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ICWA NEWSLETTER

INDIAN COUNCIL OF WORLD AFFAIRS | SAPRU HOUSE, BARAKHAMBA ROAD, NEW DELHI

EVENTS ORGANISED AT SAPRU HOUSE, NEW DELHI

Ninteenth Sapru House Lecture by H.E James Alix Michel , President of the Republic of Seychelles: 27 August 2015

The Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) hosted the nineteenth Sapru House Lecture (SHL) on " Maritime Security for Blue Economy" delivered by H.E James Alix Michel , President of the Republic of Seychelles on 27 August 2015. The President was accompanied by two of his ministers- H.E. Joel Morgan (Minister for foreign Affairs and Transport) and H.E. Jean-Paul Adam (Minister of Finance, Trade & Blue Economy). The event was presided by Ambassador Nalin Surie, Director General, ICWA.

ICWA Highlights...

- Ninteenth Sapru House Lecture by H.E James Alix Michel , President of the Republic of Seychelles:
- Eighteenth Sapru House Lecture by H.E. Antonio T. Carpio of the Supreme Court of Philippines :
- Speech by H.E. Morgan Lykketoft, President
- Bilateral dialogues with the Australian Institute for International Affairs
- Launch of a book titled 'India-Myanmar Relations: Changing contours':
- Foreign policy Awareness Programme in Hindi in Bhopal:
- Foreign policy Awareness Programme in Bhiwani:

Delivering the 19th SHL President Michel said that India and Seychelles are two neighbouring countries in the Indian Ocean. They are linked together and have shared interests to pursue. Mentioning, about the maritime threats, the President said that both India and Seychelles have to be vigilant about the emerging threats like piracy. These challenges have to be addressed by the two countries. He said that Seychelles will continue to act decisively with India against all forms of transnational crimes. Talking about the importance of Blue Economy, he said "today the Blue Economy is an important component of debate and action on the international agenda. It is at the heart of the economic agenda of the Indian Ocean Commission and the Indian Ocean Rim Association. It is an integral component of the African Union's Agenda 2063 as well as the Organisation's Integrated Maritime Strategy. It is also a key element of the new United Nation's development sustainable goals of the Post 2015 Development Agenda." He also mention about the signing of the agreement between India and Seychelles in the field of the Blue
Economy, which will be a major boost to the scientific and economic cooperation between the two countries.

After the President, H.E Joel Morgan presented his vision on India-Seychelles relationship and Blue Economy. The minister started with the historical relationship between India and Seychelles. He said that, at present, Seychelles is vulnerable to piracy and climate change. Mentioning about the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Seychelles in March 2015, he said that during the visit the two countries signed security related treaties and Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) on Research, Navigation, Maritime Security and Capability Building in several sectors, which are basic requirements for the economic development. He then moved on to the piracy related threats in somalia and said it has an impact on Seychelles and other neighbouring countries of the region.

The cause for the growing piracy cases, according to him, is the absence of maritime cooperation between the neighbouring countries. The pirates take advantage of weak institutions and non-cooperation among the countries to carry out their operation. He stressed on a joint operations to fight against the menace. On India's contribution, he said that India has already provided one Dornier aircraft and has promised to deliver another to Seychelles. Seychelles has also accepted an invitation to be a part of Indian Ocean tripartite security arrangement, which also includes India, Sri Lanka and Maldives. Besides security, India and Seychelles are also engaged in technology cooperation. The objective of the Blue Economy is to maximize economic benefits without degrading the Oceans.

Addressing the gathering, H.E. Jean-Paul Adam said that Yoga is India's gift to the world. Geographically, Seychelles is 1 percent land and 99 percent ocean. This geographical area supports its 90,000 population. On Blue Economy, the minister said, that it is not possible to achieve it without maritime security. The Blue Economy also needs research and innovation, in which India is a hub and can help Seychelles. About his country, he said that 30% of its area of Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is for conservation and protection of marine lives. Fishery is the second largest contributor to the Seychelles Gross Domestic Product (GDP). However, he cautioned against the extractive fishing. On financing the Blue Economy, he mentioned about establishment of investment fund including sustainable finance. He also talked about introduction of Blue bond and investment in debt market.

Eighteenth Sapru House Lecture by H.E. Antonio T. Carpio of the Supreme Court of Philippines : August 6, 2015

On August 6, 2015 the ICWA hosted the 18th Sapru House Lecture, on "The South China Sea Dispute" delivered by H.E. Antonio T. Carpio of the Supreme Court of Philippines. It was presided by Shri H.K. Dua, Hon'ble member of Rajya Sabha.

