



SASEC EVENTS

NINTH SASEC CUSTOMS SUBGROUP MEETING



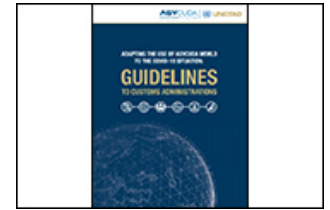
SASEC PROJECTS

SASEC ROAD AND RAIL PROJECTS IN BANGLADESH SCHEDULED FOR 2021- 2023



SASEC NEWS

BANGLADESH APPROVES DRAFT ADDENDUM TO THE TRANSIT PROTOCOL WITH NEPAL



PUBLICATIONS

ADAPTING THE USE OF ASYCUDA WORLD TO THE COVID-19 SITUATION



SASEC NEWS

THE SOUTH ASIA SUBREGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION NEWSLETTER

ISSUE #81 AUGUST 2020

WWW.SASEC.ASIA

SASEC Nodal Officials' Meeting

19 August 2020: Online



SASEC Nodal Officials' Meeting Takes Up the Proposed Action Plan of SASEC Initiatives 2021-2023

19 August 2020: Online

The South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Nodal Officials' virtual meeting discussed the proposed Action Plan of SASEC Initiatives (APSI), 2021-2023, and the proposed strengthening of SASEC institutional mechanisms. The draft APSI includes multimodal corridor initiatives, sectoral initiatives, such as energy and trade facilitation measures, and new initiatives in response to opportunities arising from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

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SASEC CALENDAR

Ninth SASEC Customs Subgroup Meeting
30 September 2020: Online

SASEC Transport Sector Working Group Meeting
7 October 2020: Online

SASEC Cross-Border Power Trade Working Group Meeting
14 October 2020: Online

SASEC PROJECTS



- **SASEC Road and Rail Projects in Bangladesh Scheduled for 2021-2023**
- **Nepal, ADB Sign Deal for SASEC Power Transmission and Trade**

PROJECT

SASEC ROAD AND RAIL
PROJECTS IN BANGLADESH
SCHEDULED FOR 2021-2023

SASEC Road and Rail Projects in Bangladesh Scheduled for 2021-2023

27 August 2020: Dhaka, Bangladesh

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has a redesigned financing plan to help Bangladesh recover from the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the Country Operations Business Plan for 2021-2023, ADB's financing priorities in Bangladesh have been adjusted to include more than \$11 billion in policy-based loans for social protection, economic recovery, and health programs. The plan includes support for SASEC road corridors, rail projects, and trade facilitation programs.

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Nepal, ADB Sign Deal for SASEC Power Transmission and Trade

27 August 2020: Manila, Philippines

The Government of Nepal and ADB signed a loan and grant agreement that would help improve power supply and distribution systems in Nepal. The project aligns with the SASEC program on intraregional power trade.

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NEWS

BANGLADESH APPROVES
DRAFT ADDENDUM TO THE
TRANSIT PROTOCOL WITH
NEPAL

- **Bangladesh Approves Road Widening Project of India Trade Route**
- **Eighth Meeting of Nepal-India Oversight Mechanism Held**
- **Bangladesh Approves Draft Addendum to the Transit Protocol with Nepal**

Bhutan's Electricity Export to India Continues to Increase

27 August 2020: Thimphu, Bhutan

Hydropower generation in Bhutan, the country's biggest export, has increased by 14%. Bhutan's economic development is linked with the growth of its hydropower sector. Strong growth in hydropower generation can help offset the COVID-19-induced dip in GDP.

