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1. Background

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a sub-regional grouping combining some geographically contiguous South and Southeast Asian countries around the Bay of Bengal, namely, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. The aim of this sub-regional grouping is to work towards greater cooperation among its members in the areas of trade and investment, tourism, transport and communication, technology, energy and fisheries. By signing the Framework Agreement to establish a Free Trade Area (FTA) in February 2004, and through the Summit Declaration on July 31, 2004, BIMSTEC has received further momentum in launching the process of deeper integration in the region.

BIMSTEC is a US\$ 800 billion economy, having a population of 1.32 billion. BIMSTEC economies have been growing at a faster pace than that of some other dominant regional blocs. In 2005, the region witnessed an average 6 percent growth rate in GDP and 5 percent in GDP per capita.

Having the experience of working on trade and development issues, the Centre for Studies in International Relations and Development (CSIRD) has taken up the challenge of exploring the possibility of enhancing comprehensive economic cooperation between BIMSTEC countries and Japan, which already has a major share in BIMSTEC countries' trade and investment.

2. Objectives of the Research Project

- To find out demand and supply side factors, which can enhance trade, investment, and people to people contacts between BIMSTEC countries and Japan.
- To develop an appropriate framework for understanding the future strategy in terms of economic, social, and cultural factors towards creating closer ties between BIMSTEC countries and Japan.
- To prepare an advocacy document for public education on development-oriented BIMSTEC-Japan economic cooperation for purposes of advocacy.
- To identify research and other activities and taking into account the interests and priorities of trade and investment relationship between BIMSTEC and Japan.

3. Activities and Schedules

In view of the aforesaid objectives and following the charter of BIMSTEC, CSIRD, in collaboration with its partner organisations, has undertaken an in-depth study to develop an appropriate framework for enhancing closer ties between BIMSTEC countries and Japan in areas of (a) trade and investment, (b) tourism, (c) transport and communication, (d) technology, (e) energy, and (f) fisheries.

CSIRD's partner organisations and experts are responsible for preparing the report on the sub-sector(s) allocated to it. These reports will be presented at several international conferences during next three years (FY 2005-2007). To attain this objective, a high level International Conference was already held in Kolkata, India during 16-17 December, 2005.

4. Expected Outcomes

Among others, the study may help us to know the answers to the following questions.

- What are the current and envisaged factors affecting Japanese investments in BIMSTEC countries?
- What are the possible complementarities between Japan and BIMSTEC? How to ensure best possible cooperation and collaboration between BIMSTEC and Japan? What are the interfaces for such cooperation in trade, investment, technology?
- What strategies should be followed to improve the quality of supporting infrastructure facilities in BIMSTEC for enhancement of Japanese investments?
- How does such strategy help Japanese companies perform at far superior levels compared to its counterparts across BIMSTEC?
- How such strategies create value which citizens of BIMSTEC (and rest of world) perceive and are willing to pay for?

Our effort is to find answers to these questions, which will help stakeholders in the BIMSTEC countries to identify and develop appropriate strategies for doing business with Japan. This will also contribute toward gaining competitive advantage across the BIMSTEC region on a sustainable basis.

5. Implementation

CSIRD is carrying out this project in partnership with research institutions, civil society organisations and other stakeholders. Given CSIRD's unique ability to marry research with advocacy, the project emphasises the following.

- Primary and secondary research through partnership with research institutions
- Awareness generation among different stakeholders through networking and advocacy; and
- Outreach to the trade and investment community at large through seminars and information sharing;

The whole study process is carried out through extensive primary and secondary research. Results of the study will be disseminated through publication of monographs, discussion papers, books and web site. The project also draws inputs from relevant trade and investment promotion projects being implemented by other agencies. By synthesising elements from existing trade and investment promotion projects and field research, a better understanding of economic cooperation between BIMSTEC countries and Japan will be accomplished. The following are the partner organisations of this project:

- **Thailand:** Centre for South Asia Studies, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok
- **Sri Lanka:** Marga Institute, Sri Lanka Centre for Development Studies, Colombo; and
- **Bangladesh:** Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS), Dhaka

6. Project Advisory Committee

Abdur Rob Khan, Research Director, Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS), Dhaka

