



SASEC EVENTS
SRI LANKA: NATIONAL
WORKSHOP ON
DEVELOPING A PCA
SYSTEM



SASEC PROJECTS
ECTS FAST-TRACKS
CUSTOMS CLEARANCE
OF NEPAL'S THIRD
COUNTRY RAIL IMPORTS



SASEC NEWS
EXPANDING ENERGY
GENERATION CRITICAL
TO BANGLADESH'S
GROWTH



PUBLICATIONS
EXPORTS TO JOBS:
BOOSTING THE GAINS
FROM TRADE IN
SOUTH ASIA



SASEC NEWS

THE SOUTH ASIA SUBREGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION NEWSLETTER

ISSUE #67

MAY 2019

WWW.SASEC.ASIA



Bangladesh SASEC Chattogram-Cox's Bazar Railway Project to Get Tranche 2 Financing

23 May 2019: Dhaka, Bangladesh

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of Bangladesh signed an agreement for Tranche 2 financing of the Bangladesh: SASEC Chattogram (Chittagong)-Cox's Bazar Railway Project, Phase 1. The \$400 million loan support from ADB forms the second part of the \$1.5 billion ADB railway investment program.

Read More

SASEC CALENDAR

ADB-NACIN Workshop on Customs Valuation and Database Systems

11-12 June 2019: Faridabad, India

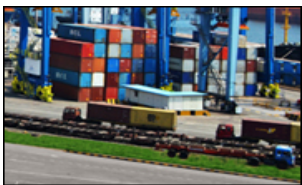
Sri Lanka: National Workshop on Developing a PCA System

19-20 June 2019: Colombo, Sri Lanka

SAARC-ADB Fourth Special Meeting on Regional Economic Integration Study (Phase-II)

24-25 June 2019: Kathmandu, Nepal

SASEC PROJECTS



PROJECT

**ECTS FAST-TRACKS
CUSTOMS CLEARANCE OF
NEPAL'S THIRD COUNTRY
RAIL IMPORTS**

- **ADB approved the proposed financing for SASEC National Single Window Project in Maldives**
- **Bangladesh Prime Minister Hasina Opens SASEC Flyovers, Underpasses, Bridges**
- **ECTS Reduces Need for Indian Customs Clearance on Nepal's Third Country Imports via Rail**

ADB to Help Maldives Establish A National Single Window

31 May 2019: Manila, Philippines

ADB approved the proposed financing for the Maldives: SASEC National Single Window Project worth \$11 million. This project will introduce a single electronic platform in Maldives to improve the speed and efficiency of cross-border control procedures by employing the latest technology. This project will improve the trade environment of Maldives, and help expand its trade with partners in the region, including India and Sri Lanka. Establishing a national single window allows traders to fulfill all import, export, and transit-related regulatory requirements via a single entry point, reducing delays and lowering costs associated with the clearance of goods.

[Read More](#)

Bangladesh Prime Minister Hasina Opens SASEC Flyovers, Underpasses, Bridges

25 May 2019: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the Konabary and Chandra flyovers; the Kaliakair, Deohata, Mirzapur, and Gharinda underpasses; and the Kadda-1 and Bimail bridges on the Joydebpur-Chandra-Tangail-Elenga highway under the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Road Connectivity Project.

[Read More](#)

ECTS Reduces Need for Indian Customs Clearance on Nepal's Third Country Imports via Rail

7 May 2019: Kolkata and Visakhapatnam, India

Clearance by Indian customs authorities will no longer be required on Nepal's third country imports onboard container rail cargo with the implementation of the electronic cargo tracking system (ECTS) at the ports of Kolkata and Visakhapatnam. Kolkata port authorities are also planning to introduce ECTS for cargo transshipment via roads, in phases.

