CONCLUSION

Indian Ocean unifies the destiny of thirty five littoral states, which inhabits nearly a fourth of world's total population, by giving it a common legacy of geological formation, (i.e. breaking up of Gondwana land and consequent continental drift), hence the bestowed prosperity and diversity of resources in the region. The heterogeneous littoral states could project and act as a region, owing to common characteristics of certain fortunes and misfortunes. Agriculture is the predominant sector of the IOR countries (except Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, UAE, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and Singapore). Hence any scope of development of these economies would emanate from the surplus of the agriculture sector. However, level of agricultural development had shown wide disparities across IOR economies. Technological innovation like the green revolution had touched upon these economies but in an inequitable manner. The pressure to feed the increasing population and to generate surplus from dominant agricultural resource for economic growth and development, provide adequate grounds for regional cooperation. Conscious efforts to dissipate technical expertise in farm machinery; research results for improvement of yields of seeds, fertilizers and control of pest would work to bring balanced agricultural development. Self-sufficiency in food grains goes a long way in improving the bargaining power of a nation vis developed nation. The countries like Saudi Arabia, Qatar etc which are not self sufficient in food grain
could insure themselves against food grains, being used as a political weapon, if the region (IOR) emerges as self sufficient in food grains and culture of regional cooperation is firmly embodied in it. Countries across the regions are major producers of food grains (India, Indonesia, Malaysia etc). Industrial crops like sugarcane, edible oil seeds, jute, sisal (India, Kenya and Tanzania) commercial plantation crops e.g. tea, rubber (India, Kenya, Sri Lanka), fruits e.g. grapes, apples, oranges, dates and they could help in the industrialization of the domestic countries and of the others in the region. Animal husbandries are also an extensive sector and provide secondary income. Increasing urbanization in the IOR economies provides an expanding market for the products, which is now being increasingly diversified and of higher value, due to superior techniques of preservation and packaging. Further its big employment potential could make an effective dent in problems of poverty and unemployment. Cooperation on lines of research dealing with cross hybridization of cattle variety could lead to the rearing of more superior breed, which are drought resistant and disease resistant. Then animal husbandry could provide an alternative in dry areas.

Indian ocean has bestowed another enviable fortune for its rim countries i.e. marine products. Visiculture plays a major role in employment generation, poverty alleviation, supply of animal protein and foreign exchange earnings in the South Asia sub-region.

The Indian Ocean rim region has wide latitudinal, physiographic and climate variations, hence embedded in it are a variety of forest resources.
Therefore it promises a vast potential of industrial exploitation. However vast forest areas of the region is affected by deforestation and forest resource mismanagement. Few countries of South Asia and South East Asia have show consciousness for sustainable forest management e.g. Myanmar. Australia is also strongly committed to the principles of sustainable forest management. Ecological consequences, of forest management, which effect all and much needed industrialization efforts for growth, provide fertile ground for cooperation in sharing of experience and expertise in sustainable forest management in the region.

Any meaningful attempt at economic development could only take place with the ownership of natural resources. Food, clothing, commerce, shelter are almost totally dependent on mineral commodities and they are the foundations of the civilization. Indian ocean rim region is one of the richest mineral-producing belts in the world. It comprises of metallic mineral producing area (African sub-region), petroleum and natural gas producing sub-region (Middle east) and marine mineral resources. However, due to lack of technology and financial constraint, these resources are not fully exploited, especially marine metallic mineral. However, some achievements have been made by countries like India, who could share their expertise for the development of the same in other economies.

Indian ocean rim region comprise mainly of developing countries and the biggest challenge confronting them is that of economic development, which is normally constrained by rates of economic growth. Most of the IOR
countries are still lagging behind in the major indicators of economic development and are badly effected by poverty, malnutrition, unemployment illiteracy and diseases like AIDS, which have hampered the generation of human resources, vital for growth and development. Food securities have been achieved in some countries (e.g. India) at national level but not at a household level, due to faulty distribution system. Different ranking by HDI and by GDP per capita shows that countries do not have to wait for economic prosperity to make progress in human development e.g. Malaysia has made same impressive human development gains as that of Saudi Arabia but with about half income of Saudi Arabia. An obvious problem of most of the IOR countries is that productive forces have not developed adequately and technology has not acquired sophistication, which limits the productivity of labour force. As a consequence a large part of labour force is engaged in producing food articles.

With regard to FDI flows, inward FDI index of the IOR economies suggest that except few countries, the region receives less FDI flows than warranted by regions relative economic size. The reason may be more political than economic. However lack of adequate linkages, which promotes production efficiency, managerial capabilities and market diversification, do not provide fertile ground for the MNCs, the main vehicle for FDI, to function. Hence there is need for co-operation to generate adequate human resources and linkages across sectors and across economies, so as to enhance the attractiveness of the region as a whole for FDI inflows.
Trade is the foundation of modern economic activity and the best form of interaction among different economies. Developing countries in general and IOR countries in particular are producers and exporters of primary commodities. They invariably import manufactured goods from developed countries. Such trading patterns have the imprints of colonial legacy and its persistence marks the existence of economic imperialism. However, since liberalization, globalization and concomitant structural changes, the merchandise trade of the region has progressed and diversified. The region includes economies, which have successfully followed outward looking strategies for economic-development (e.g. Singapore, Australia) and it also includes the least developed economies, with the smallest share in the total merchandises in the IOR region. However the intra-regional trade is very high. The important factors for high intra-regional trade are comparatively less tariff barriers and quota system in this region. The IOR region trade patterns have shown strong complementarities, diversion and trade creation. Trade among regional economies is pivotal to the expansion of economic co-operation. Regional co-operation to enhance economic strength of the region increases its bargaining power in the international forum. It is necessary, to establish institutions and procedures, which reduces uncertainties and anxieties in each countries about the behaviour and foreign economic policies of the other countries.

The conceptualizing of the Indian Ocean Rim countries as a region, in their economic and political behaviour is in tune with the definition of open
regionalism, which has positive and constructive dimensions. It is evolving to find perfect compatibility in multilateral trading regime, which is functioning in the global village.

World War II and the demise of colonialism paved the way for New World geopolitical arrangements in the IOR region. Since the war and exploration of hydrocarbon fuel the geopolitical system has become more complicated. The main aim of the Western powers is not only economic exploitation but also maintenance of their perpetual hegemony over the region. The IOR region is the biggest market for arms selling. Therefore, different problems like pipeline, boundary water etc are the major factors for the instability of the region.

On account of the above considerations, it is imperative for the countries of an IOR region to think and act as a collective being. They should endeavour to work to evolve an institutional framework to formalize their association to co-operate in surmounting economic political and strategic hurdles to their over all development.