



RIS Diary

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Roundtable on the Agenda of NAM Summit

The 14th Non-Aligned Summit was held in Havana, Cuba on 11-16 September 2006. In preparation of the Summit and to reflect on the relevance of the movement in the contemporary scenario and its agenda, RIS organized a Roundtable Discussion on Non-Aligned Movement: Relevance in the 21st Century and the Agenda, in New Delhi on 5 September 2006. Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Anand Sharma delivered the inaugural address. Dr Arjun Sengupta, MP (Rajya Sabha) and Chairman, RIS and Chairman of the Special Committee on the Agenda of NAM, chaired the Roundtable. In his welcome remarks Dr Nagesh Kumar, Director-General also highlighted the work programme of RIS in the direction of South-South cooperation and promoting the relevance of NAM in the changing world scenario.

In his thought provoking inaugural address the Hon'ble Minister said that NAM should focus on a contemporary and progressive agenda dealing with key issues of common concern to all its members such as multilateralism, combating terrorism, reform of the UN system, democratization of international institutions, etc. On the economic, side Shri Anand Sharma, underlined that NAM should focus on issues such as development, constructive North-South engagement, South-South cooperation, globalization, sustainable development,



(From left) : Dr. Nagesh Kumar; Dr. Arjun Sengupta; Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Anand Sharma; and Mr. Sanjiv Arora, Jt. Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs at the Roundtable.

pandemics like HIV/AIDS, natural disasters and digital divide. In this context, he particularly stressed the need to strengthen South-South cooperation. He emphasized that India remains strongly committed to a collective effort to revitalize NAM.

Among those who made observations and contributed to the discussion at the roundtable included Dr. Sanjaya Baru, Media Advisor to PM; Dr. Devaki Jain, formerly Member, South

Commission; Dr. Parthasarathi Shome, Advisor to Finance Minister; Prof. S.D. Muni; Dr. C. Rajamohan; Prof. A. K. Pasha; Mr. Siddharth Vardarajan; Dr. Mridula Mukherjee, among others.

The participants were of the view that NAM representing the developing countries can influence the international politics. Through mutual, coordination and South-South cooperation it can influence effectively the course of international economic development.

Seminar on Economic Cooperation in IBSA: Exploiting Synergies

It is widely recognized that India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Trilateral Dialogue could be of immense economic and strategic value in view of the dynamism and complementary strengths of these economies. The first IBSA Summit held in Brasilia, Brazil in September 2006 gave a new thrust to the fledgling grouping.

Before the Brasilia IBSA Summit, RIS jointly with CII organized a Seminar on Economic Cooperation in IBSA: Exploiting Synergies on 31 August 2006 in New Delhi, as a preparation for the IBSA Summit.

The seminar began with remarks by Dr Arjun Sengupta, M.P., Chairman, RIS and National Commission on Enterprises in the Unorganized Sector, who was in the chair. Thereafter RIS study on the potentials of IBSA were presented by Dr Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS. It was followed by presentations by Mr. T.S. Vishwanath, Head-International Trade Policy, CII and Dr. Veena Jha, Programme Coordinator, UNCTAD India, New Delhi.

These presentations were followed by remarks by Mr. R. Vishwanathan, Joint



(From left) : Dr. Nagesh Kumar; Mr. R. Vishwanathan; H.E. Mr. Jose Vicente De Sa Pimentel; Dr Arjun Sengupta; Mr. Jayant Dasgupta; Mr. T.S. Vishwanath; and Dr. Veena Jha at the Seminar.

Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs and Mr. Jayant Dasgupta, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, highlighting the importance and potential of this emerging partnership. Then H.E. Mr. Jose Vicente De Sa Pimentel, Ambassador of Brazil made his observations.

It was followed by an intensive open discussion in which a large number of participants who

attended the seminar took part.

The RIS Policy Brief on "India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Economic Cooperation: Towards a Comprehensive Economic Partnership" (No. 26) was also circulated at the seminar to provide a background to the discussions. Earlier RIS, on behalf of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, had conducted a comprehensive study on promoting IBSA economic cooperation.

South Asia Development and Cooperation Report 2007

The *South Asia Development and Cooperation Report 2007* will be the fourth in the series of Reports launched by RIS to provide an analysis of the macro-economic performance of South Asian economies against the background of global trends and the policy challenges being faced by them with a special focus on the role that regional economic integration could play. The previous Reports have been received very well and have established themselves as authoritative documents on the economic prospects of the sub-region. The last issue of *SADCR* was launched in New Delhi, Dhaka and Islamabad at special seminars and presented to key policy makers in the respective capitals. The *SADCR 07* will continue in the same tradition and cover the development outlook and regional cooperation in South Asia. In particular, it will cover issues concerning SAFTA and the prospects and challenges for making it operational and effective and the vision beyond SAFTA towards a South Asian Union. It will be launched in early 2007 to serve as a background document for the fourteenth SAARC Summit to be hosted by India in April 2007. Contact for further details: dgoffice@ris.org.in

Building Capacity through South South Cooperation: Case of Mekong - India Cooperation

