



SASEC EVENTS
MEETING ENDORSED
PROJECTS IDENTIFIED
IN THE SASEC
INVESTMENT PIPELINE
2019-2021



SASEC PROJECTS
IMPROVEMENTS FOR
THE PASAKHA BYPASS
ROAD IN BHUTAN NEAR
COMPLETION



SASEC NEWS
BANGLADESH, INDIA
INAUGURATE NEW
DEVELOPMENT
PROJECTS



PUBLICATIONS
POTENTIAL EXPORTS
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BARRIERS TO TRADE:
MALDIVES NATIONAL
STUDY



SASEC NEWS

THE SOUTH ASIA SUBREGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION NEWSLETTER

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Meeting of the SASEC Nodal Officials and Working Groups

18-19 March 2019: Seoul, Republic of Korea

The Meeting agreed on a new approach to prioritizing South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) projects. Country delegations noted the progress of transport projects in identified SASEC road and rail corridors; priority initiatives under the SASEC Trade Facilitation Strategic Framework; and SASEC Vision flagship initiatives in energy. The Meeting confirmed the Asian Development Bank (ADB) SASEC investment pipeline for 2019-2021, which consists of 20 projects in transport, trade facilitation, and energy with a total loan/grant amount of \$3.14 billion.

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SASEC CALENDAR

Upcoming Events

Sri Lanka: National Workshop on Developing a PCA System

TBD: Colombo, Sri Lanka

SASEC PROJECTS



PROJECT

IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE PASAKHA BYPASS ROAD IN BHUTAN ARE NEARING COMPLETION

- **Master Plan to Push Development of Ports and Shipping in Sri Lanka**
- **New Rule to Promote Use of Electronic Cargo Tracking System**
- **Components of the SASEC Road Connectivity Project in Bhutan Nears Completion**

Master Plan to Push Development of Ports and Shipping in Sri Lanka

11 March 2019: Colombo, Sri Lanka

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Southern Development and the Sri Lanka Ports Authority held its final workshop on a National Port Master Plan in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The plan is a technical assistance project financed by ADB through the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction.

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New Rule to Promote Use of Electronic Cargo Tracking System

11 March 2019: Kathmandu, Nepal

The Nepal Rastra Bank, the central bank of Nepal, has allowed commercial banks to issue payment instruments in foreign currency for cargo transported by railway to the Birgunj dry port and Biratnagar customs point. The move aims to facilitate the implementation of the electronic cargo tracking system for third country import.

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Components of the SASEC Road Connectivity Project in Bhutan Nears Completion

8 March 2019: Phuentsholing, Bhutan

Improvements for the Pasakha bypass road in Bhutan are nearing completion, reports Kuensel. These include the (i) development of a 1.3 kilometer road, (ii) a gabion wall in Baunijhora stream, and (iii) a 123-meter pre-stressed concrete girder bridge over the Bhalujhora river. ADB is providing 81% of the financing for these projects under the SASEC Road Connectivity Project. The Government will shoulder 19% of the cost.

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NEWS

NEW BANGLADESH-INDIA
DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
WILL BOOST KNOWLEDGE
AND TRANSPORT
CONNECTIVITY

- **Bangladesh, India Inaugurate New Development Projects**
- **Nepal to Use India Transmission to Export Hydropower to Bangladesh and Myanmar**
- **Jayanagar-Janakpur Rail Service in Final Stage of Completion**

Nepal to Use India Transmission Export Hydropower to Bangladesh and Myanmar

30 March 2019: Kathmandu, Nepal

India said it would support Nepal's energy sector as Nepal seeks to export energy to third countries, such as Bangladesh and Myanmar. The move will provide power producers in Nepal access to international markets for energy export.

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BIMSTEC Prioritizing Energy Sufficiency

29 March 2019: Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

Energy sufficiency is being prioritized by member countries of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), highlighted Mr. Win Khaing, Minister of Electricity and Energy, Government of Myanmar, during an expert subregional group meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw. This meeting emphasized expansion of energy trading as first step toward energy sufficiency.

