

**POST-COLD WAR SCENE: A BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE**  
**ORGANISED BY**  
**INSTITUTE OF DIPLOMACY AND FOREIGN RELATIONS**  
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□ RAO (centre) outlining his blueprint concept. Looking on is Abdullah (right) and Indian High Commissioner V.K. Nambiar.

## Rao: Need for bigger Asian role in UN Security Council

By SHIRENE SHAN

INDIAN Prime Minister Narasimha Rao yesterday underscored the need to look afresh at the United Nations (UN) Security Council.

Addressing a forum organised by the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, Rao said nations cannot delude themselves that decisions imposed by some national interests are equally good for all nations.

"The composition of the UN Security Council must reflect contemporary realities, particularly the large number of developing countries who do not find a voice in this forum," he said.

A blueprint for the future of the world, he added, will be incomplete unless it stresses the role that the Asian continent must play. He noted that Asia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) base is set to grow to US\$28 trillion (US\$1 = RM2.46) in the year 2020 from US\$5 trillion in 1990.

Rao delivered an address on "The Post Cold War Scene: A Blueprint for the Future". He is in the country for a four-day visit and will leave tomorrow.

Earlier, Rao said greater interaction between Asean and India is long overdue and can be realised through India's sectoral dialogue with Asean. India has been a sectoral dialogue partner — in trade, investment, tourism and science and technology — with Asean since 1993.

In his address, Rao said Asean has shown the way to successful multilateral engagement by setting up "concentric layers" of multilateral cooperation.

"Asean members have cautiously avoided expanding their core group and have restricted themselves to a group of culturally-homogenous nation states.

"India, too, has promoted sub-regional cooperation through the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc)," he added.

He also noted that nations must not lose sight of the ultimate aim in multilateral negotiations, "which is the highest common good for the highest number".

In reply to a question on the likelihood that India's investments abroad will be affected by the scrapping of US-based Enron Corp's

US\$2.8 billion (US\$1 = RM2.46) project in the Maharashtra state, Rao replied:

"I come into this picture only as the central government having given a counter guarantee. If the Maharashtra State Government has not paid, these people can come and catch hold of my throat and say — 'you pay'."

The Enron power project in Dabhol Port had been scrapped by the Bharatiya Janata party (BJP) as it alleged the deal contravened standard international practices.

Rao said when the previous Government entered into the Enron agreement, they found it in order unlike the new State Government. "When you get into a difficult situation, you find some way to come out of it. I am sure we will resolve this."

On the Kashmir issue, Rao said:

"Today people are talking about elections; some say it is possible and other say it is not. In the next three to four months, please don't be surprised if we have free and fair elections.

"That's what we are planning for," he added.