



## SASEC Events



- [Agenda](#)

### **SASEC Energy Meetings** **8-9 April 2016: New Delhi, India**

Two SASEC energy sector meetings, the (i) Regional Workshop on Technical and Regulatory Challenges in Cross-Border Electricity Transmission Interconnections and (ii) Inter-governmental Meeting on the Progress of the SASEC Cross-Border Electricity Transmission Master Plan, were held to promote coordinated and harmonious development of cross-border power interconnections to enable expanded regional power trading in the SASEC subregion.

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- [Agenda](#)
- [Globally Networked Customs](#)

### **SASEC Customs-to-Customs Data Exchange Workshop** **7-8 April 2016: New Delhi, India**

A Workshop on SASEC Customs-to-Customs Data Exchange explored the level of preparedness for cross-border exchange of commercial Customs data within SASEC Customs administrations, discussed Customs-to-Customs Data Exchange through presentations on Globally Networked Customs (GNC) and Utility Blocks, and evaluated international best practice among Customs administrations in the Balkan region and the Southern African Customs Union.

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## SASEC Projects



- [Kuensel Online](#)
- [SASEC Project](#)

### **Nikachhu Hydropower Moves toward Start of Construction** **22 April 2016: Thimphu, Bhutan**

The contract for civil and hydro-mechanical works of the Nikachhu Hydro Energy Project has been awarded to the Hindustan Construction Company Limited, in an international bidding held by Tangsibji Hydro Energy Limited. Works under the commissioned contract, worth around \$69 million, are scheduled to start as early as July 2016. The 118 megawatt Nikachhu hydropower plant aims to become another model hydropower development in Bhutan.

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## SASEC Calendar

May 2016						
Tuesday	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	31				

### Upcoming SASEC Events

**Bhutan DRC Consultation with Private Sector on Customs Bill and Rules and Regulations**  
3 May 2016  
Phuentsholing, Bhutan

**SASEC Nodal Officials' Meeting**  
4 May 2016  
Frankfurt, Germany

**Bhutan DRC: Second National Workshop on Customs Valuation**  
9-13 May 2016  
Phuentsholing, Bhutan

**Second Regional Consultation Workshop on SASEC 2025**  
10-11 May 2016  
Delhi, India

**Fifth SASEC Customs Subgroup Meeting**  
25-26 May 2016  
Male, The Maldives



- Kathmandu Post
- SASEC Project

## **Central Safeguard Unit to Help Coordinate Nepal SASEC Power System Expansion Project**

**17 April 2016: Kathmandu, Nepal**

The Nepal Electricity Authority and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) will create a 'central-level safeguard unit' to focus on preparation of the ADB-supported SASEC Power System Expansion Project in Nepal. The unit will comprise a team of professionals and experts, who will coordinate project issues at the local level, including land acquisition, forest clearance, and right of way.

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- Dhaka Tribune
- The Independent-Bd

## **Potential SASEC Project to Modernize Bangladesh's Regional Trade Links**

**5 March 2016: Dhaka, Bangladesh**

Major upgrades to modernize the Tangail-Rangpur Highway—which is part of the 1,741 kilometers linking Bangladesh with the Asian Highway, and the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal road network—are being proposed by Bangladesh Road and Highways Department, to include road widening and construction of bridges, flyovers, and culverts. The plan is currently being reviewed by Bangladesh Planning Ministry.

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## **SASEC News**



- WCO News

## **WCO Workshop Considers Improvement of Regional Transit Regimes in BBIN Subregion**

**26 April 2016: Faridabad, India**

A World Customs Organization (WCO) Subregional Workshop on Transit Corridors in South Asia considered improvement of regional transit regimes in the region. Progress of the Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal (BBIN) Motor Vehicle Agreement, as well as national experiences of Japan, Switzerland and Malawi in implementing efficient transit regimes, was discussed.

