International Relations Conference on India and Development Partnerships in Asia and Africa: Towards a New Paradigm (IRC-2013)

Rapporteur’s Report on the International Relations Conference
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Abstract

Over the past few decades, global financing for development has changed dramatically. The growing importance of emerging economies in the world economy calls for a paradigm shift in development cooperation and the pursuit of new, more inclusive partnerships to maximize the impact of all sources of development finance. New forms of South-South cooperation (among developing countries) are gaining ground by bringing to the table not only additional financial resources to fill critical funding gaps (such as in infrastructure) but also developing countries’ own knowledge and experience in addressing development challenges at home. The recent decision of Government of India to establish a separate division of Development Partnership Administration within Ministry of External Affairs reflects plans for expansion of India’s assistance to developing countries and its firm commitment for timely delivery and effective implementation of its programmes. A new paradigm is clearly discernible in South-South cooperation, for which India’s active role needs to be crystallized. A conference to deal in depth with these questions was planned for 14-15 December, 2013 in Pune, India at which leaders, senior officials, eminent academics and experts in the area of development from a number of countries was expected to take part. The Symbiosis Institute of International Studies (SIIS) was proud to announce this conference, in collaboration with the MEA, GOI, wherein constructive dialogue will contribute in shaping the contours of this evolving agenda. The objectives of the Conference were: (i) To provide a platform for academicians, researchers, corporates and policy makers to delve into the multifarious aspects of development partnerships; (ii) To present an opportunity to look into how India’s role in the development landscape has evolved over the past decade, and as a provider of development assistance, what are the distinguishing features of India’s development partnership approach; (iii) To discuss different ways in which India’s corporate sector has engaged in Asia and Africa; what has been the role of the government, and; how can the civil society be effectively engaged in the same; and (iv) To facilitate discussion of partnerships for inclusive development, especially with the objective of innovating South-South Cooperation.

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1. Inaugural session

**Dr. Vidya Yeravdekar**
Principal Director, Symbiosis

Dr. Vidya Yeravdekar, Principal Director, Symbiosis, opened the inaugural session by extending a warm welcome to the guests. She expressed her sense of deep gratitude at seeing such illustrious guests gathered together for the event.

The Conference is the culmination of the Symbiosis International University’s commitment to international fraternity and academic excellence. In a warm and sincere speech, she conveyed what internationalization means to the Symbiosis family. It is the creed that defines the organization, and the occasion is yet another stride forward in that direction. It was brought forth from a good and true spirit of benevolence for the international student community.

She related her childhood memories of the Mujumdar household, which was flocked by international students, and of her parents, who went all the way to make the students feel at home. At present, the Symbiosis International University comprises 45 institutions spread across five cities, and over 30,000 students from all over India and as many as 85 countries. The University’s newest offering, the Symbiosis Institute of International Studies, will also function by way of a think tank so that conversations on international relations find a worthy medium of expression. The Conference is well-favoured to have participants who run the entire gamut from policy makers and diplomats to academics and corporate leaders from over 20 countries.

The forum would have achieved its goal if it can enthuse participants to deliberate on the subject of development partnerships and forge collaborations across the Asian and African continents. The present is an opportune time, and Pune, the intellectual capital of the country, is a fine place to convene a meeting of the minds to consider issues in international relations. She hoped that the Conference will be an annual event, and that the audience will return to the event year after year.

**Welcome speech by Dr. S.B. Mujumdar**
Chancellor, Symbiosis International University

Padma Bhushan Dr. S.B. Mujumdar, Chancellor, Symbiosis International University (SIU), in a deeply earnest
address, spoke of what internationalization means to him: the Vedic ethos of \textit{vasudhaiva kutumbakam} (literally translated from Sanskrit, it means “the world is one family”), which encourages us to traverse boundaries and embrace all.

The founding of Symbiosis lies in Dr. Mujumdar’s inherent commitment to champion the cause of welfare of international students, and the organization has continued on that course ceaselessly. The University’s name fittingly captures the mutually beneficial bond between India and the international student community. A moving interaction with a needy international student proved to be an epiphany, and led to the founding of the Symbiosis Society in the year 1971. The newest member of the University, the Symbiosis Institute of International Studies, fortifies the University’s commitment to international cooperation through academic excellence. The finale was a poignant moment when Dr. Mujumdar recited an acclaimed poem that captured the absurdity of racism. The auditorium reverberated with thunderous applause when he finished.

| Objectives of the conference by Amb. Sudhir Devare |
|---------------------------------------------------|
| Former Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs |

Amb. Sudhir Devare, Former Diplomat & RD Sathe Chair Professor, SIIS, said the chief objective of the Conference is to initiate a dialogue amongst the numerous stakeholders on India’s development partnerships, which have come to acquire a central position in the foreign diplomacy of all developing nations.

He informed the audience of the workings of the MEA, and the many ways in which it brings about development activities through bilateral and multilateral partnerships. The contributions of the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) merit note in the discussion. The ITEC was instituted in 1964 as a program of bilateral assistance in trade and finance, capacity building in health and education, public-private partnerships, private sector, culture, and media. More recently, the MEA added Development Partnership Administration, a new division to streamline India’s projects that are related to bilateral and multilateral collaboration. This development is significant because the need for South-South cooperation has been voiced with renewed energy in international forums such as the United Nations—the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), in particular, is a case in point. Indeed, regional cooperation is a crucial instrument in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), and India is increasingly being recognized as occupying a position of headship in development projects. The emergence of developing economies and the reduction in official development assistance (ODA) from developed countries mark the beginning of a new paradigm in South-South cooperation.

An impressive number of research papers were submitted to the Conference from all over the world, and some of those would be presented in the sessions. In closing, he congratulated the University on the well-timed founding of the Symbiosis Institute of International Studies.

| Keynote address by Hon’ble M. Hamid Ansari |
|-------------------------------------------|
| Vice President of India |

Hon’ble Shri M. Hamid Ansari, Vice President of India, remarked that he was positively impressed with the University and the Chancellor’s words and vision.

The theme of the Conference is thoroughly relevant to the present global economic scenario. It signifies end of the older paradigm in international economic cooperation, merely between donor and recipient. The discussions would centre on newer approaches that have been developed by the Indian Government in regard to development partnerships, with specific reference to Asia and Africa.

In a thoughtful address, he said it is important to focus on regional cooperation in South Asia because of the paradox of “prospering regionalism” in other parts of the world, and its miniscule presence in the South Asian region. The world has been transformed into a global village as a result of newer technologies, which are blurring political, geographical, and socio-cultural boundaries. The globalized marketplace, which is marked by increased inter-dependencies and competition, is a welcome development. The gap between North and South has been narrowing on account of two developments: growth in the emerging economies of South and continuing economic problems in the industrialized countries of the North. As a result, the balance of economic power is slowly but surely shifting from Europe and North America to Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The targets set in the global development agenda are still far from being attained by the developing world. There is also a need to develop an international consensus on the post-2015 development agenda, the Vice president, a former diplomat himself, said.
The decline in the allocation of official development assistance to developing countries has driven them to seek newer sources of funds. In this regard, the emergence of regional economic integration, with integrated markets for goods, services, investments, and technology, is proving to be an effective vehicle for development. It is important to point out that regional cooperation is not a post-globalization phenomenon, and it would be well to learn from the operations of similar organizations.

The European Union (EU) makes an interesting study. It is particularly commendable that the EU has transformed itself from being an economic grouping to a union of sovereign states. Other examples include the ASEAN, GCC IOR-ARC, BIMSTEC, and SAARC in Asia; the African Union, SADC, COMESA, and ECOWAS in Africa; the Andean Community, MERCOSUR, CARICOM, CACM, and CELAC in Latin America; the NAFTA and FTAA in North America; and, APEC and ASEM are inter-continental economic partnerships groups. Among the upcoming economic groups, two are notable: the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) between US and EU, and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), which is a trade agreement between countries of Asia and the Pacific region.

Regional economic integration is propelled forward by globalization and the resulting competition. The benefits must be viewed in the context of economies of scale, increased local supply capacity, improved access to markets, enhanced foreign investment, integrated treatment of trans-border trade issues, and better management of shared natural resources. Regional integration and cooperation help increase competitiveness in the global marketplace, lead to effective dispute settlement mechanisms, improve networking channels, and strengthen political relations between countries.

An important question in the discussion emerges: Why has regional cooperation failed in South Asia? The question is significant because the region is beset with major developmental challenges of high population density, poverty, inequality, illiteracy, disease, hunger, and homelessness. It would be difficult to overcome these challenges in the face of missing cooperation. The case for regional collaboration is all the stronger in South Asia for the geographic, economic, historical, cultural and ecological similarities amongst the countries.

India’s positioning in the South Asian region is significant on many counts, and the country’s contribution to economic factors such as import, export, investment, and technology are remarkable. A recent International Monetary Fund (IMF) study found that the spin-offs of India’s economic growth to other member countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries were impressive. The incentives for regional cooperation are many, and management of natural resources is one such. An effective framework of regional cooperation will facilitate resolution of political disputes that frequently arise out of sharing of the resources.

It is unfortunate that in spite of numerous potential benefits, the South Asian economies remain the least integrated: An instance of this is weak intra-regional trade in South Asia, which stays stagnant at around 5.76% of the total trade. Further, foreign direct investment (FDI) amongst SAARC member states is minimal due to non-facilitative regulatory issues. It is also unfortunate that the SAARC, which was set up in 1985, has been on the descent in terms of attainment of objectives, and lack of political will appears to be the most important explanation in this regard. Thus, the most pressing transnational issues in South Asia, including terrorism, maritime security, health, environment, and economic growth, remain unresolved.

An abiding foreign policy must be a judicious mix of vision and realism. India must work towards building a world order that is just and peaceful. This can only be achieved by regional cooperation and no other country is positioned better to lead the way than India.

Vote of thanks by Dr. Rajani Gupte
Vice Chancellor, Symbiosis International University

Dr. Rajani Gupte, Vice Chancellor, Symbiosis International University, delivered a vote of thanks. She hoped that the participants would be richer with newer insights and perspectives for having been part of the Conference. She expressed gratitude to the guests for lending their time and expertise, and to the Symbiosis family for their tireless efforts.
2. Track 1 - Development Partnerships: A Thematic Overview

**Concept**

Since its independence in 1947, India has recognized the importance of human resource capacity building for economic development. This recognition has influenced India's approach to South-South Cooperation, which is a cornerstone of the Indian foreign policy. India's flagship capacity building programme, the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) has been in existence since 1964, and has been an important vehicle for sharing knowledge, skills and expertise with other countries in Africa and Asia and the rest of the developing world.

Since the 2000s, the range and volume of India's capacity-building programmes have expanded considerably. Every year around 9,000 civilian training slots are being allotted to 161 developing countries under ITEC and its corollary programmes. Around 47 institutions are conducting about 280 mainly short-term courses for working professionals in a diverse range of skills and disciplines such as finance and accounts, management, IT, telecommunication, rural electrification, agro-processing and entrepreneurship development.

