



Strategic and Economic Capacity Building Programme
Advanced Briefing Programme
Critical Strategic & Economic Themes for the Future

This programme addresses the need for capacity-building in the strategic and external policy community in South Asia. In a complex, dynamic world, where economics, politics and military issues inter-twine on an ever increasing scale, policy-makers, media-persons, and researchers have to deal with multi-faceted issues and problems. Their task has become all the more challenging in the post cold war era, where set positions are being replaced by fluid coalition-building and more nuanced approaches. External policy makers will increasingly be required to clearly prioritize their national interests in the global arena and take more informed decisions of cooperation and conflict going well beyond the South Asian region to Asian and global issues.

It is increasingly being felt that there is a capacity deficit in South Asia in terms of the intellectual capacity and institutional infrastructure for external policy making in a complex and rapidly changing world. In India, for example, this has been amply demonstrated by recent events related to the Indo-US nuclear deal, India's membership of the Security Council and the impasse in the Doha Round. There is insufficient understanding of international issues facing the country at a time when increasingly it is being asked to shoulder new responsibilities. This is true even among academicians, politicians, government officials, media and the intelligentsia in general.

A far larger policy community comprising intellectuals, younger diplomats and opinion makers, covering both strategic and economic security aspects, and a genuine interaction among them is therefore required for a globalizing India. Unless the capacity bottleneck is resolved, India's external policies will tend to be parochial, reactive and driven by sectional agendas rather than strategic objectives. Its capacity to act on the international stage beyond its narrow regional concerns as an effective stake-holder in shared liberal values and security perspectives will consequently also remain limited.

The situation in other South Asian countries exhibit similar gaps. Their external perspectives are largely informed by concerns of their immediate geographies and their relationships with major global powers. This creates a hiatus in terms of South Asian regional co-operation possibilities and a narrow and short term and focus in their bilateral relationship with India.

This workshop is a response to this capacity deficit in the strategic and external policy community in South Asia. With internationally reputed faculty and experts, it aims at exposing South Asia's younger diplomats and opinion makers to front line international strategic thinking and analysis, in an innovative, interactive framework. There will be more than 20 sessions over a period of two weeks, on issues of the future organized within the following broad themes:

The Global Situation: Broad overview of developments in the global economy, the shifting balance of power, international trade and governance regimes, and scenarios for the future

The South Asian Context :The rise of Asia, prospects for regional cooperation in South Asia, scenarios for India's future

The Dynamics of Power & Security Challenges: Global and regional geopolitics and security issues

Climate change, Energy and Natural Resources: The present situation, future scenarios, problems of international cooperation

Within these themes, there will be 21 sessions covering the following issues:

- The Uncertain World
- The New Economic Order
- The Decline of the West?
- The Rise of China: Myth and Reality
- Global Governance: Evolution and Reform
- International Trade: the Dangers of Protectionism
- The Asian Century
- Whither South Asian Integration?
- India: Many Futures
- Regional Security Architecture and Dynamics
- Jihadism and the Af-Pak Region
- Nuclear, Space & other Critical Technologies
- Cyber Security
- Strategic challenges in the Indian Ocean
- Human Security
- Smart Power
- Climate Control as a Global Public Good
- The Energy Challenge: towards a Carbon-Free World
- Energy Cooperation
- Water Resources: Conflict and Cooperation
- The Next Green Revolution: Agriculture & Food Security

Each session will include one or more presentations, followed by an interactive period, which could include group discussions, case studies, exercises or strategy/simulation games. The interactive sessions will draw upon the experiences, and individual initiative of the participants, who will have an opportunity to present their own ideas. A comprehensive set of background readings for each topic, recommended by the faculty, will be made available to the participants.

Details of the themes, sessions, and faculty are below.

Draft SECP Advanced Briefing Programme (with proposed faculty¹)

Critical Strategic & Economic Themes for the Future

November 8-20, 2010, New Delhi

Keynote address: *Future issues and perspectives*: Kishore Mahbubani¹

Theme 1. The Global Situation

Session 1) The Uncertain World

Sundeep Waslekar²

Synopsis: Global trends driving the future strategic environment

Session 2) The New Global Economic Order

Bill Emmott³

Synopsis: Long-run consequences of the financial crisis for the world economy and geopolitics

Session 3) The Decline of the West?