Basil Illangakoon, Executive Vice Chairman, Marga Institute, Sri Lanka Centre for Development Studies, Colombo

B S Malik, President, Centre for Studies in International Relations and development (CSIRD), Kolkata

Lau Sim Yee, Programme Advisor, Sasakawa Peace Foundation, and Professor, Reitaku University, Tokyo

Myat Thein, Former Rector, Institute of Economics, Yangon

Surat Horachaikul, Director, Centre for South Asia Studies, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok

7. Kolkata Consensus

The Centre for Studies in International Relations and Development (CSIRD) held its first international conference on 'Towards BIMSTEC-Japan Comprehensive Economic Cooperation: Vision and Tasks Ahead' at Kolkata on 16-17 December 2005. The conference was held in collaboration with Bangladesh Institute for International and Strategic Studies, Dhaka, Sri Lanka Centre for Development Studies, Colombo, Centre for South Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, and supported by Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Tokyo.



The Conference recorded fascinating co-operation, discussion, deliberation and exchange of opinion on the future prospect of BIMSTEC-Japan cooperation by committed, knowledgeable and eminent scholars, experts and policy makers from Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Japan, and Thailand. Scholars, economists and policy makers from other developing countries also participated in this Conference. The participants have been affiliated with premier think-tanks of Asia and rest of the world.

There was consensus in the deliberations that Japan can play an active and leading role in BIMSTEC countries in facilitating and enhancing (a) trade flows, (b) investments, and (c) ODA for the overall development of the region. It was noted that regional cooperation could push intra- and inter- regional trade by five times resulting in huge benefits to the countries of the region as well as for Japan. In view of Japan's proven leadership in technology, any cooperation between the BIMSTEC and Japan could result in upgrading the technological base of the BIMSTEC countries. The excess capacity in Japan in construction and its excess foreign exchange reserves earning low returns are problems that can find easy answer through investment in BIMSTEC for mutual benefit.

There was general consensus at the Conference that the BIMSTEC-Japan Community is an idea whose time has come. Voices for more intensive economic cooperation among BIMSTEC countries and between Japan and BIMSTEC are also emanating from different sources. It is also evident from the importance that is being attached by different BIMSTEC countries to economic integration at the bilateral and regional levels. Formation of BIMSTEC-Japan Economic Community could enable the region to resume its rapid growth. Regional trade liberalization, accompanied by freer movements of investment, technology and skills between the BIMSTEC countries and the world, would generate substantial efficiency gains by enabling the participating countries to exploit their complementarities to mutual advantage. Furthermore, regional cooperation in finance and monetary policy has the potential to help the region raise adequate financial resources. This should also help the region in achieving greater exchange rate stability. However, an important precondition for the

integration to be successful would be a common minimum agenda of reforms undertaken in different economies. BIMSTEC countries could also benefit from exchange of experiences with respect to reforms, financial restructuring and corporate governance and strengthen their leverage in international negotiations by greater coordination. In particular, infrastructure is an area of major interest for most of the countries in the region, where Japan can play a greater role. In particular, BIMSTEC countries could benefit from Japan in transport infrastructure and energy sector. Japan could help BIMSTEC in forming uninterrupted road and railways connectivity. Given the expanding demand for oil and gas in the region, cooperation in energy sector with Japan is also of paramount importance. Japan's immense experiences in non-conventional energy will also help BIMSTEC countries in managing energy deficit in the long run.

An ambitious programme of an FTA or a multilateral EPA between Japan and BIMSTEC has the potential to make the region much stronger and result in a 'win-win' solution to many of the outstanding problems of the region. In this context the experts felt that the sectoral areas of cooperation need to be identified. Some sectors that have a greater potential include joint R&D and technology generation in new and high technologies, shipping and maritime cooperation, tourism and culture, infrastructure development, irrigation management, healthcare and education services, media and entertainment, among many other sectors. Technology including ICT is the strength of some of the BIMSTEC countries, which could be a key to successful cooperation. Moreover, Japan's experiences particularly in the area of natural and other disaster management will be beneficial to BIMSTEC region.

