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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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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SASEC Calendar

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. 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 on Twitter.
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.

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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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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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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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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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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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