



## Focus on the Cancun Ministerial of WTO

### Delhi Seminar on the Development in Doha Agenda

The Fifth Ministerial Conference of WTO to be held in Cancun in September 2003 will be of crucial interest to India and other developing countries. Among other issues, the Cancun Ministerial will decide whether or not to launch negotiations on Singapore issues, which have important implications for developing countries.

As part of the series of activities planned in preparation of the Fifth Ministerial, RIS organized a Discussion Meeting on the Cancun Agenda and Beyond on Thursday, May 22, 2003 in RIS Conference Hall. Mr. Martin Khor, Director of Third World Network, Penang, Malaysia, initiated the discussion. Mr. Martin Khor is also a former Vice-Chairperson of the United Nations Human Rights Commission's Expert Group on the Right to Development. He is a leading champion of the development concerns in multilateral trade negotiations. Professor G.K. Chadha, Vice-Chancellor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, chaired the discussion meeting.

Mr. Martin Khor said that developing countries need adequate policy space and freedom to be able to choose between different options in relation to their trade policies. The rules of the WTO should be reviewed to screen out those that are "development-distorting", and a decision could be made that, at the least, developing countries be exempted from being

obliged to follow rules or measures that prevent them from meeting their development objectives. These exemptions can be on the basis of special and differential treatment.

Regarding the introduction of the proposed "new issues" into the WTO Mr. Martin Khor said there must be a genuine

consensus of all Members on which issue should be brought in, and on how it should be brought in. Within its traditional ambit of trade in goods, the WTO should reorient its primary operational objectives and principles towards development.

The unsatisfactory procedures and methods used before and at Doha have made it clear that the situation is even less satisfactory than ever and thus that there is an imperative for reform in the decision-making processes and procedures of the WTO. Until this is undertaken, it is unlikely that the developing countries' efforts to improve their position and promote their interests in the WTO and in the multilateral trading system will bear fruit.

Unless the trend for putting more and



From left: Mr. Martin Khor, Director, Third World Network, Dr. G.K. Chaddha, Vice-Chancellor, Jawaharlal Nehru University (in Chair), Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS, and Shri Sompal, Member, Planning Commission at the Seminar.

more issues into the WTO basket is reversed, the trade system will become overloaded and over-bloated. It will not be able to carry out the tasks which it was originally intended to do. Mr. Martin Khor said that members can decide to limit the WTO to the tasks it is supposed to do, and to review its rules and system to put it back on the right track, or they can decide to throw more issues and complications into the system, with unknown—probably dire—consequences.

The eminent participants in this meeting included, Shri Sompal, Member, Planning Commission, besides a number of senior government officials and WTO experts from policy think-tanks, academic institutions and NGOs.

### Chandigarh Workshop on WTO, Agriculture and IPRs

RIS organized, jointly with Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development (CRRID), Chandigarh, the "Workshop on WTO: Agriculture and Intellectual Property Rights" in Chandigarh on May 30, 2003.

RIS Vice-Chairman, Ambassador S.T. Devare inaugurated the Workshop. RIS members made following presentations: (1) Implication of Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) for South Asian Countries by Shri S.K. Mohanty, Fellow, and (2) Intellectual Property Rights: Plant Variety Protection and Biodiversity Issues by Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi, Fellow.

The presentations highlighted that the

European Union, Japan and the US were among the most protected markets in agriculture and developing countries required substantial safeguards to remain in competition. They also talked about regional trade markets. It was stated that multilateralism is preferable to regionalism. The non-tariff barrier standards differ from one country to another. The market strategy should be country-specific and India should search for possibilities of disinvestment in different markets. There is need for protected markets to radically liberalise the agricultural sector, particularly in terms of domestic support and export subsidy to provide competition to the

South East Asian countries. Reduction of trade barriers would have a significant impact on the global process. The existing rules were stringent to the interest of the developing countries and these issues should be raised in the forthcoming Cancun Summit. The emerging WTO regime also raises a number of issues of concern pertaining to biodiversity and the farmers rights, geographical indications.

The presentations were followed by discussions on the issues raised. A large number of audience from government, academic, research institutions, and media circles, attended and participated in the discussion at the workshop.

## Trade and Investment in the Context of WTO

RIS had been invited by the Hanoi based Asia Trade Initiative of UNDP (UNDP/ATI) to contribute to their programme on trade and investment designed to provide guidance to the developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region for the forthcoming WTO Ministerial conference. In conjunction with this, RIS was invited to participate in the Meeting on Trade and Investment organized by UNDP/ATI, and the Institute of International Economics, Nankai University, Tianjin, China on April 1-2, 2003. Subsequently a paper summarizing Indian experiences highlighting the role of policy and implications for the WTO debate has been submitted. As a part of the ongoing work on the subject a paper on "Performance Requirements as Tools of Development Policy: Lessons from Experiences of Developed and Developing Countries for the WTO Agenda on Trade and Investment" (Discussion Paper # 52) was prepared and presented at the Conference on Trade, Investment and Development, organized by the Ministry of Commerce and UNCTAD with participation of representatives of governments of 16 countries, in New Delhi on May 18-19, 2003. RIS also provided inputs for the meetings of the WTO Working Group on Trade and Investment to the Ministry of Commerce. Contact for further details, nkumar@ris.org.in.

