

# BIMSTEC Newsletter

A Monthly Newsletter from BIMSTEC Centre



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## BIMSTEC EVENT

### BIMSTEC Fisheries Meeting on Sustainable Fisheries in the Bay of Bengal

20-22 January 2009, Bangkok



**F**isheries sector generates incomes for a large number of people who live along the coast line of the Bay of Bengal. Therefore, it is important for BIMSTEC member countries to find ways and means to ensure sustainable fisheries in this area. Indeed, current cooperation among BIMSTEC member countries in fisheries sector is directed towards the issue of how to achieve sustainable fisheries in the Bay of Bengal.

**O**n 20-22 January 2009, Thailand organized the BIMSTEC Fisheries Meeting on Sustainable Fisheries in the Bay of Bengal in Bangkok. The objectives of the meeting were: (1) to present studies on fisheries management issues, including the study on “Ecosystem-based Fishery Management in the Bay of Bengal”, (2) to open a forum for discussion by all parties concerned on this important subject, and based upon the discussion (3) to recommend a plan of action on the management of the fisheries sector in the Bay of Bengal.

**T**he Meeting was attended by representatives from the fisheries-related agencies of the governmental and private sectors in BIMSTEC member countries, researchers and students from academic institutions, representatives from the FAO/Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO/RAP), Asia-Pacific Fisheries Commission (APFIC), and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC).

**A**t the opening of the Meeting, Dr. Wimol Jantrarotai, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Fisheries, welcomed all participants, including delegations of BIMSTEC member countries in Bangkok. In his opening address, Dr. Jantrarotai emphasized the importance of responsible utilization of fishery resources in the Bay of Bengal and collective actions by BIMSTEC member countries would ensure sustainable fisheries in harmony with the ecosystem.

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## BIMSTEC Fisheries Meeting on Sustainable Fisheries in the Bay of Bengal (Contd.)

Participants listened to the interesting presentations by experts in related field right from the first day. On the Ecosystem-based Fishery Management Approach, Mr. Simon Funge-Smith of the APFIC had demonstrated that ecosystem approach could be used to implement the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. Under other subject, expert pointed out that the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Program, which was initiated by FAO in 1998, had the objective of enhancing food security and reducing poverty of the people who lived along the coast line. For the program to reach the objective, strong cooperation from countries in the bay area would be needed. Another important session was the presentation on fisheries management in the Bay of Bengal by Bangladesh, India, Myanmar and Thailand. In this session, BIMSTEC member countries shared the information on the existing fisheries management implemented in each country. Important obstacles faced by each country were also presented.



On the second day, the Meeting was divided into three groups and each group discussed possible ways to implement sustainable fisheries management in the Bay of Bengal. At the end of the day, leaders from these three groups shared their thought on the issue to all participants. After some more discussion, the Meeting recommended the following Plan of Action for the BIMSTEC fisheries sector:

- 1) Establish the BIMSTEC Fisheries Technical Advisory Committee
- 2) Address the need to integrate EAF into National Fishery Policies and strengthen/enhance regional/national agencies cooperation through BIMSTEC initiatives/programs
- 3) Formulate a well-defined set of BIMSTEC fisheries initiatives and interventions at the regional level based on the concept/approach of EAF/CCRF for formulation of both inshore and offshore fisheries management framework through the BIMSTEC fisheries technical advisory committee
- 4) Conduct R&D on appropriate capture fishery technologies in collaboration with the national/regional fishery development centers, also including transfer such technologies, with the aim to resolve problems in fishing industries of each BIMSTEC country
- 5) Develop programs aimed at harmonizing the norms and standards of BIMSTEC countries under BIMSTEC initiatives in order to address the issues related to fish trade, food safety and traceability (catch documentation system)
- 6) Conduct fisheries resources assessment in collaboration with other related national/regional initiatives in BIMSTEC countries in order to understand the ecosystem of BOB and build capacity of researchers/scientists through BIMSTEC fisheries initiatives/programs
- and 7) Develop a mechanism for sharing/exchanging fisheries related information among BIMSTEC countries under BIMSTEC initiatives/programs in collaboration with relevant regional/national initiatives.

## CHANDRAYAAN I

## MILESTONE FOR INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH &amp; TECHNOLOGY



View of the Moon surface from Chandrayaan

Astronomy studies have an ancient tradition in India dating back to the Vedic age 4,000 years ago. This was followed by a phase of influence from Greece. There are a number of Siddhanta treatises on astronomy including *Aryabhtiya* dating from 500 AD. Indian scholars of the time also advanced concepts of gravity and heliocentrism. In the early Islamic time, Indian texts were translated into Arabic, transmitting such knowledge to the West. There was also exchange between Indian and Arabic/Persian scholars. Pre-telescopic Observatories were established by King Jai Singh in Rajasthan in 17-18<sup>th</sup> century.

