



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

February 19, 2014

Press Release

on

Asian Relations Conference (ARC- V)
‘Transitions and Interdependence: India and its Neighbours’

(February 20-21, 2014)

In a revival of the historic Asian Relations Conference (ARC), which was convened by the Indian Council of World Affairs in 1947, four editions of the Conference since 2009 have been held annually by the institution. The ARC-V on the theme “Transitions and Interdependence: India and its Neighbours” is being held, in collaboration with the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies (IPCS), on February 20-21, 2014, at Sapru House, New Delhi.

Given the emergence of Asia as an economic and strategic global hub, the previous conferences dealt with a variety of regional subjects, such as prospects of China’s partnership in Asia; security perspectives of India, the GCC countries, Iran and Iraq; and transformation in South Asia. The last Conference held in March 2013 was on “Geopolitics of the Indo-Pacific Region: Asian Perspectives”.

Three distinguished experts, namely Ambassador Kanwal Sibal, former Foreign Secretary of India; Professor S.D. Muni, Distinguished Fellow, IDSA; and Ambassador Sheel Kant Sharma, former Secretary General, SAARC, will present their perspectives at the Inaugural Session. The following six sessions will focus on issues concerning South Asia, viz. transitions and interdependence, foreign policy challenges, civil-military dynamics, socio-political outlook, economic landscape and governance and institutions. The Conference will also feature a panel discussion on the prospects of regional cooperation in South Asia. The programme of ARC-V is attached.

The panellists, comprising a blend of academic and seasoned diplomats from the South Asian countries and neighbouring Myanmar, will share their insights and deliberate on the shifting political and economic dynamics in the region. The representatives of state universities across the country, such as Pondicherry University, University of Jammu and Dr. Harisingh Gour University, Dagar (M.P.) will also be present.

Programme

Thursday, February 20, 2014

1000 hrs – 1030 hrs Registration

1030 hrs – 1130 hrs Inaugural Session:

Welcome Remarks:

Ambassador Rajiv K. Bhatia
*Director General,
Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA)*

Remarks by:

Professor S. D. Muni
Distinguished Fellow,
Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA)

Remarks by:

Ambassador Sheel Kant Sharma
Former Secretary General, SAARC

Keynote Address:

Ambassador Kanwal Sibal
Former Foreign Secretary of India

Launch of Book:

‘Indo-Pacific Region: Political and Strategic Prospects’

Vote of Thanks:

Dr. D. Suba Chandran
*Director,
Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies (IPCS)*

Tea

1130 am – 1300 hrs Session I: Transitions and Interdependence: A Macro View

Chair
Ambassador I. P. Khosla
Former Indian Ambassador

Speakers
Professor Siddharth Mallavarapu
South Asia University, New Delhi

Mr. Sugeeswara Senadhira,
*Consultant Director,
Presidential Secretariat, Colombo*

Mr. Tika Jung Thapa
*President,
Nepal Council of World Affairs, Kathmandu*

1300 hrs – 1400 hrs Lunch

1400 hrs – 1530 hrs

Chair

Session II: Foreign Policy Challenges

Ambassador Lalit Mansingh

Former Indian Foreign Secretary

Speakers

Dr. Shibashis Chatterjee

Jadavpur University, West Bengal

Professor Imtiaz Ahmed

University of Dhaka, Dhaka

Dr. Salma Malik

Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad

1530 hrs – 1600 hrs

Tea

1600 hrs – 1800 hrs

Chair

Session III: Civil-Military Dynamics

Professor Satish Kumar (regret)

Director,

Foundation for National Security Research, New Delhi

Speakers

Mr. U. Khin Maung Lynn

Joint Secretary,

Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies,

Yangon

Mr. Rana Banerji

Distinguished Fellow,

Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies, New Delhi

Friday, February 21, 2014

930 hrs – 1100 hrs

Chair

Session IV: Socio-Political Outlook

Professor K. Warikoo

Dean, School of International Studies (SIS)

Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Speakers

Dr. Shreedhar Gautam

Nepal Council of World Affairs, Kathmandu

Dr Faramarz Tamanna

Director General,

Center for Strategic Studies, Kabul

Dr. Mathew Joseph

Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

1100 hrs – 1130 hrs

Tea

1130 hrs – 1300 hrs

Chair

Session V: Economic Landscape

Professor Partha S. Ghosh

Nehru Memorial Museum & Library,

Teen Murti Bhawan, New Delhi

Speakers Professor I. N. Mukharji
Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Professor Delwar Hossain
University of Dhaka, Dhaka

Professor Amita Batra
Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

1300 hrs – 1400 hrs

Lunch

1400 hrs – 1530 hrs

Chair

Session VI: Enablers: Governance and Institutions

Ambassador Salman Haidar
*Former Indian Foreign Secretary and
President, Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies, New Delhi*

Speakers

Mr. Saifullah Ahmadzai
Freelance Researcher, Kabul

Dr. Rajan Bhattarai
*Chairman,
Nepal Institute of Policy Studies, Kathmandu*

Professor Anjoo Sharan Upadhyaya
Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi

1530 hrs – 1600 hrs

Tea

1600 hrs – 1730 hrs

Chair

Session VII: Regional Cooperation: A Panel Discussion

Ambassador Eric Gonsalves
Former India Ambassador

Speakers

Ambassador Sheel Kant Sharma
Former Secretary General, SAARC

Professor Imtiaz Ahmed
University of Dhaka, Dhaka

Mr. Sugeeswara Senadhira,
*Consultant Director,
Presidential Secretariat, Colombo*

Dr Faramarz Tamanna
*Director General,
Center for Strategic Studies, Kabul*

Valedictory Session:

Ambassador Rajiv K. Bhatia
*Director General,
Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA),*

Dr. D. Suba Chandran
*Director,
Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies (IPCS)*