This interactive research project, sponsored by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), aims to strengthen the capacity building process of the private sector and institutions representing the interests of industry in Mekong subregion, and foster the partnership between India and Mekong countries in the area of trade, investment and people to people contacts by way of training of human resources, disseminating of knowledge and experiences and advocacy. The overall goal of this project is to strengthen trade and investment related capacity of Mekong countries through information sharing, dissemination of knowledge and experiences, networking and transfer of skills. Besides, this project will make an effort to frame an appropriate strategy to ensure best possible cooperation and collaboration between India and Mekong countries, and also to identify the interfaces for such cooperation trade, investment, infrastructure or technology. The project supported by Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation will involve think tanks from Mekong as collaborators and will also involve participation of Mekong scholars in RIS programme on international economic issues and development policy. Contact for further details: prabirde@ris.org.in

India-China Policy Dialogue

As reported earlier, RIS has established contacts with a number of Chinese think-tanks to facilitate policy dialogue and exchange of views on development issues of mutual interest. Following the visit of DG-RIS to the Development Research Centre (DRC) of the State Council of China in

April 2003 and subsequent discussions, a high-level delegation of DRC led by Dr Sun Xiaou, Vice-President and Vice-Minister visited RIS in March 2004 when a Joint Policy Dialogue on certain issues concerning economic reforms and macroeconomic performance, trade and WTO related issues took place. Subsequently, DRC proposed an MoU to be signed between the two institutions to continue such dialogue and invited RIS to visit DRC. DRC has also collaborated in organizing the High-Level Conferences on Asian Economic Community, held in Tokyo and participated in New Delhi Conference in November 2005. A delegation from the Socio-economy Department of DRC visited RIS in December 2005. DG-RIS visited DRC in March 2006 to continue the dialogue. RIS will soon send a delegation to DRC and organize a policy-dialogue on China-India and Asian Economic Integration. Contact for further details dgoffice@ris.org.in

Regional Cooperation in Trade in Services and Investments in SAARC

This study will be launched as a part of the work programme of the SAARC Network of Researchers on Global Financial and Economic Issues. The Network at its seventh meeting held in Kathmandu in May 2005 decided to undertake the above study with RIS as its coordinator. The SAARC Summit in Dhaka in November 2005 has asked for studies to explore relevance of extending SAFTA to trade in services and investments. RIS has been asked to prepare a proposal and submit it to the SAARC Secretariat. RIS, as the national focal point for India on the SAARC Network has regularly participated in its activities. The study will be conducted by RIS in consultation with the other national focal points of the other SAARC countries in the SAARC Network and will be submitted to the SAARC Secretariat. Contact for further details: dgoffice@ris.org.in

South-to-South Collaboration in Genomics Innovation

In recent past the relevance of South-South collaboration in the area of genomics has expanded manifold as several developing countries have enhanced the allocations for biotechnology. In this context, RIS in collaboration with Toronto University has launched a study to understand the nature of collaborations in genomics and health biotechnology amongst developing countries. The project would also look into the issues like what factors and conditions contribute towards successful South-to-South collaboration and what is the pattern of these collaboration in genomics/health biotechnology; compare formal versus informal collaborations. The project is for two years in which it would also cover issues like examination of collaborations both in research activities as well as in development; and commercialization activities; identify the reasons for the collaboration and the different roles of participants in the collaborations; examine factors that have encouraged and hindered South-to-South collaborations; evaluate the impacts of the collaboration on genomics/health biotechnology

development in general and evaluate the impact of the collaboration on genomics/health biotechnology development in countries that are not amongst the innovating developing countries (IDCs). The project involves international collaborations with groups in the developing countries like Centro de Desenvolvimento Sustentable, University of Brasilia, Brazil; University of Zambia, Zambia. The project is funded by Genome Canada with co-funding from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in Canada. Contact for further details : sachin@ris.org.in

TRIPS, Safeguard Mechanism and the Pharmaceutical Industries: Impact of Mailbox Applications on Affordability and Accessibility of Essential Medicines in Post-2005 Phase

On 1 January 2005, countries which were yet to grant patents for pharmaceutical products, such as India, opened the mailbox for examining the pending patent applications together with other new patent applications filed to grant or reject patents in accordance with the TRIPS provision of the WTO. Following the full compliance of the TRIPS Agreement in 2005 in India and the few other developing countries who are yet to grant pharmaceutical patents, affordability and accessibility to new and essential drugs is expected to become more difficult. All new drugs may be subject to at least 20 years of patent protection in all but the least developed countries and the occasional non-WTO country such as Somalia, Palestine and Macedonia. The apprehension is that 20-year monopolies will drive up the price of treatment in India and in hundreds of importing countries the world's source of supply of generic HIV medicines may disappear.

In the light of the above development, this study will prepare an inventory of the drugs and pharmaceutical applications in the mailbox and assess the implications on the accessibility and affordability of essential medicines to the general public. Further, the study will examine the challenges, safeguards and flexibilities available within the TRIPS agreement including the Doha mandate to address the Public Health concerns and suggest legal amendments, if any to the Indian Patents Act, 1970, to make it work for the welfare of the Indian citizens. Contact for further details : someshmathur@ris.org.in

Policy Notes Prepared for the Government of India

- Note on Safeguarding the Sensitivities of the Agriculture Sector in ASEAN-India FTA: Lessons from FTAs and EPAs of the ASEAN Countries and Some Developed Countries was sent to the Ministry of External Affairs on 14 July 2006.
- Comments on "A Vision of the Third Decade of SAARC" were submitted to the Ministry of External Affairs on 19 July 2006.

