



Prof. Nagesh Kumar appointed as Director, ISID

Prof. Kumar joins ISID after taking a premature retirement from United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) where he has held in different senior management roles over the past 12 years, last serving as the Director and Head of the South and South-West Asia (SSWA) Office based in New Delhi. He earlier served as Chief Economist of UNESCAP and Director of Macroeconomic Policy and Development Division (MPDD) and Director of Social Development Division, at the UNESCAP headquarters in Bangkok.

During 2002-09, Prof. Kumar served as Director-General of Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), a New Delhi-based policy think-tank of the Ministry of External Affairs, devoted to international economic and development issues.

During 1993-98, Prof. Kumar served on the faculty of the United Nations University-Institute of New Technologies (now UNU/MERIT) in Maastricht, directing its research programme on Globalization FDI, and development. Besides serving on the boards of the Export-Import Bank of India and Geneva-based International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development, Prof. Kumar has consulted for the World Bank, ADB, UNCTAD, UNIDO, UN-DESA, UNDP, ILO, ERIA, the Commonwealth Secretariat, among others.

A Ph.D. in Economics from the Delhi School of Economics, Prof. Kumar is recipient of the Exim Bank of India's first International Trade Research Award in 1989 and a GDN Medal for best research awarded by the World Bank and the Japanese Government in 2000. Dr. Kumar's published work includes 18 books, over 30 flagship reports of United Nations and RIS, and over 120 peer-reviewed papers, attracting over 6900 academic citations. He tweets @nageshkum.

Established in 1986 as an Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) institute, ISID conducts policy-oriented research on different aspects of India's industrial development.

Professor Nagesh Kumar joined the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID) as its Director from May 01, 2021.

Prof. Kumar has a demonstrated track record in shaping the development policy agenda in India and in the United Nations through excellence in economic policy research, advocacy and advisory activities, institution-building, strategic thinking and leadership roles, in a career spanning 40 years.

Renowned globally for his research on foreign direct investment flows and their quality, he has deep insights into the strategic trade and industrial policy interventions for building a competitive manufacturing sector, on regional economic integration, multilateral trade negotiations and global economic governance, and on policy approaches towards inclusive development.

Welcoming him to ISID, Mr S.K. Misra, Chairman, ISID Board of Governors hoped that Prof. Kumar will take the ISID to new heights with his experience as the former Director-General of RIS and then his long innings as Director at the United Nations. "In particular, it is our aspiration to build ISID as a centre of excellence in the critical area of industrial development that is able to provide inputs for the policy making process. I hope that Nagesh will work towards realization of this objective," said Mr Misra.

Prof. Kumar said that it is a privilege to have the opportunity to lead ISID in the next phase of its development. "ISID can build on its strengths to evolve into a premier policy think-tank to shape the policy agenda for fostering India's industrial transformation," said Prof. Kumar.