



RIS Diary

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World Trade and Development Report 2003 Launched

In New Delhi, September 1, 2003

Shri K.C. Pant, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and Chairman, RIS released the RIS publication *World Trade and Development Report 2003: Cancun and Beyond* at a special seminar organized by RIS on September 1, 2003 in New Delhi. The Report is part of a new series of reports launched by RIS which will be prepared by RIS every two years to synchronize with the WTO Ministerial Conferences.

Releasing the Report, Shri Pant said that handful of developed countries generally exercise disproportionate influence on the outcomes of multilateral trade negotiations, while the developing countries, which form the majority of the membership, have little effective say in the process.

H.E. Mr. Julio Faesler Carlisle,

Ambassador of Mexico; Shri Rajiv Sikri, Additional Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs; and Shri L.V. Saptrishi, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, also addressed the seminar and lauded the efforts made by RIS in bringing out this timely and highly useful publication on the eve of the Cancun Ministerial Conference from a development perspective.

Dr Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS, made a presentation of the highlights of the Report. The event was attended by a large gathering comprising representatives of business and industry circles, concerned



Shri K.C. Pant, Chairman, RIS (centre) launching RIS Report World Trade and Development Report 2003. Also seen the picture are (from right) Shri Rajiv Sikri, H.E. Mr. Julio Faesler Carlisle, Shri L.V. Saptrishi, and Dr. Nagesh Kumar.

departments of the Government of India, foreign missions in India, research institutions, media, etc.

In Cancun, September 9, 2003



From Left: Dr. Kamal Malhotra, Dr. Roman Grynberg, Dr. Martin Khor, Hon'ble Shri Satyabrata Mookherjee, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Dr. Murray Gibbs, Dr. Bijit Bora, and Mr. Rashid Kaukab at the RIS Seminar in Cancun.

Mr. Satyabrata Mookherjee, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Government of India launched RIS *World Trade and Development Report 2003: Cancun and Beyond* at a Seminar Presentation, organized by RIS in Cancun on the eve of the Ministerial Conference of the WTO. Addressing the gathering of experts Mr. Satyabrata Mookherjee said that developing countries are at a disadvantage with poor levels of capability, resources, infrastructure, access to technology, etc. Hence, the negotiations on trade liberalization need to respect the principle of less-than-full reciprocity.

Martin Khor, Director, Third World Network, Geneva; Dr. Rashid Kaukab, Head of WTO Programme at South Centre, Geneva; Dr. Murray Gibbs, Coordinator of Asia Trade Initiative, Hanoi; Dr. Bijit Bora, Councillor, WTO Secretariat, representing WTO Director-General; Dr. Roman Grynberg, Deputy Director, Trade Division, Commonwealth Secretariat; and Dr. Kamal Malhotra, Senior Advisor, UNDP, New York.

Dr. Martin Khor said that the Report was a milestone in research coming out of an independent research institution on the subject. He said that he was proud of it as it was world

The seminar was attended by over 70 experts from across the world, which included representatives from various inter-governmental agencies, research institutes, business and industry circles, NGOs and media.

Dr. Nagesh Kumar, DG, RIS summarized the highlights of the Report. This was followed by a panel discussion. The eminent panelists included Dr.

class and up-to-date and should set an example for much better funded organizations.

Dr. Bijit Bora said that RIS Report is a valuable contribution to the growing literature on international trade and development. The RIS team had done a remarkable job, considering the breadth of the Report.

Dr. Kamal Malhotra said that introduction of a series of such reports by RIS is a welcome step as they are more effective than one-off publications. Various think tanks of developing countries should join hands in making this exercise more meaningful and accessible in terms of wider inputs.

Dr. Rashid Kaukab welcomed the Report and offered South Centre's help for possible future collaboration with RIS for such reports.

Dr. Roman Grynberg, while welcoming the RIS Report, stated that the developing countries would have to remain united in terms of trade negotiations with WTO and such reports come handy for drawing policy insights.

Dr. Murray Gibbs felt that the asymmetries in the world trading system highlighted by the Report would be useful for furthering the cause of development. The Report would help Asia Trade Initiative to strengthen its analytical efforts on trade and developmental issues, said Dr. Murray Gibbs.

RIS at Cancun

RIS organized two Panel Discussions and co-hosted some sessions at the Cancun Trade and Development Symposium (CTDS) on the sidelines of the WTO Ministerial Conference in Cancun, as summarized below:

Panel Discussion on TRIPs and Development: Priorities for Developing Countries, September 11, 2003

The Panel was organized jointly with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). The panelists included Dr. Carlos Correa, Professor, University of Buenos Aires; Mr. Dilip G. Shah, Secretary General, Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance; Dr. Frederick M. Abbott, Professor of International Law, Florida State University College Law; and Dr. Richard Tarasofsky, Special Advisor on Trade & Biodiversity, IUCN.



(Right to left) Dr. Richard Tarasofsky, Prof. Frederick M. Abbott, Dr. Carlos Correa, Mr. Dilip G. Shah, and Dr. Nagesh Kumar at the Panel Discussion on TRIPs

Panel Discussion on International Trade and Biotechnology Goods, September 6, 2003

The panelists were Ricardo Melendez-Ortiz, Executive Director, International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development, Geneva; Dr. Chantal Line Carpentier, Head, Environment, Economy, and Trade Program Commission for Environmental Cooperation, Canada; and Dr. Peter Munji, Southern Environmental and Agricultural Policy Research Institute, Kenya.

