



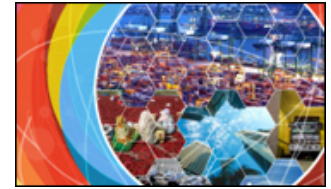
SASEC EVENTS
MALDIVES SASEC
NATIONAL SINGLE
WINDOW PROJECT
CONSULTATION
WORKSHOP



SASEC PROJECTS
INDIA, NEPAL SIGN
IMPLEMENTATION
ARRANGEMENT FOR
BRIDGE OVER
MECHI RIVER



SASEC NEWS
BANGLADESH, INDIA,
MYANMAR, NEPAL TO
SET UP ENERGY
COOPERATION
NETWORK



PUBLICATIONS
TRADE FACILITATION
AND BETTER
CONNECTIVITY FOR AN
INCLUSIVE ASIA AND
PACIFIC



SASEC NEWS

THE SOUTH ASIA SUBREGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION NEWSLETTER

ISSUE #48 AUGUST 2017

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Consultation Visit to the Kolkata Port and Bilateral Discussion with CBEC India for CTD Automation

6-11 August 2017: Kolkata and New Delhi, India

This visit discussed how to enhance trade facilitation measures in cross-border trade between Nepal and India. It reviewed updates on Nepal's export/import code development and implementation; gave updates on India's Customs Transit Declaration (CTD) automation software implementation; and identified the next steps in export/import code sharing. The visits to Kolkata and New Delhi ports allowed participants to observe port and Customs clearance processes.

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EVENT
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EVENT
INDIA
MULTIMODAL LOGISTICS
PARK DEVELOPMENT
HIGH LEVEL WORKSHOP



EVENT
COLOMBO
KSP STUDIES
DISSEMINATION
SEMINAR

Maldives SASEC National Single Window Project Consultation Workshop

28 August 2017: Male, Maldives

This Workshop discussed the proposed SASEC National Single Window (NSW) Project in Maldives. It presented major findings of the Maldives NSW study, including project features; reviewed the readiness of Maldives to establish an NSW; and gathered feedback from relevant stakeholders.

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High-level Workshop on Multimodal Logistics Park Development in Karnataka

28 August 2017: Bengaluru, India

The Asian Development Bank presented study findings on developing a multimodal logistics park in Bengaluru, Karnataka, India, at a high-level workshop attended by senior officials from Central and State Governments of India, as well as private sector representatives. The Minister for Large and Medium Industries and Infrastructure Development of Karnataka, India inaugurated the workshop.

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Dissemination Seminar for KSP Studies for the Colombo-Trincomalee Economic Corridor

3 August 2017: Colombo, Sri Lanka

ADB's South Asia Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination Division joined a seminar in Sri Lanka for presentations prepared under the Knowledge Sharing Program of the Government of Republic of Korea. ADB works with the KSP as knowledge partners for the Colombo-Trincomalee Economic Corridor.

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August 2017



Bhutan launches e-infrastructure for Trade & Services to create reliable ICT ecosystem [Read](#)

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Bhutan growth expected to accelerate to 8.2% in 2017 w/ expanded investment in hydropower [Read](#)



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September-October

Nepal: Inception Workshop for SASEC Customs Reform and Modernization for Trade Facilitation Program

24-25 September 2017: Kathmandu, Nepal

Inception Meeting of the Cross-border Power Trade Working Group

12-13 October 2017: Delhi, India

Second Meeting of SAARC Council of Experts of Energy Regulators

24-25 October 2017: Islamabad, Pakistan

SASEC PROJECTS



PROJECT
**INDIA, NEPAL SIGN
IMPLEMENTATION
ARRANGEMENT FOR
MECHI RIVER BRIDGE**



PROJECT
**CTEC FINAL POLICY
CONSULTATION PAPER
PRESENTATION**



PROJECT
**RFID TAGS TO AID
CARGO TRACKING TO
PREVENT THEFT AND
TAMPERING**



PROJECT
**BLENDING LABOR
ADVANTAGE WITH
HIGH-TECH
INNOVATION**

India, Nepal Agree on Mechi River Bridge Cost Sharing, Schedules, and Safeguards

24 August 2017: New Delhi, India

India Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Nepal Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba witnessed the signing of eight MoUs between India and Nepal, including the implementation arrangement on cost sharing, schedules, and safeguards for construction of the bridge over the Mechi River; and agreement on cooperation in the field of standardization and conformity assessment.