In the last decade or so, an important dimension of India's development partnership has been the extension of Lines of Credit on concessional terms to other developing countries, particularly in Africa. They enable partner countries to import goods and services from India and undertake projects for infrastructure development and capacity building, in accordance with their development priorities. Over 150 Lines of Credit, for an amount of over US$ 9 billion, have been allocated, with nearly 60% going to Africa. They have financed a wide range of projects from drinking water schemes to irrigation, solar electrification, power plants, transmission lines, cement plants, technology parks, railway infrastructure and many others. There are at present about 500 projects being executed in various parts of the developing world under existing Lines of Credit.

In addition, developmental projects under grant assistance are under implementation in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal and Sri Lanka – in infrastructure, hydroelectricity, power transmission, agriculture, industry, education, health and other sectors identified by the host government as priority areas for its country's development. Initiatives to strengthen cross-border connectivity with India's neighbours are making progress. Bilateral projects are being undertaken in archaeological conservation, information and communications technology (ICT) and small & medium enterprises in Southeast Asia, Central Asia, Africa and Latin America.

The increase in development assistance by emerging economies like India, China, Brazil, etc. has somewhat coincided with "donor fatigue" experienced by the developing countries. According to some recent studies the aid provided by OECD countries had fallen by 4% in real terms in 2012 and 2% in 2011. Thus, there is an increasing focus on the assistance that flows from countries like India, China and Brazil, within the realms of South-South cooperation. This has led to an intensive dialogue in the last few years, involving representatives of government, NGOs, business, media and academia on the characteristics and methodologies of the various resources and technology flows assisting development.

There has also been a structured OECD-led international dialogue on these issues, seeking to identify commonalities in the patterns of North-South and South-South development cooperation, enhance agreement on broad norms governing development assistance, promote regular information exchanges between providers of development assistance – from both North and South, and create a global regime under which there would be better coordination of assistance delivery, greater sensitivity to development needs of recipient countries and objective yardsticks for impact assessment.

India has been participating in this dialogue and has also articulated its reservations about some of the premises underlying the debate. India believes that the proposed North-South compact of assistance providers needs to take into account the origins of South-South cooperation and the circumstances that inspire it. India has similar concerns about some of the expansive proposals for the post-MDG global development agenda.

The post-MDG-2015 agenda as it is being worked out, appears to be overloaded by the North and its issues, some of which are not recognized by the South as being of immediate concerns. The two, hence, continue to have different priorities in this regard. Better communication among the developing countries, especially the emerging economies has therefore become the need of the hour. There have been some efforts among the southern providers to get together and develop a platform for sharing of experiences and facilitate arriving at a common approach towards some of these issues and to ensure that perspectives of the South are effectively integrated in this global dialogue. A new paradigm is clearly discernible in South-South Cooperation, for which India's active role needs to be concretised.
The newly set up Symbiosis Institute of International Studies (SIIS) proposes to look at the above and related development issues, which are central to India's foreign policy and its consistent efforts to extend cooperation to fellow developing countries, in the fields which the latter need it the most. A conference to deal in-depth with these questions is planned for 14-15 December, 2013 in Pune, India, at which leaders, senior officials, eminent academics and experts in the area of development from a number of countries are expected to take part.

Chair
Amb. Ronen Sen Former Indian Ambassador to Russia, Germany, UK and USA  
Panellists
H.E. Mr. Lyonpo Rinzin Dorje Foreign Minister of Bhutan  
Amb. Shyam Saran Chairman, Research and Information Systems for Developing Countries  
Mr. Abhay Thakur Development Administration Partnership, MEA, GOI

Introductory remarks
Amb. Ronen Sen

Ambassador Ronen Sen appreciated the candour and forthrightness with which Dr. Mujumdar spoke about the discrimination to which African students are subjected in Indian higher education institutions. It is a case of sad irony that the intolerance takes place on Gandhi’s very own home ground—he, who contributed so much to nation building in South Africa. The symbolism of the event is remarkable: that students from all over the world and across India gathered together to discuss issues that concern them.

The audience looked forward to the session after Amb. Sen’s remarks. He then introduced Mr. Lyonpo Rinzin Dorje, Foreign Minister, Bhutan and mentioned that it was indeed emblematic to have the Minister speak on India’s close relationship with Bhutan.

India’s development partnerships with Bhutan
H.E. Mr. Lyonpo Rinzin Dorje

H.E. Lyonpo Rinzin Dorje expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the people of Bhutan. The fact that he could share his thoughts on issues that are of mutual concern in an institution of higher learning is fitting: it is in these institutions that future citizenry is moulded. Indian institutions like Symbiosis International University (SIU) have contributed significantly to educating Bhutanese youth and have strengthened diplomatic relations and people-to-people ties between the two countries.

The relationship between Bhutan and India is not an artificial political construct. The two countries harbour a relationship that is nourished by commonalities in history, geography, and culture. The first Indian Prime Minister, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru’s visit to Bhutan in 1958 is an important milestone in the relationship. Pandit Nehru shared cordial relations with Jigme Dorji Wangchuck, the Third Druk Gyalpo, who became the leader of Bhutan in 1952. This harmony and conviviality in diplomatic relations have continued unabated.

Indian assistance helped Bhutan succeed in building its first national highway, which linked the capital, Thimpu, with an Indian border town. The highway ushered in an era of bustling economic activity in the region. It also helped bring Five Year Plans in to the Bhutanese economy. India assisted Bhutan financially in implementing its first two Five Year Plans—India extended this generosity at a time when it had just begun its own course of development.

The Indian Government has committed Rs. 45 billion to Bhutan as assistance in executing Bhutan’s eleventh Five Year Plan. At a time when ODA is diminishing and countries are struggling with recession, this gesture represents solidarity in bilateral relations. As a result of this assistance in Five Year Plans, the quality of life of Bhutanese people has greatly improved. India continues to be Bhutan’s largest development partner.

The assistance from the Government of India spreads over a wide range: infrastructure, health, education, urban development, telecom, culture, and media. The hydro-electric power projects in Bhutan, like Chukha, Tala and Kurichu, substantially funded by India form the centrepiece of the development partnership between India and Bhutan. The equation in Indo-Bhutanese partnerships has progressed from being one between donor and recipient to one between equal partners.
India is also Bhutan’s largest and most important trading partner. Trade relations are marked by a “free trade regime” between the two countries. The volume of trade between Bhutan and India is indicative of the extent to which Bhutan’s economy is integrated with that of India’s: India is the destination for over 90% of Bhutan’s exports. Just as economic relations between the two countries have proved to be good, so have people-to-people relations. Of particular relevance is India’s contribution to educating Bhutanese youth. The vast majority of civil servants in Bhutan have received their higher education in India, and every year more students come to India for their education.

An overview of the development partnership with specific emphasis on Africa
Amb. Shyam Saran

Ambassador Saran expressed his pleasure at being a part of the Conference. Referring to the presentation made by H.E. Rinzin Dorje, Ambassador Saran remarked that Indo-Bhutan collaborations are all that India would like its development partnership to be.

He presented an overview of the underlying philosophy and evolution of India’s development collaboration partnerships, beginning with a summary of the “continuities in India’s development partnerships”. India’s involvement in development collaboration dates back to Independence in 1947. Initially, India was primarily a recipient of official development assistance (ODA), but grew to a position in which it extended assistance to its neighbours, and later to the whole family of developing nations.

What distinguishes India’s approach to development cooperation from the member nations of Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)?

Most importantly, India is expressly dismissive of the donor-recipient equation in development cooperation. It does not take extending assistance to developing countries to mean “aid” or “charity”. In extending assistance, India does not determine the development priorities that the partner country should follow. India adjusts to the development requirements of the partnering countries. Thus, India’s stance is not prescriptive, as is frequently the case with traditional donors, but one of equal partnership.

India’s approach to development cooperation has always focused on capacity building: The objective is to empower developing countries with knowledge and skills creation. India has actively extended higher education and skills-training to developing countries—a case in point is the SIU. A progression in this realm has been that India has moved ahead from providing higher education to students from developing countries in India by offering scholarships to helping set up institutions of higher learning in developing countries.

India takes care not to burden developing partnership projects with “administrative load”, or expenses incurred in the execution of assistance programs. The administrative costs are borne by the Indian embassies in the developing country. Thus, India, unlike traditional donors, provides “pure assistance”.

Also unlike traditional donors India, in carrying out development assistance programs, as a rule, never bypasses the government of the partnering developing country.

There have been some changes in approach to India’s development cooperation. The country is now more committed to the goal of regional integration. It no longer limits it to working on bi-lateral projects, and is increasingly collaborating with regional development associations on multi-lateral projects.

India, in the past, focused on large infrastructure projects that had relatively long gestation periods. That has changed, and the country now regularly undertakes small-scale projects that are six months to a year long, and target local communities. These projects have proved to be successful, particularly in Nepal, Afghanistan, and Northern Sri Lanka.

Previously, the programs were mostly undertaken by Indian public sector companies or directly by the Government of India. Indian authorities have now begun to mobilise large Non Government Organizations, which have better linkages with local communities.

India now actively partners with traditional donor countries and international development organizations on a case-to-case basis to further its development projects.

One element in development cooperation, however, has room for improvement: the evaluative process of the projects. Mr Saran recommended that a rubric be worked out to more accurately assess the impact of the projects. The practitioners of development cooperation, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and others, could collaborate with institutions of higher education to work on developing accurate evaluative methods.
Mr. Thakur’s presentation outlined the functioning of the Development Partnership Administration division of the MEA, which is responsible for execution of projects related to development cooperation.

The idea of “developmental assistance” has been a central tenet of India’s foreign policy since Independence. The majority of activities related to developmental assistance are carried out by the ITEC, which was set up in 1964, and focuses on capacity building in developing countries. Most of development assistance projects that are carried out by the MEA fall under one of the three focus areas: training and capacity building, “developmental projects on the ground,” and financial assistance in grants and credits.

For example, India has assisted Bhutan in executing its Five Year Plans since 1961. As part of assistance for the eleventh Five Year Plan (2013-18), India offered Rupees 5,000 crores to Bhutan. India partnered with Bhutan in 1800 small developmental projects in the last Five Year Plan.

**Nepal:** Some key Indo-Nepalese projects include: Terai roads, railway links, and integrated check posts. India offered assistance to Nepal in 450 small development projects and provided 3000 scholarships.

**Afghanistan:** (i) India has played a crucial role in reconstruction of the country. The cumulative assistance offered by the Indian Government to Afghanistan totals two billion dollars; (ii) India has undertaken a number of large infrastructure projects, including Salma Dam, electricity transmission lines. The smaller development projects fall in the category of humanitarian assistance programs.

**Sri Lanka:** An important Government of India project in Sri Lanka aims at the rehabilitation of displaced Sri Lankan citizens. Along the same lines, another housing project will help build 50,000 houses in Sri Lanka.