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Bangladesh Approves Road Widening Project of India Trade Route

19 August 2020: Dhaka, Bangladesh

The Government of Bangladesh approved a Tk 848.3 crore (around \$100 million) for a road widening project that would help broaden bilateral trade with India. Under the project, the 38km Baraiyerhat-Hiako-Ramgarh road in the Khagrachhari district will be widened. This would further develop the road network between the Chattogram port and the Ramgarh land port, and open the door for two-way trade between Bangladesh and India through the Sabram/Ramgarh land port

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Bilateral Projects Discussed in India Foreign Secretary's Visit to Dhaka

19 August 2020: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Mr. Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Foreign Secretary of the Government of India, paid a visit to Dhaka, Bangladesh, to discuss and take forward cooperation on matters of mutual interest. His meeting with Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina discussed India-Bangladesh connectivity and power projects, as well as India's developmental assistance for Bangladesh. Mr. Anurag Srivastava, Spokesperson of the External Affairs Ministry of the Government of India, shared the proposed creation of a new high-level monitoring mechanism to regularly review progress of ongoing bilateral projects in the meeting.

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Meeting between Nepal Prime Minister and Sri Lanka Envoy Highlights Friendly Ties

18 August 2020: Kathmandu, Nepal

Ms. Himalee Arunatilaka, Sri Lankan Ambassador to Nepal, called on Nepal Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli in Kathmandu, Nepal. During their meeting, Prime Minister Oli noted the long history of Nepal-Sri Lanka bilateral relations and described Sri Lanka as a “very good friend of Nepal.”

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Eighth Meeting of Nepal-India Oversight Mechanism Held

17 August 2020: New Delhi, India, and Kathmandu, Nepal

The Governments of India and Nepal held the Eighth Meeting of the Nepal-India Oversight Mechanism. The virtual meeting conducted a comprehensive review of the projects being implemented under bilateral cooperation. Discussions were held on the status of implementation of ongoing projects under Nepal-India bilateral cooperation, including cross-border railways, hydropower projects, and power and transmission lines.

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Commentary: Resume Indo-Bangladesh Border Haats in a Bio-secured Manner

17 August 2020: Guwahati, India

Prolonged closure of border haats will decrease income opportunities for border residents of both India and Bangladesh. But if border haats are to be reopened, operational guidelines will have to be amended to ensure personal and public safety in the time of COVID-19.

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Bangladesh Approves Draft Addendum to the Transit Protocol with Nepal

11 August 2020: Dhaka, Bangladesh

The cabinet of the Government of Bangladesh has approved the draft addendum to the protocol to the transit agreement with the Government of Nepal. The addendum adds Rohonpur in Chapainawabganj (Bangladesh) as a railway transit entry and exit point. Following the amendment, two routes have been proposed as the new rail link.

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Commentary: Fostering Inclusive Development in Indo-Nepal via Power Trading

1 August 2020: New Delhi, India

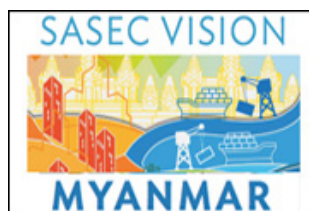
India and Nepal can enjoy considerable benefits from cross-border energy trade. This commentary discusses how developing a robust power trading ecosystem can have far-reaching environmental, institutional, and social benefits in India and Nepal.

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RELATED PUBLICATIONS



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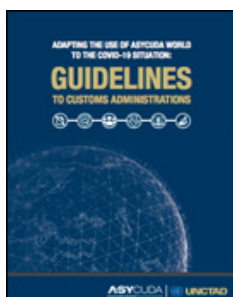
**SASEC VISION
MYANMAR**



**SASEC OPERATIONAL
PLAN 2016-2025
UPDATE**



**BORDERS WITHOUT
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IN SASEC COUNTRIES**



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Top Tweets for August 2020

Cabinet of Bangladesh amends existing transit protocol, adding Rohonpur in Chapainawabganj as an additional transit entry and exit point for Nepal [Read more](#)

ADB unveils 2021-2023 program to address COVID-19 pandemic in Bangladesh [Read more](#)

To facilitate cross-border trade without hampering own pandemic control restrictions, Bhutan has developed a 60 acre area dry port at Samtse with one side of it touching Indo-Bhutan border zero line. [Read more](#)

Sri Lanka–Myanmar explore the establishment of direct air connectivity [Read more](#)

ORF Online commentary: The starting of new trade routes through land and water modes gives fresh impetus for Bhutan to reconsider joining the BBIN initiative and strengthen sub-regional connectivity. [Read more](#)

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