



STRENGTHENING  
**INDIA-ASEAN**  
MARITIME  
COOPERATION



**RIS**

Research and Information System  
for Developing Countries

विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली

**AIC**

ASEAN-India Centre at RIS



# Strengthening India-ASEAN Maritime Cooperation

Proceedings of the 10<sup>th</sup> Delhi Dialogue  
19-20 July, 2018, New Delhi



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## Foreword

### **Ambassador (Dr.) Mohan Kumar**

*Chairman, RIS*

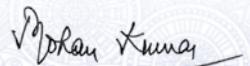
It is by now a truism that India's relationship with ASEAN is one of the fundamental aspects of its foreign policy and lies at the core of our Act East Policy. The Delhi Dialogue, which is an annual Track 1.5 forum, provides an opportunity to discuss the full gamut of issues between India and ASEAN.

The tenth edition of the Delhi Dialogue held in 19-20 July 2018 focused on the theme of strengthening India-ASEAN maritime cooperation. The maritime domain is of enormous significance for both India and ASEAN. As major trading partners, it is in the fundamental interest of both India and ASEAN that there must be a rules-based maritime order in the ocean. It was agreed that India and ASEAN should jointly deal with traditional and non-traditional threats posed to maritime cooperation.

Yet another feature of the tenth edition of Delhi Dialogue was the role of India's North East in the Act East Policy, and in this context, look at ways and means at forging connectivity with ASEAN. The tenth edition of Delhi Dialogue had this novel feature that a Roundtable on the above subject was organized with the participation of the Chief Ministers of North East India. Concrete proposals such as development of new airports in North East, completing connectivity projects and new projects involving ropeways and cable cars were discussed in some detail.

The tenth edition of Delhi Dialogue also looked at strengthening India-ASEAN ties in the fields of trade, investment, technology, SMEs, e-commerce and tourism. All these ideas and proposals are worthy of note and further discussion with a view to expeditious implementation.

The deliberations of the tenth edition of Delhi Dialogue under the overarching theme of "Strengthening of India-ASEAN Maritime Cooperation" are invaluable and will provide useful inputs for an excellent framework for future cooperation between India and ASEAN.



**Mohan Kumar**





# Preface



## **Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi**

*Director General, RIS*

As is well known, RIS since early 1990s has been engaging in providing vital evidence-based research inputs for strengthening ASEAN-India economic integration. The ASEAN-India Centre set up, at RIS in 2013, has further been engaged in exploring various facets of ASEAN-India economic cooperation and deepening historical linkages in the context of India's 'Act East Policy'.

The Delhi Dialogue was initiated at Tack 1.5 in 2009 to discuss all aspects of ASEAN-India partnership and find ways and means to strengthen it. It involves participation of policy makers, business and industry circles, diplomatic community, think tanks and members from academia to deliberate on various facets of ASEAN-India relationship. So far Ten Editions of the Delhi Dialogue have taken place. The theme of the Tenth Delhi Dialogue was "Strengthening India-ASEAN Maritime Cooperation" and it took place on 19-20 July 2019. It was organised jointly by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India; RIS; AIC at RIS; National Maritime Foundation (NMF), New Delhi; ASEAN Secretariat; Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA).

The agenda of the Tenth Delhi Dialogue programme had the following important themes: Roundtable with Chief Ministers of North-East India, Role of North East in Act East Policy with ASEAN, Strengthening Socio-Cultural Links, India-ASEAN Partnership and Emerging Global Order, Development Cooperation: Strengthening the ASEAN-India Partnership, Maritime Cooperation: A New Framework for India-ASEAN Partnership, ASEAN-India Trade, Investment and Technology, Development Cooperation, SMEs and Regional Development, E-commerce and Digital connectivity, Tourism Cooperation and Building Smart Cities.

The focus of the deliberations was on strengthening India's ancient links with South East and East Asian countries and providing them added momentum and push, based on deepening linkages across the 'Three Cs': Culture, Commerce and Connectivity. Eminent experts also presented papers on different aspects of these themes.

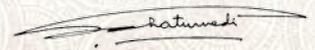
The issues that were highlighted in the course of discussion included, among others: latest initiatives like regional connectivity schemes; Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project; speeding up the function of Land Custom Station at Zokhawthar in Champhai (Mizoram); operationalising of Sabroom-Chittagong connectivity; opening up of both road and rail routes; India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway; venturing into untapped areas of investment and industrial development in the North East; setting up of international universities; taking further the history of peace between India and South East Asia; mitigating rise of new trade protectionism to shape the global order to mark it as Asia's century; looking at India as a new Global Value Chain Partner; importance of the health of ocean for sustainable maritime development; rules-based order and need to respect UN Convention of Laws of the Seas; identifying priority areas for working together for development cooperation; widening the Indo-Pacific collaboration; role of Indian Diaspora in promoting economic, social and cultural ties between ASEAN and India; scope and opportunities for stronger cooperation in SMEs and capacity building to promote entrepreneurship in the region; enabling digital connectivity between India and ASEAN; enhancing air connectivity for promoting tourism; and importance of policy initiatives as Swatch Bharat and Housing for All in building smart cities network in India and ASEAN.

Accordingly, key recommendations have emerged that provide roadmap for strengthening all possible aspects of social, economic and cultural dimensions of ASEAN-India partnership. It also needs to be underlined here that during the intensive discussion at the Dialogue, it was also strongly reiterated that the North Eastern Region of India is the centre of gravity for strengthening ASEAN-India connectivity.

We will remain grateful to Smt. Sushma Swaraj, the then Minister of External Affairs of India, for her encouragement and guidance for successful organising of the Delhi Dialogue X.

The support received from Ambassador Preeti Saran, the then Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs and Dr Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS is duly acknowledged. The present Report, prepared by the AIC at RIS team led by Dr Prabir De, would definitely be found useful by all stakeholders who are actively associated with the process of deepening ASEAN-India economic cooperation.

I also thank RIS Publication team for bringing out the Report well in time.

  
**Sachin Chaturvedi**



# Acknowledgments



The proceedings of the Delhi Dialogue X entitled “Strengthening India-ASEAN Maritime Cooperation” has been prepared by Dr. Prabir De, Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC), Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) with the assistance of Dr. Durairaj Kumarasamy, Consultant, AIC at RIS and Ms. Sreya Pan, Research Associate, AIC at RIS.

We gratefully acknowledge the support extended by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India in organising the Delhi Dialogue X (DDX). In particular, we are grateful to Mr Anurag Bhusan, the then Joint Secretary (ASEAN ML), MEA; Mr Vikram Doraiswami, Joint Secretary (BM&IP), MEA; Col. Sandeep Puri, the then Director (ASEAN ML), MEA; Mr Madan Sethi, the then Dy. Secretary (ASEAN ML), MEA; Ms. Shashwati Arya, the then Under Secretary ASEAN ML) and Mr Pramod Bajaj, Consultant (ASEN ML), MEA for their assistance in organising the DDX. We are equally thankful to the Indian Mission to ASEAN, Jakarta; ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta; Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Jakarta; National Maritime Foundation (NMF), New Delhi; and the ASEAN-India Business Council (AIBC), both Delhi and Kuala Lumpur chapters, for their cooperation in organising the Delhi Dialogue X. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the participants in the DDX – invited speakers, presenters, chairpersons, sponsors, and audience alike.

We are grateful to Dr Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS and Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS for their cooperation.

The DDX benefitted from work done in support by the RIS Faculty and Administration. Mr. Tish Kumar Malhotra coordinated the production of the Proceedings and Mr. Sachin Singhal designed the Proceedings.

Views expressed in the proceedings are those of the participants of the DDX and not the views of the Governments of India or ASEAN countries, ASEAN Secretariat, RIS, AIC, NMF, ERIA and AIBC. Usual disclaimers apply.



# List of Abbreviations

ACMECS	Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy
ADMM	ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting
AEC	ASEAN Economic Community
AEP	Act East Policy
AIBC	ASEAN-India Business Council
AIC	ASEAN-India Centre
AISTDF	ASEAN-India Science and Technology Development Fund
APCTT	Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology
APTA	Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement
ARF	ASEAN Regional Forum
ASAM	ASEAN Single Aviation Market
ASCN	ASEAN Smart Cities Network
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations
ASSM	ASEAN Single Shipping Market
BIMSTEC	Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation
CAGR	Compound Annual Growth Rate
CLMV	Cambodia Lao PDR Myanmar Vietnam
DD	Delhi Dialogue
DISHA	Digital Information Security in Healthcare Act
DPIIT	Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
EAM	External Affairs Minister
EAS	East Asia Summit
ERIA	Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FTA	Free Trade Agreement
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GMV	Gross Merchandise Value
GOI	Government of India
GPON	Gigabit-capable Passive Optical Network
GVC	Global Value Chain
HS	Harmonised System
ICCR	Indian Council for Cultural Relations
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IFC	Information Fusion Center
IMF	International Monetary Fund

IMT-GT	India-Myanmar-Thailand Growth Triangle
IONS	Indian Ocean Naval Symposium
IOR	Indian Ocean Region
IORA	India Ocean Rim Association
IPRC	International Piracy Reporting Center
IP	Indo-Pacific
IR	Industrial Revolution
IT	Information Technology
ITeS	Information Technology-enabled Services
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated
LOC	Line of Credit
LPAI	Land Port Authority of India
MEA	Ministry of External Affairs
MEITY	Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
MoCI	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
MPABD	Maritime and Port Authority of Brunei Darussalam
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise
NER	North Eastern Region
NMF	National Maritime Foundation
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OFDI	Outward Foreign Direct Investment
PDF	Project Development Fund
PTA	Preferential Trade Agreement
R&D	Research and Development
RBI	Reserve Bank of India
RCEP	Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership
RCS	Regional Security Complexes
RIS	Research and Information System for Developing Countries
SAGAR	Security and Growth for All in the Region
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SEZ	Special Economic Zone
SIPDO	Small Industry Promotion and Development Organization
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise
SWS	Single Window System
TCS	Tata Consultancy Services
TRAI	Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
US	United States
WTO	World Trade Organization



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# Summary of the Tenth Delhi Dialogue

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## Summary



- The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India in partnership with the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS); ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS, New Delhi; National Maritime Foundation (NMF), New Delhi; ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta; Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Jakarta organised the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the Delhi Dialogue (DDX) on 19-20 July 2018 in New Delhi. The theme of the 10<sup>th</sup> Delhi Dialogue was “Strengthening India-ASEAN Maritime Cooperation”. Hon’ble Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister of India delivered the Keynote Address in the inaugural session, whereas Gen. V.K. Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs, and Mr. M J Akbar, Minister of State for External Affairs delivered the Special Address in the Ministerial and Special Plenary Sessions, respectively. Amb. Preeti Saran, Secretary (East) gave the Inaugural Address and Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS delivered the Welcome Address. About 300 delegates including several senior ministers from the ASEAN countries along with senior officials, subject experts, eminent scholars, practitioners, diplomats, academicians, researchers, business people and industry leaders attended the DDX.
- The 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the Delhi Dialogue was a two-day event, which included Plenary and Special Plenary sessions and a Ministerial Session. The Plenary session covered major themes including social, political and economic aspects of the ASEAN-India Partnership. The Special Plenary session featured a Keynote Address by the Minister of State in the External Affairs of India and the Special Address of Chief Ministers of seven Northeastern states of India. The Ministerial session featured a Keynote Address given by the Hon’ble External Affairs Minister of India, accompanied by the Special Address of Heads of Delegations of each ASEAN countries and the ASEAN Secretariat. The 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the Delhi Dialogue ended with the Valedictory session focusing on the Way Forward.
- The major themes included in the Plenary sessions were the Role of North East in Act East Policy with ASEAN, Strengthening Socio-Cultural Links, India-ASEAN Partnership and Emerging Global

Order, Maritime Cooperation, ASEAN-India Trade, Investment and Technology, Development Cooperation, SMEs and Regional Development, Tourism Cooperation and Building Smart Cities.

- In the Inaugural session, Amb. Preeti Saran, Secretary (East) emphasized the significant role of Delhi Dialogue in brainstorming the discussion on India-ASEAN relations and its policy inputs for strengthening all three pillars of ASEAN-India cooperation. She endorsed the theme of Delhi Dialogue titled “Strengthening India-ASEAN Maritime Cooperation”, which was the prominent outcome of the Delhi Declaration of the 25<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit, held on 25 January 2018. She also mentioned that DDX would give a direction and priorities to further strengthening the India-ASEAN relations in the prevailing geopolitical and geo-economic scenarios. She affirmed that ASEAN lies in the heart of India’s Indo-Pacific policy and India may work with all ASEAN countries to retain ASEAN centrality and ASEAN unity in the regional architecture, and that would follow an open, inclusive and rules-based order.

## Special Plenary: Roundtable with Chief Ministers of North East India

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- Addressing the Special Plenary Session, Gen. V. K. Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs said the theme has been aptly chosen in view of the government’s thrust on Indo-Pacific maritime cooperation that it will have the keys to unlock prosperity for the peoples and to ensure seas as safe, secure and free for all. He said that efforts are being taken to strengthen the ancient links with South East and East Asian countries through stronger cooperation based on forming linkages across the ‘Three Cs’ (Culture, Commerce, Connectivity). The Government of India recently allocated Rs. 45 billion for development projects including fully-funded new projects in North East. He highlighted that the Government of India constituted the NITI Forum for the North East to identify various constraints and recommended suitable policy interventions. On the connectivity aspect, the Government of India has taken various road and air initiatives to improve internal and external connectivity of the Northeastern states with the neighbouring ASEAN countries. The ‘orphan’ road projects in Northeastern states and newly launched UDAN-RCS (Regional Connectivity Scheme) are the steps taken by the government to improve connectivity. India wants the Northeastern states to

become active partners in the implementation of the Act East Policy (AEP). States like Assam have already taken steps in this direction by opening an Act East Department. In the context of cultural links, he stated that some festivals of the Northeastern states are very similar with those of the neighbouring ASEAN countries. These festivals indicate that the two regions are threaded together by same cultural and traditional practices. The common cultural connections would create strong foundation for the ASEAN-India relations.

- Meghalaya Chief Minister reminded that the Northeastern states could take a lead in the promotion of the Act East Policy and further engage with the ASEAN region to promote economic and cultural relations. To boost up the volumes of cross-border trade between the Northeastern states and ASEAN countries, connectivity in the form of roads, railways and airways links are vital. He felt that airports in Meghalaya – Shillong Airport at Umroi and Baljek Airport near Tura connecting Meghalaya with neighbouring countries could play a vital role in exports and imports. He also hoped that ropeways and cable cars could play an important part in the day-to-day life of common people living in the inaccessible parts of the state, particularly with Bangladesh. He further mentioned that these areas are very fertile in the fields of agriculture, horticulture, floriculture, and good for tourism and hospitality, and skill development. However, getting the products to the market takes an extraordinary effort due to the difficult terrain. Therefore, to promote local enterprises and create local employment, capacity has to be built in logistics, warehousing, cold storage technology, highways services, business management, and banking and finance.
- Mizoram Chief Minister said that Mizoram has its share in the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project. He urged the central government to speed up the functioning of the Land Custom Station at Zokhawthar in Champhai to boost trade with ASEAN countries. He mentioned that trade routes with Bangladesh are also being developed in Mizoram at Kawrpuichhuah, an integrated check post, which is ready to be commissioned, and asked the Land Port Authority of India (LPAI) to speed up the process while strengthening trade ties with Bangladesh.
- Chief Minister of Tripura pointed out that Tripura could be a gateway and hub for the entire North East once Sabroom-Chittagong connectivity becomes operational and Chittagong

port is available for movement of goods. He said that ASEAN could be referred as “Assuring Security and Equality for All Nations” and mentioned that the Northeast Frontier Railway is in advanced stage of completing the rail link from Udaipur in Gomati district to Sabroom in South Tripura district.

- Speaking on the occasion, Assam Minister of Industries and Commerce said that the Government of Assam has established the Department of Act East Policy Affairs to supplement the efforts of the Government of India in order to improve the trade, economic and cultural relations between the Northeastern states and ASEAN countries. He mentioned that in order to project Assam as India’s expressway to ASEAN, the Government of Assam organised the ‘Advantage Assam’ – the Global Investment Summit in February 2018, which was attended by captains of the Indian industry. The Minister emphasised the importance of accessibility of Chittagong and Mongla ports of Bangladesh through the Brahmaputra and Barak rivers.
- Deputy Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh said that the opening up of both road and rail routes to neighbouring countries through Northeast would give a boost to the economic development with countries in the immediate neighbourhood such as Myanmar, Nepal, Bangladesh and Bhutan, and even with those located a little beyond such as Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam. He suggested a bilateral dialogue with Myanmar to improve border security and impede drug trafficking especially opium from across the borders. He reiterated to consider opening up of the Stilwell Road up to Myanmar as it would be mutually beneficial for both the countries and facilitate cross-border trade and tourism. He further said that turning the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway into a robust transportation network and strengthening the roads leading up to Tamu-Moreh would help to realise the true potential of the North East region. He also said that there is also an urgent need to take up the Lumla (in Tawang) to Trashigang (in Bhutan) road for strengthening border trade between the two countries. He pressed for the creation of an Integrated Check Post at the border with proper security and custom facilities. He also suggested to open border haats for boosting the border trade. He recommended for setting up Buddhist Tourism Network to connect North East with ASEAN.

## Plenary Session I: Role of North East in Act East: Forging Connectivity with ASEAN

- Plenary Session I was devoted on the role of North East in India's "Act East Policy: Forging Connectivity with ASEAN Countries." The "Act East Policy" is not just a progression but a leap forward from the "Look East Policy". There are three key elements of the "Act East Policy." First, "Act East Policy" is wider in scope and covers the entire breadth of the Asia-Pacific region keeping ASEAN at the core. Second, the focus is beyond economic integration and includes political-security and socio-cultural dialogue at a deeper level. Third, "Act East Policy" is more action-driven and result-oriented.
- Speakers at the session endorsed that with the "Act East Policy", the Government of India is looking at a new paradigm of development, where the foreign policy initiatives blend seamlessly into the national political, economic, and development requirements, especially of our Northeastern states. It has been widely accepted that ASEAN has physical, economic, social, cultural and emotional links with the North East, but to get the advantages of these ancient links, we need to change our policy on the North East region, and look at it as a 'hub' of India's "Act East Policy", not just the gateway to ASEAN.
- Participants also emphasised that both ASEAN and India should work together to complete the unfinished projects like Trilateral Highway, Kaladan Multi-modal Transit Transport project, etc. They also endorsed that North East region should have direct air connectivity with Southeast Asian countries. Moreover, there is also a need to improve the connectivity across SMEs cluster to enhance the livelihood of NER people, who are primarily engaged in agriculture, livestock, fishery, etc.
- Speakers also highlighted that Northeastern India has vast reserves in natural resources and benefitted of a strong English-educated population. Besides, states should venture into untapped areas of investment and industrial development in the North East. The participants also addressed the challenges faced by North East such as drug addiction and illegal arms and weapons, which make the region little disturbed and excluded the foreign investors for a long time. However, due to several initiatives taken by Indian government, the North East is becoming free from violence and the place of peace.

- Speakers suggested for setting up international universities, particularly the ASEAN-India International Sports University or the Apsara Center for Performing Arts, South East Asia Studies and Languages for enriching the education of this region and ASEAN countries as well as for the North East sports activity and musical tradition of the ASEAN countries.

## Plenary Session II: Strengthening Socio-Cultural Links

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- Plenary Session II on Strengthening Socio-Cultural Links broadly discussed the issues related to socio-cultural engagements between ASEAN countries and India and the way forward to enhance the people-to-people contacts.
- Mr. M. J. Akbar, Minister of State for External Affairs in his special address highlighted the need for strong civilizational and cultural links between India and ASEAN in order to strengthen the ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership. He highlighted the role of Indian Brahmins in spreading knowledge and especially, Sanskrit Language in the South East Asian region, which had created many exquisite bridges between India and South East Asia. It had great influence on language, philosophy and trade between India and South East Asia. Mythology, thoughts, culture, architecture and temple architecture in particular are some of the examples of shared cultural and historical ties between ASEAN and India. Shared historical ties, culture and knowledge have continued to undergird sustained interactions between ASEAN and India. He emphasized that India has always looked east because India did not believe in war. This fact has always been overlooked in the text. Overall, he highlighted the history of peace between India and South East Asia, which should be taken ahead in the ASEAN-India partnership.
- Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, Member of Parliament and President of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), in his special address highlighted that India had a strong influence on the kingdoms located in the coast of South East Asian countries such as Myanmar, Vietnam, Indonesia and Cambodia through trade, culture and politics. Given the historical ties between India and South East Asia, he suggested that deepening on the civilisational relations in the form of spiritual diversity and sustainable development will enhance the socio-cultural linkages between India and ASEAN. He also suggested that there is vast scope for ASEAN and India to learn from each other by replicating

best practices in development and in overcoming every kind of deprivation and poverty.

- Speakers in this session highlighted that exchange of ideas about governance, management of people, rituals and worship, ethics, meaning of life, communication through language of Sanskrit, science, mathematics, astronomy, arts and architecture between India and South East Asia constitute a special asset for strengthening the people-to-people relations. They emphasised that apart from historians and archeologists, the general public must be engaged through social media for enhancing the socio-cultural links, which will excite the imagination of the younger generation. Dr Sahasrabuddhe suggested for having strong relations and bond between North East India and Myanmar.
- Participants emphasised the common links and history of kings, languages, rituals, culture and architecture. They also endorsed that there is scope in numerous areas where we can have academic collaboration between ASEAN and India. They also suggested that India and ASEAN should pledge towards the blue economy and sustainable use of maritime resources. For this, India and ASEAN can plan a festival that will be shared with all members and will aesthetically convey to the people about shared responsibilities and heritage.

## Plenary Session III: India-ASEAN Partnership and Emerging Global Order

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- Session III discussed the role of ASEAN and India in the sphere of emerging global order, and how to mitigate rise of new trade protectionism and upholding share responsibility to shape the global order to mark it as 'Asia's Century'.
- The speakers of the session expressed their concerns over distrust in terms of rising protectionism through high tariffs and non-tariff barriers. They argued that present trade war between US and China would affect Chinese economy and as a consequence it would affect the Global Value Chain (GVC), in which some of the ASEAN countries are active members. ASEAN countries should look at India as a new GVC partner since India has immense potential in the manufacturing sector. ASEAN should also consider India as a service sector hub by exploring the existing potentials. In this context, ASEAN can relocate its industries and can consider India as a place of manufacturing. Both ASEAN and

India should focus on completion of the existing connectivity projects and strengthen the regional connectivity at the earliest to take part in the GVC. India need to integrate with CLMV countries through investment, trade and infrastructure since it is the gateway between India and South East Asia. The speakers also addressed the concern to stand together and work collectively to overcome the adverse trade barriers and urged for the completion of RCEP to integrate the Asian economies.

- The discussion also endorsed the need for more regulations and cooperation to maintain the rules-based order. Speakers also emphasised on active political response that plays a greater role in addressing the challenges that affect both present and future course of economy. They also acknowledged that Indo-Pacific cooperation is based on ASEAN centrality.

## Plenary Session IV: Maritime Cooperation: A New Framework for India-ASEAN Partnership

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- Session IV on creating a new framework for ASEAN-India partnership on maritime cooperation discussed various challenges and way forward in the area of maritime domain.
- Speakers of the session highlighted that health of the ocean is important for sustainable maritime development. Along with maritime security, countries need to enhance the knowledge base and take comprehensive approach towards maritime cooperation. Speakers have identified different areas of cooperation between India and ASEAN, namely, joint naval exercises, information sharing, capacity building, port visit, mission-based deployment, R&D, customise training, ship building, etc. Logistics agreement and white shipping agreement will also enhance India-ASEAN partnership in maritime field. Advanced technology in hydrography and meteorology are the future areas of collaboration. The participants raised the concern that maritime environment is subject to insecurity and instability inflicted via traditional and non-traditional threats. Therefore, India and ASEAN need to enhance the maritime cooperation by strengthening multilateral and bilateral engagements, rapid response mechanism, capacity building, developing regional MDA and maritime security operations.
- Participants also highlighted that India's Act East Policy has put emphasis on maritime cooperation by ensuring regional peace

and security in terms of global commons. For mutual cooperation, India continuously uphold in favour of rules-based order, and therefore, we need to respect UN Convention of Laws of the Seas. In case of the South China Sea, India is in favour of the conclusion of code of conduct in the region. India and ASEAN need to identify the areas of convergence for freedom of navigation and other areas of cooperation. In the present geopolitical context, structure of defining order in the Indian Ocean region plays a critical role. India's focus should remain on ASEAN centrality by a nuanced approach in the regional power play for widening the Indo-Pacific collaboration. Speakers emphasised that India should play more visible role in the maritime domain. India can set its maritime cooperation strategy by working in mini-lateral dimension and gradually taking all ASEAN countries in a single take and upgrade from bilateral to trilateral to multilateral and then a region as a whole.

## Plenary Session V: Development Cooperation: Strengthening the ASEAN-India Partnership

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- Plenary Session V had an in-depth discussion on development cooperation to strengthen the ASEAN-India Partnership and also to identify the priority areas in order to work together for the development cooperation.
- The participants argued that there is a need to bring out the difference between the projects and implementation of the projects on the basis of the country's economic status irrespective of whether the country is the developing or the developed. Similarly, there is a requirement of project-based assessment, which is an integral part of the development cooperation. Developing countries should also review how it is working and what is needed to make it a result-oriented cooperation.
- The participants also emphasised that private investors initiating any infrastructure or developmental project in the ASEAN countries should use regional skill, regional labour, cultural values and architecture, local materials effectively and deliver international value-added services to the local market as well. Therefore, global connectivity projects have to be examined in terms of their level of contribution to the local livelihood, thereby supporting local production chains. Both public and private projects need to bring values and economic viability in the

respective infrastructure development by considering the social and economic benefits of those projects in the long run for the local peoples.

## Plenary Session VI: ASEAN-India Trade, Investment and Technology

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- Plenary Session VI discussed the synergies and complementarities between India and ASEAN in goods, services and investment and chalked out ways for enhancing trade and investment relations between India and ASEAN. The session also highlighted India's participation in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and how it would boost trade and investment opportunities between India and ASEAN.
- The participants endorsed the role of Indian Diaspora in promoting economic, social and cultural ties between ASEAN and India. Moreover, India's investment opportunities, consumption growth and savings growth provide vast opportunities to enhance ASEAN-India partnership. The speakers suggested for having a framework that reduces trade barriers and issues related to market access in goods and services. Further investments in the region will enhance the trade relations between India and ASEAN. The speakers also endorsed that smoothening the regulatory infrastructure frameworks, rules and procedures that are in place, and providing proper platform and architecture, which will enable much greater efficiency in achieving the infrastructure gaps, legal requirements, logistics efficiency and trade facilitation. Integrating India with ASEAN's regional value chains would bring better economic gains.
- Participants also emphasised that RCEP would increase investment opportunities in the ASEAN-India region as it will help in catering to third-country markets outside India and ASEAN. RCEP will take forward the objectives of the "Act East Policy", which will help all the partner countries in socio-economic gains and synergising complementarities in the region for greater economic growth, development and prosperity. The speakers also emphasised that the liberalisation of the services sector is very important for RCEP participating countries for further integration, development, investment and trade. The speakers suggested that this can be achieved through active participation in the ASEAN-India Business Council.

## Parallel Session I: SMEs and Regional Development

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- Parallel Session I looked at the scope and opportunities of stronger cooperation in SMEs. The participants in this session gave emphasis on women's contribution in the field of entrepreneurship and business performance. They acknowledged that both ASEAN and India have taken initiatives for women empowerment and building environment for businesses. SMEs have immense potential to integrate women entrepreneurs between ASEAN and India, which would strengthen regional cooperation. Women entrepreneurs can learn from each other by visiting each other's work places and gain from their knowledge on new skills. In this regard, India-ASEAN Women Business Forum has made huge progress in promoting and developing women entrepreneurs in the region. The speakers also suggested for building SME corridor from Northeast part of India to Vietnam via Greater Mekong Sub-region countries.
- The participants also endorsed the role of Indian government in promoting and strengthening SMEs in the region by providing large number of capacity building programmes within India as well as in ASEAN countries, particularly CLMV countries to promote entrepreneurship in the region. India has setup a Project Development Fund, ASEAN-India Science and Technology Fund and ASEAN-India Green Fund to strengthen the SMEs cooperation between India and ASEAN.
- The speakers from Singapore and the Philippines also shared their perspectives and initiatives in enhancing SMEs cooperation between India and ASEAN. Singapore has introduced a web portal for SMEs. The web portal helps SMEs aiming to enhance business links between India and ASEAN. The session urged to introduce a common web portal for SMEs of India and ASEAN to share information and enhance cooperation between them.

## Parallel Session II: E-Commerce and Digital Connectivity

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- Parallel Session II discussed the scope and opportunities in e-Commerce and digital connectivity between India and ASEAN. E-Commerce and digital connectivity has become increasingly important for India as well as ASEAN countries in recent years. Whilst the 'ASEAN market' is collectively large, there are significant challenges to develop e-commerce in some countries such as Myanmar.

- The participants pointed out that the Indian government has expressed keen interest to partner with ASEAN countries in enabling digital connectivity between India and ASEAN and also for enabling broadband within ASEAN countries. The digital connectivity projects are of strategic importance and can have a transformative impact on the economy and cooperation between the India and ASEAN. Physical infrastructure, digital infrastructure, and regulatory infrastructure are the three important pillars to enhance the share of digital activities in the overall GDP of a country. It is important to remember that information technology has no “border”, and, therefore, it can be utilised in the form of cross-border transaction even without having physical connectivity. However, the question is how to strengthen the cross-border connection in future.
- The participants also highlighted that there are many advantages of using e-commerce for SMEs and ‘Start Up’ enterprises as it offers comparatively low-cost communication with existing customers, promotes the business to countless potential customers and extends business networks across geographical borders. They also emphasised that there are differences in the national and international regulations, which need to be revised so that the enterprises can access the global market more freely. India and ASEAN can have a common platform with payment of a fee to utilize the e-connectivity so that it can be self-sustaining. This concept can be extended to the areas of collaboration such as promoting agro-products trade, facilitating tourism, alternative medical treatment (e.g. Ayurveda products, Spa products), etc.
- The participants suggested that it is important to look at how e-commerce is creating value to the employers, stakeholders, economies and the markets. However, evaluation is required to check whether digital connectivity is creating jobs or taking away them. But, this has challenges since all these are operated by machines with artificial intelligence. Therefore, regulation and safety of the investors and personal details of the consumers has to be secured so that investment flow keeps increasing.

### Parallel Session III: Tourism Cooperation

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- Parallel Session III on Tourism Cooperation highlighted the developments in tourism sector and new avenues of cooperation between India and ASEAN. Since the year 2019 has been identified as ASEAN-India Tourism Year to facilitate and promote tourism between them, this session presented the policy directions and

way forward to enhance ASEAN-India cooperation in tourism.

- Speakers argued that there is mainly one-way tourist flow from India to ASEAN countries, particularly Indonesia, Thailand and Singapore. Therefore, there is a need to develop air connectivity to enhance tourism in the unexplored areas of ASEAN countries. On the other hand, tourists from ASEAN countries to India are mainly interested in Buddhist pilgrimage. Therefore, there is huge potential in other tourist destinations in India such as cruise, heritage and culture, spiritual and medical tourism. Speakers appealed to both ASEAN and India to integrate all stockholders (associations, chambers, hospitality management groups, associated institutes and related private sectors) in a single platform and to build a road map for tourism cooperation and for its enhancement.
- The participants suggested that capacity building programme in tourism sector would promote tourism between India and ASEAN such as student exchange programme between India and ASEAN and conduct a course on tourist destinations and historical background for the students and promote them as ambassadors for tourism development between India and ASEAN. Similarly, identify sister/sibling states/cities between India and ASEAN to promote tourism and similar cultural practices.

## Parallel Session IV: Building Smart Cities

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- Parallel Session IV discussed the challenges and opportunities in building smart cities; and how India and ASEAN can work together to achieve transformative, inclusive and sustainable urban development using technology, innovations and digital solutions. The session also discussed the avenues of cooperation for developing ASEAN-India smart city networks.
- The session first discussed the policy initiatives that India has undertaken for building smart cities. The speakers suggested that policy initiatives such as Swachh Bharat and Housing for All will help in building smart cities network in India and ASEAN. In order to build smart cities, we need to look at the strategic areas for setting up command and control centers, waste management centers, water conservation centers, and recycling of waste water centers. They also emphasised that public-private partnership would help in achieving desired objectives of building smart cities in a strategic manner. The session also discussed how technology is being used in the educational sector in the cities of India. The

speakers recommended that educating the community especially the urban youth from slums for conserving the city and its cultural heritage is very important for building smart cities in India. They also recommended for setting up command and control centers, which will help in enabling the security of cities, management of public transport, conservation of buildings and safety of the citizens.

- The speakers also discussed the scope of developing an ASEAN-India smart city network for driving regional smart cities development. They suggested that innovation and digitalization in the urban region will help developing the smart cities in ASEAN and India. They recommended that identifying various technological platforms and key principles would help in the delivery of public services. In addition, inter-operability of the system will help in reconnecting the moral ethics between India and ASEAN. They also suggested for having integrated services, which would help in accessing and connecting the smart cities with one another. Moreover, developing smart cities near or around key areas would enhance the ASEAN-India smart city network.
- The speakers discussed that cities are not only agglomeration of buildings, infrastructure, civil engineering and master plan, rather we should build cities with an organic view which can evolve with time. They emphasised that ability to evolve and agglomeration of human is the key to building smart cities and is the single most important attribute of a smart city. They suggested developing an ecosystem of economic activities like events for the local's enjoyment and making it an urban buzz attraction, which will help in creating smart cities. In this way, developing smart cities will save time and money. In addition, developing universities and colleges in the middle of a city would help in having human capital agglomeration inside the cities, which will help in creating an ecosystem of intellectual activities.
- The deliberations of 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the Delhi Dialogue delved into all the possible aspects of the social, economic and cultural ties and made several recommendations to further strengthen ASEAN-India strategic partnership.

## Valedictory Session

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- The Valedictory Session was chaired by Ambassador Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS, who provided a brief overview of the discussions held in the two-days of 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the Delhi

Dialogue. He highlighted that participants from ASEAN and India have agreed to play a greater role in shaping the regional development architecture in Asia. It was recognised that because ASEAN is more integrated with the world, ASEAN's stakes were much higher in the emerging trade war than the case of India and additional efforts have to be given in investment and services for RCEP to take off. Overall, he highlighted that developing golf course in the Northeastern India, developing an institute on Southeast Asian studies in Guwahati and forging higher cooperation through open and transparent principles on Indo-Pacific would enhance ASEAN-India partnership.

- H.E. Mr. Chutintorn Gongsakdi, Ambassador of Thailand to India delivered Special Remarks and pointed out major takeaways from the 10<sup>th</sup> Delhi Dialogue. He endorsed that Northeastern Region of India (NER) is the centre of gravity for ASEAN-India connectivity, and ASEAN should consider for joint marketing of NER. He also emphasised that trust and confidence issues need to be resolved through several interactions on various issues such as the Trilateral Highway. He highlighted that on the Indo-Pacific front there are opportunities of collaboration on infrastructure financing with new players (e.g. Singapore's Infrastructure Asia and Trilateral Cooperation such as Japan-China-Thailand for airports and railways).
- Amb. Chutintorn Gongsakdi also highlighted major key points, which Thailand would be focusing on as the ASEAN coordinator for India next year onwards: (i) utilising ASEAN-India strategic partnership to build a strategic new equilibrium with ASEAN centrality, (ii) using good officers to engage China and India in ASEAN+2 mode, (iii) capitalizing historical and cultural links through utilizing ASEAN-India centrality, (iv) bringing in South-South Cooperation for sustainable and inclusive development, and (v) digital economy promotion for industry 4.0 transformation. He also emphasised that seamless connectivity is still the key in all directions (land, water and air), in particular, completion of the Trilateral Highway, seamless economic space between ASEAN and India (starting with completion of RCEP), maritime cooperation, blue economy, marine resources conservation, R&D in marine development, maritime security, information sharing on white shipping, table top exercises and working with ASEAN centre for military medicine. Finally, he concluded that ASEAN and India should generate a shared understanding of the strategic destiny, build trust and confidence to enable us to realize the full potential of the ASEAN-India strategic partnership.

- In the Valedictory Address, Amb. Hardeep Singh Puri, Hon'ble Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, India talked about India's relationship with ASEAN in the realm of Act East Policy. He emphasised that India-ASEAN connectivity has to follow both maritime and land routes for strengthening India and ASEAN relations. Apart from geographical proximity, historical commonality and commercial interest, India's Act East Policy is driven by geostrategic concerns. The ASEAN-India region represents a combined population of 1.85 billion, which is a quarter of global population and with a GDP of over US\$ 3.8 trillion creating one of the largest economic geographies in the world. This joint economic space provides avenues for expansion and cooperation across maritime security and economic and socio-cultural areas across the geographical expands of the Indo-Pacific. SAGAR initiative (Security and Growth for All in the Region) is just not limited for safeguarding India's mainland and islands. It defines India's efforts to deepen economic and security cooperation in our maritime relationships. He emphasised that respect for navigation and adherence to international norms is essential for peace and economic growth in the larger and intellectual marine geography of Indo-Pacific. The economic partnership between India and ASEAN is in a dynamic phase and deepening day by day. The bilateral trade relationship between India and ASEAN should be further enhanced when India and ASEAN participate much more vigorously in plurilateral and multilateral arrangements as well.
- At the end, Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS extended the Vote of Thanks. The two days event of 10th Delhi Dialogue also organised a Cultural Programme performed by Ms. Madhavi Mudgal and team on 19 July 2018. Amb. Preeti Saran, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs hosted the Reception and Hon'ble Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister of India hosted the Dinner Banquet for the participants on 19 July 2018. The participants thanked MEA, RIS, AIC, ERIA and NMF for successfully hosting the conference and the hospitality extended to the participants.

