

SASEC NEWS
WATERWAYS TO BE THE
NEW HIGHWAYS OF THE
FUTURE



SASEC PROJECTS
ADB DRAFTS ACTION
PLAN TO IMPROVE
SERVICE DELIVERY OF
BANGLADESH CUSTOMS



SASEC PROJECTS
BANGLADESH OPENS
FIRST TENDER FOR
SASEC DHAKA-SYLHET
HIGHWAY EXPANSION



PUBLICATIONS
REGIONAL
INTEGRATION IN BAY OF
BENGAL REGION IN
POST-COVID-19 PERIOD



SASEC NEWS

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The Post-pandemic Era can be a New Era for Asia's Roads, Too

19 May 2021: Manila, Philippines

Roads in Asia and the Pacific have been essential for the transport of supplies and services, frontline workers, food, and now vaccines. It is time to revive these vital arteries to prepare for economic recovery. This commentary first appeared on the Asia Development Blog. [Read More](#)

SASEC PROJECTS



PROJECT
FIRST TENDER FOR SASEC
DHAKA-SYLHET HIGHWAY
EXPANSION OPENED

- **ADB Drafts Action Plan to Improve Service Delivery of Bangladesh Customs**
- **Bangladesh Opens First Tender for SASEC Dhaka-Sylhet Highway Expansion**

ADB Drafts Action Plan to Improve Service Delivery of Bangladesh Customs

9 May 2021: Dhaka, Bangladesh

The Asian Development Bank (ADB), in consultation with Bangladesh's National Board of Revenue (NBR), has prepared an action plan in line with the Customs Modernization Plan 2019-2022 of Bangladesh. ADB supports the improvement of Bangladesh's trade facilitation environment under a \$1.5 million technical assistance for the SASEC Integrated Trade Facilitation Sector Development Program.

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Bangladesh Opens First Tender for SASEC Dhaka-Sylhet Highway Expansion

7 May 2021: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Work on the SASEC Dhaka-Sylhet Corridor Road Development Project is set to begin, with the Roads and Highways Department opening the first tender for road widening work on the highway. The invitation for bids was sent out on 29 April 2021 for the 35-kilometer section of the highway from Dhaka to Narsingdi.

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NEWS
WATERWAYS TO BE THE
NEW HIGHWAYS OF THE
FUTURE

- **Bangladesh Formulates Customs Rules for Transit and Transshipment of Goods**
- **Commentary: Waterways Are Set to Be the New Highways of the Future**
- **Food Trade Facilitation Needed for Sri Lanka's Food Security**

Bangladesh Formulates Customs Rules for Transit and Transshipment of Goods

31 May 2021: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Bangladesh's National Board of Revenue (NBR) has formulated the "Customs Transit and Transshipment Rules 2021" that aims to define guidelines for the transit or transshipment goods and bring it under proper authority. As the guiding principle for the transportation of goods via Bangladesh, the rules will apply to the transit or transshipment of goods using the soil of a country where Bangladesh is a party to the international transit or transshipment system.

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Commentary: Waterways Are Set to Be the New Highways of the Future

12 May 2021: New Delhi, India

Inland waterway transport is cost-effective and will ease congestion on road and rail networks. In this article, Dr. Niranjana Hiranandani, National President, National Real Estate Development Council, discusses the potential benefits of developing inland waterway transport in India. The article first appeared on the Free Press Journal.

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Bangladesh Drafts Rules on the Faster Release and Disposal of Perishable Goods

11 May 2021: Dhaka, Bangladesh

The NBR of the Government of Bangladesh has finalized the draft rules on the faster release and disposal of perishable goods aimed at keeping the goods' quality and standards. The rules specify provisions to release goods within 48 hours of the submission of bill of entry of imported goods. The rules are in line with the World Trade Organization's Trade Facilitation Agreement, which Bangladesh is a signatory to.

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16th Informal Meeting of the SAARC Finance Ministers Held

5 May 2021: Manila, Philippines

The 16th Informal Meeting of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Finance Ministers was held virtually on 5 May 2021 on the sidelines of 54th Annual Meeting of ADB. Finance Ministers/Heads of Delegations from all the member states of SAARC attended the meeting, which had the theme "Economic Recovery from COVID-19: Towards Inclusive and Resilient Growth." Mr. Bishnu Prasad Paudel, Finance Minister of the Government of Nepal, chaired the meeting. In his opening statement, he stated that there should be solidarity and collective efforts in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic and its negative impacts on the economy.

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Small Hydropower Plant in Nepal Rehabilitated with India's Assistance

5 May 2021: Kathmandu, Nepal

The small hydropower plant at Chandannath Municipality in Nepal's Jumla District was rehabilitated with financial assistance from the Government of India. The plant was virtually inaugurated by the Embassy of India in Kathmandu, Nepal, the District Coordination Committee of Jumla, and the Nepal Electricity Authority. The grant 'Nepal-Bharat Development Cooperation' provided financing of NRs26.39 million (around \$227,000) for the construction of a reservoir tank and rehabilitation of the small hydropower plant.

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Food Trade Facilitation Needed for Sri Lanka's Food Security

3 May 2021: Colombo, Sri Lanka

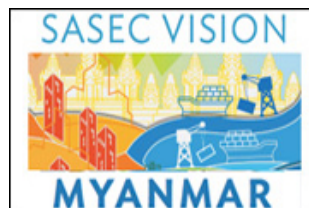
Sri Lanka needs regional and cross-border food trade facilitation to ensure food security, according to the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. The Central Bank report further stressed that Sri Lanka needs to improve warehousing and storage facilities. The country also needs to boost packaging and transportation services in the medium to long-term to reduce post-harvest losses, prevent food shortages, and maintain food inflation at subdued levels.

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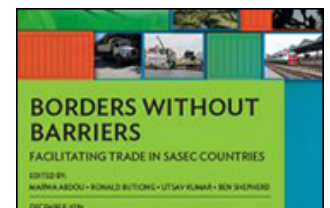
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