



## SASEC Event



### Second WCO-ADB Joint Subregional Train-the-Trainer Workshop on Customs Valuation 21-24 Oct 2014: Male, The Maldives

This World Customs Organization-Asian Development Bank (WCO-ADB) Train-the-Trainer Workshop on Customs Valuation was held in follow-up to the first WCO-ADB Joint Subregional Workshop on Customs Valuation held in Colombo, Sri Lanka in February 2014. Both workshops were initiated under a joint subregional train-the-trainer multiyear assistance initiative on Customs valuation implemented by ADB and WCO Asia Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB A/P), and were designed to support participating countries' efforts to strengthen efficient management of Customs valuation control through the use of post clearance audit.

[Read More >>](#)

- Agenda
- WCO Trainer's Skill and Methodology
- SASEC Trade Facilitation Update

## SASEC News



### Improving Women's Participation in Regional Cooperation and Integration 28-29 October 2014: Manila, Philippines

The Validation Forum on Gender Dimensions of Regional Cooperation and Integration in South Asia, held on 28-29 October in ADB Headquarters, took stock of progress made in mainstreaming gender in multi-, regional, bilateral and country policies and legal frameworks by identifying weaknesses and gaps in implementing gender-responsive legislation and the need for stronger legal empowerment and literacy of women to ensure their full access to the opportunities of intraregional trade and mobility.

[Read More >>](#)

- UN Women
- International Organization for Migration



### ADB Extends \$40 Million Loan to Indian Port Company 27 October 2014: New Delhi, India

The Asian Development Bank is extending \$40 million in loan to Ocean Sparkle Ltd (OSL), one of India's largest port operations and management companies, to expand and improve fleet services. This first private sector investment in India's ports sector will fuel efficiency, lower freight costs, hasten shipping, and expand maritime trade. The 2014-2016 project will help OSL purchase 10 tugboats used in Indian ports and neighboring South Asian markets along east-west shipping routes. It will also finance acquisition of two platform vessels and anchor handling tug supply vessels for future offshore oil and gas activities.

[Read More >>](#)

- Projects Monitor
- Bernama

## SASEC Calendar

November 2014						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
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

SASEC Trade Facilitation and Transport Working Group Meeting  
4 November 2014  
Kathmandu, Nepal

SASEC Energy Working Group Meeting  
5 November 2014  
Kathmandu, Nepal

SASEC Trade Facilitation Week: SPS  
1-4 December 2014  
Bangkok, Thailand

Transport Electronic Cargo Tracking Feasibility Study Finalization Workshop  
10-12 December 2014  
Hua Hin, Thailand

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

Follow [@sasecprogram](https://twitter.com/sasecprogram) on Twitter for updates on SASEC events, news, and projects.



### **SAARC Member Countries Officially Invited to 18th SAARC Summit** **27 October 2014: Kathmandu, Nepal**

Nepal Minister for Foreign Affairs Mahendra Bahadur Pandey paid official state visits to Heads of State and member country governments of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) – comprising Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka – to personally submit Nepal Prime Minister Sushil Koirala's invitation letters for the 18th SAARC Summit. This year's Summit follows the 17th SAARC Summit that took place in Addu City, the Maldives on 10-11 November, 2011.

[Read More >>](#)

- [eKantipur](#)
- [myRepublica](#)



### **PM Hasina for Asia-Europe Connectivity** **27 October 2014: Dhaka, Bangladesh**

Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina addressed the Plenary Session of the 10th Asia-Europe Meeting Summit 2014 and called for a more favorable trade regime, stronger technical cooperation, and better Asia-Europe connectivity. The European Union is Bangladesh's largest export destination and Asia is Europe's main trading partner with about US\$2 trillion of Asia-Europe trade. With more than one-fourth of Europe's overseas investment going to Asia, Bangladesh seeks to create an enabling environment to further trade and investment.

