



Ministry of
External Affairs
Government of India



Indian Council
of World Affairs

8th INDIAN OCEAN DIALOGUE

Post Pandemic Indian Ocean

Leveraging Digital Technologies for Health,
Education, Development and Trade in
IORA Member States



15 December 2021

CONTENTS

About ICWA.....	5
About IORA	6
Concept Note	7
Programme.....	13
Bio-Profiles.....	19
Session I: Embracing e-Health to fight COVID-19	23
Session II: Investments in e-Education.....	28
Session III: Development through Digital Technologies	35
Session IV: Digital Shipping, Smart Ports and Trade	42

About ICWA

The Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) was established in 1943 by a group of eminent intellectuals led by Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru and Dr. H.N. Kunzru. Its principal objective was to create an Indian perspective on international relations and act as a repository of knowledge and thinking on foreign policy issues. An Act of Parliament in 2001 declared the ICWA to be an ‘institution of national importance’. The ICWA is headquartered in Sapru House, an iconic heritage building in the heart of New Delhi that was inaugurated by the first Prime Minister of India, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru in May 1955. The council today conducts policy research through an in-house faculty as well as through external experts. It regularly organizes an array of intellectual activities including conferences, seminars, roundtable discussions, bilateral dialogues, international conferences, lectures and outreach activities in India and abroad and brings out a range of publications. The Council has a well-stocked library, an active website, and publishes the journal ‘India Quarterly’. ICWA has over 50 MoUs with international think tanks and research institutions to promote better understanding in international issues and develop areas of mutual cooperation. The Council also has partnerships with leading research institutions, think tanks and universities in India.

About IORA

The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) is a dynamic inter-governmental organisation aimed at strengthening regional cooperation and sustainable development within the Indian Ocean region through its 23 Member States and 10 Dialogue Partners. It was established on 7 March 1997. The vision for IORA originated during a visit by late President Nelson Mandela of South Africa to India in 1995.

As the third largest ocean woven together by trade routes, commands control of major sea-lanes carrying half of the world's container ships, one third of the world's bulk cargo traffic and two thirds of the world's oil shipments, the Indian Ocean remains an important lifeline to international trade and transport. Home to nearly 2.7 billion people, Member States whose shores are washed by the ocean are rich in cultural diversity and richness in languages, religions, traditions, arts and cuisines. They vary considerably in terms of their areas, populations and levels of economic development. They may also be divided into a number of sub-regions (Australasia, Southeast Asia, South Asia, West Asia and Eastern & Southern Africa), each with their own regional groupings (such as ASEAN, SAARC, GCC and SADC, to name a few). Despite such diversity and differences, these countries are bound together by the Indian Ocean.

IORA's apex body is the Council of Foreign Ministers (COM) which meets annually. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) assumed the role of Chair since November 2019 - November 2021, followed by the People's Republic of Bangladesh November 2021 - November 2023. A committee of Senior Officials (CSO) meets twice a year to progress IORA's agenda and consider recommendations by Working Groups and forums of officials, business and academics to implement policies and projects to improve the lives of people within the Indian Ocean Member States.



Concept Note

The COVID-19 pandemic has left a trail of devastation across the globe and no region or country can claim to be unaffected. It has created unprecedented challenge for the health care infrastructure, peoples' livelihoods have been lost, socioeconomic development programmes put on hold, schools and campuses are in lockdown, there is widespread disruption in supply chains, and the world of work has undergone transformation. The pandemic also caused incomparable alterations in human activity and changes in behavior; however people exhibited enormous resilience by quickly adapting to disruptions. The COVID-19 virus is still active in many countries albeit in different variants, and States are putting up a robust fight to restore normalcy through aggressive national vaccination programmes as also by sharing vaccines with needy countries.

The pandemic also triggered new opportunities for mankind to rethink habits, procedures-practices, organisations-structures, programmes, and make changes to daily life, businesses and operations. It created innovative methodologies, and States, governments and bureaucracies were quick to use these through systematic changes in existing practices.

There was widespread use of digital technologies such as video-based communication platforms, and computers and smart devices were put to extensive use. By all accounts, digital solutions helped sustain the heavily burdened health infrastructure, online education, employment in the form of 'work from home', and trade and business sector augmented their digital infrastructure for seamless transactions and delivery of goods and services.

