

CALL FOR PAPERS

International Conference on

Act East Policy: Prospect and Challenge for North East India

15-16 March 2019

India's Look East Policy or Act East Policy is a revival and rebuilding of India's traditional, cultural, historical and political ties with the countries in the South East Asian region was unveiled in the early 1990s. The upgraded version of the policy was unveiled in the form of India's Act East Policy at the 12th ASEAN-India Summit in 2014 held in Nay Pyi Taw. In his Opening Statement on the occasion, Prime Minister said: "A new era of economic development, industrialization and trade has begun in India. Externally, India's 'Look East Policy' has become 'Act East Policy'."

In fact, the India's Act East Policy focusses on the extended neighbourhood in the Asia-Pacific region. Initially, the policy was conceived as an economic cooperation initiative, but with the restructuring in the 'Act East Policy' it has gained political, strategic and cultural dimensions including establishment of institutional mechanisms for dialogue and cooperation. The restructure policy has placed importance on India-ASEAN cooperation on domestic agenda, such as infrastructure, manufacturing, trade, skills, urban renewal, smart cities, Make in India and other initiatives. Connectivity projects, cooperation in space, S&T and people-to-people exchanges has been visualised as a springboard for regional integration and prosperity.

Coming to the North East India, the region is shares 98 per cent of the international borders with South East and Asia and serves as the gateway. The region has potential to emerge as an important hub in India's engagement with South East Asian countries playing a key role in Act East Policy. The region is blessed with exceptional natural beauty, floral and faunal biodiversity, abundant mineral, water and forest resources and have immense tourism potential. However, several factors, such as isolation from the rest of the country because of its location and terrain, migration, low investment, low revenue generation, lower level of industrial and social-political disturbances for a few years have subdued the realization of the natural, social and economic potential of these States. The largest portion of the population of the region is rural and heavily dependent on subsistence agriculture, horticulture, handloom and forest for livelihoods. Underline the significance of the states of the region, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has awarded the region with a new name as Ashta Laxami and visualised that "Yeh Bharat ke bhagya ko adalne ki ashta Lakshmi hai". The region is yet to harness the enormous potential of the resources for the benefit of its inhabitants. Therefore, the development trajectories of the regions are quite unique and complex.

As it is visualised and projected that the Act East Policy can be the one of the impetus for the development of the region. The objective of "Act East Policy" is to promote economic cooperation, cultural ties and develop strategic relationship with countries in the Asia-Pacific region through continuous engagement at bilateral, regional and multilateral levels thereby providing enhanced connectivity to the States of North Eastern Region with other countries in our neighbourhood. The North East of India has been a priority in the Act East Policy (AEP). Various plans at bilateral and regional levels has been undertaken to develop and strengthen connectivity of the Northeast with the ASEAN region through trade, culture, people-to-people contacts and physical infrastructure (road, airport, telecommunication, power, etc.). Some of the major projects include Kaladan Multi-modal Transit Transport Project, the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway Project, Rhi-Tiddim Road Project, Border Haats, etc.

Finally, until the connectivity to the neighbouring countries and infrastructure with and within NER (road, rail, inland water transport, telecom, airports, power, etc.) are fully established, the micro and macro benefit of the policy cannot be assessed. To maximize the benefit of the Act East Policy, the Central Government has also been trying to bring the State Governments of the region on board. The historic presence of ten ASEAN leaders on the eve of Republic Day followed by the Advantage Assam Global met in February, have given a boost to further shaping of India's 'Act East' Policy (AEP). The former Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran rightly observed "It is time we reimagined our country's borders and made our border regions full stakeholders in India's development"

In the above background a seminar is proposed to examine the macro and micro prospect, challenges and the way forward.

OBJECTIVES:

- ❖ To provide a platform to share national, international and regional experiences on the efforts made so far under the AEP
- ❖ To assess the programmes undertaken in AEP and linkages with the livelihood priorities and promotion of the NE region.
- ❖ To examine the benefits, issues and challenges related to the implementation of AEP and sustainable rural development
- ❖ To arrive at strategies and action framework to develop and promote practical policy options to support rural livelihoods under AEP.

