



## SASEC Events



- [Agenda](#)
- [NACEN](#)

### **Bhutan Department of Revenue and Customs: Training on Risk Management System** **16-20 February 2015: Faridabad, India**

Fifteen Customs officers from Bhutan's Department of Revenue and Customs attended a 5-day training program on Risk Management in Customs, delivered by experts from India's Central Board of Excise and Customs at the National Academy of Customs Excise and Narcotics. The NACEN training was structured to provide tailor-made knowledge and skills building, and covered areas including import and export risk management and risk management tools.

[Read More >>](#)



- [Agenda](#)
- [SASEC Event](#)

### **Sri Lanka: Second National Workshop on Customs Valuation** **15-19 February 2016: Colombo, Sri Lanka**

Sri Lanka Customs conducted its final national workshop activity to develop a model training course with an accompanying set of training materials in the area of Customs valuation. Project Core Members successfully delivered the first 3-day in-house training to 31 Sri Lanka Customs officers using the tailor-made training modules. The new training program and materials were formally presented to Additional Director General of Sri Lanka Customs in the closing ceremony.

[Read More >>](#)

## SASEC Projects



- [BdNews24](#)
- [Financial Express](#)

### **Tongi-Bhairab Double Rail Track Inaugurated** **25 February 2016: Ganabhaban, Bangladesh**

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina formally opened Bangladesh Railway's 64-kilometer Tongi-Bhairab double-rail track on the Dhaka-Chittagong route, which is expected to speed up rail travel between Dhaka and Chittagong by at least an hour and a half. The Asian Development Bank funded the \$162.5 million project through the SASEC program.

[Read More >>](#)

## SASEC Calendar



### Upcoming SASEC Events

[Nepal DOC Second National Workshop on Customs Valuation](#)  
7-11 March 2016  
Kathmandu, Nepal

[Meeting on the South Asia Electricity Transmission Master Plan for Cross-Border Trade](#)  
9-10 March 2016  
New Delhi, India

[Bangladesh NBR Second National Workshop on Customs Valuation](#)  
21-25 March 2016  
Dhaka, Bangladesh

[Second BBIN MVA Negotiation Meeting on Protocols](#)  
29-30 March 2016  
Dhaka, Bangladesh

Get the latest news and information on SASEC countries on all mobile devices.



This [free app](#) is your one-stop source of information on the latest SASEC news, events, and projects.



### **ADB Supports Upgrade of Colombo Port through PPP** **23 February 2016: Colombo, Sri Lanka**

Sri Lanka's Colombo Port will be expanded through a public-private partnership initiative, with support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The Sri Lanka Ports Authority and ADB signed a \$500 million transaction advisory services agreement for upgrading of the port's East Container Terminal. The project is set to improve the port's value proposition by bringing leading operations and technology from the private sector.

[Read More >>](#)

- [ADB News Release](#)
- [ADB News Release](#)



### **India Removes Mandatory Extra Duty on Imports** **23 February 2016: New Delhi, India**

India has taken a step forward to improve its ease of doing business for local subsidiaries of multinational companies by approving simplified rules governing import pricing. The amended Customs rules removed the mandatory deposit of extra duty on imported goods by related parties, including Indian arms of import-dependent multinationals.

[Read More >>](#)

- [Economic Times](#)



### **India and Nepal Exchange Agreements Boosting Nepal's Third Country Trade** **20 February 2016: New Delhi, India**

India Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli—on his first state visit since assuming office in October 2015—held comprehensive talks in New Delhi, and witnessed the signing of several agreements, including letters of exchange on transit and rail. These agreements will help promote Nepal's trade with third countries by making transport more efficient and less costly.

[Read More >>](#)

- [MIB India News](#)
- [The Statesman](#)



### **Banglabandha-Phulbari Land Port Opens Immigration Facility** **18 February 2016: Banglabandha, Bangladesh and Siliguri, India**

An immigration facility in the Banglabandha-Phulbari Land Port between Bangladesh and India is expected to ease people-to-people connectivity between the two countries. Strategically located on the Asian Highway, this border-crossing point is expected to boost trade and commerce not only between Bangladesh and India, but also with Bhutan and Nepal.

[Read More >>](#)

- [BdNews24](#)
- [Economic Times](#)



### **Regional Economic Connectivity Initiatives to Change Bangladesh Business Landscape** **18 February 2016: Dhaka, Bangladesh**

Regional economic connectivity initiatives, including the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal Motor Vehicle Agreement (BBIN MVA), can change the business landscape of Bangladesh, said Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Md. Shahidul Haque at a meeting of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The BBIN MVA will transform 30 transport corridors into economic corridors, and is set to give subregional businesses a boost.

[Read More >>](#)

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



### **India Commerce Minister Highlights Significance of WTO TFA Ratification** **17 February 2016: New Delhi, India**

India's Commerce Minister Nirmala Sitharaman highlighted the significance of the Cabinet's decision to ratify the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement (WTO TFA), and affirmed the Government's initiatives to improve systems within India for trade facilitation. She also discussed necessary provisions that India should adopt to comply with the Agreement.