## Towards A Free Trade Area in South Asia: Charting A Feasible Course for Trade Liberalization with Reference to India's Role

This study has been conducted within the framework of the SAARC Network of Researchers. This study has attempted to examine the impact of SAPTA on bilateral preferential trade flows on conceded products both from the point of view of India's imports as well as exports since SAPTA negotiations were implemented by the end of 1995. The study shows that import liberalization by India has stimulated preferential imports from Bangladesh both in value and share terms but imports from Sri Lanka show no such buoyancy. A first draft of the study has been completed. It will be finalized soon with the revision and updation with more recent data that has become available. A seminar on the study will be held soon in RIS at which Professor I.N. Mukherjee of Jawaharlal Nehru University, the main author of the study, will present the main findings.

## Industrial Restructuring and Export Competitiveness of the Textiles and Clothing Sector in South Asia in the Context of MFA Phase-out

This project forms part of the research agenda of the SAARC Network of Researchers on Global, Financial and Economic Issues assigned to the National Focal Point for India, that is RIS, for implementation. The phase-out of the MFA quotas by first January 2005 under the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC) of WTO presents both challenges and opportunities for the SAARC countries. The textile and clothing sector has emerged as the most important source of foreign exchange for almost all the SAARC countries. Hence, challenges for maintaining export competitiveness and industrial restructuring need to be analyzed on an urgent basis. This study explores the issues related to the sustainability of textile and apparel export growth of the SAARC member countries. The data on patterns of textiles and garments exports from South Asian countries have been analyzed to examine the trends in their international competitiveness. This is being followed up by a field survey to gather insights into the potential of restructuring at the regional level in strengthening international competitiveness and draw policy implications. Contact for further details, upendra@ris.org.in.

## Economic Cooperation with Central Asian Republics

RIS had organised a discussion meeting on "Towards Sustained Growth in Kazakhstan: Potentials of Economic Cooperation" on October 24, 2002. It was followed up with a discussion meeting on "Economic Cooperation between India and Central Asian Republics with special reference to Uzbekistan", organized on May 28, 2003. Thereafter a

number of policy papers are being prepared on India-Central Asia Cooperation. RIS is launching, in collaboration with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), a work programme on India-Central Asia Economic Relations. The work programme covers preparation of a number of research/policy papers and organization of seminars in Delhi and Mumbai with trade and industry representatives. Contact for further details, upendra@ris.org.in.

## Economics of Regional Economic Integration in Asia: A CGE Modelling Approach

The study examined the implications of deeper level of economic liberalisation between ASEAN and other four Summit level countries within the framework of a Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) model. The study focuses on the consequences of the proposed FTA on the ASEAN+3+1. The study is also examining the effects of further liberalisation within the regional partners in the form of free movement of investment and natural persons along with FTA on these countries. The study has incorporated monopolistic competition in the model with the assumption that manufacturing sector is subject to monopolistic competition whereas other sectors operate under the conditions of perfectly competitive environment. The results of the study indicate that the FTA among JACIK countries would enhance both regional and global welfare. A comprehensive FTA, allowing investment and natural persons to move freely, would effectively enhance regional welfare than mere trade liberalisation under FTA. A study was presented in the 6th Annual International Conference on Global Economic Analysis, held in the Hague, on 12-14 June 2003. Contact for further details, skmohanty@ris.org.in.

## RIS at APEC/PECC Trade Forum Meeting in Phuket

RIS was invited to participate and make a presentation at the Trade Forum Meeting jointly organized by the PECC and the APEC Study Centers Consortium in Phuket, Thailand on May 25, 2003. Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director General, RIS made a presentation at the Meeting, highlighting the important features of reform process in India since 1990s and some key achievements of Indian economy in the recent times, before addressing the issue of her approach to RTAs, bilateral FTAs and other initiatives for economic integration with Southeast and East Asian countries. The relevance of Asian economic community based, on RIS work, was also highlighted. The Meeting covered presentation made by Panelists from Japan, Korea, ASEAN, Australia, Chile, Canada, Peru, Singapore besides India on their respective approaches to regional Trading arrangements (RTAs).

Dr. Nagesh Kumar also participated in the APEC Study Centres Consortium Conference that was inaugurated by H.E. Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand on May 26, 2003.

## Meeting of the RIS Governing Council

The Governing Council of RIS met on 26 June 2003 to discuss the work and activities of RIS. The Governing Council approved the Work Programme of RIS for the 2003/2005 biennium which covers several new policy research studies and events and provided general direction to the institution.

