



Indian Council  
of World Affairs



**RIS**  
Research and Information System  
for Developing Countries  
विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली

**AIC**  
ASEAN-India Centre at RIS

International Conference  
To Commemorate Thirty Years of India-ASEAN Relations

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# **GEOPOLITICAL SHIFTS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

## **NEW HORIZONS IN INDIA-SOUTHEAST ASIA RELATIONS**

20-21 July 2022

Venue: Sapru House, New Delhi



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## About ICWA

The Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) was established in 1943 by a group of eminent intellectuals led by Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru and Dr. H.N. Kunzru. Its principal objective was to create an Indian perspective on international relations and act as a repository of knowledge and thinking on foreign policy issues. An Act of Parliament in 2001 declared the ICWA to be an 'institution of national importance.' The ICWA is headquartered in Sapru House, an iconic heritage building in the heart of New Delhi that was inaugurated by the first Prime Minister of India, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru in May 1955. The council today conducts policy research through an in-house faculty as well as through external experts. It regularly organizes an array of intellectual activities including conferences, seminars, roundtable discussions, bilateral dialogues, international conferences, lectures and outreach activities in India and abroad and brings out a range of publications. The Council has a well-stocked library, an active website, and publishes the journal 'India Quarterly'. ICWA has over 50 MoUs with international think tanks and research institutions to promote better understanding in international issues and develop areas of mutual cooperation. The Council also has partnerships with leading research institutions, think tanks and universities in India.

## About AIC

Considering the work of the ASEAN-India Eminent Persons Group (AIEPG), and its Report with recommendations for forging a closer partnership for peace, progress and shared prosperity, the Heads of the State/Government of ASEAN and India at the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit 2012, held at New Delhi on 19-20 December 2012, recommended the establishment of ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at New Delhi. AIC was formally inaugurated by the External Affairs Minister of India on 21 June 2013 at Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi. The AIC undertakes policy research, advocacy and networking activities with organizations and think-tanks in India and ASEAN, with an aim to promote the ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership. AIC serves as a resource centre for ASEAN Member States and India. AIC is closely working with the Indo-Pacific Division of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India to undertake and disseminate evidence-based policy research and provide policy recommendations.

## Concept Note

1. India and Southeast Asian countries are bound together by their shared history and culture. There has been steady progress in India's relations with Southeast Asia since the Look East Policy (LEP) was initiated in 1992. India's engagement in the region is primarily structured through the ASEAN, which is a rules-based regional process. This year marks thirty years of India-ASEAN relations, which continues to be shaped by the changing geo-political environment.

2. India became a sectoral dialogue partner of ASEAN in 1992. In 1996, this was upgraded to a full dialogue partnership. In 2002, India became a Summit level partner of ASEAN. In 2018, ASEAN and India commemorated 25 years of dialogue partnership and 15 years of Summit level partnership. In 2022, ASEAN and India complete their three decades of dialogue partnership. These political level interactions are further strengthened through the Senior Officials' Meetings, as also specialised working groups in various functional areas as well as interactions among the Track II community. Without a doubt, ASEAN centrality remains a major driving force for speeding up cooperation between Southeast Asia and India.

3. India-Southeast Asia share a strong civilizational connect and our engagement predates the colonial era and formation of ASEAN grouping. India's relations with these countries have been the core foundation of India's Act East Policy (AEP), which was introduced in 2014. India and Southeast Asia together represent a quarter of the global population, and with a total GDP of over US\$ 3.8 trillion, it is one of the largest economic spaces in the world. There has been deepening of partnership between India and Southeast Asian countries through bilateral, sub-regional and regional programmes.

4. India has always considered Southeast Asia as a region of high economic and strategic priority. New Delhi has upgraded its relations to a comprehensive strategic partnership with Vietnam and Indonesia and shares a broad-based and multifaceted strategic partnership with Singapore. India also maintains close relations with Malaysia and the Philippines while Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Thailand are important for development and security of India's Northeastern states. Brunei and India have endeavoured to enhance their defence cooperation through a bilateral defence pact which includes conducting joint military exercises, hosting visits of naval ships, cooperating between defence industries and exchanging & training military officers.

5. Since the implementation of the ASEAN-India FTA the economic relations between India and Southeast Asia have been developing at a fast pace. India has implemented the Early Harvest Scheme (EHS) with Thailand on September 1, 2004, and has implemented the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) with Singapore and Malaysia in August 2005 and July 2011 respectively. In addition, India and Indonesia are currently negotiating CECA to enhance economic cooperation. This increasing economic cooperation has resulted in India's total trade volume with Southeast Asia to grow from US\$ 5.8 billion in 1996 to US\$ 78.9 billion in 2020. India's export to Southeast Asia has grown at a rate of five percent between 2010 and 2020 in which Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, and Vietnam constitute the major share. In terms of annualised growth rate, India's export has grown significantly with Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam (CLMV) countries and Brunei in the range of 10 to 15 percent in the same period.

6. Business and economic relations between India and Southeast Asia span over in areas of mutual interest such as financial technology (FinTech), connectivity, start-ups, and innovation, empowerment of youth and women and the development of MSMEs, among others. The FTA



between ASEAN and India has helped in fostering economic relations, but unfolding challenges require new policy measures.

7. India's engagements with Southeast Asian nations in coping with the Covid-19 challenges have paved the way for friendship, good neighbourliness, peaceful co-existence and prosperity in the region. Also, the future looks promising as there is a clear sign of revival of economies.

8. With the recent changes in contemporary global geopolitics, Southeast Asia and India have articulated their convergence of interests in the construct of Indo-Pacific, as demonstrated in India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) and the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP). Indo-Pacific provides both opportunities and challenges in areas such as maritime security, international terrorism, climate change, cyber security, non-resilience of global and regional supply chains, and lack of connectivity.

9. In this given backdrop, the ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) and Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) propose to hold a two-day conference on India-Southeast Asia relations. The Conference aims at covering the following themes.

- a. Regional and Global Trends
- b. Between Past & Present: Tracing India's Footprints in Southeast Asia
- c. Building Consensus through Regional Cooperation
- d. Changing Security Dynamics
- e. Economic Cooperation
- f. Development Partnership
- g. Charting the New Agenda: Pathways to Beyond Act East



# PROGRAMME

**Remarks**

Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh  
*Director General,  
Indian Council of World Affairs*

**Remarks**

H.E. Mr. Simon Wong Wie Kuen  
*High Commissioner, High Commission of the Republic  
of Singapore, New Delhi*

**Special Remarks**

Dr. C Raja Mohan  
*Senior Fellow, Asia Society Policy Institute,  
New Delhi*

**Keynote Address**

**Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh**  
*Minister of State for External Affairs,  
Government of India*

**Vote of Thanks**

Dr. Prabir De  
*Professor and Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC),  
Research and Information System for Developing  
Countries (RIS), New Delhi*



# TECHNICAL SESSIONS

Venue: Virtual

Day 1 – 20 July 2022

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Session 1

1100-1230 Hrs IST

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## Regional and Global Trends

### Chair

Amb. Rajiv Bhatia  
*Distinguished Fellow, Foreign Studies Programme,  
Gateway House, Mumbai*

