



Regional Consultation Meeting on the Study on Potential for Trade in Services under SAFTA Agreement

RIS and SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu jointly organized the Regional Consultation Meeting on the Study on Potential for Trade in Services under SAFTA Agreement in New Delhi on 6-7 February 2008.

The Meeting began with the opening remarks by the SAARC Secretary-General's Representative Mr. Vinay Kwatra, Director, Economic Trade and Finance Division, SAARC Secretariat. Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS was unanimously elected the Chairperson for the Meeting.

In the first business session, presentations were made by the country delegations. They included: Mr. Nisar Ahmad Masoud, Director, Ministry of Commerce and Industries, Afghanistan; Mr. Sayed Ahmadullah Majeed, Commercial Counsellor, Embassy of Afghanistan, New Delhi; Mr. Mohd Khalid Yousufzai, Supporting Officer, Afghanistan; Dr. Ananya Raihan, Executive Director, D.Net (Development Research Network), Bangladesh; Dr. Mostafa Abid Khan, Joint Chief, Bangladesh Tariff Commission, Bangladesh; Mr. Pema R. Rinchen, Head (WTO), Foreign Trade, Ministry of Trade and



Delegates at the Regional Consultation Meeting (seated: Mr. Shahid Bashir, Pakistan; Mr. Rajiv Kher, Dr. Kheya Bhattacharya, Dr. Nagesh Kumar, India; Dr. Saman Kelegama, Sri Lanka; and Mr. Raja Manzoor Ahmed Kayani, Pakistan.

Industry, Bhutan; Mr. Abdulla Thawfeeq, Director, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, Malé; Ms. Laila Manik, Legal Officer, Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation, Malé; Dr. Ramesh C. Chitrakar, Executive Director, Centre for Economic Development and Administration (CEDA), Nepal; Mr. Shiva Prasad Tripathy, Officer,

Ministry of Industry, Commerce & Supplies, Nepal; Mr. Shahid Bashir, Joint Secretary (FT-D), Ministry of Commerce, Pakistan; Mr. Fazal Abbas Maken, Minister (Trade), High Commission of Pakistan, New Delhi; Mr. Raja Manzoor Ahmed Kayani, Deputy Secretary

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RIS hosts the Fourth CEPEA Study Group Meeting

The East Asia Summit held in Cebu on 15 January 2007 had launched a Track II study on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Arrangement for East Asia (CEPEA) to deepen the economic linkages among the 16 EAS countries in a comprehensive manner. Subsequently, the ASEAN Secretariat has set up a Study Group comprising nominees of the governments of the 16 EAS member countries. RIS hosted the Fourth Meeting of the Study Group in New Delhi on 1-2 February 2008.

The Fourth Meeting opened with the Inaugural Address by Mr. N. Ravi, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, after brief welcome remarks by Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS and a member of the Study Group. Mr. Ravi highlighted the importance India attaches to working with partners in the East Asia Summit to build a broader Asian Community that has been envisioned by the Prime Minister of India.



(From left): Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS; Mr. N. Ravi, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs; Mr. Risaburo Nezu, Senior Managing Director, Fujitsu Research Institute, Japan; Prof. Hirokazu Okamura, Visiting Professor, Graduate School of Law Politics, University of Tokyo; Prof Ichiro Araki, Japan; and Ms. Mercy O. Simorang Kir (ASEAN Secretariat).

In the sessions that followed, Chairman Mr. Risaburo Nezu of Japan briefed the Meeting about the Report of the Secretary-

General of ASEAN to the leaders at the Third East Asia Summit on the progress of CEPEA,

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(RIS hosts the Fourth CEPEA Study Group Meeting)

which indicated the plan to submit the final report by August 2008 to be in time for ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting (AEM Meeting). He also drew attention to the Chairman's Statement of the Third East Asia Summit held in Singapore on 21 November 2007 that encouraged the CEPEA Study Group to maintain good momentum in their work and submit a final Report of the recommendations to the Fourth East Asia Summit through Economic Ministers. It also said that "CEPEA should build upon and add value to the existing FTAs". Thereafter the Meeting discussed the early versions of the draft chapters of the Report of the Study Group.

The different sessions also had presentations which were followed by open discussion. These included: Trade Facilitation by New Zealand; cooperation for narrowing development gaps by India; Environment and Energy Cooperation in East Asia by China; Information and Communication Technology (ICT) by Malaysia; CEPEA Institutional Framework of EAS by Indonesia; Objectives and Scope of CEPEA prepared by Japan; and Roadmap to CEPEA by Japan.

RIS had also arranged presentations by two Indian business houses. These included one by President of Tata Steel in Singapore and the other by Vice-President of NIIT Ltd.

Roundtable Discussion on Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's Visit to China: Charting Future Directions in India-China Relations



(From left): Dr. Alka Acharya; Prof Patricia Uberoi; Dr. Nagesh Kumar, and Mr. Jayant Bhuyan at the Session.

RIS and the Institute of Chinese Studies, CSDS jointly organized a Roundtable Discussion on Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's Visit to China: Charting Future Directions in India-China Relations in New Delhi on 8 February 2009. The discussion began with the Welcome Remarks by Professor Patricia Uberoi, Honorary Director, Institute of Chinese Studies who also chaired the first session. The Session I had presentations on Political Dimension by Dr. Alka Acharya, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Economic Dimension by Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS and on Commercial Dimension by Mr. Jayant Bhuyan, Confederation of Indian Industries. Professor Manoranjan Mohanty chaired and moderated the Session II on Discussion and Question & Answer. Ambassador Vinod Khanna, Emeritus Fellow, ICS was the discussant. A large number of participants took part in the open discussion that followed. Dr. Srinikanth Kondapalli, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University summed up the discussion and extended the vote of thanks.

