



News



ADB assisting South Asia to reduce trade barriers

ADB is providing \$48 million to help goods move more smoothly in and out of Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal. The project will help the three countries, all members of the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) program, adopt an international customs administration protocol, upgrade existing automated customs management systems, and establish web-based electronic trade portals. [more](#)



SASEC holds national workshop on Revised Kyoto Convention

ADB's South Asia Regional Cooperation Division and the World Customs Organization organized a workshop held in Thimphu, Bhutan from 26-28 November 2012 to help prepare Bhutan's accession to the Revised Kyoto Convention. The objective of the workshop was to understand the current status of Bhutan's customs laws, regulations, trade procedures and to increase awareness on the RKC.



SASEC energy officials endorse feasibility studies for transmission investments

The SASEC energy working group agreed to conduct feasibility studies for three new priority large-scale cross-border transmission projects worth over \$3 billion at a meeting on 9 November 2012 in Thimphu, Bhutan. The meeting also reviewed the progress of ongoing SASEC energy projects and initiatives. Bhutan's Minister of Economic Affairs, Lyonpo Khandu Wangchuk gave the keynote address.



SASEC Trade Facilitation and Transport Working Group reviews \$4 billion portfolio

Trade facilitation and transport officials of SASEC countries reviewed planned priority sub-regional projects totalling over \$4 billion over the next three years. SARD DG Juan Miranda and Bhutan's Finance Secretary, Dasho Lam Dorji, co-chaired the meeting. Bhutan's Minister of Works and Human Settlement Lyonpo Yeshey Zimba gave the keynote address.



Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum 2012

ADB in cooperation with UNESCAP, organized the Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum (APTFF) held on 30-31 October 2012. The forum was entitled: "Enhancing public-private collaboration for trade facilitation, paperless trade and cross border connectivity." The 2012 APTFF aimed to promote trade facilitation as an important component of a comprehensive strategy for national and regional development. Participants shared information and experiences and identified priority areas for cooperation.



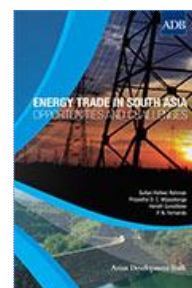
Recent Events

Date	Event
2012	
26-28 November	National Workshop on Revised Kyoto Convention, Thimpu, Bhutan
19-20 November	Technical Meeting on Indian Ocean Cargo and Passenger Ferry Service Study, Male, Maldives
9 November	Energy Working Group Meeting, Thimpu, Bhutan
8 November	Trade Facilitation and Transport Working Group Meeting, Thimpu, Bhutan
29 October	SASEC Stakeholder Workshop on Subregional Trade and Transit Collaboration, Colombo, Sri Lanka
16-17 October	SASEC Meetings on the Proposed Transmission Utility Forum and Subregional Power Generation and Transmission Master Plan, Kandy, Sri Lanka
3 May	Nodal Officials' Meeting

Publications



Regional Integration and Economic
Development in South Asia
2012



Energy Trade in South Asia:
Opportunities and Challenges
2011

More publications: <http://sasec.asia/web/index.php/en/knowledge-products/books>

Please give us your feedback on the new site: email sasecprogram@adb.org