In his address, Justice Antonio T. Carpio stated that South China Sea is one of the most important regions of the world as around fifty percent of seaborne trade worth US$ 5.3 trillion passes through these waters. Referring to China's nine-dash line, he argued that through its acts, regulations, declarations and claims, China is attempting to register its sovereign rights on almost the entire South China Sea. That, he underscored, is in contrast with the spirit of international laws and national interests of the other countries. 4. Proving the fallacy of China's historical claims on the South China Sea Islands, substantiated with maps and other archival records, H.E. Carpio proved that China has gradually expanded its territory and territorial claims in the region through the use of force. He stated that history does not validate the authenticity of Chinese claims on islands of the South China Sea. 5. According to Justice Carpio, there are two dimensions of the South China Sea dispute: territorial and maritime. He argued that China is not only claiming the territories in the Sea but the entire maritime zone, through the nine-dash line. The situation has become more precarious with China's attempts to take control of the entire territorial and maritime area up to the nine-dash line.

He argued in favour of the principle 'the land dominates the sea', there by referring to the Grotius- Sheldon debate on the legality of control over the Sea and its resource. He highlighted that China has tried to defy international law by claiming the authenticity of the nine-dash line. Inviting international bidding for oil exploration in the EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zone) of Vietnam in 2012 and declaring ban on fishing in areas falling under the unilaterally declared, imaginary nine-dashed line are cases in point. 5. During the Question & Answer Session, several issues were raised. It included: Role of ASEAN and possibility of a consensus amongst other claimants on the Philippine claims; possibility of China accepting the international law and rulings of the international court on the matter. Discussions were also held on other legal cases where the two disputants finally agreed to the settle disputes peacefully in accordance to the international law.

August 31, 2015

Speech by H.E. Morgan Lykketoft, President – elect of the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

On August 31, 2015, the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) hosted a speech on "UN at 70" delivered by H.E. Morgan Lykketoft, President –elect of the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). The event was chaired by Ambassador Nalin Surie, Director General, ICWA. In his address H.E. Morgan Lykketoft disclosed his thoughts on agenda-2030, which is based on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). He said that, as a President-elect of the UNGA's 70th session, he has three priorities: i) implementation of outcomes in development, climate and financing; ii) strengthening the UN's role and performance in peace and security; and iii) human rights, including gender and Rule of Law. The Millennium Development Goal (MDG) accepted in 2000 by the UN members has been successful in meeting some of its target, still not able to completely eradicate extreme poverty and in equitability across the world. The global population

Is on constant rise, it has increased three fold in last seventy years. To meet the demands of the people there is a need to change in consumption and production patterns. He said that climate change is one of the most serious problems which has a potential to jeopardize the future of the planet earth. To tackle the effects due to climate change the world requires major investment amounting to trillions of dollars. There is also a need for the members of the UN to work together on this issue. It is not only the States but non-State actors like private business houses, non-government organizations and international organizations that have also to play a significant role in fulfilling the goal of Agenda-2030 and SDGs. He called on the big economies like USA, China, India, EU etc to support the agenda -2030. He alluded to voluntary carbon emission reduction among the major economies.

Other than Agenda -2030, the President-elect talked about issues considered as threats to the global peace. He said that the UN is still a relevant organization. The nature of wars is changing and their number is on increase. The wars have caused many problems like migration, displacement and violence. Addressing the causes and consequences of the on-going wars is high on agenda in the 70th session of the UN. He also called on member states to support the process of peace and reconciliation in the conflict zones. He also hoped that the member states would cooperate on the issue of disarmament. He said that the report would be circulated and discussed.

Regarding the expansion of the UNSC and India's membership to it, the President-elect said that for the first time the member states will be involved in the process of discussion over this issue. He informed about the working of Inter-governmental Negotiations on Security Council Reform, under Jamaica's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Courtenay Rattray.

Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation: 19 to 21 August, 2015

Ministry of External Affairs MEA), Government of India and ICWA jointly sponsored a meeting of Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation at Jaipur from 19 to 21 August, 2015. Minister of State in MEA, General V.K. Singh inaugurated the forum's meeting. The ICWA was represented by Ambassador Nalin Surie, DG ICWA.

General Singh spoke about the warm and friendly relations between the countries of the region and India. He highlighted the successful visit of the Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Fiji in November, 2014 and his meetings with other leaders of the region. He stated that the existing bonds further needed to be strengthened and energised by way of active and constructive engagements in diverse fields of mutual interest. This was followed by presentations on the subject of (a) UN Security Council reform, (b) maritime cooperation between India and Pacific Island nations, and (c) possibilities for capacity building and disaster management in various areas by Shri Munu Mahawar, JS(UNP), MEA, Shri A.K. Sanghi JS (Mitigation) NDMA and Rear Admiral Dhiren Vig, MoD respectively. A short film 'Solar mamas of the Pacific' by Barefoot College, Tilonia was also screened on the occasion.