The Council Meeting was chaired by Shri K.C. Pant, Dupty Chairman, Planning Commission and Chairman RIS. The Meeting was attended by Ambassador S.T. Devare, Vice-Chairman, RIS; Shri Shashank, Secretary (EAA), Ministry of External Affairs; Mr. Rajiv Sikri, Additional Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs; Mr. Rakesh Kumar, Additional Secretary (PPR) Ministry of External Affairs; Mr. S.N. Menon, Additional Secretary (TPD), Ministry of Commerce; Shri Y.P. Kumar, Adviser and Head (International), Department of Scientific and Technology; and Prof. S.L. Rao, former Chairman, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission.

### Trade Complementarities and Potential for a Single Currency in JACIK

This study examines the existence of the economic criteria for a common currency in Asia covering Japan, ASEAN, China, India and Korea (JACIK) in the context of RIS research on the Asian Economic Community. The analysis in this paper shows that significant complementarities in trade exist among JACIK countries. Most of them experience similar shocks and labour mobility is already present. These results point to the fact that the cost of adopting a single currency may be minimal, while huge benefits could accrue from enhanced trade. The study was conducted by Dr. Sweta Chaman Saxena, Assistant Professor, GSPIA, University of Pittsburg, USA, while working at RIS as a Visiting Fellow during May-June 2003. A

revised version will be brought out in RIS Discussion Paper Series. Contact for further details, ssaxena+@pitt.edu.

### Other Consultations/Policy Papers Prepared

- RIS provided inputs and consultations to the Ministry of Commerce on the implications of modalities of tariff reduction proposed in draft papers presented by Chairman, WTO's Negotiating Group on Market Access in May and June 2003.
- RIS commented on the draft *World Investment Report 2003* at the invitation of UNCTAD, Geneva.
- Concept Note and a proposal for work on the Role of Indian Diaspora for Fostering India-ASEAN Economic Relations for the Ministry of External Affairs.

- Discussions and consultations with various government departments and the agencies were held to gather information on the status of ASEAN-India relations in specific areas as well as ideas for future cooperation in the context of preparations of a draft concept paper on ASEAN-India Vision 2020. RIS participated in the Meeting of the ASEAN-India Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) held in New Delhi in April 2003.
- RIS provided a Note on India-China Economic Relations and consultations to the PMO in the context of visit of the Prime Minister to China.
- Negotiations of the Indo-Thai Bilateral FTA: RIS provided inputs for India's offer list of products and consultations to the Ministry of Commerce for the forthcoming meeting of the Joint Negotiating Group for the FTA.

## RIS Web Page on Cancun Agenda

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window displaying the RIS website. The address bar shows the URL: <http://www.ris.org.in/cancunagenda.html>. The page content is organized into several sections:

- Seminars and Conferences:** Lists events such as the SAARC Network Seminar on World Trading System and South Asia: Post-Doha Challenges (23 July, 2002), an International Workshop on Environmental Requirements and Markets Access (27 Nov., 2002), a Regional Conference on Globalization and Agriculture (4-5 Dec, 2002), a Workshop on International Food Safety Regulations and Processed Food Exports (March, 2003), and a Seminar on Cancun and Beyond (22 May, 2003).
- Studies/Reports:** Includes the *World Trade and Development Report 2003*, a report on Protecting Foreign Investment, and Indian Industrial Tariffs. It also lists several **Discussion Papers** on topics like WTO Agenda perspectives, performance requirements, sanitary and phytosanitary agreements, and environmental standards.
- Policy Briefs:** Lists briefs on Cancun Agenda trade and investment, environmental requirements, TRIPs, and geographical indications.
- Forthcoming Events:** Lists seminars on development in the Doha Round (August 2003) and on world trading system and development (August 2003).
- Other Studies on WTO:** A section at the bottom of the page.
- Links:** Includes links to the WTO Ministerial and OMC 2003.



## Policy Briefs

RIS has launched this new series to communicate the results of its research on specific issues to the policymakers in a non-technical and crisp manner. The first set of Policy Briefs includes:

- # 1 *Relevance of an Asian Economic Community*
- # 2 *Initiative for Closer Economic Cooperation with Neighbouring Countries in South Asia*
- # 3 *Reserve Bank of Asia: Institutional Framework for Monetary and Financial Cooperation in Asia*



## Discussion Papers

- #45 *Possibility of Close Economic Cooperation between India and Singapore* by S.K. Mohanty, April 2003.

This paper shows that the two countries have high degree of economic potentials to complement each other for mutual benefit. The close economic cooperation should not be extended only up to Free Trade Area, but should encompass more strategic economic areas for cooperation such as investment, joint production and marketing, and cooperation in trade in services

- #46 *Towards a Multipolar World of International Finance* by Ramgopal Agarwala and Gauri Modwel, April 2003.

The domestic policy reforms proposals have to be seen in the political economy context of the benefits accruing to the leader under the current unipolar international financial system. The only viable alternative to the countries adversely affected by the unipolar financial world is to reduce their dependence on the current international system and develop their own regional financial architecture. Europe has made a good beginning in that direction. Asia should now follow suit.

