

## Economic Resurgence in SSC can recast global landscape



*From right to left: Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; Prof. Li Xiaoyun, Chair, China International Development Research Network (CIDRN), Beijing and Network of Southern Think Tanks (NeST); Mr. Yuri Afanasiev, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in India, New Delhi; Mr. Jaokim Reiter, Deputy Secretary-General, UNCTAD, Geneva; Ambassador S.T. Devare, Chairman, Research Advisory Council, RIS, New Delhi; Ram Sathe Chair for International Studies, Symbiosis International University, Pune; Ms. Sujata Mehta, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi; Mr. Wu Hongbo, Under Secretary-General, United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations, New York; Prof. Anuradha Chenoy, Dean, School of International Studies, JNU; Chairperson, FIDC, New Delhi; and Mr. Arun Kumar Sahu, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and Coordinator of the South-South Conference releasing the RIS publication entitled 'Resurging South: Stylized Facts'.*

The two-day conference on SSC began on March 10, Thursday with the renowned scholars and experts underscoring the growing importance of south-South Cooperation in the changing international development landscape. The inaugural session chaired by Amb. S.T. Devare, Chairman, Research Advisory Council, RIS and Ram Sathe Chair for International Studies, Symbiosis International University, Pune, stress on increasing intra-south trade in investment and development cooperation. Ms. Sujata Mehta, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi in her keynote address highlighted the emergence of the South. 'The South is the hub of economic vibrancy and enterprise,' said Ms. Mehta. She highlighted, 'There is a marked increase in intra-South trade, investment and development Cooperation. The South explains the current growth dynamics of the world. The contribution of the South

to incremental world growth has outpaced the advanced economies.’ Adding to this she said, ‘Decline in NSC is being filled by SSC and perhaps the latter would replace the former.’

In a pioneering move, the Network of Southern Think-Tanks (NeST), which brings together leading institutions and think-tanks of South, was also launched at the conference. NeST will serve as a knowledge and information bridge for Southern countries, sharing similar developmental experiences and socio-economic challenges.

Placing broader issues concerning SSC in perspective Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS said: ‘Conference on South-South Cooperation is being held in the backdrop of the changing narrative of North-South cooperation and evolving new paradigm of South-South Cooperation, particularly, in the context of South emerging as a new centre of economic gravity. This is all the more important in light of the recent economic upheaval that the Southern economies are going through.’ He also underlined, ‘The Conference becomes all the more important because it has brought together academia and practitioners of South unlike the other occasions, where South had remained beholden to the perspectives emerging from the North.’

Mr. Yuri Afanasiev, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in India, applauded RIS for holding the conference at a very opportune time when the world is witnessing the rise of SSC and the global agenda on Sustainable Development Goals has been laid. He also highlighted the growing importance of the Global South in the world development architecture.

Mr. Li Xiaoyun, Chair, China International Development Research Network (CIDRN) addressing the gathering said, ‘Starting 1980s the world has seen structural change with the rise of the South.’

Mr. Wo Hongbo, Under Secretary General, United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations, in his special address emphasised that the conference is a timely initiative as 2030 agenda calls for partnership among all nations.

Prof. Anuradha Chenoy, Dean, School of International Studies, JNU, and Chairperson, FIDC, said, ‘SSC framework is an indispensable alliance on the shoulder of the South. She also reiterated the fact the SSC is different from North South Cooperation as it is not just about economic growth but about taking people out of poverty and all types of insecurities.’

Mr. Jaokim Reiter, *Deputy Secretary-General, UNCTAD, Geneva* also highlighted the growing importance of the rising South by giving some statistical evidences: South-South trade has increased to 25 per cent from 6 per cent in the 1990s and growth in South-South FDI.

Mr. Arun Kumar Sahu, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and Coordinator of the South-South Conference extended the vote of thanks.

On this occasion RIS also unveiled two important publications capturing different facets of SSC entitled 'South South Cooperation: Mapping New Frontiers' and 'Resurging South: Stylized Facts'.

### **Exhibition on South-South Cooperation**

Exhibition on South-South cooperation was also inaugurated today, as part of the two-day conference, in presence of senior diplomats, officials from UN agencies and experts from around the world. In the exhibition 38 institutions comprising of government, private and international, are showcasing their products and core competencies which are furthering South-South Cooperation.