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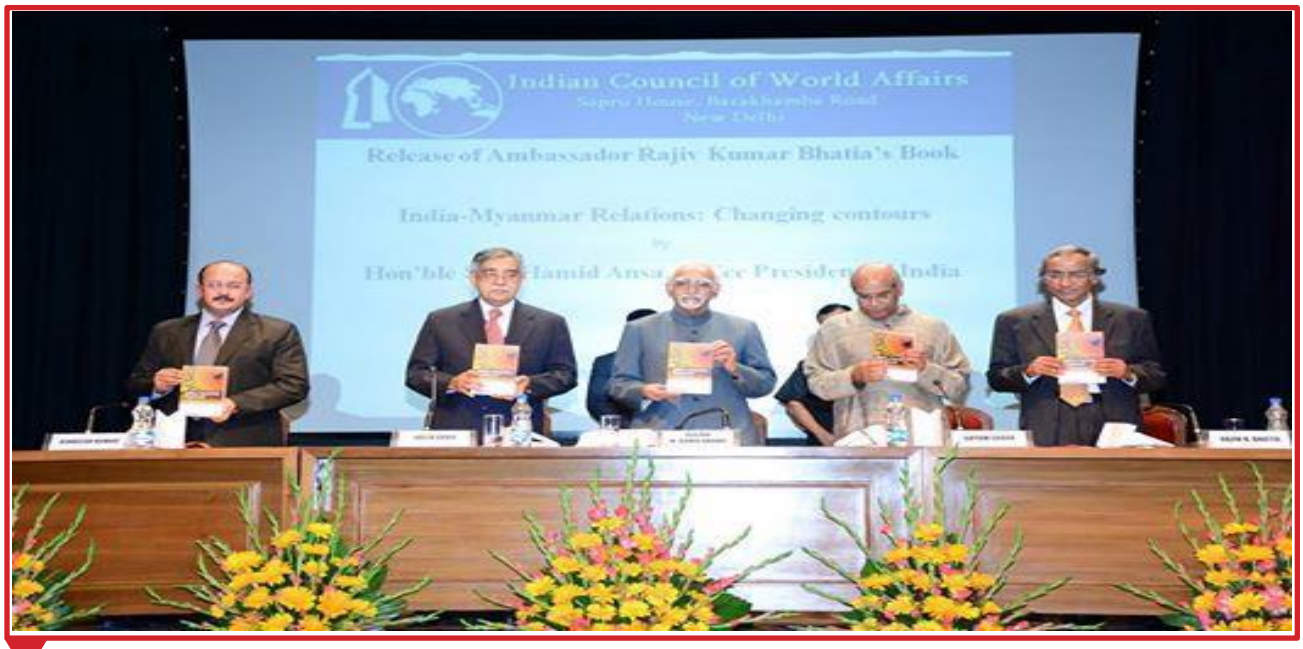
Bilateral dialogues with the Australian Institute for International Affairs (AIIA) and Japan Institute for International Affairs (JIIA) :
September 15th and 17th, 2015

Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) organised bilateral dialogues with the Australian Institute for International Affairs (AIIA) and Japan Institute for International Affairs (JIIA) on September 15th and 17th respectively. A Trilateral Dialogue between ICWA, AIIA and JIIA was held on September 16th to discuss areas of mutual interest and convergence between the three sides. The interactions were part of the Council's evolving and constructive engagements with important institutions/countries aimed at generating an informed opinion on international matters. During the first such interaction with AIIA, ICWA discussed issues related to the status of bilateral relations, knowledge sharing, changing security dynamics in Asia, technology and nuclear energy as well as strategic and defence cooperation. The bilateral dialogue with JIIA focused on evolving regional dynamics and China, trade, investment, economic cooperation and energy security, defence, maritime and cyber security, multilateral frameworks and HADR issues.

During the trilateral dialogue between the three institutes, the discussion was held on Asian security architecture, civilisation strengths and shared values, energy cooperation and the future of the trilateral dialogue between the three institutes. Four member AIIA delegation was led by Ambassador John McCarthy while a six member JIIA delegation was led by Ambassador Yoshiji Nogami. DG, ICWA headed the ICWA delegation.