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- Telegraph India
- UNESCAP Event

## **Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal Railway Agreement Proposed to Boost Multimodal Connectivity**

**25 April 2016: Shillong, India**

A railway agreement in the Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal (BBIN) subregion is being proposed, in line with expansion of railway links boosting connectivity between India's Northeast and its BBIN neighbors. This initiative will facilitate cross-border transport of goods and people, and enable efficient multimodal transport system to integrate and sustain the region's economic growth.

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- UNESCAP Event
- Nagaland Post

## **Economic Cooperation Dialogue Highlights Need for Transport Corridors**

**25 April 2016: Shillong, India**

The Economic Cooperation Dialogue on Regional Connectivity and Border Special Development Zones in Eastern South Asia highlighted the importance of transport corridors to promote trade and economic cooperation in the region. Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Head, UNESCAP Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia, shared how developing transport corridors can turn constraints faced by the region's landlocked countries into opportunities.

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- [UNESCAP News](#)
- [Nation Multimedia](#)

## **Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports Opens New Development Prospects to Landlocked Countries**

**23 April 2016: Bangkok, Thailand**

The Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports, developed with support of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, entered into force after 8 of the 17 signatory countries, including Bangladesh and India, deposited approvals of Agreement. The Agreement aims to promote international recognition of dry ports, facilitating investment in dry port infrastructure and enhancing their operational efficiency.

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- [SASEC Mobile App Download](#)

## **SASEC Program Upgrades Mobile App**

**22 April 2016: Manila, Philippines**

Version 2.0 of the SASEC Program Mobile App is now available for download. With improved user interface and layout, updated offline data, faster caching, and smaller app size, the updated SASEC Program Mobile App is lighter, quicker, and more user friendly.

[Read More >>](#)



- [WTO News](#)
- [Livemint](#)

## **India Ratifies the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement**

**22 April 2016: Geneva, Switzerland**

The Government of India has ratified the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement, submitting its instrument of acceptance. Ms. Anjali Prasad, Ambassador to WTO, India, handed over the instrument to WTO Director-General Roberto Azevêdo. India is the 76th WTO member to accept the Agreement.

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- [Business Standard](#)
- [Global Exhibition on Services](#)

## **India's Service Sector Necessary for Successful WTO TFA Implementation**

**20 April 2016: Greater Noida, India**

India Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman emphasized the importance of India's service sector to the successful implementation of the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement (WTO TFA). According to the Commerce and Industry Minister, India's service sector will sustain the country's vision of port and logistics improvement.

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- [The Daily Star](#)

## **Bangladesh's ECNEC Approves Budget to Upgrade Trans-Asia Railway Link**

**19 April 2016: Dhaka, Bangladesh**

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) of Bangladesh approved an updated budget of around \$2.3 billion for the 129.6 kilometer Dohazari-Ramu-Cox's Bazar dual gauge railway project. The proposed railway track will be linked to the Trans-Asian Railway, connecting Bangladesh to India and Myanmar.

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### **Bangladesh Prime Minister, Visiting Indian Minister of State Discuss Cooperation**

**17 April 2016: Dhaka, Bangladesh**

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called on neighboring countries to cooperate in the Bangladesh Government's efforts to become a developed nation. In a meeting with India's Minister of State on Independent Charge for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan, Prime Minister Hasina emphasized Bangladesh's focus on promoting connectivity.

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- [The Financial Express](#)



### **Training Institute Prepares to Meet Bhutan's Human Resource Needs in Hydropower**

**15 April 2016: Gelephu, Bhutan**

The Jigme Wangchuck Power Training Institute is preparing to meet the human resource requirements of the country's hydropower sector in the next four years. According to estimates by the Druk Green Power Corporation and Bhutan Power Corporation, the country's hydropower sector will need at least 6,500 people to achieve its vision of generating 10,000 megawatts by 2020.

[Read More >>](#)

- [Kuensel Online](#)
- [Cabinet Secretariat News Release](#)



### **5-year Sagar Mala Project to Help Reduce Logistics Cost**

**15 April 2016: Mumbai, India**

India's Minister for Road Transport and Highways and Shipping Nitin Gadkari announced the Government's updated target to complete the Sagar Mala program in 5 years at the Maritime India Summit. The project will help reduce logistics costs, boost merchandise exports by \$110 million, and create 10 million new jobs.

