on 23-24 November 2006.
- Participated in a Regional Conference on "Linkages between Trade, Development and Poverty Reduction", organized by CUTS, held at Bangkok, on 24-25 November 2006.
- Participated in the discussion on "India-China Relationship: Chinese President Hu Jintao's Visit", organized by the Observer Research Foundation at New Delhi on 1 December 2006.
- Participated as a panelist in a roundtable discussion on 'Regional Cooperation and Integration in South Asia', organized by the ADB and ICRIER at New Delhi on 13 December 2006.

Report

World Trade and Development Report 2007 - Building a Development-Friendly World Trading System

RIS and Oxford University Press.

ISBN 0-19-568968-2.



The Report argues that as weaker partners the developing countries have a stake in the multilateral rule-based trading system. However, the processes of agenda-setting and rule-making are heavily dominated by developed countries. The challenge before developing countries therefore is to seek reforms to ensure that the system serves their needs better. The Report proposes an agenda for building a more development-friendly and sustainable trading system. It offers recommendations from a development perspective for revitalizing the Doha Round of trade talks in key areas of agriculture, market access for industrial goods, services, trade facilitation, intellectual property rights, and dispute settlement rules among others. It further highlights the potential of strengthening South-South Cooperation for building a development-friendly trading system.

RIS Policy Briefs

#28 *Regionalism with an 'Asian Face': An Agenda for the East Asia Summit*

Launch of EAS as a forum for dialogue between Asian leaders represents a landmark development in the direction of regional cooperation in Asia. In the coming years it will hopefully prove to be an important vehicle for charting the agenda for broader regional cooperation and integration for realizing the Asian dream!

#29 *Facilitating India's Overland Trade in the Eastern Neighbourhood*

The key objective of the regional cooperation in trade should be to achieve more rapid growth in trade through improvements in transport and logistics. Since countries in this region are geographically contiguous, deeper regional cooperation towards facilitating overland trade will be fruitful in terms of mobilising local resources and income generating activities. However, in order to gain anything meaningful from the overland trade, associated soft infrastructure to support trade facilitation should be in place. These include: (i) approval and implementation of required legal and policy reforms; (ii) implementation of effective border crossing and transport services; (iii) effective agreement on trade and transit treaties; (iv) customs modernisation and setting up of new LCSs; (v) involvement of local economy in border trade; and (vii) uninterrupted overland transportation linkages.

Discussion Papers

#115 *Trade Facilitation and Customs Valuations in India: Identifying the Gaps* by Sachin Chaturvedi

In recent past, India has taken several measures to implement the trade facilitation measures. These have helped the private sector in a major way and have also helped in setting the stage for a WTO agreement in this regard which is all set to be launched – depending on the negotiation dynamics. However, one of the key areas of concern among the private sector firms has been the one related to the customs valuation. There are varying perceptions regarding the implementation of WTO Customs Valuation (CV) Agreement in India especially in the context of trade facilitation (TF). In this paper, author presents results of a survey conducted to understand the major issues confronting this important link of CV to achieve a TF friendly trade regime in India.

#116 *Addressing Global Growth Asymmetries through Regional Trade Integration: Some Explorations* by Ram Upendra Das and Ramaa Sambamurty

Globalization process has entailed trade openness, greater emphasis on foreign direct investment, stabilization policies, redefining the role of the state, among others. Given that another major global trend observed is one of regional trade integration, the paper explores whether due to this trend there has been any concrete relationship with the growth convergence/divergence outcomes. Tests of Beta-convergence under different model specifications suggest that over time developed and developing countries have not converged in terms of their real per capita GDP though they have converged within their own groups of developed and developing countries. Thus, it is concluded that regional trade integration leads to growth convergence regionally and both openness to global trade and regional trade openness are important. However, the results of the paper need to be interpreted with caution due to the presence of non-stationarity, though the problem is not uniform across variables, tests and regional groupings. A policy inference that can be drawn is that at the global level 'economic cooperation for economic growth convergence' needs to be flagged and appropriate institutional mechanisms created to intensify the

processes of trade and FDI integration. Broadly, the results are in consonance with the predictions of the New Growth Theories.