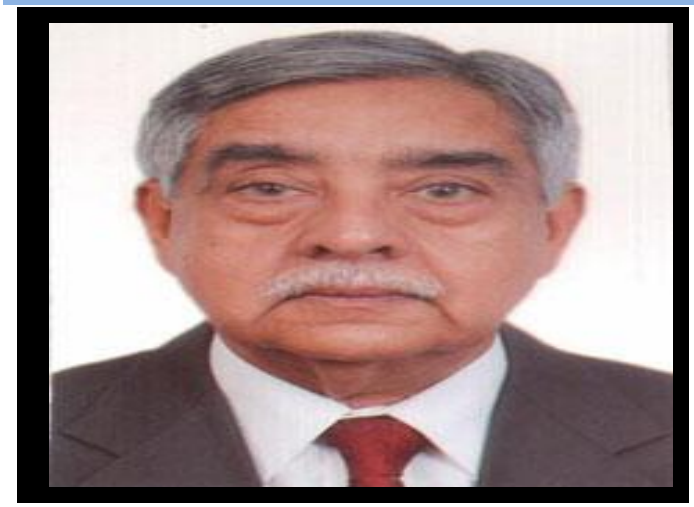
Launch of a book titled 'India-Myanmar Relations: Changing contours': September 22, 2015

On September 22, 2015 a book titled 'India-Myanmar Relations: Changing contours' authored by Ambassador Rajiv K. Bhatia, former DG of ICWA was launched. The event was presided by Shri Hamid Ansari, Hon'ble Vice-President of India.

In his remarks on the book, the Vice President underlined the lack of serious scholarship on Myanmar despite its obvious importance for India. He expressed his pleasure that Ambassador Rajiv Bhatia's book has come out at the right time to fill this gap. The Vice President said, "the proximity to our North-Eastern region and the geographical location of Myanmar as our conduit to South-East Asia makes it important from our point of view. We also have shared security interests and, hence, our desire to see a stable Myanmar that is at peace with itself."

Ambassador Shyam Saran, who has written the foreword to the book, spoke of the importance of the book in India's current Myanmar policy deliberations. He noted that Myanmar is going through the most fascinating social and political transformations. In this 3 | www.icwa.in transformation, the future of ceasefire between the government and the rebels; role of military leadership, political parties such as that of Aung San Suu Kyi and her National League for Democracy; the prospects of upcoming elections; and the role of major neighbours, such as China are the most important questions, which have been answered in this book. The book outlines how closely Indian policy making is linked with these factors. Amb. Shyam Saran shared thoughts of the author that until the recent past, India-Myanmar remained like strangers and their relations were largely unknown to the people of both countries.

It was so despite the fact that India and Myanmar share a colonial past and Myanmar city, Yangon was once full of Indian businesses and people until some 2.5 million Indians were left out in uncertainty, following the initiation of Burmisation and nationalisation programs by the Myanmar authorities in the late sixties. Though the doors were again slightly opened following Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's 1987 visit and Aung San Suu Kyi's electoral victory in 1990, the military intervention reversed the process.



Ambassdor Nalin Surie was appointed as a new DG of the ICWA: Amb. Nalin Surie (IFS 1973) assumed the office of Director General, Indian Council of World Affairs on Friday, 24 July, 2015. Amb. Surie has served as India's Ambassador to Poland and China and as High Commissioner to the United Kingdom. He has also served as Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.

Foreign policy Awareness Programme in Hindi in Bhopal:
28th July 2015

One day national seminar on 'Indian Foreign Policy: The Challenges and Opportunities" was organised by Atal Bihari Vajpayee Hindi Vishwavidyala, Bhopal in collaboration with Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) on 28th July 2015. Dr. Rakesh Kumar Meena, Research Fellow, represented the ICWA. It was a part of the foreign policy awareness programme in Hindi was initiated in 2014 by the ICWA. The seminar was attended by various academic luminaries, scholars, researchers and students.

Foreign policy Awareness Programme in Bhiwani:
19th and 20th of September 2015

Two day seminar was organised by G.D.C. Memorial College, Bahal, Bhiwani Haryana in collaboration with Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) on 19th and 20th of September 2015.
Dr. Dhrubajyoti Bhattacharjee, Research Fellow, represented the ICWA. It was attended by academics and researchers from most of the states in northern and central India.

About **ICWA**

Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) is a prestigious pro-active autonomous Think Tank specializing in foreign policy issues and external affairs. It was established in 1943 by a group of eminent intellectuals, under the inspiration of Jawaharlal Nehru who served as the first Prime Minister of India. The Council conducts policy research through its in-house faculty as well as external experts. It regularly organizes an array of intellectual activities including conferences, seminars, round table discussions, lectures and publication. It maintains a landmark and a well established library, website, a journal named 'India Quarterly'. It is engaged in raising public awareness about India's role in international affairs and offers to the government and people policy models and strategies, and serves as a platform for Track-II dialogue and interaction with other foreign think tanks.

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Editor: Shri. Anwar Haleem, Joint Secretary, IFS, ICWA & MEA.

Associate Editor : Dir (Research) Dr. Pankaj Kumar Jha;
Assistant Editor : Dr. Amit Ranjan, RF .

Contact us: Website: http://www.icwa.in; Tel No. 011-23310312 (direct)
011-23317246 (Ext.414)