Sessions Co-hosted at the Cancun Trade and Development Symposium

RIS also co-hosted three sessions at Cancun Trade and Development Symposium (CTDS). These included **Foreign Direct Investment and Sustainable Development** (September 12 morning); **Standards and Market Access** (September 11 morning); and **Post Doha Marginalisation of LDC Concerns** (September 12 afternoon). The co-organizers, among others, included International Institute for Sustainable Development, Royal Institute of International Affairs, Center for International Environmental Law, Global Development and Environment Institute, Tufts University, World Resources Institute, CUTS, FICCI, Consumers Association, Bureau Européen des Unions de Consommateurs, International Lawyers and Economists Against Poverty, Centre for Policy Dialogue (Bangladesh), ADB, Africa Resource Centre, EU-LDC Network, and South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics & Environment.

Apart from the above events Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS made a key presentation at the session on "Recovering Spaces for Development Policy: Special & Differential Treatment, Innovation, and Sustainable Development" at CTDS, organized by Christian Aid and International Center for Trade and Sustainable Development on September 12, 2003.

Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi, Fellow, RIS also made a key presentation on "Biotechnology, Trade and Biosecurity at the Global Biodiversity Forum, organized by UNEP, IUCN and Mexican Centre for Environmental Law at Cancun. He also made three other presentations at CTDS: "Standards and Agricultural Exports of Developing Countries: Case of South Asia" in a session on Standards and Market Access on September 11, 2003; "TRIPs and Geographical Indications: Concerns of Developing Countries" in a session on TRIPs and Development: Priorities for Developing Countries on September 11, 2003; and "Special and Differential Treatment" on September 12, 2003.

'Development' in the Doha Development Round! Seminar in Delhi

As part of the series of activities organized in preparation of the Fifth Ministerial of the WTO in Cancun, RIS organized a Seminar on the Development in the Doha Development Round: Priorities for Cancun on Friday, August 8, 2003 in RIS Conference Hall.

Mr. Prabir Sengupta, Director General, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, and former Commerce Secretary chaired the seminar. The distinguished panelists included Mr. Shishir Priyadarshi, Shri S.N. Menon, Additional Secretary (TPD), Department of Commerce, Govt. of India and Professor Muchkund Dubey, President, Council for Social Development.

The presentations highlighted various issues concerned with the Doha development agenda (DDA). Among the reasons cited for the possible lack of progress in implementations of DDA were lack of flexibility on the part of developed country Members, simultaneous negotiations on a large



From left: Mr. S.N. Menon, Mr. Shishir Priyadarshi, Mr. Prabir Sengupta, Professor Muchkund Dubey, and Dr. Nagesh Kumar at the Seminar.

number of issues, explicit and implicit linkages between progress (or lack of it) in different areas, and differences in priorities and objectives, amongst developing countries, because of the differences in their needs and levels of economic development.

It was argued that there is need to ensure that promised and anticipated benefits accrue to developing countries. Ways must be found to effectively respond to the specific needs of developing countries.

A large number of experts, representing media, government, business and industry circles, and research institutions took part in the Seminar.

Panel Discussion on Implementation-Related Concerns in the WTO Agenda

RIS was invited to organize and host a session on the **Implementation Issues at the National Symposium on Trade and Globalization: The Agenda Towards Cancun**, organized by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India; UNDP and UNCTAD in New Delhi on August 18-19, 2003.

The session was chaired by Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS. The eminent panelists at the session included Mr. Kamal Malhotra of UNDP (New York), Ambassador S. Narayanan, and Mr. R. Gopalan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce. A presentation on Market Access for Non-Agriculture Products: Towards Cancun was also made by Dr. Rajesh Mehta, Senior Fellow, RIS and Prof. J. George, Senior Consultant, RIS. Sets of four RIS Policy Briefs # 4-7 were made available to all participants who took part in the Symposium. Dr. Nagesh Kumar was also invited to make a presentation on Investment Policy in the session on Singapore Issues.

India-ASEAN Forum Meet

RIS has launched an India-ASEAN Forum to facilitate a brainstorming on different facets of India-ASEAN partnership on a regular basis. The Forum has been set up in response to a long felt desire of individuals concerned with the India-ASEAN relations to have a forum for dialogue and consultations on a regular and continuous basis. The first brainstorming session of India-ASEAN Forum was organized on the theme of India-ASEAN Vision 2020 in RIS on July 18, 2003. Ambassador S.T. Devare, Vice-Chairman, RIS chaired the meeting which was attended by a large number of participants from government, business, industry, academic and diplomatic circles.

In his initial remarks Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS said that RIS has been assisting India-ASEAN dialogue over the past years with the India-ASEAN Eminent Persons Lecture Series and with a series of studies and policy proposals prepared for the policy makers. RIS also brought out a volume *India-ASEAN Partnership in an Era of Globalization* based on the Reflections of the Eminent Persons. RIS has also been mandated by the Government of India to prepare a paper on India-ASEAN Vision 2020 in consultation with the ASEAN think tanks. This paper is



From left: Mr. Rajiv Sikri, Ambassador A.N. Ram, Ambassador S.T. Devare, Dr. Nagesh Kumar, and Mr. Rajiva Misra, Jt. Secretary (MER), Ministry of External Affairs at the Meeting of India-ASEAN Forum.

expected to layout a long-term vision and a road map for evolving India-ASEAN partnership. Ambassador A.N. Ram, former Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs and Mr. Rajiv Sikri, Additional Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs also made introductory remarks.

