

Second Bay of Bengal Economic Dialogue 2022

Building Resilient BIMSTEC

11-12 March 2022

Live on Zoom, Facebook and YouTube

All time mentioned in Bangladesh Standard Time (GMT+6)

Day I: 11 March 2022

03:00 PM – 04:15 PM

INAUGURAL SESSION

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| Chief Guest: | H.E. Mr Shahriar Alam , State Minister of Foreign Affairs, Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh |
| Special Remarks by: | H.E. Mr Tenzin Lekphell , Secretary General of BIMSTEC |
| Moderator: | Dr Selim Raihan , Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka and Executive Director, SANEM, Bangladesh |
| Remarks by: | <p>Mr Ghanshyam Bhandari, Joint Secretary and Head, Regional Organization Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Nepal</p> <p>Ambassador Sumith Nakandala, Senior Director, Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies and Former Secretary-General of BIMSTEC</p> <p>Mrs Chulamane Chartsuwan, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand</p> |

04:30 PM – 05:15 PM

KEYNOTE SESSION

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| Keynote Speaker: | Dr Bibek Debroy , Chairman, Prime Minister Economic Advisory Council, India |
| Chair: | Ambassador Sumith Nakandala , Senior Director, Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies, Colombo and Former Secretary-General of BIMSTEC |
| | Open Discussion |

5.30 PM – 7.00 PM

SPECIAL SESSION: POST-COVID CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

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| Chair: | Dr Sanjay Kathuria , Senior Visiting Fellow, Centre for Policy Research (CPR), India |
| Special Address: | Dr Rupa Chanda , Director, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, UNESCAP, Thailand |
| Panellists: | <p>Dr Ahsan H. Mansur, Executive Director, Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh (PRI), Bangladesh</p> <p>Dr Sabyasachi Kar, Professor, RBI Chair, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi University Enclave, India</p> |

Dr Ganeshan Wignaraja, Senior Fellow, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore

Q&A

Day II: 12 March 2022

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

ORGANIZED SESSION I: INFRASTRUCTURE CONNECTIVITY IN BAY OF BENGAL REGION

- Chair:** **Dr Nihal Pitigala**, Lead Economist, Washington Business Dynamics & InReach Global
- Panellists:** **Dr Selim Raihan**, Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka and Executive Director, SANEM, Bangladesh
- Dr Prabir De**, Professor, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC), Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), India
- Dr Ganeshan Wignaraja**, Senior Fellow, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore
- Dr Paras Kharel**, Research Director, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics, and Environment (SAWTEE), Nepal
- Q&A

03:00 PM – 4:30 PM

ORGANIZED SESSION II: PEOPLE TO PEOPLE CONTACTS

- Chair:** **Ambassador Shahidul Haque**, Professorial Fellow, NSU, Bangladesh and Former Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh
- Panellists:** **Dr Amena Mohsin**, Professor, Department of International Relations, University of Dhaka
- Mr Sabyasachi Dutta**, Executive Director, Asian Confluence, India
- Dr Jirayudh Sinthuphan**, Assistant Professor, Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand
- Dr Anuji Gamage**, Senior Lecturer in Community Medicine, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Sri Lanka
- Mr Thuta Aung**, Executive Chairman, The Mandalay Forum for East Asian Studies, Myanmar
- Q&A

05:00 PM – 06:30 PM

ORGANIZED SESSION III: TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- Chair:** **Dr Poshraj Pandey**, Chairman, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Nepal
- Panellists:** **Professor Mustafizur Rahman**, Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh

Dr Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Deputy Head, United Nations ESCAP, South and South-West Asia Office, New Delhi, India

Dr Nisha Taneja, Professor, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), India

Dr Chandra Shekhar Dhakal, Senior Lecturer, Royal Thimphu College, Royal University of Bhutan

Mr Wimon Punkong, Director, Office of Research, Development and Promotions, International Institute for Trade and Development, Thailand

Ms Subhashini Abeysinghe, Director of Research, Verité Research, Sri Lanka

Q&A

06:30 PM – 07:00 PM

CLOSING SESSION

Remarks by

Ambassador Sumith Nakandala, Senior Director, Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies and Former Secretary-General of BIMSTEC

Ambassador Bernard Goonetilleke, Chairman, Pathfinder Foundation, Sri Lanka

Dr Selim Raihan, Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka and Executive Director, SANEM, Bangladesh

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

Dr Poshraj Pandey, Chairman, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Nepal

Dr Surat Horachaikul, Director, Indian Studies Center, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand