



SASEC EVENTS
WORKSHOP DISCUSSED
KEY ISSUES IN COASTAL
SHIPPING STUDY



SASEC PROJECTS
MICRO-HYDROPOWER
PLANT TO PROVIDE
200 KW OF ELECTRICITY
FOR NEPAL'S RURAL
COMMUNITIES



SASEC NEWS
BANGLADESH, INDIA
SIGN 3 MOUs TO BOOST
WATERWAYS
TRANSPORT



PUBLICATIONS
ROAD MAP FOR THE
NATIONAL SINGLE
WINDOW IN MALDIVES



SASEC NEWS

THE SOUTH ASIA SUBREGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION NEWSLETTER

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New SASEC Highway Project in Nepal to Strengthen Regional Connectivity, Growth, and Trade

4 October 2018: Kathmandu, Nepal

A new project to improve Nepal's East-West Highway is set to strengthen regional connectivity, promote growth and trade, and improve road safety. An 87-kilometer section of the East-West Highway, also known as the Mahendra Highway, will be widened to four lanes and will be improved to include a center median, service lanes in populated areas, and a drainage system.

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EVENT THAILAND

Forum emphasized the importance of the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement for Asia and the Pacific



EVENT INDIA

Workshop shared key findings of the draft interim stage of the Coastal Shipping Study



EVENT INDIA

Workshop discussed key issues that are impacting coastal shipping and exchanged views on potential interventions

Inter-subregional Forum on Enhanced Implementation of the WTO TFA

30-31 October 2018: Bangkok, Thailand

This Knowledge Sharing Forum focused on the provisions of the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement (WTO TFA) identified by Asian Development Bank (ADB) subregional programs as key challenges. Mr. Wencai Zhang, Vice President (Operations 1), ADB, in his opening speech, emphasized the importance of trade facilitation for Asia Pacific as a key means of providing depth and quality to emerging regional trade agreements, reducing costs to trade, and propelling inclusive growth in a context of rising global trade tensions.

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India: Workshop on Coastal Shipping Study

8 October 2018: Mumbai, India

The Ministry of Shipping of the Government of India and the Asian Development Bank held a Consultation Workshop on the Coastal Shipping Study. The Workshop shared key findings of the draft interim stage of the study; highlighted key opportunities and discussed key issues in coastal shipping; and exchanged views on potential interventions.

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ADB-supported electronic platform tripled tax collection in Maldives [Read](#)

Bangladesh, India sign three agreements allowing New Delhi to use Mongla and Chattogram ports as transit points to access India's northeastern region for trade [Read](#)

Nepal Electricity Authority preparing to sign MoU allowing export of electricity generated by Nepal hydropower plants to Bangladesh through Indian transmission line [Read](#)

Massive capacity expansion and modernization plans underway in Visakhapatnam Port to become most preferred port in South Asia [Read](#)



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November

Workshop for SASEC Customs Administrations on Trade Facilitation Measures for Time Release Study

26-27 November 2018: Faridabad, India

SASEC PROJECTS



PROJECT
MICRO-HYDROPOWER
PLANT TO PROVIDE 200
KW OF ELECTRICITY FOR
NEPAL'S RURAL
COMMUNITIES



PROJECT
NEW SASEC PROJECT TO
BOOST NEPAL'S
GROWTH, TRADE, AND
ROAD SAFETY



PROJECT
TRANCHE 2 OF SASEC
ROAD CONNECTIVITY
INVESTMENT PROGRAM
IN INDIA SIGNED



PROJECT
TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE TO
SUPPORT STUDIES ON
KEY ISSUES IN
SOUTH ASIA

SASEC Microhydro Project in Nepal Nears Completion

26 October 2018: Kathmandu, Nepal

The Simrutu River Small Hydropower Project, a micro-hydropower plant developed under the SASEC Program, is nearing completion in Rukum District, Nepal. The power plant will produce 200 kilowatts of electricity for rural communities and will be the largest hydropower project in the district once completed. The project is partially financed by the Asian Development Bank.

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Asian Development Bank, Government of India Sign Second Tranche of the SASEC Road Connectivity Investment Program

1 October 2018: Manila, Philippines

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India inked the second tranche of the SASEC Road Connectivity Investment Program in India. This \$150 million ADB loan project will be supplemented with financing of \$157.8 million from the Government of India. It will be key to integrating South and Southeast Asia by providing linkages between India and Myanmar.

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Regional: Supporting Knowledge Solutions for New Development Strategies in South Asia

12 September 2018: Manila, Philippines

This new technical assistance will undertake operationally-relevant analytical studies on key issues and challenges faced by countries in the South Asia Department of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). It will allow ADB to respond to South Asian countries' demand for knowledge support; identify crucial and immediate investment requirements; and promptly translate these identified projects into lending operation to accelerate their development impact.

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INTEGRATED CHECK POSTS HELP EASE TRADE BOTTLENECKS AT INDIA'S BORDERS



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ACCESS TO HALDIA PORT COULD OPEN THE MARKET TO NEPAL'S LESS MARKETING COMMODITIES

Bangladesh, Sri Lanka Finalize Coastal Shipping Deal to Cut Transshipment Cost

26 October 2018: Colombo, Sri Lanka

Bangladesh and Sri Lanka have finalized a coastal shipping agreement that would cut transshipment costs and reduce travel time between Chittagong, Bangladesh, and Colombo, Sri Lanka. The agreement would be signed once it receives approval at the Cabinet level in Sri Lanka.

