



## SASEC Events



### **SASEC Nodal Officials Meeting – ADB Annual Meeting 3 May 2014: Astana, Kazakhstan**

Nodal officials of SASEC member countries – Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal – reviewed progress of SASEC projects whose total value has reached over \$5 billion. They also endorsed SASEC membership for the Maldives and Sri Lanka. The nodal officials reiterated their commitment to effective regional cooperation and highlighted the continued need to prioritize road, railway, grid connectivity, and trade facilitation projects, stressing the importance of wider connectivity especially for landlocked countries.

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



### **Second Meeting of the SASEC Customs Subgroup and Training on Customs Automation 22-23 May 2014: Kathmandu, Nepal**

The Second Meeting of the SASEC Customs Subgroup (SCS-2) held on 22-23 May 2014 in Kathmandu, Nepal, broadly endorsed the projects and initiatives of the SCS Work Plan 2014-2015. Subregional capacity building priorities were also identified in the meeting and a study on electronic exchange of trade-related information between and among SASEC countries was proposed. A knowledge sharing event on expertise and experience in ICT Applications for Customs followed on May 23.

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### **BIMSTEC Transport Infrastructure and Logistics Study (BTILS) Update and Enhancement: Workshop on Phase II 28-29 May 2014: Dhaka, Bangladesh**

The Workshop on the final phase of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multisectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Transport Infrastructure and Logistics Study (BTILS) was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 28-29 May 2014. Senior officials of BIMSTEC countries agreed to recommend policies, strategies, and priority projects on transport and trade facilitation to promote connectivity among the seven member countries. Over 165 projects worth \$46 billion were identified.

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## SASEC Calendar

June 2014						
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	1	2	3	4	5

### Upcoming Events

**ADB-WCO National Workshop on Revised Kyoto Convention Implementation**  
9-12 June 2014  
Thimphu, Bhutan

**Visit of Bangladesh Officials to Malaysian Customs on Authorized Economic Operators' Programme**  
17-18 June, 2014  
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Johor, Malaysia

**Finalization Meeting of the SAARC Regional Economic Integration Study**  
21 July, 2014  
Thimphu, Bhutan

**Finalization Meeting of the BTILS Update and Enhancement**  
TBD  
New Delhi, India

**Visit [sasec.asia](http://sasec.asia) to see recent event updates.**



[SASEC Website](#)

### **The Maldives and Sri Lanka Join SASEC Program 3 May 2014: Astana, Kazakhstan**

Nodal officials of the founding SASEC member countries — Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal — endorsed inclusion of the Maldives and Sri Lanka as new members at the SASEC Nodal Officials' Meeting 2014 in Astana on May 3. The move marks the first expansion of the SASEC program, which began in 2001 as a four-country regional cooperation and integration initiative focusing on the energy, transport, trade facilitation, and information and communications technology (ICT) sectors. SASEC has since implemented 30 regional projects worth more than \$5 billion.

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[SASEC Trade Facilitation  
Strategic Framework  
2014-2018](#)

### **SASEC Trade Facilitation Strategic Framework 2014–2018 Endorsed by Members 9 May 2014: Manila, Philippines**

SASEC countries Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal have endorsed the SASEC Trade Facilitation Strategic Framework 2014–2018 (TF Strategy) for implementation. The TF Strategy supports the mission of the SASEC Transport and Trade Facilitation Strategy “to promote the prosperity of the subregion by facilitating the efficient movement of trade across the borders”.

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[Technical Assistance Report  
SAARC Regional Energy Trade  
Study \(SRETS\)](#)

### **\$762 Million for Road and 'Last-Mile' Connectivity in Northeastern India 12 May 2014: Manila, Philippines**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a multitranche financing facility of \$500 million for the SASEC Road Connectivity Investment Program (SRCIP) in March 2014, which aims to increase domestic and regional trade through North Bengal and Northeastern Region (NB-NER) of India. The overall investment program will rehabilitate and upgrade about 500 kilometers (km) of regional connectivity roads, including both national highways and state roads.

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[Technical Assistance Report  
Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction  
The Himalayan Times  
New Spotlight Nepal](#)

### **Launch of \$1.5 Million Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction Technical Assistance in Nepal for Trade Facilitation 22 May 2014: Kathmandu, Nepal**

Mr. Madhu Kumar Marasini, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance represented the Government of Nepal at the official launch of activities under a \$1.5 million technical assistance project financed by the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR), on 21 May 2014 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The capacity development technical assistance will support trade facilitation initiatives being carried out under the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Trade Facilitation Program. Mr. Hisashi Hoshino, First Secretary, Embassy of Japan in Nepal, Mr. Kenichi Yokoyama, Country Director for ADB Resident Mission in Nepal, and Mr. Toshihide Aotake, Advisor to ADB Executive Director for Japan, were also present at the launch.

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### **From 4 Strands to 6: New SASEC Logo Launched 12 May 2014: Manila, Philippines**

The new SASEC logo unveiled in May reflects the inclusion of the Maldives and Sri Lanka into the SASEC program. With six strands comprising colors from the flags of the six SASEC nations — blue for Nepal, green for Bangladesh, yellow for Bhutan, saffron for India, red for the Maldives, and maroon for Sri Lanka — the updated logo also represents the continuous commitment of the SASEC program to strengthen regional cooperation and integration in South Asia.

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Integration Indicators					
Intra-regional Trade Intensity Index					
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
SASEC	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.3
Asia	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.5
Intra-regional Trade Share (%)					
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
SASEC	3.0	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.2
Asia	55.1	56.0	55.1	54.9	54.1

Note: 2013 values cover trade data between January-August.  
Source: ADB calculations using data from Division of Trade Statistics, International Monetary Fund.

## SASEC Integration Indicators Updated 22 May 2014: Manila, Philippines

Data for integration indicators in the SASEC subregion have been updated to reflect trade figures from the Maldives and Sri Lanka, SASEC's newest members. Their inclusion boosts SASEC's intra-regional trade indicators and highlights the growing importance of regional trade. Data values for January-August 2013 were added.

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Integration Indicators: Asia  
Regional Integration Center

## SASEC Publications



Regional Economic Outlook: Asia and Pacific - Sustaining the Momentum: Vigilance and Reforms



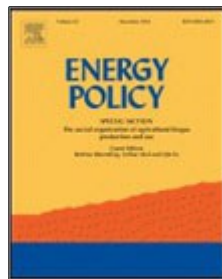
SAARC Biz: The Inevitability of South Asia



Together We Deliver: 10 Stories from ADB-Supported Projects



Unpacking the Bali Package: A Snapshot of Bali Ministerial Decisions of WTO Members



South Asia Energy Security: Challenges and Opportunities



Deepening India's Shallow Export Basket

See more publications on regional cooperation in South Asia and other regions at <http://sasec.asia/publications.php>

Please contact the SASEC Program Secretariat at [sasec@adb.org](mailto:sasec@adb.org)  
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