



SASEC Events



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SASEC Nodal Officials' Meeting **4 May 2015: Baku, Azerbaijan**

SASEC Nodal Officials representing Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka met at the sidelines of the 48th Annual General Meeting of the Asian Development Bank to talk about key achievements of the SASEC Program over the past 12 months and provide overall strategic guidance on future activities. Discussions highlighted the continued need to improve intraregional transport and energy connectivity; increased inter-regional transport connectivity with Southeast Asia; and additional funding available for regional investments through ADB. [Read More >>](#)



- [Agenda](#)
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First National Expert Mission on Customs Valuation in the Maldives **18-22 May 2015: Male, the Maldives**

The Maldives Customs Service (MCS) held a national level Expert Mission, in collaboration with the World Customs Organization Asia Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building to develop training materials to be used by MCS in onward training of Customs personnel. This will improve Customs valuation control in the Maldives, ideally through post clearance audit and risk management. [Read More >>](#)

SASEC Project



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Bhutan and ADB Sign \$120.5 Million Second Green Power Development Project **4 May 2015: Baku, Azerbaijan**

A loan and grant financing agreement to develop the 118 megawatt Nikachhu hydropower plant was signed by the Royal Government of Bhutan and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on 4 May 2015 in Baku, Azerbaijan. Lyonpo Namgay Dorji, Bhutan Finance Minister and ADB Governor, represented the Bhutan Government at the signing. Mr. Hun Kim, Director General of ADB's South Asia Regional Department, signed on behalf of ADB. This project will promote regional energy trade. [Read More >>](#)

SASEC Calendar

June 2015						
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 SASEC Events

[RAMIS Technical Training on Automated Customs Module](#)

25 May-2 June 2015
Thimphu, Bhutan

[Meeting of India, Myanmar, and Thailand on the Proposed MVA](#)

2 June 2015
Bangalore, India

[Meeting of BBIN Transport Ministers on Regional Road Transport Connectivity](#)

14-15 June 2015
Thimphu, Bhutan

[First National Expert Mission on Customs Valuation in Bhutan](#)

22-26 June 2015
Paro, Bhutan

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Inception Workshop on Vizag-Chennai Industrial Corridor **29 May 2015: Hyderabad, India**

The State Government of Andhra Pradesh and the Asian Development Bank reviewed the inception report for the Regional Perspective Plan of the Vizag-Chennai Industrial Corridor (VCIC), India's first coastal corridor. The primary goal of VCIC is the development of a well-planned and efficient industrial base served by world-class connectivity infrastructure. The availability of world-class infrastructure along the corridor will bring increased private investment in manufacturing and industrial activity in Andhra Pradesh. Industrial analysis, infrastructure development and business regulatory reform proposals were presented.

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- [WTO News](#)
- [WTO Annual Report](#)

WTO Launches Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility Website **27 May 2015: Geneva, Switzerland**

The Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility (TFAF) – launched on 22 July 2014 and operational by 27 November 2014 – assists developing countries and least developed country members reap the full benefits of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement. Recently, the WTO launched a dedicated website for the TFAF for members, donors, and others seeking information on the new TFAF. The WTO also published its Annual Report on 27 May 2015, which details WTO areas of activity, including trade negotiations and trade capacity building.

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- [newKerala.com](#)
- [The Daily Star](#)

BBIN to Sign Motor Vehicles Agreement on 15 June **25 May 2015: Thimphu, Bhutan**

In a move toward subregional cooperation, transport ministers of four South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation countries – Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal (BBIN) – will meet in Thimphu, Bhutan on 15 June 2015 to sign the Motor Vehicles Agreement. This will allow seamless movement of vehicles through their borders, similar to European Union countries. BBIN has finalized the deal for seamless transit of passenger, personal, and cargo vehicles between their countries by end of 2015. The Agreement will allow vehicles to ply designated routes in four countries and reduce time and cost of loading and unloading, making cross-border trade more efficient.

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- [WCO News](#)

WCO Secretary General and WTO Director General Attend ADB Forum **21 May 2015: Manila, Philippines**

World Customs Organization (WCO) Secretary General Kunio Mikuriya and World Trade Organization (WTO) Director General Roberto Azevêdo spoke at the Asian Development Bank Beyond Tariffs Forum in Manila. Director General Azevêdo outlined the origins of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation and stressed the importance of cooperation with the WCO to capitalize on its expertise in implementing the Agreement. Meanwhile, Secretary General Mikuriya spoke about WCO support for regional integration, including enhanced border connectivity through implementation of global standards, such as the Revised Kyoto Convention.