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World Trade and Development Report Launched in Geneva

The RIS *World Trade and Development Report 2006: Building a Development Friendly World Trading System* was launched at the WTO Public Forum 2006 in Geneva on 26 September 2006. The presentation of the *WTDR 06* highlights by Dr Nagesh Kumar, DG, RIS, was followed by a panel discussion on its contents. Ambassador Faizel Ismail, Head of the South African Delegation to the WTO launched the Report and moderated the panel discussion. While launching the Report he said that the 'WTDR is a contribution to the process of struggle of developing countries to reclaim the development content of the Doha Round'.

Summarising the highlights of the report Dr. Nagesh Kumar, DG-RIS said that although the Doha Round was launched with the promise to address their development concerns so much so to call it a 'Development Round', the emerging patterns in the ongoing negotiations over the past five years suggest that development was just the rhetoric to get developing countries around to agree to launch of the new round. The spirit of Doha is hardly visible in the ongoing negotiations and as per the modalities being discussed developing countries are being pushed to accept commitments to provide market access in agriculture and non-agricultural products in more than full reciprocity basis. There has been little progress if at all on the development issues such as making the special and differential



(From left): Dr. Martin Khor, Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Ambassador Faizel Ismail, Dr. Yash Tandon and Dr. Sam Laird at the Session.

treatment 'precise, operational and effective'. The multilateral trading system that is not able to address the concerns of the majority of its membership cannot be sustainable in the long run. Against that background, the *World Trade and Development Report 2006*, second in the series launched by RIS, examines the emerging trends and patterns in the global trading system overall and in select important areas, highlights the growing asymmetries especially from a development perspective and puts together an agenda for reform.

The Report was commented upon by eminent Panelists. Dr. Martin Khor, Director of Third World Network said that he was proud of the Report as coming out from an independent think tank based in a developing country. It lives upto the first Report. The distinguished Panelists were: Dr Yash Tandon, Executive Director, South Centre; Dr Sam Laird, Spl. Adviser, Office of Secretary-General, UNCTAD; and Dr Martin Khor, Director, Third World Network. It was followed by open discussion by a large number of participants.

Seminar on ASEAN and Pan-Asian Integration

The inaugural East Asia Summit, held on 14 December 2005 in Kuala Lumpur, may be a harbinger for Asia to take its first step in the long journey towards pan-Asian Integration. Fostering pan-Asian integration is a collective effort that will require all partners to work together. For any meaningful impact, the pan-Asian integration should have a wider agenda, which could cover broad strategic issues, such as consequences of globalization, development cooperation and combating transnational threats like communicable diseases and crime. The impetus must come from within and its success hinges partly on the role each partner has to play in the process.

A Seminar, co-organized by ASEAN Secretariat and RIS on 16 September 2006 in Singapore, as part of the programme of seminars (PoS) coinciding with the 2006 annual meetings of the IMF-World Bank Group, provided opportunities for leading Asian thinkers to share their vision, ideas and strategies for shaping the concept of pan-Asian integration in ways that will best maintain its economic dynamism, enhance regional security and preserve peace and stability among themselves.

The distinguished panelists at the Seminar were Mr. Haruhiko Kuroda, President of ADB; Mr Ong Keng Yong, Secretary-General of ASEAN; Dr. Ashok Lahiri, Chief Economic Adviser, Ministry of Finance; and Ambassador Chan Heng



(From left): Mr. Haruhiko Kuroda; Ambassador Chan Heng Chee; Dr. Ashok Lahiri; and Mr. Ong Keng Yong at the Seminar.

Chee, Singapore PR at the US. Dr. Rodolfo Severino, former Secretary-General, ASEAN was the moderator.

On this occasion RIS also issued and circulated a Policy Brief on the theme of the seminar to provide a background of the discussion.

The panelists agreed with the emerging views that pan-Asian integration is becoming a reality. Trade and investment liberalization, emergence of global value chains, improved physical

connectivity, reductions in transport and logistic costs, and technological progress have brought Asian economies ever closer.

To date, 81 regional and bilateral free trade agreements (FTAs) have been implemented in Asia. Emerging trends indicate that pan-Asian integration has gathered significant momentum in a number of areas.

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Faculty News

Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General

- Nominated as a Member of the Special Committee of the Non-Aligned Movement on Economic and Social Issues, set up by the Ministry External Affairs, Government of India and participated in its meetings held on 26 July, 10 August, 18 August and 4 September 2006.
- Delivered a lecture on India's Look East Policy at an orientation³ session for the officers of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on 10 July 2006.
- Made a presentation on Employment -Oriented Export Strategy at the Workshop on Trade and Poverty Allevation, chaired by Hon'ble Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Shri Jairam Ramesh, at ITPO Hall, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi on 27 July 2006.
- As Guest Speaker made a presentation on Regional Architecture at the Session II of the Conference of Indian Heads of Missions for Countries of South East Asia and East Asia, organized by the Southern Division of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on 1 September 2006.
- Participated in the SACEPS Board Meeting in Kathmandu on 22 September 2006.

Made a presentation at the SACEPS Workshop on Economic Cooperation in SAARC: SAFTA and Beyond, held in Kathmandu on 23 September 2006.

- Participated in the WTO Public Forum, organized by the WTO Secretariat in Geneva on 25 September 2006.