Exchange of young scholars and involvement of universities has been proposed for capacity building. BIMSTEC-Japan cooperation has the potential to constitute an important pillar for pan-Asian economic cooperation.

The think-tank community of BIMSTEC and Japan has a critical role to play in realizing the dream of building a strong regional cooperation by showing the way forward to the policy makers with specific proposals for implementation. We agree to keep the informal network of think-tanks created at this Conference alive and active as a springboard for generating new ideas. This network (BIMSTEC Network of Think Tanks) should conduct research on different aspects on BIMSTEC-Japan economic integration and develop a database to follow-up and further refine the ideas generated at this Conference. It should regularly exchange ideas among the participants and others interested in the subject and launch a journal to serve as a forum for exchange of views and research. Having taken the initiative to organize the Conference and assemble these think-tanks under one roof, CSIRD could serve as a nodal point of the BIMSTEC Network and coordinate its work until alternative arrangements are made.

We strongly urge the governments of the region to consider the recommendations made by the BIMSTEC Network. We could meet again in 2006 and make presentations based on our research work till then. Participation of representatives of the BIMSTEC countries in these conferences would help in taking the ideas generated by the Network to their logical conclusion.

8. Agenda of the 1st International Conference

**1st International Conference on
Towards BIMSTEC-Japan Comprehensive
Economic Cooperation:
Vision and Tasks Ahead**

Organised by



**Centre for Studies in International Relations and
Development (CSIRD)
Kolkata**

in collaboration with

Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies, Dhaka	Sri Lanka Centre for Development Studies, MARGA, Colombo	Centre for South Asia Studies, Chulalongkorn University Bangkok
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Supported by



Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF), Tokyo

**16-17 December 2005: Crystal Room:
Taj Bengal: Kolkata: India**

Day 1: 16 December 2005: Friday

08:30 - 09:00 Registration

09:00 - 10:00 1: Inaugural Session

Welcome remarks by Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Dr. B S Malik, President, CSIRD, Kolkata and Former Chief of Staff, Western Command

Observations by Dr. Shigeru Tsumori, Professor, Department of International Social Sciences, Toyo Eiwa University, Japan, and Former Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar

Remarks by Prof. Suranjan Das, Pro. Vice Chancellor, Calcutta University, Kolkata

Special Address by Mr. Hidenao Yanagi, Minister, Embassy of Japan in India, New Delhi

Keynote address by Ambassador Shashank, former Foreign Secretary, Government of India

Vote of Thanks by Mr. Anjan Roy, Advisor (Economic Affairs), Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), New Delhi

10:00 - 10:15 Photo Session & Tea/Coffee break

**10:15 - 11:45 2: Towards BIMSTEC Japan
Comprehensive Economic Cooperation:
Relevance and Possible Approaches**

Chairperson: Ambassador Shashank, former Foreign
Secretary, India

Presentations by

*BIMSTEC- Japan Comprehensive Cooperation: Relevance and
Strategic Issues*, by Dr. B S Malik, President, CSIRD, Kolkata

*Towards BIMSTEC Japan Economic Partnership: Opportunities
and Challenges*, by Dr. Rahul Sen, Fellow, Regional Economic
Studies (RES), Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS),
Singapore, and Prof. Mukul G. Asher, Lee Kuan Yew School
of Public Policy, National University of Singapore (NUS),
Singapore

Deepening BIMSTEC Japan Economic Relations: Tasks Ahead,
by Prof. Ebashi Masahiko, Faculty of International Studies,
Meiji-Gakuin University, Yokohama

Commentator

Dr. U Thet Tun, Former Director, Asia Division, UNESCO,
Yangon

Open Discussion

11:45 - 13:00 **3: Towards BIMSTEC Japan
Comprehensive Economic
Cooperation: Gains from Trade**

Chairperson: Prof. I N Mukherjee, School of
International Studies, Jawaharlal
Nehru University, New Delhi

Presentations by

*Impact of BIMSTEC Enlargement on Trade: An Analysis on
BIMSTEC+Japan*, by Dr. Saikat Sinha Roy, Reader, Jadavpur
University, Kolkata, and Ms. Bhamoti Gupta, Senior
Research Officer, CSIRD, Kolkata (Theme paper)