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- [Kuensel Online](#)

Bhutan and Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry Sign MoU **15 May 2015: Thimphu, Bhutan**

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the presidents of the Bhutan Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry on 13 May 2015, stating that both chambers would assist the enterprises of the other country to invest jointly in their respective countries. The MoU also anticipates establishment of a joint task force and the possibility of setting up industries under a joint venture.

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- bdnews24.com

India Pledges Second Line of Credit to Bangladesh for Transport, Energy **14 May 2015: Dhaka, Bangladesh**

A month after India pledged another Line of Credit to Bangladesh, the Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance of the Government of Bangladesh prepared 11 development project proposals on various sectors including transport, education, information technology, and energy. The total cost of the proposed projects is estimated at \$2.71 billion. The Government of Bangladesh will fund \$558 million, with external funding required for the remaining \$2.5 billion. India might be asked to provide \$2 billion LoC for project implementation.

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- bssnews.net

Third Airport Terminal Receives Nod from Bangladesh Prime Minister **13 May 2015: Dhaka, Bangladesh**

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gave the directive to go ahead with the construction of the third terminal of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport to handle growing passenger capacity and strengthen connectivity in the international arena. Prime Minister Hasina views Bangladesh as an important hub – a bridge between East and West. The Civil Aviation Authority recommends implementation of the first phase as soon as possible based on the feasibility study.

[Read More >>](#)



- [The Financial Express](http://TheFinancialExpress.com)
- bssnews.net

India-Bangladesh Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade Potential **13 May 2015: Dhaka, Bangladesh**

At the seminar on 'Bangladesh-India Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade: Challenges and Opportunities', policy and economic experts urged the two governments to remove navigation problems, reform customs procedures, develop ports, address lack of infrastructure facilities, and resolve policy constraints to tap into the potential of inland water transit. Effective trade cooperation and the introduction of multimodal transit could significantly help the potential of India-Bangladesh Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade be realized.

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- [SASEC Project](http://SASECProject.com)
- eKantipur.com

NEA, ADB in Talks to Install Solar Lights in Earthquake-Affected Villages **12 May 2015: Kathmandu, Nepal**

The Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) is in talks with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to install solar lights in remote districts where power distribution was severely damaged by the earthquake. Solar power can provide a temporary solution while NEA repairs its distribution channels. NEA has sought ADB assistance in electrification of the affected rural areas, proposing use of unutilized grants allocated to Nepal for procurement of solar batteries and lighting systems.

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- [WTO News](http://WTONews.com)

China Contributes \$500,000 to WTO Least Developed Countries **6 May 2015: Geneva, Switzerland**

The Government of China pledged to contribute \$500,000 to World Trade Organization (WTO) Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Accessions Program or the China Program. This will enable LDCs to better integrate into the global economy by strengthening their participation in WTO activities and helping members accede to the WTO. The China Program financially supports WTO accession internships, accessions round table meetings, LDCs' participation in WTO meetings and workshops, including South-South dialogue on LDCs and development. [Read More >>](#)



- [The Economic Times](#)
- [ADB News](#)

Relief and Rehabilitation Efforts in India-Nepal Border Towns, through Partnership with Nepal Forum
5 May 2015: New Delhi, India and Baku, Azerbaijan

More than 170 tons of relief goods was sent by India to Nepal using the rail route from Old Delhi to Raxaul, in response to the earthquake in Nepal. Senior officials of India's National Disaster Management Authority supervised this relief effort. India's West Bengal Government also gave assistance by coordinating needed relief items with the Government of Nepal and the Nepal Army. Dr. Ram Sharan Mahat, Finance Minister of Nepal, presented the current state of rescue, rehabilitation, and reconstruction at the Partnership with Nepal Forum in Baku, Azerbaijan on 3 May 2015.
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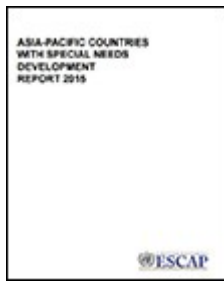


- [The Financial Express](#)

Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor Could Deepen Economic Integration
4 May 2015: Dhaka, Bangladesh

The Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor (BCIM-EC) – which received formal endorsement through an inter-governmental group meeting in December 2013 – could potentially bring significant benefits to the four countries by deepening economic cooperation and integration. BCIM-EC will increase socioeconomic development and trade in South Asia.
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Related Publications



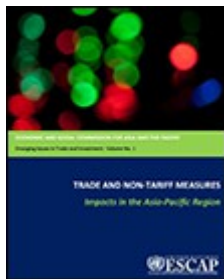
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