Current Research/Advisory Activities

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

RIS has initiated jointly with the Global Development and Environment Institute (GDAE) at the Tufts University in the US and Research Centre for Economic Changes (CENIT) based in Argentina, a major global research programme identifying development policies that have been successful (as well as those that have not) to help facilitate a discussion on a strategic response of developing countries to globalization. It also proposes to outline an agenda for evolving a more development-friendly global economic governance. It will identify the most (and least) successful development policies in the past and present, examine the extent to which structures, and facilitate the formulation of a strategic response on the part of the developing world to preserve those policies for which it has the "policy space" to pursue and to advocate for those that are challenged. The two year research programme will culminate with a dialogue tentatively titled

"Towards a Southern Consensus on Globalization and Development" that will bring together eminent economists, government officials and members of civil society from across the globe to come up with a more inclusive framework for global economic governance. For further details, please contact: dgoffice@ris.org.in

India-Indonesia Joint Study Group on the Feasibility of a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry approached RIS to participate in the India-Indonesia JSG on the Feasibility of a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement. RIS participated in the First JSG meeting in Jakarta in Oct-30-31, 2007. In the Meeting, Dr. Ram Upendra Das was made leader of the working group on Trade in Goods from the Indian side to draft the chapter on trade in goods. Subsequently, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, GOI approached RIS to prepare the chapter on

Investment Cooperation for the JSG. For further details, please contact: upendra@ris.org.in

Notes prepared for the Government of India:

- Note on Relevance of APEC for India was sent to the Ministry of External Affairs on 29 January 2008.
- Some materials on Northeast India was made available to the NIPFP on 14 February 2008.
- Note on Global Economic Prospects and Emerging Countries was sent to the Ministry of External Affairs on 7 March 2008.
- Input were provided to the Ministry of Commerce and Indian Mission to WTO at Geneva on Technology Transfer.
- Inputs were provided to the Department of Commerce on Negotiations for Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between India and Korea as part of the study being conducted by RIS on India-Korea CEPA.

International Conference on Access and Benefit Sharing for Genetic Resources

Linkages between TRIPs and indigenous knowledge system (IKS) emerged as one of the most contentious issue at the Doha round of WTO negotiations. One of the possible policy options suggested by the developing countries as part of reconciliation is possibility of access and benefit sharing (ABS). There has been an intense debate about the various aspects of ABS of genetic resources at national and international levels. This calls for urgent and substantive policy responses both at the national and at the international level. In order to discuss the issues involved, RIS in collaboration with the University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN), the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Government of India and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), New Delhi organized the 'International Conference on Access and Benefit Sharing for Genetic Resources' in New Delhi on 6-7 March 2008.

The conference began with welcome remarks by Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director General, RIS. Mr. B. S. Parsheera, Additional Secretary, MoEF delivered the inaugural address. Prof. Doris Schroeder, project leader, GenBenefit, University of Central Lancashire explained the GenBenefit project. Prof. Thomas Pogge, Yale University delivered the Keynote Address on ABS and International Trade and Legal Regimes. Dr. Vasantha Muthuswamy, ICMR extended vote of thanks.

Mr. Timothy Hodges, Canada chaired Session I - Panel Discussion on Issues in ABS Debate. This discussion on: Overview of Negotiations at WTO Forum by Mr. Sanjay



(From left): Dr. Vasantha Muthuswamy; Prof. Thomas Pogge; Mr. B. S. Parsheera; Dr. Nagesh Kumar; and Prof. Doris Schroeder at the Conference.

Kumar, former Director, Ministry of Commerce & Industry; Overview of Negotiations at CBD Forum by Prof. Gurdial Singh Nijar, Malaysia; ABS and Human Genetics by Dr. Véronique Fournier, Director, CE Centre, Paris, France; and ABS and Gender Issues by Prof. Fatima Alvarez-Castillo, University of Philippines.

The Session II on Indigenous Knowledge System, ABS and Evidence from Plant based Case Studies was Chaired by Dr. Fernando Casas, Colombia. It had presentations on San Hoodia Case and ABS by Dr. Roger Chennels, Stellenbosch; ABS and Kani Case by Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi, RIS; and ABS Arrangements in Peru by Dr. Bram De Jonge, Wageningen University. The Session III on Emerging ABS Trends in Human Genetics was chaired by Prof. R. Kumar, IIS, Bangalore. It had presentations on ABS Issues and Icelandic Biobank by Dr. Gardar Arnason, Manchester University; and Majengo HIV/

AIDS Research Case by Prof. Doris Schroeder and Dr. Pamela Andanda, University of the Witwatersrand.

The Session on Implementation of ABS and National Legal Regimes was co-chaired by Prof. Madhav Menon, Member, CCSR; and Dr. R. S. Rana, Member, UNEP-CBD Tech Expert Group on Tech Transfer. Dr. Dafna Feinholz, Executive Director, NCB, Mexico; Dr. Lifeng Guo, Researcher, CASTED, China; Prof. P. Pushpangadan, AIHB, Kerala; Mr. Jack Beetson, Aboriginal Philosopher, FIAEP, Australia; and Dr. K. Venkataraman, Secretary, NBA, Chennai addressed the session.