**Africa:** (i) India’s model of assistance in Africa can be described as a “consultative model of cooperation,” designed to be responsive to the individual needs of African countries; (ii) India-Africa summits in the past have been very helpful in forging developmental assistance partnerships; (iii) In 2011, the Government of India extended five billion dollars in lines of credit (LoC) to African countries. A LoC of 330 million USD was extended by the Indian Government to set up the Ethiopia-Djibouti railway line; (iii) 22,000 scholarships will be provided over the next three years by the Indian Government. Over 80 capacity building institutions will be set up in Africa; (iv) India has set up technology parks in Zimbabwe, Malawi, and South Sudan; (v) The Indian Government has granted assistance in the fields of education, IT, and health sectors in many African countries, including Namibia and Botswana.

Mr. Thakur explained how India’s assistance programs are unique:
- The assistance programs are need – based, or demand driven.
- Priority areas in assistance programs are identified by the beneficiary countries.
- In extending assistance programs, India does not impose its ideology or model of development on the beneficiary country.
- The assistance programs are not limited by conditional clauses.
- The programs are “non-intrusive” and “non-prescriptive”.
- The aim of assistance programs is to forge real partnership.

**Closing remarks by the Chairperson**

In closing, Ambassador Ronen Sen paid homage to Nelson Mandela. He said the Government of India (GOI) is concerned about the declining numbers of African students in India. He wondered if this drop could be a welcome result of India’s initiatives in higher education in Africa. It could be that the higher education institutions that are set up by the Indian Government in African countries are delivering quality education and obviating the need for African students to cross borders and travel to India for higher education. Several distance education initiatives initiated by the GOI have been successful—the India-Africa Virtual University is a case in point. However, the GOI needs to examine the issue of declining numbers of African students, and determine why this is happening.

He congratulated the SIU for organizing the IR Conference. The Conference scores first on many fronts. He said he did not have knowledge of any symposium on international relations of the scale of the Conference. It is fitting that the Conference is being held in Pune, which boasts the largest number of international students in India. He said the partnership between the SIU and the MEA in the conduct of the Conference is exemplary.
3. Track 2 – Trade and Finance: Partnerships for Development

**Concept**

Trade and investment is an integral part of the development co-operation approach in India. In recent years, promoting Indian investment in other developing countries has become a major component of South-South co-operation. India's development co-operation also encompasses the extension of concessional loans and credits as well as outright grants to partner countries. The objective is to identify key areas in trade and investment, advising regional trading blocs in best practices, to explore the areas for FDI and development partnership through governmental and non-governmental channels to help foster partnerships for development in India, Asia and Africa.

This track invites papers from scholars from various fields to highlight the challenges in fostering deeper Indo-African co-operation to support the development of the African continent.

The Track will discuss the papers on foreign direct investments, development partnerships, bilateral trades, regional trade agreements and finance, multilateral funding schemes, inclusive trade diplomacy, etc.

**Chair**

Amb. G. Parathasarthy  
Senior Fellow, Centre for Strategic and International Studies

**Panelists**

- **H.E. Dr. Salem Al-Ismaily**  
  Chairman, Public Authority for Investment Promotion & Export Development, Sultanate of Oman
- **Amb. Talmiz Ahmed**  
  Energy Consultant, IOT Infrastructure and Energy Services Ltd.
- **Mr. Pedro Conceição Couto**  
  Vice Minister of Finance, Mozambique
- **Mr. David Rasquinha**  
  Executive Director, Exim Bank
- **Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi**  
  Senior Fellow, Research and Information System

**Introductory remarks**

Ambassador Parthasarthy said international co-operation stems from mutual regional interests. India's formative steps in development collaboration were related to setting up the railway network in Eastern Africa. India's policies in this respect are not guided by the profit motive; rather they are aimed at bringing about development in the region. A particularly noteworthy Indian project in Africa is the "Space and Satellite Building Project," initiated by former president, Dr. Abdul Kalam.

**Investments of Indian corporates in Oman and whether development partnerships have enhanced investments in Oman, and the policies of the Oman Government to increase investments from foreign countries**

H.E. Dr. Salem Al-Ismaily

H.E. Dr. Salem Al-Ismaily expressed pleasure at being part of the IR Conference. His presentation centred on the strong politico-economic ties between India and the Sultanate of Oman.

Oman began its path of development with active cooperation from India. The Indian Farmers’ Fertilizer Cooperative Ltd. (IIFCO) initiated a joint-venture collaboration in Oman, which proved to be a founding step in bilateral trade between India and Oman. Bilateral trade now stands at over three billion USD, and almost all major Indian companies have a presence in Oman. The Omani sectors that exhibit the most Indian presence are infrastructure, oil and gas, IT, communication, manufacturing, tourism, and financial services.

The key to Oman’s success is the fact that the government has actively invested in inclusive education, particularly emphasizing participation of women. The idea of equality applies to ethnicity, political affiliation, and principles of “rule of law” and “equality in opportunity” form the basis of economic policy: For instance, the tax structure in Oman is the same for Omani people and those who are not Omani. Amongst the other major factors that draw Indians to Oman are: ease of doing business, government policies and regulations are conducive to doing business, bureaucratic structure is not obstructive, and the private sector is actively encouraged.

Dr. Al-Ismaily said Oman is stuck in the “middle income trap” and that this would not change until Oman
invests adequately in science and technology. He expressed high regard for H.E. Sultan Qaboos Bin Said Al Said, the ruler of Oman and fountainhead of progressive reform.

**Future of development partnerships between India and GCC countries**
Amb. Talmiz Ahmed

Ambassador Ahmad said that he shares an abiding relationship with Symbiosis International University.

His presentation referenced India’s relationship with the Gulf region. He began by explaining that India’s relationship with the Gulf region is figuratively represented by a *dhow*, a traditional sailing vessel that sailed the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean more than 2,000 years ago. It was made of teak and coir from the Malabar region in Kerala. Today, India’s relationship with the Arabian Peninsula is primarily linked to oil and natural gas deposits in the Arabian Peninsula.

Ambassador Ahmad pointed out that the region vaulted into significance on the global political arena when the British navy switched from coal to oil as the main source of energy. Since Britain did not have oil of its own, it intervened in the region to gain easy access to fuel, thus marking the beginning of western hegemony in the Gulf.

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is a political and economic union of Arab states bordering the Persian Gulf, comprising Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

Some key points about the GCC’s economic standing are as follows:
- The last ten years have generated unprecedented oil revenues in the GCC countries. It is estimated that as a result of increase in oil prices before the recent global economic downturn there was an additional transfer of three trillion USD to oil producers—the largest wealth transfer on record.

Some key points related to India’s ties with the GCC countries are as follows:
- Energy
- The GCC meets over 50% of India’s oil requirements
- Saudi Arabia is India’s top oil supplier
- Trade

| Region   | 2012-13 | 2011-12 | % Growth |
|----------|---------|---------|----------|
| GCC      | 160     | 148     | 7.86     |
| EU       | 103     | 109     | -6.15    |
| ASEAN    | 76      | 79      | -3.84    |
| North America | 72 | 67 | 7.07 |

- Investments and joint ventures
- Oman-India Fertilizer project
- As many as 565 licenses for Indian SMEs in Saudi Arabia
- Bharat-Oman oil refinery and Bina
- ADIA investments in India

**Indian Community**
- Largest expatriate community, which numbers at 6.5 million and accounts for over 30% of the total expatriate community
- Largest expatriate community in every country of the GCC
- Annual remittances to India amount to 35 billion USD

| Two-way trade (including oil in 2012-13) | 160 billion USD |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Value of annual remittances            | 35 billion USD  |
| Total value of economic ties           | 195 billion USD |

India’s energy requirements in the context of India’s relationship with the Gulf region
- India needs to maintain economic growth rate of 8 to 10% over the next 25 years if it is to eradicate poverty and meet its human development goals.

- To deliver a sustained growth rate of 8% until 2032, India must increase its primary energy supply by three to four times of the 2003-04 levels, and its electricity generation capacity and supply by five to six times of the 2003-04 levels.

- To achieve the above-denoted targets, India will have to pursue all available fuel options and forms of energy.

- India’s energy requirements will have to be obtained mainly through overseas engagements.

India’s relationship with the Gulf countries is increasingly moving towards a new paradigm, reflective of a newer pattern of engagement between Asian countries. The growth in energy requirements will form the pivot on which this new arrangement of bilateral and multi-lateral relationships will take form. While projections are that the western reliance on the Gulf region for energy will decrease, Asian countries will consume more of the fuel sources from the Gulf region. By the year 2035, as much as 90% of oil from the Gulf will be exported to Asian countries, making safety and security of the Gulf region of strategic importance to Asian countries.

| Prospects of economic cooperation between India and Mozambique |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| **Mr. Pedro Conceição Couto**                                  |

Mr. Pedro Conceição Couto, Vice Minister of Finance, Mozambique, expressed his pleasure at being allowed to share information on Mozambique, India’s relationship with Mozambique, and issues of developmental concern to Mozambique. The Conference, he said, was a consortium of experts and leaders in the field of trade and finance, and it is a wonderful thing that the knowledge base formed the base.

The Republic of Mozambique is in Southeast Africa, bordered by the Indian Ocean to the east, Tanzania to the north, Malawi and Zambia to the northwest, Zimbabwe to the west, and Swaziland and South Africa to the Southwest. Mozambique, like other sub-Saharan countries, has coped with developmental challenges, but the country has been on a path of socio-economic growth: per capita income has climbed from 80 USD in the last few decades to over 500 USD now. The country actively needs to procure investment and financing, while upholding a position of autonomy and self-determination with respect to partnering countries. Mozambique’s trade relations with industrialized countries are not on an equal footing, though that is not the case in India’s relationship with Mozambique.

Mr. Couto stressed that sustainable growth is the cornerstone of economic development.

- The private sector is the main “engine of growth” in Mozambique.

- The human capital base forms the “fundamental pillar” of the economy; therefore, the government must adequately invest in education and skills development.

- A crucial element in Mozambique’s economy is infrastructure: A number of sectors are in urgent need of infrastructural backing including, electricity, telecom, health, technology, water management, road construction, and research and development.

- Mozambique’s growth rate has been around 7% in the last few years, with large scale public investment in infrastructure being a major driver. Massive public investment in natural resources such as minerals has paid off lucratively.

In the discussion on Mozambique’s partnership with India, Mr. Couto urged Indian companies to explore opportunities in investment in banking, insurance and related fields in Mozambique.

Bringing the Symbiosis International University (SIU) into the conversation, he was optimistic that private institutions of higher learning in India, such as SIU, will partner with institutions in Mozambique for the cause of knowledge cross-exchange.

| Lines of Credit to African and other ASEAN countries |
|------------------------------------------------------|
| **Mr. David Rasquinha**                              |

Mr David Rasquinha, Executive Director, EXIM Bank, spoke of the need to extend lines of credit to Asia and Africa. A LoC is an easy source of funds that can be tapped into at the borrower’s discretion. For India, LoCs are relevant to the shift in India’s trading pattern. The share of Asia and Africa in Indian exports has gone up to 60%; correspondingly, the share of North America and Europe has gone down to 30%. This sharp shift has saved the
country’s exports in the face of global economic recession.

