

**1st International Conference on
Towards BIMSTEC-Japan Comprehensive Economic Cooperation:
Vision and Tasks Ahead**

Organised by



**Centre for Studies in International Relations and Development (CSIRD)
Kolkata**

in collaboration with

**Bangladesh Institute of
International and
Strategic Studies, Dhaka**

**Sri Lanka Centre for
Development Studies,
MARGA, Colombo**

**Centre for South Asia
Studies, Chulalongkorn
University Bangkok**

Supported by



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16-17 December 2005: Crystal Room: Taj Bengal: Kolkata: India

Day 1: 16 December 2005: Friday

08:30 – 09:00

Registration

09:00 – 10:00

1: Inaugural Session

Welcome remarks by Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Dr. B S Malik, President, CSIRD, Kolkata and Former Chief of Staff, Western Command

Observations by Dr. Shigeru Tsumori, Professor, Department of International Social Sciences, Toyo Eiwa University, Japan, and Former Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar

Remarks by Prof. Suranjan Das, Pro. Vice Chancellor, University of Calcutta, Kolkata

Special Address by Mr. Hidenao Yanagi, Minister, Embassy of Japan in India, New Delhi

Keynote address by Ambassador Shashank, former Foreign Secretary, India

Vote of Thanks by Dr. Anjan Roy, Advisor (Economic Affairs), Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), New Delhi, and Vice President, CSIRD, Kolkata

10:00 – 10:15

Photo Session & Tea/Coffee break

10:15 – 11:45

2: Towards BIMSTEC – Japan Comprehensive Economic Cooperation: Relevance and Possible Approaches

Chairperson: Ambassador Shashank, former Foreign Secretary, India

Presentations by

- *BIMSTEC- Japan Comprehensive Cooperation: Relevance and Strategic Issues*, by Dr. B S Malik, President, CSIRD, Kolkata
- *Towards BIMSTEC – Japan Economic Partnership: Opportunities and Challenges*, by Dr. Rahul Sen, Fellow, Regional Economic Studies (RES), Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), Singapore, and Prof. Mukul G. Asher, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore (NUS), Singapore
- *Deepening BIMSTEC – Japan Economic Relations: Tasks Ahead*, by Prof. Ebashi Masahiko, Faculty of International Studies, Meiji-Gakuin University, Yokohama

Commentator

- Dr. U Thet Tun, Former Director, Asia Division, UNESCO, Yangon

Open Discussion

11:45 – 13:00

3: Towards BIMSTEC – Japan Comprehensive Economic Cooperation: Gains from Trade

Chairperson: Prof. I N Mukherjee, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Presentations by

- *Impact of BIMSTEC Enlargement on Trade: An Analysis on BIMSTEC+Japan*, by Dr. Saikat Sinha Roy, Reader, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, and Ms. Bhamoti Gupta, Senior Research Officer, CSIRD, Kolkata (***Theme paper***)
- *BIMSTEC – Japan Economic Cooperation: Trends and Prospects*, by Prof. T Nirmala Devi, Director, Centre for SAARC Studies, Visakhapatnam

Commentator:

- Prof. K J Joseph, Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum

Open Discussion

13:00 – 13:45

Lunch Break

13:45 – 15:00

4: Towards BIMSTEC – Japan Comprehensive Economic Cooperation: Liberalisation and Removing Barriers to Trade

Chairperson: Prof. Ajitava Roy Chaudhury, Department of Economics, Jadavpur University, Kolkata

Presentations by

- *Does BIMSTEC-Japan Economic Cooperation Increase Intra-Regional Trade? The Case for Free Trade Arrangement*, by Dr. Swapan Bhattacharya, Associate Professor of International Trade, Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi
- *Trade liberalization and Regional Development in BIMSTEC Region: Does Geographical Characteristics Matter?*, by Dr. Nilanjan Banik, Assistant Professor, Madras School of Economics, Chennai
- *Role of Standards and the WTO-Agreement on the Application of SPS Agreement towards Comprehensive Economic Partnership between BIMSTEC Countries and Japan*, by Mr. Chanchal Sarkar, Dy. Director, Ministry of Commerce, Government of India

Commentator:

- Prof. I N Mukherjee, South Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Open Discussion

15.00 – 16.00

5: Towards BIMSTEC – Japan Comprehensive Economic Cooperation: Investment and Financial Cooperation