Dr. Miltos Ladikas, University of Central Lancashire, UK Chaired the Valedictory Session. Mr. Timothy Hodges; Dr. Fernando Casas; and Dr. S. K. Bhattacharya, Additional Director General, ICMR addressed the participants at the Valedictory Session on the ABS Policy Lessons and Way Forward.

Seminar on India's Trade Policy Options: Multilateral Trade Negotiations vs. Bilateral Arrangements

The past few years have seen a number of developments with respect to trade policy negotiations in the country. While India has emerged as a key participant among the developing countries in the Doha round of negotiations, it has also engaged some of its key trade partners into bilateral and regional trade negotiations. India has concluded preferential bilateral trade arrangements with Sri Lanka and Singapore, and is currently negotiating with ASEAN, Japan, South Korea, and is studying such arrangements with China, European Union, Indonesia, Malaysia, among other countries.

To discuss the pros and cons of different options, RIS organized a Seminar on India's Trade Policy Options: Multilateral Trade Negotiations vs. Bilateral Arrangements on 9 January 2008. After the opening remarks by Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS, Dr.



(From left): Dr. Ramgopal Agarwala, Dr. Sandra Polaski, Prof. Manmohan Agarwal, Dr. Nagesh Kumar, and Dr. T.K. Bhaumik at the Seminar

Sandra Polaski, Director, Trade, Equity and Development Programme, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Washington, and lead author of a recent Carnegie Study on India's Trade Policy Choices initiated the discussion. This presentation was followed by a Panel

Discussion on the findings by Professor Manmohan Agarwal, School of International Studies, JNU; Dr. Ramgopal Agarwala, Senior Adviser, RIS; and Dr. T.K. Bhaumik, Chief Economist, Reliance Industries Limited. The presentations were followed by open discussion.

Contributions to Outside Policy Dialogues

Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General

- Participated in the Steering Committee Meeting on the Project on Trade and Gender, funded by the Commonwealth Secretariat, London, held in the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, New Delhi on 7 January 2008.
- Participated in the Meeting of Economists with Hon'ble Finance Minister for Pre-Budget Consultations, held in New Delhi on 9 January 2008.
- Participated in the Roundtable Discussion on India's Potential Role in Improving Multilateral Trade Organization's Effectiveness, organized by TARU in New Delhi on 15 January 2008.
- Made a presentation on Policy Measures Required for Investment Environment in Bhutan, organized by the Ministry of External Affairs and CII in New Delhi on 15 January 2008.
- Chaired the Workshop on International Infrastructure Development in East Asia: Towards Effective and Balanced Regional Integration; and participated in the Research Project Leaders Meeting of ERIA, organized by the IDE-JETRO Bangkok Research Center on 19-21 January 2008.
- Delivered a lecture on WTO and Developing Countries at the Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats organized by the Foreign Service Institute (FSI), New Delhi on 28 January 2008.
- Delivered a Keynote Address at the Regional Policy Dialogue on Pro-poor Housing Finance, organized the National Housing Bank, India in association with UNESCAP in New Delhi on 30 January 2008.
- Chaired the Session on Trade, Investment and Labour Markets in the Conference on Growth and Macroeconomic Issues and Challenges in India, organized by the Institute of Economic Growth in New Delhi on 15 February 2008.
- Delivered a lecture on India's Look East Policy the Third Orientation Course for Senior IPS Officers, conducted by the FSI on 19 February 2008 in New Delhi.
- Panelist at the Budget Discussion, organized by the PHD Commerce and Industry in New Delhi on 29 February 2008.
- Made a presentation at SAFTA Committee of Experts: Third Meeting held in New Delhi on 1 March 2008.
- Participated in the ERIA Workshop for Roadmap Project and ERIA Tokyo Forum on Creation of the World's Largest Business Space, organized by the IDE-JETRO in Tokyo on 3-4 March 2008.
- Made a presentation on India's Economic Relations with East Asia at ADB-ICRIER Seminar on India's Role in Asian Economic Integration, held in New Delhi on 10 March 2008.
- Participated in the Meeting of the Board of Governors of the ISID, held in New Delhi on 24 March 2008.
- Delivered the Inaugural Address at the National Seminar on Asian Economic Integration, organized by the Department of

Economics, Kurukshetra University, Haryana on 25 March 2008.

- Chaired the Session on Benefit from Transport Facilitation and Trade in Services in SAFTA at the Seminar on Regional Cooperation in South Asia, organized by FICCI, ADB and UNCTAD-India Programme in New Delhi on 28 March 2008.

Dr. Ramgopal Agarwala, Senior Advisor

- Presented a paper on Challenges and Opportunities of Sovereign Wealth Accumulation in the South: An Indian Perspective at the Sovereign Wealth Funds Seminar organized by the Andean Development Corporation (CAF) in London on 18 February 2008.
- Participated in the Symposium on the theme "Can the Dynamism of Asia be Sustained?", organized by Keizai Koho Centre in Tokyo on 24 March 2008.
- Presented a paper on India's Role in Sustaining Dynamism of Asia at the seminar held at Asian Development Bank Institute, Tokyo on 25 March 2008.