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ADB Country Director for Bangladesh Urges Harnessing Regional Power Trade

29 March 2019: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Mr. Manmohan Parkash, Country Director, ADB Bangladesh, commended Bangladesh's progress in the energy sector. On Bangladesh's drive to achieve sustainable and inclusive development, he urged the country to continue working toward providing last mile connectivity for electricity access, developing proper energy mix by investing in renewables, and harnessing regional power trade.

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Third Nepal-Bangladesh Business Forum Emphasize Expanding Multimodal Connectivity

27 March 2019: Kathmandu, Nepal

The Asian Institute of Diplomacy and International Affairs and the Embassy of Bangladesh in Nepal jointly organized the third Nepal-Bangladesh Business Forum. The Forum held discussions on (i) expanding multimodal connectivity for mutual economic growth, and (ii) strong media cooperation for enhancing bilateral ties. In his inaugural address, Mr. Barshaman Pun Ananta, Minister of Energy, Water Resources, and Irrigation of the Government of Nepal remarked that MOUs on energy exchange between Nepal and Bangladesh have opened the huge Bangladesh market to hydropower export from Nepal.

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India-Nepal Agree to Include Inland Waterways in Trade and Transit Treaties

20 March 2019: New Delhi, India

Senior officials met to review India-Nepal bilateral transit and trade treaties and agreed to discuss inland waterways facilities, which could reduce transit cost significantly once implemented. The two countries also agreed to install facilities for electronic cargo tracking system on cargo bound for Nepal.

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Bhutan Prime Minister Lotay Tshering To Visit Bangladesh

20 March 2019: Thimphu, Bhutan

Bhutan Prime Minister Lotay Tshering is scheduled to visit Bangladesh on the second week of April, and sign bilateral instruments between Bangladesh and Bhutan together with Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. These include agreements for cooperation on inland waterways for cargo transportation, cooperation in health and agriculture, and cooperation between each country's Public Administration Training Center.

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New CERC Regulations To Ease Cross Border Electricity Trade

19 March 2019: New Delhi, India

The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) of the Government of India revised the regulations on power trade between India and its neighboring countries, covering both bilateral and trilateral energy trade. Key sections of the CERC Cross Border Trade of Electricity Regulations 2019 include the General Provisions and the Transmission Planning, Connectivity, and Access.

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Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Emphasize Resolving Existing Barriers to Trade through Discussion

18 March 2019: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Ms. Riva Ganguly Das, the newly-appointed Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh, paid a courtesy call to Mr. Tipu Munshi, Commerce Minister of the Government of Bangladesh. The meeting discussed increasing bilateral trade between the two neighboring countries. Ms. Das emphasized that trade between Bangladesh and India has huge scope for expansion. She underlined that existing barriers to trade between the countries will be solved through discussion.

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Report: India needs \$39 Billion Investment for Transmission Systems in the Next Three Years

18 March 2019: New Delhi, India

A report published by Mercom highlighted that India needs \$39 billion investment to implement the necessary transmission systems over the next three years to meet new power generation capacity and demand. Based on the National Electricity Plan, the report also underlined that around 110,000 circuit kilometers of transmissions lines are needed, and that electricity import from Bhutan will reach around 4,500 MW. Exports to Bangladesh and Nepal will reach around 1,500 MW and 950 MW, respectively.

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Bangladesh, India Inaugurate New Development Projects

11 March 2019: Dhaka, Bangladesh, and New Delhi, India

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and India Prime Minister Narendra Modi jointly inaugurated via video conference development projects in Bangladesh. Projects include supply of 1,100 buses and trucks to Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation; 36 community clinics; 11 water treatment plants; and extension of National Knowledge Network to Bangladesh. Prime Minister Modi highlighted that these projects will boost knowledge and transport connectivity.

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Jayanagar-Janakpur Rail Service in Final Stage of Completion

5 March 2019: Kathmandu, Nepal

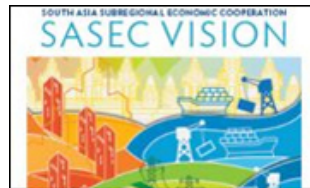
Construction and rail procurement for the Jayanagar (India)-Janakpur (Nepal) rail service are in its final stages, according to Mr. Balaram Mishra, Director General, Department of Railways, Government of Nepal, in a report on Setopati. Operations is estimated to begin in 2 months.

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