Fareed Zakaria⁴

Synopsis: The position of America & the Atlantic Alliance in the global order

Session 4) The Rise of China: Myth and Reality

Bill Emmott

Synopsis: Critical review of China's economic and political power, and its geopolitical implications

¹ To be confirmed

Session 5) Global Governance: Evolution and Reform

Richard Haass⁵

Synopsis: The evolution of the global governance architecture, and reform of the international monetary and financial system

Session 6) International Trade: the Dangers of Protectionism

Richard Baldwin⁶

Synopsis: The current status of the multilateral trade regime, and scenarios for future evolution, bilateralism and regionalism as alternatives.

Theme 2. The South Asian Context

Session 7) The Asian Century

Rajat Nag⁷

Synopsis: The opportunities and challenges facing Asia in the global economic order

Session 8) Whither South Asian Integration?

Rajiv Kumar

Synopsis: The logic, economics and politics of cooperation and integration

Session 9) India: Many Futures

Rajiv Kumar

Synopsis: Alternative scenarios for growth, equity and reform, based on strategic options

Theme 3. The Dynamics of Power & Security Challenges

Session 10) Regional Security Architecture and Dynamics

Amitabh Mattoo⁸

Synopsis: Evolving dynamics of major/regional power relationships in South Asia and the neighbourhood

Session 11) Jihadism and the Af-Pak Region

Ahmed Rashid⁹

Synopsis: Security challenges and strategic scenarios

Session 12) Nuclear, Space & other Critical Technologies: Strategic Challenges

Brahma Chellaney¹⁰, Y.S. Rajan¹¹

Synopsis: Recent developments in critical technologies, and international technology control regimes

Session 13) Cyber Security

N. Balakrishnan¹²

Synopsis: Security challenges of a networked world

Session 14) Strategic Challenges in the Indian Ocean

K. Raja Menon¹³

Synopsis: Maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region, and China's "String of Pearls" strategy

Session 15) Human Security

Mahendra Lama¹⁴

Synopsis: Migrant populations, ethnic & communal tensions, challenges to democracy and human rights

Session 16) Smart Power

Shashi Tharoor¹⁵

Synopsis: The growing relevance of "soft power" as a tool of diplomacy, and regional examples

Theme 4. Climate change, Energy and Natural Resources

Session 17) Climate Control as a Global Public Good

R. K. Pachauri¹⁶

Synopsis: Climate change cooperation in the post-COP-15 world

Session 18) The Energy Challenge: towards a Carbon-Free World

Kirit Parikh¹⁷

Synopsis: Long-term scenarios for conventional and new energy resources

Session 19) Energy Cooperation

Nandita Mongia¹⁸

Synopsis: Regional cooperation in energy production and distribution

Session 20) Water Resources: Conflict and Cooperation

B. G. Verghese¹⁹

Synopsis: Strategic scenarios for management of international rivers

Session 21) The Next Green Revolution: Agriculture & Food Security

M. S. Swaminathan²⁰

Synopsis: Scenarios and policy options for agricultural productivity and food security

Concluding Session: Amb. Santosh Kumar

NOTES ON THE FACULTY

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- ¹ Dean, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore
- ² President, Strategic Foresight Group, India
- ³ Former editor, The Economist
- ⁴ Editor, Newsweek International
- ⁵ President of the Council on Foreign Relations, USA
- ⁶ Professor of International Economics, Graduate Institute, Geneva
- ⁷ Managing Director General, Asian Development Bank
- ⁸ Professor of International Politics at New Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University, Member, National Knowledge Commission
- ⁹ Pakistani journalist, author of several books about Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Central Asia
- ¹⁰ Professor of Strategic Studies, at the New Delhi-based Centre for Policy Research
- ¹¹ Well known authority in the field of technology development
- ¹² Professor, Super Computer Education and Research Centre at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore
- ¹³ Rear Admiral (Retired), Indian Navy, Distinguished Fellow, Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies, New Delhi
- ¹⁴ Professor, Centre for South, Central, Southeast Asian and Southwest Pacific Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University
- ¹⁵ Minister of State, External Affairs, Govt. of India
- ¹⁶ Director General, The Energy and Resources Institute, New Delhi, and Chairman, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- ¹⁷ Member, Planning Commission, Government of India.
- ¹⁸ Principal Advisor on Energy and Climate Change for the South Asia Regional Initiative/ Energy (USAID)
- ¹⁹ Visiting Professor, Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi
- ²⁰ Eminent agriculture scientist, founder and Chairman of the MS Swaminathan Research Foundation