

Opening Remarks

by

Ambassador Nalin Surie,

Director General, ICWA

at the

Release of Rajiv Bhatia's book

entitled

'India-Myanmar Relations: Changing contours'

at

Sapru House

22 September 2015

President, ICWA and Vice President of the Republic of India, Hon'ble Shri Hamid Ansari,

My colleagues on the dais

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

1. I am delighted to welcome you all to Sapru House this evening. The occasion too is a special one. President, ICWA is to release a book written by my friend and colleague Shri Rajiv Bhatia, whom you all know, on India-Myanmar relations. Rajiv is most qualified to write on this subject and his book will no doubt constitute an important new addition to the substance of the scholarship we have in India on our relations with that country.
2. Myanmar is an extremely important neighbour, both from the security and developmental perspectives. It is also an old relationship and a complicated one. Typical of all such relations, it has gone through twists and turns and appears to have reached a stage where in the words of the author: "Myanmar-India relations are likely to thrive further on their own steam. But through a conscious and well-planned endeavour, they could be strengthened and deepened in a far more perceptible manner and in a relatively short period." The forthcoming elections in Myanmar in November this year will no doubt have an important bearing on how our bilateral relationship will evolve and it is our hope that Rajiv's prognosis will be fulfilled.

3. We are looking forward to hearing from President, ICWA on the subject. His learning and erudition need no introduction.
4. We are also keen to hear from Shri Shyam Saran who has written the Foreword to Rajiv's book. As a former Foreign Secretary and Ambassador to Myanmar and one of our most accomplished diplomats, we await his views with anticipation.
5. Once again a warm welcome.
May I now request Rajiv to speak about his book.