Dr. Rajesh Mehta, Senior Fellow

- Made a presentation on NAMA Negotiations at Dialogue with MPs from United Kingdom on India Concerns in WTO NAMA Negotiations, organized by the Centre for Education and Communication (CEC) on 17 July 2006 in New Delhi.
- Made a presentation on Current State of Play in WTO Negotiations, Role of India and the position of Developing Countries and LDCs at The International Workshop on Food, Trade and Nutrition: Emerging Issues in the Wake of Suspension of Doha Development Round of World Trade Organization (WTO), organized jointly by the Food, Trade and Nutrition Coalition and the Center for Community Economics and development Consultants Society (CECOEDECON) on 17 August 2006 in New Delhi.
- Acted as discussant in the Technical Session IV: Vertical Co-ordination and Integration in Poultry Industry in India, at IFPRI/IEG Workshop on From Plate to Plough: Agricultural Diversification and its Implications for the Smallholders, held on 20 September, in New Delhi.

Dr. Ramgopal Agarwala, Senior Adviser

- Made a presentation at the National Seminar on India, The Indian Ocean and the Global Challenge, organized by the Society for Indian Ocean Studies in New Delhi on 23 September 2006.

Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi, Fellow

- Made a presentation on Trade Issues in Transboundary Movement of LMOs at the Technical Programme on Biosafety organized by Ministry of Environment and Forest, 18-19 September, 2006.
- Made a presentation on Technology Frontier: Realising the Biotechnology Potential at the Workshop on Role of Agribusiness in Poverty Reduction, organized by the Oxfam International's Make Trade Fair and Centad, 30 August 2006.
- Made a presentation on Harmonizing Trade Related Regulations of GM Food at the International Dialogue on Economic Consideration of Biosafety and Biotechnology Regulations in India: A Policy Dialogue, organized by International Food Policy Research Institute, 24 August 2006.
- Made a presentation on Experience with Implementation of Agreement on Customs Valuation in India: Identifying Trade Facilitation related Concerns at the UNDP/ESCAP ARTNET Consultative Meeting on Trade Facilitation and Regional Integration, held on 17-18 August 2006, in Bangkok.
- Made a presentation on Implications of New Patent Regime for Developing Countries: Urgent Need for Strategic Response at the International Seminar on India and the New Global Intellectual Property Rights Regime, organized by Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, on August 1-3, 2006.
- Made a presentation on Bt Cotton Controversy: Issues and Policy Options at the Panel Discussion on Cottoning on Bt Cotton organized by PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, on 31 July 2006.

Dr. Ram Upendra Das, Fellow

- Delivered a lecture on India's Engagements under Regional Trading Agreements at The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, New Delhi on 1 July 2006
- Delivered a lecture on Conceptual and Policy Issues in India's RTAs', organized by ShARE-DSE at Delhi School of Economics, New Delhi on 29 August 2006.
- Presented paper on Regional Trading Arrangements of India: Conceptual and Policy Issues at International Conference on The Indian Economy in the Era of Globalisation, organized by Maison des Sciences de l'Homme and University of Paris X, Paris on 28-29 September 2006.

Dr. Somesh.K.Mathur, Fellow

- Participated in the Knowledge Symposium on Owning the Future: Ideas and Their Role in the Digital Age, organized by Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi and Red Hat, Incorporation on 24-25 August 2006.

- Participated in the National Workshop on TRIPS & Public Health: Data Protection Under Article 39.3 of TRIPS, organized jointly by the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and World Health Organization on 13 July 2006 in New Delhi.

- Presented the paper on TRIPS: Issues, impact and the way forward for developing countries including India at the 2nd Annual Workshop on the Law and Economics of Intellectual Property and Information Technology, organized by the University of Manchester, Manchester (UK) on 27-28 July 2006.

- Participated in the Workshop on WTO and the Fisheries Sector, organized by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in New Delhi on 14 September 2006.

Dr. Prabir De, Associate Fellow,

- Presented a paper on Regional Trade in Northeast Asia: Why Do Trade Costs Matter? at Venice Summer Institute Workshop 2006 on Understanding Latest Wave of Regional Trade and Cooperation Agreement, organized by CESifo, Munich at Venice on 19-20 July 2006.

- Made a presentation on India's Economic Engagement with Asian Countries: Trends and Future Prospects at the Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies, Vienna, on 25 July, 2006.

- Presented a paper on International Trade in Services: Evolving Issues for Developing Countries at WTO/ESCAP/ARTNeT Advanced Regional Seminar on Multilateral Negotiations in Services for Asian and Pacific Economies, held at Kolkata on 19-21 September 2006.

Dr. Samir Ranjan Pradhan, Visiting Research Associate

- Attended Two Day Energy Conclave on Implementing the Integrated Energy Policy: The Way Forward, organized by IRADe, Taj Palace Hotel, New Delhi, 26-27 July 2006.

- Participated in International Seminar on India and Tajikistan in International Affairs, jointly organized by India-Central Asia Foundation and the Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi on 8 August 2006.

- Presented a paper on Asia's Energy Insecurity: Issues, Challenges and the Way Forward, at the Urja Vichar Manch, India Energy Forum, PHDCCI House, New Delhi, on 25 August 2006.

- Participated in the Ninth Power India Summit and the Sixth Non-Fossil Summit, organized by India Energy Forum in New Delhi on September 15-17, 2006.

