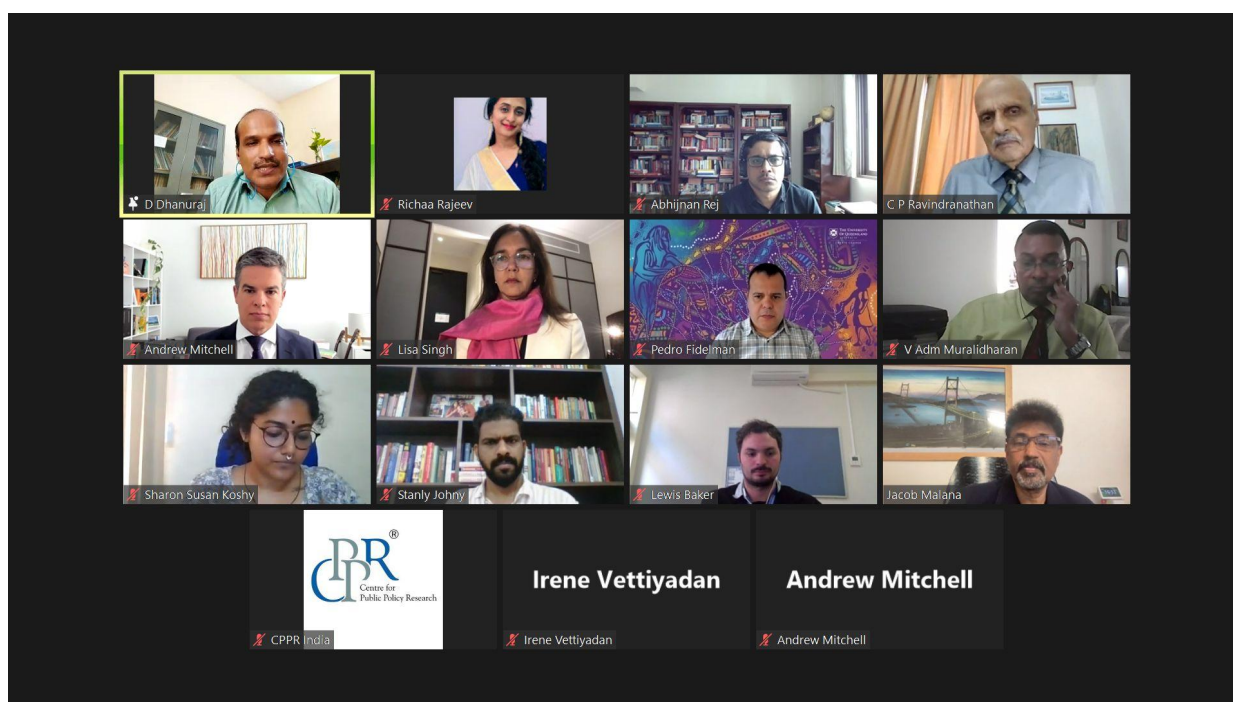


AIIPOIP Taskforce Initiation Report

Initiation of AIIPOIP Taskforce for Indo Pacific Economy, Security and Sustainability



Date & Time: 11 October, 2022 | 11 AM to 12 PM IST

Venue: Zoom

Participants:

Taskforce Members - Hon. Lisa Singh, Dr. Pedro Fidelman, Dr. Stanly Johny, Mr. Jacob Malana, Vice Admiral M P Muralidharan, Dr. Andrew Mitchell, Prof C P Ravindranathan, Mr. Abhijan Rej.

From CPPR - Dr. D Dhanuraj, J Paul Zachariah, Sharon Susan Koshy, Richaa Rajeev, Irene Vettiyadan

Proceedings Report

- **About the Event:** The initiation meeting of the AIIPOIP Taskforce on Indo Pacific Economy, Security and Sustainability was held on 11th October 2022 from 11 Am to 12 PM IST. The AIIPOIP Taskforce is an initiative of the Centre for Public Policy Research (CPPR), Kochi and Monash University, Melbourne. It is a network of ten eminent persons of diverse expertise in the domains of security, environment, media, polity, foreign policy, academia, and commerce from India and Australia.

