



MEA/RIS Conference of IBSA Editors on Globalization and Emerging Powers

The Trilateral IBSA Forum, set up in 2003, has emerged as an important and unique forum of three leading emerging democracies from the developing world from the three Southern continents. The forum addresses issues of global concern besides exploiting their synergies for mutual benefit. There is a critical role for South-South Cooperation in the media. India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) are the three important countries of the South that have a vibrant and free press. Therefore, in the context of IBSA, there is need for deepening contacts between the civil society organizations, media and think-tanks for facilitating mutual cooperation and dialogue on emerging global issues and evolve their perspective. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in collaboration with RIS organized a two-day conference of Editors from India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) in New Delhi on 3-4 September 2007 on the theme of Globalization, Emerging Powers and Media. The Conference opened with



(From left): Dr. Arjun Sengupta, Chairman, RIS; Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, Hon'ble Minister for External Affairs; Mr. Nalin Surie, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs; and Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS at the Valedictory Session of the Conference.

remarks by Mr. Navtej Sarna, Joint Secretary (XP), MEA and Dr Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS and Moderator of the Conference. Mr. Anand Sharma, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, delivered the inaugural address.

The Session I on IBSA and the Media – The Macro Picture addressed the theme of Globalization, Emerging Powers and the World Order: Challenges

and New Roles for Media in IBSA. Ms. Mrinal Pande, Editor, *Hindustan* chaired. The leader speakers included from India: Mr. Raj Chengappa, Managing Editor, *India Today*; from Brazil: Mr. Vinicius Mota, Opinion Editor, *Folha de Sao Paulo*; and from South Africa: Ms. Nalini Naidoo, Political Editor, *The Witness*.

The Session II on IBSA – Economic and Media Cooperation had the theme:

Continued on page 4

MEA-RIS-FICCI-GIF Conference on SAARC Economic Cooperation

RIS, jointly with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), and Global India Foundation (GIF), organized the National Conference on SAARC: Accelerating Cooperation through Connectivity on 1-2 September 2007 in Kolkata. Dr. Arjun Sengupta, M.P., and Chairman, RIS chaired the inaugural session of the Conference. Mr. Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal, delivered the inaugural address and Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs, delivered the keynote address. Prof. Omprakash Mishra, Member-Secretary, GIF; and Mr. Sudhir Jalan, Past President, FICCI also spoke at the opening session.

The first session of the national conference addressed the theme of



(From left): Mr. Arif S. Khan, Addl. Secretary, MEA; Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs; Mr. Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal; Dr. Arjun Sengupta, M.P., and Chairman, RIS; and Mr. Sudhir Jalan, Past President, FICCI, at the inaugural session of Conference.

Globalisation and Economic Integration: Imperatives for South Asia Regional Economic Cooperation. Dr. Arjun Sengupta, MP and Chairman, RIS chaired this session. Prof. Pulin

B. Nayak, Director, Delhi School of Economics; Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director General, RIS; and Mr. M.K. Saharia, Executive Committee Member,

Continued on page 4

Current Research/Advisory Activities

South Asia Development and Cooperation Report 2008

SADCRO8 will be fourth in the series of flagship reports launched by RIS. These Reports have over time emerged as the authoritative documents on monitoring the macroeconomic performance and outlook against the background of global economic trends, and status and prospects for regional economic integration. In addition to some topics that are covered in the Report, each issue picks up a few for detailed analysis. *SADCRO8* will devote a special chapter to the importance of services sector in South Asian economy, trade and regional cooperation. It will also revisit the transport infrastructure and connectivity. *SADCRO8* will also focus on the prospects for SAFTA and the challenges that it faces including the trade facilitation. The coverage will be extended to Afghanistan that has joined the grouping. Inputs for the Report are obtained from counterpart think-tanks in other SAARC countries in addition to in-house work. It is proposed to launch the Report in early 2008 to serve as a background document for the SAARC Summit 2008. For further details, please contact dgooffice@ris.org.in

Comprehensive Economic Partnership of East Asia (CEPEA): A Track-II Study

The Track-II study on the feasibility of CEPEA has been launched as per the mandate of the Second East Asia Summit held on 15 January 2007 in Cebu, the Philippines. A Study Group was constituted comprising the experts nominated by the governments of EAS countries. Following his nomination to the study group by the Hon'ble Commerce and Industry Minister, Dr Nagesh Kumar, DG-RIS attended the first meeting of the study held on 15-16 June 2007 in Tokyo. Subsequently RIS has contributed notes and papers to the work of the study group. The group is expected to complete its work by the middle of 2008. For further details, please contact dgooffice@ris.org.in

ERIA Research Project on Infrastructure Development in East Asia

As per the initiative taken within the East Asia Summit process involving ASEAN+6 countries, an Economic Research Institute of ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) is being set up as a regional policy think-tank to assist the ASEAN Secretariat in promoting regional economic integration in East Asia covering 16 countries. RIS represents India in the ERIA Expert Group and in the network of think-tanks from the 16 countries that has been set up to take the proposal forward and has been participating in preparatory meetings to discuss the form of the institution and its work

programme. Pending the physical creation of the institution, some research programmes have been launched through the network institutes. RIS has been asked to lead the ERIA project on infrastructure development. The project involves preparation of country reports by the EAS member country teams in addition to thematic analysis and preparation of a policy brief summarizing policy recommendations. Building on earlier work of RIS an infrastructure index will also be prepared to examine the relative rankings of the countries in terms of infrastructure availability and quality and to identify infrastructure gaps between the EAS countries. The inception workshop of the project was held in Bangkok Research Centre of the Institute of Developing Economies of JETRO on 15 July 2007. RIS will prepare the country study for India, develop an infrastructure index and prepare the policy brief for the policy makers on the basis of the work done within the framework of the project. For further details, please contact prabirde@ris.org.in

RIS Capacity Building Programme on Global and Regional Economic Cooperation Issues under ERIA

The processes of global integration represent both challenge as well as an opportunity for developing countries, in so far as a nation's growth prospects depend increasingly on external economic environment. In particular, policies of multilateral organizations such as WTO, the World Bank and IMF, other UN bodies, regional development banks and regional associations/blocs have an important bearing on the process of development. The Asian countries are also currently moving towards deeper economic integration within the frameworks of sub-regional groupings such as ASEAN, BIMSTEC, ASEAN+1 arrangements, several bilateral economic partnership arrangements, functional arrangements such as Asian Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), and emerging broader arrangements currently under discussion within the framework of the East Asia Summit (EAS). Thus, the Asian developing countries need to build capacity to analyze the implications of the emerging trends and exploit their potential.

