



SASEC Events



- [Agenda](#)
- [ADB-UNESCAP Publication](#)

Nepal: Trade and Transport Facilitation Monitoring Mechanism National Validation Workshop **28-29 July 2016: Kathmandu, Nepal**

The Nepal Ministry of Commerce and Supplies held a National Validation Workshop to present to stakeholders preliminary results and findings from studies conducted under the Trade and Transport Facilitation Monitoring Mechanism (TTFMM). The Workshop reviewed trade processes along 3 key trade routes, and discussed key TTFMM methodologies – business process analysis, time release studies, and time-cost-distance.

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- [Agenda](#)
- [Revised Kyoto Convention](#)

Bangladesh: Post-Clearance Audit Training **13-20 July 2016: Chittagong, Bangladesh**

The Bangladesh National Board of Revenue, in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank, conducted a training program on post-clearance audit (PCA) in preparation for implementation of system-based audit in Bangladesh Customs. This training enhanced participants' understanding of PCA and practiced skills needed to improve PCA implementation in Bangladesh.

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- [Agenda](#)
- [General Training Manual](#)

ASYCUDA World Training in Sirsiya Dry Port **26 June-22 July 2016: Birgunj, Nepal**

The Sirsiya Dry Port Customs Office in Birgunj, Nepal began implementing the ASYCUDA World system on 16 July 2016. In preparation for the roll out, the Nepal Department of Customs conducted an ASYCUDA World Training, which successfully developed capacity of stakeholders involved in revenue collection, and fine-tuned and tested web-based ASYCUDA World.

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SASEC Calendar

August 2016						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Upcoming SASEC Events

Nepal: Time Release Study Survey
24 July-2 August 2016
Biratnagar, Nepal

Bangladesh: TTFMM National Validation Workshop
31 July-1 August 2016
Dhaka, Bangladesh

Bhutan: TTFMM National Validation Workshop
3-4 August 2016
Thimphu, Bhutan

Bhutan: National Consultation on SPS and TBT Diagnostic Study
12 August 2016
Thimphu, Bhutan

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SASEC Projects



SASEC Investment Projects Top \$7.7 Billion **29 July 2016: Manila, Philippines**

South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) investment projects increased to a cumulative \$7.66 billion in the areas of transport, energy, trade facilitation, and ICT with the recent approval of India's Bihar New Ganga Bridge Project. To date, 40 SASEC-supported projects are helping member countries strengthen regional connectivity infrastructure, promote economic growth, and foster regional cooperation.

[Read More >>](#)

- [SASEC Project Portfolio](#)
- [Asian Development Bank](#)



Manipur Updating Imphal Ring Road Proposal **24 July 2016: Imphal, India**

Manipur State Public Works Department officials are set to revise their proposal for the construction of a Ring Road in Greater Imphal, which is expected to ease increasing traffic congestion. The proposed Imphal Ring Road would be 39 kilometers long and cost approximately \$84 million.

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- [The Sangai Express](#)
- [Assam Tribune](#)



India to Begin Work on Bihar New Ganga Bridge Project **24 June 2016: Manila, Philippines**

India is set to begin work on the Bihar New Ganga Bridge Project, which is expected to become the longest river bridge in India at 9.8 kilometers. The road bridge spanning the Ganges River will improve transport connectivity between north and south Bihar, India, and enhance the existing road corridors between India and Nepal. ADB is providing \$500 million for the project and \$900,000 in technical assistance to improve bridge operation and management.

[Read More >>](#)

- [ADB Project Data Sheet](#)
- [SASEC Project Page](#)



Bhutan Project to Strengthen Safety and Capacity of Domestic Airports **1 June 2016: Manila, Philippines**

Bhutan is upgrading three domestic airports—Bumthang, Gelephu, and Yonphula—to enhance their capacity, safety, and efficiency. The Asian Development Bank is providing additional financing for this SASEC project, to further strengthen safety and security, and improve passenger convenience and service at these airports.

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- [ADB Project Data Sheet](#)
- [SASEC Project Page](#)



Bangladesh Railway Sector Investment Program - Tranche 4 **18 March 2016: Manila, Philippines**

The Railway Sector Investment Program aims to improve the performance of Bangladesh's railway sector by implementing sector policy, organizational, and capacity-building reforms; and infrastructure and rolling stock capacity improvement investments. Tranche 4 provides additional financing to bridge the financing gap within the existing project scale and scope of ongoing subprojects 1 and 2.

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- [ADB Project Data Sheet](#)
- [SASEC Transport Sector](#)



India, Bangladesh Railway Ministers Lay Foundation Stone for the Agartala-Akhaura Railway Link

31 July 2016: Agartala, India

Indian Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu and Bangladeshi Railway Minister Mazibul Hoque jointly laid the foundation stone for the 15 kilometer (km) Agartala (India)-Akhaura (Bangladesh) railway project. This rail link reduces the Agartala-Kolkata distance from 1,613 km to 514 km.