- **The Taskforce Members:** Vice Admiral M P Muralidharan (Chairperson), Hon. Lisa Singh, Prof C P Ravindranathan, Dr. Andrew Mitchell, Mr. Jacob Malana, Dr. Stanly Johny, Dr. Pedro Fidelman, Ms. Nayantara Jain, Mr. Abhijnan Rej.
- The welcome address was given by **Dr. Dhanuraj**, Chairman of CPPR. He also introduced the objectives and the background for the formation of the Taskforce. Given that India and Australia's bilateral relations are getting stronger, they also realise the importance of having joint participation in international forums. He mentioned that the taskforce is the result of the deliberations and discussions previously held, part of the purpose of the AIPOIP, with the help of research scholars and business entrepreneurs who are actively involved in Australia-India relations.
- Brief introductions of all the Taskforce members were given by Sharon Susan Koshy, Research Associate at CPPR.
- Remarks were given by each member pointing out the importance of having experts from diverse domains coming together and ideating for policy changes in their respective fields in their collective and individual capacities.
- The concluding remarks were made by **Sharon Susan Koshy**, who thanked everyone for their participation amidst their busy schedules and emphasised the importance of the work to be undertaken by the Taskforce in the coming year.

Summary of Discussions

1. The virtual initiation meeting was aimed at setting the tone and defining the activities for the Taskforce in the upcoming year.

Proposed Deliverables

2. **Dr. D Dhanuraj** led the discussion on the deliverables for the upcoming year. The Taskforce has planned for delivering a webinar for each quarter, a research paper in the second quarter, as well as commentaries on Indo-Australia relations. Topics and scholars for each activity will be proposed by the members of the Taskforce. Discussion was also steered towards conducting an Annual lecture series on India-Australia relations towards the fourth quarter. An annual IPOIP Brief is also in the planning. It was decided that the exact dates and detailed planning for the deliverables will be undertaken in the next meeting set up with that specific agenda.
3. It was also mentioned that for the lecture series, we would like to keep the platform open rather than restricting participation and the event in person. It was also suggested that the lecture could also take the shape of a panel discussion. It will be an excellent opportunity to also collaborate with universities in India and Australia on the same.

4. Next, each of the members took turns giving their remarks on the importance of the Taskforce and emergent state of international affairs in the Indo Pacific. **Hon. Lisa Singh**, Former Australian Senator and CEO of Australia India Institute celebrated the new tangents in Australia and India's bilateral relationships and the increased importance for coastal regions. Hon. Singh also hoped that the Taskforce will pave the way for CPPR being their partner in hosting Track Diplomacy discussions in Kochi. **Dr. Stanly Johny** commented on the increasing relevance of the Indo Pacific amidst the rising threats of China. **Dr. Pedro Fidelman** iterated the importance of the current orientation of the Taskforce to environmental issues as well. Coming with an expertise in Blue Economy, Ocean affairs and Ocean governance he said he would be happy to coordinate lectures and workshops with his colleagues in India and Australia.
5. **Mr. Jacob Malana** said that both India and Australia must work together to tackle threats on cybersecurity issues making the Indian Ocean and the Indo Pacific an area of priority. **Mr. Abhijnan Rej** who also works in Science and Technology emphasised that the Taskforce will be an arena of cooperation on Technology and Innovation for India and Australia with increased investments in technology. Discussions iterated the pivotal role Southern India could play in relations with Australia in the Indo Pacific.

Announcement of Chair

6. The Chairperson of the AIIPOIP Taskforce for Indo Pacific Economy, Security and Sustainability was announced by Dr. D Dhanuraj. **Vice Admiral M P Muralidharan**, the Former Director General of the Coast Guard will be the Taskforce Chairperson for the upcoming year. He shall convene, set the agenda and steer the discussions of the meetings.

Concluding Remarks

7. Sharon Susan Koshy, Research Associate at CPPR concluded the session by thanking everyone for their participation.

Key Takeaways

1. Chairperson of the Taskforce for the upcoming year is Vice Admiral M P Muralidharan
2. Tentative dates of the next meeting to plan for the deliverables of the Taskforce for the upcoming year will be decided on DOODLE as per everyone's convenience.

*This report was prepared by **Sharon Susan Koshy, Research Associate** at CPPR.*