Against this backdrop, the RIS Capacity Building Programme on Global and Regional Economic Cooperation Issues (GRECI) under Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), sponsored by JETRO, Japan, is designed to expose the participants to the growing complexities of global economic issues, including regional economic

cooperation, and negotiations and build their analytical skills on them. It is aimed at strengthening the capacity of participants in understanding the emerging economic trends and patterns and helping them make informed policy choices.

The Programme is open to officials and researchers from the developing East Asia Summit member countries, especially from the CLMV (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam) countries. It will be organized by RIS within the framework of ERIA capacity building initiative. The first Programme in this series will be conducted at RIS in New Delhi during the four weeks of 11 February-7 March 2008. RIS is seeking nominations for the programme. For further details, please contact upendra@ris.org.in

Notes prepared for the Government of India:

- Draft Report of Study on Deepening Financial Integration in Asia was submitted to the Ministry of Finance.
- Report of the study on Resurgent China: Imperatives for India was submitted to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- Two presentations at the Session V: Role of BICS in Building a Development-Friendly World Trading System at the Workshop on Emergence of Large Developing Countries and Implications for International Development, organized by RIS and the Commonwealth Secretariat were made available to the Ministry of External Affairs on 11 July 2007.
- A Note on Towards Deepening Mekong-Ganga Cooperation: Some Proposals was made available to the Ministry of External Affairs on 26 July 2007.
- Concept Note on SAARC Economic Cooperation was submitted to Public Diplomacy Division, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India in August 2007.
- A Note on Sub-regional Economic Cooperation under SAARC – Focusing on Energy, Food, Environment and Water was submitted to the Ministry of External Affairs on 17 August 2007.
- Inputs were provided for the first meeting of High-level study group of Asian Cooperation Dialogue, held in Bangkok on 18 August 2007.
- A Note on India's Look East Policy – Challenges for Sub-Regional Cooperation was made available to the Ministry of External Affairs on 22 September 2007.

Session on RIS' World Trade and Development Report 2007 in Paris

The current impasse in the Doha Round of trade negotiations suggests that all is not well with the present system. Developing countries tend to view these negotiations as occasions used by industrialized countries to extract trade concessions from them and as instruments used to circumscribe their development policy space. Although the Doha Round was to address the development concerns of poor countries, the proposals on the table might deliver the opposite. The emergence of coalitions of developing countries in the present Round, for example, G-20, led by larger countries such as Brazil, India, China, South Africa, Indonesia has helped them raise their concerns in a more effective manner. The present impasse offers an opportunity to take a pause and reflect on the broader issues of reform negotiations and consider ways and means of making developing country participation more effective and broad-based to ascertain a development-friendly outcome of the Doha Round.

The World Trade and Development Report 2007, prepared by RIS, has summarized an agenda for reform of the multilateral trading system to make it more development friendly. This provided the basis for the panel discussion in a special



Dr. Werner Corrales-Leal; Dr. Mark Halle; Dr. Nagesh Kumar and Ambassador Faizel Ismail at the session on International Trading System and Development, organized by RIS at the Conference on Emerging Power in Global Governance New Challenges and Policy Option.

session on International Trading System and Development organized by RIS at the international conference on Emerging Powers in Global Governance-New Challenges and Policy Options. The conference was organized by the Paris-based Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations in partnership with Sciences Po; International Institute for Sustainable Development; and School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University in Paris on 6-7 July 2007.

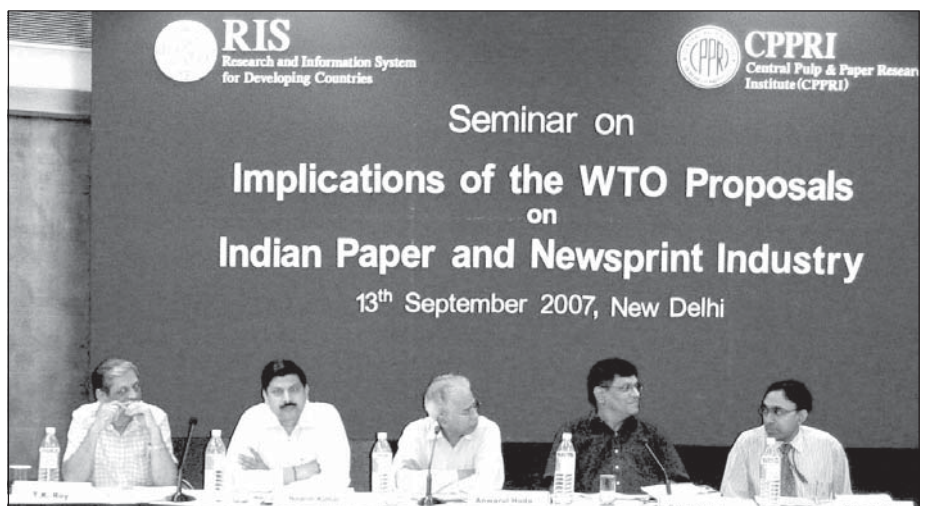
Dr. Mark Halle, European Representative, IISD, Chaired the session. Dr.

Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS made the lead presentation. This was followed by discussion by the distinguished panelists: Dr. Werner Corrales-Leal, Senior Fellow, International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development; and Ambassador Faizel Ismail, Permanent Representative of South Africa to the World Trade Organization. The noted participants in the Session comprised Sir Nicholas Stern, Advisor to H.M. Head of Government Economic Service, UK; Prof. John Humphreys of IDS Sussex, among many other leading experts.

Seminar on Implications of the WTO Proposals on Indian Paper and Newsprint Industry

RIS and the Central Pulp & Paper Research Institute (CPPRI) organized a Seminar on Implications of the WTO Proposals on Indian Paper and Newsprint Industry, on 13 September 2007 in New Delhi. Professor Anwarul Hoda, Member, Planning Commission, Chaired the Seminar.

The seminar opened with welcome remarks by Dr Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS. After remarks by Professor Anwarul Hoda, Member Planning Commission, Dr. Rajesh Mehta, Senior Fellow, RIS made a presentation of the study on WTO Proposals and Indian Paper and Newsprint Industry. Mr. Bipin Menon, Department of Commerce and Industry, made the presentation on NAMA Negotiations in Doha Round: State of Play. These were followed by the open discussion by a large number



(From left): Dr. T.K. Roy, Director, CPPRI; Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS; Professor Anwarul Hoda, Member, Planning Commission; Dr. Rajesh Mehta, Senior Fellow, RIS; and Mr. Bipin Menon, Department of Commerce at the Seminar.

of participants from government, business, industry and academic circles.

Dr. T.K. Roy, Director, CPPRI extended the vote of thanks.

Seminar on Governance and Voice in the International Financial Institutions

There has been an ongoing debate on the need for reform of the governance of international financial institutions (IFIs) which reflects the economic structures of the early post-war period and not the current realities.

Against that backdrop, RIS organized a Seminar on Governance and Voice in the International Financial Institutions (IFIs) on 10 August 2007. Mr. C.M. Vasudev, former Secretary, Government of India and Executive Director, World Bank, Washington D.C. chaired the Seminar.



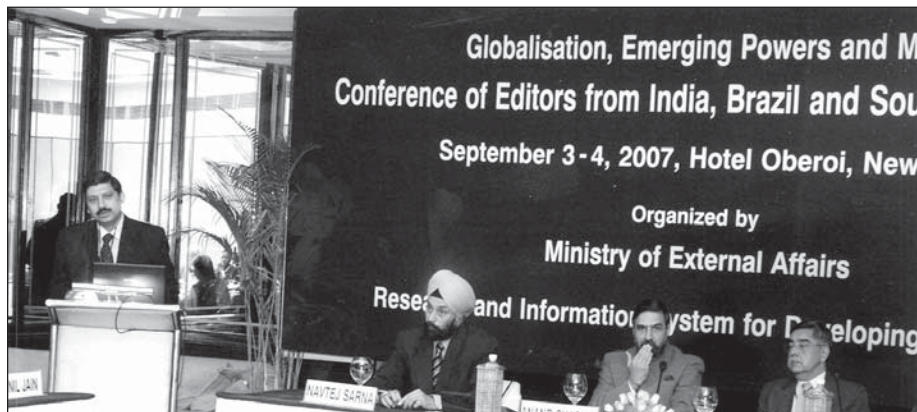
(From left): Dr. Amar Bhattacharya, Mr. C.M. Vasudev, and Dr. Nagesh Kumar at the Seminar.

Dr. Amar Bhattacharya, Director, G-24 Secretariat, Washington DC made the presentation which was followed by open discussion.

Continued from page 1 (MEA/RIS Conference of IBSA Editors)

Economic and Media Cooperation in IBSA: Potential and Prospects. Mr. Sanjaya Baru, Media Advisor to Prime Minister of India chaired. Lead Speakers were: Mr. Chandan Mitra, Editor, *The Pioneer*, India; Mr. Nicolino Spina, CEO, *Valor Economico*, Brazil; and Mr. David Canning, Editor, *The Mercury*, South Africa.

In the Session III on Democracy, Technological Revolution and Image Building there was discussion on two themes. The first included the impact of democracy and technological revolution on the Media in IBSA: Emerging Trends and Challenges, chaired by Mr. Joao Claudio Garcia Rodrigues Lima, International Affairs Editor, *Correio Braziliense*. It had lead speakers: Mr. Nikhil Lakshman, Editor-in-Chief, Rediff.com, India; Mr. Luciano Suassuna, Editor-Director, *Editora Tres* (Istoe), Brazil; and Mr. Tyrone August, Editor, *Cape Times*, South Africa. The second theme was: Western media stereotyping of developing countries - approaches for



(From right: Mr. Nalin Surie, Secretary, MEA; Mr. Anand Sharma, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs; Mr. Navtej Sarna, Joint Secretary (XP), MEA; and Dr. Nagesh Kumar at the opening Session of the Conference.

positive image building by IBSA media. Mr. Peter Ndoro, Director, Corporate Communications/Senior Editor, CNBC Africa, was in the chair. The lead speakers included: Mr. Amit Baruah, Diplomatic Editor, *Hindustan Times*, India; Mr. Erick de Miranda Bretas, Editor-in-Chief, TV Globo & Jornal da Globo, Brazil; and Mr. Craig Peets, Editor-in-Chief, *African Mirror*, South Africa.

In the concluding session, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, Hon'ble Minister for External Affairs delivered the valedictory address. Dr. Arjun Sengupta, M.P. and Chairman, RIS also addressed the participants. Earlier, Mr Navtej Sarna, Joint Secretary (XP), MEA made the opening remarks. The Conference Moderator Dr. Nagesh Kumar summed up the issues raised at the conference.

