



Indian Institute of
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RESEARCH NEWSLETTER

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5th International Conference on “Empirical Issues in Trade and Finance”

The Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), a Deemed University, organized its Fifth Research Conference on Empirical Issues in International Trade and Finance (EIITF) during 16-17 December 2016 at its Kolkata Campus. The Conference received wide response from the academia and the policy research community, and a total of 101 papers were submitted from Universities and Research Institutes from India and abroad. After suitable peer-review process, a total of 71 papers were selected for presentation, 58 papers were scheduled and finally 48 papers were presented at the Conference. These included paper presenters from



Shri Ajay Kumar Bhalla, IAS, Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) and Director, IIFT inaugurating the Conference.

abroad including renowned universities, from Newcastle, namely University of Connecticut, MECAS Tlemcen University, National University of Singapore (NUS), Louisiana State University, Mercer University and IIMs, IITs, etc.



Shri Ajay Kumar Bhalla, IAS is seen with IIFT Faculty.

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The Conference was inaugurated by Shri A.K. Bhalla, IAS, Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) and Director, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT). In his welcome address, along with welcoming all the delegates and participants, he wished this event a great success. The conference comprised “Key Note and Inaugural Address”, “Special Lectures”, “Technical Sessions”, “Policy Forums”, “Book Release”, “Cultural Programme”, Pre-conference and Conference Dinners, etc. Prof. Leila Choukroune, Director, Centre for Social Sciences and Humanities (CSH), New Delhi, the French National Research Centre (CNRS) Unit on South Asia, and Prof. Rajat Acharya, Jadavpur University, were invited for delivering Special Lectures at the Conference. The Conference schedule accommodated a total of 16 technical sessions, where ongoing research in different areas of international trade and finance were presented. In addition, three Policy Forums on issues of significant contemporary policy relevance, namely: “Ease of Doing Business – Customs, Ports & Logistics Infrastructure”, “Investment Rules and Policy in the Asia-Pacific Region: Current Issues”, India’s Emerging Leadership, and Future Prospects” and “Impact of BREXIT on India” (in collaboration with Centre for WTO Studies), were organized at the EIITF 2016 Conference. The book titled *Trade, Investment and Economic Development in Asia*, edited by Prof. Debashis Chakraborty and Prof. Jaydeep Mukherjee was released.

The Valedictory Address was delivered by Prof. Rakesh Mohan Joshi, Chairperson (Research), IIFT. During his address, he expressed happiness about success of the conference and invited the delegates for the sixth edition of the conference to be held at Delhi Campus.



Shri Ajay Kumar Bhalla, IAS, Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) and Director, IIFT addressing the Delegates at the Conference.



(L to R) Prof. Vijaya Katti (Chairperson MDPs), Prof. Leila Choukroune, Prof. Jaydeep Mukherjee and Prof. Debashis Chakraborty releasing the book.



Prof. Rakesh Mohan Joshi, Chairperson (Research), IIFT, delivering the Valedictory Address during the Conference.

Faculty Participation in Discussion Forums

• Dr. Deepankar Sinha, Associate Professor

– Anchored and delivered “Vote of Thanks” at the Inaugural Session of 5th International Conference on Empirical Issues in International Trade and Finance, hosted by IIFT Kolkata Campus, 16-17 December 2016. (Photo 1)

– Invited as Guest Speaker in “Logistikas-16” an event of Department of Logistics and Supply Chain Management, UPES (University of Petroleum & Energy Studies), Dehradun, 10 November 2016.

– Nominated as Member of Technical Committee of IPA-PCS 2.0 (Port Community System – EDI system for ports in India) by IPA under Ministry of Shipping. Other members include representation from CBEC (Customs), NIC, Ernst & Young, BCG and IPA.

• Dr. Ruppal Walia Sharma, Associate Professor

A case study titled “Building the DNA of a Start Up Brand: The Sattviko Dilemma” was selected in the Top 10 cases in the ISB-Ivey Global Case Study Competition 2016. (Photo 2)

• Dr. Basanta K Sahu, Assistant Professor

– Attended “4th ADB-Asian Think Tank Development Forum” organized by National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP), Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), 27-28 October 2016, New Delhi.