Dr. Rajesh Mehta, Senior Fellow

- Participated in the Russia-India-China (RIC) Trilateral Seminar on Evolution of Geo-Political Strategic Trends, organized by the ICWA, New Delhi in collaboration with ICS, New Delhi on 27 March 2007.
- Made a presentation on Implications of the WTO Tariff Proposals on Indian Paper and Newsprint Industry at the Development Council for Pulp, Paper and Allied Industries, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi on 28 March 2008.
- Delivered a lecture on Non-Agricultural Market Access (NAMA) at the Training Programme on International Economics, Terms of Trade and WTO Issues for Indian Statistical Service Officers, organized by the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) in New Delhi on 31 March 2008.

Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi, Fellow

- Made a presentation on Emergence of BioPharmaceutical Industry and Biotechnology Policy: Emerging Linkages and Prospects at the Seminar on Strategic R&D Management, organized by the Human Resource Development Centre, CSIR, Ghaziabad on 27 March 2008.
- Made a presentation on Indigenous Knowledge System (IKS) and Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) at the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Trivandrum on 1 March 2008.
- Made a presentation on South-South Linkages in Genomics at Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advance Studies, Bangalore on 29 February 2008.
- Made a presentation on Industry Associations as Agents of Change at the Discussion Meeting on Innovation System and Economic Growth in India, organized by IIM, Ahmedabad on 4 January 2008

Dr. Ram Upendra Das, Fellow

- Presented a paper on Are Trade Openness and Financial Development complementary? (Co-author Meenakshi Rishi) at the ASSA Annual Meeting in New Orleans, USA on 5 January 2008.
- Participated in the Meetings on SAARC Services Study in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi on 24 January 2008 and 5 February 2008.
- Delivered a lecture on India-ASEAN Economic Cooperation, organized for the Foreign Diplomats by the FSI in New Delhi on 24 January 2008.
- Participated in the Discussion Meetings on India-Indonesia JSG held in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on 29 January 2008 and 9 February 2008.
- Participated in the Preparatory Meeting for SAFTA Committee of Experts in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on 18 February 2008.
- Participated in the Meeting on India-Oman Economic Cooperation held in the Ministry of External Affairs on 22 February 2008.
- Participated in the Meeting on SAFTA Committee of Experts held in New Delhi on 1-2 March 2008.
- Participated in the Meeting of SAFTA Ministerial Council held in New Delhi on 3 March 2008.
- Delivered a lecture on WTO Implications for Developing Countries, organized by the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), New Delhi on 4 March 2008.
- Participated in the Meeting on India-Oman Economic Cooperation in the Ministry of External Affairs on 6 March 2008.

Dr. Prabir De, Fellow

- Delivered a lecture on the Role of Infrastructure in India's Economic Development at the 45th Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats, organized by the FSI in New Delhi on 17 January 2008.
- Made presentations on Infrastructure Development in India: Profile and Prospects; and East Asian Infrastructure Development in a Comparative Global Perspective: An Analysis of RIS Infrastructure Index at the ERIA Infrastructure Project Concluding Meeting on International Infrastructure Development in East Asia: Towards an Effective and Balanced Regional Integration, organized by the IDE-JETRO on 20-21 January 2008 at JETRO, Bangkok.
- Made a presentation on Challenges and Opportunities in India-Bangladesh Economic Cooperation at the Seminar on Current Development in Bangladesh: Implications for India, organized by the Academy of Third World Studies (ATWS), Jamia Millia Islamia University in New Delhi on 7-8 February 2008.
- Delivered a lecture on Scopes and Opportunities in Higher Education Services Trade in India at the National Conference on Opportunities and Challenges in Emerging Markets: Focus on Asia, organized by the Jaipuria Institute of Management at Noida on 9 February 2008.
- Made a presentation on Trends in National

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RIS Capacity Building Programmes 2007/08

International Economic Issues and Development Policy (IEIDP) Programme, New Delhi, 18 February-14 March, 2008



Participants of the IEIDP Capacity Building Programme with Dr. Nagesh Kumar and Dr. Ram Upendra Das

RIS conducted the Capacity Building Programme on International Economic Issues and Development Policy (IEIDP) in conjunction with the ITEC programme of the Ministry of External Affairs from 18 February-14 March 2008. This was the third batch in the revised and upgraded format and participants included: Mr. Andrew Allimadi from Ethiopia; Ms. Theresa Boasiako Korang from Ghana; Mrs. Suneetha Swarnakanthi Ranhoti Gedara from Sri Lanka; Mr. Ibrahim Bin Seif Mohammed Al Hamdani from Sultanate of Oman; Mrs. Munesh Iswaree Ramchurun from Mauritius; Ms. Gulnara Khalimbetova from Uzbekistan; Ms. Inna Yassenovskaya from Russia; Ms. Liis Elmik from Estonia; Ms. Yulia Kapshyna from Belarus; and Mr. Alexander Shust from Belarus.

The programme began with the Orientation Session by Dr. Ram Upendra Das, Fellow RIS and also the Course Coordinator. Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS delivered the lecture on World Trading System and Development. The IEIDP Programme covered modules on world trading system and developing countries, international financial architecture and developing countries, South-South cooperation and regional economic integration, India's development strategy, among other

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Global and Regional Economic Cooperation Issues (GRECI) Programme, New Delhi, 11 February-7 March 2008

RIS organized the first Capacity Building Programme on Global and Regional Economic Cooperation Issues (GRECI) in collaboration with IDE-JETRO, Tokyo under the framework of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) from 11 February-7 March 2008 in New Delhi. This programme has been designed to build analytical capacity among the researchers and officials in East Asian participating countries with a special focus on CLMV countries. It was participated by Mr. Carlos Mangunsong from Indonesia; Mr. Johan Khalidi B. Mohd Mokhtazar from Malaysia; Mrs. Ing Maleny, Mr. Kim Sovanna and Mr. Sum Sochenda from Cambodia; Ms. Daw Yin New Aung and Mr. Htun Zaw from Myanmar; and Mr. Nattawat Krittayanawat from Thailand.