Continued from page 1 (MEA-RIS--FICCI-GIF Conference on SAARC)

SAARC Chamber of Commerce & Industry made presentations. Prof. Sushil Khanna, Professor, IIM-Kolkata and Prof. Ajitava Raychaudhury of the Jadavpur University were the panelists.

Mr. Bishwajit Bhattacharya, Sr. Advocate, Supreme Court, chaired the Second Session on Strengthening Physical Connectivity in South Asia. Mr. M. Jamshed, Director, Ministry of




Railways, Dr. Anup Chandra, Chairman, Kolkata Port Trust; Dr. Prabir De, Fellow, RIS; and Mr. B.K. Bajoria, Executive Committee Member, SAARC Chamber of Commerce & Industry made the presentations. The third session on Fostering People-to-People Connectivity in South Asia was chaired by Ambassador A.M. Khaleeli. The

panelists included Ambassador V.K. Grover; Prof. Jayanta Kumar Ray, Chairman, MAKAIAS, Kolkata; and Mr. Rathikant Basu, Chairman, Tara News, Kolkata.

Dr. Kheya Bhattacharya, Jt. Secretary (SAARC), Ministry of External Affairs, delivered the summary of the Conference that took place over the two days of the National Conference.

Latest Publications

Reports

- **Trinity of the South: Potential of India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Partnership** by RIS. Published by Academic Foundation, 2007. 
- **IBSA: Globalisation, Emerging Powers and the Media.** Report of the Conference of Editors from India, Brazil and South Africa. Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and RIS, 2007. 
- **Environmental Risk Assessment, Socio-Economic Considerations and Decision-Making Support for LMOs in India** by Sachin Chaturvedi, Wendy Craig, Vanga Siva Reddy and Decio Ripandelli. Published jointly by MoEF, GEF, World Bank, ICGEB and RIS, October 2007. 

RIS Policy Brief

#32 **Strengthening International Competitiveness in Knowledge-based Industries: A Strategic Approach**

After a quantitative analysis based on secondary data covering a sample of nearly 4,500 Indian companies across a wide spectrum of industries, different size, classes and ownership patterns, a recent RIS study conducted more qualitative analysis for five select knowledge-based industries. The context has been the continued domination of India's export structure by relatively simple, slow-moving and low-value adding labour-intensive goods while the East Asian countries have made a major mark in the exports of fast moving knowledge-based goods. The imperative of strengthening international competitiveness has assumed greater salience in view of the rupee appreciation over the past year. The Policy Brief suggests some measures for strengthening the international competitiveness of Indian enterprises especially in the knowledge-based industries and make their presence in the global markets more visible.

Discussion Papers

#125 **Investment Provisions in Regional Trading Arrangements in Asia: Relevance, Emerging Trends, and Policy Implications** by Nagesh Kumar

This paper summarizes the conceptual rationale for investment liberalization to fully exploit the potential of regional trading arrangements. It goes on to examine the treatment of investment in emerging FTAs/RTAs in the Asia-Pacific region and the specific investment provisions and their consistency with the existing multilateral provisions on investment, viz. WTO's TRIMs Agreement. The provisions of ASEAN framework on investment area and industrial cooperation are summarized in Section 4. Section 5 briefly examines the trends in India's RTAs policy in Asia and the emerging patterns of efficiency-seeking industrial restructuring unleashed by it. Finally Section 6 concludes the paper with a few remarks on the importance of a broader framework for regional economic integration.

#126 **Welfare Gains from Regional Economic Integration in Asia: ASEAN+3 or EAS** by S.K. Mohanty and Sanjib Pohit

The experiences of Asian countries suggest that the region has substantial economic potentials and synergies between these countries can be better tapped with comprehensive economic cooperation. With this approach formation of an Asian Economic Community is not too far away from now. Next phase of liberalisation in Asia should focus on deep economic integration. Sitting on the driving seat, ASEAN's economic liberalisation in Asia. The core issue is, which group of countries between ASEAN+3 and East Asian Summit (EAS) countries, would elicit maximum benefit to the region in general and ASEAN in particular? Using an Applied General Equilibrium model in a monopolistic framework, the paper suggest that next Round of economic liberalisation may start with EAS.

#127 **Brazilian Economy: Recent Evolution and New Perspectives for South-South Cooperation** by Maria Lúcia L.M. Pádua Lima

The paper initially studies the possibilities of Brazilian economic development stressing the external sector of its economy. As widely known, Brazil is not a very representative partner on external trade. Nevertheless, Brazil already is an important player on food trading and could be, in the future, a very significant player in the international commerce of biofuel and bioproducts. For this reason, this paper also focuses on Brazilian experiences in the production of food, bioproducts and energy generated by renewable sources. In order to illustrate that

Brazilian reality, it uses the sugarcane case. The Brazilian agricultural preponderance, on the opposite of what can be imagined, required a great amount of research effort and technological improvements, especially which involve the production of biofuel and bioproducts. On the other hand, some Brazilian studies indicated the noteworthy capacity to this kind of agricultural chain to incorporate work force in the rural areas. Finally, it discusses the feasibility of reproducing abroad successful the agricultural Brazilian experience, what could be a very promising subject to the South-South cooperation.

#128 **WTO and Trade in Electronically Delivered Software (EDS): Emerging Challenges and Policy Options - An Indian Perspective** by Sachin Chaturvedi and S. K. Mohanty.

In this paper the authors make an effort to address the concerned issues in light of Indian experience with the usage of ICT in trade transactions. The Section II summarises key issues being debated at various committees of WTO while Section III provides India's growing interests in software exports. Section IV enumerates the perspectives on emerging debate at the multilateral fora and also provides policy recommendations.