- Presented a paper on India-GCC Economic Cooperation in the Era of Globalization at the Centre for West Asian and African Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi on 30 October, 2006.

International Policy Dialogue on Economic Consideration of Biosafety and Biotechnology Regulations in India

The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Washington DC, USA and the South Asia Biosafety Program (SABP), India in collaboration with RIS, organized the International Policy Dialogue on Economic Consideration of Biosafety and Biotechnology Regulations in India on 24-25 August, 2006, in New Delhi.

Dr. G. K. Chadha, Member, Prime Minister of India's Economic Advisory Council delivered the inaugural keynote address.

Dr. Purvi Mehta-Bhatt, India Coordinator, SABP; Dr. Ashok Gulati, Director in Asia, IFPRI-Delhi Office; Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director General, RIS; Dr. Mark W. Rosegrant, Director, Environment and Production Technology Division, IFPRI, USA; and Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi, Fellow, RIS also addressed the inaugural session.

The Dialogue was designed to establish greater awareness, an intensified dialogue, and consensus among various stakeholders in India on the benefits, costs, important policy trade-offs, and directions forward for biosafety regulations in India.

The key stakeholders include the key Ministries in India such as Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Agriculture, and Ministry of Environment, and other relevant government agencies;



(From left): Dr. G. K. Chadha; Dr. Purvi Mehta-Bhatt; Dr. Ashok Gulati; Dr. Mark W. Rosegrant; Dr. Nagesh Kumar; and Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi at the inaugural session.

corporate sector and the consumers and producers of such crops.

To achieve this objective, the dialogue brought together a cross-section of stakeholders and promote dialogue among them on some of the identified key issues on biotechnology and biosafety regulations.

The dialogue, while standing on technical (scientific) bases focused upon the policy related issues of regulations, field applications and sustainable policy implications.

The participants included public and private sector stakeholders, including policy makers, public research center scientists, industry representatives, farmers, communicators, and 'like minded' international agencies.

The Dialogue provided a unique opportunity for them all to come together and discuss the issues to identify the weaknesses and strengths of present and proposed biosafety and biotechnology regulations in India.

RIS and IPS Colombo Sign MoU

RIS has been collaborating with IPS, Colombo for a number of years. Besides jointly publishing the South Asia Economic Journal, they have conducted joint research studies on SAARC and IOR-ARC. In order to institutionalise the growing cooperation between them, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed by the Institute of Policy Studies, Colombo, Sri Lanka and RIS. IPS and RIS intend to facilitate academic cooperation initiatives in the areas of joint research; policy dialogue, and publications for national, regional and international fora; and capacity building.

The modalities for fostering mutual academic cooperation would be the following: undertaking collaborative research projects; conducting training workshops/preparing modules; organizing joint conferences/seminars for informed debate; exchange of research faculty members; knowledge dissemination through joint publications; seeking outside funding sources for joint research activities; and exchanging publications brought by the two institutions.

Apart from these, the two institutes shall undertake, by mutual agreement, other forms of research cooperation that they consider as conducive to promoting mutual exchanges and cooperation.

Meeting of the Research Advisory Council of RIS

RIS has set up a Research Advisory Council (RAC) to guide the work programme of the RIS. Over the years the agenda of RIS has expanded to cover a number of research programmes in broad areas of world trading and financial system and development; regional economic integration in Asia; South-South cooperation, new technologies and development; and strategic responses to globalization. It has been felt that RIS could benefit from the advice of eminent experts in shaping its future research agenda.

The first meeting of the RAC took place on August 2006 in RIS. Professor Muchkund Dubey, Chairman of RAC-RIS, chaired the Meeting. It discussed the work accomplished in the past year and the ongoing work programme in the current year. The members of the RIS-RAC are: Ambassador A.N. Ram, former Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs (Vice-Chairman); Ambassador Arjun Asrani, former Ambassador to Japan; Mr. B.L. Das, formerly Secretary to the Government of India and Permanent Representative to GATT; Mr. Rinzing Wangdi, Secretary (ER and Coord.), Ministry of External Affairs; Professor N.S. Siddharthan, Institute of Economic Growth; Professor Manmohan Agarwal, JNU; and Dr. Pulin B. Nayak, Delhi School of Economics. Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS is the Convenor.

Latest Publications

Book

Environmental Requirements and Market Access: Reflections from South Asia

by Nagesh Kumar and Sachin Chaturvedi(eds).
New Delhi: Academic Foundation. 2007.
ISBN 81-7188-466-0



The book examines the incidence of environmental requirements in the North and their impact on market access for Southern products especially those from South Asia. The book deals with various dimensions of such environmental and health related standards and their prohibitive effect, discriminatory impact and high compliance costs. The volume concludes with an agenda of action points for governments, business houses and international agencies to address the challenge.

RIS Policy Briefs

#27 *Seizing New Opportunities for South-South Cooperation: Some Proposals for the 14th NAM Summit*

South has emerged as a more confident participant in the international division of labour in the 21st Century. It has accumulated resources, experiences and capacity to shape its destiny more decisively than in the past. We believe that SSC can help in exploiting their synergies for mutual benefit and assist the South in meeting the many challenges it is facing. As a global forum of the South, NAM has a major role in fostering the SSC. It is in this context that an agenda had been outlined above for the XIV NAM Summit.

