



EVENTS ORGANISED AT SAPRU HOUSE, NEW DELHI



Sixteenth Sapru House Lecture by H.E. Mr. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani, President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

28 April 2015

On 28 April 2015, H.E. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani, President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, delivered the sixteenth Sapru House Lecture (SHL) on "The rebirth of the Asian Continental Economy: Regional Cooperation and Afghanistan's Cooperative Advantage". It was presided over by Shri M. Hamid Ansari, Hon'ble Vice President of India. President Ghani began his lecture after offering his condolences to people who had lost their lives and property in the earthquake in Nepal and natural disaster in Afghanistan's Badakhshan province. Both had taken place in April 2015, when he was scheduled to visit India. In his lecture, H.E. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani urged for coordination among South Asian states to fight against what he termed as the 'ecology of terrorism'.

ICWA HIGHLIGHTS...

- Two Sapru House Lectures
- ICWA- ECFA Dialogue
- ICWA –EUISS Dialogue at Brussels & ICWA-SWP Roundtable at Berlin, Germany
- Outgoing DG, ICWA's call on President of India
- Release of Books authored by Smt. Poonam Surie & Amb. Deepak Bhojwani
- Interaction with Prof. Patrick C. Bratton
- ICWA Interaction with MISIS
- Interaction with delegation from FICCI
- Conference Organized in Sikkim Central University
- Foreign Policy awareness programme in HINDI at Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gorakhpur University, Gorakhpur
- ICWA-Asia Centre, Bangalore



The President said that the next quarter century is important for Afghanistan because of ongoing political changes in the country. Talking about the potential of Afghanistan, he said that the country has huge mineral deposits, untapped water and land resources and human capital from which other countries can benefit. The President called for converting Afghan money into capital to make it productive for the country and the region. He underlined that Afghanistan can once again emerge as a regional 'roundabout' of land, air and cyber connectivity. He called on for a regional approach for faster development in the region. Highlighting the geographic importance of Afghanistan, the President said, that it can connect South Asia with Central Asia and other regions. This connection will help the region to yield economic benefit through trade and commerce.

The lecture was attended by the high-level Afghan delegation accompanying the President, Indian dignitaries, foreign diplomats in India, academics, Afghan watchers, officers from the National Defence College, students, media persons and officials from the two countries.

Roundtable Discussion with Ms. Andrea Smith, Deputy Secretary of Foreign Affairs, New Zealand on "New Zealand's Role in the Asia-Pacific Region".

28 April 2015

The participants from New Zealand side were: Deputy Secretary Andrea Smith, Head of Mission Grahame Morton, Deputy Head of Mission Michael Appleton, Policy Officer Kiri Stevens, and Policy Adviser Neeru Gaba.

Visit of ICWA's delegation to Cairo from 19 to 21 April 2015 to hold Second dialogue with its Mou partner Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs (ECFA) on "India-Egypt Dialogue":

19 to 21 April 2015

The ICWA delegation consisted of five members, and headed by Ambassador Arundhati Ghose, was in Cairo from 19 to 21 April 2015. The other members of the delegation included Mr. Anwar Haleem, JS, ICWA; Professor Mohammad Badrul Alam; Professor A. K. Ramakrishnan and Dr. Fazzur Rahman Siddiqui. The delegation, apart from holding a joint dialogue with its counterpart institute in Cairo, held comprehensive interactions with the prominent think tanks of Egypt, Al-Ahram institute and also paid a visit to the office of Deputy Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs. During the two-day dialogue, ICWA delegation had a series of meetings with ECFA members and other members of the Egyptian intelligentsia. This one-day dialogue discussed the new emerging political and social order in the Arab world and its implication for both the region and the world.

The Director of ECFA, Ambassador Shaker welcomed the members from the ICWA. In his introduction, he drew attention towards the volatile situation in the region and spoke briefly about the situation in Iraq, Syria, Yemen and Libya and threw some light on the existing socio-political situation in Egypt as well. He spoke about the rise of the ISIS/ISIL/IS and how the issue of terrorism and nuclear proliferation was dominating the intellectual discourse of the region. He cautioned the audience about the unfolding situation in the region in the backdrop of the US-Iran nuclear deal. Seemingly, Egypt is



concerned about the rise of nuclear Iran with an understanding with USA, and the role which Egypt had traditionally sought for itself in the region.