### Speakers

#### Southeast Asia

Dr. Kuik Cheng-Chwee  
*Head and Associate Professor, Centre for Asian  
Studies, Institute of Malaysian and International  
Studies (IKMAS), National University of Malaysia  
(UKM), Bangi*

Dr. Rahul Mishra  
*Director, Centre for ASEAN Regionalism, Universiti  
Malaya (CARUM), Kuala Lumpur*

#### India

Prof. Shankari Sundararaman  
*Centre for Indo-Pacific Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru  
University (JNU), New Delhi*

Prof. B. R. Deepak  
*Professor of Chinese and China Studies, Centre of  
Chinese and Southeast Asian Studies, Jawaharlal  
Nehru University (JNU),  
New Delhi*

### Discussion

1230-1330 Hrs IST Lunch Break

**Between Past and Present: Tracing India's  
Footprints in Southeast Asia**

**Chair**

Prof. Baladas Ghosal  
*Former Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University  
(JNU), New Delhi*

**Speakers**

**Southeast Asia**

Prof. Joefe Santarita  
*Professor of Asian Studies, Asia Centre, University  
of Philippines Diliman and President ASEAN Studies  
Association of Philippines, Manila*

Dr. Nalina Gopal  
*Social Historian and Heritage Curator,  
Singapore*

**India**

Prof. Suchandra Ghosh  
*University of Hyderabad,  
Hyderabad*

Dr. Rajiv Ranjan Chaturvedy  
*Associate Professor, Nalanda University,  
Nalanda*

**Discussion**

**1500-1515 Hrs IST Tea Break**



## **Building Consensus through Regional Cooperation**

### **Chair**

Prof. Suthiphand Chirathivat  
*Professor Emeritus, Chulalongkorn University,  
Bangkok*

### **Speakers**

#### **Southeast Asia**

Dr. Anupama Devendrakumar  
*Senior Lecturer, VIN University,  
Hanoi*

Dr. Ravichandran Moorthy  
*Associate Professor, International Relations &  
Strategic Studies, National University of Malaysia  
(UKM),  
Kuala Lumpur*

#### **India**

Mr. Sanjay Pulipaka  
*Independent Researcher on International Politics and  
Security, Hyderabad*

Dr. Temjenmeren Ao  
*Research Fellow, Indian Council of World Affairs  
(ICWA),  
New Delhi*

### **Discussion**

### Changing Security Dynamics

#### Chair

Amb. Anil Wadhwa  
*Former Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA),  
New Delhi*

#### Speakers

##### Southeast Asia

Dr. Vo Xuan Vinh  
*Deputy Director, Institute for Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS), Hanoi*

Dr. Jirayudh Sinthuphan  
*Assistant Professor, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok*

##### India

Dr. M. Mayilvaganan  
*Associate Professor, National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru*

Dr. Udai Bhanu Singh  
*Former Senior Research Associate, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA),  
New Delhi*

#### Discussion



## Economic Cooperation

### Chair

Amb. Gurjit Singh  
*Professor, IIT Indore, and Former Ambassador of India to Indonesia and ASEAN*

### Speakers

#### Southeast Asia

Dr. Mohammed Masudur Rahman  
*Visiting Fellow, Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS), Singapore*

Dr. Watcharas Leelawath  
*Advisor (Hony.), Bolliger & Company, Bangkok and Former Executive Director, Mekong Institute (MI)*

#### India

Prof. Ch. Priyoranjan Singh  
*Manipur University, Imphal*  
&

Dr. Bishwanjit Singh  
*Manipur University, Imphal*

Prof. Biswajit Nag  
*Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), New Delhi*

### Discussion

**1300-1400 Hrs IST Lunch Break**



## **Development Partnership**

### **Chair**

Prof. S D Muni  
*Professor Emeritus, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi*

### **Speakers**

#### **Southeast Asia**

Dr. Sithanoxay Suvannaphakdy  
*Lead Researcher (Economics), ASEAN Studies Centre, ISEAS - Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore*

Dr. Somdeth Bodhisane  
*Institute for Industry and Commerce (IIC), Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MOIC), Vientiane*

#### **India**

Dr. Uma Purushothaman  
*Assistant Professor, Department of International Relations, Central University of Kerala, Kerala*

Dr. Sampa Kundu  
*Consultant, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC), Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi*

### **Discussion**

**1530-1545 Hrs IST Tea Break**

## Charting the New Agenda: Pathways to Beyond Act East

### Chair

Amb. Pou Sothirak  
*Executive Director, Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace (CICP), Phnom Penh*

### Speakers

#### Southeast Asia

Dr. Bradley Murg  
*Distinguished Senior Fellow, Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace (CICP), Phnom Penh*

Dr. Sineenat Sermcheep  
*Associate Professor, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok*

#### India

Prof. Amita Batra  
*Professor, Centre for South Asian Studies, School of International Studies Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi*

Dr. Prabir De  
*Professor, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC), Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi*

&

Dr. Tuhinshubra Giri  
*Fellow, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi*

### Discussion



**Dr. Nivedita Ray**

*Director (Research), Indian Council of World Affairs  
(ICWA),  
New Delhi*

**Dr. Prabir De**

*Professor and Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre  
(AIC), Research and Information System for  
Developing Countries (RIS),  
New Delhi*

# **Bio-Profiles of Chairs and Speakers**

# Inaugural Session





## **Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh**

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Director General, ICWA

Ambassador Vijay Thakur Singh holds a Master's degree in Economics from Himachal Pradesh University. She joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1985. Her first posting was in Embassy of India in Madrid, Spain, where she later went as Deputy Chief of Mission in 2006. She worked in the Ministry of External Affairs from 1989 to 1999, handling India's relations with Afghanistan and Pakistan. She was posted as Counsellor in the Embassy of India in Kabul from 2003 to 2005.

She has had multilateral experience, particularly in economic and environmental issues. She was Counsellor in the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations in New York from 2000 to 2003. She has served as Joint Secretary to the President of India from August 2007 to August 2012 and as Joint Secretary at the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) from 2012 to 2013. She has been High Commissioner of India to Singapore from 2013 to 2016 and Ambassador of India to Ireland from 2016 to 2018.

For two years from 2018, she was Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs and retired in September 2020. She took over as the DG of ICWA in July 2021.



## **H.E. Mr. Simon Wong Wie Kuen**

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High Commissioner, High Commission of the Republic of Singapore, New Delhi

The Government has appointed Mr Simon Wong Wie Kuen as Singapore's next High Commissioner to the Republic of India. Mr Wong will be concurrently accredited to the Kingdom of Bhutan and Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal.

Mr. Wong was Singapore's Trade Representative to Taiwan from July 2015 to January 2020. Prior to this, he was Deputy Secretary (International) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from August 2012 to June 2015.

Mr. Wong joined the Singapore Foreign Service in 1990. In the Ministry's Headquarters, Mr Wong covered several portfolios including The Americas, Europe and Northeast Asia. He was appointed Director/Americas from April 2005 to July 2007. He concurrently served as Director/Europe (May 2005 to February 2006) and subsequently Director/Northeast Asia from April 2006 to January 2009. During his stint as Deputy Secretary (International), Mr. Wong was also appointed to the Supervisory Board of the Diplomatic Academy (September 2012 to May 2015) and the Board of Directors of the Singapore Cooperation Enterprise (September 2012 to February 2015).