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ADB, Korea EXIM Bank Hold Seminar on CTEC

20 August 2017: Colombo, Sri Lanka

The Asian Development Bank and the Export-Import Bank of Korea (Korea EXIM Bank) held a seminar on the Colombo-Trincomalee Economic Corridor (CTEC) to present the CTEC final policy consultation paper. The ADB-Knowledge Sharing Program joint consulting program was established to help strengthen Sri Lanka's CTEC initiatives by providing practical knowledge, especially in foreign direct investment promotion.

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The Future of e-Governance in South Asia

19 August 2017: Uttar Pradesh, India

SASEC conceptualized the Information Highway Project to assist cooperation in the region and realize SASEC's goals of social and trade development. The project is being implemented in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal with the aim of making ICT more accessible to remote communities in these countries. It is expected to help SASEC countries increase their productivity and participate fully in the global information economy.

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Nepal-Bound Containers to Have RFID Tags as Part of ADB Project

15 August 2017: Kathmandu, Nepal

As part of an Asian Development Bank (ADB) project, container cargo from Visakhapatnam Port bound for Nepal and Bhutan will be equipped with radio frequency identification (RFID) tags to aid the tracking of cargo and prevent theft and tampering. The RFID system will be launched at Kolkata Port in September, after which it will be implemented at Visakhapatnam Port.

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Commentary: Blending Labor Advantage with High-tech Innovation

4 August 2017: Dhaka, Bangladesh

This commentary on the interim report for the Southwest Bangladesh Economic Corridor by Mr. M. Rokonuzzaman Ph.D, Professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, North South University, Bangladesh, highlights the need for Bangladesh to boost its labor advantage with high-tech innovation to create high-paying jobs for millions of university graduates, ultimately driving the country toward its goal of achieving high-income status by 2041.

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BANGLADESH FAST-TRACKS CHITTAGONG-COX'S BAZAR RAILWAY PROJECT



NEWS

MULTIMODAL LOGISTICS PARKS TO INCREASE INDIA'S MANUFACTURING COMPETITIVENESS



NEWS

BANGLADESH, INDIA, MYANMAR, NEPAL TO SET UP ENERGY COOPERATION NETWORK



NEWS

PAPERLESS TRADE TO LOWER COST OF TRADING IN BANGLADESH

Indian Businesses Urged to Invest in Nepal at Business Forum

23 August 2017: New Delhi, India

Nepal Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba urged Indian investors to look at opportunities in Nepal at an India-Nepal Business Forum, highlighting gains in Nepal's governance, Nepal's duty-free access to the European market, and preferential market entry into the United States. On the same occasion, Ms. Bhawani Rana, President, Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, urged governments of both countries to simplify trade procedures to boost regional trade.

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Commentary: Overcoming NTBs for Exports to India

22 August 2017: Dhaka, Bangladesh

This commentary by Ms. Ferdaus Ara Begum, Chief Executive Officer, Business Initiative Leading Development, examines the effect of non-tariff barriers to trade on Bangladesh-India exports by discussing the restriction on imports of tomato from Bangladesh. While exporting tomato from Bangladesh would benefit Indian consumers, policies in India, including the Plant Quarantine Order on Regulations of Import 2003, need to be amended.

[Read More](#)

Bangladesh to Export Bandwidth to Bhutan, Myanmar, Cambodia, and Vietnam

18 August 2017: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Bangladesh plans to export 102.5 gigabits (Gb) per second of bandwidth to its neighbors, Bhutan, Myanmar, Cambodia, and Vietnam. Negotiations are ongoing to enable 2.5 Gb per second of bandwidth export to Bhutan through India's Power Grid Corporation of India Limited's fiber optic cable.

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Bangladesh Fast-Tracks Chittagong-Cox's Bazar Railway

17 August 2017: Dhaka, Bangladesh

The Government of Bangladesh is set to select two companies to construct a single-line dual-gauge railway track from Chittagong to Cox's Bazar. The rail project is being fast-tracked by the Government and is scheduled to be completed by 2022. The new rail link will form part of the Trans-Asian Rail Route connecting Bangladesh and its neighbors, including China, Myanmar, and Thailand.

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BIMSTEC Seeks Stronger Ties and Cooperation

12 August 2017: Kathmandu, Nepal

The 18th session of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Senior Officials' Meeting and the 15th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting stressed the importance of cooperation in energy, technology, trade, and transport, through a revitalized, more integrated, and stronger BIMSTEC process. The Joint Statement underscored the need to finalize the BIMSTEC Free Trade Area Agreement.

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Northeastern Indian Trade Up to \$22.6 Million

8 August 2017: Vientiane, Lao PDR

Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh said trade in India's northeastern region has increased to \$22.6 million. He was speaking at the 25th anniversary celebration conference of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-India Dialogue Partnership, held in Vientiane, Lao PDR. He reiterated India's commitment to deepen ties with ASEAN countries.