SESSIONS & FOCUS AREAS

The Dialogue comprises four Plenary Sessions which focus on the Health, Education, Development and Trade sectors.



Session 1: Embracing e-Health to fight COVID-19

The pandemic overwhelmed the existing health infrastructure in many countries constraining delivery of optimal health care services to the people. This gap was quickly filled through accelerated adoption of digital technologies in the life sciences and healthcare sectors. The governments marshaled efficient and affordable digital platforms, Apps facilitated tele-consultation to reduce stress on hospitals, doctors and medical staff, and e-pharmacy platforms mushroomed to deliver medicines. However, in many cases the pandemic brought to fore weaknesses in digital infrastructure for medical and health services. The panelist in this session will focus on:

- (a) National digital capacities and successes in delivery of e-health services during the pandemic.
- (b) The role of IORA in bridging existing digital gaps in healthcare sector in Member States.
- (c) Regional supply chains for essential medicines, food and other items to help the needy Member States in times of crisis.
- (d) Can Member States set up IORA Vaccine Manufacturers Network?

Session 2: Investments in e-Education

The COVID-19 caused widespread disruption in education affecting over a billion students due to school and university closures. Physical classroom instructions in many parts of the globe have now been replaced by e-learning. The digital industry has rolled out several solutions such as online tutorials, tools for virtual tutoring via video conferencing and there has been exponential growth in software and specialist Apps for delivery of academic curriculum, offering teachers real-time correction of homework, and smart calendar scheduling. While rapid move towards online learning has befitted many, there were numerous constraints for both students and educators due to lack of internet/insufficient bandwidth, non-availability of smart devices among the poor students, etc. This session will discuss the future of teaching methods in school and university in IORA Member States. The issues for consideration by the panelist are:

- (a) What infrastructure challenges were faced by Member States in the delivery of e-education during the pandemic?
- (b) Is the hybrid model of education (physical and online) bringing benefits to the students and the educators in Member States?
- (c) Can IORA foster virtual network of universities and schools in the Indian Ocean region and create a vibrant academic space.
- (d) The role of 'impact investors' or 'venture capital funds' for a resilient digital education infrastructure across borders and societies.



Session 3: Development through Digital Technologies

The UN 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a set of quantitative goals for the international community. Several IORA Priority Areas are directly connected with SDGs and present a unique opportunity for IORA Member States to transform their economies and societies through inclusive and equitable growth. There are global trends in harnessing ICT technologies in pursuing national SDGs and many countries have embraced these for economic and social development. These technologies are catalyzing development, enhancing connectivity, enabling human capital through digital training and education, and facilitating seamless access to financial services. IORA and its Member States can accelerate transition towards a digitally transformed Indian Ocean region and bridge the digital gap by investing in digital infrastructure and deliver development to the people and the region. The important issues for consideration are:

- (a) What are the challenges in harnessing ICT technologies in pursuing national SDGs?
- (b) Can affordable digital financial services help in poverty reduction and economic growth?
- (c) What measures can be adopted to reduce ‘digital divide’ and ensure ‘digital inclusion’.
- (d) The role of IORA Working Group on Science, Technology, and Innovation (WGSTI) in augmenting digital capacities of Member States?

Session 4: Digital Shipping, Smart Ports and Trade

The COVID-19 nearly crippled the global maritime supply chains including disruptions in shipping and port operations, and movement of shipping crew was restricted due absence of air connectivity. The industry is now regaining operations and experts are confident of strong growth in the coming months. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the shipping community was preparing to induct Industry 4.0 technologies to bring greater automation, efficiency and transparency in maritime supply chains. These technologies can potentially shape the future of Indian Ocean maritime trading system built around ships, ports and freight supply chains. The regional industry leaders recognise the importance of using new technologies and adopting innovative models for operations. This session will focus on:

- (a) Role of Industry 4.0 technologies in maritime operations.
- (b) What steps Member States are taking for digitalization of maritime infrastructure?
- (c) Capacities required by IORA Member States to remain abreast of the ongoing technological transformation in the global shipping industry.
- (d) What steps can the WGSTI take to build regional capacities for training skilled human resource?