[Read More](#)

SASEC NEWS



NEWS

ADB EXPRESSED HIGH
HOPES FOR BANGLADESH

- **Sri Lanka, India, and Japan to Jointly Develop Colombo Port's East Container Terminal**
- **Expanding Energy Generation Critical to Bangladesh's Growth**
- **13th Informal Meeting of the SAARC Finance Ministers Held in Fiji**

Sri Lanka, India, and Japan to Jointly Develop Colombo Port's East Container Terminal

28 May 2019: Colombo, Sri Lanka

The Governments of Sri Lanka, India, and Japan signed a Memorandum of Cooperation to jointly develop Colombo Port's East Container Terminal. The Sri Lanka Ports Authority highlights that this project reflects the longstanding good will and cooperation among the three countries. Sri Lanka, India, and Japan pledged to work together for further development of the Colombo Port, and contribute to regional prosperity and stability of global trading networks.

[Read More](#)

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Requests ADB Support in Building Regional Infrastructure

23 May 2019: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Mr. Manmohan Parkash, Country Director of Bangladesh Resident Mission of the ADB, called on Mr. AK Abdul Momen, Foreign Minister of the Government of Bangladesh. In the meeting, the Foreign Minister stressed Bangladesh's appreciation for strengthening regional connectivity through the ADB-supported SASEC program. He further requested the ADB Country Director for continued support in building regional infrastructure. These include projects on hydropower generation and cross-border power transmission and distribution.

[Read More](#)

20th Regional Heads of Customs Administration Conference of the WCO Asia Pacific Region Held in Kochi

10 May 2019: Kochi, India

The conference was organized by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs of the Government of India. It reviewed members' progress in promoting, facilitating, and securing cross-border trade in the region through programs and initiatives of the World Customs Organization. The conference also discussed issues on security, trade facilitation, e-commerce, trusted trader programs, and emerging technological and logistical challenges.

[Read More](#)

Sri Lanka Exports to SASEC Countries Up by 8%

9 May 2019: Colombo, Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka's exports to SASEC member countries have increased from 6% to 8% in the 13-year-period from 2002 to 2015. India is Sri Lanka's largest trading partners, according to the *Potential Exports and Nontariff Barriers to Trade: Sri Lanka National Study* done by ADB. The study looks at ways to help Sri Lanka exports by establishing laboratory facilities for testing new products and by developing the country's regulatory, institutional, and capacity frameworks

[Read More](#)

Commentary: Four Border Junctions

8 May 2019: Kathmandu, Nepal

India could play a crucial role in interconnecting regional energy networks. In this commentary, Mr. Mahendra P. Lama outlines what India needs to approach energy security projects in India and its neighboring countries. This commentary by Mr. Lama, co-author of *Energising Connectivity between Northeast India and its Neighbours*, first appeared on the *Kathmandu Post*.

[Read More](#)

Commentary: Closer Economic Ties with Neighbors Vital

7 May 2019: Dhaka, Bangladesh

This article makes a case for strengthening of economic ties between India and its neighbors, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, and Nepal. Currently, India's trade in South Asia is only 3% per cent of its total trade. This commentary, originally published in the *Hindu Business Line*, explores three emerging avenues of bilateral cooperation that are gaining economic momentum between India and its neighbors: border 'haats' (markets), waterways connectivity, and energy networks.

[Read More](#)

Expanding Energy Generation Critical to Bangladesh's Growth

6 May 2019: Nadi, Fiji

Mr. Hun Kim, Director General, South Asia Regional Department, ADB, expressed high hopes for Bangladesh in a press briefing held on the sidelines of the 52nd Annual Meeting of the ADB Board of Governors. He noted that the country's ability to expand its energy generation would be critical to its growth. Expanding and diversifying the region's energy supply, which will help enhance Bangladesh's energy security, is a key focus of the SASEC Program.

[Read More](#)

Three Pharmaceutical Companies in Bangladesh Become Authorized Economic Operators

5 May 2019: Dhaka, Bangladesh

The status of Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) was granted by the National Board of Revenue (NBR) of the Government of Bangladesh to three pharmaceutical companies—Square, Beximco, and Incepta Pharmaceuticals. An accreditation ceremony was held, jointly organized by the NBR and USAID Bangladesh under the Bangladesh Trade Facilitation Activity project.

