



Asian Development Bank

SASEC INFORMATION HIGHWAY PROJECT

**ICT Working Group/ Steering Committee &
Second Regional Working Meeting**

For Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal

**Facilitated by
Asian Development Bank**

19-21 January 2011

Auditorium Zone C

Special Facilities Block Building,
Asian Development Bank



MEETING OBJECTIVES

Following a productive First Regional Working Meeting in Siliguri, India, the Asian Development Bank welcomes you to Manila, Philippines, where we look forward to advancing our commitment to the South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation Information Highway Project (SASEC IH Project).

Briefly, the Siliguri meeting provided SASEC members with a forum to agree on milestones and construct an Action Plan¹ expected to advance project activities necessary for: i) selecting Project Management Consultants, ii) identifying a Service Agency / Telecom operator for each respective country, and iii) developing bilateral interconnection agreements.

This Second Regional Working Meeting in Manila aims to bring Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal together for follow-on discussion, where broader participation from key ADB management can also be involved. In addition, it is intended that an Information, Communication, and Technology Working Group (ICTWG)/Steering Committee Session will be held, advance pending milestone and Action Plan activities.

The meeting is to discuss the following:

1. Progress review of Action Plan items from Siliguri meeting in September 2010;
2. Exchange participating countries' progress updates;
3. Presentation on interconnection facilities and exchange center progress;
4. Specification update for transmission equipment and procurement design;
5. Status of bi-lateral interconnection discussions and peering agreements;
6. Refinement on the Commercial vs Non-commercial policy on the regional connectivity; and
7. Opportunities for increasing cooperation through this SASEC IH Project.

¹ See First Regional Meeting Action Plan attached herewith

AGENDA

DAY ONE

Wednesday, 19 January 2011

REGIONAL WORKING MEETING²

Participants: (i) Project Management Unit (PMU) Project Directors/Project Managers
(ii) Service Agency Representatives
(iii) Project Management Consultant Team Leaders
(iv) ADB Representatives

- 09:00 – 09:15** **Registration**
ADB Main Lobby
- 09:15 – 09:30** **Welcome Statement**
Sri Widowati, Director, South Asia Transport and Communications Division,
ADB
- 09:30 – 10:30** **Session 1a: Country updates on Action Plan since First Regional Working Meeting**
Chair: Bangladesh
Country Presentations by:
- Nepal
 - India
 - Bhutan
 - Bangladesh
- 10:30 – 11:00** **Session 1b: ADB updates on Piggy-backed TA – Research and Training Network**
Chair: Bangladesh
Presentation by the Project Officer, Susan Lim, Transport Specialist, South Asia Transport and Communications Division, ADB and Agnes Navera, Monitoring and Evaluation Consultant
- 11:00 – 11:30** Tea Break
- 11:30 – 12:30** **Session 2: Review of Action Plan Items from the First Regional Working Meeting**
Chair: Bhutan
- a. Discussion of first draft of bi-lateral agreement
 - b. Progress and major issues pending
- Open Discussions

² Facilitator: Cliff Beek, Consultant

- 12:30 - 13:30** **LUNCH**
Executive Dining Room (EDR) Coffee Lounge, 2nd Floor Special Facilities
Block Building, ADB
- Hosted by Sri Widowati, Director, South Asia Transport and Communications
Division, ADB
- 13:30 - 15:00** **Session 3: Continued discussion on Review of Action Plan Items from
the First Regional Working Meeting**
Chair: India
- a. Update on Inter-connection Facilities
 - b. Review transmission equipment specification and procurement
 - c. Status of border crossing approvals (IND, BAN)
 - d. Refine Commercial vs. Non Commercial policy
- 15:00 - 15:30** Tea Break
- 15:30 - 17:00** **Session 4: Revised Summary Action Plan**
Chair: Nepal
- 18:00 - 20:00** **Welcome Cocktail Reception and Dinner**
Nostalg Hall 1-3, 5th Floor, Oakwood Premier Joy-Nostalg Center
- Hosted by Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Director General, South Asia Regional
Department, ADB

END OF DAY ONE MEETING

AGENDA

DAY TWO

Thursday, 20 January 2011

ICT WORKING GROUP/STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING³

Participants: (i) ICTWG/Steering Committee
(ii) Project Management Unit (PMU) Project Directors/Project Managers
(iii) Country Advisors
(iv) Service Agency Representatives
(v) Project Management Consultant Team Leaders
(vi) ADB Representatives

09:00 - 09:30 **Welcome and Opening Address**

Xiaoyu Zhao, Vice-President, Operations 1, ADB

Highlights of the South Asia Regional Cooperation Integration
Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Director General, South Asia Regional
Department, ADB

09:30 - 10:30 **Session 1: Country Presentations - Progress and Accomplishments**

Chair: Bangladesh

- Bangladesh
- Bhutan
- India
- Nepal

10:30 - 11:00 Tea Break/Group Photo Session

11:00 - 12:00 **Session 2: SASEC Information Highway Project Summary Action Plan Forward**

Chair: Bhutan

12:00 - 13:00 Lunch
Executive Dining Room (EDR) Coffee Lounge, 2nd Floor Special Facilities Block
Building, ADB

Hosted by Carmela D. Locsin, Deputy Director General, South Asia
Department, ADB

³ Facilitator: Susan Lim, Transport Specialist, South Asia Transport and Communications
Division, ADB and Cliff Beek, Consultant

- 13:00 – 15:00** **Session 3: Steering Committee**
Chair: India
 a. Recommendations / Comments on Action Plan
 b. Open Discussion
- 15:00 – 15:15** Tea Break
- 15:15 – 17:00** **Session 4: Steering Committee**
Chair: Nepal
 a. Measuring Progress, Key Indicators for Success
 b. Future Needs
 c. Authorization for Execution
- 17:00 – 17:30** **Closing Session**
Chair: Sri Widowati, Director, South Asia Transport and Communications Division, ADB
Closing Statements by:
 • Bangladesh
 • Bhutan
 • India
 • Nepal
- Closing Remarks by Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Director General, South Asia Department, Asian Development Bank**

END OF DAY TWO MEETING

AGENDA

DAY THREE

Friday, 21 January 2011

STUDY TOUR/ FIELD VISIT

Participants: (i) ICTWG/Steering Committee
(ii) Project Management Unit (PMU) Project Directors/Project Managers
(iii) Country Advisors
(iv) Service Agency Representatives
(v) Project Management Consultant Team Leaders
(vi) ADB Representatives

09:15 - 09:30	Assembly at the ADB Main Lobby
09:30 - 12:00	Visit to Globe Telecom's Network Operating Center Valero St., Makati City
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch