



## SASEC Calendar



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## SASEC Events



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### Message of Condolence to the People of Nepal 27 April 2015: Manila, Philippines

Asian Development Bank (ADB) President Takehiko Nakao has offered his deepest condolences to the Government and people of Nepal for the tragic loss of lives caused by the earthquake which hit the country on April 25. "I am deeply saddened to hear of the tragic loss of lives and destruction caused by the earthquake," Mr. Nakao wrote in a letter delivered to Nepal's Prime Minister, Sushil Koirala. ADB stands together with the people of Nepal and the Government at this challenging time. [Read More >>](#)

### Meeting of the Transport Secretaries of India, Myanmar, and Thailand 18 April 2015: Chennai, India

The Meeting of the Transport Secretaries of India, Myanmar, and Thailand on Cross-border Transport Facilitation discussed the proposed India-Myanmar-Thailand (IMT) Motor Vehicles Agreement, which provides a framework for facilitating cross-border transport between the participating countries. Mr. Vijay Chhibber, Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India, emphasized the importance of enhancing regional road transport connectivity between and among the IMT countries, and their commitment to move forward with transport facilitation. [Read More >>](#)

### National Workshop on Revised Kyoto Convention Implementation 14-15 April 2015: Nagarkot, Nepal

The National Workshop on Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC) discussed the (i) scope, structure and other background information on the RKC; (ii) benefits to Nepal of RKC accession; (iii) proposed amendments to Nepal's Customs Act and related Rules and Regulations to comply with the RKC General Annex; and (iv) Customs Partnership, and other trade facilitation instruments of WCO. The Workshop Summary of Proceedings was adopted. [Read More >>](#)



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May 2015						
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	31

### Upcoming SASEC Events

SASEC Nodal Officials' Meeting  
4 May 2015  
Baku, Azerbaijan

Maldives Customs Service National Workshop on Customs Valuation  
18-22 May 2015  
Male, Maldives

Customs Module for RAMIS Technical Training  
24 May-4 June 2015  
Thimphu, Bhutan

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## **SAARC-ADB Workshop on SAARC Study: Regional Economic Integration (Phase II)**

**14-15 April 2015: Goa, India**

The SAARC-ADB Special Meeting of Representatives of Commerce and Finance Ministries (the Meeting) was held in follow-up to the recommendations of a workshop on the second phase of the SAARC Study on Regional Economic Integration, held in Thimphu, Bhutan on 21 July 2014. Senior officials from the ministries of Finance and Commerce of the eight SAARC member countries attending the workshop agreed to implement recommendations on a priority basis.

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## **SASEC Project**



## **Bangladesh Government Clears Grid Interconnection Projects to Boost Energy Supply**

**1 April 2015: Dhaka, Bangladesh**

The Government of Bangladesh gave the go signal for two energy projects that will boost the country's capacity to import electricity from India. The two projects, roughly amounting to \$204.6 million, will allow the country to import 600 megawatt (MW) electricity by boosting the country's transmission capacity and establishing a substation. The Asian Development Bank is funding interconnection facilities for the Bheramara-Bahrampur grid link project through the Bangladesh-India Electrical Grid Interconnection Project, under the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Program.

[Read More >>](#)

- [bdnews24.com](#)
- [SASEC Project](#)

## **SASEC News**



## **ADB 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting has Regional Cooperation on the Agenda**

**28 April 2015: Baku, Azerbaijan**

The 48th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) will discuss regional developments in Asia and the Pacific on 2-5 May 2015 at the Heydar Aliyev Center in Baku, Azerbaijan. Under the theme "Fostering Partnership for Development," the Meeting will focus on the importance of leveraging resources and strengthening coordination between ADB, its members, and other multilateral and bilateral partners. The need to enhance regional cooperation and integration within Central Asia and the South Caucasus will be emphasized in a morning panel discussion on 5 May 2015.