His overseas assignments included postings in Seoul (December 1992 to December 1995), Beijing (January 2000 to March 2005), and Hanoi, where he served as Ambassador from February 2009 to August 2012. Mr Wong graduated from the National University of Singapore with a



Bachelor of Social Science in Sociology (Honours) in 1990. He obtained his Master of Arts in East Asian studies from Cornell University, USA in 1998.

Mr. Wong was awarded the Public Administration Medal (Bronze) in 2002, and the Long Service Award (25 years) in 2014 by the Singapore Government. He was awarded the Vietnam Order of Friendship in 2012 by His Excellency President Truong Tan Sang, and the Order of St Michael and St George in 2014 by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.



## **Dr. C Raja Mohan**

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Senior Fellow, Asia Society Policy Institute,  
New Delhi

Prof. C. Raja Mohan is a Senior Fellow with the Asia Society Policy Institute in New Delhi. He is also a visiting research professor at the Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore. Earlier he served as the Director of ISAS, from May 2018 to December 2021 and founding director of Carnegie India from 2016-18. He was Professor of South Asian Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, and at the Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Singapore.

He is an international affairs columnist for the Indian Express and Foreign Policy. He has published widely on India's foreign and security policies, Asian geopolitics, maritime strategy, and the global governance of new technologies.

Professor Mohan has been associated with several think tanks such as the Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses, the Centre for Policy Research and the Observer Research Foundation. He He was the Henry Alfred Kissinger Chair in International Affairs at the United States Library of Congress, Washington DC, from 2009 to 2010. He served on India's National Security Advisory Board. He led the Indian Chapter of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs from 1999 to 2006.



## **Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh**

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Minister of State for External Affairs,  
Government of India

Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh is currently serving as the Minister of State, External Affairs Minister of India. He was born on 1st September, 1952 at Kongba Nandeibam Leikai, Imphal East, Manipur. He was sworn in as a Union Minister of State by the President of India on 7th July 2021. He officially took charge as Minister of State for External Affairs and Education on 8th July 2021.

Dr. Singh is a Post Graduate in Geography and earned his Ph. D. from Gauhati University. He served in different capacities including as a Lecturer, Assistant Professor, Deputy Registrar and Registrar. He also served as Director in-charge of the UGC Academic Staff College and College Development Director of Manipur University till his superannuation in 2012. He was a Senior Visiting Fellow in the Department of Geography in Manipur University, until he joined electoral politics in 2013. He has published 8 books and made numerous contributions to various national and international journals, and publications. During his academic career, Dr. Singh also participated in several national and international consultative meetings on Human Resource Management, Security Sector Reforms and Land and Livelihood Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Since his election as a Member of the 17th Lok Sabha in 2019, Dr. Singh has actively participated as a Member to the Parliamentary Committees on Central Council of Health and Family Welfare; Standing Committee for Science & Technology; Environment & Forest and Climate Change; Consultative Committee for DoNER and Parliamentary Rules Committee.



## **Dr. Prabir De**

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Professor and Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC), Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi

Dr. Prabir De is a Professor at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi. He is also coordinator of the ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS. He works in the field of international economics and has research interests in international trade and development. He was a Visiting Fellow of the Institute of Developing Economies (IDE-JETRO), Japan; Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), Tokyo; and Visiting Senior Fellow of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Bangkok. He obtained Ph.D. in Economics from the Jadavpur University, Kolkata. He has contributed several research papers in international journals and written books on trade and development. His recent book includes *Act East to Act Indo-Pacific: India's Expanding Neighbourhood*, published by the Knowledge World in 2020. He is the Founding Editor of the *Journal of Asian Economic Integration*, published by Sage.

# **Session I: Regional and Global Trends**



## **Amb. Rajiv Bhatia**

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Distinguished Fellow, Gateway House,  
Mumbai

Ambassador Rajiv Bhatia is Distinguished Fellow, Foreign Studies Programme at Gateway House. He is a member of CII's International Advisory Council, Trade Policy Council and Africa Committee. He is the Chair of FICCI's Task Force on Blue Economy, and served as Chair of Core Group of Experts on BIMSTEC. He is a founding member of the Kalinga International Foundation and a member of the governing council of Asian Confluence. As Director General of the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) from 2012-15, he played a key role in strengthening India's Track-II research and outreach activities. During a 37-year innings in the Indian Foreign Service (IFS), he served as Ambassador to Myanmar and Mexico and as High Commissioner to Kenya, South Africa and Lesotho. He dealt with a part of South Asia, while posted as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs. A prolific columnist, he is also a regular speaker on foreign policy and diplomacy in India and abroad. He was Senior Visiting Research Fellow during 2011-13 at the Institute of South East Asian Studies (ISEAS), Singapore. He holds a master's degree in political science from Allahabad University. His first book *India in Global Affairs: Perspectives from Sapru House* (KW Publishers, 2015) presented a sober and insightful view of India's contemporary foreign policy. His second book, *India-Myanmar Relations: Changing contours* (Routledge 2016) received critical acclaim. His third book, *India-Africa Relations: Changing Horizons* (Routledge 2022) has also been receiving positive reviews.



## Dr. Kuik Cheng-Chwee

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Head and Associate Professor,  
Centre for Asian Studies, Institute of Malaysian  
and International Studies (IKMAS)  
National University of Malaysia (UKM), Bangi

Dr. Kuik Cheng-Chwee is Professor in International Relations and Head of the Centre for Asian Studies, Institute of Malaysian and International Studies (IKMAS), National University of Malaysia (UKM). He is concurrently a Non-resident Fellow at the Foreign Policy Institute, School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), Johns Hopkins University. Previously, Cheng-Chwee was a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the Princeton-Harvard “China and the World” Program and a Visiting Research Fellow at Oxford University’s Department of Politics and International Relations. Dr. Kuik’s research concentrates on smaller state foreign policy, Southeast Asia-China relations, Asian security, and international relations. He served as Head of the Writing Team for the Government of Malaysia’s inaugural Defence White Paper (2020). Cheng-Chwee has held consultant positions at Oxford, Council on Foreign Relations, and Asian Development Bank. His publications have appeared in peer-reviewed journals and edited books. Dr. Kuik’s essay, “The Essence of Hedging”, won the Michael Leifer Memorial Prize by the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS). He is co-author (with David M. Lampton and Selina Ho) of *Rivers of Iron: Railroads and Chinese Power in Southeast Asia* (University of California Press, 2020) and co-editor (with Alice Ba and Sueo Sudo) of *Institutionalizing East Asia* (Routledge, 2016). His current projects include: hedging in international relations, elite legitimation and foreign policy choices, and the geopolitics of infrastructure connectivity cooperation. Cheng-Chwee serves on the editorial boards of *Contemporary Southeast Asia*, *Australian Journal of International Affairs*, *Asian Politics and Policy*, and *International Journal of Asian Studies*. He holds an M.Litt. from the University of St. Andrews and a PhD from the Johns Hopkins University.





## **Dr. Rahul Mishra**

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Director, Centre for ASEAN Regionalism,  
Universiti Malaya (CARUM), Kuala Lumpur

Dr. Rahul Mishra is Director, Centre for ASEAN Regionalism Universiti Malaya (CARUM), and Coordinator, European Studies Programme at the Asia-Europe Institute, University of Malaya, Malaysia. Dr. Mishra specialises in politico-security affairs of the Southeast and East Asian region, ASEAN-EU regionalism, comparative regionalism, and the role of major & middle powers in the Indo-Pacific region, especially in the context of China's rise.

He is a columnist with Deutsche Welle, Germany, and has published with the Japan Times, Financial Times, Channel NewsAsia, New Straits Times, Jakarta Post, Asia Times, Indian Express, The Sunday Guardian, Deccan Herald, The Star (Malaysia, Kenya), ASPI, RUSI, Lowy Institute, and, Mint, etc., and appeared on news media including the BBC, Deutsche Welle, CCTV, Channel NewsAsia, Phoenix TV, CNBC, Astro Awani, Bernama, etc. His latest publications include Asia and Europe in the 21st century: new anxieties, new opportunities, and India's Eastward Engagement from Antiquity to Act East Policy.



## **Prof. Shankari Sundararaman**

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Centre for Indo-Pacific Studies, Jawaharlal  
Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi

Dr. Sundararaman joined the faculty as an Associate Professor in Southeast Asian Studies. She holds a Bachelors and Masters Degree in history from the Women's Christian College and Madras Christian College respectively. She did M.Phil. from the Pondicherry Central University in International Relations and obtained her Ph D from JNU. She was a Visiting Fellow at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Jakarta in 2006-2007 as an Asia Fellow. She was also a Visiting Fellow at the Asia-Pacific College of Diplomacy (APCD) at the Australian National University (ANU), Canberra in 2005.



## **Prof. B. R. Deepak**

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Professor of Chinese and China Studies,  
Centre of Chinese and Southeast Asian Studies,  
Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi

Dr. B. R. Deepak is Professor and Chair at the Centre for Chinese and Southeast Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He was trained in Chinese studies at the Peking University, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing, at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and University of Edinburgh, UK. He has been the Nehru and Asia Fellow at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing. Some of his latest publications include *India's China dilemma: The lost equilibrium and widening asymmetries* (Pentagon 2021), *India and China: Beyond the binary of friendship and enmity* (Springer 2020), and a translation from Chinese *China and India: Dialogues of Civilizations* (Pentagon 2021; Hindi edition, Prakashan Sansthan 2021). He writes "Eye on China" column for Sunday Guardian.

**Session II:**  
**Between Past and Present:**  
**Tracing India's Footprints in**  
**Southeast Asia**



## **Prof. Baladas Ghosal**

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Former Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi

Prof. Baladas Ghoshal, Director Society for Indian Ocean Studies; until recently ICCR Chair in Indian Studies at the Russian State University for the Humanities, Moscow, is Distinguished Fellow at the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies. A former Professor and Chair in Southeast Asia Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, he held Visiting Professorship at the International Christian University, Tokyo, Nagoya City University, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, National University of Malaysia, University of Malaya, Universiti Utara Malaysia; and Senior Fulbright Fellowships at the Cornell and Rutgers Universities, Fellow at ISEAS, Singapore, Centre for Asian Studies, Hong Kong, East West Centre, Hawaii. Consultant to the United Nations Support Facility for Indonesian Recovery in 2003-2004, he is a doyen in Southeast Asian Studies in India, published extensively on Indonesian politics, ASEAN and regional security issues, reads, writes and speaks Malay and Bahasa Indonesia.



## **Prof. Joefer Santarita**

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Professor of Asian Studies, Asia Centre,  
University of Philippines Diliman and  
President ASEAN Studies Association of  
Philippines, Manila

Dr. Joefer B. Santarita is Professor and former Dean of the University of the Philippines' Asian Center. In 2012, he was conferred the Doctor of Philosophy in South Asian Studies at the National University of Singapore. He has been serving as affiliate faculty of the UP Open University's ASEAN Studies Graduate Program, Tri College PhD Philippine Studies Program, and the School of Library and Information Studies. His research interest and publications focus on India-ASEAN relations, data diplomacy, and maritime history. Currently, he serves as the President of the ASEAN Studies Association of the Philippines.



## **Dr. Nalina Gopal**

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Social Historian and Heritage Curator,  
Singapore

Ms. Nalina Gopal is a social history and heritage curator with experience working at museums in south India and Singapore. She is currently Curator at the Indian Heritage Centre in Singapore and oversees its curatorial team. Her recent publications include *Sojourners to Settlers: Tamils in Southeast Asia and Singapore*, a seminal publication on Tamil diasporas in Southeast Asia for which she was co-editor. Apart from the permanent galleries, she has recently curated several exhibitions at the Centre on the lesser-known aspects of Singapore's Indian heritage. She was the recipient of the Ananda Coomaraswamy fellowship from the Sahitya Akademi in 2017-2018.





## **Prof. Suchandra Ghosh**

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University of Hyderabad,  
Hyderabad

Dr. Suchandra Ghosh is Professor in the department of History, University of Hyderabad. She broadly takes interest in Politico-Cultural History of North-West India, Early India's linkages with Early Southeast Asia, Indian Ocean Buddhist and Trade Network and the history of Everyday Life. She was awarded the Savitri Chandra Shobha Memorial Prize of Indian History Congress, for the book *From the Oxus to the Indus: A Political and Cultural Study* in 2017. She acted as Sectional President, Ancient India section for the 80th session of Indian History Congress in 2019. Her co-edited volumes include *Early Indian History and Beyond: Essays in honour of B.D.Chattopadhyaya* (2019), *Cross Cultural Networking in the Eastern Indian Ocean Realm, C.100-1800 CE* (2019) and *Exploring South Asian Urbanity*, (2021). She is the Area Editor of *The Encyclopedia of Ancient History: Asia and Africa*, Wiley Blackwell.



## **Dr. Rajiv Ranjan Chaturvedy**

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Associate Professor, Nalanda University,  
Nalanda

Dr Rajeev Ranjan Chaturvedy is an Associate Professor affiliated with the School of Historical Studies and the School of International Studies at Nalanda University. He is also an Adjunct Fellow at the Institute for Australia India Engagement (IAIE), Brisbane; and Adjunct Senior Associate Fellow at the Asian Confluence, Shillong, India. He obtained Ph.D. in South Asian Studies from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. His research and teaching interests include India's Foreign Policy, India's Economic and Business History, Bay of Bengal Region, Maritime Security and Interconnections, India's Civilizational and Historical Links, South Asian Regional Security and Developments, China-Southern Asia Strategic Access.

Rajeev was a Visiting Fellow at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. He was also a Visiting Fellow at Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) in New Delhi and a Research Associate at the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS), National University of Singapore. He has also worked with the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) and was heading Foreign Policy Division at the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FICCI) in New Delhi.

Rajeev has published widely on his subject. He has participated and presented papers in several international forums and conferences and has contributed in print and electronic media including The Financial Times, The Week, The Times Now, The Hindu, The Economic Times, Financial Express, Channel News Asia, CCTV News/CGTN, South China Morning Post, Nikkei Asian Review, The Business Standard, The Pioneer, BBC Vietnamese, The Quint, Dainik Jagaran (largest Hindi Daily), Nai Dunia (Hindi Daily), Prabhat Khabar (Hindi Daily), Dainik Bhaskar (Hindi Daily), Qaumi Tanzeem (Urdu Daily), The Telegraph.

