

報告 3 : Rupakjyoti Borah (National University of Singapore)

「ASEAN in India' s “Act-East Policy” --Analyzing its pivotal role」

India's “Act-East Policy” aims at improving its civilisational ties with countries in Southeast Asia and East Asia. Although New Delhi grew distant from these regions in the aftermath of its independence in 1947(because of its closeness to the erstwhile Soviet Union), it started reaching out to these regions once again in the aftermath of the end of the Cold War, when it lost out on its biggest benefactor, the former USSR and also in the light of its balance of payments crisis. This crisis proffered New Delhi an opportunity to improve its ties with Southeast Asia and East Asia by leaps and bounds.

Meanwhile, work is progressing fast on the India-Myanmar-Thailand (IMT) trilateral highway which when completed in 2020 will help develop physical connectivity between India and the ASEAN region. At the same time New Delhi has already become a member of institutions like the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the East Asia Summit (EAS) etc.

This paper will attempt to examine ASEAN-India relations within the wider gamut of India's “Act-East Policy”. This year is especially significant as India and the ASEAN are celebrating 25 years of their dialogue partnership. In addition, the paper will also examine the achievements and challenges in India-ASEAN ties in the last 25 years.