



Objectives:

- To discuss the key findings of the research study presenting the Indian perspective on Trade & Investment between India and GMS (Greater Mekong Sub-region) countries and react to inputs received.
- To converse on the role of India in enhancing the regional cooperation between India and GMS countries.
- To create a network of stakeholders who will exchange regular information on ground realities about trade and investment cooperation between India and GMS countries.

Background & Context:

During the last decade there has been perceptible increase in India's trade with ASEAN. India's trade with ASEAN during 1991-2003 recorded an annual compound growth rate of nearly 16 percent as compared to 10.4 per cent in India's total trade. As a result, ASEAN accounts for about 10 per cent of India's total trade. Yet, it needs to be noted that India is a negligible trading partner for the ASEAN, accounting for only about 1.5 per cent of their total trade. Similar to trade, FDI from ASEAN to India also increased during the last decade. With total FDI approval of the order of over US\$ 4 billion during 1991-2003, ASEAN today accounts for over 6 per cent of the total FDI approved in India.

The growing partnership between India and ASEAN also may be viewed in the context of growing importance of South- South Cooperation as a development philosophy. The share of South-South trade in global trade increased from 34 per cent in 1990 to around 43 per cent by the end of the decade, and it is growing at a rate of 10 per cent per year, which is more than twice that of the recorded rate of growth in global trade.

At the same time China's trade with ASEAN increased almost six-fold to reach a level of US\$ 30 billion and accounts for about three per cent of their total trade. This tends to suggest that India is yet to reap its trade potential with the ASEAN. One of the disquieting aspects of India's trade and investment relations with ASEAN relates to high regional concentration. Bulk of trade and investment takes place between Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand. India's trade and investment with Mekong countries, like Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, remain at very low level despite the historical linkages and many recent initiatives. Given the paramount importance of Mekong countries in further strengthening India-ASEAN partnership and in promoting South-South Economic Cooperation, this study has been undertaken to analyse of India's trade and investment relations with Mekong countries, specifically, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam, and come up with a perspective for the future. Too much of ASEAN seems like its an Indo ASEAN project.

The Event:

To involve civil society representatives, academicians, business chambers and government & inter-governmental organisations in interactive sessions so as to take on board diverse views on trade and investment among India & GMS countries.

The Programme

Thursday, September 1, 2005

1000	Registration
1030-1100	Inaugural Session
1100-1115	Tea break
1115-1215	Exploring Mekong-Ganga Relationship – Trade and Investment
1215-1315	Exploring Mekong-Ganga Relationship – Transport Infrastructure
1315-1400	Lunch
1400-1500	Exploring Mekong-Ganga Relationship – Towards a Perspective
1500	Closing remarks

Invited Speakers:

Ambassador Rajiv Dogra, AS(ER), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India
Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS-Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment
Nagesh Kumar, Research and Information System for the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries
Prasad P. Ranade, Director (Research), CUTS-Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment
K J Joseph, RIS and CDS
R. S. Ratna, Regional & Multilateral Trade Relations, Ministry of Commerce, Government of India
Manju Prakash Kalra, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry, New Delhi
Representative of Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd., New Delhi
Representative of Ajanta Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Mumbai
Representative of ONGC, New Delhi
Prabir De, Associate Fellow, RIS
K L Thapar, Chairman, Asian Institute of Transport Development, New Delhi
Representative of Confederation of Indian Industry, New Delhi
Representative of Asian Development Bank, New Delhi
Representative of RITES Ltd., New Delhi
B S Bishnoi, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India
J S Kapur, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Government of India
Rajiv Kumar, Chief Economist, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)
S D Muni, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
Baladas Ghoshal, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Organised By:

CUTS Centre for International Trade,
Economics & Environment (CUTS-CITEE)
D-217, Bhaskar Marg, Bani Park, Jaipur 16, India
Ph: 91.141.228 2821
Fax: 91.141.228 2485
Email: citee@cuts-international.org

Research and Information System for the
Non-Aligned and other Developing
Countries (RIS)
Zone IV-B Fourth Floor
Indian Habitat Centre Lodhi Road,
New Delhi-100 003, India
Phone: 24682177-80
Fax: 91-11-24682173-74
Email: dgoffice@ris.org.in

Venue:

India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, India