- #47 *Towards an Economic Community: Exploring the Past* by Vineeta Shanker, April 2003.

The paper sketches the historical roots of the Asian community. It shows that these historical ties run deep and can be traced back to the pre-Christian Era. It brings out the close economic links that bound the region into a highly developed, complex and flourishing network of regional trade. It also highlights the importance of these regional economic relations not only in the growth and prosperity of the region but also as the very basis of the expanding long distance trade. Interaction among the Asian countries was not limited to the economic but went beyond to include social, political, cultural and religious aspects.

- #48 *Regional Trade Liberalisation under SAPTA and India's Trade Linkages with South Asia: An Empirical Assessment* by S.K. Mohanty, May 2003.

In order to examine the efficacy of various rounds of SAPTA, the study attempts to link the contents in the regional PTA with other trade related issues and throw light on the prospects of trade liberalisation in the region.

- #49 *A Road to Common Prosperity – Examination of An FTA between India and China* by Li Wei, May 2003.

In this paper the authors makes a strong plea for a bilateral FTA between India and China.

- #50 *ASEAN's Contribution to the Building of an Asian Economic Community* by K. Kesavapany, May 2003.

Currently, ASEAN holds separate annual summit meetings with China, Japan and Korea within the ASEAN+3 framework, and will also be holding similar meetings with India. In the context of an Asian Economic Community, ASEAN thus could serve as a vital link between India and the East Asian economies. Hopefully, this could lead to the establishment of an ASEAN+4 framework. Such a framework would enable North and Southeast Asia to interact more effectively with India.

- #51 *India and the Asian Economic Community* by Mukul G. Asher and Sadhna Srivastava, May 2003.

There is increasing recognition that even as Asian countries engage in competition, Asia-wide communication and dialogue, constructive co-operation, and institution building through JACIK (or similar forum) provide much sounder base for securing Asia's future and its rightful place in the world community than the current sub-regional efforts. There is therefore urgency in establishing an Asia-wide forum such as JACIK. Given India's gradual emergence as a knowledge-based economy and the existence of wide-ranging complementarities with other JACIK countries, India is poised to play an important role in the proposed new Asian Economic Community.

- #52 *Performance Requirements as Tools of Development Policy: Lessons from Experiences of Developed and Developing Countries for the WTO Agenda on Trade and Investment* by Nagesh Kumar, June 2003.

This paper reviews the experiences of developed and developing countries to draw implications for the current debate on the relevance of performance requirements (PRs). It summarizes the evidence on use of PRs in developed countries, reviews theoretical, cross-country and case evidence on effectiveness of PRs in meeting their stated policy objectives in developing countries.

## Journals

- *South Asia Economic Journal*, Vol. 4(1), January to June, 2003. (Special Issue on the WTO , South Asian Agriculture and IPRs).

### Articles:

- *Globalization, South Asian Agriculture and the WTO* by Alan Bullion
- *Agreement on Agriculture: Issues of Market Access for South Asian Countries* by Posh Raj Pandey
- *Market Access in Agricultural Trade: Issues Concerning India* by Rajiv Mehta
- *IPRs and Agriculture: South Asian Concerns* by Anitha Ramanna
- *The Corporate Pharmaceutical Model and the Legacy of Doha: Whither a Global Consensus on Public Health Governance?* by Joseph Savirimuthu
- *India, the European Union and Geographical Indications: Convergence of Interests and Challenges Ahead* by Sachin Chaturvedi
- *The WTO and Nepal: Compatibility and Contradiction between the Agreements and the Acts* by Bhubanes Pant.

## Publications by RIS Faculty Members in Outside Journals

- "Food Security and Structural Adjustment Programme" by S.K. Mohanty, *Productivity Journal*, Vol. 43(1), April-June, pp 5-13, 2002.
- "Liberalisation, Firm Size and R&D Performance: A Firm Level Study of Indian Pharmaceutical Industry" by Jaya Prakash Pradhan, *Journal of Indian School of Political Economy*, Oct.-Dec. 2002.
- "Development in Biotechnology: International Initiatives, Status in India and Agenda before Developing Countries" by Sachin Chaturvedi, *Science, Technology and Society* 8:1 (2003), Sage Publications, New Delhi.
- "GEAC and Biotechnology: Which Way and What For?" by Sachin Chaturvedi, *Economic and Political Weekly*, April 24, 2003.
- "Biotechnology: Need for Reliable Statistics" by Sachin Chaturvedi, *Economic and Political Weekly*, May 31, 2003.pp. 2113-2114.
- "Food Safety: Distorting Standards that Impede Exports" by Rajesh Mehta (co-authored with J. George) in *TerraGreen*, TERI publication, Issue 39, June 30, 2003.