#117 *Emerging Multinationals: Trends, Patterns and Determinants of Outward Investment by Indian Enterprises* by Nagesh Kumar

This paper analyzes the trends, patterns and determinants of outward Investments by Indian enterprises that have increased notably since the onset of reforms. It finds that the sharp rise in outward investments since 1991 has been accompanied by a shift in geographical and sectoral focus of Indian investments. It develops an analytical framework for explaining the probability of an Indian enterprise investing abroad in an exclusive large dataset of Indian enterprises. The findings suggest that Indian enterprises draw their ownership advantages from their accumulated production experience, cost effectiveness of their production processes and other adaptations to imported technologies made with their technological effort, and some times with their ability to differentiate product. Firm size exerts a positive but a non-linear effect. Enterprises that are already in export markets are more likely to be outward investors. Finally, policy liberalization of 1990s turns out to have pushed Indian enterprises abroad.

Journals

• *South Asia Economic Journal*, Vol 7 No.2, July-December 2006

Contents: *Learning from South Asian 'Successes' Tapping Social Capital* by Shahrugh Rafi Khan; *NAMA Negotiations in the WTO and Preference Erosion: Concerns of Bangladesh and Other Asia-Pacific LDCs* by Mustafizur Rahman and Wasel Bin Shadat; *Predicting Stock Returns: An Experiment of the Artificial Neural Network in Indian stock Market* by Chakradhara Panda and V. Narasimhan; *Public-Private Investment Linkage in Pakistan: A Multivariate Cointegration Analysis* by Abdul Rashid; *Internal Trade Barriers in India: Fiscal Check-posts* by Arindam Das-Gupta; and *Gender Bias in Nutrient Intake: Evidence from Selected Indian States* by Geoffrey Lancaster, Pushkar Maitra and Ranjan Ray; Review Article *India's Intellectual Past through Amartya Sen's Lenses* by Buddhades Ghosh. Book reviews. Document. Index to Vols. 6 & 7.

• *Asian Biotechnology and Development Review*, Vol 9, No.1, November 2006.

Special Issue on Bioethics in Asia

Guest Editors: Leonardo D. de Castro and Ciriaco M. Sayson, Jr.

Contents: *Bioethics in Asia: An Overview* by Leonardo D. de Castro; *Asian Bioethics: Theoretical Background* by Ciriaco M. Sayson, Jr.; *Genetically Modified Food Seeds: Health, Socio-economic, Environmental and Religious Aspects, An Israeli Perspective* by Frank J. Leavitt; *The Debate on Establishing a Biobank in Taiwan* by Michael Cheng-tek Tai; *Ethics of Bioinformatics: A Convergence between Bioethics and Computer Ethics* by Soraj Hongladarom; *The Moral Status of the Human Embryo in Chinese Stem Cell Research* by Yanguang Wang; and *The Rise and Fall of Embryonic Stem Cell Research in Korea* by SONG Sang-yong. Document: Proceedings of the Third Conference on Biotechnology and Development. Bio Web. Bio Stat.

• *New Asia Monitor*, Vol.3 No.4, October 2006.

Outside Publications of RIS Faculty Members

Research Papers

Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2006. "Agricultural Biotechnology and Trade Concerns in India: Issues and Policy Options". *World Review of Science, Technology and Sustainable Development*, Vol. 3 No. 4, December.

Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2006. "An Evaluation of the Need and Cost of Selected Trade Facilitation Measures in India: Implications for the WTO Negotiations: A Summary" in *Studies in Trade and Investment (STI) No. 57* entitled *An Exploration of the Need for and Cost of Selected Trade Facilitation Measures in Asia and the Pacific in the Context of the WTO Negotiations*. Bangkok: UN ESCAP.

Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2006. "Customs Valuation in India: Identifying Trade Facilitation related Concerns". ARTNeT Working Paper Series, No. 25, December, Bangkok.

Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2006. "Biosafety and Trade Issues for Biotechnology Products: Emerging Dynamics and Policy Options" in D. D Verma and Manoranjan Hota (eds.) *Biosafety: Issues and Challenges*. Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India.

Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2006. "Opportunities for Biofuel in Select Asian Economies: Emerging Policy Challenges" in *Linking Trade, Climate Change and Energy*, ICTSD Trade and Sustainable Energy Series, International Centre for Trade

Continued on page 7

Our weekly column on research made simple

TRADING CHARGES POSSIBLE ANSWER: REGIONAL TRADE PACT BEING WORKED OUT WITH CHINA MAY HELP INDIA GAIN MARKET ACCESS IN THE COUNTRY IN SELECT AREAS

Dump & Dumber

BETTER bilateral relations are fine but India is not ready to become a free trade zone with China...

China-Pak FTA impact on India minimal

WORLD China has been able to promote India to a free trade agreement with Pakistan...

TAKE IT EASY

Some India reports are misleading the Chinese FTA...

For some to the Chinese market will not be a challenge...

Table with 3 columns: Sector, Total cases, Cases against China. Rows include Chemicals & Petrochemicals, Textiles/Fibre/Yarns, Steel & Other Metals, Consumer Goods, Other Products.

India exploring possibility of inking FTA with Russia

ANUP New Delhi, Nov 10. With high chances of Russia becoming a member of the WTO...

BOND WITH THE BEST

Concerned over the dip in exports to Russia, the govt wants to expand India's trade...

Imports of India's exports to Russia accounted for Rs 373 billion. Ferrous, steel and iron constituted the majority of India's exports...

South Asia: India's Neighbors Try to Keep Up

India is not the only booming economy in South Asia. The rest of the region has been zipping along, too. In fact, India's arch-rival Pakistan took honors last year...



Pan-Asian vision

India Mohan. Japan relations are used to enter a qualitative new phase when Prime Minister Manmohan Singh meets his premier Shinzo Abe...

DeepFish

China, India, Japan and South Korea have all signed framework agreements with ASEAN. Negotiations are also on with Australia and New Zealand...

COVER STORY

Beyond the rhetoric

To make NAM a vehicle of South-South cooperation, what is needed is not mere joint statements but their follow-ups in letter and spirit. BY PARITHA S. GHOSH

Continued from page 6 (Latest Publications)

and Sustainable Development, Geneva, Switzerland, November. Das, Ram Upendra. 2006. 'Poverty Reduction in South Asia through Productive Employment', SAARC Regional Poverty Profile 2005. SAARC Secretariat (contributor).

Kumar, Nagesh. 2006. "India and broader economic integration in Asia: An agenda for the East Asia Summit" in Indian Foreign Policy: Challenges and Opportunities by Atish Sinha and Madhup Mohta (eds). New Delhi: Academic Foundation in collaboration with Foreign Service Institute, New Delhi.

37863-BD, October 2006, as one of the joint authors. Mehta, Rajesh (co-author). 2006. "Agriculture Market Access Modalities: Implication for South Asian Countries under Alternate Scenarios" in WTO and Implications for South Asia by Reddy K.C. and T. Nirmala Devi (eds.). pp. 85-120, New Delhi: Serials Publications.

Important Visitors/Delegations Received

- Prof. Stephen Gelb, Executive Director, The EDGE Institute and Visiting Professor of Economics, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa on 11 October 2006.
- Prof. Pulapre Balakrishnan, IIM, Kozhikode on 18 October 2006.
- Dr. Jorgen Dige Pedersen, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Aarhus, Denmark on 18 October 2006.
- Mr. Santanu Mukherjee, Advocate and Regd. Patent Agent, Kolkata on 19 October 2006.
- Dr. Sisira Jayasuriya, Department of Economics, University of Melbourne, Australia on 28 October 2006.
- Mr. Keita Nishiyama, Director, Asia and Pacific Division, METI, Government of Japan on 30 October 2006.
- A delegation from the University of Maryland consisting of Prof. C.D. Mote, President; Prof. V.S. Subrahmanian, Director, Institute for Advanced Computer Studies; Prof. Saul Sosnowski, Associate Provost for International Affairs, and Director of Latin American Studies Center; Prof. Ashok K. Agrawala, Director of Maryland Information and Network Dynamics Laboratory; Prof. Cheng-I Wei, Dean of College of Agriculture and Natural Resources; and Prof. Raymond J. Miller, Director, International Programs in Agriculture and Natural Resources, on 30 October 2006.
- Dr. Leonardo Burlamaqi, Ford Foundation, New York and Mr. Bishnu Mohapatra, Ford Foundation, New Delhi on 30 October 2006.
- Prof. Jim Rollo, Director, Sussex European Institute, University of Sussex and Ms Mani Lamba, CUTS, Delhi Resource Centre, New Delhi on 7 November 2006.
- Dr. Alakh Sharma, Director, Institute of Human Development on 17 November 2006.
- Ms. Ruchita Beri, Research Officer, Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi on 20 November 2006.
- Ms. Miriam Prys, University of Oxford and Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi on 20 November 2006.
- Mr. Suhas Borker, Executive Director and Chief of Bureau, CFTV News, New Delhi in 21 November 2006.
- Mr. Hiroki Kitajima, Deputy Director, Asia and Pacific Division; and Mr. Yuta Mizuno, Economic Partnership Division, METI, Tokyo; and Mr. Daisuke Matsushima, Senior Director; and Mr. Yozo Komuro, JEXSA Expert, JETRO, New Delhi on 27 November 2006.
- Ms Elizabeth Ward, Assistant Secretary, Agriculture and Food Branch, Department of