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Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Nepal to Set Up Energy Cooperation Network

7 August 2017: Agartala, India

Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas, India, announced India's plans to set up an energy cooperation network with neighboring countries Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Nepal. The network would pave the way for installation of huge pipelines that would carry diesel and liquefied petroleum gas to the mountainous northeastern states of India and the surrounding region.

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Multimodal Logistics Parks to Increase India's Manufacturing Competitiveness

7 August 2017: New Delhi, India

India's Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and State Governments plan to develop a network of 35 multimodal logistics parks (MMLPs) across the country to support the Government's aim of bringing down logistics cost and increasing the country's manufacturing competitiveness. These MMLPs will complement planned economic corridors throughout India, serving as multimodal transport centers.

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Bangladesh to Improve Four Land Ports Crucial to Trade with India

6 August 2017: Dhaka, Bangladesh

The Government of Bangladesh will develop four land ports as part of its initiatives to increase trade and commerce with India. Around \$85.2 million was approved by Bangladesh's Executive National Economic Council to improve the Sheola, Bhomra, and Ramgarh land ports. Another project will be undertaken to modernize security at Benapole land port.

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India Minister of State for Commerce and Industry: India and ASEAN Must Step-up Efforts to Increase Trade

4 August 2017: Bangkok, Thailand

Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, India, urged India and member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to bolster efforts to increase bilateral trade and investment, and improve road and sea transport links. She urged a review of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement to facilitate elimination of technical barriers to trade, and promoted transformation of the India-Southeast Asia transport corridors into economic corridors.

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Paperless Trade to Enhance Bangladesh's Competitiveness

1 August 2017: Dhaka, Bangladesh

A Validation Workshop assessed the impact of paperless trade facilitation in Bangladesh, including the costs of helping government and private sector agencies transition to a paperless system, and long-term costs needed to maintain the system effectively. Paperless trade will help reduce time and cost of trading across the border, and ensure accountability and transparency.

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Benapole-Petrapole ICP, Chittagong Port Launch 24/7 Operations

1 August 2017: Dhaka, Bangladesh and New Delhi, India

The ports of Benapole-Petrapole between Bangladesh and India, and Chittagong Port in Bangladesh, began round-the-clock operations on 1 August 2017. The move significantly reduces port congestion by easing clearance of import/export cargo.

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Commentary: Bangladesh – A Market for Sri Lankan Investors

24 July 2017: Colombo, Sri Lanka

Bangladesh and Sri Lanka are working to increase their trade volume and diversify their products to promote more mutually-beneficial trade. This commentary by Mr. Amila Muthukutti, Sri Lankan economist and business writer, discusses market opportunities in Bangladesh for Sri Lankan investors, and highlights how a Free Trade Agreement will pave the way for strong trade relations.

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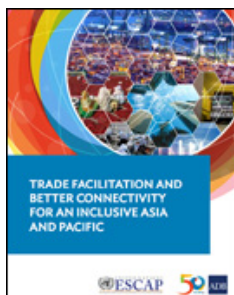
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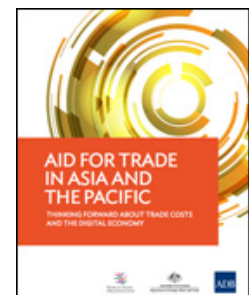
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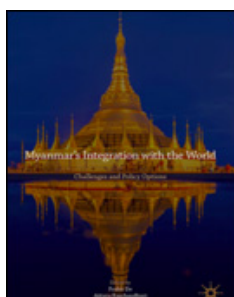
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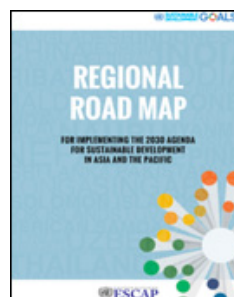
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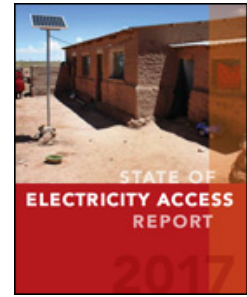
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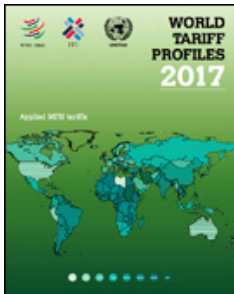
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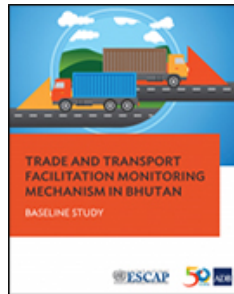
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