

2nd International Conference
on
**Towards BIMSTEC-Japan Comprehensive Economic Cooperation:
Vision of a New BIMSTEC**

Organised by



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



**Thailand Development Research
Institute (TDRI), Bangkok**

in collaboration with



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



**Centre for International
Economics and Development
Studies, Bangkok**

Supported by



Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF), Tokyo

7-8 December 2006: Emerald Hotel, Bangkok

Day 1: 6 December 2006

19:00 Reception Dinner Hosted by Dr. Akinori Seki, President, SPF

Day 2: 7 December 2006

08:30 – 09:00 **Registration**

09:00 – 09:30 **1: Inaugural Session**

Welcome and Opening Remarks by Dr. Chalongphob Sussangkarn,
President, Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI), Bangkok

Special Remarks by Dr. B S Malik, President, CSIRD, Kolkata

Keynote Address by Dr. Akinori Seki, President, SPF, Tokyo

Inaugural Address by Mr. Chana Kanaratanadilok, Dy. Director General,
Department of Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Commerce, Government
of Thailand

Vote of Tanks by TDRI

09:30 – 09:45 **Tea / coffee break**

09:45 – 11:00 **2: Relevance of BIMSTEC – Japan Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Possible Approaches**

Chair: Prof. Chalongphob Sussangkarn, President, TDRI

Presentation of the Theme Paper by

- Dr. B S Malik, President, CSIRD, Kolkata

Remarks by

Dr. Wisarn Pupphavesa, Advisor, TDRI, Bangkok

Prof. Myat Thein, Yangon

Open Discussion

11:00 – 12:30 **3: Regional Trade and Investment Liberalisation: Gains from BIMSTEC - Japan Trade**

Chair: Dr. Tiziana Bonapace, Director, Trade and Investment Division, UNESCAP, Bangkok

Key Presentations by

- *A Comparative Analysis of Trade and Investment Liberalization among BIMSTEC Members and the Roles of Japan: Thailand's Perspective* - Dr. Santi Chaisrisawatsuk, Director, Centre for International Economic and Development Studies (CIEDS), Bangkok
- *Regional Trade and Investment Liberalisation in BIMSTEC* - Dr. Nilanjan Banik, Assistant Professor, Institute for Financial Management and Research, Chennai

Remarks by

- Dr. Rahul Sen, Fellow, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore

Open Discussion

12:30 – 13:30 **Lunch Break**

13:30 – 14:45 **4: Building Blocs of BIMSTEC – Japan Cooperation**

Chair: Prof. Rachain Chintayarangsan, Dean, School of Development Economics, National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA), Bangkok

Key Presentations by

- *Regionalism in Asia: Ways forward for BIMSTEC* - Dr. Biswa N Bhattacharyay, Principal Reform Coordination Specialist, Office of the Bank President, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Manila
- *Towards BIMSTEC- Japan Comprehensive Cooperation* – Dr. Tiziana Bonapace, Director, Trade and Investment Division, UNESCAP, Bangkok
- *Global Production and Supply Chain in Changing Environment: Opportunities for Japanese SMEs in BIMSTEC* – Dr. Amitendu Palit, Dy. Economic Adviser, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India

Remarks by

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

- Dr. Santi Chaisrisawatsuk, Director, Centre for International Economic and Development Studies (CIEDS), Bangkok

Open Discussion

14:45 – 15:00 **Tea / coffee Break**

15.00 – 17.00 **5: Prospects for BIMSTEC – Japan Cooperation in Emerging Sectors**

Chair: Mr. Muniruzzaman, Director General, Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS), Dhaka

Key Presentations by

- *Fisheries: Thailand's Perspective* – Dr. Wisarn Pupphavesa, Thailand Development Research Institute, Bangkok and Dr. Ruangrai Tokrisana
- *Transport and Communication: Bangladesh Perspective* - Dr. M. Rahmatullah, Programme Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka
- *Energy : Bangladesh Perspective* - Dr. Mahfuz Kabir, Research Fellow, Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS), Dhaka
- *Trade and Investment: Myanmar Perspective* - Dr. Maung Aung, Economic Study and Research Institute (ESRI), Union Myanmar Federation of Chamber of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), Yangon

Open Discussion

19:00 **Dinner Hosted by President, TDRI**

Day 3: 8 December 2006

09:30 – 10:45 **6: Asian Regionalism and Emerging Issues in Economic Relations between SAARC, BIMSTEC, ASEAN and APEC**

Chair: Dr. Biswa N Bhattacharyay, Principal Reform Coordination Specialist, Office of the Bank President, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Manila

Key presentations by

- *BIMSTEC and ASEAN : Synergies and Complementarities* – Dr. Suthad Setboonsarng, Partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers and Former Deputy Secretary General, ASEAN Secretariat
- *Asian Integration Process and BIMSTEC*- Dr. Biswajit Nag, Assistant Professor, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), New Delhi

Remarks by

- Dr. Mia Mikic, Trade and Investment Division, UNESCAP, Bangkok
- Mr. Muniruzzaman, Director General, Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS), Dhaka

Open Discussion

10:45 – 11:00 **Tea / Coffee Break**

11:00 – 12:30 **7: BIMSTEC-Japan Cooperation in Industry: Trade and Investment Opportunities, Obstacles and Future Directions**

Chair: Dr. Somchin Suntavaruk, Deputy Executive Director, The International Institute for Trade and Development, Bangkok*

Key Presentations by

- Dr. Rajiv Singh, Secretary General, Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), Kolkata
- Mr. M. A. Momen, President, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industries (DCCI), Dhaka
- Mr. U Zaw Min Win, Vice President, Union Myanmar Federation of Chamber of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), Yangon
- Mr. Paiboon Ponsuwanna, Vice Chairman, The Federation of Thai Industries, Bangkok

Open Discussion

12:30 – 13:30 **Lunch Break**

13:30 – 14:45 **8: Prospects for BIMSTEC-Japan Investment Linkages**

Chair: Prof Suthiphand Chirathivat, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok

Key Presentations by

- *What Needs to be Done to Attract Japanese Investments in BIMSTEC*– Dr. Prabir De

Remarks by

- Mr. Vitaya Praisuwan, Board of Investment (BOI), Thailand
- Mr. Keitsuke Matsumoto, Chief of Secretariat Office, Japanese Chamber of Commerce, Bangkok
- Dr. Rajiv Singh, Secretary General, Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), Kolkata

Open Discussion

14:45 – 15:00 **Tea / Coffee Break**

15:00 – 16:30 **9: Round Table Discussion – Vision of a New BIMSTEC**

Moderator: Dr. B S Malik, President, CSIRD

Panellists

- Mr. Muniruzzaman, Director General, Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS), Dhaka
- Dr. Wisarn Puppavesa, Advisor, TDRI, Bangkok
- Dr. Somchin Suntavaruk, International Institute for Trade and Development, Bangkok

Open Discussion

16:30 – 17:00 **10: Valedictory Session and Declaration of *Bangkok Consensus***