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New India-Bangladesh Deals to Boost Inland Waterways Connectivity

26 October 2018: New Delhi, India

Bangladesh and India signed three bilateral memoranda of understanding to strengthen transport between the two countries using inland waterways. The pacts include an agreement for the use of Mongla and Chattogram ports in Bangladesh for transporting goods to and from India; the Addendum on the Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade; and a Standard Operating Procedure for movement of passengers and cruise vessels on inland protocol route and coastal shipping routes.

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India-Myanmar Connectivity Moves Forward with IMT Trilateral Highway, MVA, Bus Service

26 October 2018: New Delhi, India

Ongoing transport connectivity projects between India and Myanmar were highlighted in a meeting between Mr. Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Shipping, Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation of the Government of India, and Mr. U Thant Sin Maung, Minister for Communication and Transport of the Government of Myanmar. The two ministers discussed (i) the status of improvements in the Kalewa-Yagyi stretch of the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway, (ii) launching an Imphal-Mandalay bus service, and (iii) signing of a Motor Vehicles Agreement between the two countries.

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Preparatory Work Ongoing for the Planned Chobhar Dry Port

24 October 2018: Kathmandu, Nepal

The Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Supplies of the Government of Nepal shared that preparatory work is being carried out for the construction of the Chobhar Dry Port. This includes clearing of the project site, according to Mr. Rabi Shankar Sainju, Spokesperson for the Ministry. The planned Chobhar Dry Port will be equipped with warehouses, parking lots, litigation shed, customs administrative building, quarantine, banks, and other required facilities for customs clearance. It is funded by the World Bank with assistance worth \$22 million under the Nepal-India Regional Trade and Transport Project.

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Bangladesh, India Hold Joint Group of Customs Meeting, Work on Easing Petrapole-Benapole Congestion

15 October 2018: New Delhi, India

The Governments of Bangladesh and India agreed to conduct a feasibility study on introducing automatic document processing and record management of export-import cargo for faster clearance of goods at the Petrapole-Benapole Customs houses in the Joint Group of Customs meeting on 8-9 October. They also agreed to examine a proposal to introduce an electronic car pass system at Benapole Customs House. On 15 October, both customs administrations launched the "One-time Push" initiative to ease congestion of vehicles at the Benapole and Petrapole land ports.

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Developing India's Land Border Infrastructure to Improve Trade with Neighbors

14 October 2018: New Delhi, India

Upgrading land customs stations (LCS) to integrated check posts (ICP) can help ease India's trade bottlenecks at the border, and improve landlocked Bhutan and Nepal's access to sea ports. To date, seven of India's LCS have been upgraded into ICPs. The Government of India's Cabinet Committee on Security is currently reviewing a Rs4,500 crore (around \$608 million) proposal to upgrade 13 more land borders into ICPs. This development plan also supports the National Committee on Trade Facilitation's emphasis to boost the country's cross-border trade.

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Bangladesh High Commissioner to India Calls for More Investment

14 October 2018: Puducherry, India

Mr. Syed Muazzem Ali, Bangladesh High Commissioner to India, urged the Indian business community to invest more in Bangladesh in his address at the Pondicherry Global Economic Summit. Since Bangladesh needs substantial investment to broaden its export base, the Government has undertaken reforms to transform Bangladesh into a favorable investment destination. This includes offering world-class services in its associated ministries, departments, and agencies, and generous incentives to investors.

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Speech: How Global Trade Can Promote Growth for All

10 October 2018: Bali, Indonesia

Heads of the World Trade Organization, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development issued calls to bring a new focus on trade and the multilateral trading system to drive growth around the world. The organizations issued a call to ease trade tensions, and noted the role that trade has played in reducing poverty. This speech discusses the need to cooperate on trade issues to promote growth for all.

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Bangladesh, India Power Purchase Agreements Add 200 MW of Power Import

9 October 2018: New Delhi, India

PTC India Limited and the Bangladesh Power Development Board signed two new power purchase agreements on 9 October 2018 to add 200 megawatts of power import from India to Bangladesh. The contracts, worth \$1.8 billion, will be supplied to Bangladesh on a short- and long-term basis. The West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Ltd. will supply power for the short term trade. A coal project of Meenakshi Energy Ltd. will provide the long term power supply.

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Seminar Explores How Inland Waterways can be a Boon to India-Nepal Connectivity

1 October 2018: Kathmandu, Nepal

A seminar on inland waterways emphasized on the potential impact of connectivity between India and Nepal. As a cost-effective, safe, and environment-friendly transport option, it could shape the future of trade, tourism, and navigation between India and Nepal, according to Mr. Barsha Man Pun, Minister of Energy, Water Resources, and Irrigation, Government of Nepal. Access to India's Haldia port may also open the market to Nepal's less marketed commodities, noted Mr. Pun.

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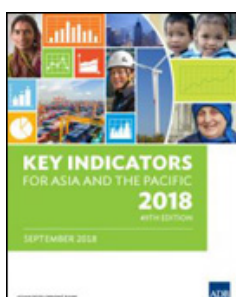
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SASEC WEBSITE BROCHURE



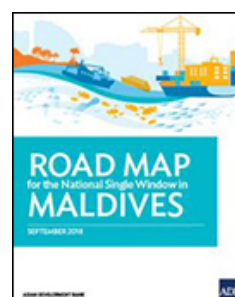
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