Journals

- **Asian Biotechnology and Development Review**, Vol. 9, No 3, November 2007

Contents: Domestic Policy Options: International Trends in liability and Redress by Philippe Cullet; Biosafety and Emerging Socio Economic Issues by N. Lalitha; Biotechnology, Bioethics and National Ethical Guidelines in Biomedical Research in Iran by Bagher Larjani and Farzaneh Zahedi; Redesigning the Production of the *Bacillus thuringiensis* Bio-Pesticide within the Context of Subsistence Agriculture in Andhra Pradesh, India by Daniel Puente Rodríguez; and Reorientation of Agricultural Research for Addressing Food Security Issues through Agricultural Biotechnology by Harbir Singh; Document; Bio Web and Bio Stat.

- **New Asia Monitor**, Vol. 4, No. 3, July 2007.

Outside Publications of the RIS Faculty Members

Book and Research Papers

- Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2007. 'Putting the environment into Trade Facilitation' in Adil Najam, Mark Halle and Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz (eds.) *Trade and Environment: A Resource Book*. ICTSD and IISD, Canada.
- Chaturvedi Sachin. 2007. 'Exploring Interlinkages between National and Sectoral Innovation Systems for Rapid Technological Catch-up: Case of Indian Biopharmaceutical Industry', *Technology Analysis & Strategic Management*, Volume 19, Issue 5 September 2007, 643-657, Routledge Taylor & Francis.
- Das, Ram Upendra. 2007. "Developing a Comprehensive View on Rules of Origin". *Indian Engineering Exports*, September.
- De, Prabir. 2007. 'Enhancing Exports to Bangladesh: Possibility of an FTA'. *Indian Engineering Exports* (a publication of Engineering Export Promotion Council), Vol. 1, No. 8, July.
- De, Prabir (co-author). 2007. Prospects of India-Bangladesh Economic Cooperation: Implications for South Asian Regional Cooperation. *Discussion Paper # 78*. Asian Development Bank Institute, Tokyo, September, 2007.
- Gallagher, Kevin P. (co-author). 2007. *The Enclave Economy: Foreign Investment and Sustainable Development in Mexico's Silicon Valley*. The MIT Press.
- Kumar, Nagesh. 2007. 'Emerging TNCs: trends, patterns and determinants of outward FDI by Indian enterprises'. *Transnational Corporations*, UN: New York. Vol.16, No.1, April-June: 1-26.
- Kumar, Nagesh. 2007. 'Building a Development-friendly World Trading System'. *Bridges*, (Geneva: ICTSD), No.5, August.
- Kumar, Nagesh. 2007. 'The internationalization of R&D and developing countries'. *Research Policy*, 36: 1291-4.
- Kumar, Nagesh. 2007. 'What Ails India's Policy, while China Succeeds'. *Economic Journalist*, July.
- Mehta, Rajesh. 'Non-Tariff Barriers in the context of WTO'. *FOCUS WTO*. (June-July).

Popular Columns

- De, Prabir. 2007. 'Riding the Big Boom in Services Trade'. *The Financial Express*, 1 August, 2007
- De, Prabir. 2007. 'Strengthening Trading Routes across Border'. *The Financial Express*, 22 August.
- De, Prabir. 2007. 'Peppering the Multilateral Curry'. *The Financial Express*, 12 September.

Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General

- Delivered a Talk on India and Regional Cooperation in Asia at the 43rd Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats, organized by the Foreign Service Institute (FSI), Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on 13 July 2007.
- Chaired the Workshop on International Infrastructure Development in East Asia: Toward Effective and Balanced Regional Integration, organized by Bangkok Research Centre, IDE-JETRO as a part of ERIA work programme on 15 July 2007.
- Made a presentation on Investment Provisions in Regional Trading Arrangements in Asia: Relevance, Emerging Trends, and Policy Implications at the ARTNeT Consultative Meeting on Trade and Investment Policy Coordination, organized by UNESCAP in Bangkok on 16-17 July 2007.
- Delivered a Talk on WTO and Developing Countries at the 43rd Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats, organized by the FSI in New Delhi on 24 July 2007.
- Participated in the First Meeting of the Strategy Advisory Committee of the Export-Import Bank of India held in Mumbai on 28 July 2007.
- Delivered a lecture on Regional Economic Integration to a group of Japanese scholars from Nihon Fukushi University, Nagoya, at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi on 25 August 2007.
- Released to the press the UNCTAD's Annual Publication *Trade and Development Report 2007 – Regional Cooperation for Development* at UN Information Centre in New Delhi on 5 September 2007.
- Participated in the Brainstorming Session on the contents and presentation of the *Economy Survey*, organized by the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance in New Delhi on 17 September 2007.
- Participated in the Second Meeting of the Economic Affairs Committee of FICCI held in New Delhi on 21 September 2007.

Dr. Rajesh Mehta, Senior Fellow

- Presented a Seminar on Bilateral and Regional Trade Agreements: Case Study of India at the Centre for Strategic Economic Studies, Victoria University, Melbourne on 3 July 2007.
- Presented a Seminar on WTO Negotiations on Non-Agriculture Market Access: A Developing Country Perspective at the School of Economics and Finance, Campbelltown Campus, University of Western Sydney, Australia on 11 July 2007.
- Participated in the UNCAD and APEDA's Seminar on Non-Tariff Measures: Implementing an Analytical Framework at the NCU Auditorium on 8 August 2007, New Delhi.