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- [ADB News](#)
- [Baku 2015](#)



## **Bangladesh Exports Bandwidth to India**

**21 April 2015: Dhaka, Bangladesh**

The Cabinet of Bangladesh approved a 3-year agreement to export 10 gigabytes to India's northeastern states on lease and commercial basis. State-owned entity Bangladesh Submarine Cable Company Ltd (BSCCL) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) signed the "Agreement Between BSNL and BSCCL for Leasing of International Bandwidth for Internet at Akhaura (Zero Point)". India will benefit from the unused bandwidth from Bangladesh, as it is expensive to bring the line from Mumbai. Meanwhile, Bangladesh will earn revenues worth Tk 9.42 crore (approximately \$1.2 million) annually.

[Read More >>](#)

- [bsnews.net](#)
- [The Daily Star](#)



- [bssnews.net](http://bssnews.net)

### **India, Bangladesh Ratify Coastal Shipping Agreement** **21 April 2015: New Delhi, India**

A coastal shipping agreement between Bangladesh and India was ratified by Bangladesh Shipping Secretary Shafiq Alam Mehedi and Indian Shipping Secretary Rajib Kumar to facilitate trade and transportation of goods through water routes between the two countries. Allowing merchant ships direct access through the two countries will reduce transport costs, create more employment opportunities, and expand trade and investment in Bangladesh and India.

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- [news.lk](http://news.lk)
- [kuenselonline.com](http://kuenselonline.com)

### **Bhutan Prime Minister Visits Sri Lanka, Discusses Aviation** **12 April 2015: Colombo, Sri Lanka**

Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay concluded his 4-day official visit to Sri Lanka on 12 April 2015. Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena, accompanied by several Cabinet Ministers, engaged in bilateral talks with the visiting Prime Minister and Bhutanese delegation. Both countries pledged to enhance bilateral cooperation and establish air links between Paro and Colombo by Druk Air, Bhutan's national carrier. The two leaders also emphasized the need to finalize the bilateral Air Services Agreement currently being negotiated.

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- [Next Steps to SAEU](#)

### **South Asia Economic Union Publication Announced at ADB** **9 April 2015: Manila, Philippines**

This South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) study was adopted at the 18th SAARC Summit in Kathmandu, Nepal in November 2014 and identified the need for closer regional economic integration among SAARC member countries, including, among others, fully implementing the South Asia Free Trade Area Agreement, reducing non-tariff barriers, Customs streamlining and harmonization, development of regional value chains, and integrating formal and informal trade. Investment is seen as key to economic integration.

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- [Dailymirror.lk](http://Dailymirror.lk)
- [DailyFT](http://DailyFT)

### **India and Sri Lanka to Propose Resumed Negotiations on CEPA** **9 April 2015: Colombo, Sri Lanka**

A Bilateral Committee is to prepare a new draft framework between India and Sri Lanka and bring life back to stalled negotiations related to the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). Trading partners usually graduate from a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) to CEPA based on positive experiences to consolidate trade benefits. However, several issues – non-tariff barriers, national protectionism, and others – remain unresolved 15 years after the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lanka FTA. The original objective of CEPA was also to deepen the existing FTA between India and Sri Lanka, including in the areas of services and investments. [Read More >>](#)

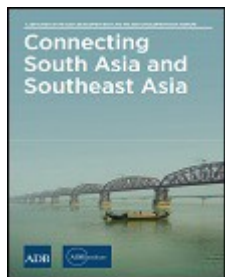


- [kuenselonline.com](http://kuenselonline.com)
- [bdnews24.com](http://bdnews24.com)

### **Revised India-Bangladesh Trade Agreement Promotes Further Trade in the Subregion** **6 April 2015: Dhaka, Bangladesh**

The Bangladesh Cabinet approved proposed amendments to the India-Bangladesh Trade Agreement on 6 April 2015, allowing the two countries to access each other's rail, road, and sea routes for third-country trade. The agreement—termed “a big success for Bangladesh” by Bangladesh Cabinet Secretary Md Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan, and “a milestone in Bangladesh-India relations” by Bangladesh Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed—is a boon to trade in the subregion, paving the way for Bangladesh to transport products to Bhutan and Nepal, and for India to send goods directly to Myanmar. [Read More >>](#)

## Related Publications



Connecting South Asia and Southeast Asia



Industrial Policy as a Tool of Development Strategy



Mega-regionals and the Regulation of Trade



Making Market Access Meaningful



Implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement in the Asia-Pacific Region



Key Recommendations: South Asia Consultation on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

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