The following presentations were made at the Meeting of the Forum: Trade and Investment by Dr. Nagesh Kumar; Monetary

and Financial Cooperation by Mr. S.K. Mohanty; Development of Transport links and Infrastructure Development by Mr. Prabir De; Cooperation in the field of Energy by Dr. Barnali Nag; and i) Human Resource Development, ii) Science and Technology, iii) Tourism and Culture by Mr. S.K. Mohanty. Thereafter open discussion took place on the issues raised in these presentations.

Seminar on A Free Trade Area in South Asia

A Seminar on A Free Trade Area in South Asia was organized in RIS on August 22, 2003 in the RIS. At this Seminar, Professor I.N. Mukherji, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, presented the main findings of a study conducted by him at RIS on the subject. Professor Muchkund Dubey, Chairman, CSD chaired the seminar which had the participation of cross section of audience from business, industry, research institutions and government departments.

The RIS study has attempted to examine the impact of SAPTA on bilateral preferential trade flows on conceded products both from the point of view of India's imports as well as exports since SAPTA negotiations were implemented by the end of 1995.

The issues, that Dr. I.N. Mukherji focused on in his presentation, included customs notifications issued by SAARC member states, number of products on which tariff concessions have been extended/agreed by SAARC member states in the three rounds of trade negotiations under SAPTA, India's imports of concessions offered to contracting states of SAPTA during 1996-2000. He also took up for discussion India's preferential imports of products offered concessions to contracting states under SAPTA Rounds I-III, section and chapter-wise percentage distribution of India's imports from Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Maldives; India's imports from Bangladesh, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka of top ten products offered concessions under SAPTA I-III; India's exports of products offered concessions by other contracting states under SAPTA, India's preferential exports of top ten products to Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka; top 15 products imported by India from other contracting states; India's imports of top ten chapters of harmonized system from the contracting states; top 10 products exported by India to other contracting states; India's exports in terms of top ten chapters of the harmonized system to the contracting states. In his presentation he also talked about the potential trade between Bangladesh (market) and India (supplier) and potential trade between India (market) and Bangladesh (supplier).



From left: Professor I.N. Mukherji, Professor Muchkund Dubey, and Dr. Nagesh Kumar at the Seminar.

Dr Nagesh Kumar, Director-General

- Participated in the discussion meeting on Japan-India NGOs Dialogue, organized by the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) Institute of Asian Studies, in New Delhi on July 4, 2003
- Attended the Meeting of the Board of Governors and General Body Meeting of ISID on July 21, 2003.
- Discussant at a Regional Consultation on Movement of Natural Persons and Human Development, organized by the UNDP-Asia Trade Initiative in New Delhi on July 21-22, 2003.
- Chief Guest at the function organized by the Export-Import Bank of India in Mumbai on July 28, 2003 to give away the International Economic Research Annual Awards (IERA) 2002 instituted by the Bank.
- Delivered a lecture on India's Relations with ASEAN at the 43rd National Defence College Course, organized by National Defence College, New Delhi on August 1, 2003.
- Participated as Panelist in the session on 'Investment Policy' at National Symposium on Doha Development Agenda – Some Contentious Issues, organized by ASSOCHAM in New Delhi on August 2, 2003.
- Made a key presentation on Singapore Issue at the Workshop on Cancun Draft Ministerial Declaration, organized by National Working Group on Patent Laws in New Delhi on August 4, 2003.
- Made presentation on FDI in India at the Finalization Conference for the Country Studies on Foreign Direct Investment, organized by Asian Development Bank in Manila on August 11-13, 2003.
- Delivered a brown-bag seminar on the Relevance of the Asian Economic Community at the ADB headquarters in Manila on August 12, 2003.
- Made a presentation on the theme of Investment at the Workshop on WTO CII-BDI Interface on Doha Development Agenda, organized by CII in New Delhi on August 19, 2003.
- Released to Media the UNCTAD's *World Investment Report 2003* at a function organized by UN Information Centre in New Delhi on September 4, 2003.
- Participated in the Fifth Ministerial Conference of WTO and related events in Cancun on September 9-13, 2003, as reported elsewhere.
- Addressed at Saturday Discussion Group at India International Centre on the theme of Cancun Agenda, New Delhi on September 6, 2003.

- Was a Panelist at a discussion meeting on Cancun WTO Ministerial Meeting, organized by the School of Social Sciences, JNU in New Delhi on September 19, 2003.
- Delivered a talk on the Cancun Ministerial Conference of WTO to the Association of Indian Diplomats in New Delhi on September 24, 2003.

Dr. Rajesh Mehta, Senior Fellow

- Made a presentation on Millennium Round of WTO Negotiations: Impact on Indian Small Scale Industry (co-author), for Cancun Ministerial Conference of WTO: Issues for SMEs, organized by FISME and Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Contemporary Studies in New Delhi on August 29, 2003.
- Presented a policy paper on Non-agriculture Market Access: Issues and Priorities for Developing Countries, at Symposium on WTO's Agenda for 5th Ministerial Conference, organized by WTO Cell of Kurukshetra University on August 25, 2003.
- Made a presentation on Market Access for Non-Agriculture Products: Towards Cancun at a Seminar on Reflection on Cancun Ministerial of WTO: Issues and Options, organized by FICCI, SAARC Chamber of Commerce & Industry and CUTS on August 14, 2003.