Chairperson: Dr. Ramgopal Agarwala, Consultant, World Bank

Presentations by

- *BIMSTEC – Japan Comprehensive Economic Cooperation: The Case of Investments*, by Dr. Dipankar Dey, ICAFI University, Kolkata (***Theme paper***)
- *Towards a Greater Economic Cooperation and Integration among BIMSTEC Countries and Japan in Money, Finance and Investment*, by Dr. Biswa N. Bhattacharya, Principal Reform Coordination Specialist, Asian Development Bank, Manila
- *Towards BIMSTEC-Japan Economic Cooperation: The Case of IT Industry and General Agreement on Trade in Services*, by Mr. Sajikumar. S, Research Fellow, V V Giri National Labour Institute, Noida

Commentator:

- Dr. Rahul Sen, Fellow, Regional Economic Studies (RES), Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), Singapore

Open Discussion

16:00 – 16:15

Tea / Coffee Break

16:15 – 17:15

6: Towards BIMSTEC – Japan Comprehensive Economic Cooperation: Facilitating Investments

Chairperson: Prof. K J Joseph, Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum

Presentations by

- *India's Experiences with FDI: Emerging Scenarios*, by Mr. Anjan Roy, Advisor (Economic Affairs), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), New Delhi
- *Neighbourhood Revisited: Explaining Japanese Foreign Direct Investment in the BIMSTEC Region*, by Prof. Arindam Banik, International Management Institute (IMI), New Delhi and Prof. Pradip K Bhaumik, International Management Institute (IMI), New Delhi
- *Role of Japan in the Technological Development of BIMSTEC: Current Trends and Future Directions*, by Mr. Pratip Datta, Rajatpur Indranarayan Vidyapith, Bolepur, and Mr. Pritam Datta, Consultant, The Energy and Recourses Institute (TERI), Kolkata

Commentator

- Mr. Hidenao Yanagi, Minister, Embassy of Japan, New Delhi

Open Discussion

17:15 – 18:15

7: Towards BIMSTEC – Japan Comprehensive Economic Cooperation: Cooperation in Energy

Chairperson: Dr Sujay Basu, Professor of Engineering, and former Director, School of Energy Studies, Jadavpur University, Kolkata

Presentations by

- *BIMSTEC-Japan Cooperation in Energy Sector: Vision and the Tasks Ahead*, by Dr. Abdur Rob Khan, Research Director, BIISS, Dhaka, Mr. ABM Ziaur Rahman, BIISS, Mr. Mahfuz Kabir, BIISS and Mr. Sharif M Hossain, BIISS, Dhaka (***Theme paper***)
- *BIMSTEC - Japan comprehensive Cooperation in Energy: Issues and Way Forward*, by Mr. D Rajasekaran, Utility Powertech Ltd., New Delhi and Dr. Antony Arul Raj, Adaikala Madha Institute of Management, Thanjavur

Commentator:

- Prof. Mahendra Lama, Centre for South and Southeast Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Open Discussion

19:30

Dinner (by invitation only)

Day 2: 17 December 2005: Saturday

09:00 – 09:30

8: Towards BIMSTEC – Japan Comprehensive Economic Cooperation: Role of Institution

Chairperson: Dr. Akira Iriyama, Professor, Graduate School of Social Design Studies, Rikkyo University, Japan, and Former President, SPF

- *Towards Comprehensive Economic Partnership between BIMSTEC and Japan: An Agenda for the BIMSTEC Community*, by Prof. Mahendra Lama, Centre for South and Southeast Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi[#]

Commentator:

- Prof. Myat Thein, former Rector, Institute of Economics, Yangon

Open Discussion

09:30 – 09:45

Tea / Coffee Break

09:45 – 11:30

9: Towards BIMSTEC – Japan Comprehensive Economic Cooperation: Cooperation in Industry, Technology and Human Resource Management

Chairperson: Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Chief Economist, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), New Delhi

Presentations by

- *Technological Capabilities, Human Development and Economic Performance: A Study of BIMST-EC, Japan and the World*, Dr. Buddhadeb Ghosh, Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Kolkata and Ms. Yaowapa Maneechai, Statistician, National Statistical Office, Bangkok (**Theme Paper**)
- *Technological Upgradation through Global Value Chains: Issues and Challenges before BIMSTEC Nations*, by Dr. Amitendu Palit, Dy. Economic Advisor, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, New Delhi
- *Industrial Development Measures: What India Can Learn from Japan*, by Arnab Roy, Project Director, Change Management Unit, Kolkata Urban Services for the Poor, Municipal Affairs Department, Government of West Bengal
- *The Spillover Effect of Japanese Foreign Direct Investment in Human Resource Management: A Case Study of Honda Siel*, by Dr. Srabani Roy Choudhury, Associate Professor, International Management Institute(IMI), New Delhi