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*Summary and Key Recommendations of DDX were prepared by Dr Prabir De, Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC), Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) with the research assistance of Dr. Durairaj Kumarasamy, Consultant, AIC at RIS; Ms. Sreya Pan, Research Associate, AIC at RIS; Ms. Sunetra Ghatak, former Research Associate, AIC at RIS and Ms. Komal Biswal, former Research Assistant, AIC at RIS.*



# Key Recommendations







## Key Recommendations



### Special Plenary: Roundtable with Chief Ministers of North East India

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- To facilitate the cross-border trade and connectivity between the North East India and ASEAN countries, some of the important projects are recommended as follows:
  - » development of new airports and expansion of existing airport such as Shillong Airport at Umroi and Baljek Airport near Tura;
  - » speed up the functioning of Land Custom Station at Zokhawthar in Mizoram to boost trade with Myanmar;
  - » develop accessibility to Chittagong and Mongla ports of Bangladesh through Brahmaputra and Barak rivers;
  - » complete the Sabroom to Chittagong connectivity and completing the rail link from Udaipur in Gomati district in Tripura to Sabroom in South Tripura district; and
  - » build road network from Lumla (in Tawang) to Trashigang (in Bhutan) to facilitate border trade between North East India and Bhutan; etc.
- New projects such as ropeways and cable cars could facilitate the travel of common people in the inaccessible parts of the North East India. North East states must build logistics, warehousing, cold storage facilities, highways, banking and finance in order to bring horticultural products of Northeast to local markets and beyond.
- Bilateral dialogues with neighbouring countries such as Myanmar for improving border security, stopping illegal trade and drug trafficking, etc. may be initiated.
- New connectivity projects such as India (North East India) – Myanmar – Thailand railway links, development of SEZs, etc. will give a boost to the development of local economies.

## Plenary Session I: Role of North East in Act East: Forging Connectivity with ASEAN

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- Need to complete the ongoing projects such as Trilateral Highway, Kaladan Multi-modal Transit Transport project to strengthen physical connectivity with ASEAN; and introduce direct air connectivity between Northeastern region of India and ASEAN.
- Establish SMEs clusters along the connectivity corridors in the Northeastern region to generate employment, encourage agriculture and food processing, forestry, livestock industries, and enhance the livelihood of the local people in sustainable manner.
- Establish educational institutions in North East India specific to sports, performing arts, cultural studies, languages, etc. to enhance socio-economic and cultural relations between ASEAN and North East India.
- Organize more seminars and conferences on connectivity projects such as Trilateral Highway.

## Plenary Session II: Strengthening Socio-Cultural Links

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- Promote academic engagements between researchers through joint historical and archaeological research. The collaborative projects in archaeological research, explorations and excavations would strengthen the cultural connections and linkages between ASEAN and India.
- Encourage student and faculty exchange programmes, offer fellowships for doctoral, post-doctoral and short-term research activities in cultural studies.
- Organise festivals on regular basis that depict common culture of the region.
- Jointly explore the songs of the seas from folk music, which have historical and cultural links between ASEAN and India

## Plenary Session III: India-ASEAN Partnership and Emerging Global Order

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- Encourage border economic community between India and ASEAN to promote cross-border trade and investment.
- ASEAN should utilise India's prowess in services sector and complement with its strength of industrial sector.

- ASEAN and India should work together to recognise each other's strengths and complementarities in trade in goods and services and to effectively implement the RCEP.
- Strengthen cooperation to foster digital connectivity in financial sector between ASEAN and India.

## Plenary Session IV: Maritime Cooperation: A New Framework for India-ASEAN Partnership

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- Strengthen maritime cooperation between India and ASEAN and support rules-based maritime order in the ocean.
- ASEAN and India should jointly deal with traditional and non-traditional threats and other hindrances of maritime cooperation.
- Enhance capacity building and capacity enhancement programmes (like port visit, staff interactions, naval exercises, etc.) between ASEAN and India.
- Need country level assessment about state of the ocean and how serious the problem of ocean degradation and the conservation of sea.

## Plenary Session V: Development Cooperation: Strengthening the ASEAN-India Partnership

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- Connectivity projects in ASEAN countries under India's development cooperation should support the local productions architecture and embed the local development models, where countries can expand their own lines of production chains.
- Public and private investments have to be promoted to bring growth in the economy. Public funding has lot of credentials, but comes with delay in delivering the outcomes. Therefore, private funding can fill up the gaps in ASEAN countries.
- India should design regional partnership with the ASEAN countries to deliver projects in effective and efficient manners as they use regional skill, regional labour, cultural values and architecture, local materials to exchange knowledge and deliver international value added services to the local market.
- There should be a Network of EXIM Banks in ASEAN – India region.

## Plenary Session VI: ASEAN-India Trade, Investment and Technology

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- Trade agreement like RCEP should be more inclusive, and should help ASEAN and India in gaining and synergizing complementarities for greater economic growth, development and prosperity.
- India and ASEAN should work together to address the non-tariff measures issues and trade facilitation to enable market access for both goods and services.
- Promote investments to build value chains between ASEAN and India.
- Strengthen the Indian Diaspora to promote trade and investment flows between India and ASEAN.

## Parallel Session I: SMEs and Regional Development

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- Encourage women entrepreneurs in both ASEAN and India by setting up a forum such as ASEAN-India Women Business Forum.
- Create common web portal for the use of SMEs to share information on local markets, business opportunities, infrastructure conditions, availability of human resources, etc. between ASEAN and India in order to enhance intra- and inter-regional trade and investment.
- Build SMEs corridor from Northeast part of India to Vietnam via Greater Mekong Subregion countries, and connect SMEs across borders through sector-specific trade fairs.
- Strengthen SME capacities to improve their competitiveness in domestic, regional and global markets.

## Parallel Session II: e-Commerce and Digital Connectivity

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- Strengthen regulatory and safety framework to protect the consumer and businesses from cyber threats. ASEAN and India may consider setting up a forum for ecommerce and digital connectivity.
- Harmonise the regulatory and institutional framework between India and ASEAN to enable the enterprises competing in global market.
- Promote e-commerce among SMEs and Start-ups to benefit the enterprises from low-cost communication and extends business networks across geographical borders.
- India and ASEAN should have common payment platform to benefit from digital connectivity, and develop a cross-border e-commerce network.

## Parallel Session III: Tourism Cooperation

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- Given that the year 2019 has been announced as ASEAN-India tourism year, ASEAN and India shall focus on tourism development and organise series of events and conferences on tourism, and need to strengthen air connectivity between popular tourist destinations in both ASEAN and India to attract tourists.
- In addition to Buddhist tourism, ASEAN and India can explore new areas of tourism such as Cinematograph tourism, Wedding tourism, Honeymoon Tourism, Tea tourism, etc. A handbook of ASEAN-India tourist places may be published jointly. Framing up the strong tourism sector need to call stockholders (association, chambers, hospitality management groups and associated institutes) in a single platform and need to build a road map for tourism cooperation and enhancement.
- Provide two scholarships for each ASEAN countries (i.e. 20 students in total) to pursue postgraduate course in India.
- Identify sister/sibling states/cities between India and ASEAN to promote tourism and similar cultural practices.

## Parallel Session IV: Building Smart Cities

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- Developing smart cities near or around coastal areas would enhance the network in smart cities between ASEAN and India. ASEAN and India shall develop the ASEAN-India Smart Cities Network for driving regional smart cities and exchange of knowledge and experiences. Policy initiatives such as Swachh Bharat, Housing for All, etc. will help in building smart cities network in India and ASEAN. India may consider calling an internal conference on smart cities in Delhi.
- ASEAN and India should have special focus on areas like waste management, water conservation, reuse and recycle of waste water. Encouraging public-private partnership would help in achieving desired objectives of building smart cities in a systematic manner.
- Educating the community especially the urban youth from slums for conserving the city and its cultural heritage is very important for building smart cities.

- Identify various technological platforms and key principles that would help in the delivery of public services. Inter-operability of the system will help in reconnecting the moral ethics between India and ASEAN smart city networks. Integrated services would help accessing connecting the smart cities with one another.



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# Agenda of Delhi Dialogue

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## Agenda

### Day I: Thursday, 19 July 2018

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09.00 – 09.45 Registration, Tea and Coffee

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09.45 – 10.00 Opening Words from Amb. Preeti Saran, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), India

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10.00 – 11.00 Special Plenary: Roundtable with Chief Ministers of North East India

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[This special plenary session will be attended by the Chief Ministers of all Northeastern states of India. They will present current progress in their respective states and the priorities in strengthening the economic and cultural linkages with the ASEAN member states.]

Chair: Gen. V. K. Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs, India

#### *Speakers*

- Mr Conrad Kongkal Sangma, Chief Minister, Meghalaya
- Mr Lal Thanhawla, Chief Minister, Mizoram\*

- Mr Neiphiu Rio, Chief Minister, Nagaland
- Mr Biplab Kumar Deb, Chief Minister, Tripura
- Mr Chowna Mein, Dy. Chief Minister, Arunachal Pradesh
- Mr Chandra Mohan Paowary, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Assam

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## 11.00 – 12.30 **Plenary Session I: Role of North East in Act East: Forging Connectivity with ASEAN**

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[The North Eastern Region (NER) of India is the bridgehead of India's connectivity with Southeast and East Asia. The NER is also central to India's Act East Policy (AEP). Given its strategic location, the NER can be developed as a base for India's growing economic links with Southeast Asia. NER has the potential to grow faster than its current pace, provided the region builds cross-border production links with Southeast Asian countries. However, the bottlenecks to cross-border production links are many, of which inadequate connectivity, logistics and trade facilitation, more particularly at the border areas, are the major ones. Connectivity is being strengthened through projects like India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway and the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project. However, given the wide geographical scope and the less developed transport infrastructure, it is also important to pay explicit attention to the connectivity within and beyond the Northeast India. Enhancing the connectivity between ASEAN and Northeast India would open up new opportunities for the development of the border areas, which in turn would contribute to narrow the development gaps. This session would evaluate the current state of progress in connectivity projects involving India and the ASEAN and explore the ways to enhance ASEAN-India connectivity, further deepening economic integration.]

**Chair:** Mr. P.D. Rai, Member of Parliament, and Chairman, Northeast MPs Forum

*Special Address:* Mr. Ram Madhav, Chairman, India Foundation, New Delhi

*Speakers:*

- Ambassador Pradap Pibulsonggram, Advisor to the Department of ASEAN Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand
- Mr. Tarun Vijay, Former Member of Parliament, India
- Ambassador Gautam Mukhopadhyay, Former Indian Ambassador to Myanmar

**Open Discussion**

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12.30 – 13.30    Lunch

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13.30 – 15.00    **Plenary Session II: Strengthening Socio-Cultural Links**

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[ASEAN and India have strong civilization and cultural linkages, and thus socio-cultural issues in the ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership assume a special significance. At the Commemorative Summit held in January 2018, the Leaders of the ASEAN countries and India underscored the importance of cultural relations in building an inclusive and progressive society. Shared historical ties, culture and knowledge have continued to undergird sustained interactions between India and Southeast Asia. This affinity and civilisational connect between them constitute a special asset for furthering development of people- to -people relations. Act East Policy can be strengthened aptly in the areas like education (human resources development), archaeology, culture, etc. Both ASEAN and India aim to expand socio-cultural links through the variety of initiatives, such as through the exchange of artists, students, journalists, farmers and parliamentarians, as well as through multiplicity of the think-tank initiatives. This session aims to discuss ongoing socio-cultural engagements between ASEAN countries and India, and would assess different means to take the engagement forward to enhance people-to-people contact. The session would also discuss specific ways in which cultural engagements can contribute to future progress in India-ASEAN relations.]

Chair: Prof. Sunaina Singh, Vice-Chancellor, Nalanda University

*Special Address:* Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, Member of Parliament and President, Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), New Delhi

*Keynote Address:* Mr. M. J. Akbar, Minister of State for External Affairs, India

*Speakers:*

- Dr Thant Myint U, Chairman, Yangon Heritage Trust, Yangon
- Mr Rajesh Purohit, Director, Indian Museum, Kolkata
- Prof. Bernadette G.L. Abrera, Dean, University of the Philippines in Diliman, The Philippines
- Prof. Sabuj Koli Sen, Vice-Chancellor, Visva-Bharati University, Shantiniketan

Open Discussion

[The recent global trading regime is experiencing unexpected shifts due to rising protectionism. The world is passing through a turbulent phase. The retaliating consequence of the rising tariff is adversely affecting the global trade; particularly the trade in the developing countries. India and ASEAN have to collaborate jointly in dealing with such adverse impacts on the trade. This is an 'Asia's Century', and therefore ASEAN and India should share responsibilities in shaping the global order. Enhanced regional connectivity in their various dimensions is a win-win collective endeavour that would be a key driver for regional cooperative frameworks, including the emerging Indo-Pacific. While the ASEAN-India Free Trade Area in goods is fully functional from January 2010; presently, we are actively engaged in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations, involving ASEAN and its six FTA partners, which, when finalized, would be the largest regional trading arrangement, accounting for about 40 per cent of the world trade. India has been working with ASEAN towards evolving regional security architecture in the Asia-Pacific that hinges on emphasising peaceful settlement of disputes, finding collaborative solutions to emerging and non-traditional challenges, and in supporting the centrality of ASEAN. There is an imperative need to eschew protectionism, nationalism and avoiding a return to great power rivalries. ASEAN and India together can play a constructive and vital role in the region and beyond. This session aims to deliberate on the larger geopolitical impulses at play in Asia and the emerging global order. The session may also present new challenges and opportunities for ASEAN and India, and may explore ways and means to strengthen the ASEAN-India strategic partnership.]

Chair: Ambassador Shyam Saran, Formerly Foreign Secretary of India and Chairman, RIS, New Delhi

*Special Address:* Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura, President, ERIA, Jakarta

*Speakers:*

- Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director, Social Development Division, UN ESCAP, Bangkok
- Mr. Rajeev Kher, Distinguished Fellow, RIS, and Former Commerce Secretary of India, New Delhi
- Prof. C Rajamohan, Director, ISAS, Singapore
- Dr. Kuik Cheng-Chwee, Associate Professor, National University of Malaysia (UKM), Kuala Lumpur

Open Discussion

- Family Photo of EAM and Heads of Delegations of ASEAN Member States and ASEAN Secretariat
- Welcome by Ambassador Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS
- Keynote Address by Smt. Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister of India
- Special Addresses by Heads of Delegations of ASEAN Member States and ASEAN Secretariat
  - ▶ H.E. Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Singapore
  - ▶ H.E. Mr. Abdul Mutalib Yusof, Minister of Communications of Brunei Darussalam
  - ▶ H.E. Mr. Kyaw Tin, Union Minister, Ministry of International Cooperation, Myanmar
  - ▶ H.E. Mr. Nguyen Quoc Dung, Vice Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Vietnam
  - ▶ H.E. Mr. Thongphane Savanphet, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Lao PDR
  - ▶ H.E. Dr. A. M. Fachir, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia
  - ▶ H.E. Ms. Maria Hellen B. de la Vega, Senior Official and Former PH SOM Leader to ASEAN, The Philippines
  - ▶ H.E. Mr. Chaisiri Anamarn, Special Envoy/ Advisor, Foreign Minister of Thailand
  - ▶ H.E. Mr. Pichkhun Panha, Ambassador of Cambodia to India
  - ▶ H.E. Mr. Dato' Hidayat Abdul Hamid High Commissioner of Malaysia to India
  - ▶ H.E. Dr. Hoang Anh Tuan, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Political Security Community, ASEAN Secretariat
- Release of Publications - *Proceedings of DD IX*

- Presentation of Outcomes of Second ASEAN-India Blue Economy Workshop by Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura, President, ERIA
- Vote of Thanks by Amb. Preeti Saran, Secretary (East), MEA
- Family Photo of EAM, ASEAN HODs, CMs & others

[Moderator: Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, DG, RIS]

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**19.00 – 19.45**    **Reception by Amb. Preeti Saran, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**

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**20.00 onwards**    **Dinner Banquet Hosted by Smt. Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister of India**  
*Cultural Programme by Ms. Madhavi Mudgal*

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## **Day II: Friday, 20 July 2018**

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**09.00 – 10.30**    **Plenary Session IV: Maritime Cooperation: A New Framework for India-ASEAN Partnership**

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[India is the closest maritime neighbour of ASEAN in west, and shares both maritime and land boundary with ASEAN. Maritime cooperation is one of the most important aspects of the India-ASEAN strategic partnership. On the occasion to mark the 25th anniversary of ASEAN-India dialogue partnership, the leaders of ASEAN and India issued a Delhi Declaration of the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit on 25 January 2018 in New Delhi. The leaders not only reaffirmed the importance of the maritime domain but also indicated the direction and the guidelines to strengthen maritime cooperation through existing relevant mechanisms and extended their full support for effective implementation of the Declaration. As maritime neighbours, sharing common maritime domain, common dependence on the oceans and the seas and common understanding of the importance of the sustainable exploitation of the ocean resources, ASEAN and India are very ideal as partners in taking further the Asia's maritime agenda. However, there are several challenges in the areas of maritime security and safety which are to be addressed to bring in new dynamism in maritime sector between ASEAN and India. A stronger maritime sector is essential in shaping Indo-Pacific architecture. This session would showcase ongoing ASEAN-India collaborations on the maritime sector, and would also discuss

avenues that India and ASEAN can explore jointly to address the variety of challenges.]

Chair: Commodore Uday Bhaskar, Director, Society for Policy Studies (SPS), India

*AV Presentation on ASEAN-India Maritime Cooperation*

*Special Address:* Vice-Admiral G Ashok Kumar, AVSM, Deputy Chief of Naval Staff, India

*Speakers:*

- Dr. Tang Siew Mun, Senior Fellow & Head, ASEAN Studies Centre, ISEAS, Singapore
- Capt. S S Parmar, National Maritime Foundation (NMF), New Delhi
- Dr. Adina Binti Kamarudin, Deputy Director General, Maritime Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia
- Prof. Shankari Sundararaman, Centre for Indo-Pacific Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi
- Mr. Siswanto Rusdi, Founder Director, National Maritime Institute, Jakarta

Open Discussion

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**10.30 – 10.45    Tea / Coffee Break**

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**10.45 – 12.00    Plenary Session V: Development Cooperation: Strengthening the ASEAN-India Partnership**

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[Over the past few years, India's development assistance has started to cover large number of countries, and consequently, the projects being implemented by the Ministry of External Affairs have increased substantially. India's development partnership is based on the identified needs by the partner countries and the efforts of the Ministry are geared towards accommodating as many of the requests received from the partner countries as are technically and financially possible. India's development cooperation has facilitated expansion of economic and cultural linkages with ASEAN countries, especially in education, capacity- building and training, physical and digital infrastructure, science and technology, among others. On the financial front, Line of Credit (LOC) is an important tool for the development cooperation, which helps materialize projects

and build capacity. India has made available a Line of Credit of US\$ 1 billion to promote projects that support physical and digital connectivity between India and ASEAN. In addition, India has also set-up a Project Development Fund of US\$ 77 million to support manufacturing units in CLMV countries. The session would present India's development cooperation initiatives and achievements with particular reference to ASEAN countries. It would also deliberate upon to identify viable projects between India and ASEAN requiring LOC support. This session would also be discussing opportunities for private sector in the field of development cooperation.]

Chair: Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, DG, RIS

*Special Address:* Mr. David Rasquinha, Managing Director, EXIM Bank of India, Mumbai

*Speakers*

- Mr Prashant Agrawal, Joint Secretary (DPA I), MEA
- Mr. B. V. N. Rao, Chairman, Transportation & Urban Infrastructure, GMR Group, New Delhi

Open Discussion

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## 12.00 – 13.30 **Plenary Session VI: ASEAN-India Trade, Investment and Technology**

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[ASEAN-India region together represent a combined population of 1.85 billion, which is a quarter of global population with a GDP of over US\$ 3.8 trillion; thus creating one of the largest economic spaces in the world. Economic partnership between India and ASEAN is deepening day- by- day and is witnessing a dynamic phase. For the first time, bilateral trade between ASEAN and India has crossed US\$ 80 billion mark in 2017-18, a highest volume of the trade in goods that ASEAN and India witnessed ever since signing of the FTA in 2010. India is also partner of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), which, at present, is being negotiated. India has accorded preferential treatment to the Least Developed Countries (Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar) through Duty-Free Preference Scheme for import of goods, giving special treatment for Services, liberalized Market Access, including movement of natural persons, technical assistance and capacity-building. We are currently providing a visa-fee waiver for Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar personnel applying for Indian Business and Employment visas. At the same time, ASEAN and India are also witnessing relatively higher investment flows. Technology can play an important catalytic role to facilitate value chains between ASEAN and India. Regional value chains between ASEAN and India hold a great promise, and would act as the driver for regional economic integration. Adoption of an inclusive approach in RCEP would boost

trade and investment further in the region, thereby building trade in Indo-Pacific. This session would discuss complementarities between India and ASEAN in goods, services and investment, would take a stock in the progress in the areas of trade and investments, and would discuss ways for enhancing trade and investment relations between ASEAN and India.]

Chair: Dato Ramesh Kodammal, Co-Chair AIBC (ASEAN), Kuala Lumpur

Co-chair: Mr Rashesh C Shah, Co-Chair AIBC (India) and President, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) & Chairman and CEO, Edelweiss Group

*Special Address:* Ms Rita Teoatia, Commerce Secretary, India

*Speakers:*

- Mr Karan Singh Thakral, Executive Director, Thakral Group of Companies, Singapore
- Ms Shanti Shamdasani, President ASEAN International Advocacy and Council Member, AIBC, Indonesia

Open Discussion

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**13.30 – 14.30**    **Lunch**

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**14.30 – 15.45**    **Parallel Sessions**

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### **Parallel Session I: SMEs and Regional Development (Nilgiri Hall)**

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[India is one of the fastest growing major economies in the world. In the last three years, the Government of India has undertaken a number of initiatives and introduced a series of reforms to improve business environment in India. SMEs are an integral part of the ASEAN and India partnership. They have contributed significantly in terms of employment, trade, entrepreneurial activities and economic empowerment, and have played an important role in the economic progress of ASEAN countries as well as India. Stronger and active SMEs are crucial to take forward the benefits of trade liberalization, thereby fostering regional development. As the ASEAN and India have become more interconnected, SMEs have greater possibilities to grow. SMEs can take the final product (services) to a larger market as producers, logistics services providers and financiers. To minimise the risks, guidance from government and private sectors is pivotal for the growth of SMEs, particularly 'Start-ups' units. To strengthen

the networks between SMEs in ASEAN and India, India has set-up Project Development Fund of US\$ 77 million and also ASEAN-India Science and Technology Fund and ASEAN-India Green Fund. These funds would be facilitating commercialization of low-cost technologies, technology transfer and collaborative R&D projects. In addition, the Department of Commerce in India, under its Market Access Initiative, has financed over a dozen of promotional events in ASEAN countries in the last year and a half alone. Given above, this session aims to discuss scope and opportunities in fostering strong partnerships among SMEs between ASEAN and India, the challenges faced by SMEs, and the way ahead.]

**Chair:** Amb Goutam Mukhopadhyay, Former Indian Ambassador to Myanmar

*Special Address:* Ms Pacita Juan, Chair AWEN and Co-Chair, India ASEAN Women Business Forum, Manila

*Speakers*

- Dr. Sunil Shukla, Director, Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), Ahmadabad
- Mr R. Ravindran, Chairman, SAEA Group Research, Singapore & Member, AIBC
- Mr Johnny Chotrani, Manila

Open Discussion

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## **Parallel Session II: e-Commerce and Digital Connectivity**

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[Digital infrastructure provides foundation for many new technologies, services, applications and business models. There is a strong need to upgrade infrastructure to support urbanization. Challenges to digital infrastructure investment include geographic differences, regulatory uncertainty, high capital expenditure, etc. Therefore, it is crucial that the digital infrastructure is improved and is made robust. Digital connectivity is the high-speed catalyst to ASEAN and India partnership. To build digital connectivity through the use of Gigabit-capable Passive Optical Network (GPON) technology has been welcomed by ASEAN. Besides, some of India's projects in ASEAN will strengthen digital as well as science and technology capacity, including space Project envisaging establishment of a Tracking, Data Reception/Data Processing Station in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam and upgradation of Telemetry Tracking and Command Station in Biak, Indonesia; Centres of Excellence in Software Development and Training in CLMV countries, to mention a few. Digital technologies in

ASEAN and India may help facilitate trade, logistics and innovation. Cross-border e-commerce has a potential to benefit SMEs in both ASEAN and India. A stronger digital network is also essential for 'Start ups'. India's digital prowess may fit well in serving ASEAN's digital needs. Capturing digital innovation requires establishment of regulatory frameworks for the delivery of new digital services; support for sharing of best practices on open data; and equipping micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) with capabilities to access these new technologies. Improving logistics competitiveness will ease movement of goods within the ASEAN community, and would increase business opportunities for ASEAN citizens. This session will discuss areas of collaboration on e-commerce and digital connectivity between India and ASEAN, regulatory frameworks to support digital technologies, financing and development of digital infrastructure, technology adoption by MSMEs, etc. It will also guide to build a cohesive and future-ready ASEAN-India Digital economy.]

Chair: Prof. Abhijit Das, Head, Centre for WTO Studies, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), New Delhi

*Special Address:* Mr Gagan Sabharwal, Senior Director, Global Trade Development, The National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM), New Delhi

#### *Speakers*

- Mr Vikram Singh, Country Manager, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), The Philippines
- Mr U Minn Naing Oo, Managing Director, Allen & Glendhill Myanmar, Yangon
- Mr Shouvik K Majumdar, Executive Director, QuantumLaMA Consulting, and Director, Vantedge Global Solutions, New Delhi

Open Discussion

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## 15.45 – 17.00 Parallel Sessions

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### **Parallel Session III: Tourism Cooperation (Nilgiri Hall)**

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[Tourism has emerged as a primary development strategy for ASEAN countries and also a driving force for the regional integration. Tourism has been playing an important role in generating jobs in islands and remotest parts of ASEAN. Over one million Indians visit

ASEAN countries every year for tourism purpose. However, tourists flow would grow up further once air connectivity between ASEAN countries and India is strengthened. To facilitate the tourism, the year 2019 has been declared as ASEAN-India Tourism Year. Tourism industry in ASEAN and India has been established and promoted predominantly through private-sector investment. Tourism cooperation between them, particularly private sector, would facilitate further investments, particularly in India, where inflow of ASEAN tourists has been comparatively limited. Areas which offer high tourism opportunities between ASEAN and India are cruise, heritage and culture, spiritual, to mention a few. At the same time, coordination between regional and national institutions in the tourism policy-making process and multi-stakeholder partnerships are needed while designing shared responsibilities in promoting tourism as a model of regional cooperation. A growing commitment to tourism as a pillar of regional development cooperation is a must. This session would discuss contours of the tourism development in ASEAN countries and India. This session will also explore avenues of cooperation for the development and promotion of tourism between ASEAN and India.]

Chair: Ambassador Rajiv Bhatia, Distinguished Fellow,  
Gateway House, Mumbai

#### *Speakers*

- H.E. Ms. Maria Hellen B. de la Vega, Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Philippines
- Dr Gulshan Sharma, Director General, International Chamber of Services Industry (ICSI), New Delhi

Open Discussion

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### **Parallel Session IV: Building Smart Cities**

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[Rapid urbanisation has implications on issues like city congestion, water and air quality, poverty, rising inequalities, urban-rural divide, citizen security and safety. Therefore, increasing urbanisation has posed both challenges and opportunities. ASEAN countries and India have taken several steps to deal with such challenges and have presented liveable and sustainable cities for their peoples. Both have been consistently working to achieve transformative, inclusive and sustainable urban development using technology and innovations. ASEAN has chosen 26 pilot cities from the 10 ASEAN countries for the ASEAN Smart Cities Network and India is developing 100 Smart Cities across the country to enhance quality and accessibility of services with the help of technology and digital solutions. ASEAN and India have common challenges in building smart cities. They also have the scope to collaborate and share experiences to synergise

efforts and build smart cities for the betterment of the people. This session would discuss possible ways for cooperation between India and ASEAN on building smart cities and would explore new avenues for the private sector to develop smart cities.]

Chair: Ambassador Amar Sinha, Distinguished Fellow, RIS, New Delhi

*Special Address:* Mr Kunal Kumar, Joint Secretary & Mission Director, Smart Cities, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, India

*Speakers*

- Mr Jonathan Tow, Director-General (South Asia & Sub-Saharan Africa), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore
- Mr Sanjeev Sanyal, Urban Theorist and Principal Economic Adviser, Ministry of Finance, India

Open Discussion

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**17.00 – 17.15    Tea and Coffee Break**

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**17.15 – 17.45    Valedictory Session**

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Chair: Ambassador Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS

*Special Remarks:* H.E. Chutintorn Gongsakdi, Ambassador of Thailand to India

*Valedictory Address:* Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, India

*Vote of Thanks:* Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS

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**17.45                    High Tea and End of the Programme**

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# Concept Note of Delhi Dialogue

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## Concept Note

1. Oceans hold a place of prominence among ASEAN countries and India from the ancient times. Over a period of two thousand years, links were forged between ASEAN and India *via* maritime voyages undertaken by adventurers, kings, merchants, savants, religious men, royal emissaries and others. These connections not only fostered trade but also facilitated cross-pollination of ideas and art, religion, language and statecraft. The streams of commerce and culture had flowed both to India and from India to the rest of Asia, influencing vast number of people. Fast forward, we are witnessing a remarkable transformation in maritime Asia. There is a newfound interest in India and the ASEAN countries to embrace each other, and strengthen further their maritime engagement to boost safety and security, commerce, connectivity and culture ties.
2. Today, the use of oceans has diversified from a classic medium of transport to being a wellspring for resources. The economic richness of oceans is represented by the variety of living resources (fish and marine vegetation which provide human protein and feed for other species), material goods (hydrocarbons, minerals, and sand and gravel), services (shipping, ports, shipbuilding, telecom, fishing, tourism), and renewable energy (wind, wave, tidal, thermal and biomass). The resources have acted as a catalyst

for the development of a number of industries, both on land and at sea.

3. As ancient maritime neighbours and friends, it is time that the countries of ASEAN and India work together to revive and energize those olden maritime links in a contemporary setting, so that they become a driving force in inculcating the idea of a 'Blue Revolution'. The oceans hold the key to the fortunes of the rapidly evolving global order. This is possible only by ensuring development of a common strategy towards maritime security and by ensuring a safe and secure maritime environment in the ASEAN-India region, which would be conducive to promote greater trade and investment. Strengthening cooperation in the maritime Asia has become vital for India and ASEAN due to pressure arising out of maritime domain, including competing claims for sovereignty, access to and control over maritime resources, non-traditional threats emanating from the sea and the imperative of maintaining freedom of navigation.

## Delhi Declaration 2018

4. On the occasion to mark the 25th anniversary of ASEAN-India dialogue partnership, the leaders of ASEAN and India issued a Delhi Declaration of the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit on 25 January 2018 in New Delhi. The leaders not only reaffirmed the importance of the maritime domain but also indicated direction and guidelines to strengthen maritime cooperation through existing relevant mechanisms, and have extended their full support for effective implementation of the Declaration.

## Shaping Asia's Maritime Architecture

5. The trade in goods between ASEAN and India reached a peak of US\$ 81 billion in 2017-18 from about US\$ 53 billion in 2009-10; the year when the ASEAN-India FTA was signed. The ASEAN-India region is witnessing a steadily expanding commercial and subsistence activities at sea relating to trade and transportation, resource exploitation and leisure industry. These activities are indispensable for economic development and for generating better opportunities for livelihood. There is a growing realisation among the countries that secure maritime environment is an essential prerequisite for development and prosperity of all. The countries are, therefore, devoting much attention and resources towards it, even in terms of inter-state cooperation.

6. Countries need to tackle with the insecurities associated with the maritime terrorism, maritime crimes, including trafficking of drugs and humans; the smuggling of small arms, other light weapons and weapons of mass destruction; illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing; and the non-traditional asymmetric and cyber-related threats in maritime-littoral realm. In addition, the national governments are grappling with the issues of freedom of navigation and over flight, the other related internationally lawful uses of the sea; and the peaceful settlement of maritime-territorial disputes in accordance with the established principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
7. In terms of maritime safety, a long road needs to be traversed collectively by the countries of the ASEAN-India region. The increasing frequency and scope of natural disasters and growing incidents of aviation and shipping accidents bring to the fore important aspect of human safety in rather unforgiving maritime environment. Along with addressing the perils of irregular migrants at sea, the need to harmonize aeronautical and maritime components of search and rescue also need to be taken note of, and appropriate responses deliberated upon. Further, natural disasters and other climatic phenomena are affecting maritime-littoral realm of Asia-Pacific with increased frequency and intensity, leading to substantial financial and human losses.
8. At another level, regional countries have agreed to pursue the 2030 development agenda, in which, oceans would play a unique role. Under the banner of the United Nations, all countries have unanimously adopted Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2030, wherein Goal 14 relates to 'conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas and marine resources'. The concept of Blue Economy with its end goal of sustainable development attempts to balance economic, environmental and social dimensions of the growth, and is now being increasingly gaining worldwide acceptance. India stands committed to promote the Blue Economy. Indian Prime Minister has endorsed Blue Economy as a new pillar of economic activity in the coastal areas and linked hinterlands through sustainable tapping of oceanic resources, and has announced his vision for the seas through "Security And Growth for All in the Region" (SAGAR).

9. As maritime neighbours sharing a common maritime domain, a common dependence on the oceans and the seas and a common understanding of the importance of sustainable exploitation of the ocean resources, ASEAN and India are the ideal partners in taking further the Asia's maritime agenda.

## The Theme

10. In furtherance of the vision of the leaders of ASEAN and India on the maritime affairs, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in partnership with the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) is organising the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the Delhi Dialogue on 19-20 July 2018. The theme of the 10<sup>th</sup> Delhi Dialogue is "Strengthening India-ASEAN Maritime Cooperation". Delhi Dialogue is an annual Track 1.5 forum for discussing politico-security, economic and socio-cultural issues between ASEAN and India. Since 2009, when the conference was first held, Delhi Dialogue has emerged as an important forum at which political leaders, policy-makers, researchers, academicians, business leaders and media- persons converge for brainstorming on a range of issues pertaining to ASEAN-India relations.

## Date of the Dialogue

11. The Delhi Dialogue X will be held on 19-20 July 2018 at The Oberoi, New Delhi. The External Affairs Minister (EAM) of India will deliver the Keynote Address. Several senior ministers from the ASEAN member-states along with senior level officials are expected to attend the Delhi Dialogue X. Besides, eminent scholars, practitioners, diplomats and experts from across the world will be invited to participate in the tenth edition of the Delhi Dialogue (DD).

## Plenary Sessions

12. Spread over a duration of two days, the Delhi Dialogue X will be held in the form of Plenary Sessions to include a Ministerial Session and a Special Plenary Session. Plenary Sessions will cover major themes that define the present and future of ASEAN India Partnership, i.e. the 3Cs of Connectivity, Commerce and Culture.
13. The Ministerial Session will feature a keynote address by the External Affairs Minister of India and address by Cabinet rank ministers and Heads of Delegations of ASEAN Member States. The

Plenary Sessions, which will be held in DD include India-ASEAN Partnership and Emerging Global Order, Maritime Cooperation: A New Framework for India-ASEAN Partnership, Strengthening Socio-Cultural Links, Role of North East in Act East Policy with ASEAN, ASEAN-India Trade, Investment and Technology, Development Cooperation, among others. The Special Plenary will feature talks by Ministers from ASEAN Member States and India and Chief Ministers of North Eastern States of India. There will be sessions on smart cities, SMEs, e-commerce, tourism, etc. The Delhi Dialogue will conclude with a Concluding Plenary which will focus on the Way Forward.

## Lead Partner

14. The lead partner of DD X is the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), which is a New Delhi-based autonomous policy research institute that specialises in issues related to international economic development, trade, investment and technology. RIS is envisioned as a forum for fostering effective policy dialogue and capacity-building among developing countries on global and regional economic issues. The focus of the work programme of RIS is to promote South-South Cooperation and collaborate with developing countries in multilateral negotiations in various forums. Through its intensive network of think- tanks, RIS seeks to strengthen policy coherence on international economic issues and development partnership canvas.





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**Keynote Address Delivered  
by the External Affairs  
Minister of India**

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## Keynote Address

**Smt. Susma Swaraj**

External Affairs Minister, India

Namaskar and a very Good Evening  
Excellencies  
Ladies and Gentlemen

I am delighted to welcome you all today, to the tenth edition of the Delhi Dialogue. The presence of so many Ministers and senior officials from ASEAN countries as also the Chief Ministers from our North-Eastern states and other dignitaries, is a tribute to ASEAN-India relations.

The timing of our meeting today is auspicious. We are on the threshold to welcome the Indian month of Shraavan, when the monsoon sets in. It is the same Monsoon that for centuries set the maritime rhythm in the Indian Ocean from the east coast of Africa to the Straits of Malacca.

It created an intricate web of trade routes, where courageous seafarers sailed, transporting our kings, our merchants, priests, scholars, royal emissaries and adventurers. Riding on the waves of these seas, also travelled cultural, religious and political influences, creating a rich tapestry of our shared heritage.

These voyages continue to be celebrated today, as 'Baliyatra' in Orissa, which means a 'Voyage to Bali'; or the 'Loykrathong' or 'Loy brahPrahdip' in Thailand, where ritualistic boats are floated in the month of December.

India and ASEAN share bonds of family and kinship. There are several stories to recount, from the tales of the Indian Brahmin Kaundinya who sailed to Funan to marry a Naga Princess; or the young Pallamvalla who was brought from Vietnam to restore the royal lineage of Pallavas in South India.

The Ahoms in Assam are descendents of Tai. Khamtis of Thailand and Myanmar also live in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, whereas the Khasis in Meghalaya have ancestral links to Thailand.

In modern times, our leaders have continued to maintain these links. Indeed, they shared close relations and drew inspiration from each others' experiences, while fighting for independence from foreign rule. Gandhiji visited Yangon thrice, while Bal Gangadhar Tilak was deported to Yangon by the British for several years. Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose visited Malaysia, Myanmar and Singapore.

Notably, the last Mughal Emperor, Bahadur Shah Zafar, spent his life in exile in Myanmar and lies buried there. Our poet laureate Gurudev RabindraNath Tagore travelled to South East Asia in 1927.

