



**SASEC NEWS**  
**BBIN ENERGY**  
**SECRETARIES EVALUATE**  
**STATE OF ENERGY**



**SASEC NEWS**  
**SAARC SENIOR TRADE**  
**OFFICIALS TALK TRADE**  
**AMIDST THE COVID-19**  
**PANDEMIC**



**PUBLICATIONS**  
**POTENTIAL EXPORTS**  
**AND NONTARIFF**  
**BARRIERS TO TRADE:**  
**INDIA NATIONAL STUDY**



**PUBLICATIONS**  
**ASIAN DEVELOPMENT**  
**OUTLOOK 2020: WHAT**  
**DRIVES INNOVATION IN**  
**ASIA?**



# SASEC NEWS

THE SOUTH ASIA SUBREGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION NEWSLETTER

**ISSUE #77**

**APRIL 2020**

**WWW.SASEC.ASIA**



## **Explainer: How Blockchain Can Improve Supply Chain Transparency in Maldives**

**28 April 2020: Manila, Philippines**

Maldives is studying the use of high-level technologies to support a national single window system to make international trade easier and more efficient. Through the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) National Single Window Project, Maldives is introducing blockchain technology to improve trade facilitation and management of local and regional supply chains.

**Read More**



## NEWS

SAARC Senior Trade Officials  
Discusses impact of COVID-19  
situation on intra-regional trade

- **BBIN Energy Secretaries Evaluate State of Energy amidst the Pandemic**
- **SAARC Senior Trade Officials Talk Trade amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic**

## BBIN Energy Secretaries Evaluate State of Energy amidst the Pandemic

**17 April 2020: Kathmandu, Nepal**

Energy Secretaries of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal (BBIN) held a virtual meeting to evaluate the state of energy amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. They discussed issues related to energy generation, demand and distribution. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the demand and supply balance, and ongoing construction projects in the subregion. Mr. Dinesh Kumar Ghimire, Secretary of Energy of the Government of Nepal discussed possible solutions with his counterparts in the subregion.

[Read More](#)

## India CBIC Allows Paperless Customs Clearances, E-Submission of Documents for Imports

**15 April 2020: New Delhi, India**

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) of the Government of India has allowed paperless customs clearances and electronic submission of documents to speed up imports beginning 15 April 2020. These include raw materials used in manufacturing medicines against the new coronavirus. These reforms will expedite customs clearances and reduce the transaction cost, as well as promote physical distancing.

[Read More](#)

## India, Nepal to Continue Close Coordination for Smooth Facilitation of Essential Supplies

**10 April 2020: New Delhi, India**

India Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli held a phone call to discuss policy measures against the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The two leaders reiterated their agreement for Indian and Nepalese experts and officials to continue close consultations and coordination on all issues arising out of the COVID-19 situation. This includes facilitation of essential commodities across the border

[Read More](#)

# SAARC Senior Trade Officials Talk Trade amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic

8 April 2020: New Delhi, India

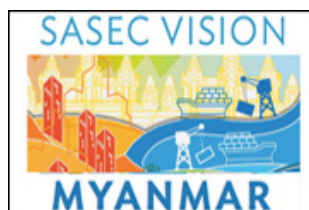
A video conference among SAARC senior trade officials discussed the impact of travel restrictions and the larger impact of COVID-19 situation on intra-regional trade. The meeting acknowledged that the COVID-19 pandemic is likely to have a considerable adverse effect on trade in the SAARC region. It also recognized the need to have a bigger discussion on the impact of health issues such as the COVID-19 pandemic on regional trade and possible measures to mitigate it.

[Read More](#)

## RELATED PUBLICATIONS



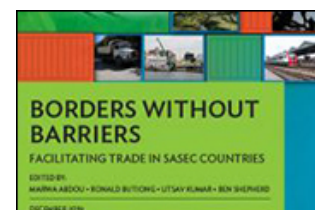
**SASEC VISION**



**SASEC VISION  
MYANMAR**



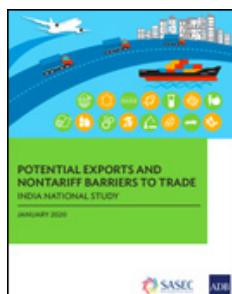
**SASEC OPERATIONAL  
PLAN 2016-2025  
UPDATE**



**BORDERS WITHOUT  
BARRIERS:  
FACILITATING TRADE  
IN SASEC COUNTRIES**



**Asian Development Outlook 2020:  
What Drives Innovation in Asia?**



**Potential Exports and Nontariff  
Barriers to Trade:  
India National Study**



**Role of Regional Cooperation and  
Integration in Improving Energy  
Insecurity in South Asia**



Review of Maritime Transport 2019



Regional Institutions in Europe and Southeast Asia: Lessons for Economic Integration in South Asia



Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2019: Navigating Non-tariff Measures towards Sustainable Development



## Top Tweets for April 2020

Shaking hands with neighbours: Border Haats between India and Bangladesh [Read more](#)

Nepal has been ranked 94 out of 190 economies on the Doing Business 2020 ranking, climbing up 16 spots from last year [Read more](#)

Watch: Crafting a New Strategy for a Better Future in Nepal [Read more](#)

Need to finalize various modalities for operationalising free trade agreement among BIMSTEC nations [Read more](#)

Growth in the region is expected to slow sharply to 2.2% in 2020 under the effects of the current health emergency and then rebound to 6.2% in 2021 [Read more](#)

Experts call for regional grid connecting BIMSTEC nations [Read more](#)

Digitalizing the Port Call Process identifies the principal tensions and opportunities arising that are impacting the inevitable and ongoing digitalization process that is underway in the maritime sector [Read more](#)

Follow  @SASECprogram |  Like us on Facebook [facebook.com/SASECprogram](https://facebook.com/SASECprogram)

## ABOUT THIS EMAIL

Your received this message because you signed up for the SASEC Newsletter.

[Subscribe](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Contact Us](#)