



RIS Diary

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January 2008

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

New Delhi, 12-13 November 2007

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

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



(From left): Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS; Ambassador K. Kesavapany, Director, ISEAS, Singapore; Dr. Arjun Sengupta, M.P. and Chairman, RIS; Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs; Dr. Hidetoshi Nishimura, Special Advisor to IDE President on ERIA, IDE/JETRO, Tokyo; and Prof. Yao Chaocheng, Shanxi University of Finance and Economics, Taiyuan, P.R. of China at the inaugural session of the conference.

China (September 2005), New Delhi (November 2005) and Singapore (2006).

Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs, Government of India inaugurated the conference at a session chaired by Dr. Arjun Sengupta, Member of Indian Parliament and Chairman, RIS. Hon'ble Mr. Mukherjee also released the book *Asia's New Regionalism and Global Role – Agenda for the East Asia Summit*,

brought jointly by RIS and ISEAS, Singapore. Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS; Ambassador K. Kesavapany, Director, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore; and Dr. Hidetoshi Nishimura, Special Advisor to IDE President on ERIA, IDE/JETRO, Tokyo also addressed the inaugural session.

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Sessions on Global Trade Governance and the Role of the South

Geneva, 5 October 2007

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

to facilitate Southern participation in its governance processes to improve the development-orientation of the ongoing negotiations.



(From left): Mr. Mayur Patel, Oxford University; Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS; H.E. Mr. Faizal Ismail, Ambassador of South Africa to WTO and NAMA 11 Co-ordinator; and Mr. Vicente Paolo Yu, GGDP Coordinator, South Centre at the session.

The panel event aimed at a better understanding of both the theory and practice of improving WTO governance mechanisms to enhance its ability to

promote development outcomes. The speakers included H.E. Dr. A. M. Maruping, Ambassador of Lesotho and LDC Coordinator; H.E. Mr. Faizal Ismail, Ambassador of South Africa to WTO and NAMA 11 Coordinator, NAMA 11 Coordinator, Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS; Mr. Vicente Paolo Yu, GGDP Coordinator, South Centre; Dr. Carolyn Deere, Oxford University; Dr. Manfred Elsig, World Trade Institute; University of Bern; and Mr. Mayur Patel, Oxford University.

The Sessions attracted sizeable attendance and intensive discussion from the floor.

RIS/ITEC Programme on International Economic Issues and Development Policy (IEIDP)

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

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

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

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

Industrial Clusters in East Asia

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

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

The study aims at drawing policy inferences for strengthening the process. Similar studies are being conducted in a number of East Asian countries. These will

facilitate learning from cross-country experiences. For further details, please contact: dgoffice@ris.org.in

Africa-India Partnership in the 21st Century

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

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

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

Towards Inclusive Globalization: Evolving a "Southern Consensus" on Globalization and Development

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

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

China, India and Russia in the Global Economy: Enhancing Trade and Cooperation

In the last several years China, India and Russia have emerged among the most dynamic economies of the world. In 2006, the share of China, India and Russia in the global GDP, by current US \$ exchange rate, amounted to 5.53 per cent, 1.88 per cent,

and 2.05 per cent, respectively. On recalculating by purchasing power parity the GDP shares of China, India and Russia are even more impressive – 15.1 per cent, 6.3 per cent and 2.6 percent respectively, and thus the total contributions by three countries to the global economy would approach the mark of 24 per cent.

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

Notes prepared for the Government of India:

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

Seminar on the Third East Asia Summit and Future Prospects

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



(From left): Dr. Ramgopal Agarwala; Professor Patricia Uberoi; Commodore C. Uday Bhaskar, VSM; Dr. Mukul G. Asher; Dr. Nagesh Kumar; and Mr. M.K. Venu at the seminar.

At this Seminar a Panel comprising, Dr. Mukul G. Asher, Professor, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore and an adjunct Senior Fellow, RIS; Mr. M.K. Venu, Senior Editor, *The*

Economic Times; Dr. Ramgopal Agarwala, Senior Adviser, RIS; and Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS raised the issues to initiate the discussions before an open discussion. Commodore C. Uday Bhaskar, VSM, formerly Director, Institute of Defence Studies and Analysis and Member, RIS Governing Council, moderated the Session. Professor Patricia Uberoi, Hony. Director, Institute of Chinese Studies, thanked the panelists on behalf of the organizers. A large number of participants took part in the open discussion that followed.