After a long day discussion at the ECFA, on the morning of April 21, the ICWA delegation visited the Foreign Ministry Office in Cairo and held detailed talks with Deputy Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs, Ambassador Yasser Murad on the existing political situation in Egypt and in the region. Ambassador Shalabi, Executive Director of the ECFA was also present in the discussion. Ambassador Murad was all praises for the glorious past of India-Egypt bilateral ties and stressed for closer ties in the present time. He also stressed on enhancing the trade relations between the two countries. Both sides

also discussed the recently concluded Sharm el-Shiekh Global Economic Summit where more than thirty Indian companies participated, but the Minister expressed his concern over the non-participation of an Indian political delegation. Some concern was also expressed about the structural bottlenecks in the way of enhancing business between the two nations. He informed the ICWA delegation about the Egyptian plan to organize an Egyptian cultural festival in New Delhi after the great Indian show in Cairo where exhibition of Indian food was held apart from some display of Indian yoga. He also informed the delegation that the Indian Foreign Minister would be visiting Egypt in June and she would be having a detailed meeting on bilateral issues



Release of Book authored by Ambassador Deepak Bhojwani:

9 April 2015,

On 9 April 2015, a book titled 'Latin America, Caribbean and India: Promise and Challenge', authored by Ambassador Deepak Bhojwani, was released. The meeting was chaired by the Director General (DG), Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), Ambassador Rajiv K. Bhatia.

Ambassador R. Rajagopalan; H.E. Mr. Carlos Sergio Sobral Duarte, Ambassador of the Federative Republic of Brazil in India; and H.E. Mr. Javier Paulinich Velarde, Ambassador of the Republic of Peru in India shared the dais with the author and made their respective remarks on the book. Gen. V. K. Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, in his video message from Djibouti, said that the book has insights that are not just historical, but also help in shaping future relations with the region. Ambassador Bhojwani talked about his experiences in Latin America and the factors, which impelled him to write his first book.

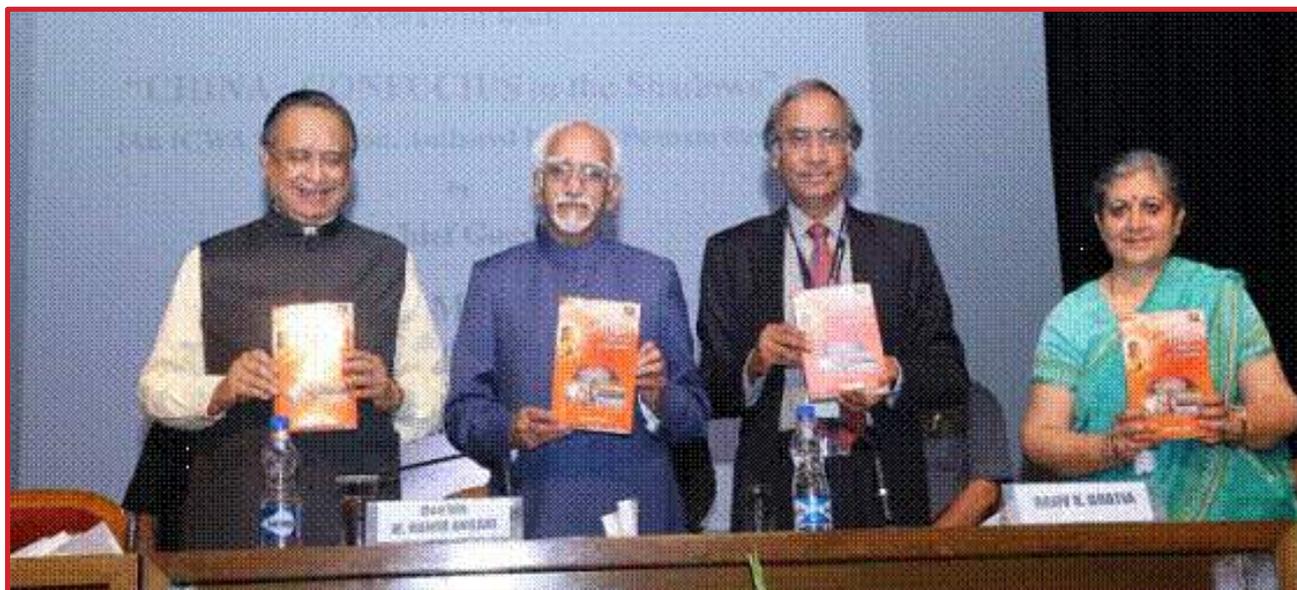


MAY 2015

Release of Book authored by Smt. Poonam Surie:

1 May 2015

On 1 May 2015, Shri M. Hamid Ansari, Hon'ble Vice President of India, released the book titled "China: Confucius in the Shadows", authored by Smt. Poonam Surie. In his welcome address Ambassador Rajiv K. Bhatia, DG, ICWA said that China is a nation of immense importance to India and the world. He endorsed the author's view that "we must understand where China has come from and what has shaped it". He also briefed about several notable successes of ICWA's China study and outreach programmes.