Interaction with IDSC of Egypt

During the recent visit to India, Ambassador Mr. Hussein Elkamal, Advisor to the Information and Decision Support Centre (IDSC), a major Think-Tank of Egypt visited RIS on 13 December 2006.

Ambassador Mr. Hussein Elkamal, who had been Ambassador to several countries and attached to the President office for foreign relations, held extensive discussions with Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS and faculty members of RIS to explore institutional relationship with RIS. Ambassador Mr. Elkamal was accompanied by Mr. Mohamed Ahmed Helmy, Third Secretary, Embassy of Egypt, New Delhi.



From right: Dr. Nagesh Kumar; Ambassador Mr. Hussein Elkamal; and Mr. Mohamed Ahmed Helmy.

As a follow-up of the interactive session with Ambassador Mr. Hussein Elkamal, it is hoped there would be more visits by authorities of the IDSC to RIS to take these discussions further and explore the possibilities of collaborative research programme.

Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian Government; and Mr. Luke Davies, First Secretary (Political), Australian High Commission, New Delhi on 28 November 2006.

- Mr. T. Kogure, *The Ashashi Shimbun*, Tokyo on 5 December 2006.
- Mr. Arndt Michael, Research Fellow, Arnold Bergstraesser Institute for Socio-Cultural Research, Germany on 5 December 2006.
- Dr Paul M. Evans, Co-CEO and Chairman of the Executive Committee, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, Vancouver on 5 December 2006.
- Ms. Madhur Singh, Senior Correspondent (Foreign Affairs), HT Media Ltd, New Delhi on 5 December 2006.
- Mr. Naved Hamid, Principal Economist, ADB Manila on 6 December 2006.
- Dr. Partha Mukhopadhyay, Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi on 6 December 2006.
- Mr K. Subramaniam, Senior Assistant Editor, *The Indian Express* on 7 December 2006.
- Dr. Baldev Raj Nayar, Professor Emeritus, McGill University on 8 December 2006.
- Prof. S. R. Hashim, former Chairman, UPSC and Prof. B.L. Pandit, Delhi School of Economics on 11 December.
- Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rehman, Deputy Director General, South Asia Regional

Department, ADB on 11 December 2006.

- Dr. Shridhar Khatri, Executive Director, SACEPS, Kathmandu on 12 December 2006.
- Mr. Torfinn Harding, Senior Executive Officer, Unit for macroeconomics, Statistics Norway, Oslo on 14 December 2006.
- Dr. Razeen Sally, Director, European Centre for International Political Economy, London School of Economics and Political Science, UK on 14 December 2006.
- Mr. I. Garcia-Bercesco, Director, European Commission on 15 December 2006.
- Mr. Michael Gressot, Dy Chief, CISD - SDC, Bern on 18 December 2006.
- Dr. Hiren Sarkar, Chief, Development Policy Section, Poverty and Development Division, UNESCAP, Bangkok on 18-22 December 2006.
- Dr. Shigeki Higashi, Asstt Director, South Asia Studies Group I, IDE-JETRO on 19 December 2006.
- Ambassador Rajiv Sikri, former Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs on 20 December 2006.
- Shri D. K. Mittal, CEO, IL&FS, New Delhi on 20 December 2006.
- Mr. Darshan Shankar, Director, Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions, Bangalore and presently Consultant to Planning Commission on Traditional Medicines.

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



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