IBSA Academic Seminar and launching of RIS Report on IBSA

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

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

At the first theme of the conference on Global Imperatives, Dr. Nagesh Kumar made a key note presentation on 'Towards a More Inclusive Global Economic Governance: Role of IBSA'. At the second theme on Challenges of Connectivity,



(From left): Dr. Adekeye Adebajo (University of Cape Town); Prof. Henrique Castro (Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil); Dr. Nagesh Kumar (RIS); and Professor Loyiso Nongxa, Vice-Chancellor, University of Witwatersrand, South Africa.

Dr. Nagesh Kumar made a keynote presentation on India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Economic Cooperation: Towards a Comprehensive Economic Partnership. The theme of Economic Connectivity was followed up further by Dr. S.K. Mohanty in his presentation on Development Dimensions of IBSA Cooperation and Challenges of Connectivity in the Region.

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

Seminar on Regional Cooperation and Integration Prospects in Asia

New Delhi, 5 December 2007

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

regional policy dialogue becomes stronger and barriers are gradually eliminated, or at least substantially reduced, economic integration will intensify in the next decade or two.

the key pillar of the region's future development. A large number of participants from business, industry, academic, government, and media circles participated.



(From left): Mr. Rajat Nag, Managing Director-General, Asian Development Bank; Dr. Parthasarathy Shome, Advisor to the Finance Minister; and Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS at the seminar.

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

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

Further, as the region continues to build its economic infrastructure and new cross-border projects are implemented, these will not only intensify trade in goods and services, but also facilitate the movement of people. Easing existing cross-border impediments to trade and labour movements, will likely be the strongest economic driver over the coming decade. Economic cooperation and integration will be possibly

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

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

Dr. Meenakshi Rishi, Associate Professor of Economics, Albers School of Business and Economics, Seattle University made a presentation on the subject based on her recent empirical study. Professor Manmohan Agarwal, School of International Studies, International Trade and Development, JNU, New Delhi chaired Seminar. The presentation was followed up by open discussion.

The first business session, which addressed the theme of Asia's New Role in Global Economy and the Relevance of Asian Economic Integration, was chaired by Mr. Gopal Pillai, Commerce Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

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

It was followed by the session on Regional Trade and Investment Liberalization: Building Blocs and Emerging Approaches, chaired by Professor Muchkund Dubey, President, CSD. The



Mr. Gopal Pillai, Commerce Secretary at the first business session.

De, RIS. Dr. Rahul Sen, Fellow, ISEAS, Singapore; and Dr. Amita Batra, Hindu College, University of Delhi were the discussants.

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



(From left): Mr. Jairam Ramesh, Hon'ble Minister of State for Commerce and Industry delivering the valedictory address.

Kawamura, Professor, Faculty of Economics, Hosei University; Promoting Economic Cooperation between India and South Korea: A Business Perspective by Dr. Soon Cheoul Lee, Fellow, KIEP, Seoul; and Business Potential of CEPEA: An ASEAN Perspective by Dr. Chayodom Sabhasri, Center for International Economics, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok. Dr. Jayanta Roy, Principal Adviser, CII was the discussant.



Dr. Brian Lynch, Director, New Zealand Institute of International Affairs speaking at the Conference.

Mr. Jairam Ramesh, Hon'ble Minister of State for Commerce and Industry delivered a valedictory



(From left): Mr. T.C. Venkat Subramanian; Dr. Dennis Hew; Dr. Sultan Rehman Hafeez; Dr. Ramgopal Agarwala; and Dr. Hiren Sarkar at the Conference.

key presentations included ASEAN and Broader Economic Integration in Asia by Dr. Josef T. Yap, President, Philippine Institute for Development Studies, Manila; ASEAN+6 versus ASEAN+3 Approaches for Regional Economic Integration: Lessons from CGE Simulations by Dr. S.K. Mohanty, RIS and Dr. Sanjib Pohit, NCAER; Asia-India Trade Relations and Growth: Implications for Regional



Dr. Josef T. Yap, President, Philippine Institute for Development Studies, Manila speaking at the Conference.

Yao Chaocheng, Shanxi University of Finance and Economics, Taiyuan, P.R. of China; Dr. Brian Lynch, Director, New Zealand Institute of International Affairs; Mr. M.K. Venu, Senior Editor, *The Economic Times*; Ambassador P.S. Sahai, CRRID, Chandigarh.

The theme of the session that came after it was on Emerging Comprehensive Economic Partnership of EAS Countries: A Business Perspective and was chaired by Ambassador Arjun Asrani, Chairman, India-Japan Forum. It had presentations on Business Strategies and Roles of Major Japanese Companies and the significance of ERIA by Dr. Tetsuji

Senior Fellow, ISEAS, Singapore.