On that occasion, the Hon'ble Vice President said that Confucius was always around in China, partly in shadow and partly in day-light. He noted that the rulers and people of China have always used Confucius with wisdom. Smt. Poonam Surie, author of the book, highlighted that Confucius, a contemporary of Gautama Buddha, has had a deep and lasting influence on the Chinese people. Confucian values are not only a part of the DNA of the Chinese people, but Confucius has been used as an icon also, as evident from the name given to the 'Confucius Institutes' established in many countries by the Chinese government.

Ambassador C. Dasgupta, discussant of the book, noted that the book captures the spirit of China. He described the book as a 'travelogue of ideas'. He highlighted that the book traces the footprint left behind by Confucius and the resonance of his teachings in the contemporary China.

ICWA Team's visit to Brussels to participate in India-EU Forum meeting

May 10-14, 2015

A four-member ICWA delegation led by Ambassador Rajiv Bhatia DG, ICWA undertook a four-day visit (May 10-14, 2015) to Belgium and Germany to hold comprehensive discussions with its MOU partner- European Institute of Security Studies (EUISS) at Brussels and with SWP at Berlin. The other members of ICWA delegation included Ambassador Dinkar Khullar, Professor Rajendra K Jain and Dr. Pankaj Jha. During the dialogue with EUISS, a large number of issues were discussed, which included policy priorities for India and EU, Security policy, defence economics, military and industry and interactions at civil society and local authorities. The last session outlined the next step forward for India- EU relations. The dialogue clearly reflected the growing strategic importance of India for EU and a need was expressed for an early INDIA- EU Summit level dialogue.

In his introductory remarks, Antonio Missiroli thanked ICWA for hosting EUISS for dialogue in Delhi and he said that ICWA and EUISS represent countries which have a combined population



of 1.5 billion people. Following his remarks, Ambassador Rajiv Bhatia, DG, ICWA said that democracy, peace and prosperity are the common agenda for both the regions. While there has been a wider debate and economic success of India and the strength of the institution and structure after Modi's visit to Europe, Link West policy has been seen as a new agenda for India. However, he opined that a decade of strategic partnership is yet to deliver. India and EU are not able to arrive at several issues of importance which includes issues such as protectionist measures and non-tariff barriers. Even the political interactions have stagnated and it is imperative for both EU and India to overcome these hurdles.

Economic importance of EU is well recognized by India. Consequent to Modi's visit to Germany and France, there is unique bridge in foreign policy which is 'Look west to Act East' Policy. He added that there are forces of multipolarity existing in the world. For new government in India, democracy, demography and demand are the three important D's for growth. The growing middle class in India seeks more exposure and because of this desire European economy will benefit. Missiroli said that Strategic and Security issues are crucial in the relationship with Europe. For a long time, India has been suffering from terrorism and Europe is facing the future terrorism emanating from West Asia. There is a need to promote convergence between EU and India. While R2P is a bone of contention between the two sides, India has stood against military intervention by any country.

Three sessions were held at EUISS: Session I deliberated on Policy priorities of India and the EU towards convergence or divergence; Second Session discussed Security policy: Opportunities for Cooperation; and the third session discussed defence economics, military and industry as the new horizons for cooperation.

At SWP, Germany, in her welcome remarks, Dr. Barbara Lippert, Research Director, SWP said

that Germany has been active in IBSA forum through initiatives such as GIBSA – Germany and IBSA. Talking about SWP is unique in terms of combination of features; she informed that SWP has 50-60 in house researchers working on EU, Global affairs, giving multi-perspective and plural views. Ambassador Rajiv Bhatia, DG ICWA expressed his appreciation for the dialogue and said that ICWA comes in its institutional capacity to interact with SWP, a very important and prestigious think tank of Germany. Giving details about the work and activities of ICWA, he informed that the institution works under direct oversight of the Parliament and the Governing Body is chaired by Vice President of India. He said that in the last three years the institute has published nearly 50 books and monographs. ICWA has more than 50 MOU partners across the globe. He said the visit is primarily aimed to understand German view on a number of issues. He expressed satisfaction that the dialogue has a balanced agenda.

