

Over the last decade, India has risen to be one of the most influential players on the global stage. This nation, consisting of 1.3 billion people¹, has become incredibly implicated in the development and sustainment of its neighbouring countries as a result of its involvement in the United Nations, particularly within the Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. Firstly, within the mandate of the Commission, India recognizes the need to provide investment to build and improve infrastructure in South East Asia. With over \$224 million worth of investments, India has helped development projects in many countries in the region, particularly in Myanmar.² Additionally, A \$75 million Project Development Fund has been created by the Indian government to encourage Indian investments in countries like Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam (CMLV).³ In the future, India must put a focus in increasing connectivity between herself and the nations of South East Asia.

Secondly, India must use its vast agricultural resources to provide food and nutrition security to much of the continent. India already produces a stunning 20% of the world's rice and 9% of the world's wheat.⁴ One major concern for India is the growing scarcity of water and its declining quality.⁵ It would like to work on this issue within the various UN organs. By further developing our agricultural sector through investments, India may emerge as an agricultural super power in the region. Through these initiatives, India may allow for a massive improvement in food and nutritional security in the Asia/Pacific region.

¹ Romero, Andrea. "Topic: India." *Www.statista.com*. N.p., 07 Oct. 2016. Web. 07 Nov. 2016. <<https://www.statista.com/topics/754/india/>>.

² Maini, Tridivesh Singh. "Can India Increase Its Presence in Southeast Asia?" *The Diplomat*. The Diplomat, 01 Oct. 2016. Web. 07 Nov. 2016. <<http://thediplomat.com/2016/10/can-india-increase-its-presence-in-southeast-asia/>>.

³ Ibid.

⁴ "Top 10 Wheat Producing States of India." *Maps of India*. N.p., n.d. Web. 07 Nov. 2016. <<http://www.mapsofindia.com/top-ten/india-crops/wheat.html>>.

⁵ "The Phenomenal Growth of China and India." *FAO Corporate Document Repository*. N.p., 2000. Web. 07 Nov. 2016. <<http://www.fao.org/docrep/009/ag087e/AG087E05.htm>>.

Finally, India must remain at the forefront of resolving the issues of labour migration and illegal trafficking in the Asia-Pacific region and improving the systems already in place that have made India the largest recipient of remittances in the world.⁶ However, India has issues with providing the necessary social needs for these labour migrants from abroad. For example, these migrants struggle to gain access to entitlements, housing, and financial services.⁷ Another issue that remains rampant in India is worker exploitation, however the government of India is not expressly open to regulating its industries in a way that would substantially improve the plight of many labourers.

⁶ Business Standard, "India World's Largest Recipient of Remittances in 2015: World Bank," 15 April 2016, http://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/india-world-s-largest-recipient-of-remittances-in-2015-world-bank-116041400737_1.html

⁷ Rameez Abbas and Divya Varma. "Internal Labor Migration in India Raises Integration Challenges for Migrants." *Migrationpolicy.org*. N.p., 07 Oct. 2015. Web. 07 Nov. 2016. <<http://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/internal-labor-migration-india-raises-integration-challenges-migrants>>.