"ASEAN is one of the focal points of India's foreign policy, strategic concerns and economic interests". These are the words of our former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, when he attended the first ASEAN India Summit in 2002 in Phnom Penh. Our government is committed to bringing India ASEAN relations to its full potential through our Act East Policy, with ASEAN at the core.

Friends,

This has been reaffirmed by our Prime Minister Narendra Modi on several occasions, and I now quote him, "so that it may scale new heights and constitute a defining partnership of our times."

The Delhi Dialogue, has emerged as India's foremost ASEAN-centred Track 1.5 Forum for realisation of these objectives. Policy makers, eminent academicians, think tanks and the business community of India and ASEAN member states have used this platform to share their views to deepen and develop our unique relationship. Over the years, this forum has yielded rich dividend of ideas for us.

Friends,

This year's Delhi Dialogue is particularly special, as we celebrate its 10th chapter. It follows the Commemorative Summit of 25th January

2018 in New Delhi, which marked the 25th anniversary of ASEAN-India Partnership. The Summit recognised that India and ASEAN, as maritime partners and neighbours, must work together to ensure security and sustainability of oceans, seas and waterways.

It is therefore appropriate that the theme of today's Delhi Dialogue is focused on 'Strengthening ASEAN-India Maritime Cooperation'.

In fact, our maritime policy was articulated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at the Shangri-La Dialogue last month. India's interests in the Indo-Pacific are vast and our engagement is deep. Our vision, in one word, is SAGAR which stands for – Security and Growth for All in the Region. We have a comprehensive agenda of regional cooperation with both IORA and ASEAN.

Our expanding partnerships with all countries in the region is an integral part of this. The Indo-Pacific must be a free, open and an inclusive region. We must follow a common, rules-based order, that takes into account the equality of all, irrespective of size and strength. It should allow use of common spaces on sea and in the air.

Our vision of the Indo-Pacific, not only involves physical inter connectivity, but also entails building bridges of trust, based on mutual respect, giving due regard for sovereignty and territorial integrity, consultation, transparency, viability and sustainability. Finally, there is an imperative need to eschew protectionism, nationalism and avoid a return to great power rivalries.

Friends,

India has been working with ASEAN towards evolving a regional security architecture which is focused on ASEAN's centrality. Peaceful settlement of disputes in keeping with international law, and finding collaborative solutions to emerging and non-traditional challenges is important.

We are ready to strengthen cooperation in areas of HADR, Search and Rescue operations, anti piracy, counter terrorism, counter proliferation and collaborate on maritime domain awareness. We will also work towards ecologically sustainable development of ocean resources in a collaborative framework.

We believe that ASEAN is central to it and indeed lies at the heart of it. We therefore feel that our discussions at the Delhi Dialogue can play a constructive and a vital role in the region and beyond. Yesterday, together with Vietnam, our ASEAN country coordinator, we organised the Second ASEAN India Workshop on Blue Economy. Other dimensions of cooperation, such as maritime security and maritime connectivity,

will also be discussed in our forum. The ASEAN-India region together represents a combined population of 1.85 billion, which is a quarter of the global population and a GDP of over US\$ 3.8 trillion, creating one of the largest economic spaces in the world. Our bilateral trade has crossed US\$ 80 billion and expected to reach US\$ 100 billion by 2020. ASEAN-India Free Trade Area in goods, services and investment has no doubt played an important role.

We are also engaged in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations involving ASEAN and its six FTA partners. We believe that the RCEP presents a decisive opportunity to further engage our eastern neighbours economically. We hope that we can finalise the negotiations soonest possible.

An important ingredient for boosting economic engagement is making Indian companies a part of regional value chains and production networks. The Project Development Fund with a corpus of US\$ 77 million can be used to initiate economic projects in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam.

Our duty free preferential scheme for the Least Developed Countries in ASEAN is also intended to encourage greater trade, including movement of natural persons, technical assistance and capacity building.

Today, India is one of the fastest growing major economies in the world. In the last three years, Government of India has undertaken a number of initiatives and introduced a series of reforms to improve the business environment in India. Our Government launched the Goods and Services Tax on June 30, 2017 the biggest tax reform since our independence.

These steps have opened new opportunities for trade and investments into India. I invite companies from ASEAN countries to take advantage of these opportunities for investments in India, in numerous sectors such as smart cities, roads, highways, ports, railways, power and urban infrastructure.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We recognise that the single most important ingredient that can make a qualitative shift in our economic engagement with ASEAN is a major boost towards infrastructure and connectivity. We are making substantial progress on all fronts, both bilaterally and regionally.

We hope to transform these corridors of connectivity into corridors of economic cooperation. In connectivity, India has made considerable progress in implementing the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral

Highway and the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project. Our recent agreement with Indonesia to develop port infrastructure in Sabang is yet another step in this direction.

We are working on specific proposals to set up a regional high-capacity fiber-optic network, supplemented by national rural broadband networks and digital villages in remote areas. We have offered US\$ 1 billion Line of Credit, to help finance these and other connectivity projects with ASEAN.

To take forward our cultural relations, we held a very successful Youth Summit in Bhopal in August 2017 to bring our young leaders together. The next chapter of this Youth Summit will be held in Guwahati later this year. We will also hold additional sessions of the India-ASEAN Band Festival and Artists' Retreat, to build cultural connections among the younger generation.

The 3rd ASEAN-India Conference on Cultural and Civilisational Links will be held in Cambodia in August 2018. The year 2019 will be celebrated as the ASEAN-India Tourism Year as decided during the Commemorative Summit. These will enhance people to people contacts.

India-ASEAN engagement is deep-rooted. We place ASEAN at the centre of our dream of an Asian century. As Asia regains its global position for the twenty first century to be called "Asia's Century", it goes without saying that India and ASEAN will play a vital role in ensuring this. We look forward to working with the ASEAN Member States in order to turn this vision into a reality.

I wish the Tenth edition of Delhi Dialogue all success, and look forward to hearing your views on the future of our strategic partnership.

Long Live India-ASEAN Friendship!

Thank You.





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# Addresses Delivered at Delhi Dialogue

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## Special Address

**Gen (Dr.) V K Singh (Retd.)**  
Minister of State for External Affairs, India

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Shri Conrad Sangma  
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Mizoram, Shri Lal Thanhawla  
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tripura, Shri Biplab Kumar Deb  
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Auranchal Pradesh, Shri Chowna Mein  
Hon'ble Minister of Industries and Commerce, Asaam, Shri Chandra Mohan Patowary  
Secretary (East), Smt. Preeti Saran  
Delegates for ASEAN Member States  
Heads of Missions of ASEAN Countries in New Delhi

Excellencies  
Distinguished Guests

Good Morning and Namashkar. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of you today for the Tenth Edition of Delhi Dialogue. I am thankful to all the delegates from ASEAN member states for being in our midst today. I welcome the Hon'ble Chief Ministers of North Eastern States who have been kind enough to agree to participate in this panel. I also extend a warm welcome to all delegates and speakers who are present in the hall today.

The Ministry of External Affairs is delighted to host the Tenth Anniversary edition of the Dialogue today. We have completed a decade

which has seen the dialogue growing to occupy its place as the premier track 1.5 process to deliberate on all facets of ASEAN India partnership. From a humble beginning in 2009, when we started with discussions on economic cooperation alone, today we have evolved to include all three pillars of our cooperation.

The theme of this edition of the dialogue, rightfully focuses on the fast emerging and very relevant area of ASEAN India Maritime Cooperation. We strongly believe that it is the tides of this cooperation that will set the tone for the future of the Indo Pacific region and that it will have the keys to unlock prosperity for the common good of our peoples and provide us with seas which are safe, secure and free for all.

Let me begin the Special Plenary by highlighting certain facets of our Act East Policy and the priority that our North Eastern Region has in the same. The fact that we are opening the Delhi Dialogue 10 with this Roundtable of the Chief Ministers and the Plenary Session to follow are both focused on the North East and its relevance to the Act East Policy, is itself the clear indication of the importance that our North East occupies in our thinking of the region. Since 2015, our External Affairs Minister has been inviting the Chief Ministers of the North Eastern States to the Dialogue to reiterate our commitment towards involving the North East in the discourse on Act East.

Allow me to restate, for benefit of the larger audience, that our Act East Policy is not just a progression but a leap forward from the Look East Policy. There are three key distinguishing elements of the Act East Policy. First, the Act East Policy is wider in scope geographically and covers the entire breadth of the Asia-Pacific region, while keeping ASEAN at the core. Second, the focus is beyond economic integration and includes political-security and socio-cultural dialogue at a deeper level. Third, the Act East Policy is more action-driven and result-oriented.

With the 'Act East policy,' we are looking at a new paradigm of development where our foreign policy initiatives blend seamlessly into our national politico-economic development requirements, especially of our North-East. Our efforts are to reinforce our ancient links with South East and East Asian countries through stronger cooperation based on forming linkages across the 'Three Cs' (Civilizational/Cultural, Commerce and Connectivity).

We envision our North Eastern States to be active partners in developing linkages with South East Asia across these 3 C's. The North-East Region is our land-bridge to South-East Asia. Located at the conflux of South Asia, East Asia and the South East Asia, the North East shares land boundaries with all three regions and thus is geographically

well endowed facilitate these linkages. The Act East Policy is as much about fostering stronger ties with ASEAN as it is about unlocking the true potential of the North East states.

The inclusive development of North East is a priority for our government. The Ministry for Development of North East Region (MODONER) is the focal Ministry while the North East Council (NEC), is the regional planning body which acts as the nodal agency for the economic and social development of the North Eastern Region in close consultations with various ministries of the Government of India. We have recently constituted a NITI forum for the North East to identify various constraints on the way of accelerated, inclusive and sustainable economic growth in the North East Region of the country and to recommend suitable interventions for addressing identified constraints.

The government recently allocated Rs. 4500 crore for development projects in North East. Unlike the earlier formula where Centre used to provide 90 per cent funding for projects, under the new formula, the central government will fully fund the new projects in North East.

Our government is giving a renewed push to road connectivity within the North East Region. The government will soon fund the 'orphan' roads projects in North East states. This is the first region-specific road development scheme. The orphan roads are the ones which lie between two states and were neglected. Now the centre has adopted these orphan roads. The Prime Minister recently inaugurated Bhupen Hazarika Setu which ensures connectivity between Upper Assam and Eastern part of Arunachal Pradesh. At about 9.15 kilometers, the bridge is the longest in India. Better internal rail connectivity is also at the forefront of governments North East policy. Indian Railways have already taken the initiative to link all North Eastern States including Manipur, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh.

The enhanced internal connectivity will boost connectivity by facilitating linkages with India-South East Asian connectivity initiatives like the 1360 kilometer long India-Myanmar-Thailand (IMT) highway and the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project is another major step that government has taken to enhance land and maritime connectivity in the region.

Enhancing Air Connectivity within the North East region is imperative for economic development and job creation. Government has launched UDAN-RCS i.e. Regional Connectivity Scheme, with the objective of "Let the common citizen of the country fly", aimed at making air travel affordable and widespread, to boost inclusive national economic development, job growth and air transport infrastructure development of all regions and states of India.

North East, more than any other region in India, shares strong cultural and civilizational linkages with the ASEAN countries. It is a cultural corridor between India and many of the South East Asian countries, and many communities in the North East have historical connections with communities in South East Asia. For example, New Year festival is celebrated in Lao PDR, Thailand, Arunachal Pradesh and Assam around the same time in the month of April. The festivals of Rongali or Bohag Bihu in Assam, Pi Mai in Lao PDR, Songkran in Thailand and Sangken in Arunachal Pradesh are threaded together by being rooted in same cultural and traditional practices. These common cultural connections create strong foundation for enhancing ASEAN-India relations.

There is therefore tremendous potential in our North East to become the key to fructification of our Act East Policy. We want the North East States to become active partners in the Act East Policy. States like Assam have already taken steps in this direction by starting an Act East Department.

I look forward to hearing our Chief Ministers outlining their initiatives and vision to their respective states on this theme.

To sum up, a strong, stable and prosperous North East is a core priority for Government of India, and the Act East Policy is a potent means at our disposal to help achieve it. All GOI Line Ministries and the concerned State Governments have a crucial role to play in making this possible, inter alia, by ensuring timely completion of infrastructure upgradation, development of border trading points, encouraging sustainable industry, agriculture and tourism, etc. The External Affairs Ministry will continue to play the role of a facilitator in this regard.

I also look forward to the deliberations of the next session which will deliberate on the specific aspects of connectivity and deepening of economic integration between the North Eastern states of India and ASEAN member states.

Thank You and Jai Hind!



## Special Address

**Mr M. J. Akbar**

Minister of State for External Affairs, India

The first view of any wonder of the world is stunning; the second magnetic; the third, absorbing, as the mind and senses marry scale with detail, and the true magic of art is reflected in the harmony between the edifice and the unknown corner. No visit to Angkor Vat is complete without a trip to the Seam Reap Museum, with its splendid rock edicts, left for posterity by the kings of Cambodia, the clean, beautiful calligraphy doing proper justice to lofty ideas and precepts. The edicts are in Sanskrit.

The magnificence of Angkor Vat is multiplied by a collage of paintings, miniatures that record both the epic gods of faith and the more human aspects of contemporary life. In one interesting depiction, a group of Indian Brahmins are the only ones who do not prostrate before the king: this was their exalted position in India, and this would be their position under Jayavarman II, Yasovarman and their successors. Merchants had always brought trade; the Brahmins brought something more valuable to the great elites of South East Asia, their philosophy, literature, and the vehicle of this knowledge, Sanskrit. By the time of the Angkor dynasty, Brahmins had been present in South East Asia for at least four centuries.

The East Borneo inscriptions, called yupas, are dated 400 AD. They note in Sanskrit verses, that Mulavarman, the lord of kings, had his sacrificial post prepared by the twice-born, who wore the sacred thread.

These priests had “come hither” and were gifted cattle and land. A Sanskrit rock inscription from circa 450 AD speaks of an occasion when the Brahmins were presented with 1000 cows. A 5th century Chinese text says that in the kingdom of Dun-sun, “there are more than a thousand Brahmins of India. The people of Dun-sun practice their doctrine and give them their daughters in marriage. Consequently, not many of these Brahmins go away”. Indeed, why should they? In 9th century Angkor, Indravarman I had a Brahmin, Sivasoma, in his court who was said to have studied under Sankara. In the 13th century, Jayavarman VIII built a temple for the Sanskrit scholar-priest Jayamangalartha. And these facts have been gleaned from only what has survived; the truth surely has a larger dimension.

The story of Indian Brahmins in South East Asia, and their descendants - they were, uniquely, even allowed to marry into the royal class - is one of the more fascinating nuggets in the treasure house of culture, faith, trade and, perhaps most important, language that created so many exquisite bridges between India and South East Asia. Their great influence lay as much in the narratives they carried, as the language that etched literature, philosophy and faith into elite and then popular belief.

Sanskrit, one of the mother languages of world history, first emerged from an Indo-Iranian dialect in the Swat region north of Taxila, and spread by the turn of the millennium to the north of India. Thereafter, in more rapid strides, it became the lingua franca of high learning. It is estimated that by the 4th century AD it had created what has been called by scholars a “Sanskrit cosmopolis,” stretching from Gujarat to Timor. It was, like all functioning thoroughfares, a two-way street. Java, or Yawdwipa, is mentioned in the Ramayana.

The philosophy of India was imbued with a vision of peace and harmony; it did not seek invasion, conquest or domination; it became, like liquid, a part of where it reached. It absorbed other ideas and faiths like Buddhism, and shaped a syncretic whole. Sanskrit merged into intellectual systems and structures of South East Asia to create a new dynamic. Rama, Krishna, and the Pandavas became household names in South East Asia more than 1500 years ago. It spoke to intellect, culture and civilisation, taking roots that produced fruit of many varieties. They sprout in marvellously diverse ways: the Ravi in Punjab and the Irriwady in Burma are linked by a common term, Irawati, which means ‘having drinking water’. More than 30 Cambodian kings between 514 and 1327, had ‘varman’, or bastion, in their name. And I must seek advance apologies from those who might disagree, but there is a powerful theory that our beloved idli actually originates in Indonesia. Certainly, Tamil

had great influence in the region too. Tamil inscriptions have been found in Sumatra and the Malay peninsula.

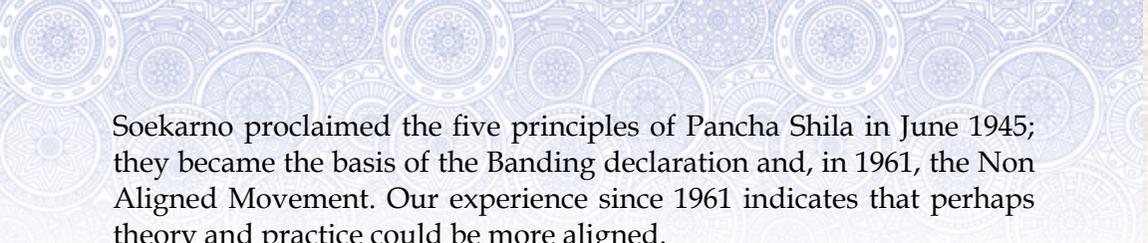
The history of peace will always be more creative, substantial and lasting than the history of war. It is relevant to note, incidentally, that there is no record of a naval battle in the Indian Ocean before the arrival of colonialism.

In an important sense, India has always looked east; but because India did not believe in war, this fact tends to be overlooked in conventional history texts. India's preference for the East also makes geo-political sense: to the north lay the Himalayas, a wall that both protected India and kept it within its shadow; and to the west lay desert that offered more ardour than reward. India chose the seas to find complementary worlds.

But before we proceed, a question about Brahmins. How did they go "overseas" when it was considered impure to do so, and a return to caste demanded prayaschit in many forms? My own answer is that Brahmins did not see the East as "abroad" for the civilisation they found was contiguous to their own, fused by an intrinsic harmony. The west comparatively, was "abroad".

The synthesis between culture and faith in the shared space between India and South-East Asia is one of the great outcomes of this inclusive philosophy. In Cambodia, by the time of Jayavarman V, Mahanaya Buddhism had become part of court faith and culture; and there was a form of Brahmin-Buddhism till Buddhism became prevalent by the 13th century. The point is that transition was largely [if not wholly] slow and peaceful. Islam arrived, both from the Arab Gulf and Gujarat, and took its place peacefully beside existing faiths. With time, it become the dominant religion. Culture was resilient enough to adapt to religion, and religion created room for culture. This is an elemental part of our precious inheritance; and this is what we must consciously, vigorously protect from emerging challenges. In 1927, Rabindranath Tagore, travelling through Bali, said, "Wherever I go on the island, I see God." He saw God in the different forms that human beings have worshipped Divinity.

Our shared philosophy is particularly relevant when the divine message is being distorted, and doctrines are being fuelled which spread violence, and seek to destroy social unity through hatred and fear. We must find an answer in our own philosophy, just as our fathers found the answer to colonialism and post-colonial challenges. Mahatma Gandhi reversed the march of European colonialism by mobilising the Indian masses through the indomitable strength of satyagraha. President



Soekarno proclaimed the five principles of Pancha Shila in June 1945; they became the basis of the Bandung declaration and, in 1961, the Non Aligned Movement. Our experience since 1961 indicates that perhaps theory and practice could be more aligned.

Idealism, my friends, has a twin brother. It is called realism. The two must work in harness for forward movement. But every horizon is lit with idealism; and we are gathered in this Delhi Dialogue to shape the route map through realism. I wish you a happy and fruitful conversation.



## Special Address

**Dr Vivian Balakrishnan**  
Minister for Foreign Affairs, Singapore

Your Excellency Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs  
Distinguished Guests  
Ladies and Gentlemen

First, I want to thank my sister, Shri Sushma Swaraj, for the invitation to participate in this inaugural Ministerial session of the 10th Delhi Dialogue, and of course for your warm hospitality, which goes even beyond the warmth of New Delhi at this time of year!

### **ASEAN-India Partnership**

Singapore has been, and is, a long-time advocate for close – and closer – relations between India and ASEAN. Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong attended the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit in January this year, where we celebrated our 25th anniversary. I'm happy to now attend the Delhi Dialogue this year, that celebrates its 10th anniversary. And I deeply appreciate India's efforts to expand its engagement of ASEAN and the larger region of Southeast Asia.

Last month, Singapore was very happy to host Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He delivered the keynote address at the Shangri-La Dialogue – he was the first Indian Prime Minister to do so and we were inspired and impressed by his speech. Prime Minister Modi stated, and

I want to quote and use his exact words here, “inclusiveness, openness, and ASEAN centrality and unity ... lie at the heart of the new Indo-Pacific”. Singapore, and I think I can speak on behalf of the other ASEAN countries on this, shares this vision. Prime Minister Modi also reiterated, “ASEAN has and always will be central” to the future of the Indo-Pacific region. We agree that a robust, united ASEAN-centric regional architecture that is open, that is inclusive, that invites and interacts with all stakeholders, is our best chance of building a peaceful, prosperous, and secure region. Obviously Singapore, as a tiny city state – we have no chance of surviving in a world where “might is right”. Singapore therefore, by definition, has to be a strong advocate and supporter of a rules-based world order which upholds the rights and sovereignty of all states equally, regardless of size, and provides for peaceful dispute resolution without resorting to force or the threat of force. In other words, a rules-based order.

## Maritime Connectivity

I am very glad that the theme of the Dialogue this year is “Strengthening India-ASEAN Maritime Cooperation”. We believe this is apt and timely. Maritime connectivity has always presented a profound advantage. To us, in the past, and even now, and going forward into the future.

First, from the perspective of efficiency and utility, the sea routes offer greater efficiency and economies of scale compared to overland roads and railways. Let me try to give you a graphic example of that. A container ship nowadays can carry around 20,000 TEUs -- “twenty-foot equivalent units”. Now, if you were to unload this container ship, take each container, put it onto a train, and line it all up into a single train, you would end up with a train that is 100km long! Think about that. One ship, unloaded, would take a train 100km long! And of course you know there is no such train that is 100km long. This is a very stark example of the economies of scale that the maritime dimension offers, and no land route, no train, no matter how fast, can match this.

Second, there is a clear strategic advantage to connectivity through the high seas. Unlike railways, or highways, that need to be constructed, that are subject to ownership and control, the high seas are not bound by fixed tracks or pathways. And especially with the safeguards enshrined by the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), once a ship goes beyond territorial waters, that ship enjoys complete freedom of navigation and can sail anywhere in the world. In other words, the maritime dimension offers “many-to-many” connections. And you are not confined by any other state.

This is why Singapore – again, I speak from the perspective of a city-state that has been a port, a maritime nation, and a trading hub since our founding – we have always firmly and resolutely supported freedom of navigation as an existential right, and including freedom of overflight, and respect for international law. Obviously the most salient piece of international law for this is UNCLOS, which is critical for us to safeguard the use of the sea for free navigation and for unimpeded legal commerce.

And this is why Singapore will always resolutely oppose any attempt, by anyone, to threaten or to constrain this fundamental right of freedom of navigation and overflight in our region and our surrounding waters. These rights are enshrined by UNCLOS, and again from a Singapore perspective, one of the narrow straits that all routes from India would have to traverse in order to get to China, Japan, or even the West Coast of America, are the Straits of Malacca and Singapore. And the Straits of Malacca and Singapore are defined in UNCLOS terminology as a “Strait Used for International Navigation”.

## **Expanding the Definition of Connectivity**

Now, let’s broaden the concept of connectivity. Going back to first principles, connectivity has always been an amalgamation of a variety of types of connections.

Historically, we have had the Silk Road which was constituted by a network of both overland and maritime routes. Ships would dock at port cities in the Bay of Bengal, and goods would be carried through a network of overland routes from these cities across the heart of the Indian subcontinent. Passing through Delhi, the Punjab Plain, these routes joined the Silk Road at Balkh in modern-day Afghanistan. The city at this intersection, called Bactra, was an equal to Rome and Baghdad in its heyday. In fact, the Arab conquerors of this city called it the “mother of cities”.

Today, of course, we have developed far more efficient methods of transport beyond overland routes. With these new means of transportation, goods can reach consumers all across the world far rapidly than in the past. Today, landlocked Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh are prominent international producers of chilli, coriander, cumin, and fennel. Their products are parcelled every day onto trains and ships and aeroplanes and despatched on a daily basis.

While we continue to press on with developing sea and land infrastructure – and the example that Shri Sushma Swaraj just mentioned, the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway, in fact,

we look forward to extending this highway right across Southeast Asia – we also look forward to expanding air and digital connectivity. After all, we are now in a new digital age.

Flights have completely transformed the way we travel and the way we move goods. We should continue to liberalise air services and expand air links, in order to bring our people and economies closer together, faster than ever before.

Nonetheless, such connectivity projects are heavily dependent on infrastructure and capital. The Asian Development Bank estimates that ASEAN's infrastructure needs alone will total US\$ 2.8 trillion between 2016 to 2030. Financing these projects will require innovation and will require private sector participation.

Consequently, Singapore recently launched our Infrastructure Asia office to harness the resources and capabilities of private sector firms and public sector agencies. This Infrastructure Asia office seeks to partner key stakeholders across the region and beyond, in order to catalyse more project opportunities to meet Asia's burgeoning infrastructure needs.

## **Digital Connectivity and Smart Cities**

In our modern world, with the ongoing digital revolution, even as we work to expand connectivity from maritime, air, and land routes, we have to pay attention to digital superhighways as well.

Singapore held the Inaugural ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) Meeting earlier this month. The ASCN has taken off since its establishment at the 32nd ASEAN Summit in April, and is a key priority for Singapore's ASEAN Chairmanship this year. ASCN focuses on building an inclusive and collaborative platform for 26 pilot cities across ASEAN. We hope that this mechanism will facilitate cooperation and sharing between smart cities by sharing of best practices, and perhaps even more importantly, by sharing mistakes and avoiding each other's mistakes. Connecting cities through cyber-highways of information will allow us to harvest the opportunities associated with digital revolution.

One defining characteristic of the ASCN is this word called "interoperability". And I want to emphasise interoperability. Because we must be able to interoperate across boundaries and across very diverse systems. The diversity within the ten Member States of ASEAN far exceeds that in any other international regional association. In fact, diversity is a distinguishing feature of ASEAN. We are a voluntary organisation consisting of ten countries, greatly diverse in size, political and economic models, development potential, infrastructure, and financial capability. Therefore, finding the right recipe that will allow

us to move forward together, and yet recognise and accommodate our diversity, is crucial for ASEAN. This diversity is characteristic of the cooperation among ASEAN Member States, and if I may add, I think equally characteristic of the relationship between India and ASEAN.

We hope to link up ASEAN's pilot cities under the ASCN with those of our external partners. And specifically in the case of India, we will support Prime Minister Modi's "100 Smart Cities" initiative, not only through investing and developing infrastructure, but also through city planning and sharing our experiences in urbanisation. So, developing Smart Cities is just one example of ways that we can harness the greater connectivity afforded by the digital era.

But at the end of the day, the most important thing for everyone - and not just for urban elites - but for the farmer, the craftsman, the artist, the labourer, is to be able to access global markets using these new technological solutions. It must make a difference to their livelihood, it must expand opportunities, and it must provide hope for a better life for their children. For example, India's Aadhaar digital identity system and the amazing and rapid expansion of India's mobile payment technology has greatly improved access to financial services, it has promoted digital and financial inclusion, it has encouraged rural entrepreneurship, it has built up rural capacities and livelihoods.

## **Eliminating Trade Barriers**

But even as we invest in connectivity and infrastructure, beyond building highways, laying down fibres, building ports and airports, and keeping sea lanes open, in order to achieve connectivity in the fullest sense of the word, we need to remove barriers to trade in goods and services, and ideas. And that is why, in fact, at this time when there is a pushback against trade liberalisation in some of the more advanced parts of the world, it is all the more important for India and ASEAN to double down on the cause of free trade.

Specifically, we need to work toward the conclusion of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, and hopefully to do so by the end of this year. The economic benefits of this partnership are real. We have a combined GDP - India and ASEAN - of somewhere between US\$ 3.8 trillion to some estimates that go as high as US\$ 4.5 trillion. Southeast Asia and India hold tremendous potential, which can be unlocked with further integration.

There is one more characteristic that India and ASEAN shares, that in fact differentiates us from Northeast Asia. And that is that India and ASEAN are demographically, still young. In the case of ASEAN, 60 per

cent of our population is below the age of 35. I suspect that number is even larger in India. If we can educate, train, and expand opportunities for the young people in India and ASEAN, the sky's the limit for them.

Consequently, the RCEP offers us the opportunity to form the world's largest trading bloc, encompassing almost half the world's population, and more than one-third of global GDP, and with good prospects in the years to come.

It is no doubt challenging to find common ground and comfortable landing zones amongst 16 very diverse countries, and some may be tempted to coalesce around alternative trade pacts if this process drags on, and if we do not settle the RCEP by the end of the year. But we believe we must stay the course, and especially given the headwinds that we currently face in the global trade environment, we are all better off together as one.

So we should move forward together and we must demonstrate that an inclusive and well-connected region remains the best approach for us to capitalise on our complementarities within India and ASEAN, in order to achieve growth, in order to achieve hope for our peoples.

## **Conclusion**

So let me conclude, if we can maintain our momentum in connectivity, if we can continue to invest in our infrastructure, if we can continue to agree to progressively open up our air services, if we can continue to agree to preserve and protect the sanctity of UNCLOS and especially the unfettered right of freedom of navigation, as a right, not as a permission, if we can commit to bringing down trade barriers – then we can help construct an interdependent world, a world with more interconnected routes across an integrated region – then a new golden age will await all of us and our children.

Thank you very much.



## Special Address

**Dato Abdul Mutalib Yusof**

Minister of Communications  
Brunei Darussalam

Your Excellency Minister Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs  
Republic of India

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

Assalamualaikum and a very good evening to all of you

It gives me great pleasure to join you here in this wonderful capital of New Delhi, to participate in the 10th Delhi Dialogue of 2018. It is indeed a privilege to have this opportunity to interact and exchange views on issues of mutual interests between India and ASEAN at the 10th Anniversary of this auspicious forum.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

India and ASEAN member states enjoy geographical proximity, either linked by land, air or by sea. We draw upon experiences of each other especially in this era of development, faced with various challenges, that may be well addressed through sustainable progress and strategic collaborations.

It is important to note that ASEAN member states are proactively exploring a development path to leverage its location at the cross roads

of Northeast Asia, South Asia and Oceania to grow ASEAN's strategic significance to Asia.

The vision of ASEAN Leaders to build an ASEAN Community called for a well-connected ASEAN that will contribute towards a more competitive and resilient ASEAN, as it will bring peoples, goods, services and capital closer together. Therefore, an enhanced ASEAN Connectivity is essential to achieve the ASEAN Community.

Under the ASEAN Transport Ministers' Forum, much emphasis is put on greater connectivity, efficiency, integration, safety and sustainability of the ASEAN transport sector. In particular, through the ASEAN Transport Strategic Plan for 2016-2025, it sets out strategic measures in the areas of air, land and maritime transport, as well as transport facilitation and sustainable transport to realise the vision of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC).

For Brunei Darussalam, we believe that a well-integrated and sustainable transportation network is imperative for the acceleration of ASEAN's economic development and market integration. Furthermore, the adoption of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 (MPAC 2025) by ASEAN Leaders in September 2016 is testimonial for the efforts to enhance regional connectivity benefitting all ASEAN Member States through enhanced trade, investment, tourism and development.

As highlighted under the master plan, quote - "Connectivity in ASEAN encompasses the physical, institutional, and people-to-people linkages that are the foundational supportive means to achieving the economic, political-security, and socio-cultural pillars of an integrated ASEAN Community." - unquote. Indeed, a well-integrated, sustainable and secure transportation system can strengthen ASEAN's position as a regional hub for Asia and beyond.

In this regard, I would like to share some perspectives in efforts towards enhancing ASEAN connectivity within the Asian region in the context of two sectors - the maritime sector and the aviation sector:

Firstly, in line with the Dialogue's theme "Strengthening India-ASEAN Maritime Cooperation", let me touch on the ASEAN in the maritime sector. We have the ASEAN Single Shipping Market (ASSM) Work Programme which is in the progress of implementation of the measures set out in the program. In this regard, coordinated and intensified efforts are critical to the timely implementation of agreed strategies and measures for the realisation of ASSM. As we strive towards more connectivity, it is imperative for ASEAN to establish and sustain an efficient and well-integrated transport system.

As part of our efforts to promote and expand the maritime industry in Brunei Darussalam, one of the major steps we have taken is the establishment of the Maritime and Port Authority of Brunei Darussalam (MPABD) in September 2017, as a Statutory Body to develop and regulate the ports and maritime industry in Brunei Darussalam.

With the setting up of the MPABD, the focus will be more on developing the policies and creating the right, conducive environment for shipping, ports and maritime activities in Brunei Darussalam.

On the other hand, the management and operations of our major Port - The Muara Port has now been fully operated by the Muara Port Company which is a joint venture company between the Government of Brunei Darussalam and a MNC from China.

With the port operations now run by a government linked Company, more significant investments are to be made to upgrade the port facilities and equipment with the objective of improving the efficiency and level of service, which is in line with the Brunei government's Ease of Doing Business objectives and moving towards more liberalisation and increasing the shipping activities in the country.

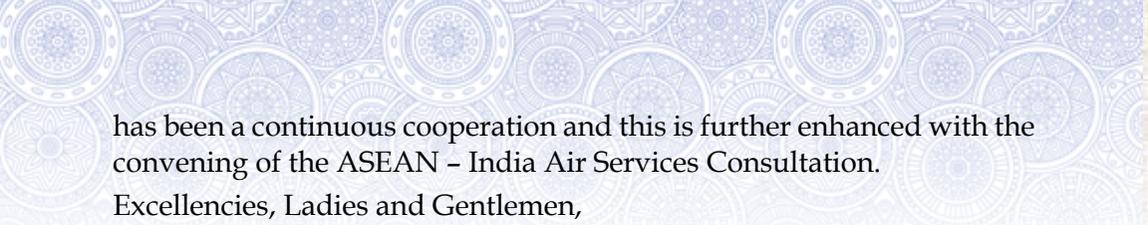
We are confident that the Brunei's maritime industry can be further developed and we certainly welcome the investors to participate in public-private partnerships initiatives in this sector.

Secondly, in the aviation sector, anticipating future traffic growth and dealing with potential airport congestion issues are the key areas of discussion for ASEAN Member States. In view of this, the 13th ASEAN Summit in November 2007 in Singapore endorsed the initiative of establishing an ASEAN Single Aviation Market (ASAM) in support of the development of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC).

The objective was to establish a relaxation of 3rd, 4th and 5th air transport freedom rights between Member States for an ASEAN Single Aviation Market (ASAM) by 2015. Quite a number of ASEAN multilateral agreements have been signed under the umbrella of ASAM.

Through this liberalized aviation market, it is certainly hoped that there will be more competition and more routes served by best suited airlines, leading to a more efficient and sustainable market. Ultimately, the main benefits would be gained by the consumers and producers of air transport, and by the tourism industries.

It is also important to note that such transport initiatives and programmes could not have been possible without close cooperation and assistance with our dialogue partners. India remains as one of ASEAN's important dialogue partners in this sector. Since 2003, there



has been a continuous cooperation and this is further enhanced with the convening of the ASEAN - India Air Services Consultation.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Collective and harmonised commitments by ASEAN and India in enhancing connectivity both from the perspectives of air and maritime transport will contribute towards a more competitive and resilient region. It is within such conducive environment that we will be able to achieve impactful changes and facilitate the efficient, safe and secure movement of people, goods and services.

To conclude, I would like to thank the Government of the Republic of India for inviting my delegation and I to this important Dialogue, and I am confident from the productive deliberations, there will be positive outcomes for us to act upon for the benefit of our people.

Thank you.



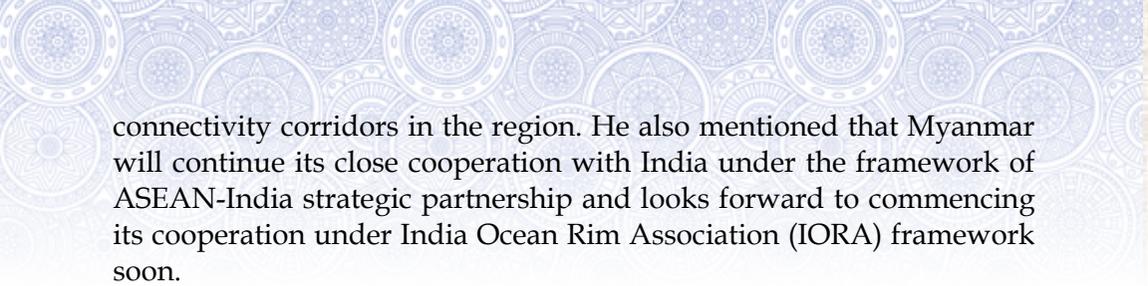
## Special Address

**Mr. Kyaw Tin**

Union Minister

Ministry of International Cooperation, Myanmar

In his statement, the Union Minister U Kyaw Tin expressed that being a country with a long coastal line, Myanmar places great importance to the security of sea lanes and maritime-dependent activities such as maritime trade, transport, offshore oil and gas production, fishery, maritime tourism for the economic development of our region. He highlighted the importance of strengthening cooperation through information sharing, exchange of experience in preservation of ecosystem and addressing maritime security matters such as combating illegal fishing, piracy, arms and drugs trafficking. Furthermore, the Union Minister stressed that thanks to its geographical location, Myanmar can serve as a land bridge between India and South Asia Region. India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway Project will serve as India's major gateway to Southeast Asia countries and it will eventually be extended to Cambodia, Laos PDR and Vietnam. The Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project which will connect Northeastern Region of India to Sittwe Port in Myanmar, and will provide an attractive access from the landlocked region of India to the Bay of Bengal and ASEAN Member States after the completion of the Project. Myanmar's infrastructure project such as Thilawa economic zone and Dawei Deep Sea Ports project, when completed and will also make a game changer in maritime transport and



connectivity corridors in the region. He also mentioned that Myanmar will continue its close cooperation with India under the framework of ASEAN-India strategic partnership and looks forward to commencing its cooperation under India Ocean Rim Association (IORA) framework soon.

