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SASEC NEWS

THE SOUTH ASIA SUBREGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION NEWSLETTER

ISSUE #110

MAY 2023

WWW.SASEC.ASIA



Watch: Enhanced Road Connectivity Creates Opportunities in Nepal

5 April 2023: Manila, Philippines

The Subregional Transport Enhancement Project creates economic opportunities to help provide access to social services. The project, committed in 2011, has expanded roads and gave rural communities access to one of Nepal's major trade corridors. Click on the link to watch the video on the SASEC website.

Watch the Video



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- **National Logistics Policy to Bring Down India's Logistics Cost**
- **Government of Bhutan Approves Accession to the WTO**

Government of Bhutan Approves Accession to the WTO

28 April 2023: Thimphu, Bhutan

The Government of Bhutan has approved the country's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) on 28 April 2023. By joining the WTO, Bhutan will be able to take advantage of benefits, including special and differential treatment provisions for countries newly graduated from least developed country status. Bhutan is set to graduate from LDC status in December 2023.

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SASEC Highway Improvement Project in Nepal Awarded for Excellence

21 April 2023: Kathmandu, Nepal

The SASEC Highway Improvement Project was recognized for excellence in project management, gender and social inclusion, and environmental and social safeguards monitoring alongside other ADB projects by the Government of Nepal. Also awarded were Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Project, Bagmati River Basin Improvement Project-Additional Financing, Rural Enterprise Financing Project, and Power Transmission and Distribution Efficiency Enhancement.

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National Logistics Policy to Bring Down India's Logistics Cost

15 April 2023: New Delhi, India

India's National Logistics Policy was launched in September 2022 to reduce logistics cost in the country by facilitating seamless movement of goods. Various sectors—such as agriculture, commodities, and e-commerce—are projected to benefit from the policy.

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Bangladesh Ready for Cargo Movement with India's Northeastern Region via Chattogram Port

12 April 2023: New Delhi, India

Mr. Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury, Minister of State for Shipping of the Government of Bangladesh, stated that transit and transshipment of cargo between Bangladesh and India's northeastern region via Chattogram (Chittagong) port will start soon. The Statutory Regulatory Order, required for the movement of cargo from Bangladesh to India, is set to be issued by the country's National Board of Revenue.

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New Industrial Hub in the Bay of Bengal Region Proposed by Japan

11 April 2023: Tripura, India

Japan has proposed the development of a new industrial hub for the Bay of Bengal region. The hub, planned to be built in Bangladesh, will be equipped with supply chains that are connected to India's northeastern region. It will also be linked to Bhutan and Nepal through a planned port and transportation infrastructure.

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Indian Tourists to be Allowed Use of Indian e-Wallets in Nepal

10 April 2023: New Delhi, India

The Governments of India and Nepal have agreed to allow Indian tourists in Nepal to make digital payments using Indian e-wallets. Mr. Naveen Srivastava, India's Ambassador to Nepal, stated that the proposed agreement would help boost Nepal's travel and tourism industry. Tourism businesses agreed that this would eliminate the inconvenience of carrying cash for Indian tourists and businessmen in Nepal.

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Sri Lanka Navy Expands Kankesanthurai Harbor for Sri Lanka-India Ferry Service

10 April 2023: Colombo, Sri Lanka

The Sri Lanka Navy has undertaken facility expansion of the Kankesanthurai harbor, in support of the passenger ferry service launch between Sri Lanka and India. The Navy will build a passenger terminal for immigration and customs clearance. These improvements aim to help increase traffic and provide better infrastructure.

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New Bhutan-India ICP to Ease Movement of Goods and People

8 April 2023: Thimphu, Bhutan

The Government of India is constructing an Integrated Checkpost (ICP) at Alay, Pasakha, Bhutan, to ease the movement of goods and people between Bhutan and India. Located between the busy trading points of Jaigaon, India, and Phuentsholing, Bhutan, the ICP aims to promote further trade between the two countries.

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Bhutan, India to Further Deepen Energy, Connectivity, Trade Ties

5 April 2023: New Delhi, India

The visit of His Excellency King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck of Bhutan to India Prime Minister Narendra Modi advanced the bilateral cooperation of the two countries, addressing matters of mutual interest and sketching a road map for the next steps. The meeting discussed various priorities, including hydropower cooperation and connectivity, that would allow India to step up its support for Bhutan's 13th five-year plan.

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