It is hoped that during these discussion Member States will not only share their successes and best practices with digital technologies to fight the pandemic, but also highlight the new digital needs and innovative approaches to fighting future catastrophic events as also harnessing these technologies in various facets of human activity and in achieving the UN 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



PROGRAMME



15 December 2021

1030-1105 hrs IST

Inaugural Session

1030-1035 hrs IST

Opening Remarks

Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh

Director General

Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi

1035-1045 hrs IST

Welcome Remarks

Dr. Gatot Hari Gunawan

Acting Secretary General

Indian Ocean Rim Association

IORA Headquarters, Mauritius

1045-1105 hrs IST

Keynote Address

Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh

Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs

Government of India



Session 1

1110-1200 hrs IST

Embracing e-Health to fight COVID-19

Chair

Dr. Nivedita Ray

Director Research Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi

Speakers

Dr. Beedarshansingh Caussy

Director Health Services, Mauritius

Shri Lav Agarwal

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health, Government of India

Eng. Mahinda B. Herath

Chief Executive Officer, ICT, Sri Lanka

Q&A and Discussion

Summing up by Chair

1200-1210 hrs IST

Break

Session 2

1210-1320 hrs IST

Investments in e-Education

Chair

Prof. (Dr.) Romeela Mohee

Commissioner of Higher Education Commission, Mauritius

Speakers

Mrs. Kogie Govender

Science Engagement Coordinator, SAEON, South Africa

Dr. Abolfazl Bagherifard

Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health, Iran

Dr. David Mickler

Senior Lecturer, University of Western, Australia

Ms. M.A.V.S. Edirisuriya

Deputy Director, Ministry of Education, Sri Lanka

Mr. Sameera Jayawardena

Director, Capacity Building, ICTA , Sri Lanka

Q&A and Discussion

Summing up by Chair

1320-1400 hrs IST

Long Break



Session 3

1400-1510 hrs IST

Development through Digital Technologies

Chair

Mr. Mohit Kapoor

Chairman, AI and Digital Transformation Committee, FICCI and Chief Technology Officer, Mahindra Group, India

Speakers

Mr. Rajnish Hawabhay

Chief Technical Officer, Ministry of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation, Mauritius

Mr. Kanchana Thudugala

Chief Digital Government Officer, ICTA, Sri Lanka

Rear Admiral Sudarshan Srikhande (Retd.)

Indian Navy

Prof. Jessica Fraser

Senior lecturer, NMU Business School, South Africa

Ms. Wissal Khalifa AL Busaidi

Information Security Specialist at Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), Oman

Q&A and Discussion

Summing up by Chair

1510-1520 hrs IST

Break

Session 4

1520-1600 hrs IST

Digital Shipping, Smart Ports and Trade

Chair

Dr. Prashantha Jayamanna

Vice Chairman, Sri Lanka Ports Authority

Speakers

Mr. Rahim Faghieh Abdullahi

Officer-in-charge, Maritime Safety and Security, Maritime and Ports Organization, Iran

Vice Admiral M.P.Muralidharan,

AVSM & BAR, NM (Retd.),
Former Member Armed Forces Tribunal, Former Director General, Indian Coast Guard, India

Q&A and Discussion

Summing up by Chair

1600-1615 hrs IST

Valedictory Address

Mrs. Riva Ganguly Das

Secretary (East) Ministry of External Affairs,
Government of India

1615-1620 hrs IST

Vote of Thanks

Dr. Nivedita Ray

Director Research
Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi



BIO-PROFILES



Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh

Director General, ICWA

Ambassador Vijay Thakur Singh holds a Master's degree in Economics from Himachal Pradesh University. She joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1985. Her first posting was in the Embassy of India in Madrid, Spain, where she later went as Deputy Chief of Mission in 2006. She worked in the Ministry of External Affairs from 1989 to 1999, handling India's relations with Afghanistan and Pakistan. She was posted as Counsellor in the Embassy of India in Kabul from 2003 to 2005.