BIMSTEC Japan Economic Cooperation: Trends and Prospects,
by Prof. T Nirmala Devi, Director, Centre for SAARC
Studies, Visakhapatnam

Commentator

Prof. K J Joseph, Centre for Development Studies,
Trivandrum

Open Discussion

13:00 - 13:45 **Lunch Break**

**13:45 - 15:00 4: Towards BIMSTEC Japan
Comprehensive Economic
Cooperation: Liberalisation and
Removing Barriers to Trade**

Chairperson: Prof. Ajitava Roy Chaudhury,
Department of Economics, Jadavpur
University, Kolkata

Presentations by

Does BIMSTEC-Japan Economic Cooperation Increase Intra-Regional Trade? The Case for Free Trade Arrangement, by Dr. Swapan Bhattacharya, Associate Professor of International Trade, Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi

Trade liberalization and Regional Development in BIMSTEC Region: Does Geographical Characteristics Matter?, by Dr. Nilanjan Banik, Assistant Professor, Madras School of Economics, Chennai

Role of Standards and the WTO-Agreement on the Application of SPS Agreement towards Comprehensive Economic Partnership between BIMSTEC Countries and Japan, by Mr. Chanchal Sarkar, Ministry of Commerce, Government of India

Commentator

Prof. I N Mukherjee, South Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Open Discussion

**15.00 - 16.00 5: Towards BIMSTEC Japan
Comprehensive Economic
Cooperation: Investment and
Financial Cooperation**

Chairperson: Dr. Ramgopal Agarwala, Consultant,
World Bank, New Delhi

Presentations by

*BIMSTEC Japan Comprehensive Economic Cooperation: The
Case of Investments*, by Dr. Dipankar Dey, ICAI University,
Kolkata (Theme paper)

*Towards a Greater Economic Cooperation and Integration
among BIMSTEC Countries and Japan in Money, Finance and
Investment*, by Dr. Biswa Bhattacharya, Principal Reform
Coordination Specialist, Asian Development Bank, Manila

*Towards BIMSTEC-Japan Economic Cooperation: The Case of
IT Industry and General Agreement on Trade in Services*, by
Mr. Sajikumar. S, Research Fellow, V V Giri National
Labour Institute, Noida

Commentator

Dr. Rahul Sen, Fellow, Regional Economic Studies (RES),
Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), Singapore

Open Discussion

16:00 - 16:15 Tea / Coffee Break

**16:15 - 17:15 6: Towards BIMSTEC Japan
Comprehensive Economic
Cooperation: Facilitating Investments**

Chairperson: Prof. K J Joseph, Centre for Development
Studies, Trivandrum

Presentations by

India's Experiences with FDI: Emerging Scenarios, by Mr.
Anjan Roy, Advisor, FICCI, New Delhi

*Neighbourhood Revisited: Explaining Japanese Foreign Direct
Investment in the BIMSTEC Region*, by Prof. Arindam Banik,
International Management Institute (IMI), New Delhi and
Prof. Pradip K Bhaumik, International Management
Institute (IMI), New Delhi

*Role of Japan in the Technological Development of BIMSTEC:
Current Trends and Future Directions*, by Mr. Pratip Datta,
Rajatpur Indranarayan Vidyapith, Bolepur, and Mr. Pritam
Datta, Consultant, The Energy and Recourses Institute
(TERI), Kolkata

Commentator

Mr. Hidenao Yanagi, Minister, Embassy of Japan, New
Delhi

Open Discussion

17:15 - 18:15 **7: Towards BIMSTEC Japan
Comprehensive Economic
Cooperation: Cooperation in Energy**

Chairperson: Dr Sujay Basu, Professor of Engineering,
and former Director, School of Energy
Studies, Jadavpur University, Kolkata

Presentations by

*BIMSTEC-Japan Cooperation in Energy Sector: Vision and the
Tasks Ahead*, by Dr. Abdur Rob Khan, Research Director,
BIISS, Dhaka, Mr. ABM Ziaur Rahman, BIISS, Mr. Mahfuz
Kabir, BIISS and Mr. Sharif M Hossain, BIISS, Dhaka
(Theme paper)

