



## SASEC Events



- [Indian Trade Portal](#)
- [Bangladesh Trade Portal](#)

### **Fifth SASEC Customs Subgroup Meeting** **25-26 May 2016: Male, the Maldives**

The Fifth SASEC Customs Subgroup (SCS) Meeting noted considerable progress in subregional and national projects included in the SCS Work Plan 2014-2016, including successful exchange of documents between Customs administrations at selected border-crossing points and completion of an assessment study on containerized movement of cargo in the SASEC subregion. The two-day Meeting also included a learning event on the development of trade information portals.

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- [India MoF](#)
- [SASEC Event](#)

### **Second Regional Consultation Workshop on SASEC 2025** **10-11 May 2016: New Delhi, India**

This Workshop discussed key elements of the proposed SASEC 2025 vision document, the overarching basis for SASEC 2025, which lays out a road map to achieve the fundamental SASEC goal of increasing trade and economic cooperation within South Asia. SASEC delegations provided inputs on the draft vision document and reviewed the revised SASEC 2025 Operational Plan.

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- [Agenda](#)
- [SASEC Event](#)

### **Bhutan DRC: Second National Workshop on Customs Valuation** **9-13 May 2016: Phuentsholing, Bhutan**

The Second National Workshop finalized the standard operating procedure (SOP) for Customs valuation control in line with the new Customs Act of Bhutan, and supported project core members of Bhutan Department of Revenue and Customs (DRC) in delivering a two-day workshop using the new SOP, guided by technical experts from the World Customs Organization Asia Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building and the Maldives Customs Service.

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## SASEC Calendar

June 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4

### Upcoming SASEC Events

**India Second National Workshop on Customs Valuation**  
6-9 June 2016  
New Delhi, India

**SASEC ASYCUDA Subregional Network Meeting**  
8-9 June 2016  
Kathmandu, Nepal

**Nepal SPS and TBT National Consultation**  
13 June 2016  
Kathmandu, Nepal

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### **SASEC Nodal Officials' Meeting** **4 May 2016: Frankfurt, Germany**

SASEC Nodal Officials representing Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka met at the sidelines of the 49th Annual General Meeting of the Asian Development Bank to talk about key achievements of the SASEC Program over the past 12 months and provide overall strategic guidance on future activities. The Meeting was updated on preparation of SASEC 2025, and it was agreed that the Vision and Operational Plan for SASEC 2025 should be completed by early 2017.

[Read More >>](#)

- [ADB 49th Annual Meeting](#)



### **Bhutan DRC Consultation with Private Sector on Customs Bill and Rules and Regulations** **3 May 2016: Phuentsholing, Bhutan**

The Bhutan Department of Revenue and Customs (DRC) conducted consultations with the private sector on Bhutan's draft Customs Rules and Regulations, which are being updated to ensure alignment with Bhutan's new Customs Bill 2016, currently under consideration by the National Assembly. Private sector representatives welcomed the revision and provided useful feedback.

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- [Agenda](#)
- [Bhutan MoF](#)



### **Nepal DOC: FGD on RKC Standards and Study on WTO/WCO Conventions and Standards** **3-7 May 2016: Nagarkot, Nepal**

Nepal Department of Customs (DOC) task force members attended this focused group discussion (FGD), which reviewed specific annexes of the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC), relevant trade facilitation instruments of the World Customs Organization (WCO), and the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement (WTO TFA). Task force members finalized a table of amendments to the Customs Act and recommendations on accession/application of relevant WTO TFA/WCO conventions.

[Read More >>](#)

- [Agenda](#)
- [WTO TFA Presentation](#)

## **SASEC Projects**



### **India, ADB to Enhance Connectivity in SASEC Region through Planned Infrastructure Projects** **10 May 2016: New Delhi, India**

India is planning to develop regional connectivity projects worth around \$5 billion under the Asian Development Bank (ADB)-supported SASEC Program, according to Mr. Shaktikanta Das, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, India. These initiatives include two priority road corridors that will boost connectivity with its neighbors in South and Southeast Asia, complementary integrated check posts, and land Customs stations. India and ADB will also work together to develop the East Coast Economic Corridor.

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- [Indian Express](#)
- [Livemint](#)

## **SASEC News**



### **Sri Lanka Ratifies the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement** **31 May 2016: Geneva, Switzerland**

Sri Lanka has ratified the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement (WTO TFA), submitting its instrument of acceptance on 31 May 2016. Mr. R.D. Susiri Kumararatne, Sri Lanka Ambassador to WTO, presented Sri Lanka's instrument of acceptance to WTO Director-General Roberto Azevêdo. The TFA will maintain the country's competitiveness in global and naval trade.

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- [WTO News](#)
- [SASEC News](#)



### **Bangladesh and Sri Lanka Agree to Enhance Trade Relations** **28 May 2016: Nagoya, Japan**

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Sri Lanka President Maithripala Sirisena agreed to further enhance bilateral trade relations at a meeting held at the sidelines of the G7 Outreach Summit in Japan. President Sirisena also accepted an invitation extended by Prime Minister Hasina to visit Bangladesh in December this year.