**Session III:**  
**Building Consensus through**  
**Regional Cooperation**



## **Prof. Suthiphand Chirathivat**

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Professor Emeritus, Chulalongkorn University,  
Bangkok

Dr. Suthiphand Chirathivat is professor emeritus of economics at Chulalongkorn University. He is also executive director of ASEAN Studies Center and chairman of Chula Global Network. He was Dean of Faculty of Economics, Chairman of the Ph.D. Program in Economics, Chairman of Economics Research Center and Center for International Economics at Chulalongkorn University. His academic interests involve the issues related to international trade, investment, finance, regional integration and development, and emerging issues in Asia in relation to the global economy and society. Recent publications include *China's Rise in Mainland ASEAN: New Dynamics and Changing Landscape* (co-eds) (2019), *Celebrating the Third Decade and Beyond: New Challenges to ASEAN-India Economic Partnership* (co-eds) (2017) and *Global Economic Uncertainties and Southeast Asian Economies* (co-eds) (2016).



## **Dr. Anupama Devendrakumar**

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Senior Lecturer, VIN University,  
Hanoi

Dr. Anupama Devendrakumar is Senior Lecturer of Global Political Economy, VIN University, Hanoi. Earlier, she worked as an Adjunct Faculty in the College of Natural Resources, the Royal University of Bhutan, Bhutan; Lecturer in the College of Maritime Studies and Management, Chiang Mai University, Thailand; and Researcher at the ASEAN Studies Center of Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand. Her research interests are international trade, investment, regional economic integration, focusing on ASEAN and its dialogues partners, and India. Much of her prior work is on India's bilateral economic relations with ASEAN. Her recent work explores the nature and scope of China's growing presence in ASEAN. Dr. Anupama has coedited *China's Rising Influence and its Belt and Road Initiative: Its Significance, Progress, and Challenges for ASEAN* (forthcoming in 2021) and *China's Rise in Mainland ASEAN: New Dynamics and Changing Landscapes* (2019), published by the World Scientific, Singapore.



## **Dr. Ravichandran Moorthy**

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Associate Professor, International Relations & Strategic Studies, National University of Malaysia (UKM), Kuala Lumpur

Dr. Ravichandran Moorthy is an Associate Professor and the Head of the Post-Graduate Programme at the Research Centre for History, Politics & International Affairs, University Kebangsaan Malaysia. He teaches and conduct researches in international relations, security studies and bioethics, with a special focus on ASEAN and South Asian affairs. He has over 100 academic publications, including three edited volumes and several papers in highly-cited journals. His upcoming edited book on 'Emerging Dynamics in Contemporary Malaysia-India Relations' will be published before the end of 2022. Dr Ravichandran regularly participates in seminar and conference circuits in India and Pakistan. In 2012, he represented Malaysia at the Third ICWA-ISIS India-Malaysia Strategic Dialogue (a track 1.5 initiative) in New Delhi. In 2017, he was named Professor of Honour by Zhejiang Normal University, China for his scholarly contributions to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). In addition, Dr Ravichandran is also an Adjunct Professor of the American University of Sovereign Nations (United States). He is also currently the President of the Asian Bioethics Association. Previously, he was a Visiting Scholar at the University of Puget Sound's Southeast Asia Studies Program in Tacoma, Washington, and a Fellow at the Salzburg Global Seminar in Salzburg, Austria. Dr Ravichandran has also served as a consultant for a number of organisations, including the Institute of Diplomatic Studies, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Timor Leste, UNESCO Bangkok, the South Korean Embassy, and a number of Malaysian government institutions. He has extensive networking with many agencies around the Asia Pacific, and has been invited as Keynote Speaker at numerous seminars and conferences around the world.



## **Mr. Sanjay Pulipaka**

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Independent Researcher on International  
Politics and Security, Hyderabad

Mr. Sanjay Pulipaka is an independent researcher on international politics and security issues. He was previously a Senior Fellow for Research Programmes and Strategic Neighbourhood at the Delhi Policy Group; Senior Fellow at the Nehru Memorial Museum Library; and Senior Consultant at the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER). Sanjay Pulipaka was a Wrangler Pavate Visiting Fellow at the University of Cambridge, UK, and a former Fulbright Fellow in the Conflict Transformation Programme, in the United States. Sanjay's areas of interest include India's foreign policy, Democracy, Indian Politics, India's immediate neighbourhood, political transition, connectivity frameworks, India-China relations, India-US Relations, regionalism, and other related domains. Further, he has been closely following the political transition in Myanmar and conducted field research in that country and in Northeast India. Sanjay also has extensive work experience with think-tanks and civil society organisations in India. He has considerable work experience in strengthening participatory political processes, governance frameworks and platforms for wider consultation. He has a substantive publication record with three co-edited volumes, policy reports, numerous research papers and Op-Ed essays.





## **Dr. Temjenmeren Ao**

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Research Fellow, Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), New Delhi

Dr. Temjenmeren Ao is a Research Fellow on Southeast Asia at the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), New Delhi. Prior to which he worked as an Associate Fellow at the Centre for Air Power Studies, where he completed a project titled, "China's Aerospace Sector: A Study on its Rise through Transfers of Technology". His area of interests includes the study on international economics, India's foreign relations in the contemporary political, economic and security environment and issues of dual-use technology transfers. He completed his Masters of Arts in Economics from the Centre for Economics Studies and Planning, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Delhi, and holds a PhD in International Relations from School of International Studies, JNU, New Delhi.

**Session IV:  
Changing Security Dynamics**



## **Amb. Anil Wadhwa**

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Former Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), New Delhi

Ambassador Anil Wadhwa has been a member of the Indian Foreign Service from July 1979 till May 2017. In this 37-year career with the Indian foreign service he has been ambassador of India to Italy & San Marino, Thailand, Oman and Poland & Lithuania and has served in Hongkong, Beijing (twice), permanent mission of India in Geneva and worked on deputation with the organisation for the prohibition of chemical weapons in The Hague where he headed their media and public affairs and government relations branches. Ambassador Wadhwa was head of the East Europe division in the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi and looked after relations with Russia and Eastern European countries. As Secretary (east) in the ministry of external affairs he oversaw relations with ASEAN, South East Asia, Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific, the GCC, Middle East and West Asia. He has attended a host of International conferences and was Indian delegate to the conference on disarmament in Geneva, first committee in New York as well as to the ASEAN, ASEM, ADMM, and Small Island states meetings like FIPIC. Ambassador Wadhwa has contributed a number of articles on foreign policy, disarmament and International security. He is fluent in Chinese and knows French. His wife Ambassador Deepa Gopalan Wadhwa has also been the Indian ambassador to Japan, Qatar, Sweden and Latvia. He was Senior Fellow, VIF from Jan 2018 to Oct 2018.