She has had multilateral experience, particularly in economic and environmental issues. She was Counsellor in the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations in New York from 2000 to 2003. She has served as Joint Secretary to the President of India from August 2007 to August 2012 and as Joint Secretary at the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) from 2012 to 2013. She has been High Commissioner of India to Singapore from 2013 to 2016 and Ambassador of India to Ireland from 2016 to 2018.

For two years from 2018, she was Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs and retired in September 2020.





Dr. Gatot Hari Gunawan

Acting Secretary General, Indian Ocean Rim Association
IORA Headquarters, Mauritius

Dr. Gunawan is seconded from the Republic of Indonesia and has been posted as a Director at IORA Secretariat, Mauritius since 1 February 2018. Prior to his appointment at the IORA secretariat, Dr. Gunawan has served in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia since the year 2000 with a wide-ranging expertise and experience related to ASEAN External Affairs as well as ASEAN Socio-Cultural Cooperation. During 2010-2012, Dr. Gunawan served as an Assistant to Director for ASEAN-Japan relations of Department for ASEAN External Affairs. He later served as a Deputy Director for Science and Technology, Environment and Disaster Management of ASEAN Socio-Cultural Department for the period of 2016-2017.

Dr. Gunawan served as a Consul of the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in Osaka, Japan during 2006-2009. He looked after a large number of issues related to consular affairs, information as well as economics and development. Dr. Gunawan is among a few Indonesian experts on the ASEAN-Japan relations. He earned his Master and Doctorate Degree in the Tsukuba University, Japan.

Dr. Gunawan has a deep knowledge on maritime connectivity, environmental sustainability and disaster management in particular under the framework of ASEAN Cooperation. With such knowledge, he envisioned IORA to further strengthen on the aforesaid cooperation for the benefits of the people, the region and beyond.



Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh

Minister of State (External Affairs),
Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India

Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh was born on 1st September, 1952 at Kongba Nandeibam Leikai, Imphal East, Manipur. He was sworn in as a Union Minister of State by the President of India on 7th July 2021. He officially took charge as Minister of State for External Affairs and Education on 8th July 2021.

Dr. Singh is a Post Graduate in Geography and earned his Ph. D. from Gauhati University. He served in different capacities including as a Lecturer, Assistant Professor, Deputy Registrar and Registrar. He also served as Director in-charge of the UGC Academic Staff College and College Development Director of Manipur University till his superannuation in 2012. He was a Senior Visiting Fellow in the Department of Geography in Manipur University, until he joined electoral politics in 2013. He has published 8 books and made numerous contributions to various national and international journals, and publications. During his academic career, Dr. Singh also participated in several national and international consultative meetings on Human Resource Management, Security Sector Reforms and Land and Livelihood Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Since his election as a Member of the 17th Lok Sabha in 2019, Dr. Singh has actively participated as a Member to the Parliamentary Committees on Central Council of Health and Family Welfare; Standing Committee for Science & Technology; Environment & Forest and Climate Change; Consultative Committee for DoNER and Parliamentary Rules Committee.

Dr. Singh is married to Ch. Debala Devi, and has two sons. He dearly cherishes the memories of his daughter.



SESSION - 1
Embracing e-Health
to fight COVID-19



Dr. Nivedita Ray

Director Research Indian Council of World Affairs,
New Delhi

Dr. Nivedita Ray is the Director (Research) at the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), New Delhi. She has done her Ph.D from School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. Her areas of research interest include African Affairs, BRICS, IBSA, South- South and Triangular Development Cooperation, Indian Foreign Policy, Indian Diaspora, Maritime Security, Gender and Conflict Resolution.

She has edited the books India- and Africa: The Road Ahead, Africa and India: A Partnership for Development and Growth and Tagore the Eternal Seeker: Footprints of the World Traveler. She has authored the book India's Engagement with East Africa: Opportunities and Challenges.





Dr. Beedarshansingh Caussy

Director Health Services, Mauritius

Dr. B. S. Caussy is a Mauritian Neurosurgeon and since September 2020, he is performing the duties of the Director, Health Services at the Ministry of Health and Wellness in Mauritius. He is also an Adjunct Professor in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at the University of Mauritius since November 2020. From 2019 to early September 2020, he was the Regional Health Director of Victoria Hospital. Prior to that, he has been the Consultant in Charge of the Neurosurgery department at Victoria Hospital and also one of the pioneers to revamp that department in 2001. He earned his MBBS at Ranchi University, India in May 1989 and did postgraduate studies in Master of Surgery, BHU India in July 1994. He pursued a Fellowship in Neurosurgery at the University of Dundee, Scotland UK in 2001 where he received a Certificate of Achievement and completed his MMSc at the same University in July 2008.