Shri S.K. Mohanty, Fellow

- Made a presentation on the "Towards India-ASEAN FTA and Beyond" in the International Seminar on "India-ASEAN: Post-Summit Perspective", held in Hyderabad on July 3-5, 2003.

Dr. Ram Upendra Das, Fellow

- Made a presentation at a Seminar on Indo-Uzbek Economic Relations along with Dr. Ibrahim R. Mavlanov, Ambassador of Uzbekistan, organized by the Indian Institute of Finance on July 22, 2003.
- Participated in the Fourth Meeting of the Joint Negotiating Group on India-Thailand Free Trade Agreement, organized by the Ministries of Commerce, Government of India and Thailand in New Delhi on July 24-26, 2003.
- Presented a Paper on Implications of India-Thailand Free Trade Agreement on Trade and Poverty in India, organized by OXFAM GB in New Delhi on August 22, 2003.
- Presented a Paper on Fostering Trade and Commerce for Mutual Benefit in the Seminar on SAARC: Partners in Peace and Progress, organized by ICSSR and Federation of Indian Publishers in association with the SAARC Book Development Council in New Delhi on August 27, 2003.

Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi, Fellow

- Panelist at the Workshop on Geographical Indications, organized by RGICS in New Delhi on August 8, 2003.
- Participated in the seminar on The Evolution of Policy in the South African Pharmaceutical Sector in the context of the TRIPs Agreement, organized by NCAER in New Delhi on August 25, 2003.
- Panelist at the discussion meeting on Agriculture and WTO, organized by IIFT in New Delhi on August 30, 2003.
- Participated in the events related to the recent Fifth WTO Ministerial Conference held in Cancun (Mexico), as reported elsewhere.
- Addressed the Orientation Programme on WTO and the New Trade Regime organized by IIFT in New Delhi on September 23, 2003.

Dr. J. George, Senior Consultant

- Presented paper on Standards & Market Access – Need for a Proactive Agenda and Acted as a resource person at the conference on South Asian Agenda for the Cancun Ministerial Conference of the WTO, organized jointly by South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Kathmandu and Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS), Jaipur in Kathmandu, Nepal on July 24-25, 2003.
- Made a presentation on Impact of WTO Regime on the Pesticide Industry at the IV Asia Pacific Crop Protection Conference, organized jointly by FICCI and PMFAI in New Delhi on September 18-19, 2003.

Shri Mirza Allim Baig, Research Associate

- Joint presentation with V. Narasimhan and M. Ramachandran on Exchange Market Pressure and the Reserve Bank of India's Intervention Activity at Third International Convention of Asia Scholars, held at Singapore National University on August 19-22, 2003. (Presentation was made by the joint author.)

Shri Prabir De, Research Associate

- Paper on 4-Stages Data Envelopment Analysis in Measuring Seaport Efficiency, presented by Prof. Ro-Kyang Park, Chosun University, South Korea (co-author) at the 6th International Conference of International Association of Maritime Economists, held at Seoul during September 3-5, 2003.
- Presented a paper on Container Port System Concentration in East Asia, which won a full fellowship from the Conference Organizer, at the 6th International Conference on Coastal and Port Engineering in Developing Countries (COPEDEC), held at Colombo during 15-19 September 2003.

Workshop on A Strategic Approach to Strengthening the International Competitiveness in Knowledge-based Industries

RIS organized a one-day Workshop on A Strategic Approach to Strengthening the International Competitiveness in Knowledge-based Industries, on Thursday, July 24, 2003. The Workshop was part of the research project on "A Strategic Approach to Strengthening the International Competitiveness in Knowledge-based Industries: Some Explorations into the Role of FDI Inflows, Outward Investments, and Enterprise Level Technological Efforts in Promotion of India's Knowledge Intensive Exports" undertaken by RIS with the support of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India.

The programme of the workshop spread over Two Sessions. The Workshop started with the Introductory Remarks by Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director General, RIS. The first session, which addressed the theme of "Quantitative Analysis of Various Factors in Enterprise Level Export Performance", was chaired by Professor N.S. Siddharthan, Head, V.K.R.V. Rao Centre for Studies in Globalization, Institute of Economic Growth. This session had a presentation by Shri Jaya Prakash Pradhan, Consultant, RIS based on the two papers prepared under this project, viz. "Export Performance of Indian Enterprises in Knowledge-Based Industries: Recent Trends, Patterns and Implications" and "Export

Competitiveness in the Knowledge-Based Industries: A Firm - Level Analysis of Indian Manufacturing". Dr. K.J. Joseph of Jawaharlal Nehru University was the main Discussant. During the discussion it was felt that RIS studies have covered large data sets, and employed rigorous analytical tools to get a broader picture to understand the patterns of international competitiveness in Indian industries. They also contributed to the analytical literature by covering certain new variables like outward investment.

The Second session focused on Case Studies of Select Industries and was chaired by Dr. A.K. Kundra, former Secretary, Government of India. The following industry studies, based on the findings of concerned Consultants of the project, were taken up for discussion in this session: Automobile Industry by Dr. Neelam Singh, Lady Shri Ram College; The Indian Pharmaceutical Industry



From right: Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Prof. N.S. Siddharthan, Mr. Ashwani Gupta, and Mr. Jaya Prakash Pradhan at the Workshop.

by Dr. Aradhna Aggarwal, Kirori Mal College and ICRIER; and Non-Electrical Machinery Industry by Dr. M. Padma Suresh, Sri Venkateswara College, and the Industrial Chemicals Industry by Dr. V.K. Kaul of the Delhi University South Campus.

