



Maritime governance in South Asia... This was the topic of a two-day workshop-cum-panel discussion organised by the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS). The event was held on Nov 29 and 30 at the Novotel Singapore Clarke Quay.

The event saw participants talk about the prospects and concerns of maritime governance in South Asia. They discussed existing mechanisms and new ideas for governance that are emerging as well as the potential for Blue Economy projects. They examined the question of whether established norms, rules and organisations are adapting to the current challenges.

President of the Third UN Conference on Law of the Sea and Singapore's Ambassador-at-Large Professor Tommy Koh set the stage for the two day discussions with the overarching theme Maritime Governance in South Asia: The Potential for Trade.

Security and Sustainable Development.

In all, about 25 speakers discussed and deliberated on the following five key topics:

- A Maritime Growth Triangle: Singapore, Sri Lanka and India
- Is India a Responsible Maritime Stakeholder
- Ports, Maritime Cooperation and Sustainable Development in South Asia
- Ocean States and Economics
- Governing the Ocean: Indian Ocean Perspectives

The photo above shows (from left to right) RAdm (Retd.) Md Khurshed Alam, secretary, Maritime Affairs Unit, ministry of foreign affairs, Bangladesh, Ambassador Gopinath Pillai, chairman ISAS, Prof Tommy Koh and Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, principal research fellow, ISAS-NUS on the first day of the event.

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