



PROJECTS

**ADB STUDY EXPLORES
POTENTIAL OF
BANGLADESH-INDIA
RAIL-BASED CARGO**



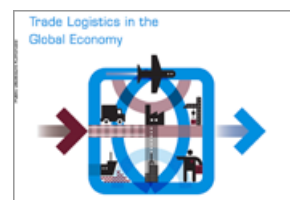
NEWS

**BANGLADESH AND
NEPAL AGREE ON LONG-
TERM POWER TRADE**



NEWS

**INDIA, SRI LANKA
ADOPT VISION
DOCUMENT FOR
ECONOMIC
PARTNERSHIP**



PUBLICATIONS

**CONNECTING TO
COMPETE 2023: TRADE
LOGISTICS IN THE
GLOBAL ECONOMY**



SASEC NEWS

THE SOUTH ASIA SUBREGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION NEWSLETTER

ISSUE #113 AUGUST 2023

WWW.SASEC.ASIA

Capacity Building Program on the Practical Aspects of Conducting PCA

22-25 July 2023: Gazipur, Bangladesh



Bangladesh: Workshop on the Practical Aspects of Conducting Post-clearance Audit

22-25 July 2023: Dhaka, Bangladesh

The Asian Development Bank (ADB), in collaboration with the National Board of Revenue (NBR) of the Government of Bangladesh, organized a workshop on the practical aspects of conducting post-clearance audit (PCA). The workshop was facilitated by World Customs Organization-accredited international experts from India. The NBR officers, who will serve as future trainers, were equipped with practical skills in conducting PCA effectively. The workshop was financed by the SASEC Integrated Trade Facilitation Sector Development Program. [Read more](#)

SASEC PROJECTS



PROJECTS

ADB STUDY EXPLORES
POTENTIAL OF BANGLADESH-
INDIA RAIL-BASED CARGO

- **ADB Study Explores Potential of Bangladesh-India Rail-based Cargo**
- **Bangladesh Railways to Install Elephant Warning System along New Rail Tracks**

ADB Study Explores Potential of Bangladesh–India Rail-based Cargo

4 July 2023: Dhaka, Bangladesh

An ADB study, under the SASEC Program, is exploring the potential of rail-based cargo movement between India and Bangladesh, noted the Business Standard. The study aims to (i) identify infrastructure gaps, (ii) propose technology-based solutions for cargo and container movement, (iii) recommend regulatory reforms to facilitate freight train operations between the two countries, and (iv) explore the potential for transit cargo to and from Nepal and Bhutan.

[Read More](#)

Bangladesh Railways to Install Elephant Warning System along New Rail Tracks

1 July 2023: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Bangladesh Railways plans to install an elephant warning system along its new rail tracks that can serve as an early warning measure for slowing or stopping the trains along the new Dohazari-Cox's Bazar Railway route in Bangladesh. The route will pass through three forests that are the habitat of elephants. The railway project is being funded by ADB under the SASEC Program.

[Read More](#)

SASEC NEWS



NEWS

INDIA, SRI LANKA ADOPT
VISION DOCUMENT FOR
ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

- **India, Sri Lanka Adopt Vision Document for Economic Partnership**
- **Second Section of India-Nepal Cross-border Rail Starts to Operate**
- **Bangladesh and Nepal Agree on Long-term Power Trade**

Bhutan, India Foreign Secretaries Chair the India-Bhutan Development Cooperation Talks, Inaugurate Projects

29 July 2023: New Delhi, India

Ms. Aum Pema Choden, Foreign Secretary of the Government of Bhutan, and Mr. Vinay Kwatra, Foreign Secretary of the Government of India, co-chaired the India-Bhutan Development Cooperation Talks, discussed matters of mutual interest, and inaugurated several projects that were implemented with the assistance of India, including the National Single Window portal, during Ms. Choden's official visit to India. They also discussed Bhutan's 13th Five Year Plan, with India expressing its commitment to partner with Bhutan based on the priorities of the government and people of Bhutan and advance their bilateral partnership.

[**Read More**](#)

India, Nepal Experts to Finalize Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project

22 July 2023: New Delhi, India

The fourth meeting of experts from India and Nepal on the Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project have agreed to move forward and finalize the Detailed Project Report of the 6,480 megawatt project in Nepal. The project is part of the Mahakali treaty signed in February 1996. It aims to generate power, provide irrigation, and mitigate flooding.