[Read More >>](#)

- [Dhaka Tribune](#)
- [Bdnews24.com](#)



### **Sensitization Workshops on Revised Kyoto Convention** **22 October 2014: Thimphu, Bhutan**

The Department of Revenue and Customs have led a series of two-day Sensitization Workshops on the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC) in Bhutan during 6-22 October 2014 to brief Customs officials on the key principles of the RKC. Bhutan formally became the 96th contracting party to the RKC – the World Customs Organization international standard for an efficient and effective Customs regulatory procedure – on 15 September 2014, and is currently working toward implementation of the provisions of the General Annex of the RKC.

[Read More >>](#)

- [BBS](#)
- [SASEC News](#)



### **Historic Power Trade Agreement Boosts Nepal-India Energy Cooperation** **22 October 2014: Kathmandu, Nepal**

Nepal and India have formally signed a historic Power Trade Agreement which paves the way for free trade of power between the two neighboring countries. The signing took place at Nepal Prime Minister Sushil Koirala's office at Singha Durbar in Kathmandu, Nepal on 21 October 2014, with Nepal Energy Secretary Rajendra Kishore Kshatri and India Power Secretary Pradeep Kumar Sinha in attendance.

[Read More >>](#)

- [eKantipur](#)



### **US-Maldives: First Bilateral Trade Talks** **20 October 2014: Male, The Maldives**

The Governments of the Maldives and the United States of America held their first bilateral discussion since signing the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement in 2009, to discuss engagement procedures, labor, intellectual property, and the investment climate. Minister of Economic Development Mr. Mohamed Saeed announced the Maldives' plan to lessen economic reliance on tourism, including changes to the investment climate through Special Economic Zones Act (SEZ). The SEZ aims for economic transformation and growth based on infrastructure investment across value-added sectors.

[Read More >>](#)

- [Minivan News](#)
- [USTR](#)



- [TTFMM Bangladesh](#)
- [TTFMM Nepal](#)

### **Fourth Session of UNESCAP's Transport Committee Focuses on Sustainable Development** **15-17 October 2014: Bangkok, Thailand**

Integrating sustainable development into the Asia-Pacific region's transport sector was a key focus of the Fourth Session of the Transport Committee organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). The event, held on 15-17 October 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand, was attended by over 120 participants from 34 countries, and discussed key aspects of transport policy and initiatives promoted by ESCAP. In her opening remarks, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and ESCAP Executive Secretary, highlighted that the 5-year Regional Action Program will focus on integrating sustainable development into the transport sector and enhancing regional connectivity.

[Read More >>](#)

### **UNESCAP's Transport Committee Drafts Regional Cooperation Framework for Facilitation of International Railway Transport** **13-15 October 2014: Bangkok, Thailand**



- [SASEC Railway Connectivity Project](#)

A draft Regional Cooperation Framework for Facilitation of International Railway Transport was discussed at a regional meeting organized by the Transport Division of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) on 13-15 October 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand. The framework identifies key issues for cooperation in promoting international railway transport among the 16 member countries of the Trans-Asian Railway Network.

[Read More >>](#)



- [Colombo Page](#)
- [The Economic Times](#)

### **Reconstruction of Pallai-Jaffna Rail Line Restores Connectivity to India, Sri Lanka** **13 October 2014: Jaffna, Sri Lanka**

Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa marked the completion of the 38 km long Pallai-Jaffna railway line under the Indian credit line of \$800 million last 13 October 2014. The reconstruction of this Northern Railway line by IRCON International Ltd, a public sector enterprise under the Government of India, links Sri Lanka's Northern Province to Colombo. This first train to Jaffna in 24 years is expected to enhance connectivity not only within the Northern Province but also between India and Sri Lanka.

[Read More >>](#)



- [The Daily Star](#)

### **SASEC Assists Bangladesh Strengthen Infrastructure Development** **12 October 2014: Manila, Philippines**

The Asian Development Bank's South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation Program will finance key infrastructure projects worth \$492 million under its country operations business plan: the second Bangladesh-India electrical grid interconnection (\$105 million), Dohazari-Cox's Bazar railway link (\$217 million), and road and trade facilitation (\$170 million). It will create mutually beneficial trade among six countries – Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka – and promote regional prosperity by improving cross-border connectivity, creating access to regional markets, and strengthening regional cooperation.