#26 *India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Economic Cooperation: Towards a Comprehensive Economic Partnership*

The IBSA comprehensive partnership could be of immense strategic importance for the countries involved and be a trail-blazer for South-South Cooperation. A Comprehensive Economic Partnership Arrangement including an FTA in trade in goods, services and investments could provide an institutional framework for exploiting the potential of their partnership and their synergies for mutual benefit.

#25 *Case for a Robust India-Taiwan Economic Partnership*

India needs to pursue more result-oriented and skillful economic diplomacy if it is to take advantage of mutually beneficial opportunities in engaging Taiwan. On its part, Taiwan needs to engage more deeply with India by shedding some of its cultural and other inhibitions if it is to diversify its global trade and investment risks, and expand its economic space.

#24 *Towards Comprehensive Economic Co-operation between India and Central Asian Republics*

The Policy Brief suggests some examples of areas where India and CARs can co-operate for mutual benefit. There is an urgent need to develop an institutional mechanism for promoting such broad-based co-operation. The old approach of forming FTAs is inadequate for that purpose. Comprehensive Economic Co-operation Agreement (CECA), as initiated between India and Singapore, could be a better model for promoting co-operation between India and CARs.

Discussion Papers

#114 *India's Regional Trading Arrangements*

Rajesh Mehta and S. Narayanan

This paper presents a brief non-technical overview of the conceptual basis of RTAs by highlighting the implications of concepts like trade creation and trade diversion. The paper then moves to pinpointing some of the global trends in RTAs to place the Indian engagements in a perspective. The patterns of India's regional economic initiatives are analyzed by presenting the factual account of the same. A brief over view of possible welfare and human development implications of RTAs in general and of India in particular are also dealt.

#113 *FDI and Spillover Effects in the Indian Pharmaceutical Industry*

Annika Bergman

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is widely considered to be beneficial for the host economy since it can result in positive externalities (spillover effects) through various transmission channels, for instance, transfer of technology, increased competition and imitation effects. This study analyses intra-industry spillover effects of FDI in the pharmaceutical industry in India. A literature review, interviews and an econometric analysis are carried out in order to examine FDI's impact on the industry. The Indian pharmaceutical industry has developed through a range of governmental incentives and, foreign

firms that have invested in the industry, have additionally contributed to the growth. The results are mixed. Spillover effects are visible in many of the spillover channels from FDI and the regression results show that firms with foreign ownership experience higher productivity levels. However, the correlation between FDI and productivity in domestic firms is insignificant, due to various reasons depending on whether the benefits from FDI are materialized, local firms' absorptive capability and factors such as the market structure, competitiveness, trade and technological policies. It is in the interest of the state to provide public policies and a sound economic environment to encourage benefit from FDI.

#112 *Regional Cooperation for Asian Energy Security*

Vipul Tuli

This paper attempts to convey three key messages: First, interdependence in energy among Asian countries is vital for the economic development of key Asian countries. Second, there are several key impediments to increasing Asian interdependence; the paper addressing these impediments is critical. Finally, we suggest some ideas on opportunities for Asian nations to find a common ground on energy security, stability and sustainability.

Journals

• *South Asia Economic Journal*, Vol. 7, No. 2, July-December 2006

Contents: Learning from South Asian 'Successes': Tapping Social Capital by *Sharukh Rafi Khan*; NAMA Negotiations in the WTO and Preference Erosion: Concerns of Bangladesh and Other Asia-Pacific LDCs by *Mustafizur Rahman and Wasel Bin Shadat*; Predicting Stock Returns: An Experiment of the Artificial Neural Network in Indian Stock Market by *Chakradhara Panda and V Narasimhan*; Public-Private Investment Linkage in Pakistan: A Multivariate Cointegration Analysis by *Abdul Rashid*; Internal Trade Barriers in India: Fiscal Check-posts by *Arindam Das-Gupta*; and Gender Bias in Nutrient Intake: Evidence from Selected Indian States by *Geoff Lancaster, Pushkar Maitra and Ranjan Ray*. Review article. Book reviews. Document.

• *Asian Biotechnology and Development Review*, Vol. 8, No. 3, July 2006

Contents: Risk Assessment and Management of Genetically Modified Organisms under Australia's Gene Technology Act: Considerations for Regulatory Development by *Nicholas A. Linacre; Jose Falck-Zepeda; John Komen; and Donald MacLaren*; Biotech Promotion Policy and Technology Transfer Issues: Evidences from Aquaculture and Marine Biotechnology by *A. S. Ninawe*; Biosafety Capacity Building in Developing Countries: Evidences from India by *Manoranjan Hota*; Stem Cell Research in India: Emerging Scenario and Policy Concerns by *Alka Sharma*; Regulation of Biotechnology Goods and Issues for Developing Countries before the Multilateral Trading System by *Amrit Rajapakse*. Bio News. Document. Bio Web. New Arrival. Bio Stat.

• *New Asia Monitor*, Vol. 3, No. 3, July 2006

Outside Publications of RIS Faculty Members

Research Papers

De, Prabir. 2006. "Regional Trade in Northeast Asia: Why Do Trade Costs Matter?". Version 3.0, CESifo Working Paper No. 1809, September.