## **Dr. Vo Xuan Vinh**

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Deputy Director, Institute for Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS), Hanoi

Dr. Vo Xuan Vinh is the Deputy Director General, Institute for Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS Vietnam), Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS), Hanoi. He successfully defended his PhD thesis on ASEAN in India's Look East Policy in 2011. He has conducted various research on security, politics and international relations in Southeast Asia, the South China Sea dispute, and India's Look East/Act East Policy. Vo Xuan Vinh is the author of books, monographs, chapters and research papers on issues of geopolitics, maritime security, politics and international relations in Southeast Asia, the South China Sea dispute, and India's Look East/Act East Policy. Some of his latest publications are: Pankaj K Jha and Vo Xuan Vinh (2020). *India, Vietnam and the Indo-Pacific: Expanding Horizons*. London and New York: Routledge; Vo Xuan Vinh (ed., 2021). *India-China Strategic Competition in Southeast Asia*. Hanoi: Social Science Publishing House; Vo Xuan Vinh et al. (2021). *India's Engagement in the South China Sea*. *Maritime Affairs*, Vol.17, No.2, pp.64-77.



## **Dr. Jirayudh Sinthuphan**

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Assistant Professor, Chulalongkorn University,  
Bangkok

Dr. Jirayudh Sinthuphan is the Director of South Asian Studies Centre, Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University. He has expertise in Cultural Studies, South Asian Studies, and Cultural Diplomacy. Asst. Prof. Dr. Jirayudh Sinthuphan graduated with a Master degree and Ph.D. degree from University of Exeter, UK.



## **Dr. M. Mayilvaganan**

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Associate Professor, National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru

M. Mayilvaganan, PhD is an Associate Professor at the International Strategic & Security Studies Programme (ISSSP), School of Conflict and Security Studies (SCSS), National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), in Bangalore, India, where he leads ISSSP's work on Indo-Pacific, South and Southeast Asia, Borderland studies and foreign analysis of major powers. His research interests focus on political, strategic and security issues concerning India and its neighbourhood (South and Southeast Asia in particular), Indo-Pacific, foreign and security policies of China, the US, Japan and India, Northeast India Borderland and the Non-Traditional Security Issues.

Before joining NIAS, Mayil worked with the University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur as a Visiting Senior Lecturer, where he taught South Asia in International Relations, Modern Warfare and International Politics. Previously, Mayil was Associate Fellow at the Institute of Defence Studies and Analysis (IDSA), New Delhi specialising on Sri Lanka and Research Associate at the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies (IPCS), New Delhi, focusing on Kashmir. He also spent some time as a researcher in Canada and the US. He holds a PhD degree from the School of International Studies in the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi in India.



## Dr. Udai Bhanu Singh

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Former Senior Research Associate, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA), New Delhi

Dr. Udai Bhanu Singh is a Strategic Analyst. He was till re-cently with Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Stud-ies and Analyses, (MP-IDSA) New Delhi and headed its Southeast Asia and Oceania Centre. He worked with IDSA since 1993. He studied in Delhi at St. Stephen's College (BA Hon-ours and Masters in History) and School of International Stud-ies (M.Phil and Ph.D), Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He specializes on Southeast Asia with special focus on Myanmar. His latest co-edited work was, Lalit Mansingh, Anup K. Mudgal and Udai Bhanu Singh, Eds, Purbasa: East Meets East: Synergising the North-East and Eastern India with the Indo-Pacific, Pentagon Press, New Delhi, 2019. Earlier he pub-lished Rumel Dahiya and Udai Bhanu Singh, Eds, Delhi Dialogue VIII: ASEAN-India Relations: A New Paradigm, Pentagon Press, New Delhi, 2018. Dr. Singh earlier authored ASEAN Regional Forum and Security of the Asia-Pacific besides contributing to journals and chapters in books. Latest published chapters are: (a)'India and the Indo-Pacific' in Maritime Issues and Regional Order in the Indo-Pacific Edited by Leszek Buszynski and Do Thanh Hai, Part of the Palgrave Studies in Maritime Politics and Security book series (PSMPS) Palgrave Macmillan, 2021, and (b) 'ASEAN-led Regional Security Architecture: Prospects and Challenges' in ASEAN and India-ASEAN Relations: Navigating Shifting Geopolitics Edited By M. Mayilvaganan ISBN 9781032009230 Routledge, 2022. He has participated in Track 2 and 1.5 dialogues with Myanmar, New Zealand and Australia and Vietnam. He was part of the Core Group on Myanmar set up earlier by ICWA. He contributes to the media and has deliv-ered lectures at academic and defence institutions in India and abroad.



**Session V:  
Economic Cooperation**





## **Amb. Gurjit Singh**

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Professor, IIT Indore, and Former Ambassador of India to Indonesia and ASEAN

Ambassador Gurjit Singh is a former Ambassador of India to Germany, Indonesia, Ethiopia, ASEAN and the African Union. He Chairs the CII Business Task Force on Trilateral Cooperation in Africa including the Asia Africa Growth Corridor with Japan. He comments on current events on TV and in journals. His report on such cooperation in 2019, focused on private sector engagement to make Trilaterals successful.

He is associated with the social impact investment movement and is working on expanding it in Africa along with other trilateral initiatives, including with Japan, for B2B engagement. He is an independent director of companies achieving social impact. He is also associated with civil society efforts through the Aavishkar Foundation, and the Advisory Council of Nobel Peace Laureate, Kailash Satyarthi.

Ambassador Singh is an avowed cinema buff having an interest in Indian cinema, which is both academic and historical. He is very fond of sports, including cricket and is a qualified umpire from the Kenya Cricket Association. He enjoys travelling, experiencing different cultures and cuisines and meeting people. His commitment to enhance outreach programmes in every assignment and to enlarge the agenda of engagement is well-known. He is considered a business friendly developmental diplomat.



## **Dr. Mohammed Masudur Rahman**

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Visiting Fellow, Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS), Singapore

Dr. Mohammad Masudur Rahman is a Visiting Research Fellow at the Institute of South Asian Studies in the National University of Singapore. He is an international trade economist by training, with over 17 years of work experience in New Zealand, China, Japan, Vietnam, Korea, Switzerland, and Bangladesh. His primary research focuses on international trade policy analysis using CGE and gravity modelling.

Dr. Rahman has held research and faculty positions at several leading institutions, including the United Nations University, Japan; The University of Waikato, New Zealand; Zhejiang Agricultural and Forestry University, China; Microcredit Regulatory Authority, Bangladesh; and the World Trade Organization, Switzerland. He was a Visiting Fellow at the Asia Growth Research Institute and Aoyama Gakuin University, Japan; and Korea Institute for International Economic Policy, Korea.

He has been a consultant for several projects for the International Finance Corporation, United Nations, Asian Development Bank and Korea University of Foreign Studies. Recently, he developed two trade portals - Vietnam Trade and Information Portal and Bangladesh Trade Portal, with support from the World Bank.