[**Read More**](#)

India, Sri Lanka Adopt Vision Document for Economic Partnership

21 July 2023: New Delhi, India

India Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended a warm welcome to Sri Lanka President Ranil Wickremesinghe during his visit to India in July 2023. Speaking at the joint press meet by the two country leaders, Prime Minister Modi reiterated that India stands alongside Sri Lanka. The two leaders adopted a vision document for the two countries' economic partnership that emphasizes India's long-term commitment to Sri Lanka. The partnership envisages deepening connectivity and cooperation in various sectors, including tourism, trade, and energy.

[**Read More**](#)

India to Develop Eastern Grid Waterway Network

17 July 2023: New Delhi, India

The Government of India plans to develop the Eastern Grid waterway with 5,000 kms of navigable waterways, according to Mr. Sarbananda Sonowal, Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways. The Eastern Grid can potentially unlock multilateral trade worth \$49 billion, boost regional integration, and accelerate development.

[**Read More**](#)

Second Section of India-Nepal Cross-border Rail Starts to Operate

16 July 2023: Kathmandu, Nepal

The second phase of the Jaynagar (India)-Bijalpura (Nepal)-Bardibas (Nepal) cross-border rail line project, the Kurtha-Bijalpura rail section, became operational on 16 July 2023. The rail section covers a total of 17.3 km. A total of five stations are found on this route—Kurtha, Pipradi, Loharpatti, Singyahi, and Bijalpura.

[**Read More**](#)

Bangladesh and Nepal Agree on Long-term Power Trade

9 July 2023: Kathmandu, Nepal

The Governments of Bangladesh and Nepal have agreed to sign a long-term power sale agreement that will run for 25 years, according to Mr. Kul Man Ghising, Managing Director of the Nepal Electricity Authority. The Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB), NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Limited of India, and the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA), are set to sign a tripartite agreement allowing the export of power from Nepal to Bangladesh using Indian territory. Upon signing of this agreement, the understanding between Bangladesh and Nepal will be formalized.

[Read More](#)

Sri Lanka President Highlights Potential for BIMSTEC Tourism

6 July 2023: Colombo, Sri Lanka

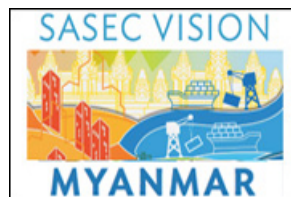
In his keynote address at the 67th Travel Agents Association of India convention held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka President Ranil Wickremesinghe highlighted the importance of tourism to Sri Lanka's economic recovery. The President also noted the potential of making the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) region one borderless tourist area that offers a wide diversity of sites and cuisines.

[Read More](#)

RELATED PUBLICATIONS



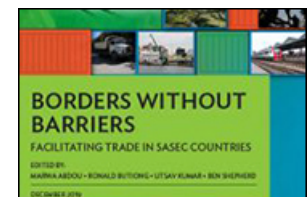
SASEC VISION



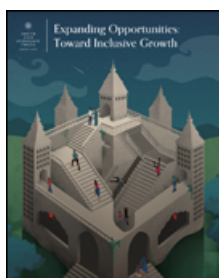
**SASEC VISION
MYANMAR**



**SASEC OPERATIONAL
PLAN 2016-2025 UPDATE**



**BORDERS WITHOUT
BARRIERS:
FACILITATING TRADE IN
SASEC COUNTRIES**



**Expanding Opportunities: Toward
Inclusive Growth**



**Connecting to Compete 2023: Trade
Logistics in the Global Economy**

Top Tweets for July 2023

Bangladesh and Bhutan transit agreement provides several provisions including port facilities, transit route designations, means of transport options, customs duties and fees [Read more](#)

Bangladesh Commerce Minister Urges Bangladesh and Bhutan Private Sector to Lead Trade Expansion [Read more](#)

Maldives inaugurates two new tourism zones, enhancing bilateral ties with India [Read more](#)

Bangladesh and Nepal agree to sign 25-year power sale deal [Read more](#)

ADB examines ways to boost Bangladesh–India rail cargo link [Read more](#)

Follow  @SASECprogram |  Like us on Facebook facebook.com/SASECprogram

ABOUT THIS EMAIL

You received this message because you signed up for the SASEC Newsletter.

[Subscribe](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Contact Us](#)

© South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation 2012