Kumar, Nagesh. 2006. "National innovation systems and India's IT capability: are there any lessons for ASEAN newcomers?" in *Asia's Innovation Systems Transition* by Bengt-Ake Lundwall, Patarapong Intarakumberd and Jan Vang (eds). Cheltenham, UK and Northampton, MA, USA: Edward Elgar.

Kumar, Nagesh. 2006. "Sectoral Co-operation within IBSA: Some Explorations in South-South Co-operation". *Synopsis*. Vol. 8, No. 2, July. Centre for Policy Studies, South Africa.

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PAKISTAN MINISTERED TO THE OBLIGATIONS OF SAFTA WHICH WOULD BE IN FORCE FROM JULY 1, 2006. A PHOTO BY THE HINDU BUSINESS LINES.

Pak clams up on Safta obligations

PAKISTAN MINISTERED TO THE OBLIGATIONS OF SAFTA WHICH WOULD BE IN FORCE FROM JULY 1, 2006. A PHOTO BY THE HINDU BUSINESS LINES.

SAFTA takes effect from today

The South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) takes effect from Saturday with the seven-member governments of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) announcing the first tariff reduction under the tariff liberalisation programme (TLP) that commences effect from July 1.

Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), said that the launch of SAFTA would be a significant step towards trade liberalisation in the region.

Plan for NAM as a trade bloc

July 2, 2006 Sunday Hindustan Times, New Delhi

AMITAVA Sanyal New Delhi, July 1. Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), a think-tank funded by the ministry of external affairs and chaired currently by Arjun Sengupta, has been entrusted with the job of preparing the policy paper that would look into the possibilities of trade in goods, services and investment.

India to take up Pak decision at SAARC Ministerial Council

Denial of trade liberalisation programme under SAFTA by Islamabad

Mr Jairam Ramesh said the decision of Pakistan not to extend the first TLP with India, when all other signatories have agreed to extend duty concessions on a reciprocal basis, goes against the spirit of SAFTA because SAFTA provides for only a negative list.

With India, when all other signatories have agreed to extend duty concessions on a reciprocal basis, goes against the spirit of SAFTA because SAFTA provides for only a negative list.

Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, Research and Information System for Developing Countries, said that India might take up the issue with the Pakistan Settlement body of the Trade Liberalisation Programme under SAFTA to India.

India may offer scope on industry, not farm, at WTO

GG2 NET NEWS [17/07/2006]

INDIA, one of the lead negotiators for developing nations in stalled world trade talks, may make concessions on market access on industrial goods but will offer little leeway on farm products, trade experts say.

Leaders of the top negotiating nations, including Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, are due to discuss the struggling round of global trade talks on the sidelines of a meeting of the Group of Eight industrialised nations in St Petersburg on Monday.

Increase in export to generate 21 m jobs by 2010: Kamal Nath

Economy Bureau Chennai, Sept 7

The total incremental employment generation as a result of the increase in exports is expected to be 21 million by 2010, commerce and industry minister Kamal Nath said here on Thursday.

Fiction and fact: an IBSA pact

Our weekly column on recent research made simple

IBSA will be a powerful bloc in south-south cooperation. With aches of 'non-alignment' in earlier times but from the economic point of view, IBSA is a limited liability company.

DepFish

DepFish is a powerful bloc in south-south cooperation. With aches of 'non-alignment' in earlier times but from the economic point of view, IBSA is a limited liability company.

Cuba summit likely to rejuvenate NAM

By Praful Bidwai

L.H. Will summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in Havana, a successful jamboree marked by pondorous speeches and lofty but empty orality, will rejuvenate the movement and transform it into an exciting that reflects the aspirations of the vast majority of the world's people in a 116 member-states and 17 observer countries?

HAVANA MAY BREATHE THE VIGOUR INTO NON-ALIGNMENT

Analysis by Praful Bidwai-IPS/era/iva

NEW DELHI: Will next week's summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in Havana, Cuba, be a wasteful jamboree marked by pondorous speeches and lofty but empty orality? Or will it rejuvenate the movement and transform it into an exciting that reflects the aspirations of the vast majority of the world's people who live in 116 member-states and 17 observer countries?

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DepFish is a powerful bloc in south-south cooperation. With aches of 'non-alignment' in earlier times but from the economic point of view, IBSA is a limited liability company.

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Continued from Page 6 (Latest Publications)

Mehta, Rajesh. 2006. "Non-tariff Barriers Affecting India's Exports". ADB-INRM Policy Brief, No. 10.

Mehta, Rajesh. 2006. "Indian Agriculture and Processed Food-Trends in Exports". Souvenir of Agriculture Summit 2006.

Popular Columns

Kumar, Nagesh. 2006. "No need to rush the Doha Round". The Financial Express. 18 July.

Kumar, Nagesh. 2006. "Complete overhaul of decision-making is the need of the hour". The Financial Express. July 26.

Kumar, Nagesh and Rangopal Agarwala. 2006. "NAM more relevant than ever before". The Hindu. 15 September.

Mehta, Rajesh. 2006. "Experts Seek Strong Domestic Farm Policies". The Hindu, 22 August.

Continued from Page 3 (Seminar on ASEAN and Pan-Asian Integration)

A multi-track and multi-speed approach is, therefore, appropriate for pan-Asian integration.

A group of countries that are ready, able and willing to move forward toward pan-Asian integration should play a leadership role.