The earliest recorded use of telescope in India was by an Englishman, Jeremiah Shakerley who viewed the transit of Mercury in the year 1651 from Surat (Gujarat). There are reports of French Jesuit missionaries using Telescopes in Pondicherry in 17<sup>th</sup> century.

In 1792 the British East India Company set up the Madras Observatory for maritime navigation purposes (*An Indian scientist Chintamani working at this Observatory discovered a new variable star R. Reticuli*). During the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries more Observatories came up in Calcutta (1825), Pune (1882) and Kodaikanal (1900 for solar studies) as also Kavalur, Varanasi-Nainital (1954). Radio-astronomy observatories were established in Ooty, Bangalore and Pune.

Some renowned Indian scientists in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century included S K Mitra, Prof C V Raman (later Nobel laureate) and Meghnad Saha. In 1945, Dr. Homi Jehangir Bhabha set up the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) in Bombay. In 1947, the year India got independence, Dr. Vikram Sarabhai set up the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) in Ahmedabad. The Department of Atomic Energy, set up in 1950, also pursued space research.



View of the Earth from Chandrayaan



Launching of Chandrayaan

A few years after the launch of the first satellite by the Soviet Union in 1957, the Indian National Committee on Space Research (INCOSPAR) was set up in 1962. The Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station (TERLS) was set up in the same year. Launches of sounding rockets commenced from the next year. A Department of Space (and Indian Space Research Organisation ISRO) were set up in 1972. In 1975, the first Indian satellite Aryabhata was launched from Soviet Union. In 1979 India developed its first Launch Vehicle. Over the next decades, various types of Launch Vehicles and satellites have been launched. These days many countries are using Indian Launch Vehicles to launch their satellites.

The Indian satellite operations included tele-communication, television broadcasting, remote education, meteorology and disaster warning, remote sensing for resource prospecting.

On October 22 2008, India launched its first lunar exploration mission - Chandrayaan I. Two weeks later, this was successfully inserted into the lunar orbit.

On November 14 2008, the vehicle released the Moon Impact Probe that made a controlled impact on the lunar surface. The mission is conducting a high-resolution survey of the moon's surface.

Besides 5 Indian payloads, the Chandrayaan I is also carrying payloads from NASA, European Space Agency and Bulgarian Aerospace Agency.

## INDIAN EMBASSY CELEBRATES 59<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF REPUBLIC DAY



On 26<sup>th</sup> January, the Embassy of India in Bangkok hosted a Reception at Hotel Shangri La to celebrate the 59<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its Republic Day.

The Thai dignitaries who attended the Reception included H.E. Ms. Porntiva Nakasai, Minister of Commerce of Thailand. The Permanent Secretary of Foreign Affairs Mr. Virasakdi Futrakul and Mr. Krit Kraichitti, DG were also among the guests on the occasion.

The Republic Day of India marks the adoption of its Constitution on 26<sup>th</sup> January 1950 and its transition to becoming a Republic. Two weeks following the independence of India on 15 August 1947, the Drafting Committee of the Constitution was set up on August 29. The draft constitution was then debated by the Constituent Assembly for nearly 3 years before it was adopted.

In India a grand parade is held in the capital, New Delhi on the Republic Days starting from the Raisina Hill near the Rashtrapati Bhavan (President's Palace), along the Rajpath, past India Gate and on to the historic Red Fort. The President of India who is the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Armed Forces, takes the salute. The President of Kazakhstan was the Chief Guest on the occasion this year.

### BIMSTEC Upcoming Activities

Date	Activity	Venue
12 March 2009	88 <sup>th</sup> BWG Meeting	Bangkok
26–27 March 2009	1 <sup>st</sup> Expert Group Meeting on the establishment of a BIMSTEC Technology Transfer Exchange Facility	Colombo
<b>Dates to be Identified</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup> Meeting of the BIMSTEC Think Tanks		India
12 <sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting and 14 <sup>th</sup> Senior Officials' Meeting		Myanmar
18 <sup>th</sup> Trade Negotiating Committee Meeting		Sri Lanka
5 <sup>th</sup> STEOM/7 <sup>th</sup> TEMM		Bangladesh
2 <sup>nd</sup> Ministerial Meeting on Culture Cooperation		Bangladesh
2 <sup>nd</sup> BIMSTEC Energy Ministers' Conference		Thailand
2 <sup>nd</sup> BIMSTEC Ministerial Conference on Poverty Alleviation		Nepal
5 <sup>th</sup> JWG on Counter-Terrorism and Transactional Crimes		Nepal
2 <sup>nd</sup> JWG on BIMSTEC Permanent Secretariat		-
3 <sup>rd</sup> Expert Group Meeting on Agricultural Cooperation		-

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