In the initial phase the participants were given a module on Asian Economic Integration covering the relevance, emerging trends and patterns as well as sectoral issues. This included an opening session in which Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS addressed the participants on Emerging Trends and Patterns Towards Regionalism in Asia. Dr. Ram



Participants of the GRECI Capacity Building Programme with Dr. Nagesh Kumar and Dr. Ram Upendra Das

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(WTO), Ministry of Commerce, Islamabad, Pakistan; Dr. Saman Kelegama, Executive Director, Institute of Policy Studies, Sri Lanka; Mr. Deshal de Mel, Research Officer, Institute of Policy Studies, Sri Lanka; Mr. Vinay Kwatra, Director, Economic, Trade and Finance Division; and Mr. Subash C. Sharma, Economic, Trade and Finance Division, SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu.

The Indian delegation included: Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS; Mr. Rajeev Kher, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry; Dr. (Ms.) Kheya Bhattacharya, Joint Secretary (SAARC), Ministry of External

Policy-Mandate to RIS by the SAFTA Ministerial Council

Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General and Dr. Ram Upendra Das, Fellow, RIS participated in the Third Meeting of SAFTA Committee of Experts (COE) in New Delhi on 1-2 March 2008. Dr. Nagesh Kumar made a presentation on the Regional Study on 'Potential of Trade in Services under SAFTA Agreement'. The Meeting commended RIS for the hard work done in the preparation of the Study. The Meeting noted the importance of Trade in Services in the Region. It recalled directives of the Thirteenth and Fourteenth SAARC Summits, including "finalisation of an Agreement in the services sector at the earliest." It recommended that RIS may be requested to draft a Draft SAARC Framework Agreement on Trade in Services (SAFAS) by 30 June 2008.

Subsequently, considering the above recommendations of the SAFTA COE, the Third Meeting of SAFTA Ministerial Council held in New Delhi on 3 March 2008, decided as follows:

"The Meeting appreciated the fact that the Regional Study on Potential of Trade in Services under SAFTA Agreement has since been concluded. It commended the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi, and the National Focal Points for their hard work in finalizing the Study."

"The Meeting endorsed the recommendations of the Third Meeting of SAFTA COE and decided that RIS be requested to draft the text of Draft SAARC Framework Agreement on Trade in Services (SAFAS) by 30 June 2008."

Affairs; Mr. Amit Yadav, Director, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry; Mr. Rajeev Kumar, Director, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry; Dr. Ram Upendra Das, Fellow, RIS; Dr. Prabir De, Fellow, RIS; and Ms. Apoorva Srivastava, Under Secretary (SAARC), Ministry of External Affairs.

The meeting extensively discussed the draft regional study prepared by RIS. The study was subsequently finalized in the light of the comments received, and submitted to the SAARC Secretariat.

Latest Publications

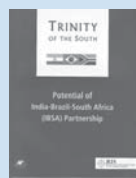
Books/Reports

TRINITY OF THE SOUTH: Potential of India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Partnership, 2008. Published by RIS in association with Academic Foundation, ISBN 978-81-7188-679-1.

In this study RIS makes an exploratory attempt to examine the potential of IBSA economic partnership in the areas of trade in goods, services, investments, technology cooperation and other areas of economic cooperation between the three countries given the extensive complementarities and synergies capabilities that can make cooperation in a number of sectors highly fruitful. The Report makes a number of recommendations for exploiting this potential of the IBSA economic partnership.

The Study on Infrastructure Development in India and RIS Infrastructure Index. 2008. Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Tokyo: IDE-JETRO.

Industrial Agglomeration, Production Networks and FDI Promotion-the Experience of Auto Component Industry in Two Clusters in India. RIS, 2008. Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Tokyo: IDE-JETRO.



Policy Briefs

#34 **Towards a Global Compact for Managing Climate Change**

#35 **Building a Development-Friendly World Trading System**

Discussion Papers

#132 **The WTO's Doha Negotiations: An Assessment** by Bhagirath Lal Das
The lure of big benefits from successful conclusion of the multilateral negotiations and the risks of bilateral and regional routes if these negotiations fail should not be taken by the developing countries as determining factors in their moves in the current WTO Doha negotiations. Working together, the developing countries have much greater negotiating strength than if they were to form small interest groups and negotiate with the major developed countries separately. Such cohesion of strength and strategy can be built up on the basis of mutual trust and recognition of various interests among them. If there are conflicting interests sometimes, there would be a need for rational adjustment. Total transparency among the developing countries and being continuously on guard against mutual suspicion are important preconditions for deepening their cooperation and consolidation in multilateral negotiations.

#133 **Towards An Asian "Bretton Woods" for Restructuring of the Regional Financial Architecture** by Ramgopal Agarwala
Despite a plethora of programs for increased financial cooperation in Asia, there has been very little real progress in developing a regional architecture for financial cooperation in Asia. While the risks of repetition of 1997-98 style financial crisis in Asia are not high today, there are new risks of financial turbulence originating from sub-prime crisis in the US and new opportunities for using the financial strength of the region for accelerated growth with equity. To guard against these risks and to exploit these opportunities, a bold new initiative in the region is needed. The paper outlines such a proposal.