The session on Strategic Relevance of Asian Regionalism had Ambassador Kesavapany, Director, ISEAS, Singapore in Chair. The Distinguished Panelists included: Professor

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



(From left): Dr. Tetsuji Kawamura; Dr. Chayodom Sabhasri; Ambassador Arjun Asrani; Dr. Jayanta Roy; and Dr. Soon Cheoul Lee at the Conference.

RIS has issued the report of the Conference in RIS Policy Brief No.33 which was circulated to the delegations at the East Asia Summit.

Latest Publications

Books and Reports

- **Asia's New Regionalism and Global Role – Agenda for the East Asia Summit** by Nagesh Kumar, K. Kesavapany & Yao Chaocheng (eds.). Published jointly by ISEAS, Singapore and RIS. 2007.

The lack of an effective broader regional arrangement has prevented Asia from exploiting some fruitful opportunities for regional cooperation and from exercising its influence in global economic governance commensurate with its rapidly growing economic weight. Recognizing the potential of regional cooperation over the past decade ASEAN has not only deepened the sub-regional cooperation between its 10 member states, but has also facilitated the cause of broader cooperation by holding plus one Summits with major Asian countries. The launch of the East Asia Summit is December 2005 in Kuala Lumpur as an annual forum for bringing together ASEAN, Japan, China, India, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand in an important initiative in this direction. The leading experts of the region in their contributions to this volume examine the case for broader regionalism in Asia, its potential, challenges, possible approaches, and roadmaps. The book also discusses the potential of cooperation in specific areas of trade and investment, money and finance, and energy security.



- **Asian Biotechnology, Innovation and Development – Issues in Measurement and Collection of Statistics** by Sachin Chaturvedi and S R Rao (eds). 2007.

In recent past adoption and diffusion of biotechnology has raised several policy challenges for the governance of biotechnology especially in developing countries. OECD and a few other developed countries have launched initiatives in various institutional settings. Developing countries have yet to come up with any major initiatives in this area. In this respect RIS launched Asian Biotechnology Innovation and Development Initiatives (ABIDI) in January 2007 at New Delhi. It is very important to sort out once and for all the issues that are involved in developing a sound and reliable base of indicators, measurements, statistics which are internationally comparable. The Report contains the papers presented at a conference organized by RIS in January 2007.



- **Towards Broader Regional Cooperation in Asia** by Nagesh Kumar. UNDP/RCC, Colombo and RIS, December 2007.

This paper briefly summarizes the relevance of broader regional economic integration in Asia, highlighting the gains from such integration and outlining an approach for broader or pan-Asian economic integration. The paper concludes with a discussion of the priorities for at the future EAS meetings.



Policy Brief

- #33 **Broader Regional Economic Integration in Asia: An Agenda for the East Asia Summit**

Brought out on the eve of the East Asia Summit held in Singapore in November 2007 the Policy Brief argues that the EAS agenda could concentrate on taking some visible concrete steps towards economic integration, instead of diffusing the agenda to cover diverse issues. It also suggests key priorities for the EAS process for creating an institutional framework for promoting regional cooperation in select areas like Comprehensive Economic Partnership Arrangement of East Asia (CEPEA), Asian Monetary and Financial Architecture (AMFA), cooperation and coordination among networks of Asian think-tanks and institution building for educational, cultural and media exchange.



Discussion Papers

- #131 **Regional Cooperation and Integration Prospects in Asia** by Rajat Nag

Abstract: There is indeed a strong opportunity for South Asian countries to benefit from intensifying regional ties. As a regional policy dialogue becomes stronger and barriers are gradually eliminated, or at least substantially reduced, economic integration will intensify in the next decade or two. This is partly due to the very low level of integration it starts from. For instance, intraregional trade in South Asia accounts for only 5.5 per cent of total trade, as opposed to East Asia's almost 60 per cent. As the region continues to build its economic infrastructure and new cross-border projects are implemented, these will not only intensify trade in goods and services, but also facilitate the movement of people. Easing existing cross-border impediments to trade and labour movements, will likely be the strongest economic driver over the coming decade. But the key to any experiment in cooperation and economic integration is political will.