Mr. Rasquinha presented a case study of Angola to highlight the impact of LoC extended by the GOI to African countries. India offered LoC worth 40 million USD to Angola. This modest amount was invested across several infrastructural sectors, including railways and agriculture. The investment in railways, for instance, set off a chain of developments across a whole gamut of human activity. The modest investment panned out gainfully.

Similarly, India extended LoC worth 40 million USD to Senegal, with part of the assistance package being 2004 Indian pump sets for irrigation—the installing of these pump sets improved rice production in Senegal by 177%, providing self-sufficiency in rice production. In Myanmar, India invested 20 million dollars to set up a truck manufacturing plant, helping to empower local women.

Capacity building has thus proved to be a reliable determinant of re-generable development.

Another important instrument of developmental assistance is buyer’s credit. To this end, the Government of India has set up the National Export Insurance Account (NEIA), which is operated by the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC).

The ECGC, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, insures credit risks under short term exports and provides credit insurance cover to medium and long term exporters. Sri Lanka, Ethiopia, Mozambique, and Myanmar have been prominent beneficiaries of this form of assistance.

The potential for developmental and business partnerships in Asia and Africa is enormous, and India has just begun to discover this promise. India is also working to finance investments in Africa on small scale projects.

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**Development assistance schemes: How emerging countries have become leaders in providing development assistance – A paradigm shift**

Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi

Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi, Senior Fellow, Research and Information Systems, talked about the importance of developing a new framework in which to discuss South-South cooperation. This is essential because, South-South cooperation is analysed in the context of tenets laid out by donor countries of North.

There is a shift in global power relations, with the emergence of South-South collaboration, and an increase in developmental assistance amongst countries of South. While developmental assistance is important, South-South linkages in trade and finance are even more crucial. Countries of the South have undergone unprecedentedly rapid economic expansion, and this growth is the key driver of South-South collaboration. Related to this cooperation is the noticeable desire to voice their concerns at global platforms, such as the World Trade Organization.

The South is not a uniform entity: There is enormous heterogeneity within these countries. South-South cooperation is predominantly marked by “project based assistance” within countries.

Amongst traditional ways of engagement, three are identifiably prominent: capacity building, provision of grants, and lines of credit. In addition to the traditional ways of engagement, there is a need for a “development compact”, which supplements traditional methods of engagement with trade and investment. In Mozambique, for example, India invested in a project to provide solar panels, which provides energy to rural parts of the Mozambique, and also succeeded in reducing Mozambique’s reliance on fossil fuels.

The notion of development partnership was, till recently, not universal; it implied one set of assumptions and principles for developing countries and another for developed countries. A recent research theory in developmental economics, the “constituent approach”, has countered the long-held framework approach to development, which assumes that aid must come with conditionalities for the recipient country.

Dr. Chaturvedi said civil society organizations, in addition to government, can play an important role in developmental partnerships in the South.

He congratulated Dr Manju Singh, Head, Symbiosis Institute of Research and Innovation, for working towards developing methodologies for impact evaluation of development partnership projects.
4. Track 3 – Capacity Building in the Social Sector

Concept

The challenge of ensuring equitable development across the globe today requires serious attention from international relations scholars. A multidisciplinary perspective that focuses on international collaborations and partnerships is the key to tackling the issues such as poverty, education and health. International Relations as a discipline has the potential to encompass the various perspectives that can be utilized to solve complex problems that have today become global in scope. Trends in recent years demonstrate that there is likelihood of deterioration of our natural assets which are critical to sustain human societies and economies. Rising energy consumption, increased water demand, urbanisation and climate change in the developed and developing economies have led to events which have threatened the fabric of society. Globalization demands an international focal point to address these challenges, rather than a purely national lens. The comity of nations, civil society, businesses and the academic community need to evolve a collective understanding of ways to deal with natural disasters, health care, food security and access to technology.

This section of the conference therefore invites papers from scholars in various disciplines to address the international aspects of social and economic development through fostering partnerships between state and non-state actors between India, Asia and Africa.

Track – 3 was divided into two sub-tracks as mentioned below:

Track – 3.A: Role of Indian Universities and Academia in Capacity Building in Asia and Africa

Track – 3.B: Sharing of Experiences and Best Practices in the Area of Sustainability and Healthcare in Asia and Africa

4.1. Track 3.A – Role of Indian Universities and Academia in Capacity Building in Asia and Africa

Chair
Prof. Rajen Harshe
Visiting Professor, Department of International Relations, South Asian University

Panelists
H.E. Dr. Joseph Butore  Minister of Education and Scientific Research, Burundi
Shri Ashok Thakur  Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India
Amb. H.H.S. Viswanathan  Distinguished Fellow, Observer Research Foundation

Introductory remarks
Prof. Rajen Harshe

Prof. Harshe expressed his delight at being part of the IR conference. He remarked that his association with Symbiosis is long-standing and cherished.

Education policies of Burundi to enhance capacity building with special reference to India and Indian Universities
H.E. Dr. Joseph Butore

H.E. Dr. Joseph Butore, Minister of Education and Scientific Research, Burundi presented an informative address on the higher education system in Burundi and India’s role in building capacity in that sector.

- The Republic of Burundi is a landlocked country in the African Great Lakes region of Southeast Africa. It is one of the five East African Community partner states.
- Its main economic activities are related to agriculture and livestock.
- Burundi's educational system is slowly emerging from the wake of colonialism. About 60% of the population is literate. The public sector provides primary education for children, but only 36 percent of those who fall in this demographic segment complete primary education. The most important challenge is scarcity of funding: Education receives 18 percent of the national budget.

- His Ministry has identified four goals in higher education:
  - Ensure quality higher education through the establishment of an appropriate institutional framework
  - Establish a national policy on science and technology by prioritizing the construction of a “Giant Digital Campus”
  - Professionalize higher education through the creation of at least five institutes or schools of vocational training.
  - Promote research and development

Key Challenges:

a. The supply and demand for skills training in education do not match
b. There is a glaring shortage of teachers
c. The framework that governs quality assurance is inadequate

d. A bilateral agreement on exchange programs was signed in 2012
e. India supports Burundi in several programs in tele-education and tele-medicine.
f. The Pan-African Project on the establishment of the India-Africa Institute of Educational Planning and Administration is being implemented in Burundi.
g. Numerous scholarships, which are part of bilateral cooperation between the two countries, encourage Burundian students to study in India.

Higher education as a service sector in promoting development partnerships
Shri Ashok Thakur

Mr. Ashok Thakur said he was very pleased to be part of the conference. He began his presentation by outlining key challenges in the Indian higher education system: issues of access, equity, and quality. He elaborated on the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER), considered a vital indicator of access to education. The GER is a statistical measure used to determine the number of students enrolled at different grade levels. The GER is helpful in analysing the ratio of the number of students who live in the country to those who qualify for the particular grade level. The GER figures in India are worryingly low, but they are rising. According to 2002-03 data, India’s GER was 12%; it now stands at nearly 20%. India is projected to achieve 30% GER by 2020. Access to education has improved as a result of some concrete steps taken by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD). The budget allocation to fund higher education has also been increasing steadily over the years.

Increase in access to higher education must be accompanied with improvement in the quality of education. The quality of higher education in India is not adequate, and the fact that Indian higher education institutions do not feature highly in international rankings of academic institutions indicates that Indian institutions are not globally competitive. The two most crucial shortcomings that account for India’s non-presence in rankings are that the higher education system lacks a research focus and that higher education institutions are not sufficiently internationalized.

Internationalization refers to enrolment of international students and the inculcation of internationalization across such elements as curriculum, instructional technology, and pedagogy. Mr. Thakur said that a number of initiatives have been taken by the MHRD and regulatory bodies such as the University Grants Commission to improve research and innovation, and introduce internationalization of higher education.

ITEC Programme
Amb. H.H.S. Viswanathan

Ambassador Vishwanathan thanked the University for inviting him to share his views on the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC). The ITEC program is now within the purview of the “Development Partnership Administration” (DPA) division of the Ministry of External Affairs. The DPA functions as a nodal agency to regulate all projects and activities that are related to capacity building programs and are undertaken in other countries with support of the Indian Government.
The ITEC was instituted in 1964 by Government of India to streamline developmental assistance to and build capacity. The ITEC is guided by the core belief that mutual benefits, interdependence, and cooperation are important tenets of India’s foreign policy. ITEC programs are typically bilateral in nature, but increasingly, multi-lateral and inter-regional programs are also being taken on. ITEC programs help empower the beneficiaries; there are no conditionalities or “strings” that come with the assistance, India does not offer prescriptive policies, and strictly upholds the foreign country’s sovereignty. ITEC programs include skills training, assessments, consultation, study tours, disaster relief, and expert advice.

4.2. Track 3.B – Sharing of Experiences and Best Practices in the Area of Sustainability and Healthcare in Asia and Africa

Chair
Dr. Rajiv Yeravdekar Dean, Faculty of Health & Biomedical Sciences, SIU
Dr. Subash Salunke Senior Advisor, Health Systems Support Unit (HSSU), PHFI and Former WHO representative to Indonesia

Panellists
Ms. Shubhra Trivedi Senior Program Manager, PSI
Dr. Bulbul Sood Country Head, JHPEIGO
Mr. Vishwas Mehta Joint Secretary, Health, MOHFW, GOI
Dr. Azad Moopen Chairman, DM Healthcare Group, Dubai
Mrs. Safia Al Suhail Member of Parliament, Iraq
H.E. Dr. Hussein Mwinyi Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Tanzania

Introductory remarks
Dr. Rajiv Yeravdekar
Dr. Subash Salunke

Dr. Rajiv Yeravdekar opened the discussion by outlining the key global healthcare challenges, which pivoted on the concerns of equity, access, and affordability. Dr. Salunke said collective experiences in health care must contribute more effectively to strengthening ties between countries.

Social franchising
Ms. Shubhra Trivedi

Ms. Trivedi spoke about the PSI Social Franchise, a network of health care providers that are contractually obligated to deliver specified services in accordance with franchise standards, under a common brand. The thrust areas of the organization are healthcare issues related to women’s reproductive health. The organization is active in 60 countries and operates on an annual budget of $23 million. The agency was founded in 1995 in Pakistan. Its business model is considered to comprise of “best practices” in its class. The organization is guided by four pillars: access, cost effectiveness, quality, and equity. An important guiding belief is that the private sector must be optimally utilized in health care as the Government is evidently over-burdened. A remarkable success story for the enterprise has been its mission to induce “behaviour change” in women with respect to reproductive health through numerous mass media campaigns.

