



## **NCAER | The National Council of Applied Economic Research**

### **REGIONAL ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY IN ASIA: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES**

A roundtable with scholars from the  
**East Asia Bureau of Economic Research (EABER)**  
**Australian National University, Canberra**

**NCAER Conference Room 1**  
**9 September 2014, New Delhi**

**8:30 am**                      **Breakfast and registration**  
(coffee will be available through all sessions)

**9:00 to 9:15 am**        **Welcome Remarks**  
Dr Shekhar Shah (NCAER) and Prof Peter Drysdale (ANU)

**9:15 to 9:45 am**        **Opening Remarks:**  
Mr Patrick Suckling (Australian High Commissioner)

**9:45 to 11:00 am**    **1: Regional Economic Cooperation and Diplomacy in Asia**

This panel will explore the state of play in regional trade and economic diplomacy, including the emergence of mega-regional trade negotiations such as the TPP and RCEP and how they affect the global trading system and the opportunities for national development among the regional economies.

**Chair:** Dr Shekhar Shah

**Panellists:** Mr Shyam Saran (RIS)  
Dr Shiro Armstrong (ANU)  
Dr Andrew Elek (ANU)  
Dr Rajesh Chadha (NCAER)

**11:00 am to 12:00 noon**    **2: Australia's G20 Leadership and its Role in Asian Economic Diplomacy**

This panel will review the priorities for Australian leadership in the G20 process, focusing on two main aspects: Asia's interest in elevating growth and infrastructure investment; and review of issues affecting the global trade and investment regime. This timely discussion will also reflect on the previous week's visit of PM Tony Abbott to India to meet PM Modi and the opportunities that the visit may have created.

**Chair:** Mr Hamish McDonald (Australian High Commission, New Delhi)

**Panellists:** Prof David Vines (Oxford)  
Mr Rajat Nag (NCAER, and former Managing Director-General, ADB)  
Prof Peter Drysdale (ANU)

### **12:00 to 1:15 pm    3: Challenges and Opportunities for India**

The third panel will discuss the challenges India faces in the dynamic setting of the changing economic diplomacy underlying RCEP and TPP agreements, and set against the backdrop of a limping multilateral system in the form of the Doha Round. But along with the challenges, India also has opportunities for catching up with the growth record and the prosperity of the other Asian countries. This discussion should be timely against the Commerce Ministry's recent announcement that it is undertaking a comprehensive analysis of India's free trade agreements.

**Chair:** Prof Peter Drysdale

**Panellists:** Mr Sumanta Chaudhuri (JS, Ministry of Commerce)  
Prof B N Goldar (IEG)  
Dr Ram Gopal Agarwala (NCAER)

**1:15 to 1:30 pm    Closing Remarks:** Research Ideas and Way Forward  
Mr Dinesh Sharma, (AS, MoF)

### **LUNCH**

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