



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

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Press Release

on

Fourth ICWA-PISM Seminar

on

Six Decades of India-Poland Relations: The Way Forward

(17 November 2014)

The Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) organized a seminar on ‘Six Decades of India-Poland Relations: The Way Forward’ in collaboration with its MoU partner Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM), Warsaw on November 17, 2014 at Sapru House, New Delhi. The two institutions have been engaged in regular academic interactions on strategic, political and economic issues concerning the two countries. The fourth edition of interaction focused on regional geopolitical scenario in Europe and South Asia, continuity and changes in India-Poland relations and economic engagement, particularly in areas of energy and defence. The seminar was attended by diplomats, scholars and media persons.



Ambassador Rajiv K. Bhatia, DG, ICWA, giving welcome remarks.

In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Rajiv K. Bhatia, DG, ICWA expressed that India-Poland relations should be viewed in the wider regional perspectives. While taking an account of political and strategic development in Europe and South Asia, he emphasized that academic interaction was crucial to develop sound understanding on the complex dynamics of region as well as build policy responses. Dr. Jarosław Ćwiek-Karpowicz, Research Director, PISM argued that India's role would be crucial in recent political and strategic development between Russia and the European Union (EU). He also discussed the India-Russia relations in his opening remarks. At the bilateral level, he highlighted that importance of Indian diaspora in Poland. H.E. Mr. Tomasz Łukaszuk, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to India discussed various aspects of India-Poland relations in his special remarks. He noted that there are several areas of cooperation between India and Poland and said that defence and energy had immense potential for cooperation. He was hopeful that the relationship between two countries would be further strengthened during the Polish presidency of European Council. Mr. Rahul Chhabra, Joint Secretary (Central Europe), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India noted that India-Poland relations are important and both countries are taking initiatives to expand cooperation in several areas. He said that Poland is member of various export-import control regimes and it can help New Delhi to get membership of these organizations.



Dr. Jarosław Ćwiek-Karpowicz, Research Director, PISM delivering his opening remarks.

Recent political dynamics in Europe, especially political crisis in Ukraine, Russia-EU relations and its implications for India-Poland relations, and G-20 summit in Brisbane were discussed in the first session. The second session examined the continuity and change in India-Poland relations in past six decades. While analyzing major achievements and challenges for bilateral partnership, speakers also explored future prospects in the bilateral engagement. It was noted that New Delhi and Warsaw should expand their partnership in the multilateral forums.

The third session was primarily focused on economic cooperation, examined scope for expanding economic opportunities in areas of defence and energy. Major initiatives taken by India in defense and energy sectors provide huge opportunity for cooperation. In addition to economic cooperation, it was argued that both countries should expand cooperation in research and development, science and technology and education.