## Networking and Seminars on Asian Economic Community in China and Japan

As a part of the follow-up of the RIS research on economic integration in Asia (see *RIS Diary* April 2003), RIS has made attempts to establish networking links with leading think-tanks in China and Japan in the period reported in this issue of *RIS Diary*.

### Development Research Center of the State Council, Beijing



*Seminar presentation at DRC.*

During his trip to Beijing on 3-4 April 2003, DG-RIS, Dr Nagesh Kumar, visited the Development Research Center (DRC) of the State Council and made a presentation on A Framework for India-China Economic Partnership on 4 April 2003. DRC is a top-level policy think-tank of the State Council (or Cabinet) of China. The presentation was attended by about 25 experts having representation of, besides DRC faculty, many influential think-tanks and government agencies such as the China Institute of Contemporary International Relations, China Institute of International Studies, Ministry of Commerce (formerly MOFTEC), scholars from Beijing University, officials from Asia Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Xinhua News Agency.

The presentation was co-chaired by Professor Lan Weiban, Deputy Director-General, and Professor Li Tonglian, Director-General, International Cooperation Department, DRC.

The presentation touched upon the recent trends in India-China trade and its potential in view of the complementarities and argued for cooperation between India and China in building an Asian Economic Community for exploiting the region's vast resources for mutual development, drawing upon our recent work on the subject. The presentation evoked a lot of response from the audience who posed questions on constraints in promoting bilateral economic relations, the relevance and possible obstacles to the Asian Economic Community, among other issues.

After the presentation, the issues concerning the inter-institutional cooperation and exchange of delegations between DRC and RIS were discussed. In view of DRC's on-going research programme on Asian economic integration, there would be synergies between DRC and RIS.

### Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation, Beijing



*Seminar presentation at CAITEC.*

During his stay in Beijing, Dr Nagesh Kumar was also invited to give a Seminar on the Relevance of Asian Economic Community at the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation (CAITEC). This Meeting was chaired by Dr. Li Yushi, Vice President of the CAITEC,

Ministry of Commerce, (formerly MOFTEC) and was attended by senior officials of the Academy. RIS has already established some contacts with CAITEC as one of its researchers Mr. Li Wei had participated in RIS Conference on Asian Economic Community in March 2003 and made a presentation on relevance of an India-China FTA. The CAITEC is the think-tank of the Ministry of Commerce covering work on WTO issues, Asia Pacific cooperation, multinational enterprises, among others, and brings out reports on Foreign Trade Situations in China.

The presentation at CAITEC drew upon RIS' recent work on the subject to make a strong case for the Asian Economic Community which could cover Japan, ASEAN, China, India and Korea (JACIK) in the first phase. The presentation was followed by an intensive discussion on various issues concerning the Asian economic integration. The overall response was quite favourable and provoked a lot of interest among the audience.

The discussion with CAITEC also covered exchange of publications and networking with RIS.

Dr Kumar also visited Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) (Professor Sun Shihai, Deputy Director and Professor Wang Hongwei), and discussed the issues concerning bilateral economic relations between India and China.

### China Centre for Contemporary World Studies, Beijing



*Members of CCCWS Delegation at RIS.*

A delegation consisting Mr. Yu Hongun, Director, China Centre for Contemporary World Studies (CCCWS), Beijing; Mr. Zhou Yuyun, Research Fellow, CCCWS; Mr. Mou Hong, Researcher, CCCWS; Mr. Feng Wei and Mr. Chen Ying, Assistant Researchers, CCCWS; and Mr. Shi Xiaohu, CCCWS; along with Air Commodore Jasjit Singh, Director, Centre for Strategic Studies, India visited RIS on 16 April 2003 for an interactive session at which Dr Nagesh Kumar, Director General, RIS made a presentation on Reforms, Economic Performance, and a Perspective on Bilateral Economic Relations with China. Members of the RIS Faculty also participated in the discussions.

### Institute of Developing Economies of JETRO, Tokyo, Japan

During his visit to Tokyo on 16-17 June 2003, Dr Nagesh Kumar visited the Institute of Developing Economies (IDE) of JETRO, Chiba and delivered a seminar presentation on the Relevance of Asian Economic Community on 17 June 2003 at the IDE's seminar room. The presentation was well attended and was followed up by intensive discussion. In general the audience agreed with main contention of the presentation that Asia needs to move towards regional economic integration and that JACIK provided a way forward.

The presentation was followed by a meeting with senior officials of the International Cooperation Department of IDE on the possibilities of institutional cooperation. RIS and IDE agreed on networking arrangement, involving exchange of publications, exchange of faculties for short-term visiting fellowships, to explore future collaborative research, particularly for the proposed RIS Conference to be organized in Tokyo in 2004 on JACIK.

Dr Kumar also visited the headquarters of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation and had a meeting with its President Mr Akira Iriyama, besides ADB Institute and the National Institute for Research Advancement during his stay in Tokyo.