During the visit, the Union Minister met separately with Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs of India and held discussion on strengthening bilateral relations and cooperation and briefed the recent developments in Rakhine State. The Union Minister signed the Framework Agreement of International Solar Alliance in New Delhi and deposited the instrument with Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs of India.

Myanmar has thus become the 68th signatory to the Framework Agreement paving the way for the country to receiving solar energy-related external assistance.



## Special Address

**Mr. Nguyen Quoc Dzung**

Deputy Foreign Minister, Viet Nam

Viet Nam's SOM Leader to ASEAN

Your Excellency Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs of India

Your Excellencies Heads of ASEAN Delegations

Your Excellency Dr. Le Luong Minh, Former Secretary-General of ASEAN

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me start by extending the warmest greetings from my Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, H.E. Pham Binh Minh, who regrettably is not able to attend today's event. I also wish to take this opportunity to thank the Government of the Republic of India, especially the Ministry of External Affairs of India for the excellent arrangement and warm hospitality accorded to me and my delegation during our stay in New Delhi.

It is indeed a special honor for me to attend the prestigious Delhi Dialogue for the first time. The Delhi Dialogue, since 2009, has served as an effective platform bringing together political leaders, policy makers, think tanks and businessmen from both sides to discuss and exchange views on a range of issues pertaining to ASEAN-India relations.

Your Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Viet Nam and ASEAN value India's active contribution to and increasing role in regional affairs, helping to keep the regional architecture open, balanced and inclusive. We are impressed by India's economic growth at the fastest rate in the world and its successful reform agenda which are attributed to India's emergence as a rising power

We have just commemorated the 25th anniversary of ASEAN-India dialogue relations but ancient ties between Southeast Asia and India go back over two millennia. These bonds have been grown over the years and serve as the firm foundation for the ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership.

In line with the theme of this year's Delhi Dialogue, I would like to focus on maritime cooperation between ASEAN and India. Our maritime links established thousands of years ago have enabled the exchange of goods, language, script, philosophy, art and culture.

And today, our sea linkages remain increasingly important when we rely heavily on the international waterways for global commerce, continued prosperity and economic growth. And today, maritime cooperation has become high on the ASEAN-India agenda. The Leaders' extensive discussions at the Retreat Session of ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit in January 2017 and three paragraphs in the Delhi Declaration on this topic have shown both sides' commitment and interest in moving maritime cooperation forward.

In addition, ASEAN, except for Lao PDR and India have long coastline, dotted with many ports and lie strategically on all major shipping highways. Ranked 16th among maritime countries, India has one of the largest merchant fleets in the developing world and has advanced port management, transshipment and logistics capability. These tremendous potentials for ASEAN and India maritime cooperation have not yet fully tapped.

It is, therefore, vital that ASEAN and India continue to strengthen our maritime cooperation. I am fully convinced that only when we cooperate, can we harness the full potential of our waters to achieve what is best for our nations.

In this connection, we welcome Prime Minister Narendra Modi's initiative to enhance ASEAN-India cooperation by designating Cooperation in the Maritime Domain as one of the main elements of the ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership.

A robust maritime connectivity is crucial for the enhanced trade flows and economic cooperation between ASEAN and India. We look forward to early conclusion of ASEAN-India Maritime Transport Agreement. Our on-going efforts to improve maritime connectivity may include developing our maritime infrastructure and enacting policies that will support the efficient movement of goods and services between land and sea borders. Sea ports linkages as well as related services and logistic network could offer promising areas of cooperation for ASEAN and India to look at.

The importance of Oceans for sustainable development has been recognised in Goal 14 of the UN Agenda 2030 which advocates significantly to 'conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas and marine resources'. Against this backdrop, the Blue Economy seeks to promote economic growth, social inclusion and improvement of livelihoods, while ensuring environmental sustainability. To take this effort forward, Viet Nam and India have co-chaired and co-hosted two workshops on the Blue Economy in 2017 and just yesterday in New Delhi, with a view to have better understanding and identify concrete activities for cooperation between ASEAN and India in the area of blue economy.

At the same time, ASEAN and India share an interest in perserving our shared maritime routes open and secure so that trade and commerce remain unimpeded. It is crucial that we continue to uphold the principles of freedom of navigation and over flight and respect for the rule of law including the 1982 UN Convention on the Laws of the Sea. I also encourage greater efforts made by ASEAN and India in addressing transnational maritime security challenges such as sea piracy, drug trafficking, arms smuggling and human trafficking.

To conclude, I am confident that together ASEAN and India can unlock immense potentials for ASEAN-India martime cooperation and help peace, stability, and prosperity prevail throughout the region.

I wish the 10th Delhi Dialogue a great success.

Thank you.





## Special Address

**Mr Thongphane SAVANPHET**  
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lao PDR

Honourable Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister of India  
Honorable Ministers from ASEAN Member States (Singapore, Brunei and Myanmar)  
Excellencies  
Distinguished Guests  
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my great pleasure and honour to attend the 10th edition of the Delhi Dialogue today. I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to the host, India, for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to me and my delegation and for the excellent arrangements made for this important gathering.

The Delhi Dialogue this year marks its milestone 10th anniversary as an important platform for Ministers, policy makers, senior officials, diplomats, think tanks and academicians to exchange views and discuss ways and means to further enhance ASEAN-India Partnership as well as to promote peace, security, connectivity, socio-cultural links, trade and development in the region and beyond.

We are pleased to witness the continuous strengthening of ASEAN-India partnership since its inception from sectoral dialogue partnership

in 1992 to full dialogue partnership in 1995, and eventually to strategic partnership in 2012. India's Act East Policy has further contributed to enhancing India-ASEAN partnership. Earlier this year, ASEAN and India celebrated the 25th Anniversary of Dialogue Relations by successfully convening the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit in January here in New Delhi under the theme "Shared Values, Common Destiny" where the leaders of ASEAN and India adopted the Delhi Declaration to further strengthening the partnership as well as charting out future direction for the years ahead.

ASEAN and India share common political commitment and willingness to promote long-lasting peace, stability and prosperity for their peoples as well as foster closer linkages between ASEAN and India. This morning we also heard statements by Distinguished Chief Ministers of Northern States of India about ways how to strengthen connectivity with ASEAN. The Lao PDR, therefore, highly values the enhanced cooperation and achievements of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations throughout the past 25 years, which have brought about tangible benefits to peoples of ASEAN and India.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The theme of this year Delhi Dialogue "ASEAN-India Maritime Cooperation" is an important and relevant topic in today's times. It has also been discussed in various fora, notably and most recently, at the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit. As we all know the majority of global trade is done via sea. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) estimates that roughly 80 per cent of global trade by volume and 70 per cent by value is transported by sea. Of that volume, 60 per cent of maritime trade passes through Asia. Indeed, the maritime routes have played a significant role in enabling trade and passes of goods for the region and the world.

However, increased trade passes and other marine activities in the region have presented both opportunities and vulnerabilities such as threats arising from sea piracy, maritime terrorism, armed robbery against ships and so on. Thus, maritime security is another important factor for ASEAN and India to cooperate closely in ensuring maritime transport safety as well as marine environmental protection, among others.

We are pleased that some cooperative activities in the area of maritime cooperation have been undertaken by ASEAN and India through ASEAN-led mechanisms such as, the ASEAN Regional Forum

(ARF), the East Asia Summit (EAS), and the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum. We appreciate India's role in these cooperative activities as India has co-chaired with ASEAN a number of seminars on various topics related to maritime safety and security, including Seminar on Counter Piracy and Armed Robbery in Asia in 2015, Seminar on Regional Confidence Building and the Law of the Sea, and Workshops on Best Practices in Implementing Safety of Navigation Instruments which were held in 2015 and 2017, respectively moreover, under the East Asia Summit (EAS) framework, India has also hosted three EAS Conferences on Maritime Security and Cooperation in 2015, 2016 and 2018 in India. These activities clearly demonstrated the commitment of India and its ongoing efforts to promote maritime-related cooperation with ASEAN. Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Being a landlocked country in Southeast Asia, the Lao PDR pays much attention to linkages and connectivity by land and air. At the same time, we also recognise the importance of maritime cooperation particularly, the sustainable use of maritime resources for economic growth in conjunction with the protection of marine biodiversity. We also share the view that peaceful, stable and safe oceans create favourable conditions for business activities, economic cooperation and development in the whole region.

The Lao PDR has benefited from the use of sea trade routes to transport goods and connect to countries in the region and the world through access to seaports of transit countries like Thailand, Viet Nam, Cambodia, Myanmar and others. We therefore support efforts to promote cooperation on maritime safety, maritime connectivity, and maritime transport and services towards simplifying transnational maritime transport procedures and processes, facilitating import and export of goods, decreasing operational costs, and improving logistics arrangement, thereby further promoting trade and economic growth in the region.

The Lao PDR supports further strengthening of linkages between ASEAN and India in various aspects, including priority areas in the Master Plan of ASEAN Connectivity 2025, the Delhi Declaration, and the ASEAN-India Plan of Action to implement the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress, and Shared Prosperity (2016-2020). These include land, aviation and maritime transport, connectivity which comprise, among others, expediting the completion of the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway project with extension to Laos-Vietnam-Cambodia, developing India-Myanmar-Laos-Vietnam-



Cambodia Highway and expecting early conclusion of the ASEAN-India Air Transport Agreement, and the ASEAN-India Maritime Transport Agreement.

In conclusion, the Lao PDR stands ready to work with other ASEAN Member States and India to enhance ASEAN-India partnership, including strengthening maritime cooperation, which will contribute to the promotion of peace, stability and development in the region and the world.

I thank you for your kind attention.



## Special Address

**Dr A.M. Fachir**

Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, Indonesia

Your Excellency Mrs. Sushma Swaraj, Minister for External Affairs of the Republic of India

Excellencies

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

I thank the Government of India for the initiative and hospitality. Our dialogue today is both timely and strategic as geo-political shifts are currently taking place in our region. These shifts include the growing prominence of the Indian Ocean and Rim, and its interlock with the Pacific Ocean and Rim, making it an inclusive and open Indo-Pacific region.

For both India and ASEAN, these oceans form a geographical advantage that, for centuries, unites, connects, and mutually benefits us all - very much in line with India's 3C-Formula - Commerce, Connectivity and Culture. Therefore, enhancing our maritime cooperation is NOT an option anymore. Instead, it is a necessity.

There are three key areas of maritime cooperation that we must nurture.

First, we must enhance maritime security cooperation. There remain existing traditional security challenges such as rivalry among major

powers. At the same time, non-traditional security threats in the forms of drugs traffickings, crime dan robbery at sea, trafficking in persons and people smuggling, terrorism are also on the rise. As responsible partners, ASEAN and India share responsibility to ensure the maritime safety and security in the Indian Ocean. We have no alternative but to re-double our efforts in securing our oceans, through trainings, policy coordination and various capacity building programs.

Second, we must safeguard our economic advantages through maritime economic cooperation. The global economy in 2018 is forecast to grow by 3.7 per cent, from 3.6 per cent last year. Due to our cooperation, the economy of our region has experienced positive growth above global economic growth. Last year, the ASEAN and India's economies grew to around 5 per cent and 7 per cent respectively. Against the rising trend of protectionism elsewhere, ASEAN and India's economies should remain open and inclusive. ASEAN-India should be able to become a center for economic growth in the Indo-Pacific region, which eventually contribute to regional prosperity and stability. Here connectivity is vital to ensure our region remains become a chokepoint.

Just recently, we successfully convened the Indonesia-India Investment Forum: Chapter Aceh-Andaman & Nicobar on 9-11 July 2018. It serves as an important step towards developing maritime connectivity between our Islands. This is a concrete follow-up of the commitment of our two leaders to develop maritime cooperation including the importance of developing connectivity between provinces and islands as reflected in the Statement on Shared Vision of India-Indonesia Maritime Cooperation in the Indo Pacific Cooperation in the developments of maritime infrastructure and maritime transportation could pave the way for more robust trade and investments.

To this end, Indonesia is planning to build up to 32 seaports until 2019, and 25 of which are in construction this year. We hope to see more investors from India and ASEAN in our infrastructure projects.

Third, we must continue to strengthen our cooperation in protecting the environment to ensure the sustainability of our maritime advantage. Yesterday we discussed ways and means to exercise the 'Blue Economy' concept by:

- ensuring maritime safety and security; and
- encouraging cooperation in exchange and transfer of sea-friendly technology.

However, our ocean is now facing a critical challenge caused by plastic debris. In 2015, World Economic Forum mentioned that in 2050

there would be more plastic in our ocean than fish. This is a slow-motion catastrophe in contravention with the concept of Blue Economy. To respond this challenge, Indonesia is now proposing the EAS Leaders' Statement on Regional Plan of Action on Combating Marine Plastic Debris. The proposed statement will encompass our collective efforts to combat marine plastic debris as well as to preserve our ocean. We seek support from all ASEAN colleagues and Dialogue Partners, including India, to our proposal.

Indonesia also encourages more exchanges of knowledge and technology to resolve marine plastic debris problems. Furthermore, Indonesia also invites the participation of ASEAN colleagues and India to join the 5th Our Ocean Conference in Bali, 29-30 October 2018. The OOC is aimed at generating commitments and taking actions to maintain the sustainability of our ocean.

Excellencies,

Moving forward, we must strengthen our regional institutional arrangements in our region, the Indo-Pacific regional cooperation. In doing so, we should not reinvent the wheel since we can make use and synergize the existing mechanisms by

- including EAS and IORA with its respective modality; and
- addressing common challenges and at the same time strengthen the above areas of cooperation.

What we need now is a better mutual understanding and strong political will. This is the time for ASEAN and India to march together towards common goals set by our Leaders in their Commemorative Summit last January.

Thank you.





## Special Address

**Mr Chaisiri Anamarn**  
Special Envoy, Foreign Minister of Thailand

Your Excellency, Mrs. Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs of India

Excellencies

Heads of Delegations of the ASEAN Member States

Distinguished Participants

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my great pleasure and honour to be with you at the 10th Delhi Dialogue. May I express my appreciation to the Government of India for the warm hospitality extended to me and my delegation. May I also congratulate the Government of India for successfully hosting the Delhi Dialogue since 2009 and celebrating its 10th anniversary this year.

The Delhi Dialogue has served for ten years as an important forum where policy makers, academics as well as business leaders gather annually to discuss political-security, economic and socio-cultural issues between ASEAN and India and to explore ways and means to advance and deepen the ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership. This year's edition is the first following the successful ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit that was convened in New Delhi in January this year.

For over two thousand years, ASEAN and India have been friends and neighbours. Evidence of the earliest contacts between India and

Southeast Asia can be traced as far back as the 1st century A.D. Today, many symbolic traces of India's impact on Southeast Asia civilizations are clearly visible in our religion, arts and culture. In addition to the cultural and civilizational links between our regions, evidence of extensive and dynamic trade between India and Southeast Asia has also been found. Commerce primarily happened via seas and oceans through the so-called "Indian Ocean route", connecting Southeast Asia with India, the Middle East, and East Africa.

In a contemporary setting of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, most of ASEAN Member States and India remain maritime economies. Our trade is conducted mostly through the seas and oceans. Oceans offer us benefits in a variety of forms, through living resources, goods, marine-based services and industries, renewable energy, and so on. The Blue Economy has become an important concept for driving sustainable economic growth for our regions in the modern world.

To promote maritime links and maximize the utilisation of oceans and seas, it is necessary to develop maritime infrastructure. We admire India's initiatives in enhancing ASEAN-India connectivity in the maritime domain, including the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project, which will connect the eastern Indian seaport of Kolkata with Sittwe seaport in Myanmar by sea; it will then link Sittwe seaport to Paletwa in Myanmar via the Kaladan river boat route and then from Paletwa on to Mizoram by road transport. This reflects India's Act East Policy which seeks to expand its maritime cooperation to the east, focusing on maritime economic corridors such as Mekong-India Economic Corridor which will connect the port city of Chennai to other important sea ports in Southeast Asia such as Dawei in Myanmar and Laem Chabang in Thailand. It would also complement the Trilateral Highway which we hope will be completed by 2019.

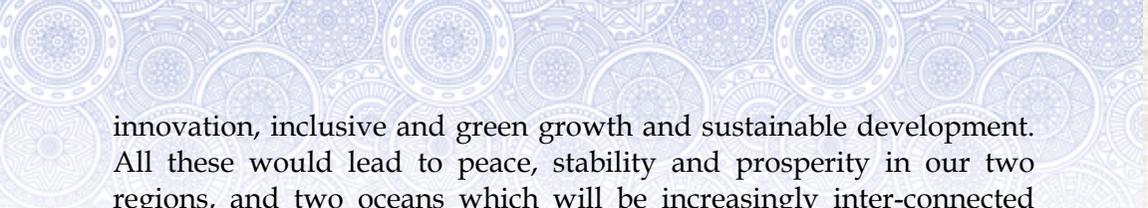
At the same time, rivers are equally important. My Deputy Minister spoke last year at the 9th Delhi Dialogue about the "Panca Tara" Initiative -which in Sanskrit means "Five Rivers"- Cooperation Initiative. Panca Tara aims to look at the five river networks of the Ayeyawady - Chao Phraya - Mekong - Ganga - and Brahmaputra as a single strategic area, with a single ecological system and an inter-linked economic sphere. Potential areas of cooperation under the Panca Tara idea include promoting seamless connectivity, synchronized economies and smart and connected cities. The Panca Tara Cooperation Initiative is a natural outgrowth of India's Look East Policy and Thailand's Look West Policy, and links two potential economic cooperation frameworks, BIMSTEC and ACMECS. Indeed, with the enhanced dynamism of the ACMECS

as a result of the recently convened ACMECS Summit in Thailand, we look to closer cooperation between the ACMECS and other groupings as such of BIMSTEC including in the area of maritime connectivity.

While promoting maritime cooperation to further expand our economic ties, we must work together in a sustainable fashion. Technical cooperation for keeping our oceans and seas free of waste and debris especially plastics as well as conserving marine resources particularly sustainable fisheries should be one among ASEAN-India cooperation priorities. Also, we must not forget that maritime commerce is vulnerable to challenges such as fisheries caused by misunderstandings or lack of trust in maritime area, piracy and armed robbery against ships at sea. By this reason, cooperation at regional level to tackle issues of common concern would help maintain the peaceful use of maritime domain for common benefit. In this regard, we appreciate India's enthusiasm in promoting cooperation in maritime domain management and maritime security, which was extensively discussed at the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit in January.

Thailand appreciates India's constructive role in hosting the EAS Conference on Maritime Security and Cooperation as an annual event since 2015 and the promotion of the blue economy. We will continue to cooperate with India in this endeavour. Moreover, it is important to look at the Indian and Pacific Oceans as a single, inter-connected maritime area and therefore strengthen efforts to address key security issues in a manner that would complement economic and functional cooperation which is already being pursued by the IORA and other fora. The idea of the Indo-Pacific is thus one worth advancing further, anchored on the principle of openness, inclusiveness, transparency, rules-based and ASEAN centrality. Any Indo-Pacific idea should benefit all countries across the region, support ASEAN centrality, maintain the momentum of peace, stability, prosperity and sustainable development in the region, and help develop a Strategic New Equilibrium across the two oceans.

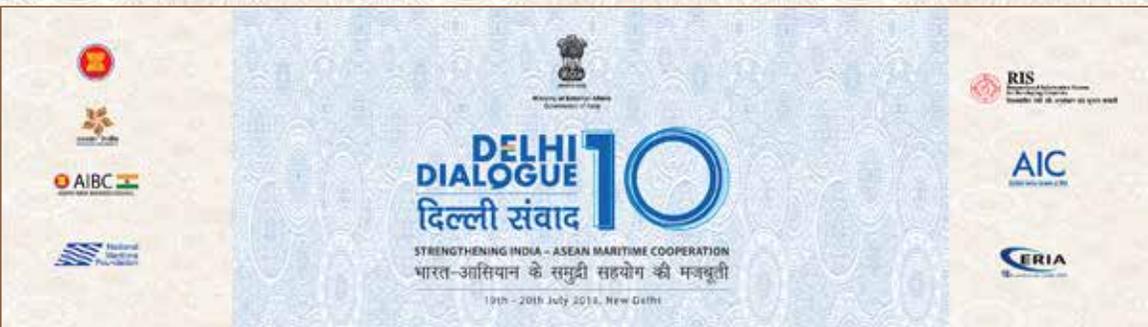
In closing, Thailand commends Viet Nam for its achievements as the Country Coordinator for ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations. Thailand is pleased to take up the coordinatorship beginning in August for the next three years. As Country Coordinator, Thailand is looking forward to working closely with India in all areas of our cooperation to further strengthen our Strategic Partnership with concrete outcomes. Our goals include a more balanced regional architecture, greater trust and stability between our friends and neighbours, an obstacle-free economic partnership, an enhanced connectivity and maritime cooperation, a rediscovery of our civilisational links and South-South cooperation in



innovation, inclusive and green growth and sustainable development. All these would lead to peace, stability and prosperity in our two regions, and two oceans which will be increasingly inter-connected as one economic area. And as ASEAN Chair in 2019, we will help promote dynamic partnerships with our friends and the international community, including through enhanced connectivity, including maritime connectivity between us.

Lastly, may I express our sincere appreciation to India and our ASEAN friends for the help and support for the successful rescue against all odds of the 12 boys and their football coach from a cave in Chiang Rai Province, Thailand. It is a reflection of humanity at its best—the world coming together to save lives, in a spirit of partnership and solidarity.

Thank you.



## Special Address

**Mr Pickhun Panha**

Ambassador of Cambodia to India

Honorable Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs of India  
Excellencies Heads of Delegation from ASEAN Countries  
Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

First and foremost, let me express the warm greetings from my Senior Minister and Foreign Minister, H.E. PRAK Sokhonn, who is unable to attend today's event due to his prior commitment in the country. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Government of the Republic of India, particularly the Ministry of External Affairs for the excellent arrangements made for this annual 1.5 Track gathering. On behalf of my Government, I would like to underscore the importance of the Delhi Dialogue, which has served for 10 years as an effective platform for experts, think-tanks and government officials to discuss and exchange views on a wide range of important issues under ASEAN-India cooperation.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The theme of this year DDX, "Strengthening India-ASEAN Maritime Advantage" reflects an ambition in advancing ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership to a higher level for shared progress and prosperity.

I can simply say that ASEAN and India have been bounded by strong and long-term ties dated back centuries ago. Our cooperation has broadened and enhanced in the key areas of cooperation, politically, economically and socio-culturally.

Today, ASEAN and India has a combined population of one-third of the global population and a combined GDP of over USD 3.8 trillion. This makes our two regions as one of the largest economic spaces in the world.

Despite the conclusion of the ASEAN-India FTA, ASEAN-India total merchandise trade reached only USD 58.4 billion in 2016, far less than its potentials. For that reason, I believe more joint efforts and political commitments are needed if we are to achieve the target of USD 200 billion by 2022. It is undeniable that we are still facing some challenges, in making the full utilization of the ASEAN-India FTA. This requires our strong focus and joint actions to inject more impetus for this ASEAN-India partnership.

Looking ahead into future cooperation, I believe both sides should carefully review the outstanding issues that are still pending and explore more innovative ways to maximize the economic and trade potentials presented under the ASEAN-India economic cooperation. For the time being, it is crucial that both sides conclude the negotiations of the RCEP, since it will serve as a driving force to promote growth, create new jobs, enhance the regional supply chain and value chain. I wish to recall that during the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit to mark the 25th Anniversary of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations in New Delhi earlier this year, ASEAN and India Leaders have emphasized the importance of the RCEP and encouraged the early conclusion of the negotiation.

ASEAN is a major destination for outward Foreign Direct Investment (OFDI) from India. For the record, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows from India to ASEAN reached USD 1.05 billion in 2016. About 22 per cent of Indian Global OFDI stock was in ASEAN in 2015 and at least 1,950 Indian companies are present in the region. That is to say, this proportion is much larger than the shares of global OFDI stocks of Japan, the U.S., China and the EU in the region. Moreover, Indian OFDI flows to ASEAN fluctuated widely between 2005 and 2016, with a peak in 2012. Thus, we perceive that this is momentum for ASEAN-India investment to be further strengthened and deepened. Moving forward, it is all the more pressing to fully operationalize the ASEAN-India Trade and Investment Centre, and to completely and effectively implement the ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to emphasize the significant role of technology itself in the 21st century in a variety of fields, including technology in agriculture, in business, in education, in human relations, to name just a few in terms of their effects on economic growth. Hence, one of the most important areas which ASEAN and India could collaborate is in the field of science and technology. Once again, I wish to recall that the Leaders at the 15th ASEAN-India Summit in the Philippines last year, appreciated the increase of funding in the ASEAN-India Science and Technology Development Fund (AISTDF) from 1 million to 5 million in 2016, the aim of which is to further encourage and sustain the implementation of collaborative R & D and technology development programmes between ASEAN and India. They also noted India's engagement with CLMV countries both at bilateral and multilateral levels, especially the on-going implementation of the pilot project on Gigabit-capable Passive Optical Network (GPON) technology in CLMV countries and Indonesia.

For that reason, I believe that both sides should broadly strengthen and deepen the science and technology cooperation in the areas of high-tech human resource trainings, particularly in CLMV countries, capacity-building development in information and communication technology (ICT), space communication technology, and research related to climate change. Enhancing digital connectivity is another dimension to make full use of innovative technology to improve the lives and livelihoods of our people.

Let me now conclude by stressing on the need to deepen ASEAN and India cooperation in the years to come so as to bring shared progress and prosperity for the peoples of the two regions.

Thank You.





## Special Address

**Dato Hidayat Abdul Hamid**

High Commissioner of Malaysia to India

Her Excellency Sushma Swaraj  
External Affairs Minister, Republic of India  
Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers  
Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

First and foremost, allow me to extend the warm greetings from H.E. Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah, Malaysia's new Foreign Minister. He is unable to be with us today due to prior commitments.

Allow me to also congratulate the Government of India for convening the 10th Delhi Dialogue. This is a clear manifestation of India's strong commitment in strengthening the ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership, since the dialogue relations first started in 1992.

ASEAN and India celebrated its 25th anniversary via a series of commemorative events throughout 2017 to 2018. The culmination of these events was the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit, held earlier in January 2018 back to back with the 69th Republic Day in New Delhi. At the Commemorative Summit, our leaders reviewed ASEAN and India achievements for the past 25 years. Our leaders also adopted the Delhi Declaration and chalked the future direction of ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership.

The Delhi Declaration not only encourage both sides to strengthen existing cooperation in three pillars, namely political, security and social-cultural, but it spelled out practical areas of future partnership, including non-traditional cooperation.

One of the important areas highlighted in the Declaration is maritime cooperation. In this connection, this year's theme of Delhi Dialogue - 'Strengthening ASEAN-India Maritime Advantage', is indeed timely. It reflects our commitment to enhance the trade and economic linkages of both sides through strengthening the maritime connectivity, in line with India's three Cs of commerce, connectivity, and culture.

We also wish to congratulate India for successfully hosting the 2nd Workshop on Blue Economy yesterday here in New Delhi. We are pleased to note that the participants have had constructive discussion and exchanges of views to progress ASEAN-India cooperation in the field of blue economy, particularly on issues relating to conservation and sustainable use of marine resources.

We believe that the outcome of this Workshop would further synergise ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership in strengthening our cooperation in maritime.

On a similar note, we look forward to an early conclusion of the ASEAN-India Maritime Transport Agreement and ASEAN-India Transit Transport Agreement. The conclusion of these two agreements would further support the growth of business and tourism between ASEAN and India.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We appreciate India's strong support to ASEAN centrality and in our pursuit of a rules-based regional architecture which is open, inclusive, balanced and equitable. At the same time, we welcome India's initiative, namely the "Act East Policy", which clearly reflects the importance India attaches to its strategic partnership with ASEAN.

On the economic front, Malaysia is pleased to note that ASEAN-India trade and investment relations have been growing steadily, with India being ASEAN's 7th largest trading partner. Total trade between ASEAN and India averaged USD67 billion over the last 4 years.

There are huge potentials and opportunities to enhance economic ties between ASEAN and India economic ties. Both ASEAN and India are witnessing significant rise in middle class population with increasing purchasing power. Intensifying promotional activities in ASEAN and India and strengthening private sector cooperation will be critical towards the expansion of trade and investment ties.

In this regard, the ASEAN-India Business Council (AIBC) could be one of the leading organizations to provide the platform to bring the businesses in ASEAN and India closer. The AIBC needs to be strengthened to take the lead role and in this context, the governments of ASEAN and India are requested to nominate members to the Council who can assume a proactive role in enhancing ASEAN-India private sector linkages.

Malaysia regards India as one of its most important and strategic overseas markets for investments in the infrastructure sector. India's vast market, high economic growth, strong emphasis on infrastructure development and liberalisation policy adopted by India are areas Malaysian businesses and construction companies can participate in. Malaysia is interested to further participate in the infrastructure development available in India that would provide mutual benefits for both countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We stand on the brink of a technological revolution that will fundamentally alter the way we live, work, and relate to one another. We acknowledge that the 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR) have great potential to connect billions of people to the web, drastically improve the efficiency of business and more importantly, it will impact on the policy making, public engagement and implementation process in the government and authorities.

Last year, Malaysia hosted the ASEAN 2050 Forum: Fourth Industrial Revolution on 2-3 November 2017 at the Putrajaya. Recently, Malaysia also organised the Fourth Industrial Conference in collaboration with the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) with theme "New and Emerging Technologies in Achieving Sustainable Development Goals" on 3-4 July 2018 in Kuala Lumpur. Both Forum and conference served as the platforms for participants to exchange knowledge and share experiences on the 4IR technologies.

In this regard, Malaysia welcome cooperation with ASEAN Member States and India on 4IR, and look forward to strengthening ASEAN-India cooperation in this area.

We also of the view that holistic framework should be put in place collectively to escalate this technology to the new dimension

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On socio-cultural cooperation, we recognise the importance of people-to-people exchanges in creating long term relations. Indeed, the South-

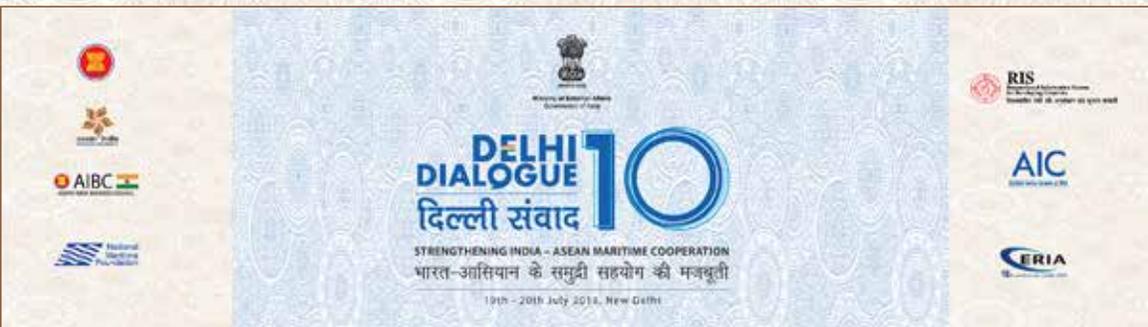
east Asian cultures, traditions and languages have been profoundly influenced by these early linkages. We see Indic Hindu-Buddhist influences in historical sites such as the Angkor Temple Complex near Siem Reap in Cambodia, the Borobudur and Prambanan temples near Yogyakarta in Indonesia, and the ancient candis in Kedah in Malaysia.

In this regard, we laud India's commitment to strengthen ASEAN-India people-to-people ties through the various programmes including the ASEAN-India Student Exchange Programmes, India Scholarship Programmes for ASEAN Students, Special Course for ASEAN Diplomats, ASEAN-India Young Farmers Exchange Programme, and ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks. We look forward to deepen and explore collaboration with India in strengthening our social-cultural cooperation and people-to-people contacts through these programmes.

Looking further ahead, there is still much that Governments must do to manage our resources and engage ourselves in the task of strengthening our relationship for the betterment of the peoples in ASEAN and India.

Before I conclude, I would like to reiterate that Malaysia has great interest to see ASEAN-India partnership flourish further. We remain steadfast to engage constructively with India in realising activities that could bind the ASEAN-India partnership further.

Thank you.



## Special Address

**Mr Hoang Anh Tuan**

Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN  
for ASEAN Political Security Community, ASEAN Secretariat

Your Excellency Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs of India

Excellencies Ministers

Esteemed Representatives from India and ASEAN

Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is indeed an honor for me to share a few thoughts on ASEAN-India Maritime Cooperation at this Ministerial Session of the Delhi Dialogue. Before I proceed, let me convey on behalf of the Secretary General of ASEAN and the ASEAN Secretariat, our congratulations to the organizers for the thoughtful agenda of this Dialogue. And on a personal note, I would like to express my appreciation to the hosts for the warm hospitality and cordial welcome.

I must emphasize that we in ASEAN put premium on relations with our partners, and we work closely with all of them to ensure that the partnerships remain dynamic and mutually beneficial. It is an ongoing but a key process to keep these partnerships robust and adaptive to the evolving regional and global challenges.

Platforms for thinking through ASEAN's relations with its partners, such as this Delhi Dialogue, are always useful. Not only do dialogues such as this strengthen our partnerships, they are also useful in exploring ways on how to further deepen our relations. And we from ASEAN share with you the hope that this year's dialogue which follows from the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit this January would help generate ideas on how to further enhance our strategic partnership, a vision enshrined in the Delhi Declaration.

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Just like India, ASEAN is determined to promote peace and stability, enhance the economic well-being and livelihood of our people and work together for regional development and progress. While ASEAN celebrated its 50th Anniversary last year which for some is an indication of being a mature organization, we in ASEAN believe that we still have a long way to go. Definitely, the organization may not be that entirely young but ASEAN, we believe, shares two characteristics of young adults: the ability to envision a better world and the readiness to adapt to challenges that come along the way.

Indeed, while we have envisioned ourselves to be a community anchored on the three pillars of a political security community, an economic community and a socio-cultural community, we fully recognize the innate challenge of being a group with diverse political systems and varying levels of economic and social development. But notwithstanding our diversity, all members of ASEAN are committed to forging our future together.

ASEAN is determined to pursue with vigor our Community building aspirations. We are clear of our plans as contained in our Community Vision 2025 and the attendant Political/Security, Economic and Socio-Cultural Blueprints. We have reviewed and reworked our ASEAN Connectivity Master Plan which has set out targets to be realized by 2025, as well as our Initiative for ASEAN Integration, which we are confident will help us soon narrow the development gap within ASEAN. And moves to expedite the full realization of the ASEAN Economic Community and the many measures we are taking to enhance the welfare and well-being of our people including greater emphasis on human rights, are being carried out in earnest and determination, with our Leaders paying close attention to the progress.

Notwithstanding the challenges that we face, we find comfort in our partners' recognition of the contribution that ASEAN plays in promoting peace and stability as well as economic prosperity across the region. The sustained interaction with ASEAN of our current partners and the

interests by a number of other countries, within and outside the Asia-Pacific, to partner with ASEAN, either formally or informally, manifests the importance they give to ASEAN.

India, is one of those partners of ASEAN, which has both supported our community building efforts as well as contributed to enhancing our capacity as a region.

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

ASEAN-India relations and cooperation have progressed steadily over the past two and a half decades, along a broad spectrum of issues to include among others security, non-traditional issues, cyber, economics, education and culture. Guided by our ASEAN-India Five-Year Road Map (2016-2020), we hope to pursue our partnership for peace, progress and prosperity.

Indeed, ASEAN and India are committed to strengthen our economic links. Less than five years ago our Leaders reaffirmed the commitment to promote of ASEAN-India trade and investment, with a two-way trade of USD 200 billion by 2022 being the target. While we are on the path towards achieving this, with ASEAN-India trade having increased to USD 73.49 billion in 2017 from USD 68.27 billion in 2012, we also fully understand that much more needs to be done if we are to accelerate our trade relations and attain the USD 200 billion target. Meanwhile, the past two years saw Indian investments in ASEAN at the level of USD 1.8 billion mark. The effective implementation of the ASEAN-India Free Trade Area as well as through the desire for early conclusion of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) would further boost trade and investment between ASEAN and India. We need to further boost our connectivity, whether in the maritime, land or air domains. We need to have more people to people interactions, among our academics, parliamentarians, journalists, the young and more importantly among peoples through tourism.

Needless to say, our partnership transcends the ASEAN-India level, with India having been and continues to actively take part in the various regional mechanisms centered on ASEAN to include the East Asia Summit, the ASEAN Regional Forum, the ASEAN Defense Ministers Meeting-Plus and the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum.

Not only has India taken part in these platforms, it has also spearheaded, together with ASEAN members, concrete activities to enhance our collective capacity to address the challenges we face. Together with the Philippines, India has co-organized the ARF Workshop on Best Practices in Implementing Safety of Navigation

Instruments in 2017. Together with Vietnam, India has co-organized the first workshop on Blue Economy also in 2017, with the second one just convened yesterday (July 18, 2018). Three EAS Conferences of Maritime Security and Cooperation have likewise been organised by India.

Having a collective stake in the maritime domain, cooperation in maritime security has been identified as one of the main elements of ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership proposed during the ASEAN-India commemorative Summit held this year that I mentioned earlier.

Let me stress that India has not only actively taken part in these platforms or initiated activities. More importantly for ASEAN, India has consistently supported ASEAN Centrality in these and through these mechanisms.

Maintaining ASEAN Centrality is challenging, all the more so if it is from time to time challenged, either deliberately or not, by other regional players to include some ASEAN partners. And yet, in a region constantly in a state of flux, a security architecture centered on ASEAN remains to be the truly inclusive one, whereby all relevant stakeholders would and could be engaged. Lest it be forgotten, regional peace and stability is best attained when none is excluded.

Nonetheless we find solace in the support given to us by equally well-meaning partners such as India. In the meantime, we are hopeful that ASEAN would continue to serve as an effective platform whereby India could substantiate its Act East policy.

To end, it must be emphasized that as strategic partners, we from ASEAN and India, need to deepen our cooperation. In areas where cooperation exists, let us work together to accelerate our efforts. In areas where cooperation is nascent, let us establish a collective undertaking. And all the while, let us continue to explore cooperative undertaking in other uncharted terrains, for that is the essence of being strategic partners.

Thank you.



