



SASEC News



India Extends US \$1 Billion Loan to Nepal for Energy, Infrastructure Projects 3-4 August 2014: Kathmandu, Nepal

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a two-day visit to Kathmandu, Nepal on 3-4 August 2014, the first bilateral visit by an Indian Prime Minister in 17 years. At a speech delivered to the Parliament of Nepal, Modi announced India's desire to help Nepal and offered an additional soft loan of US \$1 billion for energy projects and infrastructure development. These power projects will tap Nepal's vast hydropower potential and mutually benefit the two countries by significantly lessening power shortages in Nepal, and providing India with a less costly source of energy.

[Read More >>](#)

- [News Release: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Nepal](#)
- [Indian Express](#)
- [eKantipur](#)



Nepal to Sign Power Deal with Bangladesh 7 August 2014: Kathmandu, Nepal

After striking a similar deal in India, Nepal is set to sign a power trade agreement with Bangladesh. A Memorandum of Understanding is expected to be vetted by Nepal and presented during the power sector cooperation meeting in December, after the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation summit. Hydropower produced in Nepal through power sector cooperation would be exported to Bangladesh through India's power corridor.

[Read More >>](#)

- [The Daily Star](#)
- [Khabar South Asia](#)
- [The Financial Times](#)



New Indian Ambassador to Bhutan Visits First Joint Hydropower Project 7 August 2014: Chhukha, Bhutan

Mr. Gautam Bambawale, recently appointed Ambassador of India to Bhutan, visited Chhukha Hydropower Plant—the first joint project between India and Bhutan—during his first two weeks in office. Ambassador Bambawale emphasized India-Bhutan relations, and talked about both countries' readiness to provide assistance to each other. Power trade between Bhutan and India is one of the many areas of cooperation between the two countries.

[Read More >>](#)

- [Kuensel Online](#)
- [Project Data Sheet: Green Power Development Project](#)
- [Publication: Green Power for Bhutan](#)

SASEC Calendar

November 2014						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
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					

Upcoming Events

SASEC Trade Facilitation and Transport Working Group Meeting
4 November 2014
Kathmandu, Nepal

SASEC Energy Working Group Meeting
5 November 2014
Kathmandu, Nepal

Third Meeting of the SASEC Customs Subgroup
26-27 November, 2014
Goa, India

SASEC Trade Facilitation Week
1-4 December 2014
Bangkok, Thailand

Visit sasec.asia to see recent event updates.

Follow [@sasecprogram](https://twitter.com/sasecprogram) on Twitter for updates on SASEC events, news, and projects.



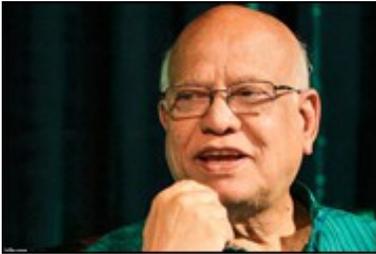
ADB Committed to Help Nepal Graduate from LDC Status, Ready to Facilitate India-Nepal PTA

17 August 2014: Kathmandu, Nepal

Asian Development Bank (ADB) Vice President (VP) Wencai Zhang assured Nepal Prime Minister Sushil Koirala of ADB's commitment to help Nepal achieve its vision of graduating from a least developed country (LDC) status by 2022 at a meeting in Kathmandu, Nepal, on 17 August 2014. Discussing how ADB can boost Nepal's economy and development, and help the country reduce poverty, VP Zhang, in a panel that included Deputy Prime Minister Prakash Man Singh, Finance Minister and ADB Governor Ram Sharan Mahat, also emphasized the strong need to fill in gaps in Nepal's infrastructure, increase its building capacity, and establish an enabling policy environment to promote private sector investment.

[Read More >>](#)

- [SASEC Energy Projects](#)
- [Business Standard](#)
- [Shanghai Daily](#)



Bangladesh Finance Minister Bullish about Relations with India

20 August 2014: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Bangladesh Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith told reporters that good relations between Bangladesh and India are beneficial to both countries. Prior to the press interview, Finance Minister Muhith met with visiting ADB VP Bindu Lohani to discuss further enhancing connectivity between Bangladesh and India. ADB is currently supporting the Government of Bangladesh's Road Master Plan—developed and implemented to improve Bangladesh's road network and promote regional road connectivity—through the SASEC Road Connectivity Project.

[Read More >>](#)

- [BdNews24](#)
- [Bangladesh SASEC Road Connectivity Project](#)



Bangladesh Joins BRICS Bank

20 August 2014: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Bangladesh has decided to join the \$50 billion New Development Bank formed by Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa as an alternative source of development funding other than the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and other development partners. In joining the New Development Bank, Bangladesh will have more options to receive concessional investments, further develop the country's infrastructure, and lessen loan costs from multinational banks.

[Read More >>](#)

- [The Daily Star](#)
- [Dhaka Tribune](#)



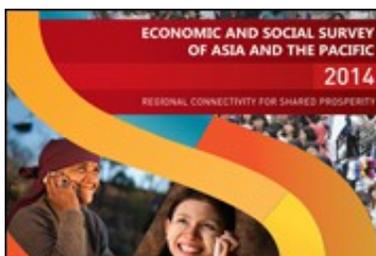
ADB to Continue Promoting Green and Inclusive Growth in Bhutan

21 August 2014: Thimphu, Bhutan

Bhutan Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay and Ms. Lakshmi Venkatachalam, ADB VP for Private Sector and Cofinancing Operations, discussed new prospects for mutually inclusive growth, including renewable energy, at a meeting in Thimphu, Bhutan on 21 August 2014. VP Venkatachalam assured Prime Minister Tobgay of ADB's continued support to Bhutan. Prime Minister Tobgay also praised ADB's continual efforts toward promoting green and inclusive growth, saying that such growth should not only be ADB's agenda but should also be a global business paradigm.