*BIMSTEC - Japan comprehensive Cooperation in Energy: Issues
and Way Forward*, by Mr. D Rajasekaran, Utility Powertech
Ltd., New Delhi and Dr. Antony Arul Raj, Adaikala Madha
Institute of Management, Thanjavur

Commentator

Prof. Mahendra Lama, Centre for South and Southeast
Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Open Discussion

19:30 **Dinner**

Day 2: 17 December 2005: Saturday

**09:00 - 09:30 8: Towards BIMSTEC Japan
Comprehensive Economic
Cooperation: Role of Institution**

Chairperson: Dr. Akira Iriyama, Professor, Graduate
School of Social Design Studies, Rikkyo
University, Japan, and Former President,
SPF

*Towards Comprehensive Economic Partnership between
BIMSTEC and Japan: An Agenda for the BIMSTEC Community,*
by Prof. Mahendra Lama, Centre for South and Southeast
Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Commentator

Prof. Myat Thein, former Rector, Institute of Economics,
Yangon

Open Discussion

09:30 - 09:45 Tea / Coffee Break

**09:45 - 11:30 9: Towards BIMSTEC Japan
Comprehensive Economic
Cooperation: Cooperation in
Industry, Technology and Human
Resource Management**

Chairperson: Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Chief Economist,
Confederation of Indian Industry (CII),
New Delhi

Presentations by

Technological Capabilities, Human Development and Economic Performance: A Study of BIMST-EC, Japan and the World, Dr. Buddhadeb Ghosh, Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Kolkata and Ms. Yaowapa Maneechai, Statistician, National Statistical Office, Bangkok (Theme Paper)

Technological Upgradation through Global Value Chains: Issues and Challenges before BIMSTEC Nations, by Dr. Amitendu Palit, Dy. Economic Advisor, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, New Delhi

Industrial Development Measures: What India Can Learn from Japan, by Arnab Roy, Project Director, Change Management Unit, Kolkata Urban Services for the Poor, Municipal Affairs Department, Government of West Bengal

The Spillover Effect of Japanese Foreign Direct Investment in Human Resource Management: A Case Study of Honda Siel, by Dr. Srabani Roy Choudhury, Associate Professor, International Management Institute(IMI), New Delhi

Commentators

Dr. Sim-Yee Lau, Programme Director, SPF, Tokyo Prof. Navin Sen, Department of Business Management, Calcutta University, Kolkata

Open Discussion

11:30 - 13:00 **10: Towards BIMSTEC Japan
Comprehensive Economic
Cooperation: Cooperation in Tourism
and Culture**

Chairperson: Dr. U Thet Tun, Former Director, Asia
Division, UNESCO, Yangon

Presentations by

*BIMSTEC Japan Comprehensive Economic Cooperation: Vision
Document of Tourism Sector*, by Prof. Myat Thein, former
Rector, Institute of Economics, Yangon (Theme Paper)

*Cultural Contacts between BIMSTEC Countries and Japan: An
Historical Survey*, by Dr. Sanjukta Dasgupta, Reader,
Department of History Calcutta University, Kolkata

Influence of India on Buddhist Culture in Japan, by Dr. Hikotaro
Furuta, Lecturer, Visva Bharati University, Shantiniketan,
West Bengal

Commentator

Dr. Sanjana Joshi, Fellow, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad
Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS), Kolkata

Open Discussion

13:00 - 13:45 **Lunch Break**

13:45 - 14:45 **11: Towards BIMSTEC Japan
Comprehensive Economic
Cooperation: Cooperation in
Transport Sector**

Chairperson: Prof. Dilip Halder, former Director,
Centre for Transport Studies,
Jadavpur University, Kolkata

Presentations by

*BIMSTEC Japan Comprehensive Economic Cooperation in
Transport Sector: Issues and Way Forward*, by Prof. Surat
Horachaikul, Centre for South Asia Studies,
Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok (Theme paper)

*Japanese Investments in Transport Sector in BIMSTEC: Trends
and Opportunities*, by Mr. Samiran Sen, Executive Director,
Consulting Engineering Services (I) Pvt. Ltd., Kolkata

Commentator

Mr. A K Mitra, Executive Director, Indian Railway Board,
Ministry of Railways, Government of India