- #130 **Deepening India–Bangladesh Economic Cooperation: Challenges and Opportunities** by Prabir De and Biswa N. Bhattacharyay

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

- #129 **Intellectual Property Regime, Indigenous Knowledge System and Access and Benefit Sharing: Drawing Lessons from Kani Case** by Sachin Chaturvedi

Abstract: Since the Doha Ministerial, the developing countries have been raising issues related to the indigenous knowledge system (IKS) and access and benefit sharing (ABS) in context of conflict between the CBD and the TRIPs. Though the Doha Development Agenda (Paragraph 19) did acknowledge the need of CBD and TRIPs relationship to be looked into, however most of the developed countries rejected ABS on the pretext that the ABS is not a viable proposition and that ABS should be addressed at the national level rather than placing it as part of multilateral regime. The emerging evidence from Kani case in India suggests that a nuanced approach to the benefit sharing regime may help in ensuring equitable distribution of gains through a formal mechanism which may prove out to be sustainable in long run. The study also shows that national regimes are not sufficient to check global misappropriation of IKS.

Journals

- **South Asia Economic Journal** Vol. 8, No.2, July-December 2007

Contents: Research Papers: Textiles and Clothing in South Asia: Current Status and Future Potential by *Ratnakar Adhikari and Chitrini Weeratunge*; Determinants of Private Saving in South Asia by *Rabindra Bhandari, Dharmendra Dhakal, Gyan Pradhan and Kamal P. Upadhyana*; Exploiting Sri Lanka's Free Trade Agreements with India and Pakistan: An Exporter's Perspective by *Ravindra A. Yatawara*; Estimation of the Export Demand Function Using Bilateral Trade Data: The Case of Bangladesh by *Mohammed Nur, Albert Wijeweera and Brian Dollery*; Competition in Indian Banking: An Evaluation by *A. Prasad and Saibal Ghosh*; and Socio-economic Development in Nepal: Past Mistakes and Future Possibilities by *Surendra K. Devkota*. Research Notes: Pakistan's Economy since 1999: Has There Been Real Progress? by *Shahrukh Rafi Khan*; and SPS Regulations and Competitiveness: An Analysis of Indian Spice Exports by *C. Nalin Kumar and V.R. Muralidharan*. Book Reviews. Document: Declaration of the Fourteenth SAARC Summit, New Delhi.

- **New Asia Monitor**, Vol. 4, No.4, October 2007.

- **Mekong-Ganga Policy Brief**, No.2, October 2007.

Outside Publications of the RIS Faculty Members

Monograph

Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2007. *Agricultural Biotechnology-based (Green) Enterprise Development for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods and Economic Growth: Opportunities with Biofuel in Selected Asian Economies*. United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (UN APCAEM), Beijing, December.

Research Papers

- Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2007. "Environmental Concerns and Biotechnology in South Asia". *South Asia Journal*, Volume 18 Issue 4, December.
- Das, Ram Upendra. 2007. "Developing a Comprehensive View on Rules of Origin". *Indian Engineering Exports*, Vol. I, No. 10.
- De, Prabir. 2007. "Impact of trade costs on trade: Empirical evidence from Asian countries" in UNESCAP (ed.) *Trade Facilitation Beyond the Multilateral Trade Negotiations: Regional Practices, Customs Valuation and Other Emerging Issues*. Trade and Investment Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Bangkok, December, pp. 281-310.
- De, Prabir. 2007. "Maritime transport revamp will boost IBSA trade". *Indian Engineering Export* (a journal of EEPC), Vol. 1, No. 1, October, pp. 12-17.
- De, Prabir. 2007. "India's International Trade Policy". *Chindia Journal* (a journal of POSCO), Vol. 15, November, pp. 40-42.
- De, Prabir. 2007. "Diversifying India's Exports to China". *Indian Engineering Exports* (a journal of EEPC), Vol. 2, No. 2, December, pp. 4-12.
- De, Prabir (co-author). 2007. "Barriers to trade in higher education services: Empirical evidence from Asia-Pacific countries". *Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Review*, Vol. 3, No. 2, December, pp. 67-88.
- Kumar, Nagesh. 2007. Potential and Challenges of East Asian Cooperation. *Economic & Political Weekly*. 3 November. Pp 23-26.
- Mathur, S.K. 2007. Review article of the book *ICTs and Indian Economic Development: Economy, Work and Regulation* by Ashwani Saith and M Vijayabhaskar. *Indian Economic Journal*, Volume 54, No 4, Jan-March.
- Mathur, S.K. 2007. "ICT and Cooperation among South Asian Countries". Published in the Proceedings of International Conference on Leveraging Innovation for Development, Ministry

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Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General