- Participated Workshop on Going Beyond Doha Negotiations: Promoting South-South Trade, organized by the Ministry of Commerce, FICCI, and UNCTAD on 9 August 2007 in New Delhi.
- Participated in the International Seminar on Growth and Development of Animal Industry in India, held in New Delhi on 16-18 August 2007.
- Delivered lectures on Non-Agricultural Market Access (NAMA); and Regional Trading Arrangement at the Training Programme for the Indian Economic Service (IES) Officers, organized by IEG in New Delhi on 22 August 2007.
- Organized a four-day modular on 5-8 September for MFPI, Quality Council of India (QCI). Made key presentation on SPS Agreement and Its Implications in the Technical Session on Food during the special event on Future Vistas for Food Safety, held on 5 September 2007 in New Delhi.
- Visiting Fellow at the Department of Economics, Asian Economics Centre, The University of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia during June-July 2007.

Dr. S.K. Mohanty, Fellow

- Delivered a lecture on Non-Agricultural Market Access Negotiations: Development Dimensions of Developing Countries at the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India on 25 July, 2007, New Delhi.
- Made a presentation on India and East Asia Integration at the Workshop on India-Southeast Asia Relations, organized by the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies, New Delhi on 18 August 2007.
- Made a presentation on WTO Moratorium on Electronically Delivery Software: A Developing Country Perspective Based on Indian Experience at the 2007 EAIEL ICT Research Network Symposium, organized by then East Asian International Economic Law and Policy Programme, The University of Hong Kong on 23-24 August 2007, Hong Kong.
- Made a presentation on India's Trade Performances under Reforms at the FSI Training Programme, held in New Delhi on 28 August 2007.
- Made a presentation on Trade in Environmentally Sensitive Goods and Sustainable Development in Asian Countries at the International Workshop on Building the Common Good in Asia, held on 9-16 September 2007 in Beijing, China.

Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi, Fellow

- Made a presentation on Incentives for Innovations and New Technologies at the Health Congress 2007 on Innovation, Technology and Equity in Health on 17 July 2007 in Salvador, Brazil.
- Made a presentation on Experiences from FTA Engagement at the Brainstorming Meeting on Indo-EU FTA, organized by CENTAD and Oxfam International on 21 August 2007 in New Delhi.

- Made a presentation on WTO and Trade in Electronically Delivered Software (EDS): Emerging Challenges and Policy Options - An Indian Perspective at the 2007 EAIEL ICT Research Network Symposium, organized by the University of Hong Kong on 23 August 2007 in Hong Kong.
- Made a presentation on Deciphering US Farm Bill 2007: Moving Forward Falling Behind at the National Consultation on What the Doha Development Round Means for India at IIC on 29 August 2007 in New Delhi.
- Made a presentation on Prospects for Biotechnology Investment and Collaborations at the Planning Workshop of Indo-Swiss Collaboration in Biotechnology (ISCB) Phase 3 held on 7-8 September 2007 at Manesar, New Gurgaon.
- Made a presentation on ABS and Kani Case in India at the GenBenefit Project Meeting, held on 9-14 September 2007 in Nairobi, Kenya.

Dr. Ram Upendra Das, Fellow

- Participated in the discussion meeting on Knowledge Sharing Session-Intra SAARC Trade, organized by AT Kearney Ltd, Mumbai, on 11 July 2007.
- Participated in the Industry Consultation on Rules of Origin Issues under Free Trade Agreements, organized by Ministry of Commerce and Industry and FICCI in New Delhi on 19-20 July 2007.
- Speaker at the Seminar on Investing in Indonesia, organized by Embassy of Indonesia and CII in New Delhi on 24 July 2007.
- Speaker at the 1st Meeting of the Honorary Consuls of Maldives in India and Nepal, organized by the High Commission of Maldives, New Delhi on July 25, 2007.
- Speaker at Training-cum-Orientation Programme for the Railway Staff College Faculty on Regional Economic Cooperation in Asia, organized by the Asian Institute of Transport Development, Vadodra on July 28, 2007.
- Participated in the Meeting on India-Malaysia JSG with the officials of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and High Commission of Malaysia at RIS on 1 August 2007.
- Participated in the Drafting Committee meetings and the Adoption Meeting of the Report of the Joint Study Group on the Feasibility of Establishing A Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement between India and Malaysia at Kuala Lumpur on 10-11 August 2007
- Delivered lecture on Regional Economic Cooperation in South Asia: Potentials and Constraints, organized by the FSI in New Delhi on 11 September 2007.
- Delivered lecture on India's Economic Integration with ASEAN: Prospects and Challenges, organized by the FSI on 12 September 2007.

Continued on page 8

Module on Global Economic Regime and India's Regional Economic Engagements for IFS Probationers

RIS, on behalf of the Ministry of External Affairs, organized a training programme for IFS Probationers (2006 Batch) on the theme of Global Economic Regime and India's Regional Economic Engagements on August 27-31, 2007. The programme began with the introductory session by Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS and Dr. Ram Upendra Das, Fellow, RIS. The agenda of the training programme included themes such as world trading system and development; international financial system; India's trade performance under reforms; FDI in a globalized economy, theory and Indian experience; emerging international regime concerning bio-diversity and international trade in GMOs; regional economic cooperation in South Asia: potentials and constraints; transport connectivity and relevance of regional cooperation; emerging trends in East Asian regionalism: strategic options for India; monetary and financial cooperation in



IFS Probationers with Professor Muchkund Dubey; Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS; Mr. B. A. Roy, Addl. Secretary (FSI); and Dr. Ram Upendra Das, Fellow, RIS at the Valedictory Session of the training programme.

Asia; and India's economic integration with ASEAN: prospects and challenges. The IFS probationers also made presentations on different themes during the workshops that were held during the course of the training programme.

The faculty members who addressed the trainees included: Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS; Dr. Ramgopal Agarwala, Senior Advisor, RIS; Dr. S.K.