Strengthening RCH services
Dr. Bulbul Sood

Dr. Sood’s presentation centred on reproductive and child health services. Her presentation featured key aspects of JHPEIGO, an international non-profit health organization affiliated with the John’s Hopkins University. Founded in 1973 as the John’s Hopkins Programme for International Education in Gynaecology and Obstetrics, it works with health experts, governments, and community leaders to provide high-quality health care. The organization develops strategies to help countries care for themselves by training competent health care workers, strengthening healthcare
systems, and improving delivery of care. It also designs innovative, effective, and low-cost healthcare solutions for women and their families. These practical, evidence-based interventions are breaking down barriers to high-quality health care for the world’s most vulnerable populations. Dr. Sood also emphasized the need to have a life cycle approach in healthcare management, strengthen the nursing education in India, and enhance pre-services and training infrastructure.

Augmenting allied health services for quality healthcare
Mr. Vishwas Mehta

Mr. Mehta gave a thought-provoking address on the healthcare system in India. He said India presents an interesting paradox in the medical industry: it has a very high number of government funded institutions for medical education, yet the availability of doctors is low. The ratio of doctor to population in India is alarmingly low: in fact, 65% of 644 districts in India do not have access to doctors and healthcare facilities, and only 40% of 14 lakh nurses are actually available. He spoke about the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), launched in 2005 to provide accessible, affordable, and quality health care to the rural population, especially the vulnerable groups. He emphasized that more healthcare professionals are required, and there is a pressing need to achieve competence through skills training, such as programs in curative, diagnostic, non-direct care, and rehabilitative services.

Role of Indian DIASPORA in enhancing healthcare facilities in West Asia, and how proactive has the Government been in encouraging Indian DIASPORA
Dr. Azad Moopen

Dr. Moopen’s presentation covered the contributions of Indian Diaspora to enhancing healthcare facilities in West Asia. The Indian Diaspora, 25 million strong, is the second largest in the world. A large segment of this group comprises medical professionals, who play a crucial role in providing medical care in countries in West Asia and Africa. This demographic group consists of doctors, technicians, health care management professionals, and nurses. The Indian Government must take proactive steps to streamline this transfer of expertise and services by improving the regulatory structure (accreditation and licencing), collaborating with the IT industry to enhance training of personnel by employing innovation in instructional technology (an example of this is “tele-medicine”), and facilitating “medical value travel”.

Development partnerships in the healthcare sector between Iraq and other nations
Mrs. Safia Al Suhail

Mrs. Suhail’s presentation related to development partnerships between Iraq and India in the healthcare sector. She said that cordial ties between the two countries were not limited to just the economic and political realms. Indeed, the healthcare sector presents as an area of very impressive bi-lateral collaboration. India is a top destination for Iraqis with respect to medical services. Indian doctors and other medical professionals are held in very high esteem for their integrity and technical competence; similarly, Indian medical facilities are deemed very competitive in terms of technological innovation and affordability. The Indian mission in Iraq issues almost 200 medical visas daily. Among prominent areas of collaboration in health care are the fields of health and medical research, health care management, integrated disease surveillance, pharmaceutical services, and human resource management.

How policies of the Indian Govt. have enhanced health care delivery in Africa with special reference to Tanzania, and the role of Indian pharmaceutical companies in enhancing this
H.E. Dr. Hussein Mwinyi

Dr. Mwinyi’s address dealt with policies the Indian Government has taken to enhance health care delivery in Africa, with special reference to Tanzania. Unfortunately, African countries suffer deep deprivation of medical care. To remedy this, the Indian Government has reached out to African countries to help them achieve Millennium Development Goals. The Indian pharmaceutical sector, in particular, has extended assistance by making available medical drugs that are of high quality, affordable, and effective. Indian drugs to combat malaria, HIV, and tuberculosis are widely available in Tanzania; that these drugs are affordably priced makes them easily accessible.
5. Track 4 – Role of Culture in Development Partnerships

**Concept**

The term development operates at multiple levels and possesses multiple dimensions. In a nation's context, comprehensive and inclusive development is the ultimate goal. The process to achieve this ideal paradigm of development is neither linear nor simplistic and an effective communication strategy is indispensable. Development communication has thus been a critical domain in media and communication research. It has evolved over temporal and spatial contexts. Development communication strategies have attempted to contextualize themselves to the immediate and critical needs of different socio-cultural contexts. These strategies have evolved with the evolution of technology, multiple media platforms and diverse audiences. From a media-centred approach (the dominant paradigm) to a more participatory approach (the alternative paradigm), this domain has evolved significantly.

This track aims to capture the history of the different paradigms of development communication and engage in theoretical/empirical discussions to review the strategies in the age of new media. This track welcomes submissions on the role of culture and media in affecting development through case studies, among other methods. Papers exploring new theoretical paradigms are also welcome. The track will also be interested in papers that critically evaluate tools and techniques.

Research papers in the area of communication as a facilitator media's changing role, traditional knowledge, work values, etc. will be discussed.

**Chair**

Amb. Arundhati Ghose Former Diplomat, Permanent Representative to UNESCO in Paris and UN Offices in Geneva

**Panellists**

Amb. Pawan Verma Cultural Advisor to the Chief Minister of Bihar and Former Diplomat
Dr. Bakhtiar Amin Former Human Rights Minister, Iraq
Mr. Jawahar Sircar CEO, Prasar Bharati
Mr. Siddharth Vardarajan Former Editor, The Hindu
Dr. Dileep Padgaonkar R.K. Laxman Chair Professor, SIU

**Introductory remarks**

Amb. Arundhati Ghose

Amb. Ghose briefly outlined the role of culture in development partnerships – looking at 3 levels of “soft” power. Power is a means of persuasion. Soft persuasion is alright, and if you can, bring people around to your point of view. Provided you are ready to accept the other point of view.

The 3 levels:
- Projection of your power within which your development activities are embedded
- Receptivity to the culture of the host country to be able to interact
- Communication – how do you communicate to your hosts and how do your hosts communicate with you – so that development projects are beneficial to both the hosts and the guests.

Culture is a misused word. Does culture promote conflict? When cultures clash as it would in a development partnership, would it promote conflict than the end state that is wished for i.e. understanding?

**Cultural influences of Asian and African nations on Iraq**

Dr. Bakhtiar Amin

The concept of creation of our epics, mythologies, stories, literature, religion and later the archaeological and
historical sites are among the most important founding stones of any culture. If land of the people is the spine, then culture is its soul. Mesopotamia is one of the building blocks of human civilization.

Babylonians are credited with mathematical sciences and engineering. Iraqis invented the wheel, along with the decimal system, vital in developing and presenting land, marine and space communications. The Syrians are credited with astronomy and monitored the first solar eclipse in Ashur city in 1763 BC.

There are chapters in the Quran and Bible that refer to prophets buried in Iraq. The prophet Daniel is also buried in the archaeological fort of Kirkuk which is over 5000 years old. The fort is in dire need of protection and development. All the archaeological sites in Iraq have suffered, whether dictatorship or negligence in addition to pillaging, theft and terrorism.

The federal and state governments should work on activating these sites as part of the process of rebuilding Iraq as a whole – economically and psychologically. Iraq needs to look after its history and rich civilization through the best modern techniques and scientific methods by the Iraqis and others, and we hope the others include India.

A major problem in the Iraqi region is mismanagement and lack of embrace of diversity, unlike India which is a shining example of embracing diversity despite numerous problems. Despite accounting for 7% of the world’s population in the Middle East, Iraq accounts for 40% of the world’s violence.

Culture as a soft power in building development partnerships between India and Asian and African countries
Amb. Pavan Varma

Ambassador Pavan Varma, Cultural Advisor to the Chief Minister of Bihar spoke about culture as a soft power in building partnerships between India and Asian & African countries.

The 21st century has a certain efficiency in stating what they believe to be absolute truths. ‘Soft power’ and culture are aspects which promote the ability of countries to interact with each other more comprehensively, affectionately and closely. This cannot be questioned at a broad level.

We need to interrogate concepts – when you speak of culture as a facilitating mechanism in the seamless web of diplomacy, do you have the product? India is a 5000 year old civilization of antiquity, of continuity, of diversity, of assimilation, of peaks of refinement. Therefore, we have the product of the evidence of the past.

What are the evidences of the past product?
- In 600 BC, a man called Bharat wrote a treatise called the Natyashastra which comprises 6000 Sanskrit Shlokas – this as a meditation of what constitutes aesthetics.
- Lofty projections of the Vedas and the Upanishads
- A university called Nalanda which ran for 700-800 years and was considered to be the Harvard of Asia.
- The first political treaty written anywhere in the world – Chanakya’s Arthashastra
- Panini wrote the Asthadhayiyi 400 years before the birth of Christ and was considered to be the most comprehensive and scientific lexicon on Grammar.
- The temple in Kailash was built to precise geometrical symmetry by carving an entire mountain from top down excavating 2,00,000 tons of stones.

With the coming of Islam, we developed a culture which allowed people of communities and religions to be together – the amalgamation of all this is the product, in the field of music, dance, literature, etc.

This product is important in cementing relationships with countries because it has been born out of an inherent and intrinsic strength, not as coercion but one that allows you to communicate with each other on the basis of the credentials of being rooted strongly in an evolved culture. In the past there were cultures formed sans military conquests between Asia and India and Africa as well.

The world’s largest Hindu temple is in Angkor Vat, not in India. The language in Central Vietnam was Sanskrit owing to the fact that it was ruled for a thousand years by the Champa dynasty. We have a magnificent example in Indonesia of interaction of cultures. A largely Buddhist country, Thailand has Sanskritised names of roads and other places.

What is the product that we have today?

Our past laurels kept aside, the Indian culture today is becoming derogative. This poses a problem in the world where people are competing for cultural space as an instrument of diplomacy. The sub text of globalisation in the field of culture is co-option and India is demonstrating many aspects of this. There is something wrong with the system, if the youth in school study Shakespeare but have never heard of Kalidas.
Culture needs certain machinery for propagation. Today we need resources, planning, prioritising in the world view and we need to be conscious of the competition. Culture should not be seen as an obtuse definition but as something living, which needs to be enriched.

**Making waves on the airwaves: Lessons learned from the Zubin Mehta concert**
Mr Jawhar Sircar

Doordarshan is an organisation that has been dried up for 20 years without a single recruitment, a demoralised leader and workforce and a non-existent leadership.

The Zubin Mehta concert could have been a defining moment had NDTV done it but when Prasar Bharati (PB), Doordarshan (DD) covered it, it became a metaphor for getting out of the rut.

With the German Ambassador mentioning the possibility of Zubin Mehta coming to India, PB was more keen on telecasting it than partnering for the event. The requirement for the concert was much more than what PB had ever done in the past. PB went beyond its reach to bring to life an event that they never dreamed of doing.

The Germans chose to hold the concert in Srinagar. This eventually turned out to be one of the most controversial run ups to an event in recent Indian history. This got them more eyeballs than if the event had been in Mumbai or Pune.

The advantages:
- PB got perennial perpetual rights over the event
- Very little investment, which was recouped
- PB took the HD plunge since the Commonwealth days
- It showed that, as a mature nation we can bring world class symphony to the country.
- We also managed to convey the best of folk music through Kashmiri folk music to the rest of the world. This is how cultures actually execute it and the purpose was to help reach out to the people. At the end of the event, apart from making friends with the Germans we earned respect from the international community.

