



Indian Council of World Affairs
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New Delhi

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Press Release

on

Sixteenth Sapru House Lecture

by

H.E. Mr. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani
President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

(April 28, 2015)

H.E. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani, President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, urged coordination among states to fight what he termed the 'ecology of terrorism', which is morphing rapidly and is 'embedded with criminal economy'. The President was delivering the Sixteenth Sapru House Lecture entitled "The rebirth of the Asian



Continental Economy: Regional Cooperation and Afghanistan's Cooperative Advantage" on 28 April 2015, at the Sapru House, New Delhi, during his three-day state visit to India. Before beginning his address, the President expressed his condolences for the loss of lives and property in the recent earthquake in Nepal and natural disaster in Afghanistan's Badakhshan province.

Claiming that Asia is likely to be transformed into a continental economy, President Ghani urged for cooperation among the countries of the region and with

Afghanistan. He said that the next quarter century is important for Afghanistan and the country can connect South Asia with Central Asia and other regions. Afghanistan has huge mineral deposits, untapped water and land resources and human capital from



which other countries can benefit. The President called for converting Afghan money into capital to make it productive for the country. He underlined that Afghanistan can once again emerge as a regional 'roundabout' of land, air and cyber connectivity. He called for regional approach for faster development in the region.

Shri M. Hamid Ansari, Hon'ble Vice President of India and President, Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi, presided over the function. Ambassador Rajiv K. Bhatia, DG, ICWA, delivered the Vote of Thanks.

The lecture was attended by high-level Afghan delegation accompanying the President, Indian dignitaries, foreign diplomats in India, academics, Afghan watchers, persons from the National Defence College, students, media persons and officials from the two countries.
