

SASEC News



Trilateral Highway Project

BIMSTEC Visits Trilateral Highway Project 20 March 2014: Myawaddy, Myanmar

BIMSTEC senior officials visited the Myawaddy-Kawkareik Road Project in Myanmar on 20 March 2014, at the southeastern end of the Trilateral Highway connecting India, Myanmar and Thailand. The \$38 million Government of Thailand-financed project is upgrading and constructing 45.5 kilometers of national highway, and rehabilitating the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge. The Trilateral Highway Project is an ambitious initiative to develop the 3,200 km highway network linking India, Myanmar, and Thailand, and is the centerpiece of trilateral cooperation designed to promote multimodal transport and other linkages. BIMSTEC officials visited the road project after participating in a workshop in Mae Sot, Thailand.

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President's Message

[India Times](#)

[The Himalayan](#)

Third BIMSTEC Summit of Leaders 1-4 March 2014: Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

The Third Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multisectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Summit of Leaders and related events was held on 1-4 March 2014 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. The Summit strengthened the resolve of the Member States—Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand, and Sri Lanka—to achieve the program's founding aims of creating an enabling environment for rapid economic development, accelerating social progress in the sub-region, and promoting collaboration and mutual assistance on matters of common interest. The Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bhutan, the Prime Minister of the Republic of India, the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Prime Minister of Nepal, the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, and the Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand issued a joint Summit Declaration to deepen cooperation in all BIMSTEC priority areas.

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SAARC Development Fund Brainstorming Workshop 12-14 February 2014: New Delhi, India

The South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Development Fund (SDF) met on 12-14 February 2014 in New Delhi, India to brainstorm on its evolving strategic plan. The SDF is the umbrella financing mechanism for all SAARC projects and programs and is designed around three sectoral windows—social, economic, and infrastructure. The social window focuses on poverty alleviation and social development projects. The infrastructure window covers projects in energy, power, transportation, telecommunications, environment, tourism and other infrastructure areas. The economic window is primarily devoted to non-infrastructure funding.

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SAARC Development Fund

SASEC Calendar

April 2014						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	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

[National Training on Transport and Trade Facilitation Monitoring Mechanism](#)

15-18 April 2014
Kathmandu, Nepal

[National Training on Transport and Trade Facilitation Monitoring Mechanism](#)

21-24 April 2014
Dhaka, Bangladesh

[Second Meeting of the SASEC Electricity Transmission Utility Forum](#)

29 April 2014
Manila, Philippines

[SASEC Nodal Officials Meeting - ADB Annual Meeting](#)

3 May 2014
Manila, Philippines

[SAARC Finance Ministers' Meeting](#)

3 May 2014
Manila, Philippines

Visit sasec.asia to see recent event updates.

SASEC Events



[Event Documents and Materials on SASEC Website](#)

Roundtable Meeting for SAARC Study on Roadmap for Achieving South Asia Economic Union

24-25 March 2014: Manila, Philippines

Member countries of the South Asia Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) requested the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to undertake a study to examine the extent of regional cooperation and integration already underway in the region, and to prepare a "Roadmap for Achieving South Asia Economic Union (Second Phase)" study. The Roundtable Meeting deliberated on the approach, sequencing, and priority areas for South Asia's regional cooperation and integration.

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[Event Documents and Materials on SASEC Website](#)

Workshop on Phase 1 of the BTILS Update and Enhancement

19-20 March 2014: Mae Sot, Thailand

Senior officials from the BIMSTEC countries gathered at a workshop in Mae Sot, Thailand on 19-20 March 2014 to discuss the first phase of updating and enhancing the 2008 BIMSTEC Transport Infrastructure and Logistics Study (BTILS) Report. They assessed recent developments in the trade and transport environment and needed changes in strategies and policies, including identifying BIMSTEC transport connectivity and logistics projects.

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[Event Documents and Materials on SASEC Website](#)

National Training on Transport and Trade Facilitation Monitoring Mechanism

10-14 March 2014: Puentsooling, Bhutan

The Trade and Transport Facilitation Monitoring Mechanism (TTFMM) National Training Workshop for Bhutan provided detailed training in the integrated methodologies of (i) business process analysis (BPA), (ii) time release study, and (iii) time-cost-distance survey approach. The objective was to equip participants with the required knowledge and practical skills to establish baseline data for monitoring trade and transport facilitation in Bhutan; undertake a national TTFMM study; and thereafter identify necessary measures to develop more efficient and transparent trade.

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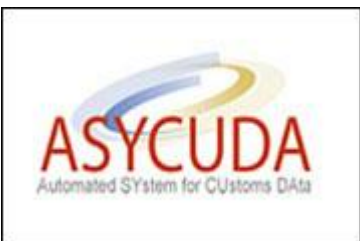
[Event Documents and Materials on SASEC Website](#)

National Workshop on Secure Cross-Border Transport Model

7 March 2014: New Delhi, India

The Asian Development Bank (ADB)-United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) National Workshop on Secure and Efficient Cross-Border/Transit Transport was a follow up activity to the ADB-UNESCAP Workshop on Secure and Efficient Cross-Border/Transit Transport for the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Program held in Bangkok, Thailand in October 2013. The workshop objectives were to familiarize key stakeholders in India on UNESCAP's models for secure cross-border transport, and to discuss the possibility of implementing these models on a pilot basis. Transport facilitation is a priority area under the SASEC Trade Facilitation Strategic Framework 2014-2016.

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[Event Documents and Materials on SASEC Website](#)

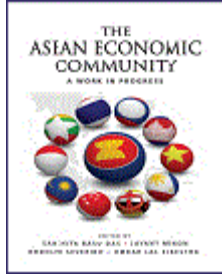
ASYCUDA Technical Workshop

4-7 March 2014: Kathmandu, Nepal

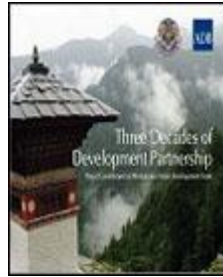
This technical workshop was held to improve understanding of the ASYCUDA World customs automation application in general, and more specifically the technical issues involved in possible adoption of this system in Nepal. The workshop consensus was in favor of recommending the ASYCUDA World system to the Department of Customs, Nepal given its well-controlled migration process; cost-efficiency; ability to build on existing application skills and capacity; supportive architecture to interface with the Nepal National Single Window and other sub-systems to be developed under Nepal's e-Customs Master Plan; and technical support.

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SASEC Publications



The ASEAN Economic Community:
A Work in Progress



Three Decades of
Development Partnership:
Royal Government of Bhutan
and Asian Development Bank



Evaluating Aid for Trade
on the Ground:
Lessons from Bangladesh



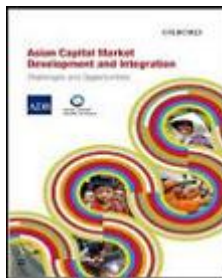
UNCTAD Handbook of
Statistics 2013



Attracting Foreign Direct Investment:
What Can South Asia's
Lack of Success Teach
Other Developing Countries?



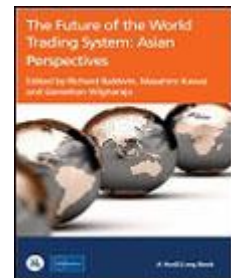
Who Shapes Climate Action
in India?



Asian Market Development
and Integration:
Challenges and Opportunities



Macroeconomic Update:
Nepal



The Future of the World
Trading System:
Asian Perspectives

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