[Read More >>](#)

- [Economic Times](#)
- [Business Standard](#)



### **Government of India Clears the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement** **17 February 2016: New Delhi, India**

The Proposal for Notification of Commitments under the Trade Facilitation Agreement of the World Trade Organization (WTO), ratification and acceptance of the Instrument of Acceptance of Protocol of TFA to the WTO Secretariat and constitution of the National Committee on Trade Facilitation received approval from the Indian Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

[Read More >>](#)

- [Press Information Bureau News Release](#)
- [DNA India](#)



### **Bangladesh and Thailand Discuss Direct Coastal Shipping through Chittagong-Ranong Ports**

**9 February 2016: Dhaka, Bangladesh**

A delegation from the Port Authority of Thailand and officials from Bangladesh's Ministry of Shipping held the first official discussion on direct coastal shipping connectivity between Bangladesh and Thailand. The two countries agreed to carry out a feasibility study on the Chittagong Port, with the aim of signing a memorandum of understanding.

[Read More >>](#)

- [Daily Sun](#)
- [Financial Express](#)

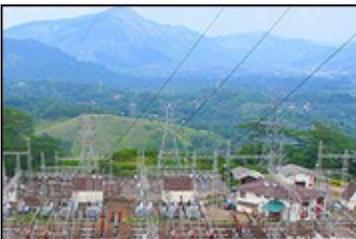


### **SAARC Energy Regulators to Harmonize Regulations to Boost Electricity Trade** **8 February 2016: Colombo, Sri Lanka**

The Second Meeting of the SAARC Energy Regulators agreed to address regulatory barriers through a Regional Regulatory Body, which will work toward harmonizing legal, policy, and regulatory frameworks to promote wider availability of electricity and boost cross-border trade in the region.

[Read More >>](#)

- [Sri Lanka News Portal](#)
- [Economy Next](#)



### **Sri Lanka to Increase Renewable Energy Generation, Export Excess Energy** **8 February 2016: Colombo, Sri Lanka**

Sri Lanka aims to become an energy self-sufficient nation, drawing on renewable energy sources locally by 2030. The Government's vision for Sri Lanka's energy sector also includes generating additional 1,000 megawatts of renewable energy for consumption by 2035, and excess energy for export to neighbors, including India, by 2050.

[Read More >>](#)

- [Daily FT](#)
- [The Island](#)



### India-Sri Lanka Joint Commission Highlight Areas for Cooperation 5 February 2016: Colombo, Sri Lanka

The 9th Session of the India-Sri Lanka Joint Commission discussed strengthening India-Sri Lanka cooperation in areas including energy and trade. The two countries are also preparing to open negotiations on the Economic and Technology Cooperation Agreement. Further possible collaboration in railway development and renewable energy was also bookmarked by the Joint Commission.

[Read More >>](#)

- [MEA News Release](#)
- [Daily News](#)



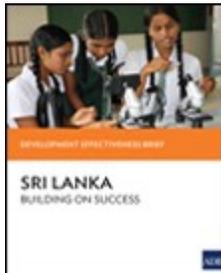
### Energy Secretaries of India and Nepal Discuss Implementation of PTA 27 January 2016: Kathmandu, Nepal

A 2-day meeting of the Joint Working Committee and Joint Steering Committee on India-Nepal Cooperation in the Power Sector discussed the implementation of the power trade agreement (PTA) signed in September 2014. The Meeting agreed that India will supply Nepal with 300 megawatt of electricity in the next 18 months, and reviewed plans for long-term energy trade, including the proposed 6 cross-border power corridors.

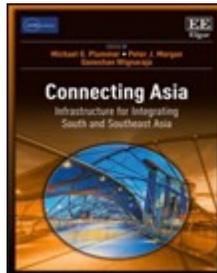
[Read More >>](#)

- [Business Standard](#)
- [Economic Times](#)

## Related Publications



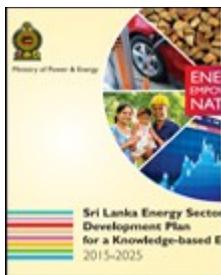
[Sri Lanka: Building on Success](#)



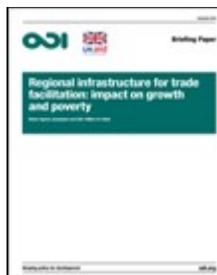
[Connecting Asia: Infrastructure for Integrating South and Southeast Asia](#)



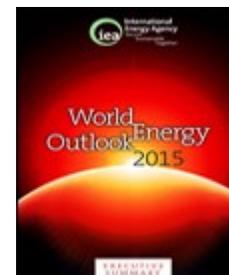
[Disentangling Transit Costs and Time in South Asia](#)



[Sri Lanka Energy Sector Development Plan For A Knowledge-Based Economy 2015 - 2025](#)



[Regional Infrastructure for Trade Facilitation: Impact on Growth and Poverty Reduction](#)



[World Energy Outlook 2015](#)

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

Visit <http://www.sasec.asia> to see recent event updates and follow us at [@sasecprogram](#) on Twitter.

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