Commentators:

- Dr. Sim-Yee Lau, Programme Director, SPF, Tokyo
- Prof. Navin Sen, Department. of Business Management, Calcutta University, Kolkata

Open Discussion

11:30 – 13:00

10: Towards BIMSTEC – Japan Comprehensive Economic Cooperation: Cooperation in Tourism and Culture

Chairperson: Dr. U Thet Tun, Former Director, Asia Division, UNESCO, Yangon

Presentations by

- *BIMSTEC – Japan Comprehensive Economic Cooperation: Vision Document of Tourism Sector*, by Prof. Myat Thein, former Rector, Institute of Economics, Yangon (***Theme Paper***)
- *Cultural Contacts between BIMSTEC Countries and Japan: An Historical Survey*, by Dr. Sanjukta Dasgupta, Reader, Department of History Calcutta University, Kolkata
- *Influence of India on Buddhist Culture in Japan*, by Dr. Hikotaro Furuta, Lecturer, Visva Bharati University, Shantiniketan, West Bengal

Commentator:

- Dr. Sanjana Joshi, Fellow, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS), Kolkata

Open Discussion

13:00 – 13:45

Lunch Break

13:45 – 14:45

11: Towards BIMSTEC – Japan Comprehensive Economic Cooperation: Cooperation in Transport Sector

Chairperson: Prof. Dilip Halder, former Director, Centre for Transport Studies, Jadavpur University, Kolkata

Presentations by

- *BIMSTEC – Japan Comprehensive Economic Cooperation in Transport Sector: Issues and Way Forward*, by Prof. Surat Horachaikul, Centre for South Asia Studies, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok and Mr. Prabir De, Associate Fellow, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi (***Theme paper***)
- *Japanese Investments in Transport Sector in BIMSTEC: Trends and Opportunities*, by Mr. Samiran Sen, Executive Director, Consulting Engineering Services (I) Pvt. Ltd., Kolkata

Commentator

- Mr. A K Mitra, Executive Director, Indian Railway Board, Ministry of Railways, Government of India

Open Discussion

14:45 – 15:45

12: Towards BIMSTEC – Japan Comprehensive Economic Cooperation: Agriculture, Fisheries, and Environment

Chairperson: Prof. Madhusudan Ghosh, Dept of Economics and Politics, Visva Bharati University, Shantiniketan

Presentations by

- *BIMSTEC – Japan Comprehensive Economic Cooperation: Opportunities in Fisheries Sector*, by Mr. P.B. Wijayatileke, Sri Lanka Centre for Development Studies (Marga), Colombo (**Theme Paper**)
- *Land Improvement Districts and Sustainable Water and Land Management in Japan: Lessons for India*, by Prof. Mamata Swain, Department of Economics, North Orissa University, Orissa
- *Community Based Socio-Economic Development Planning in Irrigation Projects in India: Strategic Approaches in JBIC Assisted Projects*, by Dr. Deepak Das, Reader, Engineering, Water and Land Management Institute, Orissa

Commentator

- Dr. Buddhadeb Ghosh, Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Kolkata

15:45 – 16:00

Tea / Coffee Break

16:00 – 17:30

13: Round Table Discussion - Moving Together: Japan and BIMSTEC

Co-chairs: Prof. J K Ray, Chairman, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata, and Mr. Sunanda K. Dutta Ray, Kolkata

Discussion Initiated by

- Dr. Abdur Rob Khan, Research Director, BIISS, Dhaka
- Mr. P.B. Wijayatileke, Marga, Colombo
- Prof. Myet Thein, Former Rector, Institute of Economics, Yangon
- Prof. Shigeru Tsumori, Toyo Eiwa University, Japan and Former Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar
- Mr. Hidenao Yanagi, Minister, Embassy of Japan, New Delhi
- Dr. Biswa N. Bhattacharya, Principal Reform Coordination Specialist, Asian Development Bank, Manila
- Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Chief Economist, CII, New Delhi
- Dr. B S Malik, President, CSIRD

Open Discussion

17:30 – 18:00

14: Vote of Thanks, and Declaration of Kolkata Consensus