BROAD SUB-THEMES:

- ❖ Evolution of India's Act East Policy
- ❖ India's Northeast Policy
- ❖ Cultural, Traditional, Historical and Political link with South Asian Countries and AEP
- ❖ Act East Policy and the Development Concern of North Eastern States
- ❖ Act East Policy: Expectations and Ground Realities
- ❖ Integration of North Eastern States' Economy and its Impact on Rural Development
- ❖ Act East Policy and Socio-political and Economic situation of the South Asian Countries
- ❖ Economic Potentials of the Look East Policy and North Eastern States
- ❖ The psychological dimension of Act East Policy for the people of North East India
- ❖ Insurgency, territorial integrity and Security Issues in North East India and Act East Policy
- ❖ Reviews of Projects under Act East Policy and North East India
- ❖ Reviews of Various Dialogue under Act East Policy
- ❖ Make in North East and Act East Policy
- ❖ Exchange of Knowledge, best practices under Act East Policy
- ❖ North East Vision 2020 and Act East Policy
- ❖ North East Council/ Forum and Act East Policy
- ❖ Border Trade, Act East Policy and North East India
- ❖ Regional and sub-regional multilateral initiatives under Act East Policy
- ❖ Educational Development in North East region and Act East Policy
- ❖ Tourism Sector and Act East Policy
- ❖ Development Cooperation and Act East Policy
- ❖ Sustainable Development Goal and Act East Policy
- ❖ Multilateral Bodies and Act East Policy
- ❖ Stumbling Blocks in Implementing of Act East Policy
- ❖ The Way Forward
- ❖ Any other sub-themes related/ relevant to the Seminar

OUTCOMES EXPECTED:

- ❖ The assemblage of ideas and suggestions to plan, develop and modify the programmes undertaken in AEP.
- ❖ Identification of micro and macro benefits of the policy and its prospect in the region.
- ❖ The discussion will be generated on important aspects of indigenous knowledge system and its role in poverty alleviation and sustainable rural development.
- ❖ Inputs for policy will be provided through recommendations of the Seminar, which will be presented to the concerned Central Ministries and State's Department.

GUIDELINES FOR PAPERS:

It is also recommended that the length of the abstract and full paper should not exceed 500 words and 6,000 words, respectively, excluding preliminary pages, annexure and references. It should be written in Times New Roman, 12 pt. and line spacing- 1.15 lines. For reference, we recommend the APA style

The abstract should include the title of the proposed paper, Name of author/s, Institutional Affiliation, Email address, Mobile No and Postal address, keywords up to six and finally a paragraph of not more than 500 words summarizing the main findings and the argument of the proposed paper, and its significance.

The full paper should be arranged as follows: Title page, the presenter's name, institutional affiliation (if any), email address and postal address, Abstract, Key-words, Introduction, Methods, Findings, Discussion, Citations and references.

PARTICIPATION & PARTICIPANTS:

The participation will be by invitation and through submission of abstracts (300-500 words). The presentations shall be in the form of Key Note Speaker, Invited Talk, Oral Presentation, and Poster Presentation.

Papers are invited on the above-mentioned themes from Government Officials, Policymakers, Planners, Faculty members and Research Scholars from the Universities, Colleges, National/State level Research Institutions and Research organisations; Members of reputed NGOs, Corporate Sectors; Independent Researchers, Practitioner, and Social activist working in this area.

Interested participants may send their abstracts and full papers through email at seminar.nird.ghy@gmail.com and mkshrivastava.nird@gov.in as per the following schedule:

PARTICIPATION/REGISTRATION FEE:

National

- ❖ Participants other than Research Scholars / Students: Rs 500/
- ❖ Research Scholars / Students: Rs 300

International

- ❖ Participants other than Research Scholars / Students: Rs 1500/
- ❖ Research Scholars / Students: Rs 1000

ACCOMODATION:

- ❖ Free board and lodging will be provided to all participants in the Institute's Guest House

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- ❖ Submission of Abstract: 31 January 2019
- ❖ Intimation of Accepted Abstract: 3 February 2019
- ❖ Submission of Full Paper: 28 February 2019

VENUE OF THE SEMINAR:

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