[Read More >>](#)



- [The Times of India](#)
- [Bdnews24.com](#)

### **Tripura Set to Supply Power to Bangladesh** **7 October 2014: Tripura, India**

Indian Deputy High Commissioner in Dhaka Mr. Sandeep Chakravorty paid a 3-day visit to India's state of Tripura in October to meet ministers and top officials and review progress made in several India-Bangladesh infrastructure projects. Following his meeting with Power Minister Mr. Manik Dey, Chakravorty revealed that India has initiated steps to ensure 100 megawatt (MW) of power will be supplied to Bangladesh from Tripura's Palatana power plant.

[Read More >>](#)



### **Trade Facilitation Agreement Benefits Within Reach? 6 October 2014: Geneva, Switzerland**

The Protocol of Amendment meant to be adopted by World Trade Organization (WTO) members in July aimed to bring the Trade Facilitation Agreement – a global deal to ease customs procedures and reduce red tape at the border – into WTO’s legal framework. However, India remains concerned on finding a permanent solution on food stockholding, while preserving the integrity of the Bali package concluded at WTO’s 9th ministerial meeting.

[Read More >>](#)

- ICTSD
- ICC



### **Growing Demand for Electricity among Rural Households in Bhutan 6 October 2014: Thimphu, Bhutan**

The Royal Government of Bhutan's target to bring "Electricity for All" is picking up pace. The rural electrification project, which began in 2013 with the initial goal of bringing electricity to 40,257 households, had already connected 40,300 households to the national power grid by August 2014. In response to popular demand, the Government has now set a deadline for every home in Bhutan to receive electricity supply by end 2014.

[Read More >>](#)

- Kuensel Online
- MOEA



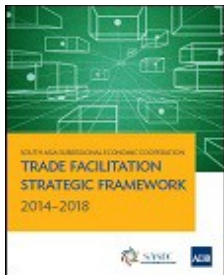
### **Maldives - Ready for Special Economic Zones? 22 September 2014: Male, The Maldives**

President Abdulla Yameen ratified the Special Economic Zones Act on 1 September 2014 to stimulate economic growth in Maldives and transform the economy through diversification, less stringent regulations, and tax concessions that would attract foreign investors into the country. This would make the economy less dependent on tourism and more open to infrastructure development.

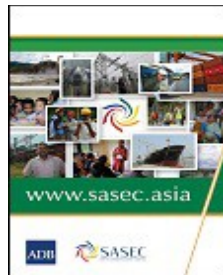
[Read More >>](#)

- The Lawyer
- Invest Maldives

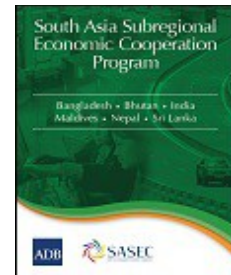
## **Related Publications**



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



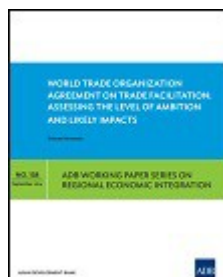
[SASEC Website Brochure](#)



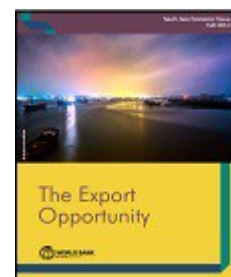
[SASEC Brochure](#)



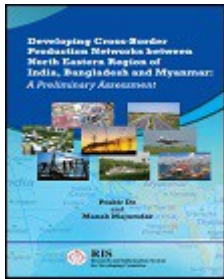
[World Trade Report 2014: Trade and Development](#)



[World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade Facilitation](#)



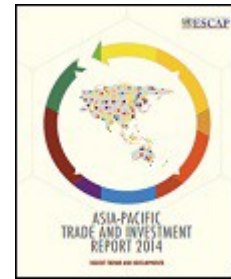
[The Export Opportunity](#)



Developing Cross Border  
Production Networks



The Global Gender Gap  
Report 2014



Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment  
Report 2014

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

Please contact the SASEC Program Secretariat at [sasec@adb.org](mailto:sasec@adb.org)  
To unsubscribe from this newsletter, [click here](#).