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**Transcripts of Papers  
Presented**

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# Maritime Security in the Indo-Pacific

**Vice-Admiral G. Ashok Kumar, AVSM\***

Historical and civilizational linkages between India and ASEAN go back to 500 BC. It also explores how Rajendra Chola in the end 9<sup>th</sup> century was dealing with trade with ASEAN nations. Rajendra Chola was in power and had a naval expedition, which went to the ASEAN region. So, history reveals that maritime security would always be an essential part, and it drives for cooperation and connectivity in commerce between ASEAN and India.

Indian Ocean Region (IOR) is a strategically important region. Alfred Mahana said that the destiny of the world will be determined in the waters of the Indian Ocean in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. About 80 per cent of the trade goes through Indian Ocean unlike the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans, and it is only 20 per cent of trade that is conducted within the Indian Ocean region. Therefore, countries shall give due attention to critical importance of chokepoints that provide maritime routes in and out of the Indian Ocean. For example, Malacca Strait or the Sunda Strait, which are critical to shipping routes from east to west and vice versa. Malacca Strait across Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore form a critical chokepoint. In 2016, there were over 83,000 ships that went through Malacca Strait. Any disturbance or any maritime security threat to the safe passage of the maritime trade through these routes will cause huge adverse impacts on the world economy. In this regard, the significance of India in Indo-Pacific is most important since it falls well between the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean. Besides, there is also several infrastructure development activities along these routes such as pipelines, both oil and gas. Sea will always remain the preferred option for trade, and, therefore, shipping through the Malacca Strait is bound to increase in coming days.

Maritime security threats such as terrorism, piracy, gun-running, armed smuggling, drug peddling, IUU fishing, and also natural

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\* Deputy Chief of Naval Staff, India. Views are author's own.

calamities are extremely important for the maritime security issues to be addressed between ASEAN and India. Maritime terrorism and several incidences of piracy are reported by the International Piracy Reporting Center (IPRC), located at Kuala Lumpur with RECAP.

Under the Prime Minister of India, the Look East Policy has been upgraded to step further by re-instigating it as the Act East Policy, and there has been a considerable amount of progress made on that front. India has been a member of the ARF since 1996 and participates every event that is organised by the ARF. India is also a part of ADMM Plus. The defence cooperation agreements, defence policy dialogues, Navy to Navy staff talks, maritime security dialogues and more such other meetings between the Indian Navy and the ASEAN counterparts under bilateral relations are now happening frequently. We have IONS as brought out in 2008. Indian Navy launched the first collaborative maritime initiative of the world of the 21<sup>st</sup> century in 2008, and, out of ten ASEAN nations, five of them whose shores are in the Indian Ocean are its members. Some of the countries are also part of the IONS working groups on different specialisations such as HADR, information exchange, maritime security, etc. For the first time, we have also upgraded to include Milan Exercise at sea, which is called MILES. This is one of the first multilateral maritime exercises on sea, which the Indian Navy organises, and six of the ten ASEAN nations participate in that exercise.

India has also helped several nations to set up their CSRs chains (coastal surveillance radar systems). We organise numerous visits and trainings at each other's Naval training institutes. We also have a revised concept of mission-based deployments. The Indian Navy since 2017 has gone on to mission-based deployments in these waters with ASEAN. We have got two deployments - one of them in the northern Bay of Bengal, and the other one is called as the Malacca deployment. Although we remain out of the waters of the littorals towards the sixth-degree channel exiting out of Malacca to the west, it is giving us tremendous benefits. Not only our presence is being felt there, we also react to any developing situation. A classic example is cyclone Mora. Last year, the Indian naval ship, which was deployed, indeed followed the cyclone in Myanmar and to Bangladesh in order to provide instant relief. India is also the member of RECAP organisation, which is a regional agreement to combat piracy. Indian naval officer is also on deputation to the RECAP information-sharing center at Singapore.

India would like to enhance both bilateral and multilateral engagements with each of the ASEAN Navy, both collectively and

individually. Similarly, white shipping information exchange is critical to maritime security. Information Fusion Center (IFC) is located at Delhi, where international license officers either physically or virtually are monitoring the white shipping. We invite ASEAN countries to visit any of our naval facilities or any of our harbours at any given time. So, visiting each other's port facilities is something that will continue to enhance, which will also enhance our ability to remain deployed at further places from the Indian coastline, promote cross-attachment of personnel and enhance interoperability. We need to continue to enhance the scope and complexity of the bilateral and multilateral exercises of course depending upon the comfort levels of each of the navies in the ASEAN region. Training has been truly the strength of the Indian Navy, and not only do we offer additional training vacancies but our aim is to depute mobile training teams.

There are several countries to which we depute mobile training teams to undertake customised training and this we intend to enhance. We also have a vibrant flag officer sea training organisation when it comes to combat workup of ships. This has been on offer to all the navies and there are a number of navies which actually utilize the first work of capability to enhance their maritime component competence. Of course, there are other areas like ship-building for capacity building of their own navies. We have got a vibrant defense R&D. These are the areas in which we look to collaborate. Other area such as hydrography is also the strength of the Indian Navy. Similarly, we now have a project panoramme, which is a 3D visualisation of weather over the sea, which we are willing to share with every ASEAN nation. So, this is what I truly think the future holds in so far as collaboration is concerned. Finally, I would like to state that today any maritime security threat is largely transnational in nature, and, as a result, it cannot be individual countries attempting to provide solutions. The solutions will always be a multilateral construct. Therefore, it is not just important, but it is inevitable for us to collaborate in the field of maritime security.







# Conceptual Framework of Indo-Pacific Region and Maritime Strategy



Shankari Sundararaman\*

This paper has looked at the significance of the definitional context of Indo-Pacific as there are several ambiguities in the definition of Indo-Pacific in terms of coverage of the geopolitics of the region. Historically, due to cultural and strategic linkages through land route and maritime links, there was a robust inter-exchange between and within the Indo-Pacific region. Therefore, the Bay of Bengal, the Andaman Sea, and the Malacca Strait are some of the strategic routes in the region that have high civilizational linkages. The Bay of Bengal was divided by the British and the Dutch. During the Anglo-Dutch Agreement in 1824, which is also called as Straits settlement, Malacca Strait was divided into the northern and the southern portions with the British expanding northwards and the Dutch expanding southwards. Besides, during the post-colonial era, the division of the landmass divided vertically as sub-units of South Asia, Southeast Asia, East Asia, and this also impacted the maritime interactions between the sub-units. Therefore, the single Indo-Pacific strategic unit, which was then divided, should be seen as a historical single strategic maritime unit for both trade and cultural exchange. Hence, the sense of the Indo-Pacific is redefined and it needs to be looked like the new geopolitical reality, rather than a new entity.

Under the Act East Policy (AEP), there would be a continued focus on India's extended neighbourhood, and, in that sense, I see three or four specific areas where the maritime domain becomes relevant. First, the Indo-Pacific region remains a diplomatic priority for India. Second, there has been a clear emphasis on ASEAN-led regionalism, where the centrality of ASEAN is remained important. Third, the Act East Policy deals with new areas of cooperation such as maritime domain

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awareness, which was not there in the Look East Policy. I think, from almost November 2015 onwards, a lot of emphasis has been given by India in its pronouncements at the diplomatic level on the importance of the maritime domain. India has begun to contribute towards regional peace and security by emphasising the importance of the global commons. In particular, the maritime initiative and the question of the global commons such as maritime security related freedom of navigation became an important component of India's pronouncements at all the international forums. India has made specifically clear the country's official position with respect to the Indian Ocean and the South China Sea. India has constantly spoken at the bilateral as well as at the multilateral levels about the rules-based order to respect the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and repeated reference especially in the context of the South China Sea, while pushing for the conclusion for the code of conduct. Even after the ruling from the Permanent Court of Arbitration, India's entire focus was on utmost respect for the law of the sea (UNCLOS). The maritime outreach under the AEP has been seen in two different areas such as Indian Ocean and the western Pacific Ocean.

The geopolitics of infrastructure with the move by China to create both the continental and the maritime outreach through the BRI and the MSR has posed challenges to the region. The Indo-Pacific order has structural unit to drive the debate on maritime security through bilateral, multilateral, trilateral, quadrilateral frameworks such as EAS, ADMM plus, etc. With the multiple avenues to work on, India and ASEAN together will be the defining order that is going to be the structural format for this region. In terms of rules-based order, we need to find how to deal with states that do not believe in following the court of arbitration. In that particular case, India and ASEAN have several challenges, which can be managed through cooperation mechanism between ASEAN and India.

India is a normative player and there is a convergence of India and ASEAN in the normative order. It is also reflected in Prime Minister Modi's speech at the Shangri-La dialogue in 2018, where he called for a free, open and inclusive rules-based maritime order. In conclusion, the focus of India shall continue to remain on the relevance of ASEAN centrality with nuanced approach to regional powers, which will be factored in the wider Indo-Pacific.





# Maritime Cooperation for India-ASEAN Partnership



**Captain Sarabjeet S. Parmar\***

Several conceptual theories have explored the understanding of the security order and its evaluation of the relative balance of power in the region, especially in the region where India and ASEAN have a long-standing mutual relationship and support each other in balancing power in the Asian region. This aspect can be best understood by the Regional Security Complex Theory (RSCT), which has divided the world into nine Regional Security Complexes (RSCs) and two proto complexes. RSCs are defined by durable patterns of amity and enmity, characterised by historical factors or the common cultural embrace of a civilisational area, derived from the interplay between the existing order and its balance of power consequences, and generation of security interdependence due to physical proximity of nations. Although the relations will change on the crossover from the Bay of Bengal to the South China Sea, as the RSCs will change from the South Asian to the East Asian RSC, nations have to work towards developing a strong security interdependence due to overlapping commonalities. Therefore, proximity is the key and we need to bridge that gap.

In so far as the South Asia and East Asia RSCs are concerned, Myanmar connects both the RSCs, and, therefore, India with Southeast Asia and the intersection comes down to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands within the South Asian RSC, and turns east to the Malacca Strait in the East Asian RSC upto Japan, extending south towards Australia. Thus, ASEAN and India converge at a point where Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand, are all members of IORA as well as ASEAN, and, therefore, we have to balance their interests in both the organisations. Myanmar will find this balance trickier as it is located in the north of

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\* *Executive Director, National Maritime Foundation (NMF), New Delhi. The views expressed are his own and do not reflect the policies or views of the Government of India or the Indian Navy.*

the Bay of Bengal and is also a member of ASEAN. In a way, Myanmar, Thailand and Indonesia are also South Asian nations. This regional proximity has resulted in ASEAN nations and India having historic and cultural linkages. In addition, India's earlier "Look" and now "Act East" policies have further strengthened the relationships. Another strong element that supports maritime cooperation between India and ASEAN is that most of the ASEAN nations are members of IONS (Indian Ocean Naval Symposium), which looks at Navy to Navy/Maritime Force engagements.

In terms of the maritime environment, the waters from the Bay of Bengal cross over the Malacca, Lombok and Sunda Straits and up to the South China Sea, which is the crucible of the Indo-Pacific. So, the maritime environment encompasses multi-dimensional space with seamless connectivity with other environments. Therefore, it is subject to insecurity and instability, inflicted through non-traditional threats. This is the reason why addressal of non-traditional threats are the cornerstone of India and ASEAN maritime cooperation.

The third constituent strategy of the Indian maritime security strategy document of 2015 looks at maintaining a favourable and positive maritime environment within India's areas of maritime interest by keeping existing threats at a low level and containing or preventing any rise in threats. This requires an understanding at the political level to facilitate ease of business and cooperation.

Seeing the mutual benefits that can arise from maritime cooperation over a large canvas, ASEAN and India should engage in maritime cooperation to preserve peace, promote stability and maintain security in their overlapping areas of interest. In line with the statement made by the Prime Minister of India at the Shangri-La Dialogue in 2018 on an free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific, the nature of non-traditional threats should be addressed through constructive engagements such as capacity building, capability enhancement, regional MDA development and maritime security operations. We, therefore, need to institutionalise maritime exercises between India and ASEAN sand other such related activities that enhance the relationship between them.





# India-ASEAN Partnership and Emerging Global Order



**Hidetoshi Nishimura\***

ERIA (Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia) is the knowledge partner of Delhi Dialogue since 2009. We have participated in this dialogue every year since 2009, and conducted our study India-ASEAN connectivity. I congratulate Amb. Shyam Saran. Under his chairmanship, ERIA developed ASEAN-India connectivity CADP part II and we are thankful for his support. While celebrating the ASEAN-India relationship, Delhi Dialogue always amplified the value and need for connectivity in areas of physical, economic, institutional, and people to people.

The current global order is faced with several challenges in the economy and geopolitical landscape. Gains of globalisation are being challenged and reversed. ASEAN-India and the entire East Asia need to provide strong support to global linkages and put the trust into multilateralism. The Delhi Dialogue is the perfect platform to send this message to the global community. This also shows reassurance of our services that our efforts are in the right direction. ASEAN's economic growth has been deriving our participation in the global value chains since 1980s. India is increasingly integrated into the global value chains through the process of liberalisation of trade and investment and improving domestic connectivity in the last few years.

ASEAN's enhanced physical and institutional connectivity is the foundation of the ASEAN regional value chain. This approach has brought peace and prosperity for ASEAN and now for India too. In fact, all Asian economies have been benefitted by trade rules of the WTO. Enabling them to increase their participation in global trade would lead to improve their income and productivity and access to better health and

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education standard for the societies. Our region survived from the global financial crisis better than other developed countries. However, ASEAN and India continue to face challenges and shocks due to globalisation. This calls for a greater commitment to multilateralism and rules-based global order. Despite improved greater physical connectivity, rising economic fences are barriers between the regions. To enhance the global and regional global value chains, ASEAN and India should work together to engage in trade and economic cooperation, which are the most effective tools for development.

ASEAN and India along with their other partners in East Asia should conclude the process of negotiation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). RCEP is the world's largest trade and economic partnership agreement. India-ASEAN relation lies in its commitment to rules-based global order. Most of the RCEP countries face political and socio-economic challenges, both internally and externally. Despite such challenges, countries are interested in engaging in the RCEP regional system that is open, rules-based and transparent. The Delhi Dialogue shall showcase the ASEAN-India commitment to multilateralism, our trust in mutual cooperation and our effort to participate in the global value chain as equal partners in the global order.

India is a strong country to whom the world listens too. ASEAN is a strong community is different from the European way of regionalism. Together ASEAN and India can be the voice of the developing world to enhance the commitment to open, rules-based and transparent global order. Delhi Dialogue is amplifying this voice.





## Rise of Asia and Change in Power Shift in the Emerging Global Order



C Rajamohan\*

There is a huge power shift between east and west, and there is a change in balance of power within Asia. For the first time in the last 40 to 50 years, there is a great power of rivalry in this region. After the US and China normalized their relations in the 1970s, the current hostility between the US and China is related with trade. Russian influence steadily declined in this part of the world. It seems that harmony between US and China provides the base for regional stability and security. China's own turn towards capitalism and integration with the western economy has provided economic prosperity to this part of the world. There is need of institution like ASEAN, which has provided a framework to harmonise different powers. Therefore, the centrality of the ASEAN, complemented (not supplemented) with bilateral, trilateral, plurilateral arrangements, shall ensure security mechanism in this part of the world.

There is a need of stronger mechanism of cooperation to maintain the rules-based order in the region to resolve the substantive differences in the interpretation of the rules in the maritime domain. The abstraction of the Indo-Pacific or abstracting the whole Asia-Pacific region is to strengthen within the sub-regional fashion. Therefore, there is a need for collaboration between India and ASEAN in order to strengthen the security in the eastern Indian Ocean, which is adjunct to the South China Sea, while, on another side, there is no territorial dispute. India's maritime exchange with Indonesia is growing and it is possible to construct a multilateral structure to strengthen eastern Indian Ocean security, which need not be limited to traditional forms of security. Because of today's health of the sea, health of ocean becomes central so the collaboration between two states. Eastern Indian Ocean and the Bay

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\* Director, Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS), Singapore.

of Bengal can actually provide a base to create an alternative model to deal with maritime issues. Besides, under the maritime domain, there are also other security issues to be addressed such as cyber space, digital warfare, cyber warfare, etc. India and ASEAN should work on cyber security to set norms for addressing the maritime security.

On the global trading order, challenges today is what US has been doing in WTO could not be taken place without backlash with globalisation, and similarly the case within the western world due to the BRIXIT. ASEAN is relatively better off in the globalisation, but, at the end, this is about politics. So to resolve the disputes on WTO or other trade-related issues it is time for politics and political leadership of all countries to have political responsibility to see its full gravity of the situation and take political judgment in restraining global trading system.

ASEAN and India need to address the technological disruptions that are taking place today. India and ASEAN have the advantages to make a contribution through collaboration. ASEAN and India are large economies, which have series of big data. Artificial Intelligence (AI) may help solve many current problems, and may help us (data richness) to overcome the current crisis. So, this data revolution gives us an unprecedented opportunity to create a new platform of cooperation between India and ASEAN. India's digital agreement with Singapore and RuPay card launch show a deep cooperation. India's comparative advantage in IT sectors and its negotiation on RCEP is not resolved yet. This problem will solve by facilitating collaboration with innovators, new enterprises that are emerging and the digital platform that is coming between India and ASEAN. In conclusion, domestic political change in the economy produces turbulence, which will lead to new sets of conflict in the regions. ASEAN and India can look at the emerging issues through mutual cooperation.





# Regionalism in the Current Global Order



**Nagesh Kumar\***

Asian countries are always very dynamic in the world, and India and China are the locomotives of the world economy. They have reached that level, and the dynamism in the past has driven the global and regional integration. China became a global factory and India became a global services hub before the global financial crisis. The global financial crisis in 2008 reduces the world growth rate, which recovered less than expected. So, the global trade crisis, and, on top of it, tendencies of unilateralism, protectionism and trade war are beginning to happen. The modelled fashioned in the past was servicing global markets or industrialised countries has changed dramatically. IMF has projected half a percentage point loss in global growth just because of the ongoing trade war alone.

There is dynamism in Asia, which we need to harvest or harness. There is also a size advantage of China, India, and Japan, the second-largest, third-largest and fifth-largest economies of the world, which are all from this region. With this dynamism, resources, size, and scale that make the region a more viable development strategy. We should work together to harness the potentiality in the region.

Regionalism is there for a very long time, but we have also learned the limitations of the regionalism. We have seen that after 30 years of existence, intraregional trade in South Asia is just 6 per cent today. With very impressive achievements in ASEAN in regional economic integration, intra-regional trade in ASEAN is even no more than 22 per cent. So, there are limitations of regionalism. In this context, we need to look at the scope of broadening of these experiments. ASEAN needs to be complimented. ASEAN was the lead in regionalism through engaging FTA within ASEAN and also with neighbouring countries such as China, India, Japan, Korea, etc. ASEAN has been driving the process of RCEP negotiation. All of these initiatives are broadening the circle of

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*\*Director, UNESCAP's South and South-West Asia Office, New Delhi.*

integration. RCEP is an important process for bringing together some of the largest and dynamic economies of the world in a single grouping.

We need to look at the potential of broadening regional integration in Asia and the Pacific. ASEAN and India need to work together to take it further. In that community-building process, ASEAN and India need to work together in many different ways. For instance, India could bring together in this community, countries from Central Asia and South Asia and other sub-regions. An interesting observation is that it is the visionary leaders of RCEP when they wrote the guiding principle of RCEP, they left an open accession clause. When the agreement will be concluded it would be seen by other countries. So, there is a great opportunity to use this potential to drive and lead to a much larger Asian Economic Community. This would be the future of the region and this could be a critical thing for 21st century to become an Asian century.

Regionalism should not be seen as a trade agreement. One needs to look at the potentiality of regionalism on many different forms like connectivity, cultural exchanges, harmonizing different rules and regulations, trade facilitation and other dimensional aspects. Sharing the development experiences between the countries and drawing upon the strength of each other may help countries to gain sustainable benefits. How Thailand, for instance, has developed the universal health coverage or the Philippines has experimented with the conditional transfer, we need to learn from those experiences. These ASEAN countries and other Asian countries can learn a lot from experiments which are happening and taking place in India like Universal Biometric Identification. It is the game changing innovation. Across the region, many innovations are happening. So we have to learn from each other and build an innovation-driven economic community along side of socio-cultural community, which is the model that ASEAN has adopted.

ASEAN and India are two developing regions that need also to pay attention to a correct template for regionalism, which should be regionalism with a human face and sustainable face. Trade agreements are today attracting a lot of backlash around the world. They are seen as cold-blooded trade deals that disrupt production processes, take away jobs and social security all that. So, when we build the Asian Economic Community, we have to be sensitive towards all of these concerns and learn from the past mistakes and make a sustainable economic community. So, this kind of approach is required to harness and build the future of the economy in Asia and Pacific. Although this transformation is going to be critical, it will make this century as really an Asian century.





## Strengthening Socio-Cultural Links between ASEAN and India



**Thant Myint U\***

One of the most amazing and intriguing things that have happened over the entire course of human history was the peaceful spread of ideas from what is today the Indian subcontinent to the lands and islands of southeast Asia; ideas about government and the management of people, about ritual and worship; ideas about ethics and the meaning of life; about communication through alphabets and the sacred languages of Pali and Sanskrit; science and maths, art and architecture.

The spread of ideas in Southeast Asia is an essential part of the past, that shaped the bronze and iron-age civilisations of two millennia ago, and that still shapes societies today. The better understanding and appreciating the great dynamic in all its complexities envisioned both ASEAN and India. Deep linkages in classical and medieval past, in particular, the interactions across the eastern edges of the Himalayas and Bay of Bengal remain hazy. In Myanmar, there is evidence of medieval Bagan kingdoms links with Pala Bengal, Orissa, and the Cholas. In this context, how we are shaping the future in term jointly the fabulous history, sharing and unlocking the knowledge of untold stories, recognising historical linkages beyond borders that leads to the peaceful process.

Several Indian and Southeast Asian scholars, historians and archeologists are deeply engaging and collaborating to expose to civilizational links. Besides, common people should also engage to know the past to have deep people-to-people contact. Therefore, apart from the contribution of academic papers and conferences, scholars should engage in a social media interaction.

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\* *Chairman, Yangon Heritage Trust, Yangon.*

In 1812, Bodawpaya the king of Burma dispatched west an embassy seeking a grand alliance against the East India Company, an embassy that traveled to Nepal, Pune, Lahore, and Delhi. Since then we have had a common experience of imperial aggression and colonial rule. In Yangon, we have an old downtown. There are familiar associations with Rudyard Kipling and George Orwell. Less known to the casual visitor are the associations with Rabindranath Tagore, Mahatma Gandhi, and Subhas Chandra Bose, all of whom spent formative time in Burma. I see no reason why this shared heritage in Rangoon should not be commemorated together. We have over 1,000 pre-WW2 buildings of which are parts of this shared heritage, of colonial rule and the rise and ultimate triumph of anti-colonial movements. We can make this landscape a physical centerpiece of a new historical project. Edwardian complex in Rangoon can be considered to use as a new museum of colonialism.

There are boundless opportunities for the Northeast and Myanmar to develop jointly as a hinge between the great region of Asia, economic opportunities, opportunities for development and growth. But, there are opportunities as well to recover our shared pasts. There is a lot more to explore even by the border communities to know more about each other's commonalities in terms of culture, language, and way of life. Schoolchildren (and most adults) in Myanmar will know only about the exploits of kings and their invasions of Manipur and Assam in the 18th and 19th centuries. They will know next to nothing about the peoples and cultures of northeast India and the long histories of peaceful interaction. But neither do the rest of us. Again, there is still so much to learn, which we can learn together. Therefore, in addition to physical connectivity such as roads and railways, ports and airports, there should also be people-to-people contact that could bridge the mind.





# Historical Connection between ASEAN and India



**Rajesh Purohit\***

India and Southeast Asian countries are historically deeply connected, but the knowledge on historical linkages are not widely familiar with the young generation. Newer generation should know the value of the historical and cultural connections between ASEAN and India through social media, visuals, text books and other mechanisms.

Sanskrit was spread not only in Southeast Asia but also in different parts of the world. So, it is needed to revamp this language either in Southeast Asia or India as the Sanskrit language has everything that others do not have. How can we revive this language in its original form which gave us Kautilya Arthashastra, Vedic Sastra or Mahabharata? We have to create the interest among the younger generations by educating them. We can build a new India, where we can re-establish our emotional relationship with our neighbours.

The concept of political structure was based on the Indian concept of divine kingship, which is depicted as well in epics like Ramayana and Mahabharata. In Mahabharata, it was described what should be the role and responsibility of a King. Southeast Asia, ruled by the kings, followed the role model of the epics character Lord Ram, who was a king and his kingdom is called Ramrajya, where he delivered justice to the people and these wonderful stories inspired the people of Southeast Asia. The well-known Kalinga War and its after effects changed the soul and mind of King Ashoka, which helped to spread the Buddhism across Southeast Asia later. Similarly, Sanghamitra and Mahendra travelled from India to Sri Lanka and Southeast Asia.

History revealed that Southeast Asia had welcomed Indian culture. In anthropological language, culture is never imposed on others.

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\* Director, Indian Museum, Kolkata.

Culture has three important elements: one is the availability of raw material (religious practices are dependent on the availability of raw material. Otherwise, culture is not sustained). Second is adaptability (the adaptability of new things). People of Southeast Asia accepted the idea and gladly practiced it and that is why, for the longer duration the culture persists in the region. Third, Southeast Asia appreciated all the ideas that went from India. However, when the trade started with Southeast Asia, India learnt many things from Southeast Asia as well. For example, the print called Batik was brought from Bali to India.

People should explore new areas in Southeast Asia, where excavation is not done yet. Restoration of Ankor Wat and other temples are well-known. However, concerned authority of each side may rebuild or revamp the structures so that this beautiful blending of culture can sustain for a longer time. Secondly, cultural exchange like exchange of students can come from ASEAN countries to our country and learn these things. This should be introduced in their syllabus in respective educational systems. As we do in our courses, Southeast Asian countries can do similar things by introducing it in their own courses. Thirdly, more such conferences should be organised to bridge the gap between modern generation and past generation, which will help us bring our neighbours closer. These will also help us in terms of tourism, pharmaceutical and herbal medicine because Southeast Asia's biodiversity is very rich, and medicinal knowledge that India has from the Sanskrit time can be revived in Southeast Asia. Lastly, we should facilitate Buddhist tourism in India. The states like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, and West Bengal can be built as a hub for Buddhist tourists.





## North East Forging Connectivity between ASEAN and India



**Gautam Mukhopadhyay\***

Northeastern Region of India (NER) plays a significant role in forging connectivity with the ASEAN. Connectivity in terms of physical, economic, cultural and emotional linkages has strengthened the relationship with ASEAN. However, there are challenges such as the geographical and political challenges. The distinguishing feature of Northeast is that all river flow into the Bay of Bengal, thereby suggesting the natural economy follows the natural topography. The economies in this region are still facing the geographical barriers in their growth paths. The political situation of India with neighboring countries of NER has changed dramatically. The relationship with Bangladesh and Myanmar has greatly improved. The new Act East Policy (AEP) has taken a new shape. Hence, it enables the region to transcend the geographical and political barriers in order to achieve economic prosperity.

I would suggest eight priority areas to deepen the relationship between ASEAN and India. Education and health should be the top priority areas to be focused on by setting up an institution for Southeast Asian studies and languages in the northeast region, develop a strong university to university linkage, particularly with high-end technical institutes with ASEAN countries

Given the cultural diversity and strong civilisational linkages between India and ASEAN, culture and tourism should be the priority areas to promote cultural exchanges and encourage tourism activities. A large number of tourists are coming from Myanmar to NER despite the lack of air connectivity. Therefore, both India and ASEAN should fill the infrastructure gap and endorse the complementarities between the regions in tourism.

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\*Former Indian Ambassador to Myanmar.

Infrastructural development on information and communication technology (ICT) is growing in NER. In particular, Agartala has the third fiber optical gateway of 10 gbps. Besides, many IT professionals from NER have been working across India. Indian government should take some initiatives in developing ITeS environments, particularly in Guwahati. These initiatives would lead to make NER as IT Gateway that would attract the market from ASEAN and other East Asian region.

Southeast Asian cities like Singapore, Jakarta, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur and other cities are the leading examples of urban development. NER can learn from ASEAN in terms of urban development design, sanitation, recreational facilities that could improve the quality of the urban environment.

Connectivity is another priority area, where several ongoing projects are at the finishing stage. Trilateral Highway is under construction. Rih - Zokhawthar in Mizoram is another border trade potential route. The road from Churachandpur to Shillong is being surveyed and developed. We need to develop Tidim Road.

NER should be the hub for air connectivity. The airline companies should promote connectivity, particularly with Southeast Asia. The Ministry of Civil Aviation of India should find out a way to develop air connectivity between NER and Southeast Asia.

Agriculture and trade in agro-industry has contributed almost 70 per cent of the livelihood in the NER. Other GMS countries such as Vietnam depend on the agriculture, livestock, fisheries, and forest products. We have to develop a SME corridor from NER and all the way to Vietnam by utilising the existing infrastructure and planned infrastructure, largely based on the locally produced goods which are essentially the primary products. This does not need big investment. But, with fractional investment and engagement, we can create SME clusters, starting from Guwahati and all the way to Thailand, Vietnam and rest of CLMV countries.

The Government of India should be proactive in outward investment policies. Most of the efforts in India are for inward investment through 'Make in India'. We shall focus on outward investment through Southeast Asia keeping NER as a hub. If we invest in developing the SME clusters, it would benefit the people of the region in both NER and Southeast Asia. In the process of SME clusters, large scale enterprises can contribute to energy, infrastructure, connectivity, and water resources development projects.





# E-Commerce and Digital Connectivity in ASEAN and India



**Vikram Singh\***

ASEAN has huge opportunities in the e-commerce viability given increasing literacy rate in the Philippines and Indonesia for about 95 to 97 per cent compared to India of about 70 to 75 per cent. In terms of physical infrastructure, ASEAN countries like Singapore, Indonesia, and the Philippines have improved the bandwidth and internet connectivity in the range of 30 to 160 mbps. Therefore, both skill development and infrastructure development have enabled e-commerce successfully in ASEAN countries. IT industry in ASEAN is also dynamic in supporting and leveraging the e-commerce with the penetration of 53 per cent of the overall population, compared to India, where the internet penetration is about 34 per cent. There is still a huge gap in the information technology-enabled services (ITeS) industry to embark upon. Therefore, both ASEAN and India may consider to work collectively.

Regulatory compliance should also facilitate to encourage investment in the digital economy. Therefore, both ASEAN and India should learn from each other to adopt best practices in order to ensure a business-friendly environment. Leading MNCs are investing heavily in the e-commerce sector, expecting the future scope of the wide market, focusing on countries in Asia and Africa with the growing e-commerce penetration of 40-45 per cent.

The experience of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) in holding office in ASEAN countries particularly in the Philippines has lot to offer. TCS is the part of the Tata Group that has over 100 companies in seven different sectors, present in over 100 countries with group revenue of more than US\$ 100 Billion. Its workforce is almost 700,000 worldwide. The group's thrust is to always give back to the communities it operates

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\* Country Manager, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), The Philippines.

in and to stakeholders via education, health, and environmental causes. In the Philippines, there are three Tata companies: Tata Consultancy Services, Tata Motors, and Tata Communications. Tata Consultancy Services is a publicly listed company with over 380,000 associates, present in 45 countries and is one of the top IT companies in the world. In the Philippines, TCS began its operations in 2008. We service the top corporations in the country in digital transformation. We started with less than 30 associates. Now, we have over 4,000 workforces, which include 98 per cent of Filipinos and more than half are women. We instill the TCS way of life in our associates – living the ‘Fit4Life’ and ‘Purpose4Life’ advocacies, wherein associates devote time to education, environment, and health outreach programs and regular exercise.

Outside the company, TCS partners with universities to drive IT and digital through educational and training programmes. These are just some of the examples of how we give back to our communities and stakeholders. TCS Philippines is one of the major players in the Philippine IT-BPM industry. Outsourcing is now the third-largest contributor to the Philippines’ GDP. About 10 years ago, the size of the BPO industry was in the US\$ 3-4 billion dollar revenue range. Today, it draws nearly US\$ 25 billion in revenue and is projected to reach US\$ 39 billion by 2022. It has become a key sector and a leading driver of the Philippine economy.

Currently, the outsourcing industry employs 1.2 million Filipinos and is projected to recruit almost two million full-time employees in coming five years. With this growth surge, the challenge is human capital development. The Philippines will continue to be an outsourcing destination, thereby fueling endless opportunities. The Philippines is the third-largest English-speaking country, which has a vast talent pool of 40 million plus, produces over half a million graduates every year, and has a literacy rate of 96.6 per cent, among the highest in the world. A need is to fill in human capital gaps by upgrading the Philippines’ talent ecosystem. There is a need to ensure the Filipinos are future-ready; that graduates are equipped with skills to be employable and productive in this day and age. Human capital development not only improves productivity but makes growth sustainable. There is a huge opportunity in both ASEAN and India in the digital economy, which can be capitalized through mutual cooperation.





# E-commerce and Digital Connectivity: Developing an India-ASEAN E-Commerce Platform



Shouvik K. Majumdar\*  
Soham Sinha\*\*

India and ASEAN have long-standing cultural, political and economic ties. India and ASEAN member countries are each other's key trading partners, investors and have shared goals of economic growth and regional prosperity (Ministry of External Affairs, 2018). According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), India is the fastest-growing economy in the world in 2019, with a growth rate of 7.3 per cent.<sup>1</sup> The ASEAN is currently the seventh-largest economy in the world and by 2030; it is expected to become the fourth-largest economy in the world (KPMG, 2018).

A young population, rising disposable incomes of consumers, urbanisation, increasing internet penetration, growing digitalisation and government support for digitalisation and technology development in both India and ASEAN member countries have led to double-digit growth of e-commerce (KPMG and FICCI, 2019). The e-commerce sector in India and ASEAN are expected to reach US\$ 165.5 billion and US\$ 90 billion by 2025. All major sectors in India and ASEAN member countries are expected to digitise by 2025 and there is significant cross-country investment in digital technology including e-commerce (for example, see KPMG and FICCI, 2019; Mukherjee, Kapoor and Sarma, 2018; Giap, Amri, Ahmad and Lavi, 2018). Several initiatives have been taken by India, ASEAN, and its member states to promote digitalisation and e-commerce and enhance cross-country trade and collaboration in this area. For example, ASEAN countries adopted the "ASEAN Work Programme on Electronic Commerce 2017-2025" in 2017 and they signed

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[This is a shorter version of the paper that authors presented at the DDX. The original version is available on request from the authors or the ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS.]

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the “ASEAN Agreement on Electronic Commerce” in 2018. Further, one of the core objectives of both Indian and governments of ASEAN countries is to support and promote industry 4.0 so that it supports the digitalisation process and technology development on one hand and ensures that digitalisation helps socio-economic development and enable small and medium-sized businesses to access global clients in an era of global value chains (see OECD, 2017; Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, 2018).

Given this, the paper examines how India and ASEAN can collaborate in e-commerce to attain their objective of promoting more trade and investments and collaborations and support the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to reach each other’s market through an India-ASEAN e-commerce platform.

## Definitions and Models of E-Commerce

As per the World Trade Organization’s (WTO) work programme on electronic commerce, “electronic commerce” involves the production, distribution, marketing, sale, or delivery of goods and services by electronic means.<sup>2</sup> The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) defines “e-commerce” as anything that involves conducting electronic transactions, i.e. the sale or purchase of goods or services, whether between businesses, households, individuals, governments, and other public or private organisations, conducted online.<sup>3</sup>

There are two operational models of e-commerce namely the market-place based model and the inventory-based model (for details see Figure 1). These models determine how the firm is going to provide the product or the service electronically.

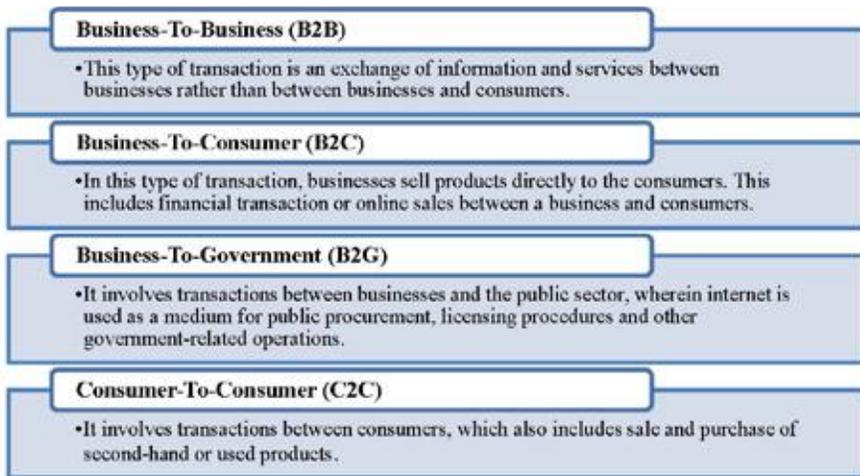
**Figure 1: Market Place and Inventory Based Models of E-Commerce**

Market Place Based Model	Market Place Based Model
An information technology platform is provided by an e-commerce entity on a digital and electronic network to act as a facilitator between buyer and seller. Marketplaces are platforms that enable a large, fragmented base of buyers and sellers to discover price and transact with one another in an environment that is efficient and transparent (example: Alibaba Group Holding Limited).	Based on a model where inventory of goods and services is owned by e-commerce entity and is sold to the consumers directly. The main feature of inventory model is that the customer buys the product from the e-commerce firm (example: Flipkart).

Source: Mukherjee and Kapoor (2018)

E-commerce transactions can involve enterprises, households, individuals, governments, and other public and private organisations. Based on the agents or entities involved, there are different models of e-commerce transactions (see Figure 2). In terms of size, global the B2B market valued at around US\$25.1 trillion, was the largest e-commerce market in 2017 and the B2C market valued at US\$3.9 trillion, saw the highest growth of around 77 per cent (from US\$2.2 trillion in 2015)<sup>4</sup> and therefore, is the fastest growing market in e-commerce. The value of global cross-border B2C sales was estimated to be around US\$412 billion, which accounts for almost 11 per cent of total B2C sales in e-commerce.<sup>5</sup>

**Figure 2: Different Models of E-commerce Transactions**



*Source:* Compiled from WTO (2013)

Conducting business through e-commerce involves multiple players. It includes express companies and service providers like FedEx Corporation and Deutsche Post AG (DHL), payment gateways like PayPal and RuPay, data analytics companies, to name a few. E-commerce platforms can be for goods transaction or for the services delivery. Examples of services e-commerce platforms include Make My Trip, Yatra, Expedia and Viator and for goods are Amazon, e-Bay, Flipkart and Tokopedia.