[Read More >>](#)

- [Bhutan Broadcasting Service](#)
- [ADB-Bhutan Country Partnership Strategy](#)



'Regional Connectivity for Shared Prosperity': UNESCAP's Roadmap to An Inclusive Future

20 August 2014: Bangkok, Thailand

Economic dynamism in the Asia-Pacific region has been driven primarily by individual economies, yet to ensure sustainable growth in the future, countries must integrate and cooperate to share prosperity, according to the 2014 edition of the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific, published by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). This 2014 edition of UNESCAP's flagship publication emphasizes the importance of furthering regional connectivity in Asia-Pacific—a region which, despite significant reductions in poverty levels, is now witnessing rising income inequality, both within and between countries.

[Read More >>](#)

- [Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2014](#)



Assessing Climate Change and Adaptation in South Asia
19 August 2014: Manila, Philippines

Climate change alters the dynamic of energy security in South Asia, with electricity demands projected to grow fourfold by 2030. Climate change adaptation and variability in South Asia renders most countries vulnerable. In Sri Lanka, for instance, the energy sector is vulnerable to climate change in supply and demand. The Maldives' low elevation and island size makes its powerhouses and infrastructure vulnerable. In India, the electrical system runs mostly on coal and reducing greenhouse gas emissions could limit its options for coal.

[Read More >>](#)

- [ADB News Release: Bangladesh](#)
- [ADB News Release: The Maldives](#)



Stronger Regional Ties Necessary for India's Economic Development
27 August 2014: New Delhi, India

ADB President Takehiko Nakao expressed full support for Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of greater regional integration and connectivity at a meeting on August 27 during a 2-day visit to India. Strengthening ties with South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation countries is a focus of Prime Minister Modi's government. His office has released a statement asking ADB to prioritize regional connectivity projects that will boost development for the whole region.

[Read More >>](#)

- [ADB News Release](#)
- [The Hindu Business Line](#)
- [The Economic Times](#)



Bangladesh Allows India Use of its Sea Ports
27 August 2014: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Following a meeting with Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Tripura Industries and Commerce Minister Tapan Chakraborty said that Bangladesh will allow neighboring countries to use Ashuganj and Chittagong sea ports for multi-modal transport. This move is expected to further enhance economic integration among South Asian countries, boosting trade especially between northeastern states of India that share large international borders with Bangladesh.

[Read More >>](#)

- [Economic Times](#)
- [Times of India](#)
- [BDNews24](#)



Railway Link to India's Border by 2020
30 July 2014: Lhasa, Tibet

China initially opened the railway to Tibet's capital, Lhasa, in 2006 as part of its national plan to boost development. The railway is envisioned to link to Rasuwagadhi, Nepal through the Shigatse-Kerung stretch. Rasuwagadhi is about 500 kilometers from Shigatse. There are plans to extend the railway linking Tibet with the rest of the country during 2016-2020 to two separate points on the border of Nepal and on the border of India and Bhutan.

[Read More >>](#)

- [New Delhi Television](#)
- [Kathmandu Post](#)



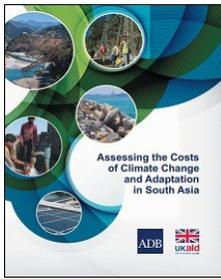
Sri Lanka-Bangladesh Trade Crosses \$100 Million for the First Time
14 July 2014: Colombo, Sri Lanka

As Sri Lanka-Bangladesh trade crosses the \$100 million mark for the first time, Bangladesh seeks to set up an investment promotion mechanism to increase trade volumes and improve bilateral trade. The Investment Protection Agreement (IPA) incorporates investment fundamentals for Bangladesh investors looking at Sri Lanka as a future trade partner.

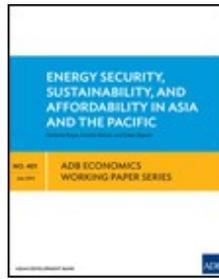
[Read More >>](#)

- [The Daily Observer](#)
- [Sunday Observer](#)

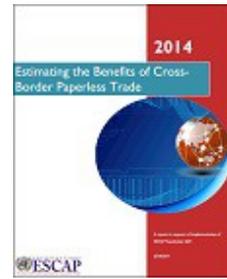
SASEC Publications



Assessing the Costs of Climate Change and Adaptation in South Asia



Energy Security, Sustainability, and Affordability in Asia and the Pacific



Estimating the Benefits of Cross-Border Paperless Trade



Economic Implications of Deeper South Asian-Southeast Asian Integration: A CGE Approach



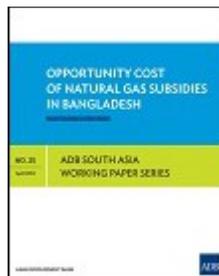
Mega-regional Trade Agreements: Game-Changers or Costly Distractions for the World Trading System?



Future of Factory Asia



Trade and Investment Barriers Affecting International Production Networks in India



Opportunity Cost of Natural Gas Subsidies in Bangladesh



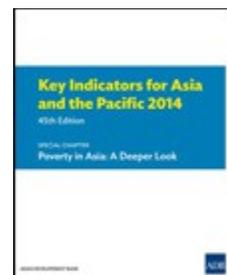
Nepal: Development Effectiveness Brief 2014



The Role of Sri Lanka in Enhancing Connectivity between South Asia and Southeast Asia



Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2014



Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific 2014

See more publications on regional cooperation in South Asia and other regions at <http://sasec.asia/publications.php>

Please contact the SASEC Program Secretariat at sasec@adb.org
To unsubscribe from this newsletter, [click here](#).