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SASEC NEWS

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Myanmar: SASEC Vision Document National Consultation Workshop

27-28 February 2018: Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar



Myanmar: SASEC Vision Document National Consultation Workshop

27-28 February 2018: Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

The National Consultation Workshop for the draft Myanmar chapter of the SASEC Vision document was hosted by the Government of Myanmar's Ministry of Planning and Finance, with assistance from the SASEC Secretariat. It confirmed the alignment of national and regional priorities; obtained agreement on areas of synergies identified for Myanmar; and initiated discussions on potential regional initiatives that could open new opportunities in various sectors.

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SASEC EVENTS



EVENT NEPAL

Stakeholder Workshop on Facilitation of Nepal's Traffic-in-Transit through Kolkata/Haldia



EVENT INDIA

Stakeholder Workshop on Facilitation of Nepal's Traffic-in-Transit through Kolkata/Haldia



EVENT BHUTAN

Training on Intelligence, Information Gathering, and Investigation

Stakeholder Workshop on Facilitation of Nepal's Traffic-in-Transit through Kolkata/Haldia by Use of the ECTS

27-28 February 2018: Kathmandu, Nepal

This workshop discussed the use of an electronic cargo tracking system (ECTS) to facilitate traffic-in-transit of Nepal-bound freight from Kolkata/Haldia port with stakeholders in Nepal, including transport operators and traders. It presented features of the Memorandum of Intent (MOI) on the use of ECTS signed by the Governments of India and Nepal; presented the simplified procedure applicable to the movement of Nepal's traffic-in-transit under the MOI; and discussed the planned pilot application of the ECTS. The workshop was chaired by Mr. Rabi Shankar Sainju, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Nepal.

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Stakeholder Workshop on Facilitation of Nepal's Traffic-in-Transit through Kolkata/Haldia by Use of the ECTS

6 February 2018: Kolkata, India

This workshop discussed the use of the electronic cargo tracking system (ECTS) with stakeholders in India. Mr. Manush Chandra, Commissioner, Kolkata Customs; Ms. Temsunaro Jamie, Joint Commissioner, Central Board of Excise and Customs; and Mr. Narayan Prasad Sharma, Deputy Consul General, Consulate General of Nepal in Kolkata, attended this event.

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Top Tweets

February 2018



ADB-supported electronic cargo tracking system to help decongest border points & fast-track trade procedures at land customs station [Read](#)

ADB to Lend Bangladesh \$6 Billion in Three Years [Read](#)

ADB's support for strategic planning of the East Coast Economic Corridor is making way for development of world-class industrial parks [Read](#)

Mr. Kenichi Yokoyama: ADB's SASEC Program aims to achieve greater trade facilitation through simplification of standards and Customs procedures and better transport and border facilities. [Read](#)



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Bhutan: Training on Intelligence, Information Gathering, and Investigation

5-9 February 2018: Phuentsholing, Bhutan

This Training enhanced customs enforcement capacity of Bhutan's Department of Revenue and Customs. It provided legal and procedural knowledge, and shared practical hands-on experience of enforcement technique to ensure compliance with Bhutan's rules and regulations. Three experts from India's National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes and Narcotics delivered the Training.

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CALENDAR

March-April

Meeting of the SASEC Nodal Officials and Working Groups

5-6 March 2018: Singapore, Singapore

SASEC National Single Window Consultation Workshop

9 April 2018: Kurumba, Maldives

SASEC Subregional Workshop on Sanitary-Phytosanitary and Technical Barriers to Trade National and Regional Diagnostic Studies

11-13 April 2018: New Delhi, India

SASEC PROJECTS



PROJECT
THE BBIN SUBREGION
FEATURES DIVERSE
MEANS OF REGIONAL
CONNECTIVITY



PROJECT
INDIA AND
BANGLADESH OPERATE
SCHEDULED PASSENGER
TRAIN SERVICES



PROJECT
BBIN COUNTRIES ARE IN
THE PROCESS OF
IDENTIFYING PIVOTAL
BORDER POINTS



PROJECT
SIMPLER PROCEDURES
AT CUSTOMS
CLEARANCE POINTS FOR
ECTS-TAGGED FREIGHT

Video: Towards a Borderless World

28 February 2018: Manila, Philippines

This video showcases how innovations for trade facilitation have enabled businesses in the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) subregion to tap into regional value chains and flourish globally. More developments in facilitating trade and enhancing connectivity are planned and underway to help boost trade, enhance regional integration, and promote economic opportunities.

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Governments of Nepal and India Prepare to Launch the ECTS Pilot Program

2 February 2018: Kolakata, India, and Kathmandu, Nepal

The Governments of Nepal and India are preparing to launch the Electronic Cargo Tracking System (ECTS) as soon as possible, according to Mr. Manoj Acharya, Ministry of Commerce Undersecretary of the Government of Nepal. The ECTS received the green light from the Government of Nepal's Council of Ministers in January 2018. The planned pilot will run for three months, covering cargo entering Nepal by rail in Birgunj and by road in Biratnagar and Bhairawa. The Asian Development Bank is supporting the piloting of the project through the SASEC Program.