– Attended “Mid-Year Economic Review” organized by National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) and India International Centre (IIC), 5th November 2016, New Delhi.

– Invited for public lecture on “India’s Growth Challenges after 25 Years of Reforms: Stability & Inclusion”, at Faculty of Business Management, FM University, 14th December 2016, Odisha. (Photo 3)



Presentation by IIFT Faculty

- **Dr. Satinder Bhatia, Professor & Chairperson** presented a paper on “Growth of Non-Bank Trade Finance” at the 5th International Conference on Empirical Issues in International Trade and Finance, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, Kolkata, 16-17 December 2016.
- **Dr. K. Rangarajan, Professor & Head**, Kolkata Centre presented a paper on “Assessment of Role of Private Health Insurance in India’s Health Care System” [Co-author: Dr. Rohit Kumar, IIM(R)] at the TAPMI Healthcare Conference and Management Conclave, 11 November 2016. The paper was presented by them through videoconferencing from IIFT Delhi.
- **Professor Rohit Mehtani** presented a paper titled “Brexit and the New Divide” in the 5th International Conference on “WTO, Trade and Agriculture: Issues and Challenges for Developing and Least Developed Countries” conducted by the Centre for WTO Studies, New Delhi, 20-21 October 2016.
- **Dr. Rajendra Prasad Sharma, Associate Professor** presented a paper on “Branding Indian Tea for Higher Export Unit Value Realization” at the 5th International Conference on Empirical Issues in International Trade and Finance, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, Kolkata, 16-17 December 2016.
- **Dr. Deepankar Sinha, Associate Professor** presented a paper on “A Multi-objective Framework for Minimization of Cost of Logistics in International Trade” (Co-author: Mr. Mohit Kumar, Research Scholar, IIFT) at the 5th International Conference on Empirical Issues in International Trade and Finance, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, Kolkata, 16-17 December 2016.
- **Dr. Deepankar Sinha** presented a paper on “A Computational Framework for Hybrid Mode of Governance of Major Ports of India towards better Customer Orientation” (Co-author: Dr. Shuvo Roy Chowhury, Research Associate) at the 5th International Conference on Empirical Issues in International Trade and Finance, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, Kolkata, 16-17 December 2016.
- **Dr. Basanta K. Sahu, Assistant Professor** presented a paper on “Impact of Rural Development Programs on Households in Drought Affected Areas in Odisha: A Study of MGNREGA”, at the National Conference on “India’s Economic & Rural Development” organized by Institute of Self Reliance (ISR), Bhubaneswar, 10 December 2016.
- **Dr. Debashis Chakraborty**, presented following papers:
 - “Do FDI Inflows influence Merchandise Exports? Causality Analysis on India over 1991-2016” (Co-authors: J. Mukherjee and J. Lee) at the 5th International Conference on Empirical Issues in International Trade and Finance, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, Kolkata, 16-17 December 2016.
 - “India’s Intra-Industry Trade: Trends and Determinants Analysis” (Co-author: S. Aggarwal), at the 5th International Conference on Empirical Issues in International Trade and Finance, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, Kolkata, 16-17 December 2016.
 - “How Trade Facilitation Measures Influence Export Orientation? Empirical Estimates with Logistics Performance Index Data” (Co-author: S. Mukherjee), at the 5th International Conference on Empirical Issues in International Trade and Finance, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, Kolkata, 16-17 December 2016.
 - “India’s Act East Policy: Expectations, Emerging Trends and Concern Areas”, National Round Table on “The Global Business Scenario and India’s Way Ahead”, University of Jammu, 23 November 2016.