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- [Economic Times](#)
- [Deccan Herald](#)



### **Continuous Demand for Hydropower in India**

**8 April 2016: Thimphu, Bhutan**

Mr. Pradeep Kumar Pujari, Secretary, Ministry of Power, India, ensured continuous demand for hydropower in the Indian grid, during his visit to Bhutan to review ongoing joint hydropower ventures. The Government of India plans to triple its power generation capacity to 800 gigawatts by 2030, using renewable energy sources.

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- [Kuensel Online](#)
- [Hydroworld](#)



### **Bangladesh Commerce Minister Urges India's North East to Increase Imports**

**8 April 2016: Manipur, India**

Bangladesh Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed and Manipur Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh discussed increasing volumes of imports from Bangladesh to the Indian state of Manipur during a visit by the Bangladesh Commerce Minister. Chief Minister Singh affirmed the huge demand for Bangladeshi products, and recommended enhanced private sector cooperation between the two countries.

[Read More >>](#)

- [The Financial Express](#)
- [Dhaka Tribune](#)



- [The Financial Express](#)

**Private Sector Representative: BBIN Corridor Trial Run Highlighted Scope for Development**

**2 April 2016: Dhaka, Bangladesh**

Dr. Pritam Banerjee, Senior Director, Corporate Public Policy (South Asia), Deutsche Post DHL, reported that the first trial run of cargo vehicles on the Kolkata-Dhaka-Agartala route under the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) sub-regional framework, enabled a better understanding of future needs and solutions for safe and efficient movement of cargo across BBIN borders.

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

**Promoting Trade in the BBIN Subregion Dialogue Discusses Need to Reduce Non-tariff Measures**

**2 April 2016: Dhaka, Bangladesh**

A Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) dialogue on promoting trade in the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) subregion has discussed intraregional trade in South Asia, which remains under 5% despite implementation of the South Asia Free Trade Agreement. According to MCCI, non-tariff measures manifested as non-tariff barriers and para-tariff barriers lead to high transaction costs in cross-border trade, keeping trade volume low.

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- [The Daily Star](#)
- [The Financial Express](#)

**Bangladesh Prepares to Ratify the WTO TFA**

**1 April 2016: Dhaka, Bangladesh**

The Government of Bangladesh is preparing to ratify the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), which will enable efficient and speedy flow of goods across borders and make doing business less costly. Bangladesh aims to ratify the TFA soon, to allow the country to enjoy trade benefits available to least developed countries.

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- [New Kerala](#)
- [Bihar Prabha](#)

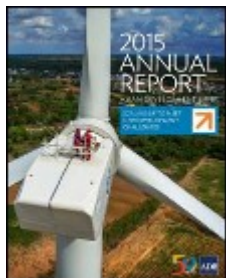
**Interactive Meet Discusses Cooperation between Bhutan and India's North East**

**23 March 2016: Assam, India**

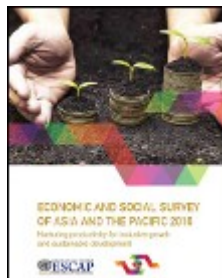
A delegation from Bhutan's Royal Institute for Governance and Strategic Studies participated in an interactive session with representatives from the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship and Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce. The Meeting discussed possible cooperation between Bhutan and India's North East in sectors including trade, commerce, hydropower, and tourism.

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**Related Publications**



[ADB Annual Report 2015](#)



[Economic and Social Survey of Asia And the Pacific 2016](#)



[Together We Deliver 2015: Partnerships against Poverty](#)



Trade Performance of Asian Landlocked Developing Economies: State of Play and the Way Forward



Technical Barriers to Trade: Reducing Trade Friction from Standards and Regulations



Trade in Services: The Most Dynamic Segment of International Trade

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