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- [The Tribune](#)
- [The Daily Star](#)



Nepal Freight Forwarders Urge Early Operationalization of Vizag Port

30 July 2016: Kathmandu, Nepal

Freight forwarders in Nepal have urged early operationalization of the Vizag Port in India as an alternative port for Nepal trade. According to the Nepal Freight Forwarders Association, ocean freight costs, Customs house agent charges, and other logistic costs can be reduced by carrying out trade through Vizag Port.

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- [Kathmandu Post](#)



Bangladesh Road Transport and Bridges Minister: BBIN MVA May Start in December

27 July 2016: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Implementation of the Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal (BBIN) Motor Vehicle Agreement (MVA) may start in December, according to Bangladesh Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, while speaking at the closing ceremony of a drivers' training on road safety.

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- [The Daily Star](#)



ADB Blog: Why Economic Corridor Development is the Way Forward for South Asia

26 July 2016: Manila, Philippines

The economic corridor development (ECD) strategy is an approach that integrates and synergizes industry, infrastructure, and urbanization through meticulous planning over a long-term horizon. An Asian Development Bank (ADB) blog post by Mr. Hoe Yun Jeong, Senior Economist (Regional Cooperation), South Asia Regional Department, published on 26 July 2016, shares how an ECD approach can be beneficial for the South Asia region.

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- [ADB Blog](#)



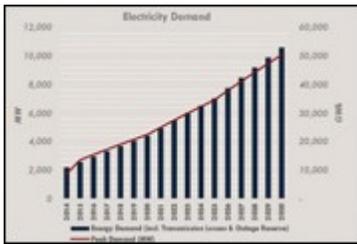
India, Sri Lanka to Fast-track ETCA Negotiations

24 July 2016: Colombo, Sri Lanka

The Governments of India and Sri Lanka have agreed to fast-track negotiations on the proposed Economic and Technology Cooperation Agreement, with the aim of concluding talks by end 2016. A meeting between Indian and Sri Lankan officials is set in August 2016, where discussions may include removal of technical barriers to trade hampering Sri Lankan exports to India.

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



Investment Board Nepal Endorses Energy Demand and Supply Study **22 July 2016: Kathmandu, Nepal**

The 24th meeting of the Investment Board Nepal (IBN) endorsed the "National Energy Demand and Supply Study," which was undertaken to address the issue of latent demand and come up with a more realistic demand forecast for energy. According to the study, Nepal's energy demand will reach around 10,000 megawatts by 2030. Electricity will also have a dominant share of energy in Nepali households.

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- [The Himalayan Times](#)
- [Energy Study](#)



BIMSTEC Negotiating FTA, Other Proposals to Enhance Trade **22 July 2016: New Delhi, India**

The BIMSTEC free trade agreement (FTA) currently under negotiation by the inter-regional organization could benefit the region's trade by helping operationalize production links among member countries and eliminating non-tariff measures within a mutually agreed timeframe. BIMSTEC members are also considering a single visa proposal and extension of the BBIN transport agreement to Myanmar, Thailand, and Sri Lanka.

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- [The Hindu Business Line](#)
- [Telegraph India](#)



India's National Green Tribunal Approves Delhi-Kathmandu Bus Service **22 July 2016: New Delhi, India**

India's National Green Tribunal has approved registration of a Delhi-Kathmandu bus service by the Delhi Transport Corporation, offering transit between select destinations in India and Nepal. The bus service was launched to further enhance economic ties between the two countries.

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- [Indian Express](#)



Prime Ministers of India and Bangladesh Jointly Dedicate Largest South Asia Land Customs Station

21 July 2016: New Delhi, India and Dhaka, Bangladesh

India Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina jointly inaugurated the Petrapole Integrated Checkpost (ICP). Prime Minister Modi lauded the event as an important milestone in India-Bangladesh relations, providing a boost to bilateral connectivity and trade, while Bangladesh Prime Minister Hasina expressed hope that the ICP will further enhance good relations between the two countries.

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



Three Member Countries Designate Areas for SAARC Industrial Parks **21 July 2016: Kathmandu, Nepal**

Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan, member countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), have stepped up their support for the proposed SAARC Industrial Parks by allocating lands for the planned initiative. Designated areas include Chittagong, Bangladesh; Gujarat, India; and Faisalabad City, Pakistan.

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- [The Himalayan Times](#)



Blog: Is South Asia Ready for a Regional Motor Vehicles Agreement?
20 July 2016: Washington, D.C., United States of America

Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal (BBIN) signed a landmark Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA) meant to allow smooth passage of goods and passenger vehicles in each other's territories. In this blog post, Mr. Sanjay Kathuria, Lead Economist and Coordinator, South Asia Regional Integration, Trade and Competitiveness Global Practice, World Bank, asks if South Asia is truly ready for such a regional agreement.