Mohanty, Fellow, RIS; Dr. Ram Upendra Das, Fellow, RIS; Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi, Fellow, RIS; Dr. Prabir Das, Fellow, RIS; apart from Mr. R.S. Ratna, Director, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Professor Muchkund Dubey, former Foreign Secretary and presently President, CSD, New Delhi, delivered the valedictory address.

RIS in Media

Govt plans initiatives to promote Saarc region

Ministerial Meeting Identifies Areas To Facilitate Travel Among Member States

Our Bureau
NEW DELHI

INDIA has laid up a host of initiatives to promote the saarc region aggressively. For starters, it has introduced a visa-on-arrival scheme for citizens of the 10 countries and introduced a liberalised visa regime for students, researchers, professors, journalists and patients of this region.

Announcing this, the Union External Affairs minister Mr Pralok M. Mukherjee said on Saturday. "We are addressing a national seminar organised by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI). The ministers elaborated that the key to success will be a meeting of home ministers of

External Affairs Minister Pralok Mukherjee and IAS Mr. Subhash Chandra

at the first seminar on the subject Saturday, Saturday

Stronger rupee: End of India's export boom?

Manufacturing growth drops to

6.99

India's days of double-digit growth may be over. Lower interest rates, a stronger rupee and a global economic downturn have all taken their toll on the Indian economy. Growth is slowing down, particularly in the manufacturing sector, and export performance has been poor. The rupee has strengthened, making Indian exports more expensive. The global economic downturn has also affected demand for Indian goods. The manufacturing growth rate has fallen to 6.99% in July 2007, down from 10.1% in July 2006. The services sector, however, remains robust, growing at 8.1% in July 2007. The overall GDP growth rate is estimated to be around 7.5% in 2007. The government is expected to announce a budget in November 2007, which may include measures to stimulate growth and address the challenges posed by the stronger rupee and global downturn.

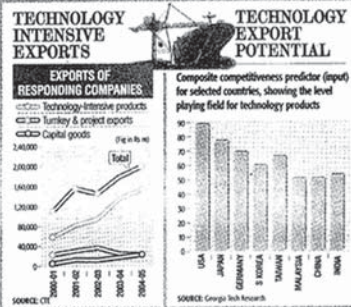
A consumer policy heed for tech exports is essential

Share Of Hi-Tech Products In India's Export Basket Is Quite Low

Jaideep Mishra
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ANY sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic, highlighted futurologist Arthur C. Clarke. It is a demonstrated fact that technological capability and innovativeness can improve the competitive advantage of nations. Novel technology can boost export competitiveness and shore up growth. Against the backdrop of a hardening rupee, technology-intensive exports would be a major net earner of foreign exchange with export prices. The fact remains that India's technology exports remain low and below potential, both in absolute and relative terms.

A recent survey of technology-intensive exports in March-April 2007 issued by Compendium on Technology Exports shows lacklustre figures. Technology exports of India are estimated at just about 5% of export of manufactures compared with 27% for China and an impressive 38% for Malaysia. As trade expert Nagesh Kumar says, "Despite reforms, the technology profile of Indian manufacturing and export



PLATFORM | Amit Baruah

Not quite bhai-bhai, but...

Prudence would point India to a policy that engages — not appals or rattles sabres with — China: an approach where New Delhi focuses on furthering its own national interest. Nothing else...

A multidisciplinary appreciation of India's foreign policy in bilateral relations, India, Australia and the US. The obvious danger of trying to outpace the US in bilateral relations has been pointed out by the author. The author also points out that India's foreign policy should be based on its own national interest and not on the interests of other countries. The author also points out that India should focus on strengthening its ties with other countries in the region and not on trying to outpace the US. The author also points out that India should focus on strengthening its ties with other countries in the region and not on trying to outpace the US.

Economic Survey to be more reader-friendly

ES REPORTER
New Delhi, September 6

The Economic Survey, a comprehensive analysis of the economy as well as a pre-budget statement, is likely to be revamped this year. The Survey, a government document authored by the economic division in the finance ministry, is presented every year in

Pranab for Saarc-wide harmony of law

Pranab Mukherjee, the new Finance Minister, has announced that the government will take steps to harmonize laws across the South Asian region. This move is seen as a step towards strengthening regional cooperation and integration. The government aims to create a more unified legal framework that can facilitate trade and investment in the region. This move is expected to boost economic growth and create jobs in the region.

Important Visitors/Delegations Received

- Dr. Arindam Banik, Professor in International Finance and Business, IMI, New Delhi on 3 July 2007.
- Dr. Jayanta Roy, Principal Adviser, CII, New Delhi on 4 July 2007.
- Mr. Simon Atkinson, External Relations, Political Department and Mr Mark Clayton, First Secretary, British High Commission, New Delhi, 18 July 2007.
- Dr. Harinder Sekhon, Senior Fellow, Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi on 19 July 2007.
- Ms. Rudrani Bhattacharayya, Senior Research Fellow, ISI, New Delhi on 23 July 2007.
- Mr. P. Harish, Director (XP), MEA, New Delhi on 25 July and 14 August 2007.
- Mr. D.K. Mittal, Chief Executive (Special Infrastructure Projects), and Shri R.K. Mathur, Adviser, IL&FS, New Delhi on 26 July 2007.
- Mr. M.K. Venu, Senior Editor, *The Economic Times*, New Delhi on 27 July 2007 and 11 August 2007.
- Dr. Kamal Malhotra, Senior Adviser (Policy), Socio-Economic Development Group, Bureau of Development Policy, UNDP, New York on 2 August 2007.
- Ms. Supriya Banerji, Head-CII International, and Ms. Deepika, CII, New Delhi on 13 August 2007.
- Mr Neelesh Hundekari, Principal, AT Kearney, Mumbai, 13 August 2007.
- Mr. Sanjay Sudhir, PMI, Geneva on 14 August 2007.
- Mr. Gurdip Singh, UNI on 14 August 2007.
- Dr. Rakesh B. Sambharya, Professor of Management & International Business, School of Business, Rutgers University, Camden, USA on 21 August 2007.
- Mr Simon Pemble, South Asia and Balkans Economist, Global Economy Group; Foreign & Commonwealth Office, Mr. Mariene Lange, Economist and Mr. Chris Alexander, Economist, Department for Business Enterprise & Regulatory Reform, UK, 22 August 2007.
- Dr. Mohan Chutani, First Secretary (designate), Embassy of India in Tokyo, 23 August 2007.
- Ambassador Ranjit Gupta on 24 August 2007.
- Mr. Anjan Roy, Adviser (Economic Affairs), FICCI on 24 August 2007.
- Dr. Masanori Kondo, Associate Professor of Economics, Division of International Studies, International Christian University, Japan on 4 September 2007.
- Mr. Tetsuo Kogra, New Delhi Chief of Bureau, *The Asahi Shimbun* on 6 September 2007.
- Mr. Sanjay Sood, Journalist on 6 September 2007.
- Mr. Daisuke Matsushima, Senior Director, JETRO, New Delhi and Mr. Noburu Yoshida, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia, JETRO, Japan on 7 September 2007.

