3rd International Conference
Building a New BIMSTEC: Towards BIMSTEC – Japan Cooperation

Organised by
Centre for Studies in International Relations and Development, Kolkata
Asia Forum Japan, Tokyo

Supported by
Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF), Tokyo

3 December 2007: Tokyo

[tentative program]
09:00 – 09:30 Registration

09:30 – 10:00 Opening remarks
- Ambassador Arjun Asrani, Former Indian Ambassador to Japan, Member, India-Japan Joint Study Group, and Chairman, India – Japan Forum
- Mr. Jiro Hanyu, Vice Chairman, SPF(tbc)

[Release of the book of Prof. Wisarn Pupphavesa, TDRI on BIMSTEC – Japan Cooperation by the Chief Guest]

10:00 – 11:25 Panel-1
Imperatives of BIMSTEC – Japan Economic Cooperation: In the Context of Globalisation and Asian Economic Integration

Chair: Dr. Noboru Hatakeyama, formerly Vice Minister of METI, Chairman, Japan Economic Foundation, Tokyo

Presentations by
- Dr. Mia Mikic, Trade and Investment Division, UNESCAP, Bangkok – RTAs and Asian Regionalism: Implications for BIMSTEC-Japan Cooperation
- Dr. John Gilbert, Associate Professor of Economics, Vernon M. Buehler Professor of Business, Utah State University, USA – Trade and Poverty Linkages based on GTAP Modelling

Panellists
- Prof Wisarn Pupphavesa, Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI), Bangkok
11:35 – 12:30

Panel - 2
Regional Economic Cooperation in BIMSTEC: Current Status and Future Plans

Chair: Prof. Shigeru Tsumori, Toyo Eiwa University, Yokohama

Key presentation by
• Ms. Dalad Kaewbaidhoon, Director, BIMSTEC Centre, Bangkok – Presentation on Views of BIMSTEC Working Group (BMG), an inter-governmental body, working as BIMSTEC Secretariat in Bangkok.

Panellists
• Prof. Makoto Kojima, Takushoku University, Tokyo

12:30 – 13:30

Lunch Break

13:30 – 14:55

Panel-3
Relevance of BIMSTEC – Japan FTA, Services and Investment Cooperation

Chair: Dr. Douglas Brooks, Sr. Fellow, Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), Tokyo

Presentations by
• Dr Anna Strutt, Department of Economics, Waikato Management School, The University of Waikato, New Zealand - BIMSTEC-Japan FTA: Findings of CGE Modelling
• Prof. Masahiko Ebashi, Meiji Gakuin University, Tokyo
• Dr. Nilanjan Banik, Institute of Financial Management and Research (IFMR), Chennai – India’s Services-led Growth: Opportunities for BIMSTEC-Japan Cooperation

Panellists
• Dr. Suthiphand Chirathivat, Chairman, Economics Research Center and Center for International Economics, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok
• Mr. Rajeev Kumar, Dy. Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India (tbc)
15.05 – 16:25  Panel-4
BIMSTEC- Japan Investment Cooperation: Relevance of Japanese Investment in BIMSTEC

Chair: Dr. Biswa N Bhattacharyay, Special Advisor to Dean, Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), Manila

Presentations by
• Dr. Prabir De – Infrastructure Development in BIMSTEC: Future Need and Opportunities
• Japan (tbc) - Delhi – Mumbai and Delhi – Kolkata Freight Corridors and Delhi – Mumbai Industrial Corridor (tbc)

Panellist
• Dr. Toshiro Nishizawa, JBIC Institute, Tokyo

16.30 – 17.30  Wrap-up Panel
Towards BIMSTEC-Japan Comprehensive Economic Cooperation: Vision and Tasks Ahead

Chair: Dr. Lau Sim Ye, SPF

Panellists
• Dr. Abdur Rob Khan, BISS, Dhaka
• Dr. Saman Kelegama, IPS, Colombo (tbc)
• Prof. Myan Thein, Yangon (tbc)
• Dr. Wisarn Pupphavesa, TDRI, Bangkok
• Dr. B S Malik, CSIRD, Kolkata

Open Discussion

17:30 – 17.45   Closing remarks