## **Dr Nagesh Kumar, Director-General**

- Released to the Press the ESCAP's *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific* on 17 April 2003 at the UNIC, New Delhi.
- Participated in the Peer-Review Meeting on the Draft *World Investment Report 2003* at UNCTAD, Geneva on 12-13 May 2003.
- Made a keynote presentation on the issue of Performance Requirements: Tools for Development Policies at the International Conference on Trade and Development organized by Ministry of Commerce, Govt. of India, in cooperation with UNCTAD in New Delhi on May 18-20, 2003.
- Made a presentation on India's Approach to RTAs in East Asia at the Trade Forum Meeting jointly organized by the APEC Study Center and Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC), held in Phuket, Thailand, on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2003.
- Delivered a seminar presentation on the Relevance of Asian Economic Community on June 17, 2003 the Institute of Developing Economies (IDE) of JETRO, Tokyo on June 16-17, 2003.
- Participated in the "Workshop for the Project on Foreign Direct Investment and Economic Development: Lessons from East Asian Experiences" held on 18-19 June 2003 at Fukuoka, Japan and organized by the World Bank Institute.

## **Dr. Rajesh Mehta, Senior Fellow**

- Made a presentation on "Emerging Regional Trading Arrangements in South Asia: A Case Study of India-Sri Lanka FTA", at IFPRI, Washington, 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2003.
- Attended seminar on "New Road to Sustainable Agriculture and Competitiveness: Making Standard Work for Developing Country Producers" organised by Chemonic International, Washington, USA, May 16, 2003, GGSA 2003.
- Attended a USDA Conference on "Economic and Biological Models relating to International Standards, Washington, May 18, 2003.
- Made a presentation on "Market Access for Developing Countries: Tariff Analysis in the Context of WTO Round Negotiations, at IFPRI, Washington, USA, 19 May, 2003.
- Participated in discussion meeting with officials of Economic Research Division, USDA on May 11, Washington.

## **Shri S.K. Mohanty, Fellow**

- Made a presentation on the Trade Prospects of India's Handicraft Sector in the WTO Regime in the Ministry of Textiles (Handcraft), New Delhi on May 26, 2003.

- Made a presentation on India's Bilateral Maritime Trade with Japan at a discussion meeting with the delegation from Japan, received by the Indian Ocean Society on June 19, 2003.

## **Dr. Ram Upendra Das, Fellow**

- Presented a paper on Trade Liberalization and Development: Challenges for South Asia at the South Asia Workshop on Analysis of Trade Liberalization for Poverty Alleviation organized by IFPRI and World Bank in Colombo, April 21-25, 2003.
- Delivered a lecture on "An Overview of Challenges Emanating from the WTO Regime for Developing Countries" at the Training Programme for Foreign Journalists at Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), New Delhi on April 2 and 3, 2003.
- Participated in the Seminar on "Central Asia and Indian Business: Emerging Trends and Opportunities" organized by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) at Hotel Le Meridien, May 22, 2003.
- Participated in the Seminar on "Women Workers in TNC Supply Chain in the RMG Sector: Policies, Issues and Strategies" organized by Oxfam GB at India Habitat Centre, May 23, 2003.

## **Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi, Fellow**

- Made presentation at the "Science Technology Policy Ad Hoc Working Party Meeting on Biotechnology Statistics" organized by OECD in Paris on May 12-13, 2003.
- Chief Discussant at the CERNA, Centre of Industrial Economics of French Ministry of Industrial Affairs Discussion Meeting on "Biotechnology in India", held in Paris on May 14, 2003.
- Made presentation at the Seminar on "IPR and Benefit Sharing", organized by National

Botanical Research Institute (NBRI) in Lucknow on June 2, 2003.

- Participated in the Discussion Meeting on "Biotechnology and Development", held in Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore on June 6, 2003.
- Presentation on "Trade, IPR and Biosafety: Some Issues of Concern for South Asia", at the Regional Session of the Conference of Biodiversity Forum (GBF), organized by IUCN in Dhaka on June 16, 2003.

## **Dr. J. George, Consultant**

- Discussant on 'IPRs and their Implications for Indian Economy and Business' – organised by National Intellectual Property Organization (NIPO) on April 17, 2003.
- Discussant in the Business Session on 'Rural Governance' at the International Seminar on 'Administrative Reforms in India: Good Practices, Their Context and Sustainability', organised by the Centre for the Study of Law & Governance, Jawaharlal Nehru University on April 24-25, 2003.
- Discussant at the Seminar on 'Impact of Agricultural Trade and related Reforms on Domestic Food Security in India' organized by Institute of Economic Growth and Food and Agriculture Organization of UN on April 28, 2003.
- Participated in the Workshop on 'Buffer Stocking Policy for Tenth Five-Year Plan' organised by Agro-Economics Research Centre(AERC), University of Delhi, on May 12, 2003.
- Delivered lectures on 'Effective Use of Safeguards & Industrial Tariffs in the WTO Framework' and 'Dealing with Tariff and Non-Tariff Barriers in the International Market' at the Haryana Institute of Public Administration, Gurgaon during May 12-16, 2003.