During both the sessions intensive discussion took place on the presentations that were made. A large number of participants from different research institutions, government, industry and business circles participated in the Workshop. The DSIR was represented by Mr. Ashwani Gupta, Principal Scientific Officer.

Policy Analysis and Advisory Network for South Asia (PAANSA) Meeting

RIS hosted the Meeting of the Policy Analysis and Advisory Network for South Asia (PAANSA), set up by IFPRI organized in conjunction with the ADB Inception Workshop for RETA: Seventh Agriculture and Natural Resources Research at International Agricultural Research Centres on Poverty Reduction Through Advisory Network Policy Research and Capacity Strengthening in South Asia held in New Delhi on August 5, 2003. The meeting commenced with welcome remarks by Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS. The first two sessions on The South Asia Initiative (SAI): Its Mission and Outcomes, and Capacity Strengthening Efforts of SAI: Accomplishments had presentations by Dr. Ashok Gulati, Division Director, IFPRI; Dr. Suresh Babu, Senior Research Fellow, IFPRI and Dr. Paul Heytens of ADB.

The third session addressed the theme of Policy Dialogue on South Asia's Priority Issues for Achieving Food Security: Selective Studies in Progress and Plans for New Studies and was chaired by Dr. Suresh Babu. In this session presentations were made by Prof. G.K. Chadha, Vice Chancellor, JNU; Prof. Herath Gunasena, Executive Director, Sri Lanka, Council for Agricultural Research and Policy; Dr. Sarfraz Khan Qureshi of Planning and Development Division, Government of Pakistan; Dr. Devendra Chhetry of Tribhuvan University, Nepal; Prof. M.A. Sattar Mandal of Bangladesh Agricultural University; and Dr. Chime P. Wangdi of Ministry of Agriculture, Bhutan.

The fourth session, chaired by Dr. Ashok Gulati, was devoted to presentation of SAI Work Plan Under this RETA: Schedule of Activities, Key Milestones, and Performance Indicators by Dr. Suresh Babu. After detailed discussion, the session approved the work programme and meeting concluded with the closing remarks by Dr. Ashok Gulati.



Distinguished participants at the PAANSA Meeting held in New Delhi on August 5, 2003.

India-Sri Lanka Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement

India and Sri Lanka had launched a bilateral FTA in 1998 which became operational in 2000. Encouraged by the good experience with FTA in expanding the mutual trade in an equitable and balanced manner, the two governments decided to expand the scope of economic cooperation to cover investment and services in the framework of a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA). A Joint Study Group (JSG) was set up to prepare a blue print of CECA. The Indian Ministry of External Affairs requested RIS to prepare a study on investment for discussions at the Joint Group Meeting. Accordingly, RIS prepared a study on Investment Relations between India-Sri Lanka: Some Analyses and Policy Recommendations and submitted it to the Ministry of External Affairs on July 17, 2003.

Subsequently the Ministry of External Affairs requested RIS to prepare a draft of the investment chapter for the Joint Study Group Report, based on Indian submissions as well as Sri Lankan submissions on the subject. RIS, based on these inputs, prepared an integrated study on India-Sri Lanka Investment Partnership and submitted it to the Ministry of External Affairs on July 26, 2003 for the JSG. The JSG has since concluded its work and finalized its Report at its Meeting held in Candy, Sri Lanka on October 6, 2003.

Preparations for Second ASEAN-India Summit in Bali

RIS has been assisting the process of evolving India-ASEAN partnership through studies and India-ASEAN Eminent Persons Lecture Series. RIS has also been assigned the task of preparation of the ASEAN-India Vision 2020

document in consultation with the ASEAN think-tanks for presentation at the Third ASEAN-India Summit in Laos in 2004. RIS prepared a note on ASEAN-India economic partnership at the request of the PMO, to serve as an input for their preparation for the Bali Summit scheduled to be held on October 7-8, 2003. Earlier the inputs were provided for the preparations of the Second India-ASEAN Business Summit, held in New Delhi on September 4, 2003.

Investment on the Agenda: A Developing Country Perspective

The Ministry of Commerce has entrusted RIS with a project on Research and Advisory Proposal on Multilateral Framework on Investment and Developing Countries. As part of this project, RIS prepared a comprehensive paper on the Trade and Investment on WTO Agenda: A Developing Country Perspective and the Way Forward for Cancun Ministerial Conference. The paper was made available to the Ministry of Commerce to aid in the preparation of the Cancun Ministerial.

Non-Agricultural Market Access

At the request of by the Ministry of Commerce, RIS provided comments on two papers submitted to the WTO's Negotiating Group on Non-Agricultural Market Access (NGMA), viz. TN/MA/W/35: Possible Options by Negotiating Group on Market Access Chairman, 11 August 2003; and Joint Paper by Canada, European Communities and United States on Non-Agricultural Market Access: Modalities, 11 August 2003 on August 13, 2003.

Interactions on WTO's Implications on Paper and Newsprint Industry

RIS was requested to make the key presentation at an Interaction Meet on WTO's Implications on Paper and Newsprint, organized by the Central Pulp & Paper Research Institute (CPPRI), Saharanpur (U.P.) in New Delhi on July 25, 2003. After opening remarks by Shri S. Jagadeesan, Joint Secretary (DIPP), Government of India and Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS; Dr. Rajesh Mehta, Senior Fellow, RIS made a presentation on WTO Negotiations: Impact on Indian Paper and Newsprint Industry. The presentation was followed by open discussion with industry representatives.