The participation of India, Australia and New Zealand in the first East Asia Summit in Kuala Lumpur last December should help to facilitate cross-regional integration across South Asia, East Asia and Oceania.

Pan-Asian integration is becoming not only a reality, but a necessity in the wake of increasing economic interdependence in the region.

Important Visitors/Delegations Received

- Mr. Yuichi Baba, Economist, Planning Department, Pacific Consultants International Tokyo (JICA Study Team Office, Gurgaon, India) and Mr Kiminari Takahashi, Planning Department, Pacific Consultants International (JICA Study Team Office, Gurgaon, India) on 13 July 2006.

- Mr. T S Vishwanath, Head, International Trade Policy, CII, New Delhi on 13 July 2006 and on 11 and 22 August 2006.

- Dr. P. Rajasekharan, Chief (Agriculture), Kerala State Planning Board, 13 July 2006.

- Ms. Amiti Sen, The Economic Times, 14 July 2006.

- Ms. Heather Ward, Deputy High Commissioner, New Zealand High Commission, New Delhi on 14 July 2006.

- Mr. G.A. Tadas, General Manager, Industrial Development Bank of India, Pune, on 17 July 2006.

- Mr. Keita Nishiyama, Director, Asia and Pacific Division, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), Government of Japan on 18 July 2006.

- Prof. Mukul Asher, Professor of Public Policy, National University of Singapore on 19 July 2006.

Mr. Richard Vokes, Director; and Mr. Masaaki Nagata, Head of Regional Cooperation Unit, Principal Programs Specialist, Operations Coordination Division, South Asia Department, Asian Development Bank, Manila on 19 July 2006.

- Miss. Min Ye, Research Fellow, Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University, USA on 1 August 2006.

- Mr. Sanjeev Ranjan, IAS, Resident Commissioner, Govt of Tripura, New Delhi on 2 August 2006.

- Mr. Sunil Lal, Joint Secretary (PD), Ministry of External Affairs on 2 August 2006.

- Prof. Ayubur Rahman Bhuyan, Team Leader, Feasibility Study on Bilateral FTA within SAARC Region, ADSL, Bangladesh on 9 August 2006.

Prof. Makoto Kojima, Director, Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies; Prof. Shinotsuka Toru, Dean, Faculty of International Development; Professor Ikuo Kayahara M. Gen. (Ret); Prof. Takayoshi Fujimura; Prof. Fujimoto Koji; and Prof. James Jin Du, Faculty of International Studies, Takushoku University, Tokyo on 11 August 2006 for interaction with the RIS faculty.

- Ms. Juneyoung Chol, Researcher/Outreach Team, Centre for Regional Economic Studies, Korea Institute for International Economic

- Dr. Masanori Kondo, Associate Professor of Economics, Division of International Studies, International Christian University, Japan on 29 August 2006.

- Mr. Ken Moritsugu, Special Correspondent, The Mchlatchy Company, New Delhi on 29 August 2006.

Ambassador L. K. Ponappa appointed as Vice-Chairman, RIS

Ambassador L.K. Ponappa has been nominated as the Vice-Chairperson of RIS Governing Council from September 2006.

Ambassador Ponappa has held a number of important assignments in her distinguished career as a diplomat, including as India's Ambassador in Thailand, and in the Netherlands.

Professor B.B. Bhattacharya, Vice-Chancellor Jawaharlal Nehru University; Dr. Arvind Virmani, Principal Advisor (DP/IE/SER), Planning Commission; and Commodore C. Uday Bhaskar, VSM, Senior Fellow, Institute for Defence Studies & Analysis, have also been nominated as Members of RIS Governing Council.



Ambassador L.K. Ponappa

The RIS Governing Council is chaired by Dr. Arjun K. Sengupta, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) and Chairman, National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector. The Foreign Secretary; Commerce Secretary; Secretary (EA), Deptt. of Economic Affairs; Secretary, Department of Science and Technology; and Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs are the ex-officio Members of the RIS Governing Council.

DG-RIS serves as the ex-officio Member-Secretary of the Governing Council.

- Mr. Derek Ireland, Director, Chresod Ltd, Ottawa, Canada on 29 August 2006.

- Mr. Rajiv Kher, Jt Secretary (SAARC), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi on 30 August 2006.

- Mr. R S Ratna, Director, Ministry of Commerce, on 13 September 2006.

- Dr. Tetsuji Kawamura, Professor, Faculty of Economics, Hosei University, Tokyo

- Mr. Bill Cole and Mr Erik Jensen, Stanford Law School on 20 September 2006.

- Mr. Y. Teddy Takeuchi, Senior Journalist, The Asahi Shimbun, Tokyo on 29 September 2006.

Continued from page 2 (Policy Notes)

- Draft of the Note on South-South Cooperation on Trade Issues Some Proposals for NAM Summit was made available to the Commerce Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Ministry of External Affairs.

- A Concept Note on Potentials for Trade in Services under SAFTA Agreement was sent to the SAARC Secretariat on 4 August 2006.

- A Note on South-South Cooperation in Science and Technology, Energy and Exchange of Development Experiences was made available to the Ministry of External Affairs.

- Inputs on preparation for the IBSA Summit was made available to the Ministry of External Affairs and the Department of Commerce on 22 August 2006 and 24 August 2006 respectively.

— Policy research to shape the international development agenda

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



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