[Read More](#)

SDF Governing Council Meeting Reviews Future Strategies and Action Plan

2 May 2019: Nadi, Fiji

The SAARC Finance Ministers held the sixth Governing Council Meeting of the SAARC Development Fund (SDF) on the sidelines of the 52nd ADB Annual General Meeting in Nadi, Fiji. Mr. Sunil Motiwal, Chief Executive Officer, SDF, presented a report on the current status of SDF and talked about its future action plans, including implementation of its economic and infrastructure windows.

[Read More](#)

Thirteenth Informal Meeting of the SAARC Finance Ministers Held in Fiji

2 May 2019: Nadi, Fiji

The 13th Informal Meeting of the SAARC Finance Ministers was held on the sidelines of the 52nd ADB Annual General Meeting. Mr. Shixin Chen, Vice President for Operations 1, ADB, delivered opening remarks. In his speech, he highlighted participation of SAARC member countries in ADB's regional cooperation and integration programs, SASEC and CAREC. He pressed upon continuing the implementation of the SASEC operational plan through initiatives in transport, energy, and trade facilitation.

[Read More](#)

LPG Transshipment Terminal Inaugurated in Sri Lanka

2 May 2019: Colombo, Sri Lanka

The Laugfs LPG Transshipment Terminal was officially inaugurated at Sri Lanka's Hambantota International Port. The 30,000 MT LPG terminal will operate as a central hub for importing and re-exporting LPG and be a source of provision to retailers. It is eyeing \$500 million in annual exports, and will facilitate coastal shipping services between Hambantota and Colombo Ports.

[Read More](#)

Nepal to Apply the 'One basin, One hub' Concept in Implementing Transmission Line Projects

2 May 2019: Kathmandu, Nepal

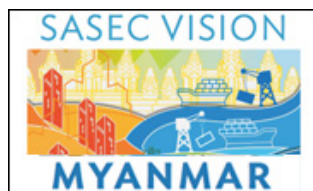
The Government of Nepal will apply the 'one basin, one hub' concept in implementing transmission line projects. Environmental degradation, loss of biodiversity and arable land, and threat to human settlements are some of the possible negative outcomes that could arise from allowing every power producer to build separate transmission lines, according to Mr. Netra Gyawali, Chief Executive Officer, National Transmission Grid Company.

[Read More](#)

RELATED PUBLICATIONS



SASEC VISION



SASEC VISION MYANMAR



SASEC WEBSITE BROCHURE



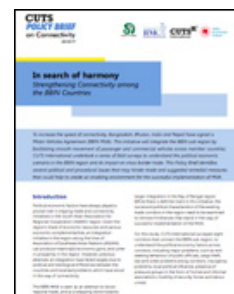
SASEC OPERATIONAL PLAN 2016-2025



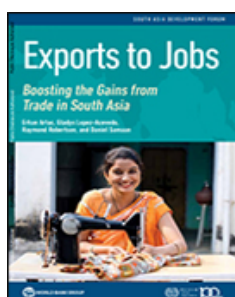
ADB Annual Report 2018



United We Stand, Divided We Fall: Infrastructural Impediments to Better Connectivity in South Asia



In Search of Harmony: Strengthening Connectivity among the BBIN Countries



Exports to Jobs: Boosting the Gains from Trade in South Asia



Top Tweets for May 2019

New ICP, 2 border 'haats' approved for Tripura [Read more](#)

Nepal and India declare inland waterways as trade routes [Read more](#)

Nepal is estimated to have a hydropower potential of 83,000 MW, with 43,000 MW considered to be economically viable [Read more](#)

The containerized rail cargo carrying 3rd-country imports of Nepal via the Indian ports of Kolkata and Vizag will no longer require clearance by Indian Customs authorities with both ports introducing the electronic cargo tracking system [Read more](#)

India to incorporate inland water facilities in separate trade and transit treaties to allow Nepal to navigate inland waterways from Haldia port to the Nepal border [Read more](#)

Follow  @SASECprogram |  Like us on Facebook facebook.com/SASECprogram

ABOUT THIS EMAIL

Your received this message because you signed up for the SASEC Newsletter.

[Subscribe](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Contact Us](#)

© South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation 2012