

### e-Newsletter Issue No. 12 June 2014

## **SASEC Events**

#### ADB-WCO National Workshop on Revised Kyoto Convention Implementation 9-12 June 2014: Thimphu, Bhutan

This Asian Development Bank-World Customs Organization (ADB-WCO) National Workshop on Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC) Implementation was held on 9-12 June 2014, in Thimphu, Bhutan in follow-up to the first National Workshop on the RKC, conducted in November 2012. Both workshops were held in conjunction with Bhutan's Department of Revenue and Customs and aimed to support accession to the RKC and the practical implementation of the General and identified Specific Annexes of the RKC. Read More >>



Event Materials on SASEC

Website

• Event Materials on SASEC Website

### Visit of Bangladesh Customs Officials to Royal Malaysian Customs on Authorized Economic Operator Programme

### 17-18 June 2014: Johor Bahru and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

A study visit to the Royal Malaysian Customs on the Authorized Economic Operator Programme was organized on 17-18 June 2014 in Putrajaya, Kuala Lumpur and Johor Bahru, Johor by the Government of Bangladesh and the Royal Malaysian Customs. The initiative by the Government of Bangladesh is part of the reforms and practices it has undertaken to modernize its Customs administration by adopting innovative technology, customs programs, and international best practices under the SASEC Trade Facilitation Program. Read More >>

## **SASEC News**



 'Effective Deployment of Distributed Small Wind
Power Systems' Report
ADB News Release

- The Himalayan Times
- Ekantipur Online

## SASEC Energy Projects in Nepal Increase Clean Energy Use

### 9 June 2014: Kathmandu, Nepal

Nepal's Alternative Energy Promotion Centre has installed the country's first wind-solar hybrid system in Dhaubadi village of Nawalparasi district, under regional technical assistance financing from ADB. The system is now providing services to 46 rural households. This successful pilot demonstrates the feasibility of clean energy options—similar initiatives can be supported under the proposed SASEC power system expansion project. Read More >>

## SASEC Calendar

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## **Upcoming Events**

Finalization Meeting of the BTILS Update and Enhancement 14 July, 2014 New Delhi, India

Finalization Meeting of the SAARC Regional Economic Integration Study 21 July, 2014 Thimphu, Bhutan

SASEC Trade Facilitation and Transport Working Group Meeting 20 October, 2014 Kathmandu, Nepal

SASEC Energy Working Group Meeting 21 October, 2014 Kathmandu, Nepal

## Visit sasec.asia to see recent event updates



• UNESCAP SCBTM Materials



- WTO News Release—DG Bangladesh Visit
- WTO News Release—DG Nepal Visit



- Meeting Documents and Materials
- Workshop Agenda
- ADB News Release

# Bhutan and India to Pilot Secure Cross-Border Transport Model 23 June 2014: India and Bhutan

The Royal Kingdom of Bhutan and India are moving to more sophisticated technologies in an effort to increase trade efficiencies between the two countries. In May 2014, government officials from Bhutan and India agreed to embark on a feasibility study that will pilot the Secure Cross-Border Transport Model (SCBTM) from the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) along key trade corridors, aimed at speeding up and reducing the cost of trade through designated land routes and border-crossing points.

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#### WTO Director General Roberto Azevêdo Emphasizes Key Roles of Bangladesh and Nepal in Post-Bali Agenda 3 June 2014: Dhaka, Bangladesh 4-5 June 2014: Kathmandu, Nepal

World Trade Organization (WTO) Director General Roberto Azevêdo visited SASEC member countries Bangladesh on June 3, 2014 and Nepal on June 4-5, 2014, highlighting achievements of the recent Ninth WTO Ministerial Meeting held in Bali in December 2013, and discussing key trade issues. Read More >>

# ADB-GIZ Regional Workshop for Green Freight and Logistics 25-27 June 2014: Singapore

Over 100 participants gathered to discuss green freight and logistics at a regional training workshop organized by the ADB and Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). The workshop took stock of best practices and systematic approaches toward efficient logistics and green freight, and provided a platform to explore multiple initiatives currently being developed in Asia.



- Daily Star
- The Financial Express



<sup>•</sup> SASEC Home Page

• SASEC on Twitter

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# AmCham in Bangladesh Briefed on SASEC and Regional Cooperation 29 June 2014: Dhaka, Bangladesh

The American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) in Bangladesh was briefed by Mr. Kazuhiko Higuchi, ADB Country Director for Bangladesh, and chief guest at AmCham's monthly meeting on 26 June 2014. Speaking on the topic 'Building Infrastructure through Regional Integration and Cooperation: Role of ADB', Mr. Higuchi introduced the SASEC Program as a vehicle to finance key infrastructure projects in Bangladesh, including roads, railways, information communication technology (ICT), tourism, and energy. Read More >>

New Look for SASEC Website 13 June 2014: Manila, Philippines

In response to SASEC website users' comments and suggestions, the SASEC web team has launched a sleeker-looking web page, with cleaner lines and layout. We will continue to improve SASEC online with more sector-specific pages and event presentations. We look forward to receiving more suggestions through SASEC@adb.org. Keep on visiting us at sasec.asia and twitter.com/sasecprogram.

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## **Related Publications**



WCO News: WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement



The Merits of Regional Cooperation: The Case of South Asia



Asian Financial Integration: Impacts of the Global Crisis and Options for Regional Policies



Trade Facilitation Potential of Asian Transit Agreements in the Context of the WTO Negotiations



Globalization in an Age of Crisis: Multilateral Economic Cooperation in the 21st Century

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