## **Dr. Watcharas Leelawath**

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Advisor (Hony.), Bolliger & Company, Bangkok  
& Former Executive Director, Mekong Institute (MI)

Dr. Watcharas Leelawath is the Honorary Advisor at Bolliger & Company (Thailand), a consulting firm on trade and development; and digital economy, based in Bangkok. He served Mekong Institute (MI) for six years as the Executive Director. He completed his second term there in August 2020. Prior to joining the MI, he was the Deputy Executive Director of the International Institute for Trade and Development (ITD) in-charge of planning, supervising and conducting research projects, training programs and various capacity building activities. Before coming back to Thailand, he worked as Assistant Professor of Economics at the University of Minnesota, Morris, USA where he taught International Economics and Mathematics for Economists. He is a trade economist with a strong interest in trade and development cooperation issues under GMS and ASEAN frameworks. He has extensive research experience in the fields of Development Cooperation and Regional Economic Integration. He has written several papers for presentation in local and international conferences, has published several articles on trade-related topics and has co-authored a book entitled "Economics and Trade in Goods: An Introduction." He provided his expertise in a number of research and capacity building activities organized by ITC, ADB, UNESCAP and WTO. During his time at MI, he has implemented several development projects related to cross-border trade and investment; and agricultural value chains for Mekong countries.

Dr. Leelawath received his undergraduate degree from Chulalongkorn University. He finished his M.A. and Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Kansas, USA.



## **Prof. Ch. Priyoranjan Singh**

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Manipur University,  
Imphal

Professor Ch. Priyoranjan Singh is Head of the Department, Department of Economics Manipur University, and Coordinator UGC-Special Assistance Program-DRS-II, on International Trade Issues in Northeast India and Industrialisation of Manipur. He has recently completed a commissioned Study on 'India ASEAN FTA and Look East Policy for Northeast India', for the North East Council, Ministry of DoNER, Government of India. He has also been associated with departments of the Government of Manipur as an expert and consultant, including departments of Agriculture, Horticulture, Commerce and Industries, Town Planning, Environment, Manipur Housing and Urban Development etc. He has interests in Political Economy of Development and Border Trade issues.



## **Dr Bishwanjit Singh**

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Manipur University,  
Imphal

Dr. Loitongbam Bishwanjit Singh is Faculty Member, Department of South East Asian Studies, Manipur University. He has recently published a book entitled 'Act East Policy, Free Trade Agreement and Economic Growth Potential of India-ASEAN'. He got his PhD from University of International Business and Economics (UIBE) Beijing and Post-Doctoral Fellow from Manipur University. He has interests in International Trade, Development Economics, Macroeconomics and South East Asian Economies.





## **Prof. Biswajit Nag**

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Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT),  
New Delhi

Dr. Biswajit Nag is a Professor of Economics at the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), New Delhi. Involved in empirical economic research for close to two decades he also has teaching experience in India, and abroad. Earlier, he served the Poverty and Development Division of UN-ESCAP, Bangkok. Dr. Nag has completed number of projects for Government of India and international agencies such as UN, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, WTO, DFID, etc.

Dr. Nag's current research interest is International Production Network, Global Value Chain, Trade in Services, Regional Trade Agreements, Trade and Development etc. He has also expertise in developing sector based strategies in accessing international market and analysis of consumer behavior. He has published articles in number of international journals and also served as anonymous referee to several reputed journals. Dr. Nag is currently working on Trade and Technology with a focus on firm's ability to absorb new technology and accelerate its involvement in International Trade. He is also conducting research on technology integration and employment in Indian exportable sector.

In 2015, Dr. Nag contributed a chapter in a book Global Automobile Demand: Major Trends in Mature Economies (Vol 2), edited by Bruno Jetin, University of Paris (13), published by Palgrave MacMillan. He completed a research project on Ease of Doing Business between India and Pakistan: A Case of Select Imports to India in 2015. He also published

articles on India-ASEAN FTAs with special focus on growing value chain in several sectors.

Dr. Nag's book "My World with Rafiki: An Economic Travelogue and Miscellany" was published in November, 2014 from Partridge (A Penguin Random House Publishing). The book reflects the author's own way of detailing the importance of cooperation for Indian managers in international business as part of his teaching in MBA class. Dr. Nag describes the role of history, culture, religion, politics, etc., in economic policy-making especially in the contemporary developing world, including India in this book.

**Session VI:  
Development Partnership**



## **Prof. S D Muni**

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Professor Emeritus,  
Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi

Prof. S.D. Muni, is Professor Emeritus of Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, former member Executive Council of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses and an Honorary Distinguished Fellow of Sri Lanka's Institute of Strategic Studies, Colombo. He was also invited in October 2020 to be 'Honorary Fellow' of the Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore, Singapore. He was a Visiting Research Professor at the National University of Singapore, Institute of South Asian Studies from 2008-2013. He represented Minister of External Affairs at the 50th Anniversary Conference on Geneva Accords at Phnom Penh, Kampuchea and served as India's Special Envoy to Southeast Asian countries on UN Security Council Reforms (2005-06). He was also India's Ambassador to Lao PDR (1997-1999). In 2005, the Sri Lankan President bestowed on him 'Sri Lanka Ratna', the highest Sri Lankan civilian honor for a non-national. Internationally acknowledged as the top most Indian scholar on Nepal and South Asian affairs, his personal contribution in the Democratic transition in Nepal during 2005-2006 has been widely acknowledged by the contemporary Nepal's Historians and scholars. In October 2014, the Centre of SE Asian and Pacific Studies, Shri Venkateshwera University, Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh, India) honoured him with Life Time Achievement Award. He was invited to address the UN Special Committee on Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace at Sochi (Former Soviet Union) in 1985. At Jawaharlal Nehru University he held the prestigious Appadorai Chair of International Relations and Area Studies. He was a member of India's University Grants Commission's Standing Committee on Area Studies, and a Visitor's nominee on the faculty selection board in Social Sciences of the South Asian University, New

Delhi, and Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi. He had been nominated by the President of India as a member of the Court of Central University of Pondicherry. He was the founder Editor of Indian Foreign Affairs Journal (2005-2008), (Cambridge University Press, India) and South Asia Journal (1990-94) (Sage India). He was also affiliated with Monash Asia Institute, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia, as a Fellow. He served the Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi, as Director of Research (2006-2007).

A founder Executive Member of the Regional Centre of Strategic Studies (RCSS), Colombo, Prof. Muni was also the member of the International Research Committee of the RCSS. He was nominated to India's first National Security Advisory Board in 1990-91. Prof. Muni has had visiting assignments for teaching/research in the academic institutions/universities of US, UK, Sweden, Norway, Germany, Australia, Japan and Singapore. He addressed the UN Ad hoc Committee on Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace at Sochi (then USSR) in 1985. He is a member of the Advisory Board of the Institute of Transnational Studies of Delhi University and was also member of the Governing Bodies of Delhi University Colleges. The Government of Assam nominated him to the Academic Council of the newly established Centre of Southeast Asian Studies of Guwahati University, Assam, India. Author and editor of more than two dozen books, Professor Muni has published about 250 research papers and articles in various academic journals of repute. His recent publications (authored and edited) include, China's Strategic Engagement with the New ASEAN (Singapore, 2002); Maoist Insurgency in Nepal (New Delhi, 2003); India's Energy Security (New Delhi, 2005); Responding to Terrorism in South Asia (New Delhi 2005); IDSA Strategic Review 2007; 2008; 2012; 2013, 2014, and 2015 (New Delhi, 2007, 2008, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016); India and China: The Next Decade (New Delhi, 2009.); India's Foreign Policy: The Democracy Factor, (New Delhi, 2009), The Emerging Dimension of SAARC (New Delhi, 2010); and Resurgent China: South Asian Perceptions (New Delhi 2012) and India's eastward Engagement: From Antiquity to Look East Policy (Co-author, Sage Publications 2019).