Shri Lav Agarwal

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health,
Government of India

Lav Agarwal is an Indian bureaucrat and engineer. He is an IAS officer in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, serving as a Joint Secretary. Before his appointment to the Health Ministry in 2016, Agarwal served in various state governments. He is regarded as the face of Government of India's fight against COVID-19 due to his media briefings before the Press Information Bureau in the National Media Centre on a daily basis.





Eng. Mahinda B. Herath

Chief Executive Officer, ICT Agency of Sri Lanka

He is an ICT Specialist with a 360-degree exposure in the industry; well versed in the entire value chain of ICT, from Strategy Formulation, Research & Development, Planning & Detailed Design, Regulation, Business Administration & Management, Operations, Technology Management and steering of Company Transformations.

He Has been involved in the activities of ITU study groups, Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS) and International Development Research Centre (IDRC), having authored several research papers and a book chapter on Telco industry.

He Has undergone extensive training in technology and technology management with a number of reputed international operators, including Telia AB of Sweden, France Telecom, AT&T of USA and KDD of Japan.

SESSION - 2
INVESTMENTS IN
e-EDUCATION

CHAIR - Prof (Dr.) Romeela Mohee

Commissioner of Higher Education Commission, Mauritius



Mrs. Kogie Govender

Science Engagement Coordinator, SAEON, South Africa

Kogie is employed at the South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON). At SAEON, Kogie is involved in the coordination of environmental science programmes in the field of marine sciences and terrestrial ecology. The environmental science programmes at SAEON promotes scientific enquiry, problem solving skills, construction and application of life science and geography knowledge. At SAEON the environment is used as a tool to activate all senses of the beneficiaries that we target through exploration, discovery and scientific adventure. SAEON is an accredited provider for educator training workshops in the field of environmental sciences and the course material can be found at <https://education.saeon.ac.za/>. The SAEON science engagement programme is responsible for implementing the All Atlantic Blue Schools Programme in South Africa.

Kogie has a BSc. Hons. and an MSc. from the University of Witwatersrand. In 2015, she completed the Management Advance Programme (MAP) from Wits Business School. Kogie has a Prince 2 Project Management Certification.





Dr. Abolfazl Bagherifard

Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health, Iran

Dr. Abolfazl Bagherifard is an Orthopaedic surgeon with a fellowship in Knee Surgery. He has a M.D. from Tehran University of Medical Sciences. He also has a clinical fellowship in Sports Medicine from Barcelona, Spain. He is a Professor at the Department of Orthopedic Surgery, Iran University of Medical Sciences. Along with this he is a member of the Iranian Orthopedic Association and Iranian Society of Knee Surgery, Arthroscopy, and Sport Traumatology (ISKAST).



Dr. David Mickler

Senior Lecturer, University of Western Australia

Dr. David Mickler is a Senior Lecturer in Foreign Policy & International Relations in the discipline of Political Science & International Relations, based in the School of Social Sciences, where he is Program Coordinator for Postgraduate International Relations. David is also Director of the UWA Africa Research & Engagement Centre (AfREC). David is a Senior Fellow, Higher Education Academy (SFHEA), and a Fellow of the UWA Public Policy Institute.

Previously, David was Chair of the Political Science and International Relations discipline at UWA (2015-16); School of Social Sciences Postgraduate Coursework Coordinator (2018-20); Co-Editor of the Australasian Review of African Studies (ARAS) (2015-16), Convener of the 39th Annual Conference of the African Studies Association of Australasia and the Pacific (AFSAAP) (2016), Founding Coordinator of the UWA Africa Research Cluster (2015-18) and Founding Co-Chair of the Worldwide Universities Network Global Africa Group (2015-18). Prior to joining UWA, David was a Lecturer in International Relations at the University of Melbourne (2010-14) and a Visiting Scholar at the Institute for Peace and Security Studies, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia (2013). He was also a Visiting Researcher with the African Union Commission in Ethiopia and South Africa (2017) and a Visiting Scholar with the Centre for Advancement of Scholarship, University of Pretoria, South Africa (2019).