[Read More >>](#)

- [Sri Lanka Ministry of Defence News](#)



### **India, Nepal Energy Bank Proposed** **28 May 2016: Kathmandu, Nepal**

Nepal has proposed setting up an India-Nepal energy bank that would help both countries address the problem of power shortage, at a meeting of the India-Nepal Joint Standing Committee. The energy bank would enable Nepal to export electricity to India during summer and import electricity from India during winter.

[Read More >>](#)

- [Business Standard](#)



### **SARSO Conducts Workshop on Harmonizing Standards in Bhutan** **26 May 2016: Thimphu, Bhutan**

A workshop on harmonizing standards in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation region was held by the South Asian Regional Standards Organization (SARSO) in Bhutan. Mr. Tashi Wangchuk, Deputy Director, SARSO, emphasized the importance of Bhutan Standards Bureau's technical committees participating in SARSO's Sectoral Technical Committees.

[Read More >>](#)

- [Kuensel Online](#)
- [SARSO](#)



### **1,400 Kilometer Highway to Link India, Myanmar, and Thailand** **23 May 2016: Bangkok, Thailand**

A 1,400 kilometer highway will soon connect South and Southeast Asia by linking India with Myanmar and Thailand. Mr. Bhagwant Singh Bishnoi, Indian Ambassador to Thailand, noted that the tri-nation highway exemplifies India's "Act East" policy and will facilitate transit of goods and further development of SMEs in north India. The three countries are currently working to finalize negotiations for the groundbreaking India-Myanmar-Thailand Motor Vehicle Agreement.

[Read More >>](#)

- [Times of India](#)
- [Nation Multimedia](#)



### **Bureau to Foster Bangladesh Renewable Energy Sector** **21 May 2016: Dhaka, Bangladesh**

Bangladesh is reviewing targets for its renewable energy program to reduce the country's greenhouse gas emissions. Mr. Nasrul Hamid, State Minister for Power, Energy, and Mineral Resources of Bangladesh said the Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority aims to increase share of energy coming from renewable resources.

[Read More >>](#)

- [The Independent](#)
- [The Independent](#)





### **Planned SASEC road project to improve Bangladesh transport** **20 May 2016: Dhaka, Bangladesh**

A proposed SASEC road upgrade project in Bangladesh will improve the country's transport system and enhance trade and investment in the region, according to Mr. Obaidul Quader of the Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges.

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- [The Financial Express](#)
- [The Financial Express](#)



### **India, Myanmar Push for Stronger Economic Ties** **18 May 2016: Yangon, Myanmar**

The India-Myanmar Business Conclave met recently as part of a push for stronger economic ties between the two countries. Business leaders at a conference discussed partnerships as well as opportunities for future cooperation. Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of State for Commerce & Industry of India, spoke on forging partnerships, highlighting India's opening of 96.4% of tariff lines at zero duty for Myanmar.

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- [India Embassy Yangon](#)
- [Economic Times](#)



### **Nepal Revises NTIS List of Goods, Services with Export Potential to Boost Competitiveness**

**17 May 2016: Kathmandu, Nepal**

The Government of Nepal has streamlined the Nepal Trade Integration Strategy's (NTIS) list of high value goods and services with export potential, reducing the items from 19 to 12, to promote competitiveness and increase production capacity. According to Nepal Commerce Minister Jayanta Chand, the revised NTIS will allow the Government to focus on enhancing the supply chain.

[Read More >>](#)

- [Kathmandu Post](#)



### **Bangladesh Trade Organization Looks into Growing Bhutan Trade Volume**

**13 May 2016: Thimphu, Bhutan**

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI) explored the possibility of growing its trade volume from Bhutan through investments in the country's fruit and vegetable processing industries and buying spices from Bhutan. FBCCI President Abdul Matlub Ahmad was in the country to explore new areas of trade and investments between the Bangladesh and Bhutan.

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- [Kuensel Online](#)



### **King of Bhutan Emphasizes Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal Cooperation**

**13 May 2016: Thimphu, Bhutan**

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali paid a courtesy call on the King of Bhutan Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck. The King of Bhutan lauded Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's initiatives to boost Bangladesh-Bhutan bilateral relations, and emphasized the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal cooperation as a platform to achieve regional prosperity.