- Addressed the 54th Session of UNCTAD's Trade and Development Board, held in Geneva on 3 October 2007 on Regional Economic Integration in Asia.
- Nominated by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India to participate the IBSA Academic Seminar held at Johannesburg, South Africa on 15-16 October 2007 on eve of IBSA Summit.
- Participated in the 3rd Meeting of the Track Two Study Group on CEPEA held in Bangkok on 26-27 October 2007.
- Participated in the Inter-Ministerial Meeting in preparation of the SAARC Committee on Economic Cooperation held in the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, New Delhi on 16 November 2007.
- Participated in the Meeting of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP), held in ICWA, New Delhi on 15 November 2007.
- Chaired a session on Impact of ICT at the Workshop on ICT Measurement for Knowledge Economy, organized by the Department of Information Technology (DIT), Ministry of Communications and Information Technology and Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in New Delhi on 20 November 2007.
- Participated in the preparatory Meeting of the India-Indonesia Joint Study Group held in the Department of Commerce, New Delhi on 10 November 2007.
- Participated in the Forty-Second Meeting of the Board of Governors of ISID held in 7 December 2007.
- Participated in a meeting of the Selection Committee for selecting candidates for the IOR-ARC Chair, held in the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on 11 December 2007.
- Participated in the Consultation Meeting on the Regional Study on Trade in Services under SAARC in the SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu, Nepal on 28 December 2007.

Dr. Rajesh Mehta, Senior Fellow

- Participated in the meeting with members of Indian Mission regarding 7th Trilateral China-India-Russia Track-II Academic Conference held in New Delhi on 9 October 2007 and 19 October 2007.
- As a Member of Indian Delegation participated in the meeting with Russian Sinologists at IFES, Russian Academy of Science, Moscow on 24 October 2007. Presented a paper on China, India and Russia in the Global Economy: Enhancing Trade and Cooperation and participated as a Member of Indian Delegation in the 7th Trilateral China-India-Russia Track-II Academic Conference, organized by the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS), IFES in Moscow on 25-27 October 2007.
- Presented a paper on Global Poultry Sector Trends and External Drivers for Structural Change – A Case of India at the FAO International Conference on Poultry in the 21st

Century, held in Bangkok on 5-7 November 2007.

- Made a presentation on India-ASEAN Economic Relations: a Way Forward at the National Conference on ASEAN Summit 2007: Opportunities and Challenges for India, organized by the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies (IPCS) on 26 November 2007 in New Delhi.
- Participated in the Meeting on Indo-Korea-CEPA Negotiations, held under Chairmanship of Commerce Secretary, Ministry of Commerce & Industry in New Delhi on 5 December 2007.
- Participated in 8th International Technical Conference and Exhibition on PAPEREX 2007, organized by the Indian Agro and Recycled Paper Mills Association in New Delhi on 8 December 2007.

Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi, Fellow

- Made a presentation on Global Economic Scenario and Emergence of South at the National Conference on Strategies for Sustainable Economic Turn Around, organized by Indraprastha University, New Delhi on 16 October 2007.
- Made a presentation on Development Aid Policies: Emerging Experience from India at the Conference on Emerging Powers and their Development Aid Policies, organized by International Network on Development Aid, held in Johannesburg, South Africa on 29 October 2007.
- Made a presentation on Emerging Global Order: Role of India at the Conference on Emerging Powers and their Role in Global Economic Governance: Impetus for Reform, organized by SAIIA, Johannesburg, South Africa on 30 October 2007.
- Made a presentation on Environmental Risk Assessment, Socio-Economic Considerations and Decision-Making Support for LMOs in India at the Workshop on Biosafety Capacity Building Project: Outcome and the Way Forward, organized by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, in New Delhi on 6 November 2007.
- Made a presentation on Trade Facilitation and Regional Integration: Emerging Trends from South Asia at the Inter-Regional Forum on Trade Facilitation and Regional Trade Agreements, organized by UN-ESWA, Amman, Jordan, on 14 November 2007.
- Made a presentation on GPNs and Indian Biopharmaceutical Industry: Emerging Linkages and Prospects at the International Workshop on Global Production Networks and Decent Work: Recent Experience in India and Global Trends, organized by IILS, ICSSR, IHD and ISCE, Bangalore on 19 November 2007.
- Made a presentation on Vulnerability and Kani Case in India at the GenBenefit – Vulnerability Workshop, held in Cape Town, South Africa on 28-30 November 2007.
- Made a presentation on Global Experience with ABS: Emerging Evidence from India and South Africa at the Workshop on India's Experiences on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing, held in New Delhi on 18 December 2007.

