

Department of African Studies, University of Delhi
Minutes of the Symposium on ‘**Introspection on the Bandung Conference**’
On the occasion of Commemorating 70 Years of the Bandung Conference
Date: 23rd April, 2025, 11:30 am
Venue: Committee Room, Department of African Studies

Introduction and Welcome Address

The symposium commenced with a warm welcome by Prof(Dr.) A.S. Yaruigam, the Head of the Department of African Studies, University of Delhi, who contextualized the event as a celebration of seven decades since the historic **Bandung Conference of 1955**. Emphasizing the conference’s foundational role in launching the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), the Head outlined the objectives of the day’s discussions: to revisit the vision of Bandung, evaluate its present-day relevance, and enhance India-Africa academic cooperation.

Special Address

The highlight of the session was a **Special Address by His Excellency Mr. Albertus Aochamub**, Namibian Ambassador to France, Spain, Italy, Portugal and Monaco who powerfully articulated:

- Namibia’s leadership in **maritime conservation** and ecological sustainability.
- The nation’s steadfast commitment to **climate justice**, aligning with global South priorities.
- The spirit of **resilience and innovation** guiding Namibia’s developmental efforts.

H.E. Aochamub also applauded **India-Namibia cooperation**, particularly the **student exchange programs**, emphasizing their transformative impact on educational and cultural bridges between the two nations.

Panel Discussion Highlights

The symposium featured an engaging panel discussion by the Guest speaker and the faculty members of the Department, structured around the following key areas:

The Evolution of the Bandung Conference and NAM

- A historical overview tracing the genesis of the Bandung Conference and its progression into the Non-Aligned Movement.
- Contributions of Asian and African nations in resisting colonialism and imperialism through unity and strategic non-alignment.
- Reflections on India’s important role alongside African nations in promoting South-South solidarity.

Bandung's Enduring Relevance and "African Solutions to African Problems"

- Analysis of how Bandung's principles continue to inspire contemporary geopolitical alignments and regional cooperation.
- Discussions on the idea of **self-determination, Pan-African solidarity**, and the enduring relevance of the mantra: "African solutions to African problems".
- The necessity of revitalizing Bandung values in the face of modern global inequities and neocolonial challenges.

Development of Area Studies and Academic Collaborations

- Insights into how the Bandung spirit led to the growth of **area studies**, especially African and Asian studies, as disciplines in academic institutions.
- Emphasis on the role of **academic diplomacy**, faculty exchange, and research collaborations in sustaining Bandung's legacy.
- Testimonials from students and alumni of Indo-African academic programs, spotlighting success stories and future aspirations.

Closing Remarks

The event concluded with a vote of thanks acknowledging the speakers, attendees, and organizing team for making the symposium a meaningful tribute to Bandung's vision. The gathering reaffirmed the shared commitment to peace, development, and mutual respect among nations of the Global South.

Outcome

- Renewed academic interest in Bandung and NAM histories.
- Engaging discussion among scholars, faculty, and the guest speaker.
- Expression of intent to publish a special issue on "Bandung @70" featuring ideas from the symposium.