



Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Management Studies

(A unit of Maharaja Agrasen Technical Education Society)

Affiliated to GGSIP University; Recognized u/s 2(f) of UGC

Recognized by Bar Council of India; ISO 9001:2015 Certified Institution

Maharaja Agrasen Chowk, Sector-22, Rohini, Delhi-110086, India

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APAC EIF 2022

A two day International Conference entitled “Asia Pacific Economic Integration Forum (APAC EIF) 2022” was jointly organized by Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University, Thailand; Thammasat Business School, Thammasat University, Thailand; Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Management Studies, India; Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India, Ahmedabad; The University of Danang- University of Economics, Vietnam and Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, Dalat University, Vietnam on July 21-22, 2022 on the theme ‘Connectivity Dots in Asia Pacific for Realising Regional Potential for Global Welfare’. It was decided among the partners that the few selected quality papers of conference will be published in special issues of Scopus Indexed journals, “Thailand and the World Economy” and “Thammasat Review”.

The inauguration started at 09:00 AM Indian time (10:30 AM Thailand time) on July 21, 2022 with moderator Ms. Kamna Vaid, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, MAIMS formally welcoming all the dignitaries present online and participants from various parts of the country, colleagues and students.

The event started with the welcome address by representatives of all academic partners: Prof. (Dr.) Supachai Sricuchart, Dean, Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University; Prof. (Dr.) S.K. Garg, Director General, MAIMS, Dr. Sunil Shukla, Director General, Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India, Ahmedabad; Prof. (Dr.) Ruth Banomyong, Dean, Thammasat Business School, Thammasat University; Assoc. Prof. Man Dang, Head of the Department of Research & International Cooperation, The University of Danang; and Assoc Prof. Nguyen Tat Thang, Vice president, Dalat University.

Then the key note speaker Dr. Nand Kishore Garg, Founder & Chief Advisor, MATES, and Chancellor, MAU, HP was called upon but due to some unavoidable reasons, he could not attend the event. But he gave his blessings for the success of the event. Then came the address from Chief Guest Prof. (Dr.) Fukunari Kimura, Chief Economist, ERIA, Jakarta & Prof., Faculty of Economics, Keio University, Japan. He talked about supply chains during covid -19 and beyond. He further claimed that India has advantage in digital services and should take benefit out of it for economic growth and development of the world as a whole.

Inaugural session came to an end with the address of Dr. Sanjay Kumar Mangla, Faculty, Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India, Ahmedabad. In his address he thanked all the dignitaries and participants to contribute to conference in one or the other way. He showed the willingness of all partners to organize another offline event under APAC EIF 2022 in the near future.

The inaugural session was followed by two panel discussions comprising of renowned academicians and policy makers to discuss this issue from various different aspects. Under the limitation of this pandemic and lockdown, we managed to get four prominent speakers along with one moderator in both the panels.

In the first panel, we had Dr. Prabir De, Professor, Research and Information System, India; Prof. Faisal Ahmed, Professor, Fore School of Management, Delhi, India; Prof. Shandre



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Thangavelu, Regional Director, Southeast Asia, CIEs, Institute for International Trade, The University of Adelaide; and Dr. Jayant Menon, Senior Fellow, Regional Economic Studies Programme, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore and former Lead Economist in the Office of the Chief Economist, ADB along with Dr. Sanjay Kumar Mangla, Faculty, Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India, Ahmedabad as moderator of the panel discussion. The topic of the panel was 'From Multilateralism to Regionalism to Bilateralism in context of A-Pac'. It was discussed that multilateral world is facing big risks and uncertainties but regional and bilateral trade agreements cannot be an alternative to multilateral organizations. Thus mega regionalism is dominating and have a great significance.

In the second panel, we were privileged to have Prof Hal Hill, H.W. Arndt Professor Emeritus of Southeast Asian Economies, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU and President of East Asian Economic Association (EAEA); Prof. Sakon Varanyuwatana, Chairperson of the Trade Competition Commission and Former Dean, Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University; Professor Xuan-Vinh Vo, Dean of the Institute of Business Research, University of Economics, Ho Chi Minh City; and Dr. Cassey Lee, Senior Fellow and Coordinator, Regional Economic Studies Programme, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore along with Dr. Juthathip Jongwanich, Associate Professor, Thammasat University, Thailand & Editor, Thailand and the World Economy as the moderator of the panel discussion. The topic of this panel discussion was 'Fears of Deglobalization: Responses and Challenges for ASEAN and beyond'. In this, the experts discussed about the position of ASEAN countries in deglobalization and at which side these countries should be. With this, the first day of the conference came to an end at 03:00 PM IST (04:30 PM BKK).

The second day of the conference began with seven parallel technical sessions from 10:00 AM IST (11:30 AM BKK) to 01:00 PM IST (02:30 PM BKK) comprising of a total of 52 papers. There were 10 session chairs to judge those papers and they belong to different countries and institutions. In terms of papers and other contributions, we have touched upon more than 80% of the geographical part of the country and there were experts from more than 10 countries like US, Thailand, Australia, China, Vietnam, Korea.

The Valedictory session of the conference began at 02:00 PM IST (03:30 PM BKK) with the opening cum welcome address by Prof. (Dr.) Ravi Kumar Gupta, Director, MAIMS. Then the Dr. Juthathip Jongwanich, Associate Professor, Thammasat University, Thailand & Editor, Thailand and the World Economy was called upon to read the conference report and announce the best paper awards. In total six papers were given best paper awards, judged on the basis of their relevance to the conference theme, originality, presentation and response to Q&A by the session chairs. Lastly, vote of thanks was given by Prof. (Dr.) Supachai Sricuchart, Dean, Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University who congratulated the best paper award winners, participants and organizing committee for the successful event. Ms. Kamna Vaid then concluded the event with the end note that the flagship event of APAC EIF 2022 was the feather in the cap and it was a milestone and that there will be many on the way to come.