[Read More >>](#)

- [Bangladesh MoFA News Release](#)
- [BdNews24](#)



### **Foreign Ministers of Bangladesh and Bhutan Discuss Energy Cooperation** **12 May 2016: Thimphu, Bhutan**

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali and Bhutan Foreign Minister Damcho Dorji discussed hydropower in a meeting. Bangladesh plans to invest in the 1,125 megawatt Dorjilung hydropower project. Trilateral cooperation among Bangladesh, Bhutan, and India would enable Bangladesh's investment in Bhutan's hydropower sector.  
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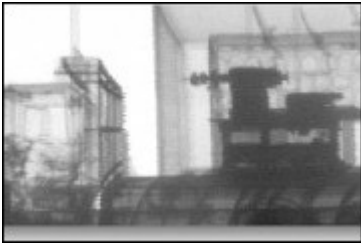
- [Kuensel Online](#)
- [Bangladesh MoFA](#)



### **Bangladesh-Nepal Commerce Secretary-level Meeting Moves to Increase Bilateral Trade** **12 May 2016: Dhaka, Bangladesh**

A bilateral meeting led by Bangladesh Senior Commerce Secretary Hedayetullah Al Mamoon and Nepal Commerce Secretary Naindra Prasad Upadhyay initiated a number of measures to expand trade volume between the two countries, including removal of technical barriers to trade, harmonization of sanitary and phytosanitary measures, and preferential market access for 158 products.  
[Read More >>](#)

- [The Himalayan Times](#)
- [Daily Sun](#)



### **Mobile Container Scanners to Facilitate Legitimate Trade in Bangladesh Customs Houses** **12 May 2016: Dhaka, Bangladesh**

Bangladesh State Minister for Finance M.A. Mannan handed over mobile container scanners to Bangladesh's Benapole Customs, Chittagong Customs, Mongla Customs, and Kamalapur Inland Container Depot, which will enable ease of Customs clearance through non-intrusive inspection of cargo, and reduce the cost of doing business. Non-intrusive inspection is a requirement by the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement.  
[Read More >>](#)

- [Dhaka Tribune](#)



### **SASEC Member Countries Urged to Develop Synergies through Cooperation** **10 May 2016: New Delhi, India**

Mr. Shaktikanta Das, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, India, called on member countries of the SASEC Program to develop synergies through cooperation, in his inaugural address at the Second Regional Consultation Workshop on SASEC 2025. He also highlighted SASEC's strength as a project-driven initiative.  
[Read More >>](#)

- [India Secretary, Economic Affairs Speech](#)
- [News Today](#)



### **Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal Economic Zone May be Formed** **6 May 2016: Thimphu, Bhutan**

A Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) economic zone may be declared in an upcoming BBIN seminar and business expo to be held in Siliguri, India, shared Mr. Abdul Matlub Ahmad, President, Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Mr. Ahmad was in Bhutan to talk about the upcoming BBIN seminar, as well as opportunities for trade and investment between Bangladesh and Bhutan.  
[Read More >>](#)

- [Kuensel Online](#)



- [Powercell News Release](#)
- [Workshop Agenda](#)

## Power Market Workshop in Bangladesh Explores Further Energy Imports from India

**21 April 2016: Dhaka, Bangladesh**

Bangladesh plans to import 2,000 megawatts of electricity from India in the coming years, according to Bangladesh State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid in his address at the 'Power Market Development in India: Key Lessons Learnt' workshop. He highlighted the country's ongoing regional power trade with India and plans for its expansion, and urged the Government of India to step forward in the planned hydropower project with Bhutan.

[Read More >>](#)



- [Daily News](#)

## 3-year SAARC Business Visa, SAARC Industrial Park to Boost Trade in the Region

**20 April 2016: Colombo, Sri Lanka**

The new SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry Senior Vice President Ajith Wattuhewa shared that the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) business visa will be extended from 6 months to 3 years, to be made available by end 2016, to help increase SAARC inter-regional trade. A SAARC Industrial Park in Sri Lanka is also planned to increase trade in the region.

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- [India PMO News Release](#)
- [India MEA](#)

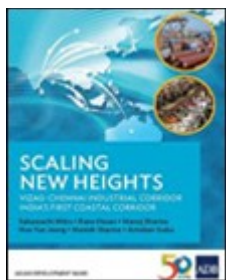
## India Approves MoU on Technical Cooperation with Bhutan

**20 April 2016: New Delhi, India**

The Governments of Bhutan and India are set to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on technical cooperation in the field of capacity building, benchmarking and bilateral exchange in infrastructure engineering, following approval of the Government of India in a meeting chaired by India Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The MoU will provide an umbrella for educational, scientific and technical research, and environmental protection.

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## Related Publications



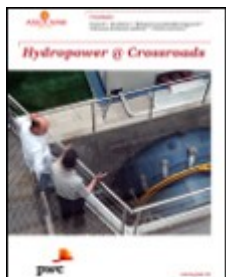
[Scaling New Heights: Vizag-Chennai Industrial Corridor, India's First Coastal Corridor](#)



[Facilitating Trade between India and Sri Lanka](#)



[Asian Development Bank 2015 Development Effectiveness Review](#)



[Hydropower @ Crossroads](#)



[WTO Accessions: Expanding World Trade and Strengthening WTO Rules](#)



[Trade and Tariffs: Trade Grows as Tariffs Decline](#)

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