- Made presentation on Changing Structure of Indian Seed Industry: Policy Prospects and Emerging Lessons at the South Asian Conference on Trade and Development entitled Harnessing Gains from Trade: Domestic Challenges and Beyond, held in New Delhi on 20 December 2007.

Dr. Ram Upendra Das, Fellow

- Participated in the Discussion Meeting on Economic Cooperation in the South Asian Region organized by the British High Commission in New Delhi on 5 October 2007.
 - Participated in Meeting on India-Indonesia JSG held in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on 10 October 2007.
 - Participated in the Meeting on Government of India Expert Group on Preferential ROO, organized by CII in New Delhi on 11 October 2007.
 - Participated in the Annual Meeting of ITEC Institutions, organized by Ministry of External Affairs on 12 October 2007.
 - Delivered Lecture on Implications of WTO for Developing Countries, to Foreign Journalists, organized by IIMC in New Delhi on 15 October 2007.
 - Speaker at the Meeting on Export Development and Inclusive Growth, organized by CII in New Delhi on 22 October 2007.
 - Participated in the First India-Indonesia JSG Meeting on India-Indonesia CECA, held in Jakarta on 30-31 October 2007.
 - Participated in the Meeting with Commerce Secretary on the Agenda of 13th SAARC Committee on Economic Cooperation (CEC) Meeting, held on 16 November 2007.
 - Delivered Lecture on India's Economic Integration with ASEAN: Prospects & Challenges, organized by FSI in New Delhi on 21 November 2007.
 - Presented paper on Trade-FDI-Poverty Linkages in a Regional Grouping: Some Evidence from South Asia in International Conference on Regional Economic Integration Beyond Europe, organized by German Development Institute, Bonn, December 19-20, 2007. Also Discussant of the paper on Understanding the Emerging Pattern of Regional Trade and Economic Cooperation in Asia presented by Biswanath Bhattacharyay at the Conference.
 - Participated in Meeting on ITEC held in the Ministry of External Affairs on 26 December 2007.
- ## Dr. Somesh K. Mathur, Fellow
- Presented a paper on Convergence among Countries in Latin America held at the Department of Economics, University of Puebla, Mexico on 22 November 2007.
 - Presented a paper on Indian IT Industry: A Review from 1960s at the Max Plan IISc International Conference on Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Economic Growth, held in IISc Campus, Bangalore on 25-27 October 2007.

Continued on page 7

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

Amrit Sen
NEW DELHI

INDIA'S problems with the free trade agreement (FTA) being worked out with the Asean notwithstanding, the country is eagerly exploring the possibility of entering into a comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA) with the eastern East Asia Summit (EAS) members, including the 10 Asean countries, China, Japan, Korea, Australia and New Zealand.



billions annual trade... number of mem... ..

The third EAS in Singapore later this month will give directions to the study group which has been formulated to do a feasibility study on CEPA. According to RIS director general Nagesh Kumar, who represents India in the study group preparing the feasibility study, all members are positive about an agreement covering goods, services and investments.

"We had our first meeting in July this year and have had a total of three meetings. All members are very serious about the initiative and the process should be cent by the middle of next year said. India had tance of getting of neighbours way it launched its Look developed countries rope had femes blocs like the Nat Union, it too left regional bloc in A. Since India Asean-3 and the agreement (CEPA) signs of being a good negotiator get integrated w bloc. India sees it for the East Asian aged by many, Inc ur Mamohan S happens to be in trading bloc with countries togeth

India too flexible for FTA with Asean: Ramesh

Statesman News Service

NEW DELHI, Nov. 13: With a free trade agreement (FTA) on the Prime Minister's agenda when he attends the Asean summit in Singapore next week, India is keen to conclude

ty in the Asean FTA," he said addressing the valedictory session of a conference on Asian Economic Integration, organised by the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)

gration on hold. "Not just because of its economic importance, the Prime Minister sees trade integration as a larger political significance. It is not just an economic instrument but an instrument of strategic partnership," he

नई ट्रेड ट्रीटी के हक में हैं प्रणव

शेष संवाददाता ॥ नई दिल्ली

द्वं एशियाई देशों के साथ भारत का दिव्यशीय व्यापार 80 भव डॉलर को पार कर गया है और इस तरह इन देशों का भारत स साथ व्यापारिक सम्बन्ध अमेरिका और यूरोपीय संघ के बाद तीसरे स्थान पर आ गया है। पूर्व एशियाई देशों के साथ बढ़ते व्यापारिक सम्बन्धों को और प्रगाढ़ बनाने के लिए विदेश मंत्री प्रणव मुखर्जी ने सुझाव दिया कि एशियाई देशों के बीच समग्र व्यापार समझौता होना चाहिए। यहाँ आर्थिक मामलों की विचार संस्था मूआइएस द्वारा आयोजित एक अंतरराष्ट्रीय सम्मेलन को सम्बोधित करते हुए प्र. विदेश मंत्री