Four interactive sessions were held. The first session was on "Indian and German Foreign Policy Approaches", the Second Session was on "The Changing Security Scenario in Afghanistan and Middle East", the third session was on "Strengthening the bilateral relationship between India and Germany", and session IV deliberated on India and Germany in Global Governance.

Seventeenth Sapru House Lecture by H.E. Mr. Aslov Sirodjidin Muhridinovich, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan

12 May 2015

On 12 May 2015, H.E. Mr. Aslov Sirodjidin Muhridinovich, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan, delivered the seventeenth



Sapru House Lecture. It was presided over by Ambassador Yogendra Kumar. Foreign Minister Muhridinovich, in his lecture, said that the modern world is undergoing a process of fundamental and dynamic transformation. While it provides ample opportunities for cooperation, it also widens and deepens significant levels of differences between nations. He stated that force in any form or of any nature cannot be a solution to any existing crisis, which would eventually steer the region as well as the world into deeper predicament. A constant rethinking of priorities remains the need of the day, which guided the Republic of Tajikistan to lay fresh guidelines and thinking in their foreign policy decision making in 2015. While discussing various facets, factors and priorities in the foreign affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan, he stressed on the importance of international laws, rules and regulations that act as the guiding factors for the country.

He stressed that a strong and secure region with friendly and cooperative neighbours, who are confident of their mutual interests and relations, remains a priority for the promotion of national interests of Tajikistan, which would

ultimately improve the living standards of the people, along with enhancing the economic security of the country.

The Foreign Minister remarked that Tajikistan and India share very close links. They have identified areas that can strengthen and mould cooperative relations on the basis of economic, strategic and cultural cooperation and the bilateral relations between these two nations cover various aspects of international cooperation. From 1992 till date, 59 bilateral agreements in different areas have been signed between the two nations. The Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, has undertaken a serious initiative for strengthening relations between India and Tajikistan, making India's presence in the latter nation more active.

Outgoing DG, ICWA's call on President of India

23 May 2015

On 23 May 2015, Sri Pranab Mukherjee, the President of India, received a set of ten books published recently by the Indian Council of World Affairs. The books were presented by Ambassador Rajiv K. Bhatia, Director General, ICWA, during his courtesy call. The President expressed appreciation for the good work done by the



institution and encouraged it to further strengthen its activities. Mrs. Kumkum Bhatia, wife of the DG, and Sri Nagendra Kumar Saxena, Deputy Director General, were also present on the occasion.

Round table discussion on 'One Belt One Road'

25 May 2015

On 25 May 2015, the ICWA, in partnership with the Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS), organised a Round Table Discussion on 'One Belt One Road' project initiated by China. It was co-chaired by Ambassador Rajiv K. Bhatia, DG, ICWA and Ambassador Kishan S. Rana, ICS, Delhi.

Eminent scholars and academics from Delhi evaluated 'One Belt One Road (OBOR)' as a foreign policy initiative of China and discussed India's options from various perspectives. Amb. C. Dasgupta, Prof. Mahendra Lama, Prof. Madhu Bhalla, Maj. Gen. (retd.) Dipankar Banerjee, Prof. Prabir De, Shri Ravi Bhoothalingam, research faculty of ICWA and other scholars were present in the Roundtable. The participants expressed their views on China's OBOR project. They also discussed issues related to the Bangladesh, China, India and Myanmar (BCIM) Regional

Forum/BCIM Economic Corridor and the development of India's Northeast region.

During the discussion various ideas and policy suggestions emerged out. Some of the participants felt that there is a need to change the image and discourse of North East region to improve the situations that India can implement its 'Act East Policy' more efficiently. The North East region needs institution building. The North-East Council needs revamping to tackle its development and other challenges. Tourism can positively change the overall scenario in North East region of India. A few felt that India's trade deficit with China is a short-term issue. Rising wages in China are a new opportunity for other countries, including India. They also stressed on the need for information on glacier melting may be one theme on which India and China can start a process of information sharing. It also came out that Transparency of China's SOE should be an important issue of discussion for the two countries.

They agreed that the only practical way that India can reach Central Asia is through Iran. We need to strengthen that link. India needs to deliver on its connectivity projects with Myanmar.

They also accepted that Port facilities anywhere are in the nature of 'public goods' as



long as they provide normal services connected with shipping and are available to all. India would be concerned if there is an attempt to give exclusive naval facilities to Chinese warships.

Finally most of them felt that the OBOR initiative needs critical examination.

