



Indian Council of World Affairs
Sapru House, Barakhamba Road
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Press Release

on

Panel Discussion on the Book: “India-Poland Relations in the 21st Century: Vistas for Future Cooperation”

(24 June 2014)

The Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), in collaboration with the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in New Delhi, organized a panel discussion on the book entitled, “India-Poland Relations in the 21st Century: Vistas for Future Cooperation” on 24 June 2014 at Sapru House, New Delhi. A joint publication of the ICWA and the Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM), Warsaw, the book is edited by Dr. Vijay Sakhuja, Dr. Dinoj K. Upadhyay and Mr. Patryk Kugiel. The panel discussion was co-chaired by Ambassador Rajiv K. Bhatia, Director General, ICWA, and H.E. (Prof.) Piotr Klodkowski, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to India.



(L-R) Mr. Piotr Opalinski, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the Republic of Poland; H.E.(Prof.) Piotr Klodkowski, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to India; Ms. Anna Tryc-Bromley, Director, Polish Institute; Dr. Boguslaw Zaleski, Former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland and Ambassador Rajiv K . Bhatia, Director General, ICWA.

In his remarks, Ambassador Rajiv K. Bhatia highlighted the ICWA's academic interactions with the PISM as well as the importance of India-Poland relations. Both India and Europe have witnessed political changes in the recent past, thus, the panel discussion has assumed enhanced importance. While discussing the India's bilateral relations with the EU's Member States, he pointed out that India is committed to deepening its cooperation with the European Union. Dr. Vijay Sakhuja and Mr. Patryk Kugiel gave a brief introduction of the book. Both editors discussed the multiple dimensions of India-Poland relations during the Cold War era as well as in the contemporary world order. They noted that India and Poland have had a dynamic political, defense and trade cooperation in the past, and argued for greater academic interactions between both the countries.

Dr. Boguslaw Zaleski, former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland, said that India and Poland shared vibrant historical and cultural relations. He observed that potential of India-Poland relations remained untapped. He argued that lack of direct flights, small Indian Diaspora in Poland, limited political interactions at the highest level and less coverage of India by Polish media and vice-versa are major challenges for India-Poland relations. Mr. Rahul Chhabra, Joint Secretary (Central Europe), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, said that there was no lack will to enhance India-Poland relations. Both countries have been engaged in the multilateral negotiations. He said that India and Poland have taken initiatives such as establishing India-Central Europe Business Forum and organizing trade fairs, for enhancing their economic and commercial relations. He said that that book was an outcome of serious research. Dr. Jakub Zajaczkowski, Warsaw University, said that India and Poland have common perceptions on many global issues. Highlighting the importance of soft power, he emphasized on research and academic collaboration between India and Poland. He said that the Erasmus Mundus programme is important in this regard.

During the questions and answer session, Polish policy on Iraq war, Ukraine crisis, potential of India-Poland strategic partnership and visa issues were discussed. It was noted that a strategic partnership between India and Poland would be useful in enhancing India-Poland relations. In his concluding remarks, H.E. (Prof.) Piotr Klodkowski said that there was an immense potential for cooperation in energy, particular coal and coal mining between India and Poland. He pointed out that intellectual discourse and cultural interactions between India and Poland have been widening and trade had substantially increased in recent years. India and Poland have organized an energy summit and trade fair for increasing interactions among the business community.
