



## SASEC Events



### Transport Electronic Cargo Tracking Feasibility Study Finalization Workshop 10-12 December 2014: Hua Hin, Thailand

This workshop finalized a feasibility study report on the use of the cargo tracking model along the Kolkata-Jaigaon-Phuentsholing Route, based on pilot and trial runs conducted earlier in 2014. The report will be endorsed at a SASEC transport facilitation meeting in early 2015.

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- [Agenda](#)
- [SASEC Event Page](#)



### SASEC Trade Facilitation Week: Sanitary/ Phytosanitary and Technical Barriers to Trade 1-3 December 2014: Bangkok, Thailand

The SASEC Trade Facilitation Week: Sanitary/Phytosanitary (SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) meeting discussed current and potential contributions of international organizations in harmonization of standards, setting of regional standards, and facilitation of mutual recognition arrangements/conformity assessments. The meeting also reached broad agreement on the terms of reference for national diagnostics studies in each of the SASEC countries identifying priority potential export items facing SPS and TBT measures, and broadly endorsed the establishment of a SASEC SPS and TBT Subgroup.

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- [Agenda](#)
- [Summary of Proceedings](#)
- [SASEC Event Page](#)

## SASEC Calendar

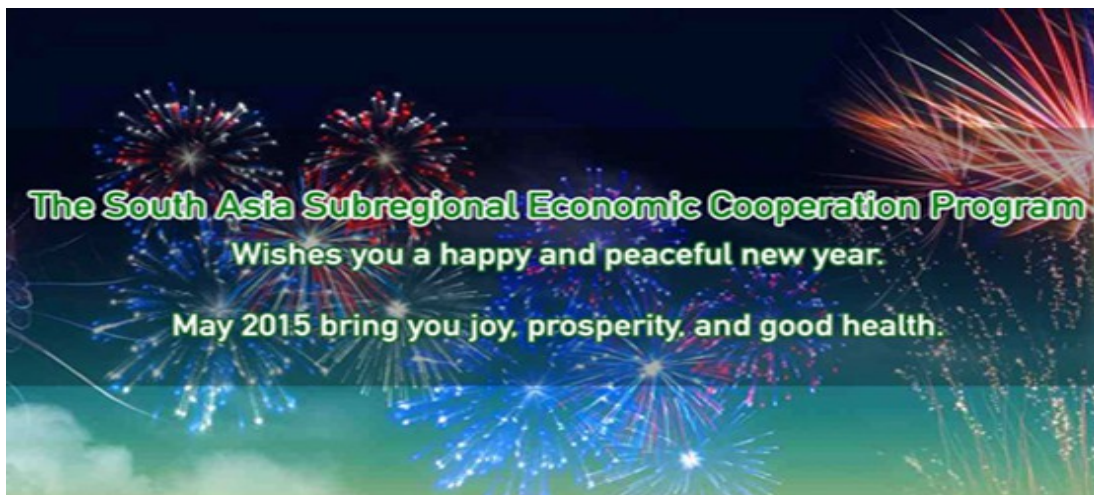
January 2015						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

### Upcoming SASEC Events

[Study Visit to Sri Lanka on the ASYCUDA World](#)  
19-23 January 2015  
Colombo, Sri Lanka

[Meeting of SASEC Transport Secretaries on Regional Road Transport Connectivity](#)  
2-3 February 2015  
Kolkata, India

[Training on Customs Valuation and Risk Management](#)  
2-6 February 2015  
Mumbai, India



Read relevant news, and view event and project updates on Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka at [www.sasec.asia](http://www.sasec.asia). We have reached more than **11,600 website hits** and counting! You can also follow more than **1,000 tweets** by SASEC on energy, trade facilitation, transport and ICT [@sasecprogram](https://twitter.com/sasecprogram) on Twitter.