#134 **India-Africa Economic Partnership: Trends and Prospects** by S. K. Mohanty and Sachin Chaturvedi
With the growing internationalisation, the traditional old linkages between India and Africa are gradually emerging as a dynamic and vibrant trade and investment partnership, benefiting all the partner economies. The rapid economic transformation of Indian economy and her emergence as major market has provided huge opportunities to the partner countries. The trade between India and Africa has almost doubled in last couple of years with rapid rise in Indian investments in the region. This may contribute substantively towards South-South cooperation model as was perceived at Bandung. It is in this context that India and Africa are also playing a key role at various global fora such as WTO.

#135 **East Asian Infrastructure Development in a Comparative Global Perspective: An Analysis of RIS Infrastructure Index** by Nagesh Kumar and Prabir De
Development of infrastructure is one the key priorities of East Asia Summit (EAS) countries. By constructing an Infrastructure Index for 104 countries comprising all the EAS members, 2005, this paper examines the infrastructure attainment of EAS countries in a comparative global perspective over time and space. It makes observations on the gaps between EAS countries in terms of infrastructure development, their overtime performance, and provides some policy recommendations for narrowing the gaps. The Infrastructure Index developed in this paper reveals very wide gaps in terms of infrastructure attainment across the EAS region, which seems to have widened rather than narrowed over time calling attention for narrowing these gaps.

Journals

● **Asian Biotechnology and Development Review**, Vol. 10.1 and 10.2, 2007. **Special Issue on Biorefineries: Prospects, Problems and Perspective for Developing Countries** by Guest Editor: Edgar J. DaSilva

Contents: Mining of Biowealth through Use of Clean and Green Technologies by Edgar J. DaSilva; A Model for Zero Emission Biotechnology in Asian Countries by Hitomi Ohara; Biorefineries: A Contribution to the Human Face of Biotechnology by Horst W. Doelle and Edgar J. DaSilva; From Petro to Agro: Seeds of a New Economy by Robert E. Armstrong; Bioconversion Energy Technologies: Catalysts for Bioeconomic Development in the ASEAN Region by Kamaruddin Abdullah; Marine Biotechnology: A Natural Biorefinery Source of Marine Products and By-products for Human Welfare by Indrani Karunasagar and Iddya Karunasagar; Renewable Energies for North and Central Asian Countries: Bioeconomics, Environment and Social Impact by Aldo Iacomelli; and In Memory of Dr. Edgar DaSilva by Lucy Hoareau

● **New Aisa Monitor**, Vol. 5. No. 1, 2008

Outside Publications of the RIS Faculty Members

Research Papers

De, P. 2008. "Realising the Gains from Full Regional Connectivity in South Asia: The Transport Costs Dimension". *Man and Development*, Vol. 30, No. 1.

De, P. 2008. "Trade Costs and Infrastructure: Analysis of the Effects of Trade Impediments in Asia". *Journal of Integration and Trade*, Vol. 12, No. 28, pp. 241-266.

De, P. 2008. "Infrastructure Development in India" in *International Infrastructure Development in East Asia: Towards Balanced Regional Development and Integration*, Tokyo: IDE-JETRO.

Kumar, Nagesh (ed.). 2008. *International Infrastructure Development in East Asia: Towards Balanced Regional Development and Integration*. ERIA Research Project Report 2007 No. 2, Tokyo: IDE/Jetro, March.

Kumar, Nagesh. 2008. "ASEAN FTAs & Prospects of Broader Regional Cooperation in Asia". *Japan Spotlight*. March/April.

Kumar, Nagesh. 2008. "Investment Cooperation and Liberalization in ASEAN+6" in *Deepening Economic Integration in East Asia – the ASEAN Economic Community and Beyond* (ed) Hadi Soesastro. Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA). Tokyo: IDE-JETRO.

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Surviving the financial turmoil in the U.S. Experts say Asia needs to close ranks, use regional funds for regional needs

By TAKASHI KITAZUME

Asian nations should pursue greater economic cooperation among themselves to minimize the damage to their economies as the U.S. economic crisis is triggered by the subprime mortgage crisis, experts said at a recent symposium in Tokyo.



Ramgopal Agarwala



Hank Lim

Some of the participants said Asia needs to prepare for a sustained reduction in its exports to the United States by creating greater demand at home — by diverting more of its resources to invest in the region's infrastructure building.

Experts from Japan, China, Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia took part in the March 24 symposium organized by Keio and Kato Center under the theme, "Can the dynamism of Asia be sustained?"

Ring Takahata, senior general manager of international affairs of the Nikkei business daily who served as moderator of the symposium, said the subprime-triggered U.S. financial turmoil and the looming recession would potentially disrupt the dynamic growth of Asian economies — even though Asia's dependence on trade with the U.S. has been on the decline.

Keio University professor

exchange reserves to finance, for example, the region's lagging infrastructure building.

And this is an idea similar to what Japan advocated a decade ago in response to the 1997 Asian financial crisis — to create an Asian Monetary Fund to use Asian funds to meet the region's needs, he said.

There is no way that this problem would be solved without a drastic devaluation of the U.S. dollar, he said. The only question, he added, is whether it would be a soft landing of the dollar or a hard landing.