Ms. M.A.V.S. Edirisuriya

Deputy Director, Ministry of Education of Sri Lanka

Mrs. M.A.Vasana Surangi Edirisuriya has completed her primary and secondary education from Southlands College, Galle. She entered University of Colombo and completed B.Sc degree. She holds a Master's of Science in IT from University of Moratuwa and Master's of Science in IT Management from University of Staffordshire. She completed Post Graduate Diploma in Education from Open University of Sri Lanka. She joined Sri Lanka Education Administrative Service in 2005 through open Competitive examination and is having more than 15 years' experiences in ICT and Education field. At present she is a Class I officer of Sri Lanka Education Administrative Service and holding the post of Deputy Director of Education in the ICT Branch of the Ministry of Education.



Mr. Sameera Jayawardena

Director/Capacity building, ICTA, Sri Lanka

A Transformational Leader, Strategist and Results driven individual with over 15 years of experience in digitization Portfolio with program and Project Management on digital technologies, Transformation Strategy & Policy, Digital education, HR Capacity Building, eGovernment, eDevelopment and Digital transformation. Previously the Head of Transformation was instrumental in devising and executing Digital Transformation and Digital Development portfolio Management on various areas of digitization including Digital transformation in enterprises, Government, Social empowerment, Digital education transformation and Human resources capacity building. His experience is complemented by having held Leadership positions in a number of national and institutional development initiatives aiming to improve different sectors in government enterprises and general public. He has managed an extensive portfolio of initiatives and projects with stakeholders from top level political policy makers to grassroots across government, Industry Associations, NGOs, Multinational business entities, Development agencies and international experts etc.



SESSION - 3
DEVELOPMENT
THROUGH DIGITAL
TECHNOLOGIES



Mr. Mohit Kapoor

Chairman, AI and Digital Transformation Committee,
FICCI & Chief Technology Officer, Mahindra Group, India

Mr. Mohit Kapoor is responsible for driving the group's ambitious digital transformation agenda working closely with the group businesses and by leveraging emerging technologies to create new business models and transform customer experiences across the diverse set of companies.

He joined the Mahindra Group in October 2020 from DBS Bank where he was the head of technology optimization and head of Asia Hub at Hyderabad. He led the development of digital banking capabilities focusing on technology innovation across mobile, data, AI and cloud, amongst other deep engineering areas.

Mr. Kapoor brings with him around 30 years of experience in Global Technology & Operations with the last 17 years in Banking and financial services industry.

Prior to joining DBS, he was the Chief Technology Officer for Bank of America services across the world and the CIO for Mphasis before that. He is electronics engineer with advanced management and leadership certification from Cornell and Georgia Tech.





Mr. Rajnish Hawabhay

Chief Technical Officer, Ministry of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation, Mauritius

Mr. Rajnish Hawabhay began his career as an Analyst/ Programmer at Blanche Birger Co Ltd. From 1996 to 1999 he served as Assistant Manager at the Industrial and Vocation Training Board. From 1999 to 2003 he was IT Manager at the Cargo Handling Corporation Ltd. From 2003 to 2006 & 2007 to 2008, he acted as Project Manager at Central Informatics Bureau and was on secondment at the SADC Secretariat under the Young Professionals Programme from 2006 to 2007. From 2008 to 2014, he served as acting director at the Central Informatics Bureau and in November 2014 he was appointed the Chief Technical Officer at the Ministry of Information Technology, Communication & Innovation. Mr. Rajnish Hawabhay holds a Masters in Leadership development in ICT and the Knowledge Society and a Master's degree in Business Administration with Specialisation in Finance from the University of Mauritius.



Mr. Kanchana Thudugala

Chief Digital Government Officer, ICTA, Sri Lanka

Kanchana Thudugala has over 21 years of experience in leading Sri Lankan IT institutions, including over 14 years of experience as a Digital Government Specialist. He is a certified Project Management Professional and holds a B.Sc. (Hons) Degree in MIS and MBA in IT from the University of Moratuwa.