## **Dr. Sithanonxay Suvannaphakdy**

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Lead Researcher (Economics), ASEAN Studies Centre, ISEAS - Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore

Dr. Sithanonxay Suvannaphakdy is an economist with more than seven years research experience in regional economic integration, economic development, and public administration. His career has focused on research and project management in trade, economic development and sustainable development programs. These cover multiple scales including project, program, national and regional scales. He works extensively with the private sector, public sector, bilateral development agencies and multilateral financial institutions. Since January 2020, he has served as a Lead Researcher at the ASEAN Studies Centre, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, where he undertakes policy-oriented research on ASEAN's economic integration with particular focus on ASEAN Economic Community (AEC).



## **Dr. Somdeth Bodhisane**

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Institute for Industry and Commerce (IIC),  
Ministry of Industry & Commerce (MOIC),  
Vientiane

Dr. Somdeth Bodhisane is a research fellow at the Institute for Industry and Commerce (IIC), Ministry of Industry and Commerce (Laos). Before joining the IIC, he used to be a research fellow and a lecturer in Health Economics, Health Financing, Cost-Benefit Analysis, and Research Methodology at the College of Public health Science (CPHS), Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand. He is an experience postdoctoral research fellow with a demonstrated history of working in the higher education industry. Skilled in data collection, qualitative and quantitative research methodology, he has published a series of top impact journals (categorized in both ISI and Scopus databases) and book chapters on health economics and trade policies. He is currently a visiting lecturer at the College of Public health Science (CPHS), Chulalongkorn University. Besides, he has been reviewer for the International Journal of Health Policy, Management and Journal of Health Research, and other accredited journals.



## **Dr. Uma Purushothaman**

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Assistant Professor, Department of International Relations, Central University of Kerala, Kerala

Dr. Uma Purushothaman teaches International Relations at the Central University of Kerala. She was earlier associated with the Observer Research Foundation and the United Service Institution of India. Her areas of interest include great power politics, Russian foreign policy, soft power, Middle East politics, aid, and US domestic and foreign policies. She serves as a peer reviewer to many international and national journals. She serves in the board of Studies at Goa University and the Chinmaya Viswa Vidyalyaya. She is a Non Resident Fellow at the Middle East Institute at New Delhi and a member of the Indo Pacific Circle.



## **Dr. Sampa Kundu**

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Consultant, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC),  
Research and Information System for  
Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi

Dr. Sampa Kundu is currently working as a Consultant at ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi. Prior to this, she has taught Political Science and International Relations at Amity University, Noida and Symbiosis International University, Pune. Dr. Kundu has worked with New Delhi based think-tank, MP-Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses as well. She has completed her PhD from the Centre for Indo-Pacific Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi on 'India and Myanmar in BIMSTEC: Implications for Northeast India'. She has published in national and international reputed journals and edited volumes on subjects relating to Southeast Asian geopolitics, Indo-Pacific and ASEAN-India relations.

**Session VII:  
Charting the New Agenda:  
Pathways to Beyond Act East**



## **Amb. Pou Sothirak**

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Executive Director, Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace (CICP), Phnom Penh

Ambassador Pou Sothirak is a Cambodian academic and former politician. He is currently serving as the executive director at the Cambodian Center for Cooperation and Peace. Between 1993 and 1998, he was the Cambodian Minister for Industry, Mines and Energy. He is a former member of the royalist FUNCINPEC and was elected to represent Siem Reap Province in the National Assembly in 2003. Sothirak served as Cambodia's ambassador to Japan between 2005 and 2009.





## **Dr. Bradley Murg**

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Distinguished Senior Fellow, Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace (CICP), Phnom Penh

Dr. Bradley J. Murg is Provost and Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs, Paragon International University (Phnom Penh); Associate Professor and Chair, Department of International Relations and Political Science, Paragon International University and Distinguished Research Fellow, Royal University of Law and Economics, Phnom Penh. Additionally, Dr Murg holds positions as Senior Academic Advisor at Future Forum; Distinguished Fellow and Senior Advisor for Research at the Cambodia Institute for Cooperation and Peace; lead editor of the Journal of Greater Mekong Studies; and is a member of the Advisory Board of IRIC at the Royal Academy of Cambodia. His work, supported by grants from the Social Science Research Council and the International Research and Exchanges Board, focuses on contemporary international relations in Southeast Asia; the political economy of foreign aid; and the politics of the Greater Mekong Subregion as a whole. Dr Murg graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Emory University with a B.A./M.A. in philosophy, received a M.Sc. in economic history from the London School of Economics, and his M.A. and Ph.D. in political science from the University of Washington. Most recently he co-edited the three volume Cambodia 2040 book series – a foresighting analysis of Cambodia’s future development and foreign relations. He regularly writes about Southeast Asian affairs in The Diplomat, Asia Times, Nikkei, and South China Morning Post.



## **Dr. Sineenat Sermcheep**

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Associate Professor, Chulalongkorn University,  
Bangkok

Dr. Sineenat Sermcheep is an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand. She received a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Utah. She was Associate Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Director of Research Affairs of the ASEAN Studies Center at Chulalongkorn University. Her research interests include foreign direct investment, digital economy, trade in services, economic integration, and ASEAN. Recent publications include *Digital Investment and Post-Pandemic Recovery in ASEAN in Age of Ferment: Developments in Asian-European Trade Relations* (2022) and *China's BRI and FDI in Mainland ASEAN in China's Belt and Road Initiative in ASEAN: Growing Presence, Recent Progress and Future Challenges* (2022).



## **Prof. Amita Batra**

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Professor, Centre for South Asian Studies,  
School of International Studies Jawaharlal  
Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi

Dr. Amita Batra is Professor of Economics and former Chairperson of the Centre for South Asian Studies, School of International Studies, JNU. Prof. Batra was Senior Visiting Fellow at the Department of Political Economy, University of Sydney in October 2018 and the first holder, of the ICCR Professorial Chair in Contemporary Indian Studies at the University of Edinburgh, 2013. She has been visiting professor at the Indian Institute of Management-Ahmedabad. Prof. Batra is member, Advisory Group for G20 Finance Track Agenda, Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India: January 2022-December, 2023. She is also a member of the Economic Affairs Council (since 2020) of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). She is on the editorial committee/ board of national/ international journals. Prof. Batra is also an occasional columnist for Business Standard, a leading financial daily in India. Prof. Batra has written and published extensively on Trade Policy issues. Her latest book is titled India's Trade Policy in the 21st Century, Routledge, London, 2022.



## **Dr. Prabir De**

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Professor, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC),  
Research and Information System for Developing  
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## **Dr. Tuhin Subhra Giri**

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Dr. Tuhin Subhra Giri is a Fellow at Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi since May, 2022. He completed his M.Phil. (Economics) from Central University of Gujarat, Gandhinagar in 2015 and Ph.D. from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

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# **Vote of Thanks**





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