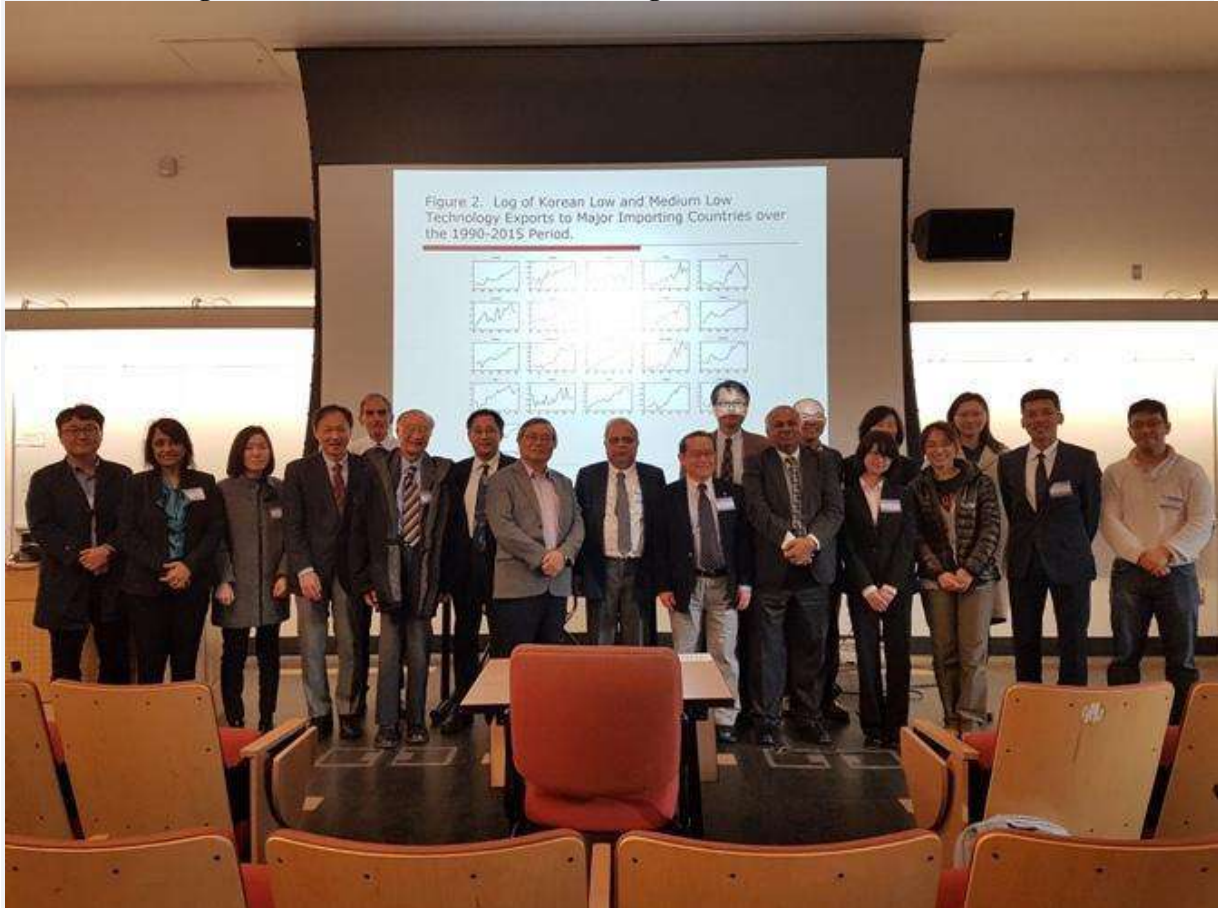


IMI Kolkata organises conference on economic integration at Seattle



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Over 55 policy-makers and economists from 15 countries discussed cross-border trade and other issues

The 2017 International Conference on Economic Integration and Economic Growth was held in University of Washington, Seattle, US, on March 18 and 19.

The conference was jointly organised by University of Washington, Seattle; International Management Institute, Kolkata; University of Kobe; University of International Business and Economics Beijing; Korea Institute for Industrial Economics and Trade; Korean Economic Association, and the Asia-Pacific Economic Association in Seattle.

Mega FTAs, IPR issues

The Technical Programme Committee of the conference accepted 48 papers. About 110 delegates from the US, the UK, Japan, Germany, South Korea, Vietnam, India, Taiwan, China, Thailand, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, South Africa, The Philippines and Bangladesh participated in the conference.

The conference attracted more than 55 policy-makers, economists and researchers from 15 countries to discuss diverse issues related to economic integration. The technical sessions of the conference were focused on topics that included trade in services, e-commerce and cross-border trade, mega FTAs, IPR protection and trade, global value chain, prospects of IT industry in light of the new US policy and other related issues.

Trade barriers in BRICS economies

Prof Arindam Banik, Director IMI Kolkata, and Editor, *Global Business Review*, presented a paper entitled "Assessing the Barriers to Trade in Financial Services in BRICS Economies".

Prof Ramesh Behl, Director, IMI Bhubaneswar, presented a paper entitled "The Key Drivers and Impediments to Cross-border E-Commerce in India". Prof Bindu Chhabra, IMI Bhubaneswar, presented a paper "Back to the Future?: Challenges and opportunities for Indian IT Industry in the New Economic Order"

The conference generated great opportunities for long-term and sustainable relationships among policy-makers and academicians across the globe. The next Asia Pacific Economic Association (APEA) conference will be held at Korea University, Seoul, South Korea, from July 13 to 15, 2017.