

## **INDIA AND AUSTRALIA: PATHWAYS TO A STRONG TRADING FUTURE**

National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) and  
East Asian Bureau of Economic Research (EABER), ANU

*Tuesday, September 29, 2015, Viceregal Hall, Claridges Hotel, New Delhi*

**Objective:** The negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) between Australia and India, currently underway, as well as ongoing negotiations on TPP and RCEP, provide the context for this meeting. Both governments are committed to completing negotiations by the end of 2015. This dialogue is an opportunity to examine India's and Australia's trade strategies and how CECA will impact them over the next few years.

### **September 29 Viceregal Hall, Claridges Hotel**

<b>8:30 am</b>	<b>Registration and light breakfast</b>
<b>9:00 – 9.30 am</b>	<b>Introduction:</b> Dr Shekhar Shah, Director General, NCAER Prof Peter Drysdale, Professor, ANU Ms Natalie Daalder, Director, CECA, Australian High Commission
<b>9.30 – 11.00 am</b>	<b>SESSION 1: THE INDIA-AUSTRALIA CECA</b> Chair: <b>Mr Arvind Mehta, Addl. Secretary, Ministry of Commerce</b> Panellists: <b>Dr Rajesh Chadha, NCAER, Dr Shiro Armstrong, ANU</b> <i>This session will examine the prospects for the India–Australia Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) currently under negotiation from both an Indian and an Australian perspective, examining how these fit in with India's and Australia's trade strategies over the next decade or so.</i>
<b>11.00 – 11.30 am</b>	<b>Morning tea</b>
<b>11:30 – 1:00 pm</b>	<b>SESSION 2: REGIONAL TRADE STRATEGIES AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION</b> Chair: <b>Dr Anup Wadhawan, Director-General, Directorate General of Foreign Trade</b> Panellists: <b>Prof Michael Woods, UTS &amp; ANU and Prof Biswajit Dhar, Jawaharlal Nehru University</b> This session will analyse trade and investment liberalisation and regional economic cooperation more broadly in Asia. What will initiatives like the RCEP, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, mean for India, Australia, and the Asia region more broadly? How will CECA fit these developments?
<b>1:00 – 1:45 pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>1:45 – 3:15 pm</b>	<b>SESSION 3: SERVICES TRADE</b> Chair: <b>Mr J K Dadoo, Addl. Secretary, Ministry of Commerce</b> Panellists: <b>Prof Rupa Chanda, IIM-Bangalore and Dr Philippa Dee, ANU</b> <i>This session will examine the prospects for India's services sector and the domestic and trade and investment reforms needed to improve the prospects and how CECA might help shape these developments. It will also consider the prospects for services liberalisation through multilateral processes such as the Trade in Services Agreement and through plurilateral economic agreements.</i>
<b>3:15 – 3:45 pm</b>	<b>Afternoon tea</b>
<b>3:45 – 5:00 pm</b>	<b>SESSION 4: AGRICULTURAL TRADE</b> Chair: <b>Prof Ramesh Chand, Member, NITI Aayog</b> Panellists: <b>Dr Jenny Gordon, Productivity Commission and Prof A. Ganesh-Kumar, IGIDR</b> <i>This session will explore agricultural reforms and agricultural trade liberalisation. Panellists will explore how openness in agricultural markets can improve economic outcomes while protecting the welfare of rural households and consumers.</i>
<b>5:00 – 6:30 pm</b>	<b>SESSION 5: ROUNDTABLE ON INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT, ECONOMIC REFORMS, &amp; POLICY REVIEW</b> Chair: <b>Dr Shekhar Shah, NCAER</b> Panellists: <b>Dr Rathin Roy, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy</b> <b>Dr Jenny Gordon, Productivity Commission, Mr Shyam Saran, RIS, Prof Peter Drysdale, ANU</b> <i>This session will consider the domestic reform agenda facing the Modi government and the ways in which India can leverage its international economic engagement to drive the reform process. It will also consider the Australian experience of trade liberalisation and domestic reform, with particular reference to independent policy review mechanisms such as the Productivity Commission.</i>
<b>6:30 – 6:45 pm</b>	<b>Concluding remarks, Prof Peter Drysdale, ANU and Dr Shekhar Shah, NCAER</b>
<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Reception and dinner, The Senate Lounge, Claridges Hotel</b>