He has Specialized in delivering key Government transformational initiatives, including Government network and systems infrastructure, Platform services, common Applications and Services, and LOB solutions, focused on sustainable development.





Rear Admiral Sudarshan Srikhande (Retd.)

Indian Navy

RADM Shrikhande graduated from the NDA and commissioned on 01 July 1980. His qualifications include Masters from the Soviet Naval War College, St Petersburg (1985-88) in ASW and Weapon Engineering; Msc From Staff College(1995) winning the Scudder Medal his MSc, MPhil from the Indian Naval War College and highest distinction from the US Naval War College(2003) winning the Jerome Levy and Robert Bateman first Prizes and James Forrestal Seminar prize. He has served long years at sea, commanded three ships and been defense attaché in Australia and to other South Pacific nations. Ashore he has been commander War Room at NHQ, headed the IN's Tactical Evaluation Group and as a Captain was a founding member of the IN's Strategy and Operations Council. In flag rank he has been head of Naval Intelligence; Chief of Staff of SNC; Joint HQ staff duties and in the nuclear forces command and Flag Officer Doctrines and Concepts before requesting early retirement in July 2016. As a veteran he continues teaching at several institutions including the NDC, all War colleges and the CDM as well as the NDA and INA spanning strategy, operational art, RMA, Peloponnesian War, Indo-Pacific geopolitics, maritime history, leadership and ethics. He has participated in Track 1.5 discussions with China and the US and is associated with the Vivekananda International, Observer Research and the National Maritime Foundations, National Security Council Secretariat as well as other institutions. He will be part of the NWC, Goa Adjunct Faculty from July 2020.

He has presented papers in several notable Indian and international conferences and workshops and is pursuing his PHD at Mumbai university in sea-based nuclear deterrence. He writes for a few Indian and foreign portals and journals from time to time. He lives in Goa where he is associated (in honorary capacities) with the State Ex- servicemen's welfare committees and the Navy Foundation.



Prof. Jessica Fraser

Senior lecturer at NMU Business School, South Africa

Dr. Jessica Fraser is a Senior lecturer at the Nelson Mandela University Business School based in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa. She lectures Strategic Operations and LEAN Supply Chain Management on the MBA program. Her interest in Maritime stems from the fact that it is the least understood part of the international business networks. With a background in Economics, Marketing, Ecommerce and Retailing, combined with industry experience of working for Siemens, Procter & Gamble and Deloitte, her thinking focuses on applying this knowledge towards the empowerment and development of all global citizens. By connecting the public and private initiatives, she believes that science and technology offer opportunities for HOPE (Helping Other People Everywhere).



Ms. Wissal Khalifa AL Busaidi

Information Security Specialist at Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), Oman

Ms. Wissal Khalifa AL Busaidi is the Information Security Specialist at Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), Oman. MS Busaidi has a Bachelor's degree in Internet and E-Security from the University of Technology and Applied Sciences, Sultanate of Oman and a Master's degree in Cyber Security from University of Southampton, United Kingdom. Ms Busaidi has worked on digital transformation project and ISO 27001 standard project in different organisations.

SESSION - 4
**Digital Shipping,
Smart Ports and Trade**



Dr. Prashantha Jayamanna

Vice Chairman, Sri Lanka ports Authority

Dr. Prashantha Jayamanna is the founder, Chairman & CEO of DPJ Holdings & Affiliated Companies. In addition to that Dr. Jayamanna has also been appointed as a Senior Advisor to the Hon. Minister of Ports & Shipping and the Vice Chairman of Sri Lanka Ports Authority as well as sits on the Boards of several publicly listed and Private Companies such as South Asia Gateway Terminals Pvt. Ltd (SAGT), Colombo International Container Terminals Ltd. (CICT), Hambantota International Port Group Company Pvt. Ltd. (HIPG), Hambantota International Port Services Company Pvt. Ltd. (HIPS), Lanka Coal Company Ltd. etc. He is a Doctor of Business Administration, most awarded Youngest Entrepreneur in Sri Lanka, and Leadership Lecturer with vast knowledge in the implementation of strategic solution. Dr. Jayamanna holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Western Sydney - Australia, Owner President Management (OPM) from the Harvard Business School and Leading Product Innovation (LPI) from the Harvard University. He is a Certified Lecturer for Australian Institute of Business (AIB), Australian Institute of Management (AIM), Heriot Watt University -UK, University of Bedfordshire - UK, Visiting Lecture for Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), MSc, MBA and PhD Lecturer for all above institutions from 2012 onward.