Subsequently, CEOs of some leading paper enterprises in the country visited RIS on September 19, 2003 for a further interactive briefing session on the scenarios in the context of emerging WTO negotiations and other developments and possible responses of the industry.

Revised Forecasts of India's Exports

RIS has undertaken a study on Short-term Forecasting of India's Exports for the Ministry of Commerce. The objective of the study to develop an appropriate econometric model for India's exports, to make short-term forecasts, and to update annual forecasts in view of the changes in external/domestic factors. RIS prepared a study on 2003-04 Revised Forecasts of India's Exports: A Disaggregated Analysis by Countries and Commodities, Paper III of the Research Project on Modelling of Export Sector for Short-term Forecast, and submitted it to the Ministry of Commerce on September 11, 2003.

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RIS in Media

Cancun Should Commit To Development, Says Pant

OUR ECONOMIC BUREAU
New Delhi, Sept 1

The negotiations on trade liberalisation need to respect the principle of less-than-full reciprocity for the developing countries. Planning Commission deputy chairman K.C. Pant said on Monday.

Speaking at a seminar on the presentation of World Trade Organization report, 'Toward Openness Sought in WTO Decisions', Pant said...

Pant: Issue-based pact with friendly nations needed

Planning Commission Deputy Chairman K.C. Pant has favoured issue-based alliances with friendly countries at the World Trade Organisation to secure national interests much more effectively. Speaking at a seminar, organised on World Trade and Development Report, 2003 of the Research and Information System for Non-Aligned and Developing Countries (RIS), he sought greater transparency in decision making at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to check 'arm-twisting' of poor countries by the developed world.

The general perception is that the decision making... Pant said, "The Cancun Ministerial gives an opportunity to the dev'g... es and export subsidies that have been distorting the WTO in agriculture. "Developing countries such as India have a very large proportion of population dependent on agriculture for livelihood. They need flexibility to pursue liberalisation commitments," he said. Ahead of the Cancun Ministerial, the RIS has sought reform in the decision making process at the WTO to check "arm-twisting" of poor countries by the handful of powerful nations, under the garb of consensus. In fact, there is a need

'India Should Fight It Out At Cancun'

The second draft of the Cancun ministerial text is sharply tilted towards the interest of the developed world and India and other developing countries should fight it out at Cancun, says Nagesh Kumar, director general of Research and Information System for Non-Aligned and Developing Countries (RIS).

Dr. Kumar discussed the details of the provisions of the new draft and its social implications with the correspondent Amulya.

Comparison of the first and second drafts... The RIS has sought reform in the decision making process at the WTO to check "arm-twisting" of poor countries by the handful of powerful nations, under the garb of consensus. In fact, there is a need

Poor nations hit by \$300 bn farm subsidies of EU, US

US population in farm sector... The RIS has sought reform in the decision making process at the WTO to check "arm-twisting" of poor countries by the handful of powerful nations, under the garb of consensus. In fact, there is a need

Another 90 per cent of... The RIS has sought reform in the decision making process at the WTO to check "arm-twisting" of poor countries by the handful of powerful nations, under the garb of consensus. In fact, there is a need

Tread Cautiously On Tariff Cuts: Textile Experts

Post-Cancun: Committee On Agriculture To Begin Discussions Next Week

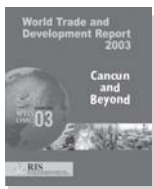
Textile experts... The RIS has sought reform in the decision making process at the WTO to check "arm-twisting" of poor countries by the handful of powerful nations, under the garb of consensus. In fact, there is a need

Is it curtains for Doha Development Agenda?

What does the stalemate at Cancun mean for the future of world trade? As the developing and developed countries find never to... The RIS has sought reform in the decision making process at the WTO to check "arm-twisting" of poor countries by the handful of powerful nations, under the garb of consensus. In fact, there is a need

Latest Publications

World Trade and Development Report 2003: Cancun and Beyond



by RIS research team led by **Dr Nagesh Kumar**, Director-General, RIS. The core team comprised **Dr Rajesh Mehta**, Senior Fellow, RIS, and **Dr Sachin Chaturvedi**, **Dr Ram Upendra Das** and **S.K. Mohanty**, Fellows of RIS.

Contents: Foreword by **Shri K.C. Pant**, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and Chairman, RIS; Preface; Chapter 1: World Trading System and Developing Countries: Agenda for Cancun and Beyond — An Executive Summary; Chapter 2: WTO, Rising Protectionism and Development; Chapter 3: Singapore

Issues: Investment, Competition Policy, Government Procurement and Trade Facilitation; Chapter 4: Agreement on Agriculture and Developing Countries; Chapter 5: Market Access for Non-Agriculture Sector; Chapter 6: TRIPs, Public Health, Traditional Knowledge and Geographical Indications; Chapter 7: Environmental Requirements and Market Access for Developing Countries: Implementation Related Concerns; Chapter 8: Issues in Disputes Settlement Understanding: Developing Countries Perspective; Chapter 9: Issues in Special and Differential Treatment.

Protecting Foreign Investment: Implications of a WTO Regime and Policy Options

by **Carlos Correa** and **Nagesh Kumar**, Zed Books Ltd., London and Academic Foundation, New Delhi in association with RIS.



This book examines implications of the rich countries' insistence that the rules which were supposed to be confined to trade issues now be extended by means of new agreements protecting foreign direct investment. The authors examine whether there is really a case for a new multilateral framework on investment within the WTO and propose various options for developing countries in resisting what amounts to a new form of Western protectionism, including how a development dimension could be incorporated in any new agreement, if the member countries of the WTO decide to proceed with negotiations.