## Overview of the E-commerce Sector in India and ASEAN

India and ASEAN are among the fastest-growing e-commerce markets in the world. There were close to 481 million internet users and 120 million digital buyers in India and close to 390 million internet users

and 87.2 million digital buyers in ASEAN in the year 2018 (KPMG and FICCI (2019)).

In India, e-commerce sales were estimated at US\$400 billion in 2017.<sup>6</sup> As of 2017, with a share of 91 per cent and a value of US\$ 369 billion, the Indian market is largely dominated by B2B transactions. However, B2C transactions (growing at a rate of 40 per cent) are currently the fastest-growing segment of e-commerce in India. B2C transactions in India were valued at US\$ 31 billion in 2017 and are expected to reach a value of US\$ 200 billion by 2027.<sup>7</sup> Some of the goods traded through e-commerce include consumer electronics items which account for a share of 47 per cent, apparel products (31 per cent), kitchenware (8 per cent), books (7 per cent), and beauty products (2 per cent).<sup>8</sup>

There is no official data on the growth of the e-commerce market in ASEAN. As per Credit Suisse (2018), the e-commerce market in ASEAN is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 32 per cent to reach US\$ 90 billion by 2025. According to another source, over the past three years, it has been the most dynamic sector of the digital economy accounting for close to US\$ 11 billion in gross merchandise value (GMV) in 2017, exceeding US\$ 23 billion in 2018. By comparison, in 2015, the sector's size was only US\$ 5.5 billion. This shows that the sector has grown at a CAGR of 62 per cent over the period.<sup>9</sup> Malaysia and Singapore account for over 50 per cent of the total cross border e-commerce market. Close to 40 per cent of online sales in Malaysia and 55 per cent of all online sales in Singapore are accounted for by cross border transactions.<sup>10</sup>

Most of the e-commerce market in ASEAN countries is driven by the presence of shopping portals like Alibaba-owned Lazada (based in Singapore), Shopee (based in Singapore) and Tokopedia (based in Indonesia). Collectively, they have grown more than seven times in size since 2015.

In terms of trade, cross-border B2C sales were valued at US\$ 412 billion in 2017. The United States (US) and China were the largest exporters and together accounted for cross-border B2C sales valued at US\$ 181 billion.<sup>11</sup> While the US and China are the largest exporters of e-commerce and have large companies that have globalised, India and ASEAN are the fastest-growing markets for e-commerce and are trying to develop this sector to enable their companies to globalise.

## Regulatory Environment and Government Support for E-Commerce

In India, e-commerce sector is governed by policies of multiple regulatory bodies like Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), Reserve Bank of India (RBI), National Institute for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI). The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the MoCI came up with the Draft E-Commerce Policy on 23 February 2019.<sup>12</sup> As of 3 May 2019, MoCI is holding consultations with MEITY, TRAI, and other bodies and is also seeking inputs from industry on the policy. The industry has raised a certain objection to this policy including those related to restriction on foreign direct investment in the inventory-based model, data localisation requirements and data storage requirements. Despite the concerns, the industry has collectively praised the focus of the policy on Indian SMEs to boost cross-border exports through e-commerce. On 6 April 2018, the RBI came up with a notification and a directive on buying of crypto currencies<sup>13</sup> and storage of payment data.<sup>14</sup> The industry raised certain objections but is trying to adhere to these regulations. In addition, on 21 March 2018, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare also came up with a draft Digital Information Security in Healthcare Act (DISHA) to safeguard e-health records and patients' privacy.<sup>15</sup> Also, post the Sri Krishna Committee Report on data protection law<sup>16</sup>, it has released the Draft Personal Data Protection Bill in 2018.<sup>17</sup> Thus, a number of regulations are underway which aims to ensure data privacy and protection, enable domestic e-commerce companies to grow and provide platforms for SMEs to access the global market.

In most of the ASEAN countries, the e-commerce policies regulated are by their respective Ministries of Trade and Industry. The ASEAN has endorsed the "ASEAN Digital Integration Framework"<sup>18</sup> in 2018. The aim of this framework is to enable ASEAN countries to compete more effectively and bridge the digital gap with the global economy. They also adopted the "ASEAN Work Programme on Electronic Commerce 2017-2025" in 2017. The work programme covers several different aspects of e-commerce. This includes infrastructure, education and technology competency, consumer protection, modernisation of the legal framework, security of electronic transactions, competition, logistics, and an e-commerce framework.<sup>19</sup> The e-commerce framework under the work programme covers the "ASEAN Agreement on E-Commerce"<sup>20</sup>, which was signed at the 50th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting in

2018. The aim of this agreement is to advance trade rules in e-commerce and build greater digital connectivity in the region by 2025.

While India, ASEAN and its member states have come up with several initiatives to promote e-commerce and enable SMEs to access global clients through e-commerce, at the same time there are differences among the views across countries on consumer protection and data privacy, mandatory data localization requirement, etc. In spite of this, India, ASEAN and its member states want to have e-commerce platform to support start-ups, growth of SMEs and their access to global markets. India and ASEAN are also negotiating the nuances of the e-commerce chapter under the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). In this context, it is an opportune moment for both India and ASEAN to collaborate with each other and make use of the funds allocated under various policies and frameworks to develop a joint e-commerce platform which will be self-sustainable and can address the key issues faced by the SMEs in both markets, help them to become competitive and globalise. This will also increase bilateral trade investment and collaborations.

### **The Way Forward: India ASEAN E-Commerce Platform**

Studies (see Rahayu and Day, 2015; Choe, 2016; Chiu et al., 2014) have shown that there are several benefits of an e-commerce platform, especially for SMEs. E-commerce has a lower cost of entry compared to traditional businesses, requires less staff, and firms can reach their customers directly by cutting down on intermediaries. They are also able to acquire a lot of information on their customer purchase behaviour. It helps SMEs to reach global customers at a lower cost and consumers can access and compare a wide range of products and services, purchase from any location and at any time according to their convenience, and get the product delivered to the place of their choice. However, SMEs in India and ASEAN face the following issues (also see EY, 2018; ADB, 2015; OECD, 2018) in accessing each other's market:

- Identify business partners
- Lack of knowledge of the market
- Difficulties in brand promotion and marketing
- Lack of knowledge of the regulations and requirements in the importing country.

The India ASEAN joint e-commerce platform can provide the followings:

- List of industry association and business directory by sector and activities which help to identify partners

- Information on regulation, incentives and how to claim the incentives
- Information on events, fairs and activities
- Import and Export requirements at 8-digit Harmonised System (HS) Codes
- Education, training and certification (upon completion of training) to SMEs
- Single Window System (SWS) for data sharing and analytics that could be used to implement risk management systems by SMEs

In addition, the platform should have self-service modules to answer queries and provide clarifications. It should have a 24X7 query resolution facility. SMEs can be encouraged to do product story creation and upload their success stories.

To begin with, India and ASEAN can build on cultural synergies and common aspects like ethnic artefacts, handicrafts, and local products to create an e-commerce platform that can increase market access for SMEs from local to global consumers. This can help to promote tourism which India and ASEAN are focusing on as part of their joint initiatives. There can be initial funding through the India-ASEAN joint government initiative for such a platform but in the long run, the platform can be made sustainable through fees that are charged from the users in different monetisation models such as transaction fees, commissions and advertisement charges.

Innovative start-ups from India and ASEAN can form a consortium to develop the platform. There is scope for engagement of data analytics companies, payment companies, logistics companies, advertising, and marketing companies to use this platform to offer services. This will create jobs, investment, and an increase in trade flows and reduce barriers for MSMEs to join global value chains. To conclude, this platform aims to enhance India-ASEAN trade collaborations in industry 4.0 and it will be a pioneering initiative in developing such a platform through government-private partnerships. The essence of the platform would be rooted in economic and socio-cultural co-operation that would encourage India-ASEAN collaborations in new areas and showcase the intentions of the two economies to promote and support innovative e-commerce initiatives.

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> For example, refer economic times (2019)

<sup>2</sup> Refee, [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/ecom\\_e/ecom\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/ecom_e/ecom_e.htm) (accessed on 28 April 2019)

- <sup>3</sup> Refer, <http://www.oecd.org/internet/ieconomy/2771174.pdf> (accessed on 28 April 2019)
- <sup>4</sup> For details, see [https://unctad.org/es/paginas/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=1281&Sitemap\\_x0020\\_Taxonomy=Infor3851mation%20and%20Communication%20Technologies](https://unctad.org/es/paginas/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=1281&Sitemap_x0020_Taxonomy=Infor3851mation%20and%20Communication%20Technologies) (last accessed April 5, 2019)
- <sup>5</sup> Refer, <https://unctad.org/en/pages/PressRelease.aspx?OriginalVersionID=505> (accessed on 29 April 2019)
- <sup>6</sup> For details, see <https://unctad.org/en/pages/PressRelease.aspx?OriginalVersionID=505> (last accessed April 5, 2019)
- <sup>7</sup> For details see <https://www.ibef.org/industry/ecommerce-presentation> (last accessed April 4, 2019)
- <sup>8</sup> For details, see <https://www.ibef.org/download/Ecommerce-March-2018.pdf> (accessed on 28 April 2019)
- <sup>9</sup> Source: <https://etradeforall.org/asean-e-commerce-set-to-dominate-the-region-in-2019/> (accessed on 1 May 2019)
- <sup>10</sup> Refer <https://www.payvision.com/downloads/cross-border-ecommerce-in-asian-markets-singapore-and-malaysia.pdf> (accessed on 1 May 2019)
- <sup>11</sup> Refer <https://unctad.org/en/pages/PressRelease.aspx?OriginalVersionID=505> (accessed on 2 May 2019)
- <sup>12</sup> Refer, [https://dipp.gov.in/sites/default/files/DraftNational\\_e-commerce\\_Policy\\_23February2019.pdf](https://dipp.gov.in/sites/default/files/DraftNational_e-commerce_Policy_23February2019.pdf) (accessed 1 May 2019)
- <sup>13</sup> Refer <https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11243&Mode=0%20DBR.No.BP.BC.104%20/08.13.102/2017-18> (accessed on 2 May 2019)
- <sup>14</sup> Refer <https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11244> (accessed on 2 May 2019)
- <sup>15</sup> Refer <https://mohfw.gov.in/newshighlights/comments-draft-digital-information-security-health-care-actdisha> (accessed on 2 May 2019/)
- <sup>16</sup> Refer [https://meity.gov.in/writereaddata/files/Data\\_Protection\\_Committee\\_Report.pdf](https://meity.gov.in/writereaddata/files/Data_Protection_Committee_Report.pdf) (accessed on 3 May 2019)
- <sup>17</sup> Refer [https://meity.gov.in/writereaddata/files/Personal\\_Data\\_Protection\\_Bill,2018.pdf](https://meity.gov.in/writereaddata/files/Personal_Data_Protection_Bill,2018.pdf) (accessed on 3 May 2019)
- <sup>18</sup> Refer <https://asean.org/storage/2019/01/ASEAN-Digital-Integration-Framework.pdf> (accessed on 1 May 2019)
- <sup>19</sup> Refer <https://asean.org/asean-economic-community/sectoral-bodies-under-the-purview-of-aem/e-commerce/> (accessed on 1 May 2019)
- <sup>20</sup> Refer <https://www.asean2018.sg/Newsroom/Press-Releases/Press-Release-Details/-/media/B2A50AA039624C18865B6A5C9532F4ED.ashx>. (accessed 2 May 2019)





## Challenges in Urbanisation



**Jonathan Tow\***

Developing smart cities is one of the key pillars in Singapore, which has been essentially defined as resilient and innovative way to face complex global challenges. ASEAN should set up a body to face the challenges such as terrorism, cyber threats, natural disasters and promoting a rules-based order. There are several innovations in both ASEAN and India in the areas of e-commerce, smart cities, and digital revolution, where both can find the synergies to help each other to build on a more innovative approach. In the next 20-30 years, more than two-thirds of the world would live in cities and when we break down these cities into middle-weight cities between two hundred thousand to two million, which are going to drive up to 40 per cent of the region's growth. So, smart cities and how applies to urbanisation is something that we need to think about seriously.

Singapore as the ASEAN chair in 2018 has proposed some suggestions about how we could work closer together. Urbanisation is rapidly increasing. Therefore, if the policy makers do not pay attention to the third-tier city, it would any time soon become a second-tier city, which requires even more attention to the infrastructure development. Therefore, identify various technological platforms that could help in the delivery of public services and improve quality of life.

ASEAN is a very diverse group, which has unique feature in cities in terms of standards and platforms that can interoperate together through smart cities. We propose an ASEAN smart cities network, which has been one of the key priorities to drive regional development. ASEAN leaders have adopted a set of 26 pilot cities that were proposed to create

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\* Director General of the South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa Directorate in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore. Views are author's own.

interoperability amongst these cities, and from this cities network we shall design a framework that can help establish the key principles of developing smart cities.

Singapore has been collaborating with Andhra Pradesh for the development of India's 29<sup>th</sup> state capital city in Amravati. Singapore-India cooperation has also enhanced to develop smart cities in other states, provide capacity building to share experiences with 100 Indian urban officials across India to look at how we could gain from some of our experiences, among others It was a very successful outcome because each of the hundred officials that came for the programme actually took on specific practical projects from their own cities and their own states, which really helped both Singapore and India to understand the challenges of urbanization. It has also helped Singapore to understand how India and ASEAN can work together in this ASEAN smart cities network. In a way, both ASEAN and India have synergises in terms of connecting and developing smart cities network.





# India's Smart Cities Mission



**Kunal Kumar\***

Urbanisation is one of the three-issue faced by the world today apart from energy and climate change. The impact of urbanisation leads to climate change. Most of the urbanisation has bene taking place in Africa, India, and South Asia, and progress of urbanisation in these countries will result in global urbanization, energy and climate change pattern going forward. These are basic issues which require deep thinking. In the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, the government has been trying to address issues related to urban growth and urban diversification. We have Swatch Bharat programme, which aims the cities to be cleaner. Besides, we are also working on 'Housing for All' that aims to provide affordable housing to the millions of people that cannot afford it otherwise. In the smart cities mission, where we are looking at certain set of cities, i.e. 100 cities, we have introduced an integrated action plan for those cities that could bridge new urbanisation and make ease of living for citizens. The smart city mission is unique in terms of completion of projects in time for the selected 100 cities, which are selected through a fair competition.

The smart city programme is decided by people and managed by the city manager and mission across the country. The mission is based on two-level of activities. One is city development framework where we try to solve issues with technologies that the issues faced by the cities. Second is area based development approach, where we look at the different areas of a city like the greenfield, retro finding or redevelopment kind of initiatives that are taken holistic and transformative way to create a model that replicates across the cities. Problems in the cities are very complex, multi-dimensional and move at different levels. These could be water, traffic or environment related. Therefore, we have to factor

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*\*Joint Secretary & Mission Director, Smart Cities, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, India. Views are author's own.*

in the level of complexity in the project formulation. By categorise the problems, we may solve them in a simpler and an integrated way. In the financial landscape, so far US\$ 30 billion projects are identified in various 100 cities and they are at different phases of implementation.

Financially one sixth of projects are in-ground, whereas another one-fifth are at various levels of implementation and rest are in planning. Three years' work is already done, and two to three years works are left. For some cases, which are selected this year, may take about five years to deliver these baskets of projects. We are working on command and control centers. Use of non-renewable energies or the energy that are more sustainable, managing water resources, base water preservation, partnership-based approach in project formulation, public-private partnership, development of parks, water storage, heritage, urban spaces to place making, etc., are the various issues that are being addressed under the centers. Ease of Living, Connected Communities, Smart Governance, Urban Resilience are some of the things that require for developing smart cities. Technology is being used in the education sector and also as a running management tool in the cities of India. Educating the community especially the urban youth from slums for conserving the city and its cultural heritage is very important for building smart cities in India. Setting up command and control centers will help in enabling the security of cities, management of public transport, conservation of buildings and safety of the citizens.





# Trade and Investment Relations between ASEAN and India



**Rita Teotia\***

In 2018, we have started with the ASEAN-India Investment and Business Summit and Expo and series of events that have focus on trade, business and investment relations as run up to the ASEAN-India Summit. We have followed with an informal mini-ministerial WTO meeting, hosted at Delhi on 20th March 2018. This was attended by 52 WTO members. In WTO, there has been an overwhelming presence of the ASEAN members. This shows India's growing and active participation with ASEAN countries and also reflects the mutual collaboration that has began to develop across a wide range of issues and strengthen our mutual commitments to multilateralism. The commitments that India and ASEAN have shown continuously through multilateral and plurilateral arrangements are a combined voice in the world today against protectionism.

ASEAN is the most integrated region that has taken place in the post-World War II. Through the process of dialogue and reconciliation, ASEAN was able to create a peaceful and stable environment in the region, and helped millions of its people to come out from poverty to lead a decent prosperous life.

The other big success story that we look at ASEAN is well-developed infrastructure which is a worthy example of emulating. These substantial infrastructures, were developed in ASEAN at substantially lower costs. Today, most developing countries are also incurring similar initiatives. ASEAN has achieved a greater level of competitiveness and seamless movements of goods for people across the region. These lower logistic costs have enabled ASEAN products to be competitive in global markets. It is also reflected in the growing intra-ASEAN trade, which is about 40

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\*Commerce Secretary, India. Views are author's own.

per cent today. In comparison, when we look at the South Asia region, the total trade is about 5 per cent. On the logistics side, this government is extremely committed in terms of infrastructure in domestic market and in the context of our neighbourhood. The Ministry of Commerce & Industry is also planning to set up a separate division to focus on multi-modal logistics efficiency. Mostly, we are looking at the regularity framework of the infrastructure, the rules and procedures that are in place and to provide common platform and architecture that will enable much greater efficiency. Our trade facilitation group is concentrated on the infrastructure gap, the regularity and legal requirements, the procedural simplifications that are necessary to enable India to build the bridge in terms of logistics efficiency and trade facilitation.

Complementing this seamless connectivity, ASEAN has developed global value chains where sourcing and selling are much easier through internet-based technologies and e-commerce platforms. We see ASEAN as a natural partner of our economic growth and a trusted partner of our supply chains, which are being developed under the 'Make in India' initiative. It would be, therefore, probably a logical explanation to effectively link with ASEAN's regional value chain in order to create greater gains for our region. We expect that the nature of our business would change in the near future. The family-run businesses will undergo some changes, and will have more and more joint ventures with the ASEAN enterprises. This collaborative model should be welcomed as they will bring professionalism, competitiveness and enable more integration with global markets. Some uncertainty comes in the current moment at a time when the global trade is in turmoil and the rules-based multilateralism is being challenged. The US-China trade war is beginning to emerge which will have cascading effects on many countries even though they may not directly connected with it. Collateral damage has far-reaching consequences on the global economy. In the integrated world, global supply chains are well infringed, thereby making the products competitive in the market. In such a situation, a large number of people would be hit even in domestic front by country's adoption of protectionism. It is apparent that no one is a winner, but everyone will be looser due to trade war. The capacity to make adjustments and alternative resources cannot be underestimated and this is an effort that increasing number of countries are beginning to make. China is the biggest buyer in the world, sources auto components from other countries including India and ASEAN because of the proximity. Prolong trade war will damage each economy that is the part of the global trade.

India-ASEAN FTA is one of the most comprehensive agreements signed in 2010. The APTA is an older agreement, but it has limited market access because it only focuses goods. Similarly, we have a regional arrangement with MERCOSUR, which is a regional PTA and also focuses on goods. We have a more comprehensive agreement with Singapore, Malaysia, Japan and Korea. At present, India is looking towards Latin America, Africa, CIS, Middle East markets. Some of our engagements and agreements reflect this shift. However, trade agreements are best to utilise when they do not contradict fundamental positions and do not destabilise such positions.

We believe that the proposed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) would take forward our Act East Policy further with the countries that complement the greater economic growth, development and prosperity. India has recognised the centrality of ASEAN in the RCEP negotiations. We stand committed and constructive engagement in this negotiation for an early and fruitful conclusion. We already have 22 rounds of negotiations and the 23rd round is coming next. There has been an active engagement both at the experts' level and ministerial level. Since the Manila Summit, the RCEP ministers and negotiators have intensified the efforts to bring the RCEP negotiations into a logical conclusion. The ministerial meeting held in July 2018 had taken decision on quite a few important issues. The concern areas are that an FTA cannot be one-sided. Comparative advantages, sensitivity and ambition of member countries would have to give due recognition to achieve a balance. Leaving services and investment at the low-level ambition does not auger well for an agreement that seeks to be comprehensive. RCEP would be incomplete if the service sectors are not sufficiently liberalised as services have contributed more than 50 per cent of the GDP in all the RCEP countries. Liberalisation of services is also imperative at a time when the world is going through the sluggish recovery plan by unsettling trade war. The way forward for RECP must collectively ensure that it will achieve balanced and equitable outcome that may enable inclusive gains for all 16 member countries. RCEP must balance the aspiration with sensitivities taking into account the diverse circumstances of the participating countries. Necessary action has been allowed countries to adapt and adjust to the challenges of an impending regional integration.

Look at the issue of investments. The growth, even in the current rate of 7 per cent, may take India to US\$ 5 trillion economy in the near future. We have an ambitious project to achieve US\$ 1 trillion exports. Commensurate with our current growth, we believe that Indian

investment will begin to flow where the markets give peaceful and reasonable returns. The ASEAN region fulfils these conditions and would be a more attractive destination for India's outbound foreign direct investments. Therefore, enhancing foreign direct investment flow between two regions is the major factor to enable the integration of economies through the global and regional value chains. Connectivity with the ASEAN region such as transportation and custom cooperation is crucial for deepening the integration. We share a land border with Myanmar. The Kaladan Multi-Modal Project and India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway are being developed. The majority of India's current outflows in the ASEAN region go in services primarily in banking, finance, information technology, and IT-enabled services. ASEAN presents India an attractive business environment with a low tax regime, access to capital and excellent infrastructure. About 2000 Indian companies are already operating and 22 per cent of India's global outward FDI stock has been held in ASEAN. The services industry constitutes 60 per cent of India's total cumulative investment of about US\$ 53.3 billion from 2005 to 2015. Manufacture accounts for 32 per cent and rest are in primary sector. This reflects growing complementarities between services-dominated Indian and ASEAN economies. To conclude, services sector in both ASEAN and India offer greater scope of trade and investment.





## Business Network Building for SMEs between ASEAN and India



**Ravindran. R\***

The government has realised that SMEs must be nurtured and from these SMEs the global companies can emerge that would contribute to greater GDP growth and employment generation in the country. ASEAN looks SMEs as an area of growth, where they have come with 10 years master plan (2015-2025), which has highlighted different areas where SMEs must be supported in different ASEAN countries. The positive aspects of the master plan are that it would target the sectors where SMEs are majorly engaging in, and set the timeline to implement the action plan.

ASEAN has implemented two key initiatives: (i) service centre for SMEs, which is a web portal where the information of all the ASEAN SMEs, access to neighbouring countries business contacts, information on market opportunities, regulatory requirements and other various aspects of doing business in ASEAN are included in the SME portal; and (ii) setting up an academic portal for SMEs, especially to encourage entrepreneur skills and know-how and to provide training on branding, marketing, business development, etc. These two initiatives would facilitate the ASEAN SMEs to engage in business within ASEAN and explore opportunities with rest of the world.

Globally and also within ASEAN, SMEs face five major challenges: access to finance, infrastructure, rules, and regulations within the country; and also access to the new market and global competition. Considering these challenges, ASEAN countries should make simple law and regulatory environments for doing business easier, particularly for startups and small companies. We shall create a platform for SMEs to get funding for the project through various financial channels. For

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\* *Chairman, SAEA Group Research, Singapore & Member AIBC.*

example, Singapore is proactive in helping SMEs in terms of various financial help, programmes, tax subsidies, etc. to support the SMEs.

Both ASEAN and India should learn from the developed countries, where they have designed several initiatives to support SMEs, which are successfully promoting in those countries. SMEs need government support from both ASEAN and India. Therefore, policies should be framed in order to support the SMEs business and gain their trust.

The online portal is the quickest and easiest way to engage in business networking for SMEs between ASEAN and India. It gives huge opportunities for SMEs to interact across the border and develop strong business networks. There are also several avenues to mobilise funding for SMEs, which the entrepreneurs should explore rather depending on government support.





# India's Capacity Building and Skill Development Programme in ASEAN



Sunil Shukla\*

The Government of India has established entrepreneurship development centres in some of the ASEAN countries, focusing on small and medium enterprises (SMEs) because of its outreach, engagement, and contribution in regional development in particular. India has focused on SMEs because of its contribution to nation's export and employment.

In 2004, the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII) has set up a centre in Lao PDR to promote entrepreneurship and encourage the people to engage in small scale investments with low skill-intensive products. A recent study reported that ASEAN countries like Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam have a large number of SMEs that are actively engaged in potential sectors like agriculture, manufacturing, financial services and all types of the value chains in agriculture, food processing, etc.

Often SMEs face the barriers in the industrial sectors like shortage of manpower, foreign exchange volatility, lack of access to capital, etc. About 80 per cent of SMEs are depending on government support through financial subsidy. In addition, there are also other barriers to entry for an entrepreneur in terms of taking the decision to start a business. About 44 per cent delay in the entry into business due to disapproval from family and friends and about 26 per cent delay in the entry due to lack of confidence in entering the business. Lack of skills and access to information are also the reasons for the barriers in this regard. There are huge opportunities for up-skilling through institutions to motivate and promote the entrepreneurs.

Often, SMEs face three types of barriers: entry barriers (attitude reason, family reason, etc.); growth barriers (entrepreneurs are unable

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\*Director, Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), Ahmadabad.

to grow, growth potentiality is restricted); and the exit barrier (if they want to venture into other line and close down the business what is the bottleneck, mainly statutory related bottleneck). We need to look at how these barriers are to be tackled and make prolong life to the SMEs.

Challenges are lack of institutional finance in ASEAN countries. There is only one land development bank and we have to work with the governmental officials and within ministry. There is an institution named SIPDO (Small Industry Promotion and Development Organization), and through it institutional finance and credits are linked. In Cambodia, Prime Minister announced that entrepreneurs' education and entrepreneurship are included. However, there is no institutional mechanism, and no courses on entrepreneurship (Lao PDR is the first to include entrepreneurship in the education.) ILO has also started its own programme there.

There are a lot of infrastructure related issues. Business potentiality is there, in particular food processing and agriculture. But, the institutional support is missing and so also infrastructure in the processing and value chains. Another challenge is culture. Not much aware of entrepreneurship in the society. At the same time, almost 70 per cent of ASEAN want to invest in software.

Therefore, based on our experiences and observations, we suggest that SMEs need to improve quality to outreach services. For example, Cambodia's garment industry requires a lot renovation and new technology. Quality has to be improved. Extension of education department and IT and digital technology need to be strengthened. PPP-type engagements, dispute settlements, awareness of government programmes among the stakeholders, web portal, skill development, etc., are some more measures that may help Cambodia to improve its garments export globally. Along with it, encouraging R&D, creating a platform for innovation and emerging collaborations are also needed.

Our contribution in ASEAN and CLMV has gone into strengthening the entrepreneurship. We have to set up these centres in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam, Thailand, and Myanmar, and conducted a number of workshops ranging from 2006-07 to 2010-11 in different places in these countries. We have also carried out several capacity building programmes through ITEC and activities under the UNIDO programmes. We have established these entrepreneurship centres in CLMV. EDII's Cambodia centre has grown up as a full-pledged institution and about 2000 students are being trained.





# Complementarities in IT Sector between ASEAN and India



Gagan Sabharwal\*

The technology is changing and touching our lives in many ways. Evidence suggests that invasiveness of technology will only increase over the period of time. For instance, the largest taxi service provider today does not own any taxi, the largest retailer in the world does not own any inventory, the largest content or media company does not own any content or hotel companies do not own any hotels across the world. Singapore is another example, which is building T4 terminal, which is going to be in an autonomous terminal without any human intervention. Indian IT industry or tech industry has been working with ASEAN. For instance, several Indian companies are using Singapore as the base location to serve the bulk of ASEAN region and some are actually serving Australia from Singapore also. About 50,000 to 60,000 people employed by Indian IT companies in the Philippines have been serving the global contracts.

The total global sales for e-commerce are touching more than US\$ 10 trillion globally, out of which about 80 per cent is the B2B model and about 20 per cent is the B2C e-commerce model. Therefore, globally almost 200 unicorns are holding largest per centage share from the US, China, Japan, India, UK, Germany and South Korea. India accounts for almost four per cent of the unicorns today. Both India and China will offer more opportunities because of their economic sizes, which will have plenty of more opportunities for companies to grow the business and be your next unicorn. In terms of India, about 500 million people are connected to mobile internet and it is expected to grow given the large size of population, thereby likely to reach about 800 million by 2022. Therefore, there would be huge dealing and growth in e-commerce

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\*Senior Director, Global Trade Development, The National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM), New Delhi.

business. It is a trend, which is picking up very fast in India because of the infrastructure that is growing with Digital India and internet penetration to the rural India. The major e-commerce business in India are e-travel, financial services, consumer services, digital content with other two segments, which are fuelling the demand for e-commerce.

The policy on e-commerce is going to be far more complex for policymakers to deal with, particularly the cross-border transactions. It is already happening at some level even today. But it will only increase as we go into the future and that has a very big potential for both SMEs. More specifically for SMEs since large companies will have economies of scale. However, it is the SMEs that use cloud or software as a service or some of the platforms to complete the transactions. It is common belief that India and China engage in data generation process due to huge population. In fact, for the last three years, both India and China collectively account for about 38 per cent of the data generation. The data generated by both individual and machine learning process would accumulate more data. Besides, privacy is another issue, which globally every country is experiencing, such as theft of personal information through machine learning and steal by hackers, which are concerned for the policy makers. Rapid change in technology in the mixed digital era poses several challenges to the policymakers, which require global attention for policy frameworks.

ASEAN and India have complementarities in the digital economy. Hence, both the countries can share experiences, skills, and initiate center of excellence to engage in futuristic research. ASEAN and India have huge potential in e-commerce, which can be unleashed by encouraging SMEs in both ASEAN and India to trade across border and facilitate people-to-people movement for supporting services and other activities in a more comprehensive manner.





# Role of EXIM Bank in Development Cooperation



David Rasquinha\*

ASEAN and India have strong trade and investment relations and it has been growing rapidly over the last two decades. Despite the global crisis in 2007-08, the trade between India and ASEAN is consistent. However, the global economic scenario has been influencing the regional and world trade patterns. If we look at the economic growth, which was 3.6 per cent of the global GDP in 2016, has become 3.2 per cent in 2018 and is expected to grow at 3.9 per cent in coming years. Trade and investment drive the global growth. If world is not growing, trade and investment would also be affected. It was growing at a rate of 2.3 per cent in 2016 and then more than doubled in 2017 and is likely to touch 5.1 per cent in 2018. Historically, it is the trends of global trade, which has been driving the trade all over the world at the country level. Therefore, the driver of global growth is the Asian economies, including India, China, and ASEAN.

In 2017, the ASEAN countries had a combined GDP of US\$ 2.3 trillion. ASEAN region has become the seventh largest economy in the world, and is expected to be the fourth largest in coming 20 years. There are some more advanced economies like Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia, which have been growing at 5.5 per cent, whereas other ASEAN countries such as CLMV have been growing at 6.6 per cent. Therefore, India's perspective on development cooperation with ASEAN has been looked at differently when compared with the nature of development.

In 2007-08, during the global financial crisis, India's trade with ASEAN was US\$ 39 billion. In 2017-18, it had doubled to US\$ 81.3 billion. Despite the economic crisis, the doubling of trade comes very good. Indian export to ASEAN was about US\$ 16 billion and it has more

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\*Chairman and Managing Director, EXIM Bank of India, Mumbai.

than doubled in 2017-18. Indian imports have increased to US\$ 40 billion in 2017-18 from US\$ 22 billion in 2007-08. Concerning India's total trade, the share of India's export to and import from ASEAN is about 12 per cent and 10 per cent, respectively, which is also more or less stable for the last decade. It shows that there is huge potential to expand the trade given only about 10 per cent of total trade contribution is with ASEAN.

In terms of investment, India's investment in the ASEAN region is significant, which has been driven by high growth market, low wage, natural resources, and mainly towards coal, oil, and natural gas extraction, software development, education, health services, etc. There is an interesting bifurcation of high value and low value targeted investments in the ASEAN region.

India's growth in high value-added and product manufacturing can be a win-win situation for India and ASEAN. This will also strengthen the bilateral ties. There are several areas which can offer value additions such as digital industry, financial services, etc., which are significantly underserved, physical infrastructure, particularly for multimodal connectivity; agriculture, healthcare, and tourism. From the public sector approach, EXIM Bank has the privilege to be the agency of the Government of India to manage the Line of Credit (LoC) facilities, which are provided by the Government of India to the countries for development projects. EXIM Bank is the agent or instrumentality of the government in managing the programme in recipient countries. Similar to Japan's OECF or JICA, India has unique development cooperation mechanism through the participation of different agencies of the Government of India, such as the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Ministry of Finance, and other government entities. The government maintains the control over the programmes, directs the activities and designs the priorities. Given the institutions are owned by the Government of India, they effectively have their benefits. As of 30 June 2018, 22 LoCs amounting about US\$ 1 billion are given for financing exports to four countries in the ASEAN region, particularly CLMV countries, emphasizing more projects like hydropower, electricity transmission, up-gradation of the railway system, textile machinery, plants and manufacturing, etc.

EXIM Bank has facilitated a special project in Myanmar, where the plant has been set up for heavy turbo truck manufacturing. Interestingly, 60 per cent of the staff is women, who are associated with heavy truck manufacturing. EXIM Bank has also set up the project development fund (PDF) for the CLMV countries with an initial commitment of about US\$ 77 million to support regional value chain linkages, which

would integrate the Indian companies with the ASEAN countries. We have identified the specific projects in monitoring and supporting the establishment, particularly in the healthcare sector in Cambodia, Myanmar and Vietnam and the education sector in Myanmar, respectively. In India, the government shows the lead and the private sector follows the government's project initiatives in the South Asian countries.

EXIM Bank has supported the Indian companies with a loan of US\$ 1 billion for the development of the railways in Malaysia in some 10 years ago, which was the highest fund granted ever by the EMIM Bank. EXIM Bank has introduced a hybrid programme between LoC and private credit programmes, and have a mix of commercial orientation in projects that are executed by Indian companies in partner countries. EXIM Bank has nine overseas offices, out of which two are in ASEAN (Myanmar and Singapore). EXIM Bank also offers a capacity building programme for the ASEAN and provides expertise in developing the national export strategy for Vietnam.

In the case of investment relation between India and ASEAN, we have received FDI from ASEAN to India about US\$ 77 billion cumulatively over the 10 years. Investment from India to ASEAN is about US\$ 84 billion cumulatively in the last 10 years. It is expected to achieve US\$ 200 billion in terms of mutual investments in the next 15 to 20 years. Therefore, India's two-stage approach, namely, LoC to CLMV countries and FDI to other ASEAN countries, would strengthen the partnership between ASEAN and India. EXIM Bank will continue to support Indian investments in ASEAN in a comprehensive manner to strengthen the development cooperation in the region.







# India's Engagement in Development Cooperation



Prashant Agrawal\*

Our development cooperation with the partner countries is primarily demand-driven, which is strongly based on the partner's national needs and their development objectives. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) of India has three divisions. Development Partnership Administration (DPA-I) deals with capacity building; DPA-II, deals with cooperation through grants; and DPA-III deals with concessional credits.

DPA-I supports skill building and capacity building in partner countries. India is actively engaged with the ITEC programme since 1960s and trained several experts in the partner countries across a large number of areas. We rely on the institutions of excellence, which provide customized and tailor-made training to the partner countries. We provide training in most of the areas, particularly to the ASEAN countries, and some of the areas are ICT, English language, leadership, management, banking, finance and health. Whenever there is a request on any specific topic, we provide the assistance. From ASEAN, around 900 participants benefited. To make it a future oriented, we are keen to support ASEAN countries in Artificial Intelligence, technology as well in the capacity building programme.

DPA-II has been dealing with cooperation through grants. We set up institutions under our grant programmes in the partner countries, where these institutions benefit a much larger number in the partner country itself, such as CLMV countries. We have set up vocational centre, ICT centre, agriculture centre, industrial training centre, etc. In Myanmar, we have an institute of ICT, rice-park, and the grant programme remains a strong portfolios. Overall economic development through infrastructure development and connectivity is the other element of grants such as Trilateral Highway, Kaladan project and so on. We also look at coastal

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\*Joint Secretary (DPA I), MEA, New Delhi. Views are author's own.

shipping opportunities in the BIMSTEC and ASEAN, where technical challenges are much less. There are grant-in-aid projects under the culture and heritage in Vietnam and Myanmar. Besides, through the ASEAN Secretariat, we have set up the ASEAN-India Fund, the India-ASEAN Green Fund and the India-ASEAN S&T Fund.

DPA-III has been dealing with the Line of Credit (LoC) programme. India has started its concessional programme for the last thirteen years. In the short term, India has expanded and funded several projects. India has committed to US\$ 25 million overall. Regarding India's own specific development cooperation agency, we have a specific set up with EXIM Bank, which disburses the LoC to partner countries. In ASEAN, India has extended LoCs in several projects, particularly, optical fiber connection, railways, electricity transmission line, etc.

India's LoC has a streamlined procedure. Recently, we have given US\$ 400 million in Myanmar. We are also looking to simplify the procedures. Opportunities are immense because our Indian companies have developed their expertise in the wide range of sectors such as transmission lines, power generation, power supply equipment, solar energy, agriculture, health and education sector. We can quickly develop the project in these areas.