दुनिया के लिए विकास का इंजन बन सकता है। प्रणव मुखर्जी ने कहा कि 21 वीं सदी एशियाई सदी के तौर पर जानी जाएगी। एशिया में ही विकास के सारे लक्षण उभर रहे हैं। यदि एशिया के इतिहास पर नजर डालें तो हमें पता लगना कि सन 1000 तक एशिया ही दुनिया की आर्थिक गतिविधि का इलाका था। सन 500 से 1500 तक चीन और भारत तकनीक व आर्थिक विकास के नजरिए से दुनिया के श्रेष्ठ माने जाते थे। लेकिन परिणामी यूरोप में जब राष्ट्रीय आय बढ़ने लगी तो 1820 तक एशिया का हिस्सा 56 प्रतिशत तक रह गया। इसके बाद एशियाई इलाके में आर्थिक गतिविधि में उदरगम आ गया और यह पट कर

example of h Sri Lanka, said it was ccessful in relationships : two neigh- helping to huge trade he early har- iland, CECA iving econom- n agreement) ore and the the Saarc

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

Wena Goldberg

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - South Korea and India are keen to conclude a free trade agreement (FTA) with the East Asia Summit (EAS) members, including the 10 Asean countries, China, Japan, Korea, Australia and New Zealand.



Industry & Economy - Events

Economic conference in Delhi

A two-day high-level Conference on Asian Integration is being held here from Nov 13-14. The conference will discuss the economic relevance of Asian economic integration and the specific issues concerning trade in goods, services and investment, according to the RIS

East Asia forum to work on economic integration

Saikant Neogi

AHEAD OF the third East Asia Summit (EAS) in Singapore on November 20 and 21, to be attended by leaders from 18 nations (ASEAN + 6) including Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, a panel of experts have suggested that the region should liberalise tariff and non-tariff barriers in a phased manner by 2020. The region must also eventually work towards creating an Asian currency unit and energy forum, the panel has recommended.



It is upon us to put in place a political and economic architecture that is conducive to Asia's emergence as a pre-eminent region of stability and prosperity. PRANAB MUKHERJEE, Foreign Minister

Aimed at providing inputs for the EAS - launched in December 2005 in Kuala Lumpur as an annual forum for dialogue on regional issues - many recommendations emerged from a conference organised jointly by the Delhi-based Research and Informa-

billions of dollars of new output and serve as the engine of growth for the continent and the world economy. In fact, about 51 per cent of Asia's ex-

It is upon us to put in place a political and economic architecture that is conducive to Asia's emergence as a pre-eminent region of stability and prosperity," Mukherjee said.

India non-committal on trade concessions

Our Bureau

NEW DELHI

ASEAN's hopes of extracting more concessions from India in the bilateral free trade agreement (FTA) negotiation might not be realised. India has said it has already demonstrated extraordinary flexibility in the FTA negotiations, indicating that additional concessions may not materialise.

Mr Ramesh said India considered the South East Asian bloc not only an economic but also a strategic one. The India-Asean FTA talks have been stuck over the issue of market access for palm oil, pepper and coffee. Asean wants India to reduce the duties on these products much below 50% offered by India.

On the East Asia Summit, the minister pointed out that India's trade with the other twelve members of the EAS (10 Asean countries, Japan, China, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand) was more than that of with any other bloc.

Trade dilemma

The India-Asean FTA talks have been stuck over the issue of market access for palm oil, pepper and coffee. Asean wants India to reduce the duties on these products much below 50% offered by India. India's trade with South East Asian countries including Japan, Australia and New Zealand is growing significantly

Continued from page 5 (Latest Publications)

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

Mehta, R. 2008. "Non-tariff Barriers affecting India's Export" in *Trade Policy, Industrial Performance and Private Sector Development*. New Delhi: OUP.

Popular Columns

De, Prabir. 2007. 'Regional trends influence rising economies'. *The Financial Express*. October 17.

De, Prabir. 2007. 'India and China should open up trade in education services'. *The Financial Express*. November 7.

De, Prabir. 2007. Trade imbalance with China must be rectified. *The Financial Express*, December 19.