Policy Briefs: Focus on the Cancun Agenda

- #4 **Cancun Agenda: Trade and Investment – The Way Forward for Developing Countries**
- #5 **Cancun Agenda: Environmental Requirements and Developing Countries Exports – Lessons for National, International and Regional Action**
- #6 **Cancun Agenda: TRIPs and Development Implications and an Agenda for Action**
- #7 **Cancun Agenda: Geographical Indications and Developing Countries**



Discussion Papers

- #53 **Economic Cooperation between India and Central Asian Republics with Special Reference to Uzbekistan** by **Abdurahim Okhunov Abduraxmonovich**, June 2003.

The issue of economic cooperation between India and Central Asia and Uzbekistan, in particular, is the focus of this study. Section I analyzes economic development of Uzbekistan and India. Section II profiles briefly the economic performance of Central Asian countries. Indo-Uzbek bilateral economic relations are analyzed in Section III. A special emphasis is placed in Section IV on identifying constraints in cooperation. Finally, in Section V some policy recommendations have been made for intensifying economic cooperation between India and Uzbekistan.
- #54 **Nepal-India Bilateral Trade Relations Problems and Prospects** by **Gyanu Raja Shrestha**, June 2003
This study mainly concentrates on the trade relationship between Nepal and India. The objectives of the study are to review of Indo-Nepal trade relations, provide an overview of trade treaties held between Nepal and India, analyze foreign trade direction of Nepal; analyze the impact of Indo-Nepal Trade Treaty 1996, in particular, in improving trade relation between the two countries, and identify the scope and areas of improvement in Indo-Nepal trade relations.
- #55 **Economic Cooperation between India and Egypt** by **Abdel Hamid Saba Elregal**, June 2003
The focus of this paper is analyzing constraints and prospects for greater economic cooperation between Egypt and India. Section I provides a brief economic profiles of Egypt and India. Indo-Egypt bilateral economic relations are analyzed in Section II. Potentials for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) has been taken up as a special theme of analysis in Section III. Some of the constraints coming the way of Indo-Egypt cooperation are highlighted in Section

IV. Section V puts forth some of the policy recommendations to strengthen economic cooperation efforts between India and Egypt.

#56 Investment on the WTO Agenda: A Developing Countries Perspective and the Way Forward for the Cancun Ministerial Conference

by **Nagesh Kumar**, July 2003

This paper examines the relevance of a multilateral framework on investment from a developing country perspective in the light of the evidence available on the role of FDI in development. It also suggests the policy options that developing countries may consider at the Cancun Ministerial Conference on the issue of Trade and Investment. It also reflects on the approaches to make different elements of a possible multilateral framework on investment more pro-development and balanced, in case a negotiating mandate is unavoidable at the Cancun.

#57 WTO Negotiations Towards Cancun: Implication on Indian Paper and Newsprint Industry

by **Rajesh Mehta** and **Pooja Agarwal**, August 2003.

This paper attempts to analyze the implications of market access negotiations on the Indian paper industry. In this paper discussion concentrates on the impact of tariff measures alone. Section II briefly outlines the meaning of market access for non-agriculture products in the WTO because the paper industry falls under nonagricultural sector. Section III outlines the current state of Indian paper industry in the international nomenclature. Section IV comes up with the possible outcome of recent negotiations on this industry. Concluding remarks are contained in Section V.

#58 Implementation Issues in SPS: A Developing Country Perspective for Development Agenda on the Meandering Pathways from Doha to Cancun

by **Rajesh Mehta** and **J. George**, September /2003.

The agenda for developing countries should address both the procedural and substantive issues of SPS agreement *per se*. At the same time, it has also been observed how other qualitative dimensions of cross cutting themes like the processing techniques, etc. gets crafted on the SPS platform for denying access to the markets. Thus a three-pronged strategy in a regional cooperation framework requires to be explored.

#59 WTO Non-agriculture Market Access Modalities: A Case Study of Impact on A Developing Country

by **Rajesh Mehta** and **Pooja Agarwal**, September 2003.

Section I of this study gives a background of the negotiations with a review of Doha mandate on market access of non-agriculture products. Section II presents the current position of modalities for negotiations. Section III contains the implications of these negotiations on Indian industrial tariffs and Section IV concludes the entire scenario.

Outside Publications of RIS Faculty Members

- De, Prabir. 2003. Movement of Containers through National Waterways, *Indian Ports*, Vol. 35, No. 1.
- George, J. 2003. "Culture of Agriculture in WTO Negotiations". *Trade and Development Monitor: Cancun Special*. South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Kathmandu, September.
- Kumar, Nagesh. 2003. "Investment on WTO Agenda: A Developing Country Perspective and Way Forward for Cancun Ministerial conference". *Economic and Political Weekly*, July 26.
- Kumar, Nagesh. 2003. "Investment on the WTO Agenda: A Developing Country Perspective and the Way Forward for the Cancun Ministerial Conference" in *From Doha to Cancun* by **Ivan Mbirimi**, **Bridget Chilala** and **Roman Grynberg** (eds.). London: Commonwealth Secretariat.
- Kumar, Nagesh. 2003. "Trade and Investment in WTO" in *Doha Development Agenda - A Global View* by **T.K. Bhaumik** (ed.). New Delhi: Penguin.
- Mehta, Rajesh. 2003. "The WTO and the Indian Poultry Industry". Asia Pacific School of Economics and Government, ANU, *Asia Pacific Press*, July.
- Mehta, Rajesh. 2003. "Policy, Technical And Environmental Determinants and Implication of the Scaling-up of Broiler and Egg Production in India". IFPRI/FAO, Washington, July.

