

Dear Friend,

Season's greetings!

The U.S. Government, in partnership with CUTS International and the East West Center in Washington D.C., is pleased to invite you to attend the Indo-Asia Connectivity for Shared Prosperity conference at the Oberoi Grand Hotel in Kolkata, India on December 14-15, 2016.

**Purpose of the Conference:**

With the understanding that increasing trade across the region is critical to sustainable, inclusive growth, the purpose of the conference is to identify gaps that inhibit regional economic connectivity that can be filled by private sector involvement.

This two-day international conference is aimed at supporting the strategic goal of increased regional connectivity in the Bay of Bengal region and promoting viable commercial links between the United States, India, and countries of South and Southeast Asia. The conference will bring together key policy makers, business leaders, government officials, media representatives, academics, and civil society experts from India, South and Southeast Asia, and the United States to identify and discuss challenges and opportunities for expanding the free flow of goods and services in the region and to explore investment opportunities.

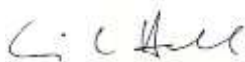
Please note that attendance at this event will be by invitation only. Kindly respond to this e-mail to confirm your participation. If you wish to nominate or designate someone in your stead, please let us know, and we will send a fresh invitation to the specific person. The invitation includes registration, conference materials, and meals (2 lunches, teas, and 1 dinner) for two days of the conference. The invitation does not include airfare, hotel stay, or per diem.

Please find attached a brief note about the conference and let us know your primary area of interest. We will share further details and the conference schedule upon receiving your confirmation and also provide a link to the conference website shortly.

Please register by Tuesday, November 15, 2016 by email to [sbi@cuts.org](mailto:sbi@cuts.org) with your details as per the attached **confirmation form**. Registration is required to attend the conference.

We look forward to your response and active participation.

Regards,



Craig L. Hall  
Consul General  
U.S. Consulate General, Kolkata  
India



Bipul Chatterjee  
Executive Director  
CUTS International  
India



Satu Limaye  
Director  
East West Center, Washington D.C.  
U.S.A

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14 - 15 December, 2016, The Oberoi Grand, Kolkata



**Indo-Asia Connectivity for Shared Prosperity  
Kolkata, India, December 14-15**

<b>WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14</b>				
0800-0900	Registration			
1000-1100	<p><b>Opening Plenary (Location: Ballroom)</b>  Welcome and Introduction by Pradeep S. Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS International  Welcome remarks by Craig Hall, U.S. Consul General, Kolkata  Remarks by Richard R. Verma, U.S. Ambassador to India  Remarks by Nisha Biswal, Assistant Secretary of State, South and Central Asian Affairs, U.S. Department of State  Special Address by Amit Mitra, Minister-in-Charge, Department of Finance, Government of West Bengal*  Special Address by Nitin JairamGadkari, Minister-in-Charge, Ministry of Road Transport &amp; Highways, Government of India OR  Sushma Swaraj, Minister-in-Charge, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India*</p>			
1100-1200	<p><b>Introduction of Issues (Location: Ballroom)</b>  <b>Chair:</b>Bipul Chatterjee, Executive Director, CUTS International</p>			
1100-1115	Track 1. <i>Maritime and Inland Waterways Connectivity: Policy and Strategic Issues in the BIMSTEC Region–SatuLimaye,</i> Director, East West Center, Washington D.C.			
1115-1130	Track 2. <i>Energy Cooperation: Policy and Strategic Issues in the BBIN Region - Tariq Karim, Former Bangladesh High Commissioner to India and presently Adviser to the World Bank on Regional Integration, South Asia*</i>			
1130-1145	Track 3. <i>Improving Trade and Investment Opportunities and Ease of Doing Business in the BIMSTEC Region – Policy Issues - Rajat M. Nag, Former Managing Director General, Asian Development Bank</i>			
1145-1200	Track 4. <i>Bay of Bengal Business Forum – Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries</i>			
1200-1330	<b>Lunch</b>			
	<b>Track Deliberations in Parallel</b>			
	Track 1. <i>Maritime and Inland</i>	Track 2. <i>Energy Cooperation:</i>	Track 3. <i>Improving Trade and</i>	Track 4. <i>Bay of Bengal</i>