**The Indian story abroad with an emphasis on the lack of presence of Indian media in Africa**
Mr. Siddharth Vardarajan

As Indians are we really interested about what is happening around the world or are we so preoccupied with what is happening within the country that we tend to ignore international news?

Nelson Mandela’s death was widely covered, but there are very few instances where an international story would make it to the pages of Indian newspapers. Indians are interested in world events but the Indian media does not do justice to their interest. What explains the lack of coverage in Indian papers and television channels?

Sometimes the owners and proprietors do not wish to spend money on trying to inform its readers about global development.

International reporting is an expensive proposition. News agencies refrain from sending their reporters to international countries owing to the access of wire services.

Can India hope to build durable cultural and developmental partnerships with a region of the world like Africa when most of what it receives by way of information is filtered through Western lenses?

The middle class has accepted globalisation with a vengeance and that is reflected in their attitudes and approaches. The dominant aspect of Western coverage about the growing Indian interaction with Africa is that this is a sort of neo-colonialism. Western interactions in Africa are considered to be benevolent compared to Indian interaction which is portrayed as exploitation.

The only way to counter this perception is if there is a flow of information and this can happen only if there is greater coverage in the media.

The focus while reporting in an international country is usually on conflict and very little attempt is made to focus on how these countries tackle problems, the differences between India and Africa. There is need for sensitive reporting. We need mechanisms for sharing information electronically, collaborate on the training of journalists, providing technical assistance.
What is the relationship between culture and politics? The end of politics is to acquire power, retain power and end power. The ends of culture are to allow creative people, writers, artists, dancers and musicians to try and raise awareness of people about realities as seen from the vantage point of their knowledge and of their insights.

Politics has been using culture since centuries. For example, culture has been used to build huge monuments, in order to assert imperial authority, colonial authority and to enhance the prestige of the emperor. It has been used to stage parades to mobilise opinion and this use in the 20th century is particularly marked under totalitarian regimes.

He pointed that in all such regimes, any kind of critical, creative and innovative cultural activity was suppressed.

Megalomania – this is to use cultural artefacts like buildings, statues, even parks in order to promote a certain political personality and also to promote an ideological or political agenda.

There has been a constant friction between those who are in the seat of politics and those who are involved in various cultural activities. In addition to the politics of the issue, we now also have the question of the ‘market’ (since we have heard culture spoken of a “product”), since the market also imposes its own laws, the main being that they are in it to make money.

There is a ‘dumbing down’ process that has taken place and it has affected media as well. Another force or element that has emerged in our society by force is the cultural police. This cultural police for ideological ends will pose a lot of restrictions. They are more dangerous than the state and even more dangerous than the market. This kind of moral policing is terrible menace.

There was a brief exchange on the “dumbing down” of Indian culture, with Mr Sircar speaking of people being more interested in ‘Bollywood’ and popular figures like Shah Rukh Khan than in Kalidas and ancient tenets of classical culture, which Mr Varma countered, speaking of the need to blend the popular with the classical. It wasn’t a zero sum game, he said. Dr Padgaonkar said culture could have no absolutes.

6. Keynote Session with the Afghan Delegation

The “primary mover” behind the International Relations Conference, Symbiosis International University’s Principal Director Dr Vidya Yeravdekar welcomed the distinguished guest with traditional greetings of warmth, ‘Salaam Aleikum’ and ‘Khush Amdeed.’ She described his visit as ‘a long cherished dream’ on an historic day for Symbiosis.

Pune, known as the ‘Oxford of the East,’ hosts the largest number of foreign students in the country, with Symbiosis hosting the largest number among them; over 3,000 from 85 countries. There are around 4,000 Afghan students in Pune, most of them at Symbiosis, she informed the Afghan president.

Students come mostly on ICCR scholarships, which are provided for undergraduate students but not for post graduate studies.

Dr SB Mujumdar, who spent over 40 years of his life for the welfare of foreign students, has helped numerous students to complete their post-graduate studies, through the Chancellor’s scholarships.

Citing the example of two students from Afghanistan, Wahik and Riyaz, Dr Vidya said the bright Afghan student named Wahik could not afford to continue with his studies, and was given a scholarship to complete his MBA from the prestigious SIBM. He went on to get recruited from the campus with the highest package, more than even the Indian students.

Total freeships have been given to several Afghan students she said, providing an example of how Symbiosis helps countries in capacity building and human resource development. Seeking closer cooperation with Afghanistan, in terms of scholarships, student exchanges and teacher exchanges, Dr. Vidya hoped the subject of the President’s address; Afghanistan – India : Partnership for Development; would soon become a reality.
Welcome speech
Dr. S.B. Mujumdar, Chancellor, Symbiosis International University, Pune

Described fittingly as the “Father of International Students” in Pune, the Chancellor of Symbiosis University Padma Bhushan Dr S B Mujumdar pointed out that the International Relations conference was being held on the Symbiosis University campus, where thousands of international students study, play and stay together, and not at a 5-star hotel.

He also pointed out the “interesting coincidence” of both the distinguished Chief Guests, on both days of the conference, were called ‘Hamid’ --- H.E. Mr Hamid Ansari, Vice President of India and H.E. Mr Hamid Karzai, President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

Sharing his thoughts on the deliberations of the International Relations conference, Dr Mujumdar wondered whether a good quality education can be a ‘soft power’ to foster cordial and symbiotic relations between India and other countries. He felt education is the most important medium through which international relations can be nurtured.

Students from over 50 countries presented their national flags to the Afghan President, as is the custom in Symbiosis, to welcome honoured guests. Those flags were placed in a pot. If those flags were rotated at considerable speed, the emergent colour would be white, and “white stands for peace.”

Students are the real vehicles through which cordial international relations can be built, he opined, and young students are really engines of growth and development. Only education can transform them into a human resource and only quality education will transform them into human resources with human values.

According to the Chancellor, it has been his experience that students who return after their education from America are intelligent and well informed, but lacking in moral values. The endeavour at Symbiosis is to impart quality education with immortal values of honesty, compassion and imagination. By making better human beings, education can contribute to international relations.

Address
H.E. Shri. K. Sankaranarayanan, Governor of Maharashtra

Hon’ble Shri K. Sankaranarayanan, Governor of Maharashtra congratulated Symbiosis University on the holding of the conference, as he extended a warm welcome to the Afghan President. He expressed deep respect for Dr. Mujumdar, and commented on how Symbiosis is now a “brand,” likely to become one of the top international universities.

Recalling the age-old ties between India and Afghanistan; verses in the Rig Veda refer to rivers and towns in Afghanistan; he said bilateral ties have revived in recent times and India is partnering with Afghanistan in its reconstruction and development. While India and Afghanistan have signed a Strategic Partnership Agreement, to provide a structured framework for the depth of their cooperation, the Governor said there was need to further promote people to people ties. In this context, there is scope to promote exchanges between students of Afghanistan and those in Maharashtra.

Keynote address
H.E. Mr. Hamid Karzai, GCMG, Hon’ble President, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

The first democratically elected President of Afghanistan, H.E. Mr Hamid Karzai expressed great pleasure at being in Symbiosis University, which he described as a “prestigious and visionary institution of learning.” He expressed great admiration for Dr Mujumdar, whose biography he had read, commending him for the “remarkable talent” by which he could feel for the student ailing with jaundice, place the situation in perspective and transform the feeling into a vision for a remarkable university, “on top of a hill.” Even the University’s name, based on a botanical term signifying mutually beneficial coexistence, was remarkable.

Candidly admitting that he did not expect such a setting or lovely environment, he wished he were young again, in order to be able to spend time between Pune and Shimla, where he had studied.

The President confessed that despite being a politician (no two politicians are in agreement!) he was in “total agreement” with Dr Mujumdar about the lack of moral values in a western education.

Providing an overview of bilateral ties, President Karzai moved from the ancient linkages to modern times,
which began in the late 19th century. Afghanistan became home to stalwarts of the Indian freedom struggle, like Mahendra Pratap and Subhash Chandra Bose, and there were even efforts to establish a government-in-exile against British rule there. King Amanullah was the first true Afghan freedom fighter, who regained Afghan foreign policy independence from the British.

India’s focus was, even then, less on politics and more on education, with Indian teachers going to teach at the prestigious Habibia School, set up at the beginning of the 20th century. Indian teachers inculcated ideas of constitutional monarchy and ethics and Afghanistan became a republic in 1973.

Really deep bilateral ties took root from 2002, Mr Karzai said, from the Bonn Conference, where India showed “true friendship”. Though not a traditional donor, India provided Afghanistan with two billion dollars of “quality” money, with each dollar spent on a project of significance and proper infrastructure.

India has built a power transmission line (from Pul-i-Charkhi to Kabul), a main link road (from Delaram to Zaranj), and is building the Salma Dam and the Parliament building, besides hundreds of small development projects across the country. It also provides thousands of scholarships so Afghan students can study in institutions like Symbiosis, and revived the Indira Gandhi Children’s Hospital. India’s contribution is most highly valued because it is contributing to improving the quality of life and economic regeneration in Afghanistan. There are around 10,000 Afghan students across India today. When they return, the country’s productivity levels would rise.

Another 10 years of this level of Indian assistance and Afghanistan would treble its output, while another 20 years of such sustained help would see the country stabilise, the President said.

India and Afghanistan have signed the Strategic Partnership Agreement, he said, because they see shared interests, shared opportunities and shared dangers, the latter from terrorism. Hence there is a shared purpose in fighting extremism and keeping people safe from bombs.

There is a shared opportunity to trade, not just bilaterally but beyond.

India’s ‘Connect Central Asia’ Policy sees Afghanistan as a hub and critical gateway to Central Asia, with its rich energy resources. Afghanistan itself is itself enormously rich in mineral resources, like iron ore and rare earth minerals, and would actively encourage India’s participation (both public and private) in utilising those resources. India, for Afghanistan, is a vast market for all its goods.

The two countries also share a long term vision as democracies; India has proved its detractors wrong by being a robust democracy more than 65 years after it gained freedom, with the best democratic institutions. While his country is a new democracy, Afghans cherish their vote and have countered many odds to express their voice.

As a result of all these levels of linkages; political, social (including education), economic and strategic; relations between India and Afghanistan are among the strongest in the world. If this model were emulated and multiplied to all nations, the colour would be white, of peace, Mr Karzai concluded.

Vote of thanks
Dr. Rajani Gupte, Vice Chancellor, Symbiosis International University

Dr Rajani Gupte, Vice Chancellor of Symbiosis University, delivered her heartfelt thanks to the distinguished guest and dignitaries, bringing the special session to an end.