Important Visitors/Delegations Received

● H.E. Mr. Julio Faesler Carlisle, Ambassador, Embassy of Mexico, and Ms Melba Pria, Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico on July 17, 2003 as a part of the preparations towards the Cancun Ministerial Conference of the WTO.

● Dr. Srinivasa Madhur, Principal Economist, ADB Headquarters; Dr. Sudipto Mundle, Deputy Country Director, and Dr. Hiranyo Mukhopadhyaya of the India Resident Mission, ADB on September 19, 2003.

● Dr. Stephen J. McGurk, Regional Director, IDRC Regional Office for Southeast and East Asia, Singapore and Dr Evan Due, Senior Regional Programme Specialist, Social and Economic Policies, International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Singapore on August 29, 2003.

● Ms Robin L. Turner, Institute of International Studies, University of California, Berkeley on July 10, 2003.

● Shri S.R. Rao, General Manager, EXIM Bank, Bombay on July 15, 2003

● H.E. Mr. See Chak Mun, High Commissioner of Singapore and Dr. Edmund Chia, First Secretary, High Commission of Singapore, New Delhi on August 5, 2003.

● Mr. Adrian White of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Office of Trade Negotiations), Australia on August 8, 2003.

● Dr. Surupa Gupta, Visiting Assisting Professor, Politics Department, Pomona College, Claremont on August 16, 2003.

● Dr. Lau Sim Yee, Programme Advisor, Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Tokyo, Japan on August 18, 2003.

● Mr. Tom Pengelly of the Adam Smith Institute, London on August 21, 2003.

● Prof. Hideki Esho, Professor of Economics, Hosei University, Tokyo and Professor Etsuro Ishigami of Fukuoka University, Japan on August 26, 2003.

● CEOs of a number of leading paper companies including Mr. Gautam Thaper, Ballarpur Industries; Mr. Harsh Pati Singhania of J.K. Paper Ltd.; Mr. M. Mishra, Star Paper Mills; Mr. Ved Krishna, Yash Papers Ltd.; and others on September 19, 2003.

● Mr. S.K. Singh, former Foreign Secretary; Dr. Sanjaya Baru, Editor, *Financial Express*, Professor V. Kesavan; Admiral Mihir Roy and others for a briefing on India-Japan Cooperation on September 22, 2003.

● Professor J.K. Ray, Working President of South Asia Research Society, Kolkata and a Member of the Governing Council of ICSSR on August 28, 2003.

● Dr Vinod Ahuja, FAO, August 28, 2003.

● Prof. Sudip Chaudhuri, of Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata on September 2, 2003.

● Dr Vijay Paul Sharma, Professor, IIM, Ahmedabad on September 2, 2003.

● Mr. Samar Verma, Policy Advisor, OXFAM GB-New Delhi on September 10, 2003.

● Ms. Junko Saito, First Secretary, Embassy of Japan, New Delhi on August 6, 2003.

● Ambassador A.N. Ram, former Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs on August 7, 2003.

● Mr. Jae-duk Kim, Commercial Attache (First Secretary), Embassy of the Republic of Korea, New Delhi and Mr. Yong Soo Shin, Senior General Manager, Hyundai Motor India Ltd. on September 19, 2003.

● Ms. Supriya Banerji, Head-International, CII, New Delhi on September 25, 2003.

● Mr. Kyu-Ock Park, Counsellor for Economic Affairs, Embassy of the Republic of Korea, New Delhi on September 26, 2003.

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A Framework Agreement on FTA between India and Thailand

RIS has prepared a joint feasibility study on A Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and Thailand. Apart from this, RIS has been providing inputs and consultations to the Ministry of Commerce on negotiations of the Indo-Thai Bilateral FTA. These also included inputs on India's offer list of products. RIS provided comments on Draft Rules of Origin under India-Thailand Free Trade Agreement to Ministry of Finance, Government of India, September 11, 2003. RIS also prepared a policy note on Rules of Origin (RoO) Provision for the Draft Framework Agreement on India-Thailand FTA and submitted to the Ministry of Commerce on September 23, 2003.

About the RIS

The Research and Information System for the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (RIS) is an autonomous research institution established with the financial support of the Government of India. RIS is India's contribution to the fulfilment of the long-felt need of the developing world for creating a 'Think Tank' on global issues in the field of international economic relations and development cooperation. RIS has also been envisioned as a forum for fostering effective intellectual dialogue among developing countries.

RIS is also mandated to function as an advisory body to the Government of India on matters pertaining to multilateral economic and social issues, including regional and sub-regional cooperation arrangements, as may be referred to it from time to time. RIS functions in close association with various governmental bodies, research institutions, academicians, policy-makers, business and industry circles in India and abroad. RIS has a consultative status with UNCTAD and NAM and has conducted policy research and other activities in collaboration with other agencies, including UN-ESCAP, UNCTAD, UNU, Group of 77, SAARC Secretariat, Asian Development Bank (ADB), The World Bank, and the South Centre.

RIS publication programme covers books, research monographs, discussion papers and policy briefs. It also publishes journals entitled, *South Asia Economic Journal*, *Asian Biotechnology and Development Review*, and *RIS Diary*.

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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