## **RIS signs an MoU with CRRID**

On the occasion of the joint "Workshop on WTO: Agriculture and Intellectual Property Rights" organized by RIS and CRRID in Chandigarh on May 30, 2003 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between RIS and Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development (CRRID), Chandigarh with a view to promoting academic cooperation in the areas of international and development economics from the perspective of developing countries. The MOU was signed by Ambassador S.T. Devare, Vice-Chairman, RIS and Mr. Rashpal Malhotra, Director, CRRID.



From left: Ambassador S.T. Devare, Vice-Chairman, RIS and Mr. Rashpal Malhotra, Director, CRRID signing the MoU documents.

# Development Cooperation: Focus on Nepal, Egypt and Uzbekistan

Under the its Visiting Fellowship Programme on International Economic Issues and Development Policy RIS receives three research scholars or senior officials from developing countries for four months each. During this period the Visiting Fellows get an orientation in contemporary international economic policy issues and work on a research project jointly with RIS faculty. The programme is conducted in conjunction with the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. Three Visiting Fellows, viz. Dr. Gyanu Raja Shrestha, Tax Officer, Ministry of Finance, Nepal; Mr. Abdurahim Okhunov Abduraxmonovich, Senior Research and Economic Analyst, The University of World Economy and Diplomacy, Republic of Uzbekistan; and Mr. Abdel Hamid Saba Elregal, Economic Analyst, Ministry of Foreign Trade, Arab Republic of Egypt conducted their research under this programme at RIS.

RIS organized a Discussion Meeting on May 28, 2003 on the broad theme of India's development cooperation with Nepal, Uzbekistan and Egypt respectively. Ambassador S.T. Devare, Vice-Chairman, RIS chaired the Discussion Meeting. At this



From left: Mr. Abdel hamid saba Elregal, Economic Analyst, Ministry of Foreign Trade, Arab Republic of Egypt; Mr. Abdurahim Okhunov, Senior Research & Economic Analyst, University of World Economy and Diplomacy, Uzbekistan; Ambassador S.T. Devare, Vice-Chairman, RIS (in Chair); Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS; and Dr. Gyanu Raja Shrestha, Tax Officer, Ministry of Finance, Internal Revenue Office, Nepal.

workshop, the three Visiting Fellows at RIS under the ITEC Programme, viz. Dr. Gyanu Raja Shrestha, Nepal; Mr. Abdurahim Okhunov Abduraxmonovich, Uzbekistan; and Mr. Abdel Hamid Saba Elregal, Arab Republic of Egypt presented their papers prepared in consultation with RIS faculty during their period of fellowship at RIS.

The main purpose of this workshop was to generate debate and discuss new ideas on

the potentials of cooperation between India on the one hand and Nepal, Uzbekistan and Egypt on the other. A large number of participants from government departments, academia, industry and diplomatic circles were invited to participate in the workshop and give their valuable views and observations. The presentations of the ITEC Fellows have been brought out as their respective Discussion Papers.

## RIS in Media

### Developed Nations Likely To Tighten Food Safety Norms To Block Imports: Experts

AMRITSAR — Experts here said that developed nations are likely to tighten food safety norms to block imports from developing countries. The experts, who were part of a workshop on 'Agreement on Agriculture: challenges and opportunities' at a workshop on the WTO agriculture and intellectual property rights' organised jointly by the Research and Information System for the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi, and the CRRID here today.

### 'Farmers more protected in developed countries'

HT Live Correspondent Chandigarh, May 30

LEADING FARM sector expert Dr S.K. Mohanty, from Research and Information System (RIS), today said that the farming community in European Union (EU), USA and Japan is more pro-

TECTED than their counterparts in the developing countries.

Addressing a workshop on "WTO: Agriculture and Intellectual Property Rights" here, Dr Mohanty said the farmers in the developed countries enjoy more subsidies in the agri-

CULTURE field and therefore are more aggressive in the present-day price war.

The workshop was jointly organised by RIS and Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development (CRRID).

Dr Sachin Chaturvedi, another expert from RIS,

stressed on the need for paying more attention to the environmentally-sensitive goods and suggested that the trading should be on the lines of social responsibility.

"Under the influence of biased international policies, over 7.4 per cent of Indian food products are rejected in the world market," he said.

The workshop was aimed at bringing greater awareness among experts in the northern region vis-a-vis international economic and social issues.

### RIS, CRRID sign MoU on academic cooperation

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, May 30

The Agreement on Agriculture (AOA) is highly asymmetrical and is more favourable for the developed than the developing world, Mr S.K. Mohanty said during his presentation on "Agreement on agriculture: challenges and opportunities" at a workshop on the WTO agriculture and intellectual property rights' organised jointly by the Research and Information System for the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi, and the CRRID here today.