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SASEC NEWS



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INDIA TO SUPPLY ADDITIONAL 300 MW TO BANGLADESH



NEWS
BHUTAN KEEN ON IMPORTING MORE MEDICINES FROM BANGLADESH



NEWS
REGIONAL COOPERATION TO GIVE SOUTH ASIA ACCESS TO RELIABLE POWER

Bhutan, India Mark 50 Years of Bilateral Ties

21 February 2018: New Delhi, India

The 50th anniversary of diplomatic ties between Bhutan and India is an occasion to reflect on further advancing ties between the two countries, said Ms. Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs, India. India is Bhutan's largest trading partner and the two countries cooperate in the fields of transport and hydroelectric power.

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Paperless Trade Proposed for Facilitation of Nepal Trade via Vizag Port

20 February 2018: Visakhapatnam, India

A meeting between the Government of Nepal's Ministry of Commerce (MoC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), Visakhapatnam (Vizag) port authorities, and the Government of India discussed the possibility of implementing paperless trade procedures at Vizag port for Nepal's third country trade. In follow up to this, the Government of Nepal also held a meeting with its stakeholders on 18 February 2018.

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Electricity Transmission in India Could Help Bangladesh Tap Nepal's Hydropower

20 February 2018: Siliguri, India

Bangladesh's interest to harness Nepal's hydropower potential could be a win-win for both countries, with India playing the role of catalyst, shared Mr. Mostofa Sohrab Chowdhury, President, Rangpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Bangladesh's additional energy demand is projected at 21,000 megawatts (MW) by 2030, while Nepal's untapped economically feasible hydropower potential is 42,000 MW.

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India to Supply Additional 300 MW to Bangladesh

13 February 2018: New Delhi, India

India will supply an additional 300 megawatts (MW) to Bangladesh through the state-run NTPC Ltd. This additional energy export will begin once the 500 MW high voltage direct current Bangladesh-India inter-connection is commissioned.

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Bangladesh and India Focus on Deepening Bilateral Trade in Commerce Secretary-level Talk

8 February 2018: Dhaka, Bangladesh

The Bangladesh and India Commerce Secretary-level meeting focused on issues concerning bilateral trade and economic relations, including infrastructure upgrading at border trading points; expansion of border haats (markets); identification and resolution of non-tariff issues affecting bilateral trade; regional connectivity under the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal Motor Vehicle Agreement; and ease of investment.

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Commentary: The Missing Link

6 February 2018: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Deep integration is needed to generate economic growth in South Asia. By integrating trade in goods and services and transport facilities, South Asian countries will be able to better participate in global trade.

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Global Investors Summit Calls for Strengthening of ASEAN-South Asia Ties

5 February 2018: Guwahati, India

Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal called for the strengthening of business and economic ties among ASEAN and South Asian countries. He noted the strong historic and cultural ties among the countries and urged Southeast Asian countries to take advantage of investment opportunities in Assam in northeast India.

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Bhutan Keen on Importing More Medicines from Bangladesh

2 February 2018: Guwahati, India

Bhutan Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay and Bangladesh Industries Minister Amir Hossain Amu discussed trade, connectivity, and investment on the sidelines of the "Advantage Assam" event. Prime Minister Tobgay remarked on the increasing demand for Bangladeshi-made medicines in Bhutan and expressed its intention to import more.

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Bangladesh to Build Power Plant in India

2 February 2018: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Bangladesh will build a power plant in India under the Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company. The planned power plant will be exporting electricity to Bangladesh.

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Bhutan and Assam, India, Vow to Strengthen Bilateral Trade

1 February 2018: Guwahati, India

Bhutan Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay and Assam, India, Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal met on 1 February 2018 to strengthen bilateral business relations between their respective countries.

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Nepali Ginger Traders Tap Bangladeshi Market

1 February 2018: Kathmandu, Nepal

Exporters from Nepal shipped over 35 truckloads of ginger to Bangladesh between mid-December 2017 to January 2018. This volume of ginger traded by Nepal to Bangladesh is the largest it has exported to a third country in over a decade. The Treaty of Transit between India and Nepal facilitates movement of Nepal's third country trade with and through Bangladesh, via India.

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Regional Cooperation to Give South Asia Access to Reliable Power

28 January 2018: Kathmandu, Nepal

Speakers at the Nepal Power Investment Summit said subregional electricity trade could help South Asian countries achieve Sustainable Development Goals in energy. Nepal President Bidhya Devi Bhandari noted that investments in hydropower could help South Asia meet growing demand for reliable energy.

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