Meeting of the Research Advisory Council of RIS

The Second Meeting of the Research Advisory Council (RAC) of RIS was held on 11 September 2007 at RIS. Professor Muchkund Dubey, President, Council for Social Development and Chairman, RAC of RIS, chaired the Meeting which reviewed the progress of the current research agenda and future work programme of the RIS.

The distinguished members of the RAC, who took part in the deliberation of the Meeting, included: Ambassador Arjun Asrani, former Indian Ambassador to Japan; Mr. B.L. Das, formerly Secretary to the Government of India and Permanent Representative to GATT; Professor N.S. Siddharthan, Hony. Professor of Economics, Madras School of Economics; Professor Pulin B. Nayak, Director, Delhi School of Economics; Professor Manmohan Agarwal, School of International Studies, JNU; and Mr. Sunil Jain, Joint Secretary (MER), Ministry of External Affairs, besides Dr Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS.

- Dr. Andrew Roadnight, Research and Information Officer, The University of Warwick on 13 September 2007.
- Dr. J.P. Ghate, Director, World Trade Centre, Mumbai on 14 September 2007.
- Professor Rehman Sobhan, Chairman, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh on 14 September 2007.
- *Delegation from South Africa*: Mrs. Shareen Osman, Director, Policy Analysis and Management, Economic Research and Policy Coordination (ERPC), Deptt. of Trade and Industry; Ms. Malebo Mabitje-Thompson, Economic Research and Policy Coordination, Deptt. of Trade and Industry; and Mr. Ravi Issar, Advisor, Deptt. of Trade and Industry, Republic of South Africa on 18 September 2007.
- Mr. Noburu Yoshida, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia, JETRO, Japan on 19 September and 21 September 2007.
- Mr Francoi Krueger and Ms. Florence Sermage, Economic Division, Embassy of France in India, 20 September 2007.
- Dr Tilman Altenburg of German Development Institute, Bonn, Germany on 26 September 2007.
- Dr (Mrs.) Jyoti Parikh, Executive Director, IRADe on 28 September 2007.

Continued from page 6 (Faculty News)

Dr. Somesh K. Mathur, Fellow

- Presented a paper on The Role of ICTs in Enhancing Cooperation in the South Asia at the International Telecommunication Society Conference 2007, held in Perth, Australia on 26-28 August 2007.
- Delivered a lecture on Methodological Issues Accounting for East Asian Growth, 1960-2000 at the Centre for East Asian Studies, School of International Studies, JNU on 20 September 2007.
- Delivered a lecture on Applying DEA Techniques on International Trade and Convergence Analysis at IIFT on 29 September 2007.
- Presented a paper on Theoretical Justification of Using Cobb-Douglas Production in Convergence Analysis at the Faculty of Humanities, IIT, Kanpur on 27 September 2007.

Dr. Prabir De, Fellow

- Made a presentation on India-Vietnam Economic Relations: Profile and Prospects, at the India-Vietnam Business Forum, organized by FICCI, CII, VCCI, and ASSOCHAM in New Delhi on 6 July 2007.
- Made a presentation on Enhancing India's Exports to China: Issues and Ways Forward,

at the 3rd K2K (Kolkata to Kunming) International Conference, organized by the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS) at Kolkata, on 21-22 July 2007.

- Participated in the Joint Business Meeting in Honour of Prime Minister of Japan and Accompanying Business Delegation from Japan, organized by CII, FICCI and ASSOCHAM in New Delhi on 2 August 2007.
- Participated in the International Conference on Going Beyond Doha Negotiations: Promoting South – South Trade, organized by FICCI, DFID, UNCTAD and Ministry of Commerce and Industry in New Delhi on 9-10 August 2007.
- Participated as Discussant in a Regional Conference on Towards BIMSTEC-Japan Comprehensive Economic Cooperation: Sri Lanka Perspective, organized by IPS, Sri Lanka in Colombo on 17 August 2007.
- Made a presentation on Transport Connectivity and Relevance of Regional Cooperation: India and ASEAN, at a special course for ASEAN diplomats, organized by FSI in New Delhi on 31 August 2007.

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



RIS
Research and Information System
for Developing Countries

Core IV-B, Fourth Floor,
India Habitat Centre
Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110 003
India.
Ph. 91-11-24682177-80
Fax: 91-11-24682173-74
Email: dgoffice@ris.org.in
Websites: <http://www.ris.org.in>
<http://www.newasiaforum.org>

Managing Editor: Tish Kumar Malhotra