

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF ODISHA, KORAPUT
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS

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Webinar on Trade and India's Foreign Policy Amid Covid-19

A Webinar on 'Trade and India's Foreign Policy amid Covid-19' was organized jointly by the Central University of Odisha, Koraput in collaboration with FIDR India on 4 July 2020. Dr. Madan Mohan Sethy, IFS, Consul General to Vietnam was the chief speaker of the webinar with Mr. Charudutta Panigrahi, Chairman of the Forum for integrated Development and Research, Haryana as the panellist. Prof. I Ramabrahmam, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Central University of Odisha inaugurated the Webinar and was of the view that it is imperative to review our own strategies of foreign trade and the trade policy. Finding a workable solution in such a situation though is not an easy task but is possible and will need input from multidisciplinary inputs and perspectives.

Dr. Sethy explained how real challenges and learning from others boosted his personality. He shared his experience of working as director Central Europe Division at Ministry of External Affairs, India and highlighted the significance of trade in India's Foreign Policy and Global Trade in the region and in general during difficult COVID times. In discussion with Mr. Panigrahi with regard to his experience as Consul General to Myanmar, Dr Sethy elaborated how we should look at Indian sub-continent and our immediate neighbours in building up our foreign policy and shared his vision building a functional relationship with Vietnam. Koraput being a resource rich land with tribal communities, there is need for tapping opportunities for tourism development and traditional crafts, as articulated by Prof. Durga Prasad, Visiting Professor, Sociology. The Holong Bay experience of Vietnam was seen as the starting point for involving the tribal youth in promoting tourism, concluded Dr Prasad. In order to make the Central University of Odisha, one of the growing Universities in the country, the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor felt the need for exploring ties with Vietnam. Dr. Sethy agreed to help in working out student exchange programmes and faculty development programmes with Vietnam Universities and Research and Training Institutions. Visualising himself as a role model for the young minds of CUO, he advised them to study hard and match the progress with other neighbouring countries and developing nations.

Sri Charudatta Panigrahi raised key questions about the changing alignment of trading nations in the context of the COVID related trade restrictions. Describing Dr. Sethy as the 'son of soil' from Berhampur, he hoped that Dr. Sethy will help us in transforming backward but potentially strong Districts like Koraput. Field studies, case studies and vignettes from Vietnam will enrich the learning of the CUO Students was his concluding remark.

On behalf of the Central University of Odisha, Dr. Minati Sahoo, Asst. Professor & HoD I/c. Dept of Economics coordinated the webinar. Dr. Sahoo highlighted the subject in brief with its relevance in today's time. Participants from different parts of the country and abroad participated in this webinar. At the end of the panel discussion, questions by participants were answered by the chief speaker. Finally, the event was concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr Biswajit Bhoi, Asst. Professor, Dept. of Economics, CUO.

Dr. Phagunath Bhoi, Public Relation Officer