And this is where Asian countries have to get together and have a policy of "concerted appreciation" of their currencies against the dollar — so that some of the Asian economies will get special benefits over others through a discount rate on their exports.

Agarwala also said the U.S. financial turmoil would not

be a tremendous domestic demand in Asia "but we never do it unless there is a crisis, Lim said. "So this is an opportunity."

Peking University professor Zhu Dawang challenged the view that Asia should accept a weaker dollar and turn more to the regional market.

He said, "The proposal for such a regional institution gives an urgency for some sort of Asian currency unit — another idea that has been floated but has not made much headway over the past decade, he added.

Hank Lim, research director of the Singapore Institute for International Affairs, agreed that the U.S. turmoil "provides an opportunity for Asia to reorient our regional

market-based integration work and now backed by institutional frameworks like free-trade agreements.

He said, "We are worried about the weakening of the U.S. dollar. Zhu said. China would "do whatever is necessary to support the dollar — because of the centrality of the U.S. in the global economy. You don't find many markets like the U.S.," he said.

This is not a time for any country to be jaggedly in front. Americans are financially in trouble. We have to be very careful about this," he added.

After nearly 15 years, Congress and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will set foot in Beijing on Sunday. Bilateral trade in 2007 is believed to be about \$38 billion, an increase of 100 times since 1992. Speaking at Beijing university, Rao had pointed out that for the "first time in recent years, people in India and in China are producing enough food to feed themselves."

Clearly, the world has changed dramatically for both India and China since then. Their economic growth is being boosted in the world. And, the economy and trade will again be the focus of attention when Singh meets his counterpart Wen Jiabao on Monday and President Hu Jintao on 2010 when they meet in New Delhi.

Singh and Jiabao are to be presented with the report of a joint task force to study the feasibility and benefits of an India-China regional trading arrangement in Beijing. It's likely that the two prime ministers will call for action.

ASEAN Economic Community by 2015, he added.

It is equally important to narrow the development gap between the more developed economies of ASEAN and its new, poorer members Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar, he said, because otherwise ASEAN will lose credibility as a group.

Ramgopal Agarwala, a senior advisor to the Research and Information Systems for Developing Countries, moonlighted at the symposium.

Free trade on Manmohan-Wen talks to

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Continued from page 5 (IEIDP Programme)

topics. They also made presentations and had self-study sessions in RIS library. They also visited industrial establishments and attended outside seminars.

At the joint feedback session certificates were distributed to the participants of the GRECI and the IEIDP capacity building programmes. Dr. Nagesh Kumar and Ms. Primrose Sharma, Joint Secretary (TC), Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India addressed the participants.

Continued from page 5 (GRECI Programme)

Uendra Das, Fellow, RIS and Course Coordinator briefed the participants on the programme. They also attended modules on world trading system an development international financial architecture and developing countries, India's development strategy among other themes. They made presentations and had self-study sessions in the RIS library. They also visited industrial establishments and attended outside seminars.

Continued from page 4 (Faculty Contributions to Outside Policy Dialogues)

and Regional Investors Financing Cross-border Infrastructure Projects in Asia at the Inception Workshop on ADBI Flagship Study on Infrastructure and Regional Cooperation, organized by the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), in Tokyo on 18-20 February 2008.

● Made a presentation on India's Economic Opportunity with Myanmar: Prospects and Strategies at the international conference on India-Myanmar Relations: Dynamics and Issues, organized by the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS), Kolkata and Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS), Yangon in Kolkata on 26-27 February 2008.

● Made a presentation on India's Economic Opportunity with Myanmar: Prospects and Strategies at the Roundtable Discussion on Recent Developments in Myanmar and Its

Seminar on Deepening Asian Integration: Issues and Challenges

RIS organized the Seminar on Deepening Asian Integration: Issues and Challenges on 11 March 2008 in New Delhi. The Seminar began with opening remarks by Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS. Professor Muchkund Dubey, President, CSD; and Chairman, Research Advisory Council, RIS chaired. Dr. Srinivasa Madhur, Director, Office of Regional Economic Integration, Asian Development Bank, Manila, spoke on the theme of the Seminar. It was followed by open discussion. Dr. Ramgopal Agarwala, Senior Adviser, RIS was the discussant.



(From right): Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS; Professor Muchkund Dubey, President, CSD; and Chairman, Research Advisory Council, RIS; Dr. Srinivasa Madhur, Director, Office of Regional Economic Integration, Asian Development Bank, Manila; and Dr. Ramgopal Agarwala, Senior Advisor, RIS.

Implications for India, organized by Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) in New Delhi on 13 March 2008.

- Participated as discussant in the seminar on ADB-UNCTAD Study on Regional Cooperation in South Asia: Benefits from SAFTA and the Way Ahead, organized by ADB/FICCI/UNCTAD in New Delhi on 28 March 2008.
- Participated in the internal meeting of the 13th ASEAN-India Working Group (AIWG) Meeting, 10th ASEAN-India Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC), and the 10th ASEAN-India Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM), organized by the MER Division, Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on 26 March 2008.

Dr. K.R.Srinivas, Associate Fellow

● Made a presentation on Risk Governance, Technology and Technology Assessment Workshop on Science-Society Interface in

Emerging Technologies, organized by TERI & NISTADS in New Delhi on 27-28 March 2008.