7. Track 5 - Public Private Partnerships for Inclusive Development – Role of the Corporate Sector

Theme

‘Inclusive growth’ as a strategy of economic development has recently received tremendous attention owing to a rising concern that the benefits of economic growth have not been equitably shared. A UN report on the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2013 states that forward looking macroeconomic policies for sustainable and inclusive development are essential to ensure growth in the region. On the other hand, the Rural Poverty Report (published by IFAD) mentions that more than a billion people are still living in extreme poverty in mostly the rural areas of developing countries. In this situation, inclusive growth is required whereby the poverty reduction efforts are more effective by explicitly creating productive economic opportunities for the poor and vulnerable sections of the society. The corporate sector needs to play a major role to ensure inclusive development. It has also become imperative to launch cost effective, innovative solutions that can ensure sustainable development in regions that are
This track welcomes submissions on the role of industry in fostering inclusive development. The track expects papers to use suitable research methods and bring forth relevant conclusions in the area of inclusive development. Papers can be based on case studies, empirical research, qualitative research or even propose new theories and paradigms. Following is the indicative list of topics/subjects for this track.

The track will discuss research papers in the area of public private partnerships for infrastructure development, area/community specific projects for development, innovative solutions for sustainable development, etc.

Chair
Amb. Prakash Shah Chairman, Planning & Development Board, Symbiosis

Panellists
Shri Praful Patel Hon’ble Minister of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises
H.E. Mr Landing Savane Former Senior Minister, Republic of Senegal
Mr. Pankaj Khimji Chairman, Oman-India Business Council
Mr. Sanjay Kirloskar Chairman & Managing Director, Kirloskar Brothers
Mr. Arun Khanna COO, EMCURE Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
Mr. N Subramaniam Chief Risk Officer, Larsen & Toubro

Introductory remarks
Amb. Prakash Shah

Given the number of speakers in this session, Ambassador Shah introduced the guests and immediately invited Shri Praful Patel, Union Minister for Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises to deliver his address.

Overview on role of the corporate sector in enhancing development partnerships
Shri. Praful Patel

Shri Praful Patel briefly outlined the evolution of the Indian economy, stating that there had been a “sea change” in the country over the last 20 years, since economic reforms set in. Earlier, the Indian economy was a controlled one with the public sector playing a predominant role and a few private players subject to the “licence-permit raj”; now, increasingly, the economy has opened up and competition and the open market guide the conduct of business. Speaking about the changing profile of Indian business, he talked of a Tata company buying the Jaguar-Landrover for billions of dollars, or a Mittal buying up Arcelor. These kinds of acquisitions were “unthinkable” earlier.

Given India’s size and structure, he said no other model of economic development but the present one, with the public and private sectors cooperating for development, could deliver and fulfil aspirations of over one billion people. In an era of “open competition,” you have to provide what the growing consumer base demands.

Making a strong pitch for the public sector, he said if we bring all our public sector companies under one holding company, it would figure in the top 10 of the Fortune 500 companies. Government is gradually backing away from business, but it must work in partnership with others.

More private players and entrepreneurs have entered the economy and the success of Indian companies, particularly in the Telecom and IT (Information Technology) sectors, has changed the way the world perceives India. Giving the example of the telecom sector, he told students in the audience how they were used to the latest technology and did not think twice about being connected with the world on their hand sets. However, till the mid 1990’s, he reminded everyone, even calling Mumbai from Pune was a time consuming and frustrating exercise; requiring booking of a ‘trunk’ call, then a ‘lightning’ call and even then not succeeding.

Turning the focus on Pune, Mr Patel said the city is “the automobile capital” of India, with 3.4 million cars, 14 million two-wheelers and 1 million trucks produced annually. Maharashtra accounts for 25 % of India’s GDP in manufacturing.

The need is to be strong economically, from within, and improve trade by raising manufacturing capacities.

After listening to all the other speakers, Mr Patel remarked that, “Symbiosis itself is a very fine example of what is public private partnership (PPP) and how it has redefined education.” Symbiosis also demonstrates what global partnership is all about and has “shown the way” in demonstrating what a PPP and global partnership is all about.
Public private partnerships with Indian organisations - the Senegal experience

H.E. Mr. Landing Savane

Preferring to speak about India and Africa relations, and not just his country because “Senegal is a small country of 15 million people; smaller than Mumbai,” Mr Savane said, “this is destiny, being in India on the day when Nelson Mandela is being buried in his village in South Africa.” South Africa has many Indians, and gave us Gandhiji. Mandela is important to us all. Mandela is the “best product of individual collaboration between Africa and India.” Gandhiji and Mandela are not the past. They show the way forward for India and Africa.

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said at the India-Africa summit at Addis Ababa in 2011 that Africa would be the future driver of the world’s economy. India offered $5.4 billion to bolster India-Africa relations, but Africa has not been able to use much of that. Africa and India should walk hand in hand. Africa will gain more, but India too will benefit. Indians should become more aware.

Commenting on the need to invest in people, particularly in the youth, Mr Savane urged the Chancellor of Symbiosis to take his vision of a global university overseas.

He spoke of the need for an India-Africa Think Tank, because “governments by themselves cannot identify problems” and deliver development to people.

China is more deeply involved in Africa than India, and for a longer time. India is now beginning to rediscover Africa.

Since 2003, India’s engagement with Senegal has increased fourfold, making it the second largest partner in the Francophone nation with rich deposits of iron ore. While the bilateral economic engagement is on the rise, with an IFFCO fertiliser project and joint ventures in agriculture and construction, cooperation in the fields of culture, sports and education must increase.

The Indian story abroad with an emphasis on the lack of presence of Indian media in Africa

Mr. Pankaj Khimji

Thanking Symbiosis University for inviting him to address the conference, Mr Khimji, a fifth generation Omani of Indian origin, said Oman is the size of Maharashtra, with a population of just four million people, of whom a million are of Indian origin. It has a large number of high net worth individuals.

Oman is fortunate to be a neighbour of India, across the Arabian Sea. It is a gateway to the Arab world. Between 80 and 85 % of the GDP of the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries is hydro-carbon based. This has generated large revenue inflows, and surpluses which need to be utilised to create more lasting assets.

70% of Oman’s GDP is from oil, so the requirement is to build and begin manufacturing goods to augment the economy. India can help in this area. The need is to raise employment opportunities and enhance levels of education and develop skills. Public / Private partnerships are required to set up educational institutes. Companies like Larsen & Toubro are and can further assist in building infrastructure, like roads, ports and specialised buildings. Oman, he said, is the most India-friendly country in the Gulf.

In the Health sector, Oman is willing to pay a dollar for every dollar invested.

Speaking of opportunities for India, Mr Khimji said the planned GCC railway, connecting the hinterland from the ports would cut down travel and transportation time, helping to cut costs. The 2,200-km GCC railway project will link all member states, starting from Kuwait and ending in Oman.

“We need India to help us build, operate, run and even own” these ambitious infrastructure and development projects. Indians can, because they have a good track record of doing better abroad.

Role of the corporate sector in building partnerships with Asian and African countries with emphasis on your company’s journey

Mr. Sanjay Kirloskar

Stating that this was his second talk at Symbiosis within a few months, Mr Kirloskar said the Kirloskar Industries have always abided by the adage ‘Prosperity through Partnership.’ They began exports of agricultural implements and pump sets, which, as Chairman Shah pointed out, are called ‘Kirloskars’ (not pumps) to Africa back in 1931, so they have long been engaged with that continent. There are similar problems to conducting business through Asia and Africa, and similar challenges to business are faced in both continents.
Are India and China competing in Africa?

China is competing with Europe and other western countries, primarily for resources. Commenting on Chinese projects across most of Africa, he said there is very little African involvement in these projects, because the Chinese provide the funds and bring in their workers to complete the projects, to assure timely completion.

The Indian model is different, building capacity and generating local employment. While they are working in many countries across Asia and Africa (and the rest of the world), in the Lao PDR for example, 7,000 Kirloskar pump-sets have been installed along the Mekong river, ensuring proper irrigation of paddy fields. As a result, Laos has become a rice-exporting nation, from a rice-deficit one.

The Focus Africa program at Kirloskar’s began over a decade ago, with the intent to correct anomalies and promote food and water security and improve energy efficiency.

Role of the pharmaceutical industry in development partnerships

Mr. Arun Khanna

Africa is the youngest continent and its population, too, is the youngest. The continent is battling a medical emergency in AIDS, with an average annual spend of seven per cent of GDP on healthcare. India is among the countries actively involved in helping to significantly reduce treatment costs in Africa.

Speaking about the benefits of the PPP in healthcare, Mr Khanna said his company was among those working to combat AIDS by reducing prices of anti-retroviral (ARV) drugs. Around four years ago ARV drugs would cost $10,000/- per person per year. The same medication is available today for $40/- per person annually, a massive reduction that has made it possible to cover and treat a much larger segment of the population. The case is similar with anti-malaria treatment and medication for other life-threatening diseases, but not as dramatic.

PPP models like the US government model PEPFAR (emergency plan for AIDS relief) have significantly helped to reduce costs said Khanna, who called himself the ‘honorary son’ of former Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda. Mr Kaunda was among the first leaders in Africa to acknowledge the AIDS emergency, when he admitted that his son had died of AIDS.

The US government has committed $48 billion for the AIDS eradication program. What PEPFAR does is allow a transfer of technology of ARV drugs, without the company patent, making it permissible to manufacture bulk quantities of the medicine, without the name of large pharmaceutical companies, and create a supply chain. So EMCURE produces the drug, with efficacy on par with labelled medicines, but with the stipulation that it can not be sold in the USA. Generic manufacturing of such medicines by Indian companies has helped to slash the prices, thus making a real impact on the continent’s medical emergency.

Commenting on the competition between China and India in Africa, he said there is a symbiotic relationship between the two; Chinese investment (to the tune of $150 billion) is in infrastructure and mining while considerably lower but significant Indian investment has been in healthcare, capacity building and education.

The growth of L&T in the industrial sector

Mr. N. Subramanian

Providing a brief history of Larsen & Toubro, Mr Subramanian said the company has created a separate division, IDPL (Infrastructure Development Partnership Ltd) to venture into PPP models for infrastructure creation. With a presence in Mumbai since 1938, L&T is the largest road developer in India.

He spoke of comparative advantages of the Public Private Partnership model, while cautioning that it can occasionally fail “spectacularly.” The government is increasingly involving private companies in infrastructure building; nearly 20 per cent of infrastructure development costs in India today are generated by the private sector.

Compared to the government, (which must have greater due diligence and take more care as it deals with public money) – (i) Private companies are less prone to wastage; (ii) Private companies provide faster and timely delivery of projects; (iii) Private companies raise benchmarks, which even the public sector must then follow, citing the example of recently built airports; and (iv) There is improved delivery of services.

Summing up the discussion, Chairman Shah said three different subjects were dealt with in this segment; public private partnerships in healthcare and infrastructure, capacity building and inclusive development.
8. Track 6 – Post MDG 2015: The Evolving Agenda

Concept

The 8 Millennium Development Goals (MDG), hailed as one of the “UN ideas that changed the world” have influenced the flow of aid and international cooperation towards development efforts since 2000. However, over the years the world has come to witness unprecedented social, economic and political vulnerabilities that have exposed individuals, countries and regions to new challenges and concerns. Parallelly there has been a distinct shift to the South? South paradigm from a North? South one in International Relations, etching new partnerships that address common concerns of these regions. All such developments alongside the 2015 deadline for the MDGs have led to questions being raised in global policy circles as to whether the MDGs need to be reviewed and possibly also replaced. While acknowledging the remarkable impact and progress attained by the MDGs, the recently released UN High Level Panel Report "A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development", also nudge to think ahead in terms of inclusive, integrated and sustainable solutions to the world’s problems.