Kumar, Nagesh. 2007. 'Leveraging Asian resurgence for sustaining rapid growth'. *The Financial Express*. 14 August

Kumar, Nagesh. 2007. 'East Asia Summit and broader economic integration in Asia'. *The Jakarta Post*. 21 November.

Kumar, Nagesh. 2007. 'Should India forge an FTA with ASEAN'. *The Economic Times*. 27 November.

Seminar on Regional Cooperation in Asia: Lessons from the Nordic Cooperation

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

Continued from page 6 (Faculty News)

- Presented a paper on Indian IT Industry: A Model for South-South Cooperation International Seminar on IT Industry in India-Prospects, Retrospects and Policies, organized by the Department of Economics, Jamia Millia Islamia in collaboration with the Ministry of Science and Technology, and ICSSR on 1-2 November 2007.
 - Participated in the International Meet on Solidarity on Health Issues, organized by the Ministry of Labour, Ministry of External Affairs and the French Prime Minister's Delegation in New Delhi on 21 December 2007.
- Dr. Prabir De, Fellow**
- Participated in the International Conference on Intermodal Logistics, organized by the Asian

- Institute of Transport Development (AITD), New Delhi; Planning Commission, New Delhi; and UNESCAP, Bangkok, in New Delhi on 8-9 October 2007.
- Presented a paper on Trade in Services in India: Implications for Poverty and Inequality at the Research Workshop on Emerging Trade Issues for Developing Countries in Asia-Pacific Region, organized by UNESCAP, at Macao, P. R. China on 10-11 December, 2007.
- Participated in the Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade (ARTNeT), organized by UNESCAP, held at Macao, P.R. China, 12 December, 2007.

Important Visitors/Delegations Received

- Mr. Tetsuya Watanabe, Director, Asia and Pacific Division, Trade Policy Bureau, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), Japan on 10 October 2007.
- Mr. Ulrich Volz, GDI, Bonn, 1 October 2007.
- Mr. V.L. Kantha Rao, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, October 3, 2007.
- Dr. Jayanta Roy, Principal Adviser, CII, New Delhi on 1 October 2007 and along with Ms. Supriya Banerjee, CII on 11 October 2007.
- Mr. D. Matsushima, JETRO, New Delhi Office, 17 October 2007
- Mr. Dragan Bisenic, Journalist from Danas Newspaper of Serbia, November 5, 2007.
- Mr. Phil Champain, Director of Programmes, Asia and Eurasia, International Alert, UK on 15 November 2007.
- Dr. Somesh Adhikari, IIDS, Kathmandu, November 15, 2007.
- Prof. Garry Pursel, Visiting Professor, ANU, Australia on 21 November 2007.
- Dr. Sarah Taylor, Director of Asia Division, International Assessment Staff at the Privy Council Office, Government of Canada on 20 November 2007.
- Mr. P. Vaidyanathan Iyer, Senior Associate Editor, *Business World* on 26 November 2007.
- Dr. T. Zarook A. Samsudeen, Executive Director, Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation, Mauritius on 26 November 2007.
- Mr. Kunio Senga, Director General, South Asia, Asian Development, Manila on 28 November 2007.
- H.E. Mr. Wilfred Kenely, High Commissioner, Malta High Commission, New Delhi on 29 November 2007.
- Ms. Seema Sapra, Trade Lawyer on 29 November 2007.
- Dr. Ichiro Araki, Professor of Law, International Graduate School of Social Sciences, Yokohama National University on 30 November 2007.
- Dr. Arunabha Ghosh, Associate, Trade Project, Global Economic Governance Programme, University of Oxford on 4 December 2007.
- Prof. Satya Paul, Professor of University of Western Sydney on 5 December 2007.
- Dr. Carlos M. Correa, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina on 13 December 2007.
- Mr. Donghyun Park, Senior Economist, Marcoeconomics and Finance Research Division, Economic and Research Department, Asian Development Bank, Manila on 17 December 2007.
- Dr. Pradeep Kanta Ray, School of Organisation and Management, The Australian School of Business, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia on 19 December 2007.
- Dr. Alka Chadha, National University of Singapore on 26 December 2007.

Meetings of the Governing Council and General Body of RIS

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

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



The delegation of the Parliamentarians of Indian Origin from UK, Europe and US at RIS.

A Delegation of Indian Origin Parliamentarians from UK, Europe and the US visited RIS on 25 October 2007 for an interactive session on India's Economic Performance and Prospects.

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

Hon'ble Swati Dandekar from the USA. These distinguished parliamentarians were in India at the invitation of the Public Diplomacy Division, Ministry of External Affairs.

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

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

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



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