

9 November, 2016



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

Pre-Event Press Release

International Seminar

on Heart of Asia

(November 10-11, 2016)

The regional initiative in the form of 'Heart of Asia (HoA) Istanbul Process', assumes significance as it brings the region together to discuss and attempt to solve challenges pertinent to the broader region but with a distinct focus on Afghanistan. The Istanbul Process is with the objective of bringing peace and stability to Afghanistan and speeding up its reconstruction and capacity building, as well as enhancing investment and connectivity to the country. The Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process articulates a set of principles, such as respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, and promoting cooperation in the areas of common challenges and shared interests in the region; and provides a platform for discussing key regional issues among participating states. The process has been led by two co-chairs: Afghanistan as a permanent co-chair, and one of the Heart of Asia countries hosting the annual ministerial meeting as another co-chair. Since its inception in 2011, five meetings of HoA have taken place. India will be hosting the sixth meeting in Amritsar on December 3-4, 2016.

In the run-up to the meeting, ICWA is organising an international seminar on November 10-11, 2016 to deliberate on issues concerning Afghanistan with a view to suggest and undertake constructive measures for security, stability and development of Afghanistan and the region. The

International seminar would witness the representation of 18 participants from the HOA member countries besides 11 Indian participants. Representatives from Missions (based in Delhi) of HoA supporting countries and organisations are also expected to observe the proceedings. The seminar would be divided into five technical sessions apart from the inaugural and concluding session.

The Keynote address of the seminar will be delivered by Ms Sujata Mehta, Secretary (West), MEA while H E Ambassador Shaida Mohammad Abdali, Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to India will give special remarks.

Attendance to the Conference is strictly by invitation only.