Mr. Rahimm Faghih Abdollahi

Officer-in-charge, Maritime Safety and Security, Maritime and Ports Organization, Iran

Rahim Faghih Abdollahi, 35 years old, is from Iran. He is Port Facility Security Officer (PFSO) of IRAN Ports and Maritime Organization in Noshahr port. He has a BA in English translation, MA in Human Resource Management and has been working in maritime affairs for ten years after passing different courses. He has published in local papers about Smart ports and digitalization in shipping industry.





Vice Admiral M. P. Muralidharan

AVSM & BAR, NM (Retd.)
Former Director General, Indian Coast Guard,
Former Member Armed Forces Tribunal

Vice Admiral M.P. Muralidharan, an alumnus of National Defence Academy, Khadakvasla, was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 01 Jan 1975. In a career of almost four decades, the Admiral has held several key Operational and Staff appointments. He has commanded three warships including the Guided Missile Destroyer Ranvijay and has been Fleet Operations Officer of the Western Fleet and Principal Director of Naval Operations at the Integrated Headquarters of the Ministry of Defence (Navy). He was also Directing staff at Defence Services Staff College (Wellington), Naval Assistant to the Chief of the Naval Staff and Naval Attaché, at the Embassy of India, Moscow. On elevation to Flag Rank, as Rear Admiral he was the Flag Officer Sea Training at Kochi, Chief of Staff, Western Naval Command at Mumbai. On promotion to Vice Admiral, he became the first commandant of the Indian Naval Academy at Ezhimala. Subsequently, he became the Chief of Personnel at Naval Headquarters prior to taking over as the 19th Director General of the Indian Coast Guard from where he retired in Feb 2013. As the Director General Indian Coast Guard, he was a member of various institutional and governmental committees, which included Director on the Board of Goa Shipyard Ltd and Invitee to the Meetings of the Defence Procurement Board and Defence Acquisition Council. Post retirement, the Admiral was appointed by the President of India as a Member of the Armed Forces Tribunal at its Regional Bench at Kochi, an appointment equivalent to a sitting Judge of a High Court. He also sat on the Regional Benches of the Tribunal at Guwahati, Mumbai and Jaipur. He has keenly pursued numerous scholastic avenues during his career in conjunction with his primary responsibilities. He is also a member of various strategic study societies and institutions such as NMF, IDSA, USI.

He was awarded the Ati Vishist Seva Medal (AVSM) twice by the President of India and is also a recipient of the Nao Sena Medal (NM).



Smt. Riva Ganguly Das

Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs,
Government of India

Ms. Riva Ganguly Das joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1986. She is a Post Graduate in Political Science from Delhi University. Prior to joining the Foreign Service, she was a Lecturer at Delhi University. Her first posting was in Spain. Thereafter, she was at Headquarters dealing with External Publicity, Nepal and Passport/Visa work. She was Head of the Cultural Wing of the Indian High Commission in Dhaka. After her return from Dhaka, she took over as Director at the United Nations Economic and Social Affairs Division and participated in environmental negotiations, particularly climate change. She was the Deputy Chief of Mission in the Embassy of India, The Hague. She was also the Alternate Permanent Representative of India to the Organisation for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons at The Hague. She served as Consul General of India in Shanghai from 2008 to 2012. After her return from China, she headed the Public Diplomacy Division and later the Latin America & Caribbean Division in the Ministry of External Affairs. She was Ambassador of India to Romania with concurrent accreditation to Albania & Moldova and thereafter served as India's Consul General in New York.

Ms. Das most recently served as High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh. Before joining as HC Dhaka, she was Director General, Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). She speaks Bengali, Hindi, English and Spanish.





15 December 2021

**Sapru House
New Delhi**