- Participated in the CPR-NYU Workshop on Global Regulatory Governance, held in New Delhi on 5-6 January 2008.
- Participated in the Special Event on Ethics Based Climate Change Regime – Legal, Economic and Political Aspects, organized by Helsinki Process & TERI on 8 February 2008 in New Delhi.
- Participated in the Facilitation Workshop on Technology Climate Change, organized by EC and TERI in New Delhi on 21-22 February 2008.
- Participated in the International Workshop on Adaptation and Mitigation Options for Global Cooperation: Developing Countries' Perspectives, organized by the ADAM Project and TERI in New Delhi on 25-26 February 2008.

Important Visitors/Delegations Received

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan Singh, Deputy Director General, WTO on 4 January 2008.
- Mr. Malminderjit Singh, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore on 17 January 2007.
- Dr. L. Delgado, Strategy and Policy Adviser, The World Bank, on 19-22 January 2008.
- Ms. Pia R. Kumar, The Indian Brand Equity Foundation, New Delhi on 28 January 2008.
- Professor Sisira Jayasuriya, Director, Department of Economics, Asian Economics Centre, The University of Melbourne, Australia on 2 February 2008.
- Prof. Rehman Sobhan, Chairman, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Dhaka, Bangladesh on 10 February 2008.
- Shri Malay Mishra, Joint Secretary (MER), Ministry of External Affairs on 10 February 2008.
- Mr. John Komen, Programme Manager, Programme for Biosafety Systems, Netherlands on 13 February 2008.

- Ms. Claudia Astarita, Researcher from Centre of Asian Studies, University of Hong Kong on 21 February 2008.
- Mr. Olivier Louis, Senior Researcher, IFRI, France on 28 February 2008.
- Ambassador Kant Bhargava, former Secretary-General, SAARC on 7 March 2008.
- Dr. Dana De La Fontainer, Germany on 7

March 2008.

- Dr. Masanori Kondo, Associate Professor of Economics, Division of International Studies, International Christian University, Tokyo Japan on 27 March 2008.
- Dr. Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, National Director, South African Institute of International Affairs on 31 March 2008.

Meeting on the Scope for Economic Cooperation between India and Africa



(From left): Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi, Mr. Virendra Gupta, Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Mr. Ashok Kumar, ADG, ICWA, Dr. Upendra Das and the African and Indian journalists at the Meeting.

RIS organized a Meeting of Experts and Journalists from Africa and India on 'Scope for Economic Cooperation between India and Africa' in New Delhi on 19 March 2008. The programme began with welcome remarks and introduction about the work programme of RIS by Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS. Mr. Virendra Gupta, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs also addressed the participants. Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi, Fellow, RIS made a presentation on 'Scope for Economic Cooperation between Africa and India'. The distinguished journalists who participated in the discussion included Mr. Kiganda Noah Ssonko, Correspondent, *The New Vision*, Uganda's Leading Daily, Kampala, Uganda, and Mr. Thebeyame Ramoroka, Senior Information Officer, Department of Informatic Service, Botswana; Mr. John Cherian, Chief of Bureau, *Frontline*; Ms. Jyoti Malhotra, Foreign Editor, *Mint*; Mr. Sebastian PT, *Outlook Business*; Mr. Manish Chand, Assistant Editor, *IANS*; Ms. Aasha Khosa, *Business Standard*, Ms. Nirmala Ganpathy, *Economic Times*; Huma Siddiqui, *The Financial Express*; Mr. Kallol Bhattacharjee, *The Week*, and Ms. Seema Sirohi, *Outlook*. Dr. Ram Upendra Das, Fellow, RIS wrapped up the discussion.

Dr. Noeleen Heyzer, Executive Secretary, UNESCAP, visits RIS



(From left): Dr. Noeleen Heyzer, Under Secretary General, United Nations and Executive Secretary, UNESCAP; Dr. Arjun Sengupta, M.P., Chairman, RIS and National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganized Sector; and Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS.

Dr. Noeleen Heyzer, Under Secretary General, United Nations and Executive Secretary, UNESCAP visited RIS on 27 March 2008 for an interactive session on the work programme of RIS along with a delegation of the senior officials of UNESCAP. It included: Dr. Ravi Ratnayake, Director N. PDD UNESCAP; Dr. Tata Srinivas, Special Assistant to the ES; Dr. Amitava Mukherjee, Special Advisors, PDD UNESCAP; Mr. Hak Fan-lau; Director UNIS Bankok; and Mr. K. Ramanathan, Head and Senior Economic Affairs Officer, Asia and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT), New Delhi. The Meeting began with welcome remarks by Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director General, RIS. Dr. Arjun Sengupta, M.P., Chairman, RIS made the opening remarks. Dr. Nagesh Kumar also made a detailed presentation on the work programme of RIS. Dr. Noeleen Heyzer, Under Secretary General, United Nations and Executive Secretary, UNESCAP addressed the Meeting.

UK 'Labour Friends of India' MPs Visit RIS

A delegation of 6 UK 'Labour Friends of India' (LFIN) MPs from the Labour Party visited RIS on 14 February 2008. The delegation included; Mr. Stephen Pound, Chairman, LFIN; Dr. Stephen Ladyman; Mr. Denis Murphy; Ms.



Hon'ble Mr. Stephen Pound and members of the delegation at RIS.

Sharon Hodgson; Dr. Howard Stoaate; and Baroness Jean Corston. Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS briefed the visiting parliamentarians on the RIS work programme. It was followed by a detailed presentation on the performance of Indian economy in recent years. He also spoke about the prospects and outlook for the Indian economy and challenges that it faces. The presentation was followed by open discussion.

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



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