Earlier, the RIS and the CRRID signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with a view to promoting academic cooperation, in the areas of international and development economics from the perspective of developing countries. It was signed between the CRRID Director, Mr Rashpal Malhotra, and the Vice-Chairman of the RIS, Mr S.T. Devare, and shall be reviewed and evaluated only after three years.

The MoU would help provide inputs at the regional level to experts in Delhi.

In his inaugural address, Mr Paranjit S. Saha said the theme of the workshop was of specific interest in this region as Punjab and Haryana comprised the agricultural belt.

Dr Sachin Chaturvedi made a presentation on "WTO: trade in GM goods and emerging IPR regime: Options before India."

### 'Despite Hype, WTO Has Failed To Serve Desired Purpose'

PW BUREAU Chandigarh, May 30

In spite of all the hype that surrounded it, the WTO Treaty of 1994 has not done quite the job-breaker in liberalising global economy or internationalizing trade in agriculture. Instead, its projected gains have been more than offset by an increasingly protectionist developed world, which has led to a loss of \$10 billion in the period more than half a century ago.

Giving this information here, a spokesman of the Research and Information System (RIS), a Delhi-based think tank, said the WTO had maintained or erected very high barriers, including country barriers, which have not only hindered the growth of developing countries, but also led to an increase in the number of people living in poverty.

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# Important Visitors/Delegations Received

- Professor Satya Murty, President, Institute of Asian Studies, Hyderabad on April 9, 2003.
- Ambassador P.S. Sahai, IFS (Retd.), and Faculty Member, Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development (CRRID), Chandigarh on April 17, 2003.
- A two member delegation from UNCTAD, Geneva visited RIS on April 21, 2003 and had discussions with RIS regarding the evaluation of the work programme of UNCTAD on trade and environment.
- Dr. Jean-Pierre A. Verbiest, Assistant Chief Economist, Economics and Research Department, Asian Development Bank, Manila on April 29, 2003.
- Shri T.K. Arun, Economic Editor, Economic Times, New Delhi on May 17, 2003.
- Dr. Martin Khor Kok Peng, Third World Network, Malaysia on May 22, 2003.
- Professor Gerd Junne, University of Amsterdam, on May 23, 2003.
- Dr Balbir Kaur, Director (Economic Policy Analysis Division), Reserve Bank of India, New Delhi on May 29, 2003.
- Shri S. Jagadeesan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Industry, and other officials of Ministry of Industry and Paper Industry, Government of India, on May 29, 2003.

## Forthcoming Events

- **Meeting of the India-ASEAN Forum** for consultations on India-ASEAN Vision 2020 Concept Paper on July 18, 2003 in New Delhi.
- **Workshop on A Strategic Approach to Strengthening International Competitiveness in Knowledge-based Industries** on July 24, 2003 in New Delhi.
- **Policy Analysis and Advisory Network for South Asia (PAANSA) Meeting** to be organized jointly by RIS, ADB, and IFPRI in New Delhi on August 5, 2003.
- **Seminar on Development in the Doha Development Round: Priorities for Cancun** on August 8, 2003.
- **Seminars on the Agenda of the Cancun Ministerial Conference of WTO** in Delhi as well as in Cancun at the sidelines of the Ministerial Meeting, August and September 2003. (See RIS website for details.)
- **Seminar on Towards A Free Trade Area in South Asia** in New Delhi. Date to be announced.

## Visiting Fellowships Programme in International Economic Issues and Development Policy

RIS announces three Visiting Research Fellowships in international development policy research during 2003-2004 for researchers from developing countries. These Fellowships are offered under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

RIS intends to select three candidates for the 2003-2004. They will be invited to commence their four months' Fellowship at a mutually convenient date within the year.

- Ms. Supriya Banerji, Head, CII International and Ms. Sairee Chahal, Executive Officer from Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), New Delhi on June 4, 2003 regarding RIS-CII collaborative programme on India-Central Asia economic relations.
- Mr. Nguyen Huu Dien, First Secretary and Mr. Nguyen Minh Tuan, Economic Attache, Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, New Delhi visited RIS and had discussions on the issues concerning cooperation among Asian Countries on June 9, 2003.
- Shri Eduardo Faleiro, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) on June 23, 2003.
- Ms. Anuradha Rajivan and Ms. Achila from UNDP, Delhi RIS on June 24, 2003.
- Vice-Admiral Mihir Roy, Institute of Indian Ocean Studies on June 25, 2003.
- Dr Steven M. Jaffee, Senior Economist, Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Economic Policy, The World Bank, Washington, USA and Dr Spencer Henson, Associate Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics and Business/Consumer Studies, University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada, on June 26, 2003.
- Dr. R.K. Jain, Scientist & Officer Incharge, Delhi Centre, Central Pulp & Paper Research Institute, on 30 June 2003.
- Shri M.C. Singhi, Economic Advisor, Office of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India, June 2003.

## About the RIS

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

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

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

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



# RIS

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