1330-1500	<p><i>Waterways Connectivity: Policy and Strategic Issues in the BIMSTEC Region</i> Location: Gharana</p> <p><b>Chair:</b> SatuLimaye, Director, East West Center, Washington D.C.</p> <p>Panel of speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ambassador Bernicat – U.S. Embassy, Bangladesh</li> <li>• SumithNakandala, Secretary General, BIMSTEC Secretariat</li> <li>• Rear Admiral (retd.) KhurshedAlam, Secretary, Maritime Affairs, Foreign Ministry, Bangladesh*</li> <li>• Kyaw Yin Hliang, Director of Academic &amp; Research, Myanmar Egress and Adviser to the President of Myanmar</li> <li>• M.T. Krishna Babu, Chairman, Kolkata Port Trust, Ministry of</li> </ul>	<p><i>Policy and Strategic Issues in the BBIN Region</i> Location: Burdwan</p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Tariq Karim, Former Bangladesh High Commissioner to India and presently Adviser to the World Bank on Regional Integration, South Asia *</p> <p>Panel of speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ambassador Teplitz, U.S. Embassy Nepal</li> <li>• Nasrul Hamid, State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources, Government of Bangladesh*</li> <li>• Mr. S. Padmanabhan, former director of the USAID SARI program and former energy advisor, World Bank*</li> <li>• Sandeep Shah, Vice President &amp; Country Director, Statkraft International Hydropower, Former</li> </ul>	<p><i>Investment Opportunities and Ease of Doing Business in the BIMSTEC Region – Policy Issues</i> Location: Coochbehar</p> <p><b>Chair:</b>Rajat M. Nag, Former Managing Director General, Asian Development Bank</p> <p>Panel of speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ambassador Keshap, U.S. Embassy, Sri Lanka</li> <li>• DushniWeerakoon, Deputy Director and Head of Macroeconomic Policy Research, Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka</li> <li>• Naindra Prasad Upadhaya, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Government of Nepal*</li> <li>• AumPhubZam, President, Bhutan Chamber of Commerce &amp; Industry *</li> <li>• KrisdaPiampongsant, Advisor to the Thai Chamber of Commerce and Board of Trade of Thailand</li> </ul>	<p><i>Business Forum</i> Location: Ballroom</p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries –</p> <p>Panel of speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VinaiThummalapally, Executive Director of SelectUSA, part of the International Trade Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce</li> <li>• Allen Terhaar, U.S. Agricultural Service</li> </ul>
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	Shipping, Government of India*	<p>President IPPAN*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>S.Kishore, Principal Secretary, Department of Power, Government of West Bengal*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SwarnimWagle, Member of the Planning Commission of Nepal and Senior Economist in World Bank’s International Trade Unit</li> <li>AlapanBandopadhyay, Principal Secretary, Department of Transport, Government of West Bengal*</li> </ul>	
1500-1530	<b>Break</b>			
1530-1700	<p>Track 1. <i>Maritime and Inland Waterways Connectivity: Policy and Strategic Issues in the BIMSTEC Region</i> Location: Gharana</p>	<p>Track 2. <i>Energy Cooperation: Policy and Strategic Issues in the BBIN Region</i> Location: Burdwan</p>	<p>Track 3. <i>Improving Trade and Investment Opportunities and Ease of Doing Business in the BIMSTEC Region – Policy Issues</i> Location: Coochbehar</p>	<p>Track 4. <i>Bay of Bengal Business Forum</i> Location: Ballroom</p>
1700-1900	<b>Break</b>			
1900-2100	<p><b>Dinner: Ballroom</b>  <b>Welcome Remarks by Consul General Craig Hall</b>  <b>Keynote Address by – Chief Minister or Finance Minister, West Bengal Government *</b></p>			

