

# **Third International Conference on Building a New BIMSTEC – Japan Comprehensive Economic Cooperation**

**3 December 2007, Tokyo, Japan**

Organised by



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



**Asian Forum Japan (AFJ)**  
Tokyo

Supported by



**Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF)**

**09:00 – 09:30**

**Registration**

**09:30 – 10:00**

**Inaugural Session**

- Welcome Remarks by Dr. B S Malik, President, CSIRD
- Address by Ambassador Arjun Asrani, Formerly Indian Ambassador to Japan, and Chairman, India – Japan Forum.
- Vote of Thanks by Mr. Katsuhiko Nakamura, Director of Research, AFJ

Release of the book, edited of Prof. Wisarn Pupphavesa, TDRI, on  
*BIMSTEC – Japan Economic Cooperation*

**10:00 – 11:25**

***Panel 1.***

**Imperatives of BIMSTEC – Japan Economic Cooperation in  
Context of Globalisation and Asian Economic Integration**

***Chair:*** Ambassador Arjun Asrani, Chairman, India – Japan Forum

***Presentations by***

- Dr. Mia Mikic, Trade and Investment Division, UNESCAP, Bangkok – *RTAs and Asian Regionalism: Implications for BIMSTEC-Japan Cooperation*
- Dr. John Gilbert, Associate Professor of Economics, Vernon M. Buehler Professor of Business, Utah State University, USA – *BIMSTEC-Japan Trade Cooperation and Poverty in South and Southeast Asia*

***Panellists***

- Prof Wisarn Pupphavesa, Advisor, Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI), Bangkok
- Dr. Abdur Rob Khan, Research Director, Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS), Dhaka

**11:30 – 12:30**

***Panel 2.***

**BIMSTEC-Japan Comprehensive Economic Cooperation: Prospects and Strategies**

***Chair:*** Prof. Shigeru Tsumori, Toyo Eiwa University, Yokohama

***Presentations by***

- Dr. Abdur Rob Khan, Research Director, Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS), Dhaka – *BIMSTEC – Japan Comprehensive Economic Cooperation: Bangladesh Perspective*
- Mr. Janaka Wijayasiri, Research Economist, Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Colombo - *BIMSTEC – Japan Comprehensive Economic Cooperation: Sri Lankan Perspective*

***Panellist***

- Prof. Makoto Kojima, Takushoku University, Tokyo

**12:30 – 13:30**

**Group Photograph and Lunch**

**13:30 – 14:55**

***Panel 3.***

**Relevance of BIMSTEC – Japan FTA and Services Cooperation**

***Chair:*** Dr. Douglas Brooks, Sr. Fellow, Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), Tokyo

***Presentations by***

- Dr Anna Strutt, Department of Economics, Waikato Management School, The University of Waikato, New Zealand, and Visiting Fellow, Senshu University, Kanagawa - *BIMSTEC-Japan FTA: Findings of CGE Modelling*
- Dr. Nilanjan Banik, Associate Professor, Institute of Financial Management and Research (IFMR), Chennai – *India's Services-led Growth: Opportunities for BIMSTEC-Japan Cooperation.*

***Panellists***

- Dr. Suthiphand Chirathivat, Chairman, Economics Research Center and Center for International Economics, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok
- Mr. Rajeev Kumar, Director, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India

15:00 – 16:25

**Panel 4.**  
**BIMSTEC-Japan Cooperation for Development of Infrastructure**

**Chair:** Dr. Biswa N Bhattacharyay, Special Advisor to Dean, Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), Manila

***Presentations by***

- Dr. Prabir De, Fellow, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi – *Infrastructure Development in Asia and BIMSTEC: Future Investment Needs and Opportunities*
- Mr. Sanjeev Moholkar, Regional Specialist, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), New Delhi – *Infrastructure Development in India: JBIC Perspective*

***Panellists***

- Dr. Toshiro Nishizawa, Dy. Director General, JBIC Institute, Tokyo
- Prof. Yonosuke Hara, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS), Tokyo

16:35 – 17:30

***Wrap-up Panel***  
**Towards BIMSTEC-Japan Comprehensive Economic Cooperation: Vision and Tasks Ahead**

**Chair:** Prof. Yonosuke Hara, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS), Tokyo

***Panellists***

- Prof. Shigeru Tsumori, Toyo Eiwa University, Yokohama
- Dr. Abdur Rob Khan, BISS, Dhaka
- Dr. B S Malik, CSIRD, Kolkata
- Mr. Janaka Wijayasiri, IPS, Colombo
- Dr. Wisarn Pupphavesa, TDRI, Bangkok
- Dr. Suthiphand Chirathivat, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok

Open discussion

17:30 – 17:45

**Closing Remarks by Mr. K. Nakamura, AFJ, Tokyo, and Dr. B S Malik, CSIRD, Kolkata**

18.00

**Reception and Dinner**