Open Discussion

14:45 - 15:45 **12: Towards BIMSTEC Japan
Comprehensive Economic
Cooperation: Agriculture, Fisheries,
and Environment**

Chairperson: Prof. Madhusudan Ghosh, Dept of
Economics and Politics, Visva Bharati
University, Shantiniketan

Presentations by

BIMSTEC Japan Comprehensive Economic Cooperation: Opportunities in Fisheries Sector, by Mr. P.B. Wijayatileke, Sri Lanka Centre for Development Studies (Marga), Colombo (Theme Paper)

Land Improvement Districts and Sustainable Water and Land Management in Japan: Lessons for India, by Prof. Mamata Swain, Department of Economics, North Orissa University, Orissa

Community Based Socio-Economic Development Planning in Irrigation Projects in India: Strategic Approaches in JBIC Assisted Projects, by Dr. Deepak Das, Reader, Engineering, Water and Land Management Institute, Orissa

Commentator

Dr. Buddhadeb Ghosh, Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Kolkata

15:45 - 16:00 Tea / Coffee Break

16:00 - 17:30 13: Round Table Discussion - Moving Together: Japan and BIMSTEC

Co-chairs: Prof. J K Ray, Chairman, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata, and Mr. Sunanda K. Dutta Ray, Kolkata

Discussion Initiated by

Dr. Abdur Rob Khan, Research Director, BIISS, Dhaka

Mr. P.B. Wijayatileke, Marga, Colombo

Prof. Myet Thein, Former Rector, Institute of Economics,
Yangon

Prof. Shigeru Tsumori, Toyo Eiwa University, Japan and
Former Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar

Mr. Hidenao Yanagi, Minister, Embassy of Japan, New
Delhi

Dr. Biswa N. Bhattacharya, Principal Reform Coordination
Specialist, Asian Development Bank, Manila

Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Chief Economist, CII, New Delhi

Dr. B S Malik, President, CSIRD

Open Discussion

17:30 - 18:00

**14: Vote of Thanks, and Declaration
of Kolkata Consensus**

9. List of Participants

Dr. Abdur Rob Khan
Research Director
Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic
studies (BISS)
Dhaka, Bangladesh

Dr. Rahul Sen
Fellow
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Professor K J Joseph
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Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Dr. B S Malik
President,
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Kolkata, India and
Former Chief of Staff, Western Command

Professor Shigeru Tsumori
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Toyo Eiwa University, Japan, and
Former Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar

Professor Suranjan Das
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Manila, Philippines

Ms. Nguyen Thi Hanh
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The Sasakawa pan Asia Fund
The Sasakawa Peace Foundation
Tokyo, Japan

Professor Jayanta Kumar Ray
Chairman
Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian
Studies
(Ministry of Culture, Government of India)
Kolkata, India

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Dr. Ajitava Raychaudhuri
Professor of Economics and Former Head
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Professor Dilip Kumar Halder
Former Professor of Economics
Jadavpur University
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Dr. Saikat Sinha Roy
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Dr. Nilanjan Banik
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Mr. KP V Nair
Director
Asia Centre
Kolkata, India

Dr. Abhijit Sen
Honorary Consul for Sri Lanka in Calcutta
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Dr. Dipankar De
Faculty Member
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Ambassador Shashank
Former Foreign Secretary
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Assistant Commissioner
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Mr. P.B. Wijayatileke
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Dr S Mazumdar
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Kolkata, India

Dr. Prabir De
Associate Fellow
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Countries (RIS)
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BIMSTEC Network of Think Tanks (BNTT)

CSIRD has been working towards deeper regional economic integration in BIMSTEC with its studies and research. Following *Kolkata Consensus* of 2005, CSIRD with participation of prominent Think Tanks of BIMSTEC countries has set up the BIMSTEC Network of Think Tanks (BNTT), devoted to assist the process of deeper regional economic integration in BIMSTEC. This network is coming up with a dedicated interactive web portal on BIMSTEC, www.bntt.org, and a quarterly newsletter to disseminate the news, viewpoints and information about BIMSTEC among the policy makers and civil society organisations. This research project is funded by the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Japan.