Track VI of the Conference is framed against this backdrop for a relook at the goals for international development, incorporating lessons from the past and analysing options for the future. The idea is to encourage fresh thoughts and deliberations on the impact of the MDGs as a theme central to both India’s domestic and foreign policy.

This track will discuss papers related to different approaches to development cooperation: North-South and South-South, innovative models of poverty alleviation, localising the global development debate, beyond aid: shifting the North-South paradigm, new models of development assistance (for example: South Asia development fund), role of NGOs in facilitating development.

Chair
Amb. Sudhir Devare Former Secretary, MEA, and Ram Sathe Chair Professor, SIU

Panellists
Dr. Sundeep Waskekar President, Strategic Foresight Group
Dr. Yasar Yakis Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Turkey
Amb. Muchkund Dubey President, Council for Social Development (CSD) & Former Foreign Secretary, GOI
Ms. Cleo Paskal Associate Fellow, Environment and Development Programme, Chatham House

Introductory remarks
Amb. Sudhir Devare

Providing a brief overview of MDGs, Ambassador Devare said global discussions are being held with respect to the agenda after 2015. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are due to expire in 2015, several of those that have been implemented. One of the main reasons responsible for the fulfilment of MDGs is that they were placed on the countries themselves, so they became a domestic responsibility. Issues like financial assistance, technology transfer, market access, debt relief and so on affect these changes.

So the discussion and debates go on for the agenda post 2015. Amb. Devare reminded the audience about the Rio conference on issues of environment which was held in 2012, to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the first Rio conference. They adopted what became known as issues of sustainable development pertaining to environment, social issues and governance.

The question is how and when should the MDGs and SDGs be integrated? Should they be integrated at all? Universal goals would be a combination of both which would take care of all requirements with respect to social, economic and environmental progress.

Overview of the post MDG goals
Dr. Sundeep Waslekar

Commenting on the fact that most of the discussion, conferences on international relations take place in Delhi, “as if it’s a monopoly of the elite” Dr. Waslekar thanked Dr. Vidya and the entire team for making international
In an anecdotal vein he explained how the United Nations reaches certain conclusions and provides ideas about the future.

If you ask a bureaucrat a question, he will say ‘no’ even before he has heard the question, if you ask a politician a question, he will say ‘yes’ even before he has heard the question but will mean ‘no’ and if you ask a United Nations official a question he will neither say ‘yes’ nor ‘no’ but will set up a high level commission! The UN set up a commission in 2000 and came up with MDGs and set up another commission last year to figure out what to do after 2015.

This commission was led by 3 heads of state – the PM of UK, the President of Indonesia and the President of Liberia. The commission submitted a report to the United Nations Secretary General in June 2013 with the following recommendations:

- Peace and good governance are central to sustainable development
- Global partnerships are core to sustainable development

Examining the question of inclusive growth or sustainable development, Dr. Waslekar recalled how Pune was 20 years ago, while today there are shopping malls, which can perhaps be called an indicator of development. Yet, it is true that development and a fight for survival are two sides of a coin.

The world’s population is 7 billion. Out of these 7 billion people, 3.5 are living in a market which means they have some kind of purchasing power. Another 3.5 billion are people living on the ‘periphery’, which means they don’t have any purchasing power.

The Strategic Foresight Group makes futuristic calculations. In 25 years the world’s population will be 8.5 billion. If the growth rate of emerging economies like India and China continue to be 7% - 8 %, the number of people who live in the market will be 5 billion, but the people living in the periphery will still be 3.5 billion people. The rich will get richer and the poor will remain poor. SDGs, MDGs are all about statistics. Looking at the agenda beyond 2015, solving the problem of these 3.5 billion people is crucial.

The second recommendation is that peace and good governance are the core of sustainable development. Good governance cannot be discounted. It is not a ‘western’ value or an ‘Asian’ value but as essential and basic as food, shelter or water. In the context of partnership, the question that arises is whether India should help only in developmental projects – infrastructural projects, social and economic projects or should sensitive issues like injustice, good governance be touched upon.

The Indian Foreign Ministry does not interfere with politics and only helps in economic development. You cannot export good governance if you indulge in corruption, he said. Dr. Bakhtiyar Amin said Iraq looked at India as their model. India has so many communities, religions, languages; they want to learn from India’s experience in managing these pluralities.

Countries want to see how India promotes democratic practices. When President Karzai said India is building a parliament for Afghanistan in Kabul, it is significant because India, with its 65 years of experience, is building an institution. India has done well in democracy but is failing in good governance and even in conflict management, he opined.

There are no alternatives to partnership but partnerships are always between two equals. No two countries are equal, no two individuals are equal but there is equality of physical attributes, equality of population, equality of financial resources, and equality of sovereignty. United States is not more sovereign than Iraq or Afghanistan. We are all equally sovereign and that is the principle we must use for promoting development partnership, he said, exhorting the university’s students to also to shape the future.

**Beyond MDG 2015: The Turkish agenda**
Dr. Yasar Yakis

MDG – The idea was born in the 1990s and was meant for the next millennium. These goals dealt with:
- Eradication of extreme poverty and hunger
- Achieving universal primary education
- Attaining general equality
- Empowerment of women
- Reduction of child mortality
- Combating HIV, malaria and other diseases
- Ensuring environmental sustainability and
- Global partnership development

These are the 8 millennium development goals that were agreed to in 2000.

According to Dr Yakis, there are differences on a country to country basis, item to item basis and some goals were achieved to a much larger extent than others.

Global poverty is declining, he said, primary school attendance is growing steadily, access to drinking water is expanding, infant mortality is dropping and fighting malaria, AIDS, tuberculosis show encouraging results. On a country to country basis or regional basis - East Asia and South Asia among them India were most successful, he opined. Critics pointed out that some goals were not achievable because they were not precise enough, he noted, citing the issue of empowerment of women. You cannot measure how much women are empowered.

Among other reasons for not achieving MDGs is:
- Bad governance : A poor country cannot easily get out of a poverty trap
- There exist pockets of resistance – social, religious, ethnic
- The subjects were not realistic

Talking of post 2015, preparations have already started within the framework of United Nations on what should be the goals after 2015. The question is whether present goals should be abandoned entirely or phased out or those that have not been achieved should be achieved and some new ones added. The final decision is yet to be determined but what is clear is that the present MDG 2015 should not be abandoned entirely, he concluded.

### Vision of post MDG and its implementation

Amb. Muchkund Dubey

Stating that he held a different view of the MDGs, Ambassador Muchkund Dubey said he thought the MDGs were a departure from the real vocation of the UN at the turn of the century. It had changed the agenda of the UN in a direction which was not desirable and is likely to bring back the pre-MDG agenda as one possibility after 2015.

In a scathing critique of the MDGs, Amb. Dubey called them “a set of highly selective arbitrary, inadequate goals for development imposed upon a group of countries by donor countries”. The basic flaw in the MDGs is that they are scanty, uncoordinated, unrelated and very low in ambition by any standard of judgment.

Development got side-tracked and one of the encouraging features of the current debate on post 2015 MDGs is that these programmes are being brought out again.

The target is of achieving these goals but not how they would be achieved. It is easy to set targets of what are you going to achieve but extremely difficult to set target of the resources and the means that you will deploy to achieved those targets.

MDGs did not have these when they were launched first and parallel action was taken by convening a conference in Monterey on mobilization of resources and the financial implications of some of the goals were calculated, Amb. Dubey said, pointing out further flaws.

Also, he said, development is not a set of goals. Development is change and transformation. In these changes, there are 3 levels: at the level of structures, at the level of institutions and the level of policy, he concluded, urged a serious rethinking on the role of growth and how can growth change structures.

### Redrawing the world map post MDG

Ms Cleo Paskal

Critiquing the MDGs, Ms Paskal said the 8 goals are extremely uncoordinated because they dissect a culture and look at it in small parts, which can cause enormous problems. Thus, fundamental assumptions of the whole structure of the MDG 2015 need re-examining.

Referring to Vice President Hamid Ansari’s statement, that “the older paradigm of international economic relations and cooperation is increasingly becoming obsolete,” she felt they are already obsolete now. The question is whether they are even relevant.

The fundamental assumption of the MDGs is that basically every country wants to be Norway or Sweden. They want to be individualistic, market based with an oppositional political system. Norway and Sweden are not considered to be perfect countries because they are the paragons of virtue. Norway has a lot of oil and it uses that oil...
to impose its view in another country. Sweden or ‘perfect’ Sweden is the 9th largest arms importer in the world and the largest arms exporter per capita. There is thus need to examine a lot of fundamental assumptions we have about the countries we aspire towards being.

Even terminologies need to be re-examined. For example, India is sometimes called ‘emerging’. In the major economy share of GDP, India is not emerging but re-emerging. USA and Europe are not developed but declining economies.

Citing the example of how MDG has been destructive, Ms. Paskal spoke about the Kingdom of Tonga in the South Pacific. This country has 99% literacy, one of the highest per capita PhDs in the world and among the earliest written constitutions in the world (1857). But from a MDG point of view, because empowerment of women is inadequate, Tonga is unable to achieve its goals. In worst cases, not attaining MDGs demoralises the nation, discourages investment, criminalises men and destroys families.

Commenting on the relationship between India or Africa, Ms. Paskal said, India’s economy can help Africa’s smaller economies, while India can provide distance education which it excels at, concluding that Symbiosis International University and its students are perfect in this sense to provide help.

**Concluding remarks and vote of thanks**

Amb. Sudhir Devare

Amb. Sudhir Devare, Chairperson of Track–VI and Convener of the International Relations Conference delivered a vote of thanks. He said that it was indeed a great privilege to have two distinguished personalities like Vice President of India Hon’ble Hamid Ansari and Hon’ble President of Afghanistan Mr. Hamid Karzai for this conference. Large number of ministers, diplomats, faculties, research scholars from all over India and many other countries participated in the conference. They all expressed their views and ideas and it would take some time for us to digest it. Numbers of suggestions were made by the experts to improve upon the international relations in their respective tracks discussed for two days. Many fresh ideas were originated and overall there were many takeaways from this conference, which certainly will feed into the larger policy making at United Nations level and they definitely might have taken note of this. He further said that it was truly an International Conference; the topic was unusual and purposefully chosen. The conference will certainly act as building bricks for future international relations world across. He also said that International relations are not only about agreements, political relations, etc. but is beyond that.

Lastly, he expressed his gratefulness to Dr Vidya Yeravdekar and Dr S.B. Mujumdar for their encouragement and efforts; Dr. Rajani Gupte for her support and encouragement and the entire Symbiosis team for their hard work to make this conference a great success.