In case of the capacity building or augmentation, we have created a mechanism called Project Preparation Facilities (PPF). We are doing consultation support at free of cost. If a country has a need, it can make use of PPF. In six weeks, we will be able to select and identify the feasibility of the project and can boost the ground. We are ready to help ASEAN countries in the above mentioned areas to enhance our development cooperation.





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# List of Participants

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## List of Participants



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Commodore C Uday Bhaskar  
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Society for Policy Studies (SPS)

Prof. Sunaina Singh  
Vice-Chancellor  
Nalanda University

Dr Vinay Sahasrabuddhe  
President  
ICCR

Mr Rajesh Purohit  
Director  
Indian Museum

Dr Sunil Shukla  
Director  
Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII)

Prof. Sabuj Koli Sen  
Vice-Chancellor  
Visva-Bharati University

Amb. Rajiv Bhatia  
Distinguished Fellow  
Gateway House

Mr P.D. Rai  
Member of Parliament and  
Chairman, Northeast MPs Forum

Prof. Shankari Sundararaman  
Centre for Indo-Pacific Studies  
Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU)

Mr Ram Madhav  
Chairman  
India Foundation

Mr Rashesh Shah  
Co-Chair, AIBC  
President, FICCI &  
Chairman and CEO, Edelweiss Group

Mr Prashant Agrawal  
JS DPA (I), MEA

Mr Gagan Sabharwal  
Senior Director  
Global Trade Development  
NASSCOM

Mr Girish Uberoi  
President  
FHRAI

Mr. Sanjeev Sanyal  
Principal Economic Adviser  
Ministry of Finance

Mr Tarun Vijay  
Former Member of Parliament

## **Indonesia**

Mr Arif Setyanto  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia

Ms Juang Bakara  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia

Ms Shanti Shamdasani  
President  
ASEAN International Advocacy and Council Member  
AIBC

Mr Siswanto Rusdi  
Founder Director  
National Maritime Institute (NMI)

## Malaysia

Dr Kuik Cheng Chwee  
Associate Professor  
National University of Malaysia (UKM)

Mr Dato Ramesh Kodammal  
Co-Chair  
AIBC

## Myanmar

Mr Thant Myint U  
Chairman  
Yangon Heritage Trust

Mr Minn Naing Oo  
Managing Director  
Allen & Glendhill Myanmar

Mr Kaung Htet Tun  
Executive Director  
KMA Group

## The Philippines

H.E. Maria Hellen B. de la Vega  
Senior Official and Former PH SOM Leader to ASEAN

H.E. Ma. Teresita C. Daza  
Ambassador  
Philippine Embassy, New Delhi

Ms Maria Bernadette L. Abrera  
Dean  
University of the Philippines in Diliman, Philippines

Ms Pacita “Chit” Juan  
Chair  
AWEN and Co-Chair  
India ASEAN Women Business Forum

Mr Vikram Singh  
Country Manager  
Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)  
The Philippines

Mr Arvin R. de Leon  
Deputy Chief of Mission  
Philippine Embassy, New Delhi

Mr Charles Lawrence L. Ching  
Third Secretary and Vice Consul  
Philippine Embassy, New Delhi

Mr John Boitte C. Santos  
Third Secretary and Vice Consul  
Philippine Embassy, New Delhi

Ms Eleanor G. de la Cruz  
Attaché  
Philippine Embassy, New Delhi

Ms. Meri Jayne C. Cinco  
Attaché  
Philippine Embassy, New Delhi

Ms Marra Kristine D. Ty  
Attaché  
Philippine Embassy, New Delhi

Mr. Ac mali L.  
Philippine Embassy, New Delhi

Mr Edwin Juan A. Batallones  
Attaché  
Philippine Embassy, New Delhi

Mr Jeremiah C. Reyes  
Department of Trade and Industry  
Philippine Embassy, New Delhi

Ms Ruby F. Delos Santos  
Department of Trade and Industry  
Philippine Embassy, New Delhi

Mr Tarum Sharma  
Department of Trade and Industry  
Philippine Embassy, New Delhi

## **Singapore**

Dr Vivian Balakrishnan  
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mrs Joy Balakrishnan  
Spouse of the Minister

Mr Lim Thuan Kuan  
High Commissioner to India

Mr Jonathan Tow  
Director-General (South Asia & Africa)  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ms Ng Boon Yian  
Deputy High Commissioner to India

Mr Kester Tay  
Deputy Director (South Asia)  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ms Karen Lee  
Special Assistant to the Minister

Mr Alexander Lim  
First Secretary (Political)  
Singapore High Commission

Mr Matthew Chek  
First Secretary (Political)  
Singapore High Commission

Mr Ong Chong Hui  
First Secretary (Political)  
Singapore High Commission

Ms Clare Chng  
Second Secretary (Political)  
Singapore High Commission

Mr Wu Po Cheng  
Country Officer (South Asia)  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ms Alison Koh  
Country Officer (South Asia)  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr Pheh Kian Howe  
Personal Security Officer to the Minister

Mr Rahmat bin Samat  
Personal Security Officer to the Minister

Prof. C Raja Mohan  
Director  
ISAS

Mr TANG Siew Mun  
Senior Fellow & Head  
ASEAN Studies Centre (ISEAS)

Mr Karan Singh Thakral  
Executive Director  
Thakral Group of Companies

## **Thailand**

H.E. Chutintorn Gongsakdi  
Ambassador of Thailand to India  
Embassy of Thailand, New Delhi

Mr Apirat Sugondhabhirom  
Minister  
Embassy of Thailand, New Delhi

Ms Oraya Wittayasooorn  
First Secretary  
Embassy of Thailand, New Delhi

Ms Boosara Kanchanalai  
Deputy Director General  
Department of ASEAN Affairs

Mr Rongvudhi Virabutr  
Director, Economic Division  
Department of ASEAN Affairs

Ms Chompoonut Chompookam  
Minister Counsellor, Economic Division  
Department of ASEAN Affairs

Ms Vorakan Chobpattana  
Attache, Economic Division  
Department of ASEAN Affairs

Amb. Pradap Pibulsonggram  
Advisor to the Department of ASEAN Affairs  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand

## **Vietnam**

H.E. Mr Nguyen Quoc Dung  
Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Vietnam

Dr Nguyen Chu Hoi  
Dr Vo Xuan Vinh  
Dr Nguyen Quoc Viet  
Mr Nguyen Tien Vinh  
Mr Dinh Huu Thanh

## **ERIA**

Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura  
President  
ERIA

Dr Anita Prakash  
Director General  
ERIA

Dr Fauziah Anshory Zen  
Senior Economist  
ERIA

Ms Novi Awaty  
ERIA



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# Resumes of the Speakers

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# Resumes of the Speakers

## Brunei Darussalam

### ABDUL MUTALIB YUSOF

#### (Head of Delegation)



Abdul Mutalib Yusof is the Minister of Communications of Brunei Darussalam. Abdul Mutalib graduated with a Master of International Business (MIB) from the University of Melbourne, Australia. He is also a graduate in BA (Hons) Management Studies from the University of Brunei Darussalam. Abdul Mutalib has been awarded with the meritorious awards 'Seri Mahkota Brunei' (SMB) in 2011 and 'Pingat Indah Kerja Baik' (PIKB) in 2007. He enjoys reading, listening to good music, cycling, brisk walking and family outings.

## Cambodia

### SOK SIPHANA

#### (Head of Delegation)



Sok Siphana is a practicing attorney and the Managing Partner at Sok Siphana & Associates, a law firm specialized in international trade and corporate law in Phnom Penh since 2009. He was appointed by Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, concurrently as Advisor to the Royal Government of Cambodia, Advisor to the Supreme National Economic Council (SNEC) and to the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) with rank of Minister in 2009, 2011 and 2013 respectively. Since 2013 he acted as Cambodian SOM Leader for the five Mekong Cooperation mechanisms and recently as Chair of the National Secretariat of Cambodia for Mekong-Lancang Cooperation under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia. From 2005 to 2009 he served as Director at the International Trade Center (ITC) a joint technical agency of UNCTAD and WTO in Geneva, Switzerland. Previously from 1999 to

2005, he served as Secretary of State at the Ministry of Commerce, where he worked extensively on issues related to trade policies and development, commercial legal framework and economic integration. During his service at the Ministry, he was also a negotiator in Cambodia's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO). Between 1993 and 1999, he was a legal adviser with the United Nations Development Programme attached to the Office of the Council of Ministers and subsequently to the Council for the Development of Cambodia. From 2011 to March 2018, he served also as Chairman of the Board of Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI), Cambodia's oldest and prominent independent research institute. Dr. Sok holds a Juris Doctor (J.D.) from Widener University School of Law, Delaware (USA) and a Ph.D. from Bond University School of Law, Gold Coast (Australia). He is currently pursuing another Ph.D. with the University of Paris II Panthéon-Assas, Paris (France).

## India

### SUSHMA SWARAJ



Sushma Swaraj is the Minister of External Affairs of India. She has been elected seven times as a Member of Parliament and three times as a Member of the Legislative Assembly. She is an Advocate by profession and was educated at S.D.College, Ambala Cantt (Haryana) and Department of Laws, Punjab University, Chandigarh. Her alma mater

Punjab University has honoured her with the degree of Doctor of Laws (Honoris causa). Mrs. Sushma Swaraj began her political career with the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad in the 1970s. She became a member of the Haryana Legislative Assembly and a Cabinet Minister in Haryana at the age of 25 in 1977. She became the President of Janata Party in Haryana in 1979, when she was 27. She was Education Minister, Haryana in the Bharatiya Janata Party-Lok Dal coalition government during 1987-90. In April 1990, Mrs. Sushma Swaraj was elected as a Member of the Rajya Sabha (Upper House of Indian Parliament) and remained there till 1996. She was elected to 11th Lok Sabha (Lower House of Indian Parliament) from South Delhi Parliamentary constituency in 1996. She became Union Cabinet Minister for Information and Broadcasting in 1996. She was re-elected to 12th Lok Sabha in 1998 from South Delhi Parliamentary constituency for a second term. Again, she was Cabinet Minister for Information and Broadcasting with additional charge of the Ministry of Telecommunications from March-October 1998. Mrs. Sushma Swaraj resigned from the Union Cabinet to take over as the first woman Chief Minister of Delhi in October 1998. Later, she returned to national politics and was Minister for Information & Broadcasting from September 2000 -

January 2003 and Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Parliamentary Affairs from January 2003 to May 2004. She was honoured with the “Outstanding Parliamentarian Award” in 2004. She is India’s first woman MP honoured with this award. Mrs. Sushma Swaraj was re-elected to the Rajya Sabha in April 2006 from Madhya Pradesh. She served as the Deputy Leader of BJP in Rajya Sabha till April 2009. She won the 2009 election to the 15th Lok Sabha from the Vidisha Lok Sabha constituency in Madhya Pradesh and became Leader of Opposition in the 15th Lok Sabha in December 2009. She retained this position till May 2014. She was re-elected to 16th Lok Sabha from Vidisha in 2014 and was sworn in as Minister of External Affairs on May 26, 2014.

## VIJAY KUMAR SINGH



General Vijay Kumar Singh, PVSM, AVSM, YSM (Retd) was born on 10 May 1951. An alumnus of Birla Public School, Pilani and National Defence Academy, he served as the 26th Chief of Army Staff of the Indian Army.

**Military career:** General Singh was commissioned into the 2nd Battalion of The Rajput Regiment (Kali Chindi) on 14 June 1970. He is a graduate of the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington with a competitive vacancy. He is also a graduate of US Army Rangers Course at Fort Benning, USA and US Army War College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania. General Singh was awarded Yudh Seva Medal for operations as part of IPKF in Sri Lanka, the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM) for distinguished service while commanding a counter-insurgency force in 2005 and Param Vishisht Seva Medal in recognition of his exceptional and distinguished services in the Eastern Theatre in 2009. He became Chief of Army Staff on 31 March 2010 and retired from the position on 31 May 2012. On 11 March 2011, Singh was inducted into the United States Army War College (Class of 2001 graduate) International Fellows Hall of Fame. He is the 33rd International Fellow and the first Indian Armed Forces officer to be inducted.

**Political career:** General Singh joined the Bhartiya Janata Party on 1 March 2014 and successfully contested Lok Sabha election from Ghaziabad constituency (2.4 million plus electorate). Presently, he is Minister of State for External Affairs. As Minister of State for External Affairs, General Singh has represented India at several bilateral and multilateral events as well as Special Assignments in Asia, Africa, Latin America & the Caribbean region and Europe.

“Courage and Conviction”, his highly acclaimed autobiography, has been widely read in India. General Singh is married to Mrs. Bharti Singh and they have two daughters.

## M. J. AKBAR



M. J. Akbar assumed charge as the Minister of State for External Affairs on July 6, 2016. Mr M. J. Akbar is a distinguished writer who has authored several internationally acclaimed books, mainly on the Indian subcontinent's complex history and the turbulent interaction between faith and definitions of nationalism. They include *India: The Siege Within*; *Nehru: The Making of India*; *Kashmir: Behind the Vale*; *The Shade of Swords: Jihad and the Conflict between Islam and Christianity*; *Tinderbox: the Past and Future of Pakistan*; and *Blood Brothers*, a novel. In addition, there have been four collections of his columns, reportage and essays. His books have been translated into many languages. His contribution to contemporary debate has been widely acknowledged. Among other things, in 2004, he was named a member of the Forum of Islamic Scholars and Intellectuals set up by Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah to draft a ten-year charter for Muslim nations at a special conference in Mecca. In March 2006, he joined The Brookings Institution in Washington, as a Visiting Fellow in the Brookings Project on U.S. Policy towards the Islamic world. He also serves as Chairman of the trust for the Calcutta Muslim Orphanage. Mr M. J. Akbar has also had an illustrious career as a journalist and editor. In 1976, he launched, as Editor, India's first weekly political news magazine, *Sunday*, which quickly became a household presence. He started two daily newspapers: *The Telegraph* in 1982 and *The Asian Age* in 1994. He has served as the Editorial Director of *India Today*, *Headlines Today* and as the editor of the *Deccan Chronicle* and *The Sunday Guardian*. Mr M. J. Akbar entered public life in 1989, when he was elected to the Lok Sabha from Kishanganj, Bihar. He went back to media in 1993, and returned to public life in March 2014, when he joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and became the party's national spokesperson. He was elected as MP to the Rajya Sabha from Jharkhand in July 2015. In July 2016, he was elected for another term as MP from Madhya Pradesh.

## HARDEEP SINGH PURI



Hardeep Singh Puri is the Minister of State (Independent Charge) in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. He joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1974. During a career spanning 39 years, served in senior positions at the Ministries of External Affairs and Defence, held ambassadorial level posts in the United Kingdom, Brazil and served as Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations both in Geneva and New

York. He had earlier served in India's Missions in Tokyo, and Colombo. Shri Hardeep Singh Puri has extensive experience in multilateral diplomacy. He served on three occasions as a member of India's delegation to the GATT/United Nations in Geneva including as Ambassador and Permanent Representative from 2002 to 2005. He has had a long association with and specialization in trade policy related matters and served on several Dispute Settlement Panels of the GATT and WTO. He was President of the United Nations Security Council in August 2011 and November 2012 and Chairman of the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee in 2011-2012. He retired from the Indian Foreign Service on 28 February, 2013 and joined the International Peace Institute (IPI), New York, a non-profit think tank with headquarters in New York and offices in Vienna and Manama. He was Senior Adviser from June to December 2013. He was Vice-President of the IPI and Secretary General of the Independent Commission on Multilateralism (ICM). He left the IPI on 31 March 2016. He has authored '*Perilous Interventions*' - *The Security Council and The Politics of Chaos*, which was published by Harper Collins in September 2016. He has delivered numerous lectures at important fora and also published a large number of articles and papers. He delivered a public lecture on 'India and the Western Liberal Democratic Order' at the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library on 23 January 2017. He also authored *India's Trade Policy Dilemma and the Role of Domestic Reform*, published by Carnegie India in February, 2017. He was appointed President of the Governing Body and Chairman of the Governing Council of the Research and Information Systems for Developing Countries (RIS). He is a visiting faculty of the Graduate Institute in Geneva. He did his BA (Hons) History from Hindu College, University of Delhi and was placed first in order of Merit in 1971 and completed his MA (History) 1973 in the First Division. He was Prime Minister of the Hindu College Parliament and was also a keen debater. He also taught at St. Stephens College, Delhi.

## CONRAD KONGKAL SANGMA



Conrad Kongkal Sangma is the Chief Minister the State of Meghalaya. He assumed presidency of the National People's Party in 2016 after the death of his father and former Chief Minister Purno Sangma. He is currently also a Member of Parliament from Tura. Mr. Conrad is a former leader of the opposition in the eighth Meghalaya Legislative Assembly, representing the NPP from Selsella constituency in the West Garo Hills. Previously in 2008, Sangma became the youngest Finance Minister of Meghalaya. He was first elected to the State Assembly along with his brother James, both as NCP members in the 2008 state elections and

later held several important portfolios in the state cabinet, including the Finance, Power, Tourism, GAD and IT and presented his first annual budget for Meghalaya within 10 days of debuting as a minister.

## LAL THANHAWLA

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Lal Thanhawla is the Chief Minister of Mizoram since 11 December 2008. Previously he was Chief Minister from 1984 to 1986 and from 1989 to 1998. He was elected to another term in the 2013 Mizoram Legislative Assembly election. This was the fifth time he was elected to the office of Chief Minister, which is a record in Mizoram. He belongs to the Indian National Congress. In 1966, he joined the underground movement called Mizo National Front (MNF) as Foreign Secretary. He graduated from Gauhati University in 1964.

## BIPLAB KUMAR DEB

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Biplab Kumar Deb is the Chief Minister of Tripura. He has been the state president of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Tripura since 7 January 2016. He led the BJP to victory in the 2018 Legislative Assembly Election, defeating 25 years rule of the Left Front government led by the Communist Party of India (Marxist).

## CHOWNA MEIN

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Chowna Mein is an Indian politician and the Deputy-Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh. He belongs to the Bharatiya Janata Party. He also held the post of Deputy-Chief Minister in the Arunachal Pradesh from March to July 2016 led by the Kalikho Pul. In 1995, 1999 and 2004, he was elected from Lohit district's Lekang assembly constituency of Arunachal Pradesh.

## P.D. RAI

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P.D. Rai is member of the 16th Lok Sabha from Sikkim and belongs to the Sikkim Democratic Front Party. This is his second consecutive term as a Member of Parliament. He also serves as the Secretary-General of North-East MP's Forum (NEMPF), an exclusive forum of Parliamentarians from the North-Eastern states to pursue issues pertaining to

development of the region. Presently, he is a member of the Committee on Finance; Committee on Subordinate Legislation and the Consultative Committee on Tribal Affairs. He has also served as the Chairman of the Lok Sabha Fellowships Committee and member of the Committee on Ethics; Committee on Protocol; Committee on Human Resource Development; Committee on Information Technology and Speaker's Forum on Climate Change and Global Warming. Previously, he has been the Deputy Chairman of the State Planning Commission, Govt. of Sikkim, and has also chaired the Sikkim Industrial Development and Investment Corporation. He was awarded the Eisenhower Fellowship in 2000 for his contribution to Sikkim's economic and industrial growth. He is a Chevening 2013 Scholar under the Chevening CPR Parliamentarians Programme. He is an alumnus of IIT-Kanpur and IIM-Ahmedabad.

## PREETI SARAN

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Preeti Saran has been a member of Indian Foreign Service since 1982. She is presently Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, India. Previous assignments include, Ambassador of India to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (September 2013 – February 2016), Consul General of India, Toronto (November 2008 – August 2013), Joint Secretary (SAARC/North), Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi (November 2005 – November 2008), Counsellor/Minister, Permanent Mission of India, Geneva (August 2002 – November 2005), Counsellor (Press), Embassy of India, Cairo (August 1999-July 2002), Deputy Secretary / Director (Establishment) / East Asia, Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi (March 1994-July 1999), Second Secretary/First Secretary & Head of Chancery, High Commission of India, Dhaka (March 1989-June 1992), Under Secretary (ICCR/ AMS), Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi (January 1986-February 1989), Third Secretary/Second Secretary (Culture), Embassy of India, Moscow (January 1984-December 1985).

## RITA TEOATIA

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Rita Teotia joined the Indian Administrative Service in the year 1981 and served in the Districts of Panchmahal and Gandhinagar in Gujarat. Subsequently, she worked in the energy sector as Managing Director, Gujarat Industries Power Company Ltd., and Secretary (Energy), Gujarat. From 2003-2007, she worked as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, focussing on Food Safety, Drugs Control Administration and National Disease Control Programmes.

From 2012 to 2015, she worked in the Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology, Government of India, in the areas of e-Governance, and Telecommunications Policy. In this capacity, she has worked on standards, Telecom manufacturing and telecom policy. Over a career spanning 35 years she has worked extensively in both policy making and practise in varied sectors including Energy, Health, Rural Development, and Telecom. Ms. Rita Teatota joined the Ministry of Commerce & Industry as Commerce Secretary, w.e.f. 1st July 2015. She is especially interested in the area of services trade and in standards.

## PRASHANT AGRAWAL



Prashant Agrawal is currently the Joint Secretary DPA I, Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi. He has undertaken assignments building political, economic and cultural relations in India's diplomatic Missions in Paris (2000-2003) and Port Louis (2003-2006), and in Bangkok (2009-2014), where he served as Deputy Chief of Mission and India's Deputy Permanent Representative to UNESCAP. He was India's Consul General to Hong Kong SAR and Macau SAR (January 2014 till March 2016), implementing India's Look East policy and driving engagement with the global financial and business hub. He has also served in various capacities in the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi, handling relations with the US during 2006-07 and with Nepal during 2008-09. He worked as a Senior Research Fellow at the United Service Institute of India during 2007-08, and has published his research "A comparative analysis of India and China's approaches to Energy Security". He also speaks French. Mr. Prashant is a graduate from IIT Kanpur. He joined the Civil Service in 1998 as the topper of Indian Foreign Service batch that year. At the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy for Administration in Mussoorie, he stood first in overall academic performance.

## KUNAL KUMAR



Kunal Kumar is Joint Secretary & Mission Director, Smart Cities, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, India. Previously; he served as the municipal commissioner of the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC). Kumar is an Indian Administrative Services (IAS) graduate from 1999. He has since been working for the state government, serving across the state, including in Gadchiroli, Nagpur, Bhandara, Kolhapur and Jalgaon, as part of a variety of administrative departments. He has also served as the district collector for cities like Jalgaon, Bhandara and

Aurangabad, over a period of approximately six years. Kumar has further worked as the additional municipal commissioner of Nagpur Municipal Corporation for around two years, as well as the commissioner of the Kolhapur Municipal Corporation for three years, making his experience in urban development and municipal administration fairly extensive.

## G. ASHOK KUMAR



Vice Admiral G Ashok Kumar, AVSM, VSM is an alumnus of National Defence Academy, Khadakvasla, Pune. He was commissioned into the Executive Branch of the Indian Navy on 01 Jul 1982. The Admiral has held various challenging Staff and Command assignments during his distinguished Naval career spanning more than three decades. After having completed his specialisation in Navigation and Direction at Kochi in 1989, he served as the Navigating Officer of Indian Naval Ships Beas, Nilgiri, Ranvir and Vikrant. His other sea tenures include Commanding Officer of INS Kulish and Ranvir, and Executive Officer onboard INS Brahmaputra. Among his shore tenures, the important ones include Staff officer (Ops/ND) at Indian Naval Work-up team, Head of Training Team (Navy) at Defence Services Staff College, Wellington and as Defence Advisor at the High Commission of India in Singapore. He has also been the Chief Staff Officer (Operations) of the Western Naval Command. On promotion to Flag rank, he has held the important assignments of Flag Officer Sea Training (FOST), Chief of Staff (COS) of Southern Naval Command and Flag Officer Maharashtra and Gujarat (FOMAG). In the rank of Vice Admiral he has been the Commandant of the National Defence Academy, Pune. The Admiral assumed the office of Deputy Chief of Naval Staff on 06 Jun 16. He is a graduate of Defence Services Staff College, Wellington and has attended the Army Higher Command Course at Mhow as well as the Expeditionary Operations Course at Quantico, Virginia, USA.

## MOHAN KUMAR



Mohan Kumar is the Chairman of Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) since June 2018. Ambassador Kumar has had an outstanding career in the Indian Foreign Service lasting 36 years which culminated in his being India's Ambassador to France based in Paris. Under his watch, the Indo- French strategic partnership was strengthened and consolidated further in spheres such as defense, space, nuclear & solar energy, smart cities and investment. Earlier, Mohan Kumar was India's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain

where he witnessed and dealt with a strategically complex region characterized by events such as the “Arab Spring”. Ambassador Kumar has enormous expertise in the area of international trade. He was India’s lead negotiator first at the GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) and then at the WTO (World Trade Organization) in crucial areas such as Intellectual Property Rights, Services, Dispute Settlement, Rules and Technical Barriers to Trade. He was a leading member of India’s delegation at the WTO Ministerial Conferences held in Marrakesh (1994), Seattle (1999) and Doha (2001). Ambassador Kumar also has strategic understanding of India’s ties with some of her key neighbors such as Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Maldives. He oversaw India’s ties with these countries as Joint Secretary and Head of the Division at the Ministry of External Affairs. Ambassador Kumar’s specialization thus includes: diplomatic practice & foreign policy, strategic partnerships between countries, multilateral negotiations especially trade negotiations, climate change and globalization. Ambassador Kumar holds a Master’s in Business Administration (MBA) from the Faculty of Management Studies, University of Delhi and a Doctorate (Ph.D) from Sciences Po University, Paris. Ambassador Kumar also teaches at the Jindal School of International Affairs and is Vice-Dean and Professor of Diplomatic Practice.

## SACHIN CHATURVEDI



Sachin Chaturvedi is Director General at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS). He was also a Global Justice Fellow at the MacMillan Center for International Affairs at Yale University. He works on issues related to development cooperation policies and South-South cooperation. He has also worked on trade and innovation linkages with special focus on WTO. Dr. Chaturvedi has served as a Visiting Professor at the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and has also worked as consultant to the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, World Bank, UN-ESCAP, UNESCO, OECD, the Commonwealth Secretariat, IUCN, and to the Government of India’s Department of Biotechnology and the Ministry of Environment and Forests, among other organizations. He has been a Developing Country Fellow at the University of Amsterdam (1996), Visiting Fellow at the Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla (2003), and Visiting Scholar at the German Development Institute (2007). His experience includes working at the University of Amsterdam on a project on International Development Cooperation and Biotechnology for Developing Countries supported by the Dutch Ministry of External Affairs. Dr. Chaturvedi has also been a member of the IGSAC Committee

of Experts for evolving a framework for cooperation on conservation of biodiversity in the SAARC region, as well as a member of the Editorial Board of Biotechnology Development Monitor (the Netherlands); Editor of Asian Biotechnology Development Review (New Delhi). He has authored two books and edited four books apart from publishing several research articles in various prestigious journals.

## AMAR SINHA



Amar Sinha is a Distinguished Fellow at RIS since November 2017. Amb. Sinha retired from the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) as Secretary Economic Relations in the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi, in June 2017 after a diplomatic career spanning 35 years. He has served in different capacities in Indian Mission around the world including in Algiers (1983-87), Buenos Aires (1987-90), Washington DC (1998-2001) Jakarta (2001-04), and Brussels (2004-07). At Headquarters he has served as PS to Minister of State in the Ministries of External Affairs, Chemicals and Fertilizers and Department of Electronics (1991-96), as Director (BSM) in Ministry of External Affairs from June 1996 to July 1997 and again as OSD to Minister of State for External Affairs from July 1997 to April 1998. In 2007 he was appointed India's Ambassador to Tajikistan (2007-2010) and on his return to New Delhi served as Joint Secretary Trade Policy in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (2010-13) where he handled the WTO and other trade negotiations. He also oversaw India's participation in various multilateral fora such as UNCTAD, APTA, BIMSTEC, G20, IBSA, BRICS, etc. In 2013 he was appointed India's Ambassador to Afghanistan (2013-2016). After completion of his assignment in Kabul successfully he assumed the charge of the post of Secretary (Economic Relations) in the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi, on January 15, 2016. His portfolio included relations with all countries in Africa, Gulf and West Asia Region, Development Partnership, Trade and Investment Promotion and all multilateral economic work such as BRICS, etc. He also served an ex-officio Director on the Board of EXIM Bank of India. On his retirement from diplomatic service on 30 June 2017 he has been appointed as a Director on the Board of Hindustan Petroleum Corporations Ltd, and also serves on the Board of Barefoot College of India, a not for profit organization. He joined the RIS as a Distinguished Fellow in November 2017, and has lent support to several think tanks focused on Afghanistan and other strategic issues. He also advises Chambers of Commerce on trade and investment issues. He is an Economics Graduate from Patna University.

## RAJEEV KHER



Rajeev Kher superannuated as Commerce Secretary, Government of India in 2015 after a career of 35 years in the Indian Administrative Service. He then worked as a Member in the Competition Appellate Tribunal for two years. He has now associated himself with some leading think tanks notable among them as Distinguished Fellow with the RIS.

His field of experience includes broad areas of International Trade and Commerce, Competition Law and Policy, Sustainable Development Policy, Environmental Management, Global Governance, particularly with reference to trade and environment and Decentralized Governance.

## RAJIV BHATIA



Rajiv Bhatia IFS (retd.) is Distinguished Fellow, Gateway House. He is a leading member and supporter of Kalinga International Foundation (KIF). He is Chair of FICCI's Core Group of Experts on BIMSTEC as well as Chair of FICCI's Task Force on Blue Economy. As Director General of the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) from 2012-15, he

played a key role in strengthening India's Track-II research and outreach activities. He is a former ambassador/high commissioner to Myanmar, Mexico, Kenya and South Africa. He served as Consul General in Toronto, Canada. As Joint Secretary in Ministry of External Affairs, he managed India's relations with Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Maldives. A prolific columnist, he regularly contributes research articles to a variety of publications - on South Asia, Southeast Asia, Africa and the Indian foreign policy. Amb. Bhatia was Senior Visiting Research Fellow during 2011-13 at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore. He holds a Masters degree in political science from Allahabad University. His book *India-Myanmar Relations: Changing contours* (Routledge 2016) received critical acclaim.

## NAGESH KUMAR



Nagesh Kumar is Director of Social Development Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Bangkok. He holds an additional charge as officer-in-charge of UNESCAP's South and South-West Asia (SSWA) Office, based in New Delhi. He earlier served as Chief Economist of UNESCAP and Director of Macroeconomic Policy and Development Division (MPDD) and Head

of the SSWA Office. Before joining UNESCAP in 2009, Dr Kumar served as Director-General of Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) for seven years. A PhD in Economics from the Delhi School of Economics, Dr Kumar is recipient of the EXIM Bank of India's first International Trade Research Award in 1989 and a GDN Medal for best research awarded by the World Bank and the Japanese Government in 2000. Dr Kumar has written extensively on the development cooperation, developmental impact of FDI, industrial and technology development policies, the challenge of new technologies for development, on regional economic co-operation in Asia, and on WTO and development, among other themes, resulting into 15 books and over 90 research papers in international and national peer reviewed journals, among other publications. He co-founded the South Asia Economic Journal (published by Sage) and was its co-editor during 2000-2009. He has written popular columns in Business Standard, Financial Express, the Economic Times, leading financial dailies published from New Delhi.

## GAUTAM MUKHOPADHYAY



Gautam Mukhopadhyaya has been Ambassador of India to Syria, Afghanistan, and Myanmar. He has also worked in the United Nations Headquarters in New York as a Consultant on Social Development and has been a Visiting Scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

He joined the Foreign Service in 1980, and has served in various capacities in Indian Embassies in Mexico, France, Cuba, Afghanistan and Syria, the UN Mission in New York City, and the Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Defence, in India. He has also worked in the UN Headquarters in New York as a Consultant on Social Development. He re-opened the Indian Embassy in Kabul in November 2001 after the new regime took over in Afghanistan. He has served in various capacities in the media and culture wings of the Ministry of External Affairs. He was also invited to join the UN Secretariat as a Consultant on social development for the preparatory process of the Copenhagen Social Summit plus Five UN General Assembly Special Session (2000) for which he wrote reports on the 'Social impact of Globalization'. Mr. Mukhopadhyaya's career in the Indian Foreign Service has been notable for the range of his professional experience. These include media, culture, human rights, social development, defence and security, and conventional political and diplomatic assignments.

## SARABJEET SINGH PARMAR

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Sarabjeet Singh Parmar was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 01 July 1987 and is a naval aviator who has been in the realm of maritime security, strategy, doctrine and concepts for more than a decade. As Directing Staff at the Indian Defence Services Staff College, he headed the national strategy and international law modules. As a research fellow at IDSA, he has written extensively and presented papers at various national and international conferences on maritime security issues. As Director (Strategy) in the Directorate of Strategy Concepts and Transformation at Naval Headquarters he was part of the core team which revised the Indian Navy's unclassified maritime security strategy document and maritime doctrine. Prior to joining the National Maritime Foundation as Senior Fellow he was at the Maritime Doctrines and Concept Centre heading the doctrine development group and strategic maritime analysis team. He has writes extensively for the Journal of Defence Studies, Strategic Analysis, and the Asian Strategic Review and focuses on maritime security aspects in the IOR and the Western Pacific Regions, national and maritime security strategies, doctrines and concepts, and lawfare. His recent chapter Naval Balance of Power and Freedom of Navigation: Maritime Power Praxis was published in the 2018 NMF book National Maritime Power: Concepts Constituents and Catalysts.

## CHITRAPU UDAY BHASKAR

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Chitrapu Uday Bhaskar one of India's leading experts and outspoken critics on security and strategic affairs, is a retired Indian navy officer. Commodore Bhaskar is currently the Director of the Society for Policy Studies (SPS), an independent think-tank based in New Delhi, India. He has previously headed the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) and the National Maritime Foundation (NMF). He is a columnist, editor, and contributor of numerous research-articles on nuclear and international security issues to reputed journals in India and abroad. He is also a life member of the United Services Institute (USI).

## SUNAINA SINGH

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Sunaina Singh is presently the Vice Chancellor of Nalanda University, an internationally acclaimed historical university under the Ministry of External Affairs. Prof. Singh is entrusted with the naissance task of rebuilding the ancient Nalanda

University, largely because of her compelling leadership. Prof. Singh is among the most prominent leaders in higher education in the South Asian region. A distinguished academician and administrator, she also holds the position of the Vice President, Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). She has the distinction of being the first Indian woman to head, as President of Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute, a bi-national research institution with headquarters in New Delhi and Calgary under the MHRD and Canadian Government. As the former Vice Chancellor of English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU), Prof. Singh has played a dynamic role in streamlining the administration, reinvigorating the academic culture, and bringing about transparency and accountability into the system. These crucial interventions have helped the University steer forward and assert itself as an important institution of higher learning in the Asian region. It is widely accepted that the University has emerged out of a critical period in its history largely due to her determined and indefatigable leadership. It is due to her visionary dynamism that the EFLU has been granted 'A' grade by NAAC after a span of 16 years, and the Ministry of Human Resource, has recently placed it amongst top five universities in India to be accorded Autonomy.

## VINAY SAHASRABUDDHE



Vinay Sahasrabuddhe is the President of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha and also the National Vice President of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). An activist-researcher at the core, Dr. Sahasrabuddhe happens to be the Vice President of Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini as well. RMP is South Asia's only training and research academy for elected representatives and voluntary social workers. Having headed BJP's Training Cell for over a decade, Dr. Sahasrabuddhe currently is National In-Charge of twin departments of the party, viz Policy Research and Good Governance. As a student activist, he had offered satyagraha and was behind bars during the Emergency of 1975. He was also National Secretary of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) while being whole-timer of the Organisation. He has also worked as member on Senate and Management Council of the University of Mumbai for several years. He has also served on Boards of Governors of academies like YASHADA, (academy of development administration, Pune) and Sardar Patel Institute of Public Administration (SPIPA) as member. Between 2013-2015, he was the as Vice-President of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai, a 208 year old prestigious society. A freelance journalist since his college days, Sahasrabuddhe is a regular

contributor to several Marathi and English language dailies and weeklies and a blogger as well. The University of Mumbai awarded him a doctorate in Politics in 2009 for his thesis 'Political Parties as Victims of Populism and Electoral Compulsions: A Quest for systemic Solutions.' His research was later published in the form of a book, entitled 'Beyond a Billion Ballots.' Dr. Sahasrabuddhe has been an active participant in Rajya Sabha with almost 100% attendance. Over last two years Parliament has appointed him to the Court of Delhi University, to Indian Council of World Affairs as well as a member to the Press Council of India. His latest book 'The Innovation Republic' capturing 17 key innovations made by the Modi Govt is receiving critical acclaims!

## GULSHAN SHARMA

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Gulshan Sharma is Director General at International Chamber for Service Industry (ICSI). He is also a policy maker at Strategist-Service Industry framework and a career counselor at Educator to Empower Teachers/Trainers/ and Corporate Trainer for MSMEs HRD. He works extensively on Northeast India-, ASEAN-, CLMV, South Asia, and Northeast Asia. He holds a Ph.D in Service Industry-Tourism-Hospitality-Aviation from ACTE (WTO) Spain, WT (USA). He is a specialist in Business Strategies, International Relations, Education Reforms and new Pedagogies. Dr. Sharma is a renowned motivator to empower teachers and youth with life mgt. skills, strategising skills development, innovative career planning paths, employment generation & entrepreneurship of youth particularly from the under privileged section of society in Service Industry. He is presently associated with chambers working on Service Industry Exports, Policy reforms with focus on Education, Skills Development, Trainer & Training Solutions, Wellness, Health sector, Media-Entertainment Industry, niche Tourism, MSMEs reforms for Service Sector boost, etc. He has expertise in working with the state governments for HRD/ Education reforms and upliftment. Dr. Sharma developed India's first MBA/MTA/MTM - Tourism curriculum in 1988-89 and Bachelors and Masters in service industry University Degree courses in 2011-12. He has developed India's first Bachelors and Masters programmes for Service Industry for Indian university.

