



## SASEC Events



- [Agenda](#)
- [SASEC Trade Facilitation Strategic Framework](#)

### First National Expert Mission on Customs Valuation in Bhutan

**22-26 June 2015: Paro, Bhutan**

The Bhutan Department of Revenue and Customs, Ministry of Finance conducted the first national level Expert Mission, in collaboration with the World Customs Organization Asia Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building to develop a Standard Operating Procedure to improve Customs valuation control in Bhutan, ideally through Post-Clearance Audit. [Read More >>](#)



- [SASEC News Release](#)
- [SASEC Event Page](#)

### Meeting of BBIN Transport Ministers on Regional Road Transport Connectivity

**14-15 June 2015: Thimphu, Bhutan**

This Meeting of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal (BBIN) Transport Ministers finalized and endorsed the BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement and proposed a work plan to ensure its speedy and effective implementation. Outcomes included a Joint Ministerial Statement and a six-month work plan. [Read More >>](#)



- [SASEC Event Page](#)

### Meeting of India, Myanmar, and Thailand on the Proposed Motor Vehicle Agreement

**2 Jun 2015: Bangalore, India**

Transport Secretaries of India, Myanmar, and Thailand (IMT) agreed on a final draft of the proposed IMT Motor Vehicle Agreement in a meeting in Bangalore, India on 2-3 June 2015. They also gave recommendations on next steps to finalize the terms of the first cross-border transport framework in the IMT subregion. [Read More >>](#)



- [Agenda](#)
- [SASEC Trade Facilitation Program](#)

### RAMIS User Acceptance Testing of Automated Customs Module

**25 May-1 June 2015: Thimphu, Bhutan**

The Department of Revenue and Customs, Ministry of Finance, Bhutan conducted a User Acceptance Testing of the initial component of the Revenue Administration and Management System (RAMIS) Customs and Excise Module for focal officials on 25 May-1 June, 2015 in Thimphu, Bhutan. The focal officials will deliver an End User Training to various Regional Revenue and Customs Offices of Bhutan. [Read More >>](#)

## SASEC Calendar

July 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

[Focused Workshop on ASYCUDA World Prototype Development](#)  
30 June-5 July 2015  
Biratnagar, Nepal

[Regional Workshops on RAMIS Automated Customs Module: Priority 1](#)  
1-11 July 2015  
Phuentsholing, Paro, Samtse, Gelephu, Thimphu, Samdrupjongkhar, Bhutan

[Meeting between India, Myanmar, and Thailand on the Motor Vehicle Agreement](#)  
13-14 July 2015  
Bangkok, Thailand

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## SASEC Project



### **SASEC Railway Connectivity Project Facilitates Subregional Connectivity** **15 June 2015: Dhaka, Bangladesh**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is set to further enhance transport connectivity within Bangladesh, and between Bangladesh and India, through the SASEC Railway Connectivity: Akhaura-Laksam Double Track Project. This \$505 million ADB project will upgrade critical sections of Bangladesh Railway's Dhaka-Chittagong corridor and boost its market share in freight services.

[Read More >>](#)

- [The Independent](#)
- [The Daily Star](#)

## SASEC News



### **Seminar Highlights Role of Trade Facilitation in Economic Corridor Development** **30 June 2015: Manila, Philippines**

The Asian Development Bank hosted a seminar on economic corridor development on 30 June 2015, where Dr. Pritam Banerjee, Deutsche Post DHL Trade Facilitation and Logistics Expert, discussed necessary macroeconomic reforms from the logistics perspective of economic corridor development facilitation. The seminar demonstrated the need for economic corridor development in building a multi-modal transport, logistics, and communications strategy that will promote private sector development.

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### **SAARC-ADB Meeting on SAARC Stat Web Portal** **29-30 June 2015: Kathmandu, Nepal**

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) organized a Meeting on the SAARC Statistical Organization (SAARC Stat) Web Portal in Kathmandu, Nepal on 29-30 June 2015, which facilitated discussions between officials from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics and former consultants of the SAARC Stat Web Portal. The SAARC Stat Web Portal aims to provide up-to-date and accurate statistical data and indicators on SAARC Member Countries.

[Read More >>](#)

- [SAARC Stat Web Portal](#)
- [SAARC Secretariat](#)



### **\$4.4 Billion Pledged to Nepal for Reconstruction** **25 June 2015: Kathmandu, Nepal**

Nepal's SAARC neighbors, friendly countries and development partners have pledged a total of \$4.4 billion in the International Conference on Nepal's Reconstruction to help the country in its rebuilding and reconstruction efforts in the aftermath of the recent devastating earthquake. India pledged aid amounting to \$1 billion. The Asian Development Bank also announced its readiness to provide up to \$400 million in further assistance, bringing its total pledge to \$600 million.

[Read More >>](#)

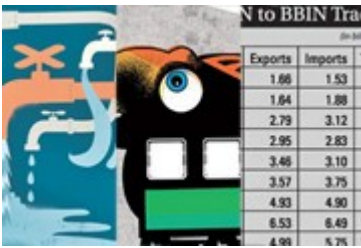
- [ADB News Release](#)
- [MyRepublica](#)



### **BBIN Highlights Need for Road and Railway Connectivity** **22 June 2015: Dhaka, Bangladesh**

With the recent approval of the regional transit deal among four nations – Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal – traffic volume will take a further upturn. The Government of Bangladesh plans to build a "Dhaka Bypass" valued at about \$30.87 million under a public-private partnership initiative to improve traffic congestion in the overcrowded city. The Roads and Highways Department will select a private company to improve the existing two-lane Joydevpur-Debogam-Bhulta-Madanpur road into a four-lane Dhaka Bypass. [Read More >>](#)

- [The Financial Express](#)



• [SASEC News Page](#)

## Commentaries on BBIN MVA from Across the Subregion 19 June 2015: Nepal, India, Bangladesh

Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal formed a subregional grouping under the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) Framework, and signed a Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA) allowing seamless transit across each other's territories. This article shares several commentaries on the BBIN MVA from across the region.

