



JOINT WEBINAR

Changing Dynamics of Maritime Trade in a Post COVID-19 World: Implications for South Asia

30 Sept 2021 (Thursday) | 4.30pm – 6.00pm (SG Time) | 8.30am – 10.00am (UK Time)

Programme

4.30pm Welcome by the Emcee

Remarks by Chairperson

4.35pm **Changing Dynamics of Maritime Trade in a Post COVID-19 World: Implications for South Asia**

Speakers

Dr Ganeshan Wignaraja

Non-Resident Senior Fellow

Institute of South Asian Studies, NUS

Dr Salamat Ali

Trade Economist

Commonwealth Secretariat

5.00pm

Discussants

Dr Jivanta Schottli

Assistant Professor in Indian Politics and Foreign Policy

Dublin City University; and

Non-Resident Fellow, Institute of South Asian Studies, NUS

Dr Peggy Chen Shu-Ling

Head of Maritime and Logistics Management

National Centre for Ports and Shipping

Australian Maritime College

University of Tasmania, Australia

Chairperson

Dr Amitendu Palit

Senior Research Fellow; and

Research Lead (Trade and Economics)

Institute of South Asian Studies, NUS

5.20pm

Discussion Session

5.55pm

Closing Remarks

Dr Brendan Vickers

Head, International Trade Policy Section

Commonwealth Secretariat

6.00pm

End of Webinar

About the Webinar

Vibrant maritime trade has encouraged rapid global trade-led growth and fueled great power rivalries in the maritime domain over recent decades. The COVID-19 era has seen disruptions to established patterns of maritime trade and intensified security threats across Asia. But little is known about the implications of these developments in South Asia, the world's most populous region. This seminar maps the maritime domain in South Asia using painstakingly gathered evidence from a study of Commonwealth countries in South Asia, Southeast Asia and the rest of the Commonwealth. The seminar which brings together an interdisciplinary panel of global and regional experts will discuss several important issues in the maritime domain: (1) how has the landscape of maritime trade and security threats changed in the COVID era, (2) how is the scenario for global economic recovery impinging on maritime trade and the nature of security threats? (3) what are the prospects for small island states and least developed countries in maritime trade? and (4) what policy implications can be gleaned from the emerging evidence?

About the Speakers and Discussants

Dr Ganeshan Wignaraja

Dr Ganeshan Wignaraja is a Non-Resident Senior Fellow at Institute of South Asian Studies at the National University of Singapore. Over the last thirty years, he has held senior roles in Asia, Europe and the US including the Director of Research at the Asian Development Bank Institute in Tokyo, the Executive Director of Sri Lanka's Foreign Ministry's think tank, Senior Research Associate at the Overseas Development Institute in London and a Visiting Scholar at the IMF in Washington DC. He holds a DPhil in economics from the University of Oxford and has published 20 books on international economics and economic development.

Dr Salamat Ali

Dr Salamat Ali is Trade Economist at the Commonwealth Secretariat and one of the co-authors of the paper being discussed. He holds a PhD in International Trade from the University of Nottingham and has more than 15 years of operational experience on regulating maritime trade and supervising customs operations at various seaports in Pakistan. He has published extensively in various leading peer-reviewed journals, including Canadian Journal of Economics, Journal of Development Studies and the World Economy. Dr Ali has written a series of publications on the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on various sectors of Commonwealth countries' economies. This paper is one of the COVID-19 policy briefing series that Dr Ali and his team has been working on.

Dr Jivanta Schottli

Dr Jivanta Schottli is Assistant Professor in Indian Politics and Foreign Policy at the School of Law and Government, Dublin City University. She holds a PhD in Political Science (Summa Cum Laude) from Heidelberg University in Germany, a Masters in Economic History and a BSc in International Relations & History, both from the London School of Economics and Politics, United Kingdom.

Her research interests include Indian foreign policy with a focus on the intersection between domestic politics and international relations; diplomacy and maritime governance in the Indian Ocean, the emerging strategic discourse about the Indo-Pacific and the role of China in South Asia.

Dr Schottli's publications include *Maritime Governance in South Asia* (Ed.) World Scientific, Singapore, 2018; *Power, Politics and Maritime Governance in the Indian Ocean* (ed) Routledge, London 2014; *Vision and Strategy in Indian Politics with Routledge*, London 2012. She has written articles for Asian Survey, the Institute of South Asian Studies in Singapore, Journal of Asian Public Policy, Journal of the Indian Ocean Region and Irish Studies in International Affairs

Dr Peggy Chen Shu-Ling

Associate Professor Peggy Chen has been working as an academic at the Australian Maritime College (AMC) in University of Tasmania, Australia, since 2004. Before joining the AMC, Associate Professor Chen had working experiences in different sectors in Taiwan, including customs, banking and education. Currently, she is the Head of Department of Maritime and Logistics Management at the AMC. In addition to the leadership role, her responsibilities at the AMC include teaching and research.

Associate Professor Chen holds a PhD in Port Management. She has research interests and extensive publications in the fields of maritime logistics, port management and supply chain management. Research in these areas is imperative to supply chain efficiency and effectiveness, which contributes to international trade and business.

Dr Brendan Vickers

Dr Brendan Vickers is Head of the International Trade Policy Section at the Commonwealth Secretariat, having previously been an Economic Adviser in the Section. Prior to joining the Commonwealth, he worked in the South African civil service as Head of Research and Policy at the Department of Trade and Industry, where he was a lead negotiator for the BRICS Forum, and Deputy Director for International Relations and Trade in the Presidency. He also worked in the non-government organisation sector as Programme Director at the Institute for Global Dialogue. He has published widely on issues of trade and development and holds a PhD from the University of London.

About the Chairperson

Dr Amitendu Palit

Dr Amitendu Palit is Senior Research Fellow and Research Lead (Trade and Economics) at the Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore. He is an economist specializing in international trade and investment policies, FTAs, supply chains, connectivity, cross-border data flows and the Indian economy. He sits on the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on Trade and Investment. He is Senior Research Fellow (Honorary) at the Wong Centre for Study of MNCs and Adviser for Athena Infonomics.

Earlier, Amitendu worked for several years in the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, and in the Ministries of Industry and Civil Supplies. He handled macroeconomic policies, including trade, investment, industrial development, SMEs, entrepreneurship and futures trading. He wrote annual economic surveys and participated in annual budgetary consultations. He was on Advisory Committees of the Planning Commission of India and the ILO.

Amitendu has edited and authored several books. The latest ones are *Seeking Middle Ground: Land, Markets and Public Policy* (OUP, 2019; co-edited); *Seven Decades of Independent India* (Penguin, 2018; co-edited) and *Employment Policy in Emerging Economies* (Routledge, 2017; co-edited). His other books include *The Trans-Pacific Partnership, China and India: Economic and Political Implications* (Routledge, 2014), *China India Economics: Challenges, Competition and Collaboration* (Routledge, 2011) and *Special Economic Zones in India: Myths and Realities* (Anthem Press, 2008; co-authored). He has published in several peer-reviewed academic journals. He is a columnist for India's Financial Express and a regular contributor for East-West Centre, East Asia Forum and China Daily. He is an expert for BBC, Bloomberg News, CNA, CNBC, ABC, CGTN and Doordarshan (India). He has been a resource person for Commonwealth Secretariat, ILO, UNDP, Copenhagen Consensus and IIFT India.

.....