

BIMSTEC@20. The Way Forward

Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi

6th December 2017

Tentative Agenda

9.30 - 10.00	Registration
10.00 - 10.40	Inaugural Session Welcome Remarks – Mr Sunjoy Joshi, Chairman, Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi Opening Remarks – Ms Geraldine O’Callaghan, Deputy Director (Asia, Caribbean & Overseas Territories), Department for International Development (DFID) Keynote address – Ms Priti Saran, Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India Vote of Thanks – Dr Vikrom Mathur, Senior Fellow, Observer Research Foundation
10.40 - 11.00	Tea

<p>11.00 - 12.30</p>	<p><i>Session I: Strengthening regional cooperation for greater security in the region</i></p> <p>Chair: Prof Harsh Pant, Distinguished Fellow and Head Strategic Studies, Observer Research Foundation</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Mr Anurag Bhushan, Joint Secretary (ASEAN ML & South), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India</p> <p>Dr Jayanath Colombage, Director, Centre for Indo- Lanka Initiatives MMBL- pathfinder, Colombo, Sri Lanka</p> <p>Dr. Khin Zaw Win, Director, Tampadipa Institute, Yangon, Myanmar</p> <p>Dr Shaheen Afroze, Director Research, Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIIS), Dhaka, Bangladesh</p> <p>Mr Piyush Srivastava, Joint Secretary (BIMSTEC & SAARC), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India (TBC)</p> <p><u>Driving Questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the security challenges threatening the stability of the region and the initiatives taken by BIMSTEC thereof, to address these challenges? • What are the impediments blocking the path of cooperation for an effective and joint response strategy towards security of the BIMSTEC sub-region? What could be the way forward for securing regional peace and stability? • How best to ensure security in the Bay of Bengal sub-region and what roles can BIMSTEC play in setting up a security mechanism? • What are the challenges and opportunities of involving other players in enhancing security of the BIMSTEC sub-region?
<p>12:30 - 13:30</p>	<p>Lunch</p>

13:30 - 15.00

Session II: Reinvigorating regional growth through trade, connectivity, and investment

Chair: Amb. Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty, Distinguished Fellow, Observer Research Foundation

Speakers:

Mr Estiaque Bari, Senior Research Associate, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Dr Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhary, Fellow, Observer Research Foundation, Kolkata

Mr Sujeev Shakya, Founder CEO, BEED, Nepal

Dr Prabir De, Co-ordinator of ASEAN-India Centre at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)

Dr Nisha Taneja, Professor, India Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER)

Driving Questions:

- What are the key areas (for eg: digital trade, agriculture trade, logistics etc) where trade reforms can make strong contributions towards regional growth?
- Which are the most important barriers to development of countries of the sub-region? What are the existing priority projects that are most important from the point of regional connectivity and growth? What mechanisms (for e.g. agreements, infrastructure, and reforms in customs procedures) could help strengthen transport, transit and trade facilitation in the region?
- How can BIMSTEC tap the potential of partnerships with other institutions and countries for its own development? How can BIMSTEC institutional capacity be built to work on regional issues?
- What steps can be taken to synergise various domestic, sub-regional and regional connectivity projects for the benefit of BIMSTEC? What are the best ways to share knowledge and promote technical cooperation for economic growth in the region?

<p>15.00 - 16.30</p>	<p><i>Session III: Regional Cooperation for Social Good: Human Development and Natural Resource Management</i></p> <p>Chair: Dr Vikrom Mathur, Senior Fellow, Observer Research Foundation</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Dr. Aaron Savio Lobo, Advisor and Coordinator for Goa & Tamil Nadu, CMPA; Indo German Biodiversity Programme</p> <p>Mr Md. Kamruzzaman, Research Associate, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka, Bangladesh</p> <p>Dr Dipak Gyawali, Director, Nepal Water Conservation Foundation; Pragma (Academician) Royal Nepal Academy of Science and Technology, Kathmandu, Nepal</p> <p>Mr Tshering Dorji, Journalist, Kuensel, Bhutan</p> <p>Dr. Suthikorn Kingkaew, Lecturer, Thammasat Business School International Business, Bangkok, Thailand</p> <p><u>Driving Questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does BIMSTEC have the potential to sustain economic growth through the regional deployment of shared human, natural and environmental resources, research and technical exchanges? • Can BIMSTEC aid in exploiting the complementarities that exist between the nations to achieve successful outcomes in terms of development, and collectively tackle environmental problems? • What steps can be undertaken for more effective sharing of knowledge on climate change, disaster risk reduction, and weather forecasting? What should be the role of multilateral and bilateral organisations?
<p>16.30 - 17.00</p>	<p><i>Wrapping up Session</i></p> <p>Address by Amb Tariq Karim, Former Bangladesh High Commissioner to India</p> <p>Vote of Thanks by Dr Joyeeta Bhattacharjee, Senior Fellow, Observer Research Foundation</p>
<p>17.00 – 17.30</p>	<p><i>Networking Tea</i></p>