Research Projects under Progress/Completed during 2016-17

1. Study on Export Promotion Strategy for the state of Nagaland (under progress)

In order to promote India's exports on sustained basis, it becomes important to involve the states with specific focus products with existing foreign demand. The main objective of the study is to develop an export promotion strategy envisaged to act as a catalyst to promote India's exports on a sustained basis from the State of Nagaland.

2. Study on Development of Export Promotion Strategy for Madhya Pradesh (under progress)

Major objective of this ongoing study is to identify potential major goods from Madhya Pradesh as well as the major clusters in Madhya Pradesh. Assessing infrastructure availability for export facilitation and deciphering gaps for its requirement is also an area of concern in this research. It further aims to evolve an export promotion strategy by conducting market analysis of identified major countries for chosen product groups.

3. Preparation of Export Management & Compliance Manual for Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) (under progress)

This study has undertaken development of Export Management and Compliance Manual and is aimed at mapping-out the HPCL export compliance strategy so as to provide the standardized guidance to all employees/ stakeholders to manage the firm's export operations systematically.

4. Development of Export Promotion Strategy for Maharashtra

Assessment of potential merchandise products for export from Maharashtra, analyzing the existing infrastructural and policy framework for facilitating exports and identifying the gaps associated with these process within the State are the key focus of study. It also aims to identify major clusters for export development from Maharashtra. The market

identification analysis for the chosen product groups and recommendation of focused policy to boost their exports are among the other major areas of research.

5. Study on Trade Impact of WP29 on India

This study looks into the possible implications of India's joining the 1958 Agreement on trade as well as at various layers of the domestic industry through analysis of India's trade dynamics, as a member of the 1998 Agreement. It also draws lessons from the prior experiences of other countries joining the 1958 agreement. It also attempts to estimate the potential trade effects of the standard-related Non-Tariff Barriers both in India and select EU members. Finally, it attempts to observe the possible trade effects if there is a decline in trade barriers.

6. Study of Coir Exports Sustainability in the Context of Coir Fibre Scarcity for Product Exporters

Key focus of this study was to estimate total quantity of fibre required for the coir industry for export and domestic market, to determine its optimum level of utilization and identifying potential of production of coirfibre in India. It provided several recommendations to enhance the above aspects.

7. Study on Impact of FTA on Chemical and Petrochemical Sector

In the context of India signing free trade agreement with number of countries, the study examines India's trade engagement in chemical and petrochemical sector, and is an attempt to analyze its various facets like what is the trade structure of chemical and petrochemical products; how far erosion of protection due to duty reduction is pronounced; how resilient is the export performance; presence of India in various FTA partners' economy including the extent FTA partners are responsible for India's rising imports.

Publications by IIFT Faculty

AUTHOR	PUBLICATION
Dr. Rohit Mehtani (Professor)	Brexit and the New Divide, <i>Focus WTO</i> , Vol. 18, No. 3, July-September 2016, IIFT, New Delhi.
Dr. Rajendra Prasad Sharma (Associate Professor)	Marketing to the Rural Poor in India- An Empirical Study of North Kerala (Co-author: Sarkar, Pallabi Pal), <i>Skyline Business Journal</i> (A research publication of Skyline University College, Sharjah, UAE), ISSN 1998-3425, Vol. XII, Issue 1, 2016-1, pp . 28-36.

Faculty Development Programmes

Conference/Training Programme	Organizing Institution	Venue/Date
Dr. Bibek Ray Chaudhuri, Associate Professor 10 th Inha-Le Havre International Conference	Inha University, Incheon, South Korea	Incheon, South Korea 20-21 Oct. 2016
Dr. Jayanta K. Seal, Associate Professor International Training Programme on Project Finance	International Faculty of Finance (IFF) London	London 9-11 Nov. 2016
Dr. Sanjay Rastogi, Associate Professor 69 th All India Commerce Association Conference	University of Lucknow	Lucknow 11-13 Nov. 2016
Dr. Ranajoy Bhattacharyya, Professor XXV International Rome Conference on Money, Banking and Finance	University of Rome III	Rome 1-2 Dec. 2016