

FCC SOUTH ASIA WEBINAR# 18 SPECIAL GUESTS' CV:

Ban Ki-moon, born June 13, 1944 is a South Korean diplomat who was the eighth Secretary-General of the United Nations from January 2007 to December 2016. Before becoming Secretary-General, he was a career diplomat in South Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in the United Nations.

As the eighth Secretary-General of the United Nations his priorities were to mobilize world leaders around a set of new global challenges, from climate change and economic upheaval to pandemics and increasing pressures involving food, energy and water. He was a bridge-builder, giving a voice to the world's poorest and most vulnerable people, and strengthening the Organization itself.

One of the Secretary-General's first major initiatives was the 2007 Climate Change Summit, followed by extensive diplomatic efforts that have helped put the issue at the forefront of the global agenda. At the height of the food, energy and economic crises in 2008, the Secretary-General successfully appealed to the G20 for a \$1 trillion financing package for developing countries.

Under his leadership in 2015 countries adopted a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all as part of a new sustainable development agenda. Each goal has specific targets to be achieved until 2030 and to leave no one behind.

He also led the efforts for the Paris Climate Agreement, which entered into force in 2016 less than a year later. Countries agreed to work to limit global temperature rise to well below 2 degrees Celsius, and given the grave risks, to strive for 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Mr Ban has sought to strengthen UN peace efforts, including through the New Horizons peacekeeping initiative, the Global Field Support Strategy and the Civilian Capacity Review, a package of steps to improve the impact of the 120,000 United Nations "blue helmets" operating in the world's conflict zones.

Mr. Ban has sought to rejuvenate the disarmament agenda through a five-point-plan, efforts to break the deadlock at the Conference on Disarmament and renewed attention to nuclear safety and security in the aftermath of the tragedy at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant.

He introduced new measures aimed at making the United Nations more transparent, effective and efficient.

At the time of his election as Secretary-General, Mr. Ban was his country's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade. His 37 years of service with the Ministry included postings in New Delhi, Washington D.C. and Vienna, and responsibility for a variety of portfolios, including Foreign Policy Adviser to the President, Chief National Security Adviser to the President, Deputy Minister for Policy Planning and Director-General of American Affairs.

In 1985, Ban Ki-moon had earned a master's degree in public administration from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University after he had completed a bachelor's degree in international relations from Seoul National University in 1970.

Ban Ki-moon and his wife, Madam Yoo (Ban) Soon-taek, whom he met in high school in 1962, have one son, two daughters and three grandchildren.

Vijay Nambiar, born in Pune (1943), studied at St Xavier's College Mumbai. He was awarded the Chancellor's gold medal for his Masters in 1965. He joined India's Foreign Service in 1967. Was Ambassador/High Commissioner in Algiers (1985-88), Afghanistan (1990-92),

Malaysia (1993-96), China (1996-2000) and Pakistan (2000-01). He was also Permanent Representative at India's UN Mission in New York. After retirement in 2004, he served as Deputy National Security Adviser until 2006, when he was seconded to the UN as Special Adviser to UNSG Kofi Annan. He was later Chef de Cabinet to UNSG Ban Ki Moon and his Adviser on Myanmar. He returned to India in 2017 and is now settled in Greater NOIDA.

Bhaswati Mukherjee, born on 14.06.1953 in New Delhi. Has a Master's degree in history, and has studied at Sorbonne University in Paris. Presently lecturing at the Foreign Service Institute and in different Universities in India and abroad on disarmament and strategic issues, India's relations with its neighbours, India and the EU, challenges emerging from use of chemical weapons as well as on Soft Power, Diaspora and India's cultural and civilizational heritage. She is presently working on Indentured Labour Route Project for UNESCO and Government of Mauritius.

She published a book on "India and EU: An Insider View." Her book on 'Bengal and its Partition: An Untold Story' is awaiting publication. She has published over 100 articles, columns, reports and monographs in leading national and international publications. She is a regular TV commentator on international and strategic issues. She joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1976. Has been Indian Ambassador/Permanent Representative to UNESCO in Paris; was Director at the Centre for Human Rights at the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva. She has worked at the Permanent Mission of India in New York; was Ambassador to The Netherlands, and has worked in the Indian Mission in Cairo.

Syed Akbaruddin ended his diplomatic assignment as the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations on 30th April 2020 and has recently returned to India. In a diplomatic career spanning more than three decades, he represented India's interests in important capacities, promoting friendly ties across the globe. As the Official Spokesperson of India's Ministry of External Affairs during 2012-2015, he is credited with the effective use of social media tools to considerably expand public diplomacy outreach. An experienced multilateral diplomat prior to his assignment at the UN, he played a key role as the Chief Coordinator in the organization of the India Africa Forum Summit held in October 2015 in New Delhi. All 54 African States that are members of the United Nations and the African Union participated in this milestone event in India-Africa ties. Ambassador Akbaruddin also served as an international civil-servant at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna from 2006-2011 as Head of the External Relations and Policy Coordination Unit and the Special Assistant to the Director General of the IAEA. He has previously served at the Indian Mission to the United Nations as First Secretary (1995-98), during which he focused on UN Security Council Reform and Peace-Keeping. He was a member of the UN's apex body the Advisory Committee on Administrative & Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) during 1997-98. He served as Counsellor at the Indian High Commission in Islamabad (1998-2000). During 2000-2004, he was the Consul General of India, Jeddah in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and prior to that was First Secretary in Riyadh and Second Secretary/Third Secretary in Cairo, Egypt. He is proficient in Arabic. Ambassador Akbaruddin has a Master's Degree in Political Science and International Relations. He is married to Mrs Padma Akbaruddin and they have two sons. He is an avid and passionate sports enthusiast.