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SASEC NEWS

THE SOUTH ASIA SUBREGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION NEWSLETTER

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Pandemic Partners: Regional Cooperation has Helped Asia and the Pacific Mitigate and Recover from COVID-19

14 January 2021: Manila, Philippines

Regional cooperation in the international movement of goods, people, knowledge, capital, and resources has helped countries in Asia and the Pacific achieve growth and reduce poverty. Continued regional cooperation in these fields could also play a huge role in addressing the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. This article by Mr. Ronald Butiong, Chief of Regional Cooperation and Integration Group, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, at the Asian Development Bank, and Mr. Christopher MacCormac, consultant for international development, appears on the [Asian Development Blog](#). **Read More**

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- **Bangladesh and India Hold Foreign Office Consultations, Review Power Cooperation in the Subregion**
- **Sixth Meeting of the India-Nepal Joint Commission Highlights Progress in Cross-border Connectivity**
- **India, Sri Lanka Discuss Opportunities for Further Cooperation**

India Agrees to Add 100 MW to Nepal's Electricity Import

31 January 2021: Kathmandu, Nepal

The Government of India has agreed to sell an additional 100 megawatt of electricity to Nepal. The new provision increases Nepal's allowable electricity import from India to up to 800 MW.

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Bangladesh and India Hold Foreign Office Consultations

29 January 2021: New Delhi, India

The Governments of Bangladesh and India held their Foreign Office Consultations, and conducted a comprehensive review of progress achieved in their bilateral relationship. Areas discussed include cooperation on the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), trade, connectivity, development partnership, power, energy, and regional cooperation. They committed to maintain the momentum gained in bilateral cooperation and in people-to-people relations

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Bangladesh, India Review Power Cooperation in the Subregion

23 January 2021: Dhaka, Bangladesh

The 19th Joint Steering Committee meeting on Bangladesh-India cooperation in the power sector reviewed the status of power trade between Bangladesh and India. They also discussed energy trade involving Bhutan and Nepal.

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Sixth Meeting of the India-Nepal Joint Commission Highlights Progress in Cross-border Connectivity

15 January 2021: New Delhi, India

The Sixth Meeting of the India-Nepal Joint Commission highlighted the need to facilitate cross border movement of people and goods. They remarked on how the newly inaugurated integrated check post at Birgunj and Biratnagar have promoted seamless movement of people and trade between the two countries. They also welcomed the completion of the first passenger railway line between India and Nepal from Jaynagar to Kurtha.

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Bangladesh for Discussions with India to Remove Non-tariff Barriers

12 January 2021: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Mr. Tipu Munshi, Minister of Commerce of the Government of Bangladesh, called for more discussions between Bangladesh and India on the removal of non-tariff barriers to further grow their bilateral trade. There is ample opportunity to boost trade by removing non-tariff barriers. Improving customs facilities in bordering areas could also further increase bilateral trade between the two countries.

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India, Sri Lanka Discuss Opportunities for Further Cooperation

7 January 2021: Colombo, Sri Lanka

India and Sri Lanka are looking forward to cooperating post-COVID-19, underscored Mr. S. Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs of the Government of India, during his visit to Sri Lanka. He noted that many opportunities are in discussion, such as special zones for pharmaceutical manufacturing and tourism. There were also proposals in infrastructure, energy, and connectivity. He also shared that the Indian business community is strongly interested in investing in Sri Lanka.

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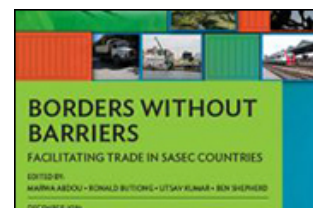
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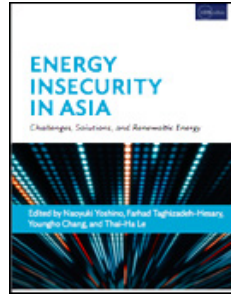
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