## RAJESH PUROHIT



Rajesh Purohit is the Director of Indian Museum, Ministry of Culture, the Government of India. He started his career as a trainee archaeologist and joined regular service as Assistant Curator in the State of Haryana India. He also served as the Deputy Director in Haryana and was instrumental in setting up of Five Museums in Haryana and mounted Twenty Major Exhibitions and thereafter joined the Ministry of culture Government of India as Director, Allahabad Museum. Also as Director NCZCC Allahabad MOC as Additional charge for six month Major for Intangible Heritage Preservation and event management and organized festivals like the Mahakumbha Mela2013, Shilpamela Crafts Fare and Silver Jubilee celebration of NCZCC under my leadership in 2012-13. Mr. Purohit has published a catalogue of Srikrishna Museum, a catalogue of 'Stone Sculpture of Kurukshetra region' in 2004. He documented materials collected from various tirthas (Pilgrimages) within the 48 Kosa of Kurukshetra region which encompasses five districts of Haryana, a monograph cum Catalogue of the museum. He also edited the book Rabindranath Tagore and his association with Uttar Pradesh as well as edited the book Kala aur Purushartha in 2013. He has organized various capacity building programmes for Museum professionals of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Archaeological Survey of India. He also organized a capacity building programme for twenty curators a collaboration programme with British Museum at Allahabad in 2013 called "Leadership Training Programme 2" organised by Ministry of Culture, Government of India. He pursued his bachelor's and master's degree and Mphil in History from Berhampur University, Odisha

## SUNIL SHUKLA



Sunil Shukla, Director of Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India, Ahmedabad, is a distinguished entrepreneurship educator, researcher and institution-builder. His pioneering work and research studies in entrepreneurship have been successfully adapted in the form of modules, programmes and developmental interventions. An avid researcher, his research projects have helped Govt. of India in framing policies to establish Entrepreneurship and Business Development Centres at Universities. Dr. Shukla is on the Board of several organisations of Ministries of the Government, besides being the National Team Leader of Global Entrepreneurship Monitor, (GEM) India, since 2012.

## SABUJ KOLI SEN



Sabuj Koli Sen is a Professor of Philosophy in Visva-Bharati (A Central University and an Institution of National Importance), Santiniketan, West Bengal, India. At present she is working as Vice-Chancellor (officiating) in the same University. Previously, Prof. Sen was the Director of Studies, Educational Innovations and Rural Reconstruction, Visva-Bharati and successfully completed her tenure for five years. Prof. Sen has been engaged in teaching and research for last 39 years. Besides the teaching and research, she is also actively involved in administrative work. She also served as Director, Provost, Vice Principal, and Head of the Department. Prof. Sen was also associated with various Institutions and organizations in different capacities, viz the Secretary, Research and Other Publications, Visva-Bharati; Member, Board of Directors, State Bank of India, Bengal Circle; Co-ordinator, (Philosophy) West Bengal College Service Commission; Paper setter, Odisha Civil Service Examination; Member, Central Admission Committee, Visva-Bharati; Member, Institute Board, Uttar Siksha Sadana, Visva-Bharati; Member, B.O.S., Benaras Hindu University; Member, B.O.S., Nava Nalanda Mahavihara; Member, B.O.S., (U.G.) North Eastern Hill University; Member, Editorial Committee- Journal of Philosophy, Vidyasagar University; Member, Editorial Committee, Sandarshan -Journal of Philosophy, Allahabad University; Member, Institute Board, Vinay Bhavana; Member Institute Board, Kala Bhavana; Member, Research Board, Burdwan University; Member, Research Board, Visva-Bharati; Member, Board of Studies, Women's Studies Centre, Rabindra Bharati University; Chancellor's Nominee, College Service Commission, West Bengal; Governing body member, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Bolpur, West Bengal; President, Governing Body of Kishalaya School; and Governing Body member, Purni Devi College, Bolpur. As prolific writer, she has published more than 100 papers on philosophical and developmental issues in the National and International Journals of repute. She also authored four number of books. She has delivered many invited lectures in various Seminars, Conferences, Workshop, Refresher Courses and the like. Prof. Sen visited many countries for academic and research purposes.

## SHANKARI SUNDARARAMAN



Shankari Sundararaman is Professor of Southeast Asian Studies and current Chairperson at the Centre for Indo-Pacific Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. She joined the Jawaharlal Nehru University in

2003. Prior to this, she worked as a Research Officer and Research Fellow at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) from 1996 to 2003. She was a Visiting Fellow at the Asia-Pacific College of Diplomacy (APCD) at the Australian National University (ANU), Canberra from May to July 2005, where she worked on the trilateral relations between India, Indonesia and Australia. She was also a Visiting Fellow at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Jakarta in 2006-2007, as a recipient of the ASIA Fellows award, funded by the Ford Foundation. Professor Sundararaman has also been part of several track II initiatives with Southeast Asia and Australia. She has several publications in journal articles, chapters in books as well as a book titled Cambodia: The Lost Decades.

## RAM MADHAV

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Ram Madhav is an Indian politician, and writer. He serves as the National General Secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Party and a Director of India Foundation. He is a former member of the National Executive of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and has authored several books. His latest book is *Uneasy Neighbours: India and China after Fifty Years of the War*. Primarily a student of engineering, he earned his Diploma in Electrical Engineering from Andhra Pradesh. He has a post-graduate degree in Political Science from the University of Mysore, Karnataka. Mr Madhav's association with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh began as a teenager. He volunteered to be a full-time worker for RSS in 1981. He was assigned to several key positions in the organization. He was the editor of *Bharatiya Pragna*, a monthly magazine in English published by Pragna Bharati, and associate editor of *Jagriti*, a Telugu weekly.

## RASHESH SHAH

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Rashesh Shah is Chairman and CEO of the Edelweiss Group, one of India's leading diversified financial services conglomerates with businesses ranging across Credit (Retail Mortgage, SME Finance, Structured Credit, Wholesale Mortgage and Distressed Assets Credit), Franchise & Advisory (Wealth Management, Asset Management, Capital Markets) and Life Insurance. He co-founded Edelweiss in 1996, which has since evolved into an organization providing a broad range of financial products and services to a substantial and diversified client base that includes corporations, institutions and individuals. Edelweiss has grown from an equity base of Rs. 1 crore in 1996 to the current equity base of

Rs. 5,500 crore. The focus on innovation and passion for growth through expansion into related/ adjacent markets has been a key differentiator for Edelweiss. He has an experience of more than 28 years in financial services. He is particularly enthused about the transformational role that financial services can play in translating India's vast savings into investments; thereby powering economic growth and development. He is also deeply involved in EdelGive Foundation, Edelweiss's philanthropy arm, providing strategic oversight and advice, and is particularly passionate about charities involving sports and education. Mr. Rashesh is an MBA from Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, and he also holds a Diploma in International Trade from the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi.

## GAGAN SABHARWAL



Gagan Sabharwal, Senior Director of NASSCOM leads the International Trade Policy initiative and is Head of Strategic Market initiatives for the industry. He heads the relationship with Japan, China & Germany in creating Digital Cooperation in the field of IOT, Big Data, AI, Robotics Process Automation, Industry. He also oversees policy affairs work for US, EU, UK, Canada and various other markets. He is the voice of the industry on matters related to - Business policy issues, Mobility issues (Visas & Totalisation), International Taxation matters, International Bilateral and Multi-lateral Agreements and Policy Affairs. He spends bulk of his efforts around forging alliances with China, Japan and Germany on the Smart manufacturing, IOT and Industry 4.0 initiatives for the industry. Gagan has been with NASSCOM since 2008. He has rich experience of more than 22 years out of which 15 years has been with IT-BPO industry. Before joining NASSCOM, he was managing APAC and EMEA region for various software companies including Indian and American. He has been part of various Corporations that specialised in IT Products, Services and e-Learning solutions and worked extensively in EMEA and APAC region. At NASSCOM he represents industry's views at various business and bilateral forums. He is a regular at Governmental meetings on WTO, GATS, FTA, B20, DTAA, Totalisation and other bilateral / multilateral agreements - often considered as Advisor to the Government on these files. He manages relationship with various International Governments and Agencies to strengthen economic partnership with India's leading trading partners.

## SANJEEV SANYAL

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Sanjeev Sanyal is an Indian economist, writer, environmentalist, and urban theorist. Currently, he is the Principal Economic Adviser in the Ministry of Finance, Government of India. A Rhodes Scholar and Eisenhower Fellow, he was named “Young Global Leader 2010” by the World Economic Forum at Davos. He is widely regarded as one of Asia’s leading economists and was Deutsche Bank’s Global Strategist and a Managing Director till 2015. He is also the author of four books “The Indian Renaissance: India’s Rise after a Thousand Years of Decline”, “Land of the Seven Rivers: A Brief History of India’s Geography”, “The Incredible History of India’s Geography” and The Ocean of Churn: How human history was shaped by the Indian Ocean. Sanjeev Sanyal is also an environmentalist and expert on the economics of cities. He has been a strong advocate of including “walkability” and organic evolution in the way we think of cities. He is the co-founder and Director of GIST - a think-tank that is a pioneer in the field of environmental accounting. Sanjeev Sanyal was born in Kolkata and studied at St.Xavier’s School and St.James’ School. He attended Shri Ram College of Commerce, Delhi University and St John’s College, Oxford where he was a Rhodes Scholar representing India (1992-1995).

## TARUN VIJAY

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Tarun Vijay is an Indian author, social worker and journalist. He was the editor of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) weekly in Hindi, Panchajanya, from 1986 to February 2008. He also writes for the Daily Pioneer. He was also elected member of Rajya Sabha till his term ended in July 2016, of the upper house of Indian Parliament Rajya Sabha and president of Parliamentary Group on India China Friendship. He is also member of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence Ministry and Parliamentary Consultative Committee on External Affairs. He is also a member of Board of Governors, Parliamentary Network on World Bank and IMF.

## SHOUVIK K. MAJUMDAR

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Shouvik K. Majumdar is the Executive Director, QuantumLaMA Consulting, and Director, Vantedge Global Solutions, New Delhi. He is an IT leader with over 30 years of Development and Technology Operations experience with global consulting

firms like Tata Consultancy Services and Zensar Technologies and Indian Global Service Centers like Royal Bank of Scotland and SSP Worldwide, where he delivered Zero-Defect software delivery centers. Some of his focus areas are application innovation, technology adoption, operational optimization and expanding the reach of products and services. He is an advisor to global banks on DevOps benefit realization and technology consultant on Indian government projects on financial inclusion using Blockchain technologies. He advises Fintech companies (B2B, B2C and P2P) on product definition, marketing strategy, vendor selection, funding strategy and value creation.

## VIKRAM SINGH



Vikram Singh is the President and Director of the Board of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) Philippines. Mr. Singh has a Master in Sales & Marketing from IIRM India and graduated in B.Tech in Electronics & Instrumentation from CET, Trivandrum, India. He has over 21 years of experience in IT/BPO services, consulting and software products across North America, India and Asia Pacific. He has extensive experience in products and services sales, account management, alliances, customer relationship management, country sales and operations, and is ultimately responsible for business unit P & L. Mr. Vikram is responsible for establishing TCS in the Philippines in 2008 and for consistently growing its revenue, client portfolio, and employee count in the last 10 years. Prior to assuming the role of Country Manager for TCS Philippines, he was based in the United States managing TCS North America's Fortune 500 clients from the telecom, healthcare and retail industries. TCS Philippines has won 'Technology Company of the Year' at the 2016 Asia CEO Awards and other industry and internal company awards under his leadership. Mr Vikram was a finalist as CEO Expatriate of the Year in the 2015 Asia CEO Awards.

## R. RAVINDRAN



R. Ravindran is the Chairman of SAEA Research Group (SAEA) based in Singapore. SAEA undertakes research on strategic and economic issues in the Asia Pacific region with a special focus on South Asia and ASEAN. He is a partner with Colin Ng & Partners LLP and has been in corporate practice for more than 30 years. He holds a LL.B and LL.M. He sits on the Boards of Singapore listed companies. He was a former Member of Parliament in Singapore and Chairman of the Parliamentary

Committee for Defence and Foreign Affairs. Other prior appointments include Deputy Chairman of the Government Parliamentary Committee for Home Affairs and Law, the Marine Parade Town Council, the South East Community Development Council, the Singapore Institute of Directors and the Singapore Academy of Law.

## ABHIJIT DAS

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Abhijit Das is a trade policy expert. He combines extensive experience of international trade negotiations with formulating, implementing and managing trade-related capacity building projects. Prior to joining the Centre for WTO Studies, he worked in UNCTAD India Programme during 2005-10 with progressively increasing responsibilities.

UNCTAD India Programme was a joint trade capacity building initiative of Department of Commerce (Government of India), UNCTAD and DFID. While heading UNCTAD India Programme during 2007-10, he worked closely with diverse institutions spanning stakeholders at the grassroots level on the one hand and top trade policy officials on the other. His responsibilities included assisting the Government of India and other stakeholders at the national, state and local levels to assess impacts and opportunities emerging from globalisation; building capacities of stakeholders to influence evolving international trade rules; and enhancing preparedness for globalisation. He directly undertook, and also guided, research on different facets of development impacts on India of international trade. While working as a Director in the Trade Policy Division in Commerce Ministry (2000-05) he contributed substantially in developing India's negotiating position on issues related to Antidumping, subsidies and disputes. He participated directly in several multilateral and bilateral trade negotiations, including in the Anti-Dumping and Subsidy negotiations under the Doha Round at the WTO and OECD Steel Subsidies negotiations. He also contributed to, and coordinated, India's submissions in various landmark WTO disputes. He started his career as an officer of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service (1988 batch) and was an officer of this premier civil service for more than 21 years. In this capacity he gained a wide experience of examining development programmes of the government at the national and state level.

## KARAN SINGH THAKRAL

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Karan Singh Thakral is the Executive Director of the Thakral Group, a multi-billion dollar Global Conglomerate, with diversified activities which, inter-alia, include Distribution; Real Estate Investments, Development and Management;

Logistics; Manufacturing and Retail; IT products and Services. Thakral Group's activities span over 26 countries. Mr. Thakral represents on the boards of several unlisted and listed companies. In addition to his business activities. He is actively involved in many NGO activities and not-for-profit social activities. In addition to his business and social activities Mr Thakral also represents Singapore as Singapore's Ambassador to Denmark and is on the board of the Asian India Business Council. He takes active part in promotion and mentoring young entrepreneurs. As the Chairman of the Singapore Angel Network (the Group's Angel Investments arm that has invested in over 100 start-up and early stage companies), he is a 'real-life' dragon.

## B. V. N. RAO

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B. V. N. Rao is currently serving as the Business Chairman - Transportation & Urban Infrastructure. He is responsible for the Group's Businesses - Transportation, EPC, Special Investment Region and RAXA Security Services. In addition, he also oversees Corporate Relations, Corporate Communications, Legal, Management Assurance Group, Ethics & Integrity, Human Resources & Facilities Management Services. Mr B. V. N. Rao also heads the GMR Varalakshmi Foundation, the CSR arm of the Group. A Graduate Engineer, Mr Rao has nearly 40 years of rich experience, of which 12 years have been in the banking sector with specific experience in Industrial Finance and Foreign Exchange. He is one of the founder Directors of the Group since 1988, associated with all the businesses promoted by the group like Ferro Alloys, Sugar, Brewery, Power, Transportation and Airport businesses and currently he is the Group Director on the Board of Directors of the Company (GIL). Prior to his current role, Mr B. V. N Rao served as Chairman of Energy and Corporate sector of the Group.

## SISWANTO RUSDI

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Siswanto Rusdi is Founder and Director of the National Maritime Institute (namarin), an independent maritime think tank in Jakarta. Previously, he was Indonesia correspondent for the London-based shipping newspaper Lloyd's list. He has intensive training in journalism/communication. He also studied Maritime Security at S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Singapore. Mr. Rusdi regularly contributes articles on shipping, port, crewing, logistics and maritime security for the newspapers in Jakarta. He also appears in television/radio on the same topics.

## DAVID RASQUINHA

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David Rasquinha has been appointed by the Government of India as Managing Director of Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank). Prior to this appointment, he was Deputy Managing Director of Exim Bank. A first class graduate in Economics and a post graduate in Business Management, Mr Rasquinha joined Exim Bank in 1985 and since then has had a wide ranging exposure to the broad field of export credit, having worked in the areas of Treasury, Multilateral Agency Funded Projects, Planning & Research, Risk Management, Trade Finance, Project Finance and Project Exports. He was a member of an Exim Bank team that conducted a feasibility study for setting up an export credit agency for the Gulf Cooperation Council countries. He served as a member on the Working Group set up by Reserve Bank of India for working capital finance to software units. From 1999–2004, he served as Resident Representative at the Bank’s Washington DC Representative Office.

## C. RAJA MOHAN

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C. Raja Mohan is Director, Institute of South Asian Studies. Earlier, Professor Mohan was Professor of South Asian Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, and at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. Professor Mohan has been associated with a number of think tanks in New Delhi, including the Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses, the Centre for Policy Research and the Observer Research Foundation. He was also the founding director of Carnegie India, New Delhi – the sixth international centre of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Washington DC. Professor Mohan was the Henry Alfred Kissinger Chair in International Affairs at the United States Library of Congress, Washington DC, from 2009 to 2010. He served on India’s National Security Advisory Board. He led the Indian Chapter of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs from 1999 to 2006. Professor Mohan is one of India’s leading commentators on India’s foreign policy. He writes a regular column for the Indian Express and was earlier the Strategic Affairs Editor for The Hindu newspaper, Chennai. He is on the editorial boards of a number of Indian and international journals on world politics. Professor Mohan has a Master’s degree in nuclear physics and a PhD in international relations. Among his recent books is *Samudra Manthan: Sino-Indian Rivalry in the Indo-Pacific* (2013) and *Modi’s World: Expanding India’s Sphere of Influence* (2015).

## ANURAG BHUSHAN

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Anurag Bhushan is a career diplomat born in the Indian State of Uttar Pradesh. Since joining the Indian Foreign Service in 1995, he has served in several countries including Japan, Bangladesh & Germany. He was also Regional Passport Officer in Delhi from 2010 to 2013. Thereafter he served as Consul General of India to Dubai from 2013 to 2017 before joining headquarters as Joint Secretary, ASEAN Multilateral Division. Shri Anurag Bhushan holds B.Tech degree from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur and Post Graduate Diploma in Executive Management from Indian Institute of Management IIM), Ahmadabad.

## PRABIR DE

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Prabir De is a Professor at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS). He is also the Coordinator of ASEAN-India Centre (AIC), RIS. Dr De has over 25 years of work experiences handling international trade and regional integration. He primarily works in the field of international economics and has research interests in international trade and development. He was a visiting Fellow of the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), Tokyo; Institute of Developing Economies (IDE), Chiba; and visiting Senior Fellow of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Bangkok. He has been conducting policy research for several governments and international organizations. He has a Ph.D. in Economics from the Jadavpur University, Calcutta. He has contributed several research papers in international journals and written books on trade and development. His recent edited books include “Myanmar’s Integration with the World: Challenges and Policy Options” (Palgrave Macmillan, 2017) and “Twenty Years of BIMSTEC: Promoting Regional Cooperation and Integration in the Bay of Bengal Region” (Knowledge World, 2018). He is also the Editor of the South Asia Economic Journal, published by Sage.

## Indonesia

## SHANTI SHAMDASANI

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Shanti Shamdasani is known for her in-depth expertise on ASEAN matters with focus on international trade and political analysis. Her vision on ASEAN started in 2005 where she tirelessly brings the ASEAN debate at various local and international stages as well as being instrumental

in shaping the ASEAN Economic Community Roadmap. During Indonesia's ASEAN's Chairmanship, Ms. Shamdasani was contracted as a professional to serve with the office of the President of Indonesia, H. E. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono on ASEAN matters as Advisor reporting directly to the President's immediate team; working closely with various Ministers to drive a strategic debate on trade negotiations with India, China, Australia and New Zealand. Her areas of expertise include trade negotiations and facilitations, policy making and free trade areas. She has been involved in various capacities at the I-EU CEPA, RCEP, AEC, ASEAN India, ASEAN China and other negotiations working closely with government agencies. She established ASEAN International Advocacy in 2009 and has been working in consulting capacity with ASEAN Secretariat, APEC, WTO, EU, US Chambers and other agencies. She is currently the President of ASEAN International Advocacy, Vice Chair at KADIN (Indonesian Chambers of Commerce and Industry), Chairwoman at ASEAN Committee at AMCHAM, Board of Governor at AMCHAM, Board Member at ASEAN India Business Council (Indonesia Chapter), Board Member at East Asia Business Council and member of ASEAN India within ABAC. Ms. Shamdasani is currently pursuing her Doctorate of Law degree at the University of UPH in Indonesia; she is a regular speaker at local and international forums and has appeared on stages and forums at United Nations (UN), Association of Southeast Asia (ASEAN), Asia Pacific Economic Council (APEC), Ministry of Trade in Thailand, Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Myanmar. She is part of the think tanks on trade issues developing policies with various governments in Southeast Asia. Her strategic thinking is often covered in various publications, including Forbes magazine. Shanti has worked in India, US, China, Singapore and Indonesia.

## Lao PDR

### THONGPHANE SAVANPHET

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#### (Head of Delegation)

Thongphane Savanphet is the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lao PDR. Prior to his present appointment, Mr Thongphane was the Ambassador of the Lao PDR to the United Nations Office, WTO and other International Organizations in Geneva. He also served as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Lao PDR to Switzerland; and Non-resident Ambassador of the Lao PDR to the Hellenic Republic (Greece), the Republic of Italy, the Principality of Liechtenstein, the Republic of Malta and the Republic of Turkey. He was the Director-General, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Vientiane, Lao PDR from



2010-2011. He also served as the Deputy Director-General, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He has obtained masters in Diplomatic Studies, University of Leicester, UK and masters in Public International Law, Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO University), Russia.

## Malaysia

### RAMESH KODAMMAL



Dato' Ramesh Kodammal is the Chairman of Goldtex Group of Companies, a company which he founded since 1976 specializing in import & export of garments and textiles, as well as manufacturing of home furnishings. Dato' Ramesh has been appointed by the Ministry of International Trade & Industry (MITI) Malaysia as the Chairman of ASEAN-India Business Council Malaysia and the Co-Chairman of ASEAN-India Business Council (AIBC). He is also a Council Member and Secretary of the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC), which has been mandated by ASEAN Leaders since 2003 to provide private sector feedback and guidance to boost ASEAN's efforts towards economic integration. He is also the Malaysian representative in the MSME ASEAN-BAC Working Group. He is an Honorary Member of the Kuala Lumpur Malay Chamber of Commerce (KLMCC). He actively promotes the interests of the business community between ASEAN-India and has been actively involved in the visits by Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi to Malaysia as part of this initiative. He has actively participated in various international forums and seminars representing Malaysia as a moderator and speaker. Among the posts which Dato' Ramesh has held previously include the Deputy President of Kuala Lumpur Selangor Indian Chambers Of Commerce (KLSCCI), Vice President Of Malaysia Associate Indian Chambers & Industries and Treasurer of National Chambers of Commerce and Industries Of Malaysia (NCCIM). He currently still holds various positions in other non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

### ADINA BINTI KAMARUDIN



Adina Binti Kamarudin is currently Deputy Director General, Maritime Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia. Previously, she has held various positions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She served as a Director, Principal Assistant Secretary, Principal Assistant Secretary, First

Secretary, Assistant Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She has also served as a Consul General, Consulate General of Malaysia, Frankfurt, Germany from August 2014–October 2017. She has a bachelor’s degree, master’s degree in Law from Cardiff Law School, University of Wales, Cardiff. She also holds a PhD degree in Law from National University of Malaysia (UKM).

## CHENG-CHWEE KUIK

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Cheng-Chwee Kuik is an Associate Professor at the Strategic Studies and International Relations Program at the National University of Malaysia (UKM). He is concurrently an adjunct lecturer at the Malaysian Armed Forces Defense College and the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations. Previously he was a postdoctoral research associate at the Princeton-Harvard “China and the World” Program and a visiting research fellow at Oxford’s Department of Politics and International Relations. Dr. Kuik’s research concentrates on weaker states’ foreign policy behavior, state alignment choices, regional multilateralism, East Asian security, China-ASEAN relations, and Malaysia’s external policy. His publications have appeared in peer-reviewed journals as well as edited books. Cheng-Chwee’s essay “The Essence of Hedging” was awarded the biennial 2009 Michael Leifer Memorial Prize by the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies for the best article published in any of the three ISEAS journals. He is a co-editor (with Alice Ba and Sueo Sudo) of *Institutionalizing East Asia: Mapping and Reconfiguring Regional Cooperation* (Routledge 2016). Cheng-Chwee serves on the editorial boards/ committee of *Contemporary Southeast Asia*, *Australian Journal of International Affairs*, *Asian Perspective*, and Routledge’s “IR Theory and Practice in Asia” Book Series. He holds an M.Litt. from the University of St. Andrews, and a PhD from the Johns Hopkins University’s School of Advanced International Studies.

## Myanmar

### KYAW TIN

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**(Head of Delegation)**



Kyaw Tin is the current Union Minister for International Cooperation, Myanmar. Prior to his present appointment, he served as the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Myanmar. He was also Ambassador/Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the United Nation, New York and ambassador

Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Myanmar to Canada. Mr Tin was also the Director-General, Political Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Myanmar. He has held many positions like First Secretary, Second Secretary, Counsellor, Deputy Director and Director and represented Myanmar to countries such as Switzerland, New York. Mr Tin obtained a master's degree in Maths from Yangon University and a postgraduate diploma in Environmental Management from Dresden University of technology, Germany.

## MINN NAING OO



Minn Naing Oo is the Managing Director of Allen & Gledhill (Myanmar) Co., Ltd. and a Partner of Allen & Gledhill LLP. He has extensive experience advising on banking and finance, mergers and acquisitions, infrastructure projects, corporate and commercial, arbitration and competition. He has acted for multinational corporations, multilateral agencies, financial institutions, private equity funds and Myanmar conglomerates, as well as advised Myanmar Government Ministries and Departments on legislative reform. He has been recommended for his expertise in Myanmar by leading legal publications. Mr. Minn was previously the Chief Executive Officer of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre and Director at the Ministry of Trade and Industry Singapore. He is also a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and the Singapore Institute of Arbitrators, and has been appointed to dispute panels for disputes between World Trade Organisation (WTO) member states.

## THANT MYINT U



Thant Myint-U is an award-winning historian, writer, and former advisor to the president of Myanmar. He is the author of several books, most recently the best-selling "Where China Meets India: Burma and the New Crossroads of Asia". He has also served on three United Nations peacekeeping operations and as the Chief of Policy Planning in the UN's Department of Political Affairs. He was also the Principal Officer at the UN Secretariat responsible for the the World Summit of 2005 and the establishment of the UN Peace-building Commission. He was educated at Harvard and Cambridge Universities and taught history for many years as a Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. He is as well the Founder and Chairman of the Yangon Heritage Trust and Chairman of U Thant House, a leading discussion centre in Myanmar. He is currently also a Founding Partner of the Ava Advisory Group.

## The Philippines

### MARIA HELLEN B. DE LA VEGA

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#### (Head of Delegation)



Maria Hellen B. de la Vega is the Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Philippines. She was also served as a Philippine Ambassador to Myanmar (2009), Deputy Chief of Mission, Minister and Consul General at the Philippine Embassy in Beijing, People's Republic of China, from September 2008 until August 2009 and as Executive Director at the Office of Asia and Pacific Affairs of the Department of Foreign Affairs from 28 August 2007 until her assignment in Beijing. She also served as Consul at the Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles, California from 2003 until 2007. She graduated in 1982, Cum Laude, at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila with a Bachelor's Degree in Asian Studies. She obtained her Master's Degree in International Public Policy from the Paul Nitze School of Advanced International Studies at John Hopkins University in Washington, D.C. as a Freeman Fellow. She is also a recipient of a Fellowship programme on Investments Promotion from the Belgian Government and took her Foreign Service Training Course under the auspices of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

### MARIA BERNADETTE L. ABRERA

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Maria Bernadette L. Abrera is a Professor of History at the University of the Philippines Diliman and is presently Dean of the College of Social Sciences and Philosophy of this University. She was formerly Chair of the Department of History and her research interests focus on cultural history and the indigenous knowledge system, with particular emphasis on folk religion and rituals, her thesis being on Philippine amulets and her dissertation on the indigenous boat building technology. She has written on pre-colonial Philippines, particularly on the belief system and the status of women, and on aspects of Philippine Church history. She headed an ethnohistorical research project on the traditional boat building technology among the Sama-Tausug in southern Philippines and has written on the cultural aspects of the boat in Philippine history. She was part of Oceanides, an international scientific research project on the importance of the sea in the major states of evolution of peoples where she contributed a chapter on the indigenous boatbuilding tradition of the Philippines in its four-volume

book series, *The Sea in History* (Boydell Press, 2017). She is co-author of a college textbook on Philippine history, *KasaysayangBayan*, and served as president of ADHIKA, a national professional organization for historians and history enthusiasts. She obtained her AB in History from St. Scholastica's College, MA in History and PhD in Philippine Studies both from the University of the Philippines.

## PACITA "CHIT" JUAN

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Pacita "Chit" Juan is a social entrepreneur, green advocate, coffee crusader, and advocate for women empowerment through business. She has been an entrepreneur most of her life, founding start-ups like a coffee shop chain, a Filipino casual food chain, a farm to table restaurant, and a natural and organic store called ECHOstore ([www.echostore.ph](http://www.echostore.ph)), which now has nine branches on its 10th year. She is the Southeast Asia Councilor of Slow Food International ([www.slowfood.com](http://www.slowfood.com)) and Regional Coordinator of International Women's Coffee Alliance ([www.womenincoffee.org](http://www.womenincoffee.org)). She is the President and Co-Chair of the Philippine Coffee Board Inc. ([www.philcoffeeboard.com](http://www.philcoffeeboard.com)). Ms. Chit is the recipient of many awards, including Asia Pacific CSR Council's CEO of the Year in 2018, Entrepreneur of the Year in 2011 (for social enterprise) by Ernst and Young, Social Entrepreneur of the Year by GO Negosyo, and Bossing award by PLDT and Smart. With her experience and expertise, Chit often speaks in international fora like the Global Summit of Women, APEC meetings, and in many conferences on various topics like Sustainability, Women Empowerment, and Coffee. She is also a prolific writer, sharing these topics in several books, in addition to her regular columns for various online and print publications in the Philippines.

## Singapore

## VIVIAN BALAKRISHNAN

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**(Head of Delegation)**



Vivian Balakrishnan is currently the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Singapore. Dr Balakrishnan has been a Member of Parliament since 2001. He is also the Minister-in-charge of the Smart Nation initiative. He previously held appointments as the Minister for the Environment and Water Resources, Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports, Second Minister for Trade and Industry, Minister responsible for Entrepreneurship, Second Minister for Information,

Communications and the Arts and Minister of State for National Development. During the early years of his political career, he served as Chairman of the “Remaking Singapore” committee and Chairman of the National Youth Council. He also served two terms as Chairman of the Young PAP. In Parliament, he has moved several pieces of new legislation. These include the Competition Act, Community Care Endowment Fund Act, Mental Capacity Act, the International Child Abduction Act, the Energy Conservation Act and the Transboundary Haze Pollution Act. He has also led the upgrading of the Childcare sector; establishment of National Family Council, Charities Council, Community Foundation of Singapore, National Steering Committee on Racial & Religious Harmony, the National Integration Council, the Council for Third Age, and the National Council against Problem Gambling. He studied Medicine at the National University of Singapore (NUS) after being awarded the President’s Scholarship in 1980.

## TANG SIEW MUN

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Tang Siew Mun is the Head of the ASEAN Studies Centre at the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, where he is concurrently Senior Fellow at the Regional Strategic and Political Studies programme. He is Managing Editor of ASEANFocus. His primary research interests are Asian security, ASEAN’s relations with the major powers and Japanese foreign policy.

Prior to joining ISEAS, he was Director for Foreign Policy and Security Studies at the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS), Malaysia and Senior Lecturer at the National University of Malaysia (UKM). He holds B.A (Hons.) from the National University of Malaysia, MA in War Studies from King’s College London, MA in International Studies from the Claremont Graduate University and Ph.D. from Arizona State University in Political Science.

## JONATHAN TOW

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Mr Jonathan is Director General of the South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa Directorate in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and from July to December 2017, concurrently covering Director General of the Europe Directorate. Prior to this appointment, he was Deputy High Commissioner at the Singapore High Commission in New Delhi 2011 to 2014. Mr

Tow graduated from the National University of Singapore with a BA (Hons) in History in 1996. In 2005, he obtained an MA (with honours) in Security Studies from Georgetown University on a Fulbright Scholarship

and attended the Beijing Language and Culture University in 2006. Mr Tow joined the Singapore Civil Service in 1996 and has held various research and management appointments in the Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From 2007 to 2010, he served as First Secretary (Political) at the Singapore Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York.

## Thailand

### CHAISIRI ANAMARN

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#### (Head of Delegation)



Chaisiri Anamarn is the advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand. Previously, he served as the Deputy Permanent Secretary, Office of the Permanent Secretary, Thailand. He was also Ambassador, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Thailand to Malaysia and Denmark.

He also served as the Director-General, Department of Consular Affairs and was the Counsellor, Minister Counsellor, Royal Thai Embassy Manila and Hanoi. He has also served as the Third Secretary and Second Secretary to the South Asian Division, Department of Political Affairs, Second Secretary to the South Asian Division Royal Thai Embassy, Brussels and First Secretary Communication, Science and Technology Division, ASEAN-Thailand, Thai-Cambodia Border Liaison Office, South Asian Division, Department of Political Affairs. He has a bachelor's degree in Government (Honours) from Thammasat University, Bangkok, Thailand and a master's degree in Political Science from Eastern New Mexico University, U.S.A.

### PRADAP PIBULSONGRAM

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Pradap had a good exposure to the business world while in the diplomatic service. He is now active in two private enterprises: Board Member of TEAM Engineering Consulting International, and independent Board Member (Audit Committee) of Siam City Cement Public Company Ltd. To enhance his business knowledge, he had participated in specialised management and finance courses organized by Thailand's Institute of Directors. Ambassador Pradap entered into a diplomatic career from 1973 to 2009. He served as Heads of several functional and geographical Departments and in 2007 appointed Deputy Permanent Secretary and was the Heads of Missions in ten European countries, the last post was in Rome. Ambassador Pradap was a member of the prestigious and distinguished National Defence College, Public/Private Sector Class 377.

## Vietnam

### NGUYEN QUOC DUNG

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(Head of Delegation)



Nguyen Quoc Dung is the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Vietnam. Prior to that, he was Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs, Director-General of the Department of Organization and Personnel. He started his diplomatic career in March 1990 as a desk-officer of Europe II Department (now Europe Department) of the Ministry. With more than 26 years working in the Foreign Service, he has held various positions and built up a wide range of experiences, especially in international integration, bilateral and multilateral diplomacy, international economic affairs, and human resources management and development. He graduated from the Institute for International Relations (now the Diplomatic Academy of Viet Nam) in 1984 and obtained a Master in International Studies at Birmingham University, United Kingdom. He also attended the “Russian Language Intensive Training Course” at Kiev University, Ukraine from 1986–1987.

## ERIA

### HIDETOSHI NISHIMURA

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Hidetoshi Nishimura is the current President of ERIA. Mr Nishimura graduated from the Faculty of Law, the University of Tokyo and obtained a Master’s Degree in International Development and Economics from Yale University. He joined the Ministry of International Trade and Industry in 1976. Has assumed numerous positions, including Representative of the Asia-Pacific Region of the Japan Overseas Development Corporation, Director of the Southeast Asia and Pacific Division of the Trade Policy Bureau, Vice Governor for International Affairs of Ehime Prefecture, Director-General of the Business Support Department of the Small and Medium Enterprise Agency, Executive Managing Director of the Japan-China Economic Association, and President of the Japan- China Northeast Development Association. He assumed position of ERIA Executive Director in June 2008 and subsequently was appointed as ERIA’s first President in June 2015, and was reappointed as President of ERIA by the Governing Board for a third five-year term in June 2018. He is a visiting Professor of Waseda University, Darma Persada University, honorable Professor of Guangxi University and fellow of Musashino Institute for Global Affairs, Musashino University.





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# Glimpses of Delhi Dialogue

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## Special Plenary: Roundtable with Chief Ministers of North East India



## Plenary Session I: Role of North East in Act East: Forging Connectivity with ASEAN



## Plenary Session II: Strengthening Socio-Cultural Links



## Plenary Session III: India-ASEAN Partnership and Emerging Global Order



Family Photo of EAM and Heads of Delegations of ASEAN Member States and ASEAN Secretariat



**Ministerial Session: Keynote Address by Smt. Sushma Swaraj,  
External Affairs Minister of India**



**Plenary Session IV: Maritime Cooperation: A New  
Framework for India-ASEAN Partnership**



**Plenary Session V: Development Cooperation:  
Strengthening the ASEAN-India Partnership**



## Plenary Session VI: ASEAN-India Trade, Investment and Technology



## Parallel Session I: SMEs and Regional Development



## Parallel Session II: e-Commerce and Digital Connectivity



### Parallel Session III: Tourism Cooperation



### Parallel Session IV: Building Smart Cities



## Valedictory Session



## Sessions of Delhi Dialogue X





## About RIS

Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) is a New Delhi-based autonomous policy research institute that specialises in issues related to international economic development, trade, investment and technology. RIS is envisioned as a forum for fostering effective policy dialogue and capacity-building among developing countries on global and regional economic issues.

The focus of the work programme of RIS is to promote South-South Cooperation and collaborate with developing countries in multilateral negotiations in various forums. RIS is engaged across inter-governmental processes of several regional economic cooperation initiatives. Through its intensive network of think tanks, RIS seeks to strengthen policy coherence on international economic issues and the development partnership canvas. For more information about RIS and its work programme, please visit its website: [www.ris.org.in](http://www.ris.org.in)

## About AIC

ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) has been working to strengthen India's strategic partnership with ASEAN in its realisation of the ASEAN Community. AIC at RIS undertakes research, policy advocacy and regular networking activities with relevant public/private agencies, organisations and think-tanks in India and ASEAN countries, with the aim of providing policy inputs, up-to-date information, data resources and sustained interaction, for strengthening ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership. For more information about AIC, please visit its website: <http://aic.ris.org.in>



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