

Thalatta! Thalatta! Bangladesh Finds the Sea

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Introducing the Issue

- The Bay of Bengal and Bangladesh's southward bid
- Creating functional areas of cooperation
- Indian Ocean “neglected no longer” and Bay of Bengal has similar appeal for the region

Central Argument

- Development of port facilities
- Bangladesh's increasing opportunity at the Bay of Bengal region

Framework of Analysis

- Sasika Sassen: *The Global City: New York, London, Tokyo* (1991)
- Parag Khanna: *Connectography: Mapping The Future of Global Civilization* (2016)
- Gideon Rachman: *Easternisation: War and Peace in the Asian Century* (2016)
- Central theme: Each phase in the long history of the world economy raises specific questions about the particular conditions that make it possible (Sassen, 2005)

The Concept of Blue Economy

- Growing understanding on the pitfalls of traditional model of development
- UN introduces: sustainable development, green economy and blue economy
- Gunter Pauli (1994): sustainable development involving ocean resources
- UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20 Summit) in 2012: popularized the idea

Key Areas of Blue Ocean Economy and the Challenges

- a) sustainable use of biodiversity, b) food security, c) unsustainable fisheries, d) climate change and managing carbon budgets, e) marine and coastal tourism, pollution and marine debris, and f) governance and international cooperation
- Challenges and opportunities in areas such as a) shipping and port facilities, b) fisheries, c) tourism, d) aquaculture, e) energy, f) biotechnology, and g) submarine mining

The Bay of Bengal and Bangladesh

- Bangladesh's foreign policy constraints
- The Bay of Bengal: our Third Neighbor
- Resolution of maritime boundary
- With Myanmar: March, 2012
- With India: July, 2014

Bangladesh's Blue Ocean Policy: Development of Port Facilities

- Bangladesh is one of the fastest growing economy (N11)
- Two ports: Chittagong and Mongla
- Deep sea-ports: Sonadia (cancelled); Matarbari (Japan); Payra (proposed)

Bangladesh's Appeal as a Functional Zone in the Bay of Bengal Region

- The Bay of Bengal region is undergoing a 'tectonic' change
- Bangladesh stands as the key to this change
- Bangladesh has actively promoted the Bay of Bengal as a 'geo-strategic link' in the Indian Ocean region
- Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton: America's Pacific Century (2011); Secretary of State John Kerry: Indo-Pacific Corridor (2013)

Bangladesh's Appeal as a Functional Zone in the Bay of Bengal Region

- Interest of great powers to Bangladesh
- Bangladesh providing land-based and maritime connectivity for South, Southeast and East Asia
- Bangladesh's next big opportunity: the Bay of Bengal

Thank You