

Third Bay of Bengal Economic Dialogue 2024
The New World Order and BIMSTEC
Curtain Raiser to the Sixth BIMSTEC Summit
Chulalongkorn University
11-12 July 2024, Bangkok, Thailand

Tentative Agenda

11 July 2024

09.00 – 09.30

Registration

09.30 – 10.00

Inaugural Session

- Welcome by Asst. Prof. Sineenat Sermcheep, Director, ASEAN Studies Center, Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand
- Remarks by Dr Selim Raihan, Executive Director, South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM) and Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Remarks by Mr Wimon Punkong, Deputy Executive Director (Academic), The International Institute for Trade and Development (ITD), Bangkok, Thailand
- Remarks by Assoc. Prof. Nopphol Witvorapong, Dean, Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand
- Remarks by Assoc. Prof. Surat Horachaikul, Director, Indian Studies Center, Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand
- Remarks by MD Zakaria, Program Director, The Asia Foundation, Bangladesh

10.00 – 10.30

Keynote Session

- Keynote Address by H.E. Mr. Indra Mani Pandey, Secretary General, BIMSTEC Secretariat
- Remarks by Mr Paisan Rupanichkij, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Thailand

10.30 – 11.00

Group Photo, Tea/coffee break

11.00 – 12.30

Session I: New World Order, Global Challenges and BIMSTEC

Chair: Dr Selim Raihan, Executive Director, SANEM and Professor, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

Special Remarks: Dr Rupa Chanda, Director, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, UNESCAP, Bangkok, Thailand

Panelists:

- Dr Philip Schellekens, Chief Economist for Asia and the Pacific, UNDP, Bangkok, Thailand (tbc)
- Dr Mustafizur Rahman, Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Dr Ganeshan Wignaraja, Advisor to the President of Sri Lanka on Strategic Trade Policy, Colombo, Sri Lanka (Online)
- Dr Sabyasachi Kar, RBI Chair Professor, Institute of Economic Growth (IEG), New Delhi, India
- Dr Nihal Pitigala, The World Bank, USA (Online)

Q&A

12.30 – 13.30

Lunch

13.30 – 15.00

Session II: Trade, Investment, Connectivity and BIMSTEC

Chair: Dr Prabir De, Professor, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi, India

Special Remarks: Dr Yann Duval, Chief, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section, UNESCAP, Bangkok, Thailand

Panelists:

- Dr Selim Raihan, Executive Director, SANEM and Professor, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Mr Achyut Bhandari, Co-Founder, Centre for Research on Bhutanese Society (CRBS), Thimpu, Bhutan (Online)
- Dr Ruth Banomyong, Professor, Thammasat University, Bangkok, Thailand
- Dr Paras Kharel, Executive Director, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Kathmandu, Nepal

Q&A

15.00 – 15.30

Tea / coffee break

15.30 – 16.30

Session III: Governance and BIMSTEC

Chair: Mr. Wimon Punkong, Deputy Executive Director (Academic), The International Institute for Trade and Development (ITD), Bangkok, Thailand

Special Remarks: Prof. Mustafizur Rahman, Distinguished Fellow, CPD, Dhaka

Panelists:

- Dr Zaw Oo, Executive Director, Center for Economic and Social Development (CESD), Yangon, Myanmar
- Dr Hiramani Ghimire, Director (Governance), Centre for Innovative Governance Practices, Kathmandu, Nepal
- Dr Constantino Xavier, Senior Fellow, Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP), New Delhi, India
- Asst. Prof. Torplus Yomnak, Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand

Q&A

16.30 – 17.30

Session IV: People to People Relations and BIMSTEC

Chair: Dr Charit Tingsabath, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand

Special Remarks: Assoc. Prof. Surat Horachaikul, Indian Studies Center, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand

Panelists:

- Mr Tshewang Dorji T, Director, Environment and Climate Change, BIMSTEC Secretariat, Dhaka
- Dr Abdullah-AL-Mamun, Associate Professor, Department of Japanese Studies, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Ms Ngu Wah Win, Researcher from Chiang Mai University, Chiang Mai, Thailand
- Asst. Prof. Jirayudh Sinthuphan, Director, South Asian Studies Center, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand

Q&A

18.00

Dinner hosted by Chulalongkorn University

12 July 2024

09.00 – 09.30

Registration

09.30 – 10.15

Special Session on BIMSTEC: Breaking Barriers and Way Ahead

Chair: Amb. Sumith Nakandala, Former Secretary General, BIMSTEC

Special Lecture: Prof. Suthiphand Chirathivat, Professor (Emeritus), Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand

10.15 – 11.15

Session V: Trade and Gender and BIMSTEC

Chair: Dr Sineenat Sermcheep, Director, ASEAN Studies Centre, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand

Special Remarks: Ms Nandita Baruah, Country Representative, The Asia Foundation, India (tbc)

Panelists:

- Dr Witada Anukoonwattaka, Economic Affairs Officer, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section, UNESCAP, Bangkok, Thailand
- Ms Selima Ahmad, President, Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Ms Tshering Choki, Director, Athang Training Academy, and CEO, Athang Learning Institute, Thimphu, Bhutan

Q&A

11.15 – 11.30

Tea/coffee break

11.30 – 13.00

Session VI: Sixth BIMSTEC Summit and Way Ahead

Chair: Prof. Mustafizur Rahman, Distinguished Fellow, CPD, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Panelists:

- Asst. Prof. Jirayudh Sinthuphan, Director, South Asian Studies Center, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand
- Mr Bijay Chhetri, Senior Program Officer, The Asia Foundation, Nepal
- Dr Constantino Xavier, Senior Fellow, Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP), New Delhi, India
- Mr Kavi Chongkittavorn, Senior Fellow, ISIS, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand
- Dr Paras Kharel, Executive Director, SAWTEE, Kathmandu, Nepal
- Dr Dayaratna Silva, Executive Director, Pathfinder Foundation, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- Dr Selim Raihan, Executive Director, SANEM, Dhaka, Bangladesh

13.00 – 13.30

Valedictory Session and Takeaways

- Remarks by Thai MoC representative (tbc)
- Bangkok Declaration
- Vote of Thanks by Dr Selim Raihan and Dr Sineenat Sermcheep

13.30

Lunch and end of the conference