



Indian Council of World Affairs
Sapru House, Barakhamba Road
New Delhi

December 9, 2013

Press Release

Seminar on “BCIM- Economic Corridor (BCIM- EC)”

(5 December 2013)

A day-long seminar on the BCIM- Economic Corridor (BCIM-EC) to discuss its prospects and challenges was organised at the Indian Council of World Affairs. The discussion focussed on the ways to enhance rail, road and air connectivity, trade and tourism in the BCIM-EC region. BCIM-EC is an ‘emerging construct’ on regional cooperation aimed at bringing about multifaceted regional connectivity amongst Bangladesh, China, India and Myanmar.

In his introductory remarks, DG, ICWA, Ambassador Rajiv K. Bhatia stated that the year 2013 has been remarkable for BCIM-EC. An exercise that began as Kunming Initiative, traversed a long path to culminate in the Kolkata-to-Kunming (K2K) Car Rally in February 2013 and the 11th meeting of the Forum in Dhaka, was also held during the same month.



Ambassador Rajiv K. Bhatia, DG, ICWA, giving the opening statement

The seminar, encompassing four thematic sessions: Enhancing Regional Connectivity: Role of BCIM- EC, Trade and Investment Potential of BCIM-EC, BCIM-EC: Northeast Perspective and BCIM-EC: The Road ahead, was chaired by Ambassador Eric Gonsalves, Ambassador V. Seshadri, Prof. Sanjoy Hazarika and Ambassador Rajiv K. Bhatia respectively.

It was broadly felt that an active Sino-India relationship will generate opportunities to expand regional cooperation. Another commonly shared view was that the North East Region (NER) should not be used merely as a ‘corridor’ in BCIM-EC, rather trade and investment hubs

should be created in the NER region.

It was suggested during the deliberations that in order to develop their peripheries, BCIM- EC countries may note the experience of Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS), Greater Tumen Initiative and the Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand-Growth Triangle (IMT-GT) and use their best practices. Both India and China should cooperate in BCIM-EC to develop their neglected peripheries.



Seminar in progress

Summing up the discussions, DG, ICWA said that while India is ready to harness the emerging mechanism of BCIM-EC to promote regional cooperation and cross border movement of goods, services and people, the security aspects should not be overlooked in such a process.