This was a follow-up Discussion to the meeting held at the Institute of Chinese Studies, Delhi on 'China's Silk Road Proposal, the BCIM Economic Corridor and Related Issues', on 16 April 2015.

Interaction with Prof. Patrick C. Bratton:

May 28, 2015

The Research Fellows of ICWA had an interaction with Dr. Patrick C. Bratton on May 28, 2015. Dr Bratton is Associate Professor of Political Science and Program Chair, Diplomacy and Military Studies, and Political Science, Hawai'i Pacific University, USA on "US Policy on Asia-Pacific". It was chaired by Shri Nagendra K. Saxena, DDG, ICWA.

JUNE 2015

Interaction with MISIS:

A three member delegation from the MISIS visited ICWA for a bilateral dialogue. The delegation included Daw Kyi Kyi Hla, U Khin Maung Lynn and U Aung Ko Min. The Bilateral Dialogue was jointly inaugurated by Ambassador Rajiv Kumar Bhatia, Director General (ICWA) and Head of the Delegation (MISIS), Daw Kyi Kyi Hla.

In the first session on Recent Developments in Myanmar and India U Khin Maung Lynn, the Joint Secretary of MISIS, explained the process of democratisation in Myanmar. Lynn mentioned about the rising tourism industry and increasing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), where India can play a significant role. Ambassador (Dr.) V.S. Seshadri, expressed his views on the democratic transition, the ethnic peace process, issues of economic development; coordinating various ethnic groups, etc. He placed some pertinent questions before the panel as to why the government is delaying the forging of the National Ceasefire Agreement. He even questioned the people's perspectives on unfair treatment meted to Aung San Suu Kyi and the current government's bargaining to run for election to the post of the President. He questioned the process of amending the Constitution. He also raised issues of the Rohingya Muslims and the reaction of the Myanmarese authorities.

Speaking on recent developments in India, Shri Shakti Sinha, Director of South Asian Institute of Strategic Affairs, New Delhi presented an assessment of the changing foreign policy of India under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He underlined the economic imperatives as the main drivers of Modi's foreign policy formulations, such as building relations with nations on the basis of cultural and civilisational links; stressing on economic growth and development; and using diplomacy as a major tool for domestic economic development.

In the second session chaired by Prof. S.D Muni on Emerging Trends in Foreign Policy and Relations with the Major Powers, the first speaker U Khin Maung Lynn spoke on Myanmar's Relations with China and the US. Both India and Myanmar are forging close links with the US as well as China. Dr. Rahul Mishra, Research Fellow, ICWA elaborated on the Chinese economic strategies, which have been based on pipelines and sea-links, utilising its geographical proximity to Myanmar. Prof. K.P. Vijaylakshmi, Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, spoke on India's relations



with China and the US. Though most of the strain in relations between India and the US has been resolved, some issues like arms transfer to Pakistan remain major irritants. U Khin Maung Lynn explained the role of Chinese think tanks in the formulation of the Chinese foreign policy. The role that they have been playing in improving the Chinese image in Myanmar was also discussed. He suggested that the means and methods that China and Myanmar adopted to resolve border issues between themselves, can act as a model for India to resolve its own border disputes with China. In his remarks, Prof. S.D Muni, Prof Emeritus, JNU, said that China had started playing an active role in shaping its Asia Pacific foreign policy, which has made the US more suspicious about Chinese motives.

The third session on Regional Strategic Developments was chaired by Ambassador P.M.S. Malik. U Aung Ko Min, Assistant Director of MISIS, discussed about the changing foreign and strategic policy objectives of India with the rise of US and Chinese ambitions in the Indian Ocean region. Dr. Pankaj Jha, Director (Research), ICWA, argued that in the context of 'region-ness getting dissolved', how acceptable are trans-regional constructs? What are the parameters? Is there any source code for

economic organisations? He stated that the market today is both an incentive as well as a bargaining chip, which is why most of the forums in Asia are gaining importance. Prof. G.V.C. Naidu, Jawaharlal Nehru University contextualised sub-regionalism, highlighting the rise of East Asia in international politics and global economy.

The fourth session on Overview of Internal Security Situation and Evaluation of Bilateral Cooperation (bilateral trade, cultural and economic issues). The First speaker, Dr. Nongthombam Jiten of Manipur University, Imphal, linked up the concept with the challenges faced by Manipur, the North Eastern states and Myanmar. Dr. Sanjay Pulipaka, Fellow, ICRIER, analysed the trade between India and Myanmar, while making a regional comparative assessment. Daw Kyi Kyi Hla, Head of Delegation, MISIS, stressed on cultural cooperation, cultural identity, cross cultural understanding and people to people connectivity. Daw Hla mentioned how it can turn different regions into one single unit, keeping the diversity intact. She stated how such cultural connectivity can enhance trust and bring goodwill between people.