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- [World Bank Blog](#)



Commentary: 800 Million Reasons
20 July 2016: Manila, Philippines

Mr. Hun Kim, Director General, South Asia Department, ADB, describes how partnership of 6 South Asian countries through the ADB-supported South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Program is helping propel economic growth in South Asia, amidst an uncertain regional and global economic climate, by working to increase trade volumes to reduce the number of impoverished people in the region.

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- [Kathmandu Post](#)
- [The Financial Express](#)



India's CBEC to Speed Up Cargo Clearances through Paperless System
18 July 2016: New Delhi, India

India's Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) is working to fast-track cargo clearance to hours, instead of days, through implementation of a paperless system for cargo clearances. The Government of India aims to fully digitize Customs clearances, replacing physical documentation, by 2017.

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- [India Briefing News](#)



Bangladesh, India to Expand Regional Energy Trade
18 July 2016: New Delhi, India

The Governments of Bangladesh and India are working on plans to expand the regional energy market by doubling the capacities of cross-border power transmission interconnections, and setting up a third cross-border energy grid.

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- [Times of India](#)



Bus Service along IMT Route under Negotiation
17 July 2016: New Delhi, India

Talks to implement a regular bus service between India and Thailand through Myanmar is being negotiated as part of a Motor Vehicle Agreement being finalized by India, Myanmar, and Thailand (IMT). The bus service will run on a 1,400 kilometer IMT Trilateral Highway linking South and Southeast Asia.

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- [Assam Tribune](#)
- [ADB Briefs](#)



Business Leaders Call for Industrial Zone in Panchagarh, Bangladesh **17 July 2016: Siliguri, India**

Business leaders at the recent Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal (BBIN) Business Forum and Expo said they want to see an industrial zone in Panchagarh, Bangladesh, as this would be close to Biratnagar in Nepal, Phuentsholing in Bhutan, and Siliguri in India.
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- [The Daily Star](#)
- [ADB Blog](#)



Bangladesh and India In Talks to Open Up Coastal Shipping Routes to Passenger Vessels **16 July 2016: New Delhi, India**

Plans are underway to open up coastal shipping routes between Bangladesh and India to passenger and cruise vessels. According to Bangladesh Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Md Shahriar Alam, the two countries are in talks to sign a memorandum of understanding allowing Indian vessels through Bangladesh's waterways, to ease travel to India's northeast.
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- [BdNews24](#)
- [Economic Times](#)



BBIN Business Forum: Time to Change Mindset on Economic Cooperation **15 July 2016: Kolkata, India**

The BBIN Motor Vehicle Agreement (MVA) is making it easier for passengers and freight vehicles in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal to travel around the region. BBIN finalized the MVA in an effort to facilitate cross-border trade and travel in South Asia. A BBIN Business Forum sees energy and water cooperation playing a vital role in taking integration even further in the region.
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- [Indian Express](#)



Harmonize Customs Duties for BBIN Success **14 July 2016: Kolkata, India**

BBIN Business Forum states that Customs duties and taxation must be harmonized in order to improve trade among Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal. Following the successful signing of the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal Motor Vehicles Agreement (BBIN MVA), the countries must now pursue ways to make the movement of goods and people easier.
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- [New Kerala](#)



India Can Gain from Regional Trade in Electricity **28 June 2016: Kolkata, India**

Regional trade in power could save India from having to invest in 35,000 megawatts in coal-fire facilities, estimated at \$26 billion, over the next 25 years. Through energy trade with Afghanistan, Bhutan, and Nepal, India could benefit from reduced fuel costs and a 6.5% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.
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- [The Hindu Business Line](#)



Speech: The Future of Energy Demand
24 June 2016: Singapore, Singapore

Increased energy consumption is powering economic transformation in Asia, but also contributing to higher greenhouse gas emissions. The devastating effects of climate change are already being felt in the region. Mr. Bambang Susantono, Vice-President for Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development, Asian Development Bank, looks at the challenges faced by Asia's growing economies and the urgent need to support clean energy sources.

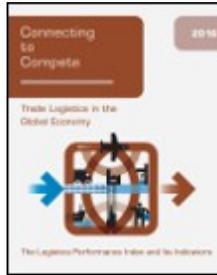
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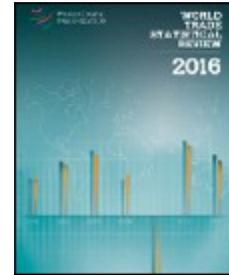
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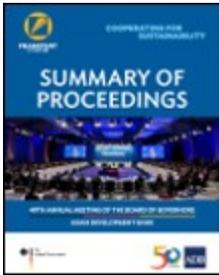
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