



SASEC EVENTS
SECOND MEETING OF
THE SASEC CROSS-
BORDER POWER TRADE
WORKING GROUP



SASEC PROJECTS
ENHANCING ROAD
SAFETY, DISASTER RISK
REDUCTION, AND
PROJECT
IMPLEMENTATION
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SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA
AND THE PACIFIC



SASEC NEWS

THE SOUTH ASIA SUBREGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION NEWSLETTER

ISSUE #73 NOVEMBER 2019

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David Mark/Pixabay via World Construction Network

SASEC Mugling–Pokhara Highway Project to Reduce Travel Time to Trade Corridors

10 December 2019: Manila, Philippines

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has committed to a loan of \$195 million to improve the highway section between Pokhara and Mugling in Nepal. The highway section links Pokhara to Kathmandu and to subregional corridors connecting Nepal with India and Bangladesh.

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SASEC EVENTS



EVENT

Second Meeting of the SASEC
Cross-Border Power Trade
Working Group

- **Second Meeting of the SASEC Cross-Border Power Trade Working Group refines draft of the proposed SASEC Regional Power Trade Framework Agreement**

Second Meeting of the SASEC Cross-Border Power Trade Working Group

13–14 November 2019: New Delhi, India

The Second Meeting of the SASEC Cross-border Power Trade Working Group was organized by the Ministry of Power of the Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The meeting reviewed and refined the draft of the proposed intergovernmental SASEC Regional Power Trade Framework Agreement (RPTFA). The RPTFA will provide a broad framework for the SASEC countries to cooperate toward promoting cross-border trade in electricity, which will be subject to laws, rules, regulations and international obligations of the countries. The working group is a platform to advance power trade arrangements in the SASEC subregion.

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SASEC PROJECTS



PROJECT

Technical Assistance for Nepal
to Support Capacity Building
and Institutional Strengthening

- **Enhancing Road Safety, Disaster Risk Reduction, and Project Implementation Capacity in Nepal**

Enhancing Road Safety, Disaster Risk Reduction, and Project Implementation Capacity

10 December 2019: Manila, Philippines

This technical assistance will complement infrastructure improvements for the [Nepal: South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation Mugling–Pokhara Highway Improvement Phase 1 Project](#) by supporting capacity building and institutional strengthening of the Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport and the Department of Roads.

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NEWS

Women in Power Sector
Professional Network in
South Asia

- **Nepal-India Transit Treaty Review Allows More Inland Waterway Routes**
- **ADB Forum Promotes Women in South Asia Energy Industry**
- **ADB to Strengthen the Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor's Power Connectivity**

Bhutan, India to Implement 21 New Projects

29 November 2019: New Delhi, India

The Governments of Bhutan and India held their second bilateral development cooperation talks. During the talks, both sides agreed to implement 21 new Project Tied Assistance projects in various sectors including infrastructure, health, and education.

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Nepal-India Transit Treaty Review Allows More Inland Waterway Routes

25 November 2019: New Delhi, India

A review of the Nepal-India Transit Treaty held in Kathmandu, Nepal, discussed various issues on simplifying Nepal's transit routes via India. In the meeting, India gave a positive response to Nepal's proposal to expand inland waterways in three routes—the Kolkata-Kalughat-Raxaul, Kolkata-Sahebgunj-Biratnagar, and Kolkata-Varanasi-Raxaul routes. Access to Indian waterways could facilitate efficient movement of cargo imported from third countries to Nepal.

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Bhutan's Foreign Minister, India's External Affairs Minister Revisit Bilateral Relations

25 November 2019: New Delhi, India

Mr. Tandi Dorji, Foreign Minister of the Government of Bhutan, visited India at the invitation of Mr. S Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of the Government of India. The two ministers discussed the entire range of Bhutan-India relations. They reviewed cooperation in various areas, including hydropower development and improvement of connectivity through railway links.

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Mandalay-Imphal Flights Launched

23 November 2019: Imphal, India

The inaugural chartered flight service between Mandalay (Myanmar) and Imphal (India) by Air KBZ kicked off on 23 November 2019. Air KBZ is a private air carrier from Myanmar. The service is expected to transform the transportation network of India's northeastern region and boost the regional economy.

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GMR Energy, Bangladesh Sign PPA for Upper Karnali Hydropower Project

21 November 2019: Kathmandu, Nepal

GMR Energy and the Government of Bangladesh have signed a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) and agreed on the rate for the Upper Karnali Hydro Electric Project in Nepal. The signed PPA has been submitted to the Bangladesh Cabinet for review. Bangladesh plans to purchase 500 megawatts. The import will be coursed through dedicated transmission lines connected with the Indian grid.

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ADB Forum Promotes Women in South Asia Energy Industry

20 November 2019: Manila, Philippines

ADB cohosted a forum to promote more women practitioners in South Asia's energy sector. The forum is second in a series for Women in Power Sector Professional Network in South Asia, which aims to support women's participation in energy projects and promote more women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education.

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ADB to Strengthen the Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor's Power Connectivity

4 November 2019: Manila, Philippines

An ADB-financed project along the Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor in Tamil Nadu, India, will increase the state's energy connectivity to help meet future demand from industry and commercial enterprises. The \$451 million loan from ADB will strengthen power connectivity between the CKIC's southern and northern parts.

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BBIN Chamber of Commerce Launched

4 November 2019: New Delhi, India

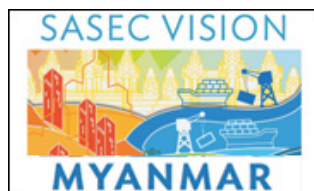
The Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) Chamber of Commerce was launched in New Delhi, India, to foster connections and develop trade and commerce among the partner countries.

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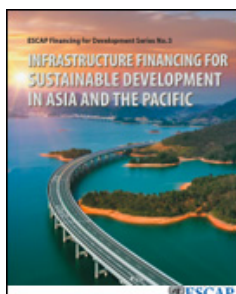
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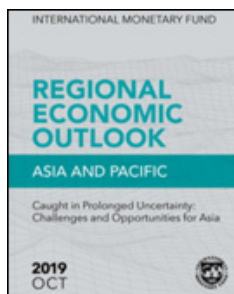
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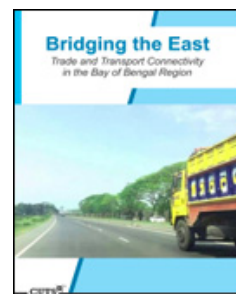
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