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15**

0830-0900	Registration (Location: Lobby)			
0900-0950	<b>Regional U.S. Ambassadors Panel</b>			
	0910-0920 <i>U.S. Ambassador to India Richard Verma on U.S. India and connectivity</i>			
	0920-0930 <i>U.S. Ambassador to Bangladesh Marcia Bernicat on U.S. Bangladesh and connectivity</i>			
	0930-0940 <i>U.S. Ambassador to Nepal Alaina Teplitz on U.S. Nepal and connectivity</i>			
	0940-0950 <i>U.S. Ambassador to Sri Lanka AtulKeshap on U.S. Sri Lanka and connectivity</i>			
	<b>Parallel Tracks</b>			
1000-1200	<p><b>Track 1.</b> <i>Maritime and Inland Waterways Connectivity: Industry Issues in the BIMSTEC Region</i></p> <p>Location: Gharana</p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Satu Limaye, Director, East West Center, Washington D.C.</p> <p>Panel of speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sarath Kumara Premachandra, Managing Director, Sri Lanka Ports Authority*</li> <li>• Rohan Maskorale, CEO Shippers Academy Colombo*</li> </ul>	<p><b>Track 2.</b> <i>Energy Cooperation: Industry Issues in the BBIN Region</i></p> <p>Location: Burdwan</p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Tariq Karim, Former Bangladesh High Commissioner to India and presently Adviser to the World Bank on Regional Integration, South Asia</p> <p>Panel of speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Khadga Bisht, President of Independent Power Producers Association of Nepal (IPPAN)*</li> <li>• Dasho Tshering Dorji,</li> </ul>	<p><b>Track 3.</b> <i>Improving Trade and Investment Opportunities and Ease of Doing Business in the BIMSTEC Region – Policy Issues</i></p> <p>Location: Coochbehar</p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Rajat M. Nag, Former Managing Director General, Asian Development Bank</p> <p>Panel of speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kazi Aminul Islam – Executive Chairman, Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA)*</li> <li>• Krishna Gupta, Principal Secretary, Department of Commerce &amp; Industries,</li> </ul>	<p><b>Track 4.</b> <i>Bay of Bengal Investment Forum</i></p> <p>Location: Ballroom</p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries</p> <p>Panel of speakers: TBC</p>

		Chairman, Bhutan Power Corporation Ltd*	Government of West Bengal* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Luna Shamsuddoha, Chairperson, Dohatec New Media, Dhaka Bangladesh*</li> <li>• Jaijit Bhattacharya, KPMG partner*</li> <li>• Anushka Wijesinghe, Chief Economist, Ceylon Chamber of Commerce*</li> <li>• Mike Dwyer, U.S. Agricultural Service*</li> </ul>	
1200-1330	<b>Lunch (Location: Ballroom)</b>			
1330-1600	<b>Proposals and Recommendations (Location: Plenary Hall)</b> <b>Chair:</b> Bipul Chatterjee, Executive Director, CUTS			
	1330-1400	Track 1. <i>Maritime and Inland Waterways Connectivity: Policy and Strategic Issues in the BIMSTEC Region</i> - Satu Limaye, Director, East West Center, Washington D.C.		
	1400-1430	Track 2. <i>Energy Cooperation: Policy and Strategic Issues in the BBIN Region</i> - Tariq Karim, Former Bangladesh High Commissioner to India and presently Adviser to the World Bank on Regional Integration, South Asia*		
	<b>1430-1500</b>	<b>Break</b>		
	1500-1530	Track 3. <i>Improving Trade and Investment Opportunities and Ease of Doing Business in the BIMSTEC Region – Policy Issues</i> - Rajat M. Nag, Former Managing Director General, Asian Development Bank		
	1530-1600	Track 4. <i>Bay of Bengal Business Forum</i> – Indian Chamber of Commerce		
	<b>1600-1615</b>	<b>Break</b>		
1615-1700	<b>Closing Keynote Address and Vote of Thanks (Location: Ballroom)</b>			

**Chair:** SumithNakandala, Secretary General, BIMSTEC Secretariat

[Additional speakers under discussion.]

Keynote Address byAssistant Secretary of State, South and Central Asian Affairs, U.S. Department of State

Vote of Thanks – Satu Limaye, Director, East West Center, Washington D.C.

\* *Speakers to be confirmed*

**Indo-Asia Connectivity for Shared Prosperity Conference**  
**Kolkata, India**  
**December 14-15, 2016**

**Confirmation Format**

1. Name:
2. Affiliation/Organisation:
3. Designation:
4. Phone number:
5. Email id:
6. Primary interest area (kindly refer attached brief note on conference):
  - i. Maritime and Inland Waterways Connectivity in BIMSTEC
  - ii. Energy Cooperation in BBIN
  - iii. Trade and Investment
  - iv. Bay of Bengal Business Forum