Dr. K. Yhome, Research Fellow, ORF, Aung



Ko Min, Delegate, MISIS, and Dr. Sonu Trivedi, Assistant Professor, Zakir Hussain College discussed the outcomes and major policy issues of the day-long dialogue between the ICWA and MISIS. Dr. K. Yhome underlined the need for the creation of a trilateral community between India, Bangladesh and Myanmar, which would strengthen aspects of cultural diplomacy. Aung Ko Min of MISIS laid down the challenges that the Myanmar government faced. The mutual mistrust that existed between the government and the people is one of the principal reasons of political instability in the country.

Interaction with delegation from FICCI :

26 June 2015

On 26 June 2015, a team from FICCI came to interact with the members of ICWA. In their interaction the members explored ways to interact at regular intervals. On that occasion, brief presentations were made by Dr Shamshad A. Khan, Dr. Dhrubajyoti Bhattacharjee, Dr Dinoj K. Upadhyay and Dr Nivedita Ray. From FICCI side Dr Goutam Ghosh and head of the institute Dr. Didar Singh made interventions. The event was jointly chaired by ambassador Rajiv K. Bhatia , DG ICWA and Mr Didar Singh, head of FICCI. Earlier, a team from ICWA had made visit to FICCI in May 2015 and the two sides had discussed areas of mutual cooperation.



DG Ambassador Rajiv K. Bhatia completed his tenure at ICWA:

After the completion of his three years tenure as DG, ICWA, Ambassador Rajiv K. Bhatia took leave of the office. In his farewell speech, he remembered his three long years of fruitful association with the ICWA. He said, "While I end my tenure on a note of deep personal satisfaction, it is really for others to judge the institution's performance in the past three years." He thanked the faculty members and staff for unstinting support and cooperation during his tenure as DG, ICWA. He considered his term as satisfactory and it is really for others to judge the institution's performance in the past three years. Varanasi, UP. The theme of the

debate was 'Emerging Dimension of Indian Foreign Policy'. The prime aim of organizing such debate was to raise awareness about the emerging challenges in international politics and Indian foreign policy among the scholars. The debate was followed by essay writing. Large number of people from diverse streams, such as academia, media, members of legislative assembly, students and faculty members participated in the debate. The entire programme was conducted in Hindi. Dr. Dinoj K. Upadhyay represented the ICWA.



EVENTS ORGANISED OUTSIDE DELHI DECEMBER 2014

Conference Organized in Sikkim Central University:

The Department of Peace and Conflict Studies and Management, School of Social Sciences, Sikkim University, in collaboration with the ICWA, organised a two-day International Conference on "India's Northeast and Beyond: Challenges and Opportunities" on 25th and 26th June 2015. The ICWA was represented by Dr. Rahul Mishra.

Foreign Policy awareness programme in HINDI in Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gorakhpur University, Gorakhpur:

The ICWA conducted an awareness programme in Hindi at Deen Dayal Upadhyay University, Gorakhpur. It was attended by Dr. Amit Kumar. This programme has been started in 2014 to promote the scholarship in Indian Foreign Policy in regional languages. Till now many such programmes have been organised in Indian cities like Lucknow, Banaras, and Moradabad etc.

ICWA-Asia Centre, Bangalore (ICWA's MoUpartner) Joint Seminar on "China's Growing Geopolitical Reach and Intersection of Interests with India".

This was financially supported by the ICWA. Shri Nagendra K. Saxena, DDG, ICWA, attended the programme and presented a paper.



About ICWA

The Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) is a prestigious pro-active autonomous Think Tank specializing in foreign policy issues and external affairs. It was established in 1943 by a group of eminent intellectuals under the inspiration of Jawaharlal Nehru, who served as the first Prime Minister of India. The Council conducts policy research through its in-house faculty as well as external experts. It regularly organizes an array of intellectual activities including conferences, seminars, round table discussions, lectures and publication. It maintains a landmark and well established library, website and a journal named 'India Quarterly'. It is engaged in raising public awareness about India's role in international affairs and offers to the Government and people policy models and strategies, and serves as a platform for Track-II dialogue and interaction with other foreign Think Tanks.



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