## SASEC Projects



### **ADB to Finance Bhutan's Second Green Power Development Project through PPP** **15 December 2014: Manila, Philippines**

ADB approved financing support to develop the Nikachhu hydropower plant—a run-of-the-river hydropower plant—in central Bhutan totaling \$120.5 million in a package of loans and grants, through a public-private partnership. With expected capacity of 118-megawatt, the [Second Green Power Development Project](#) is expected to boost renewable energy generation in Bhutan, and further expand cross-border power trading in the region.

[Read More >>](#)

- [Project Data Sheet](#)
- [Press Release](#)

## SASEC News



### **ADB to Fund Infrastructure and Energy Projects in Bangladesh** **11 December 2014: Dhaka, Bangladesh**

ADB, along with other bilateral donors, will fund \$4.5 billion worth of infrastructure and energy-related projects in Bangladesh. The Economic Relations Division of the Bangladesh Ministry of Finance is seeking funding from ADB for four out of nine projects – improvement of water management infrastructure of polder 56/57 in Bhola district; Khulna 750-850 MW liquefied natural gas-based combined cycle power plant project; Solar Irrigation Pump Project; and capacity upgradation of Bheramara HVDC station to import an additional 500 MW power from India.

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- [New Age](#)
- [SASEC Energy Projects](#)



### **Bhutan Trucks May Now Enter Bangladesh** **9 December 2014: Dhaka, Bangladesh**

Bhutanese trucks carrying import/export cargo are now able to enter Bangladesh via India, according to Bangladesh Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed during a visit to Bhutanese Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay on 7 December 2014. Most import/export activity between Bhutan and Bangladesh takes place through Bangladesh's Burimari land port, on the Bangladesh-India border, and many of the Bhutanese trucks return to Bhutan without cargo from Bangladesh. The new agreement will allow trucks to carry products directly from Bangladesh for import to Bhutan.

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- [The Daily Star](#)
- [Kuensel Online](#)



### **Advisory Committee Evaluates SAARC Summit** **9 December 2014: Kathmandu, Nepal**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nepal formed an advisory committee on 27 March 2014 to give suggestions in preparation for the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Summit and play a proactive role in the SAARC process, particularly in implementing decisions related to regional integration. On 9 December 2014, the committee evaluated and received feedback on the SAARC Summit, concluding unanimously that the 18th SAARC Summit was a success.

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- [Press Release](#)
- [My República](#)



### **SAARC's 30th Charter Day Celebrated** **8 December 2014: Kathmandu, Nepal**

SAARC marked its 30th Charter Day at the SAARC Secretariat in Kathmandu, Nepal on 8 December 2014. SAARC Secretary General Arjun Bahadur Thapa hosted a reception attended by Nepali Vice President Paramananda Jha as chief guest along with dignitaries, high-ranking government officials, and representatives of civil society, business community, and media.

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- [My República](#)
- [Himalayan Times](#)





## Bilateral Talks Between Bangladesh and Bhutan 6 December 2014: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Bhutan's Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay has agreed with Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to close trade gaps by exporting more goods and expanding the list of products free of tax and duty enjoyed by both countries. Bhutan's total trade volume with Bangladesh is worth about \$25.6 million. Bangladesh is the only country in the SAARC region in which Bhutan has a trade surplus.

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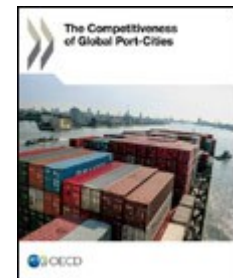
## Related Publications



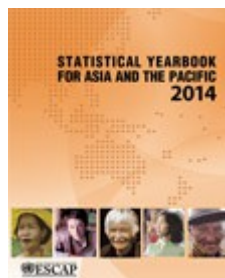
UNCTAD Handbook of Statistics  
2014



NTMs in South Asia:  
Assessment and Analysis



The Competitiveness of  
Global Port-Cities



Statistical Yearbook for  
Asia and the Pacific 2014



UNCTAD Transport Newsletter  
No. 64 – Fourth Quarter 2014

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