- [Building Blocs](#)
- [Virtues of Being Well-Connected](#)
- [Inadequate Infrastructure Deterrent to Trade](#)

[Read More >>](#)



• [The Independent](#)

## ADB to Support \$6 Billion in Regional Connectivity Projects 18 June 2015: Manila, Philippines

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) plans to provide about \$6 billion for projects in Bangladesh, including regional connectivity road transport and railway networks. ADB – through its country partnership program 2016-2018 – is committed to supporting regional connectivity in South Asia that boosts trade and commerce.

[Read More >>](#)



• [News.Lk](#)  
• [Daily Mirror](#)

## Sea Bridge May Connect India and Sri Lanka 18 June 2015: Colombo, Sri Lanka

The construction of a sea bridge and underwater tunnel linking the 23 kilometer stretch between Talaimannar, Sri Lanka and Dhanushkodi, India is under discussion, according to India's Transport Minister, Nitin Gadkari. The sea bridge would help expand the trans-South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation road and transport network.

[Read More >>](#)



• [SASEC Project Page](#)  
• [Kuensel Online](#)

## ADB Reaffirms Commitment to Road Connectivity Projects in Bhutan 17 June 2015: Thimphu, Bhutan

Asian Development Bank (ADB) Vice President Wencai Zhang reaffirmed ADB's continuous commitment to Bhutan highway projects and the development of the country's wider road sector in discussions with Bhutan Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay and Finance Minister and ADB Governor Namgay Dorji, focusing on current and future ADB operations in Bhutan during his visit to Thimphu on 15 June.

[Read More >>](#)



• [Kuensel Online](#)  
• [BBS Bhutan](#)

## BBIN MVA Says "Together We Can" 15 June 2015: Thimphu, Bhutan

Bhutan Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay remarked on the strong commitment shown by the transport ministers of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal in facilitating transport and increasing regional integration between the four countries, during a meeting held on the sidelines of the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) Transport Ministers Meeting on Regional Road Connectivity in Thimphu, Bhutan. The Prime Minister said the signed Motor Vehicles Agreement sends a strong message to SAARC and addresses numerous transit barriers. [Read More >>](#)



### **BBIN Agreement on Motor Vehicles Signed** **15 June 2015: Thimphu, Bhutan**

The Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal (BBIN) transport ministers met in Thimphu, Bhutan on 15 June 2015 to endorse and sign the Motor Vehicles Agreement for the Regulation of Passenger, Personal and Cargo Vehicular Traffic between Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal (BBIN MVA). The BBIN MVA facilitates land transport arrangements among the four countries and complements existing transport arrangements at the bilateral level. [Read More >>](#)

- [BBIN Full Text](#)
- [BdNews24](#)



### **Modi's Dhaka Visit Promises to Strengthen Bilateral Relations** **7 June 2015: Dhaka, Bangladesh**

Several agreements were signed during Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Dhaka, Bangladesh on 6-7 June 2015. The agreements included a \$2 billion line of credit, as well as others in the areas of trade, connectivity, and cooperation in power supply. The two-day visit further strengthened bilateral relations between the two neighboring countries. [Read More >>](#)

- [Times of India](#)
- [The Telegraph](#)



### **Seminar Highlights Sri City's Development Model** **5 June 2015: Manila, Philippines**

Mr. Srini Raju, Chairman and Founder of Sri City, an Indian integrated business city, shared Sri City's development philosophy of Work-Live-Learn-Play at a seminar organized by the Asian Development Bank's South Asia Department and the Urban Sector Group on 5 June 2015. Sri City pursues industrial growth by creating world-class infrastructure and a conducive business climate while supporting sustainable communities. [Read More >>](#)

- [SASEC News Page](#)



### **Coastal Shipping Approved between India and Bangladesh** **30 May 2015: New Delhi, India**

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the Agreement on Coastal Shipping between India and Bangladesh to carry out coastal movement of goods between the two countries. Bangladesh is currently India's largest trade partner in South Asia and the coastal route is expected to provide an alternative route for transportation of import-export cargo between the two countries. [Read More >>](#)

- [Government of India News Release](#)
- [BdNews24](#)



### **Potentially Large Gains from Enhanced South Asia-Southeast Asia Connectivity** **27 May 2015: Manila, Philippines**

The time is ripe to enhance economic integration between South Asia and Southeast Asia according to a joint study by the Asian Development Bank and the Asian Development Bank Institute. While cross-subregional trade has increased from \$4 billion to \$90 billion over a 23-year period, bottlenecks in infrastructure, financial markets, trade facilitation, trade barriers and regional cooperation continue to limit further improvement of economic ties. [Read More >>](#)

- [SASEC Publications](#)
- [The Daily Star](#)

## Related Publications



Cross-Border Electricity Cooperation in South Asia



Clean Energy and Access to Infrastructure: Implications for the Global Trade System



Aid for Trade in Asia and the Pacific 2015



Trade in Value Added: Concepts, Estimation and Analysis



A Critical Disconnect: The Role of SAARC in Building the DRM Capacities of South Asian Countries



WTO Dispute Settlement and Industrial Policy

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