



## SASEC Events



- SASEC Event
- Ministry of Transport, Thailand

### Negotiation of Protocols for the IMT Motor Vehicle Agreement

**16-17 September 2015: Bangkok, Thailand**

The Ministry of Transport of Thailand organized a meeting to negotiate proposed protocols for the India-Myanmar-Thailand Motor Vehicle Agreement (IMT MVA). This Meeting approved the final text of the draft IMT MVA, including the recommended period of temporary admission with Customs duty exemption. The Meeting also agreed to hold a trial run of vehicles from Thailand to India through Myanmar in December 2015, and hold the IMT MVA signing by the Transport Ministers in January 2016.

[Read More >>](#)



- SASEC Technical Assistance
- Agenda

### Bhutan Customs Act 2015: Consultation Workshop on Rules and Regulations

**10-12 September 2015: Paro, Bhutan**

Bhutan's Department of Revenue and Customs conducted a 3-day Consultation Meeting to present and discuss the draft Rules and Regulations associated with the Customs Act of Bhutan to key Customs officials. It provided the platform to discuss and clarify issues related to Customs policy and procedures; finalize many of the 28 identified areas that require Rules and Regulations; and identify critical issues on the draft Customs Rules and Regulations 2015.

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- SASEC Event
- Road Transport and Highways Division, Bangladesh

### Negotiation of Protocols for the BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement

**8-9 September 2015: Dhaka, Bangladesh**

The Road Transport and Highways Division, Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges of Bangladesh organized a Meeting on the Proposed Protocols to the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal Motor Vehicles Agreement (BBIN MVA) to consider provisions of the draft protocol on the movement of passenger and cargo vehicles under the BBIN MVA. The Meeting agreed on the substantive contents of the proposed protocol on passenger vehicles, arrangements for pilot implementation/trial runs of the cargo vehicles, and the way forward, including trial runs on cargo vehicle movement, pilot run for regular passenger transport, BBIN Car Rally, and signing of the Protocol on Passenger Vehicular Movement.

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## SASEC Calendar

October 2015						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

### Upcoming SASEC Events

Central Board of Customs and Excise: National Workshop on Customs Valuation

28 Sep – 1 Oct 2015  
Faridabad, India

SASEC 2025 Regional Workshop

14-15 Oct 2015  
Singapore

Bhutan Standards Bureau ISO17025 Training

19-23 Oct 2015  
Singapore

Sri Lanka Customs Service: National Workshop on Customs Valuation

26-30 Oct 2015  
Colombo, Sri Lanka

Fourth Meeting of the SASEC Customs Subgroup

27-28 Oct 2015  
Cebu, Philippines

Finalization of the Study on the Electronic Cargo Tracking System for Kolkata and Phuentsholing

29 Oct 2015  
Cebu, Philippines



- [Final Report](#)
- [Agenda](#)

### **Subregional Workshop on ASYCUDA World 8-11 September 2015: Pokhara, Nepal**

The Nepal Department of Customs hosted a Subregional Workshop on ASYCUDA World with representatives from four SASEC countries using ASYCUDA- Bangladesh, the Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. The Workshop adopted a report of proceedings and formulated action points for implementing ASYCUDA World in the SASEC subregion. The four country delegations shared experiences on implementation of ASYCUDA. A detailed presentation on the functional side of ASYCUDA World was delivered by UNCTAD representatives.

[Read More >>](#)



- [Department of Revenue and Customs](#)
- [SASEC TF Strategy](#)

### **Regional Workshops on RAMIS Automated Customs Module: Priority 2 7-18 September 2015: Phuentsholing, Paro, Samtse, Gelephu, Samdrupjongkhar, and Thimphu, Bhutan**

The Department of Revenue and Customs (DRC), Ministry of Finance, Bhutan conducted the second in a series of User Acceptance Testing (UAT) of the Revenue Administration and Management System (RAMIS) Customs and Excise Module for focal officials of DRC on 17-25 August 2015, in Thimphu, Bhutan. Following the second UAT, the DRC focal officials delivered hands-on testing and training sessions to over 280 Customs officers throughout Bhutan to build in-house capacity and skills in operating RAMIS, DRC's upgraded automated system for Customs clearance procedures to be rolled out in early 2016.

[Read More >>](#)



- [SASEC Technical Assistance](#)
- [Agenda](#)

### **Department of Revenue and Customs ICT Training 31 August - 10 September 2015: Delhi, India**

Five core IT specialists from Bhutan's Department of Revenue and Customs (DRC) attended an intensive ICT training course, as part of DRC's preparations for the roll-out of its automated Revenue Administration Management Information System. This training program included comprehensive coverage of database administration. Subsequent training programs will focus on Java technology, web security, and IT project management.

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## **SASEC Projects**



- [The Financial Express](#)
- [SASEC Technical Assistance](#)

### **Strategic Master Plan for Chittagong Port Unveiled 7 September 2015: Dhaka, Bangladesh**

A new master plan outlining a 25-30 year vision for Chittagong Port has been unveiled in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Development under the plan is expected to increase port efficiency and is estimated to cost around \$1.9 billion. Recommendations include: construction of three key terminals in the port area, including a container terminal on the existing general cargo berths and a new multipurpose terminal for non-container cargo; port facility on a small island in the Bay of Bengal; and expansion of hinterland links, including roads.

[Read More >>](#)

## **SASEC News**



- [ADB Support for Regional Power Trade Development](#)

### **ADB Study Quantifies How Cross-Border Power Trading can Benefit South Asia 22 September 2015: Manila, Philippines**

An ADB study has measured the economic and reliability benefits of cross-border electricity trading for countries in South Asia. Findings reveal that power trading in South Asia can not only serve the region's growing demand for energy but also save the region billions of dollars. Recommendations include a market-driven process for cross-border power trading implemented under a regulatory framework across the region.

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### **Commentary: Why South Asia Needs Regional Integration** **17 September 2015: Delhi, Ind**

This commentary describes how regional cooperation and integration can help improve cross-border connectivity, increase regional trade and investment, mobilize regional savings for regional investment, reduce macroeconomic vulnerability to shocks, facilitate cooperation in regional public goods, and improve the overall governance standards across the region.

[Read More >>](#)

- [The Financial Express](#)
- [ADB Regional Cooperation and Integration Strategy](#)



### **Sri Lanka Prime Minister Wickremesinghe and India Prime Minister Modi Set to Deepen Engagement** **14-16 September 2015: New Delhi, Ind**

Sri Lanka Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe has extended an invitation for Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to visit Sri Lanka in May or June 2016 to sign an agreement on economic and technological cooperation. The two Prime Ministers held discussions on enhancing economic ties between India and Sri Lanka and resuming ferry services during Prime Minister Wickremesinghe's visit to New Delhi, India.

[Read More >>](#)

- [Sri Lanka Ministry of Foreign Affairs News Release](#)
- [Colombo Page](#)



### **Commentary: Implementation of WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement in Bangladesh** **12 September 2015: Dhaka, Bangladesh**

Read a commentary on the implementation of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) in Bangladesh. The TFA provides a series of measures to facilitate smooth and efficient movement of goods across borders inspired by best practices from around the world. It is expected to benefit all members of the WTO, including Bangladesh.

[Read More >>](#)

- [The Financial Express](#)
- [WTO TFA](#)



### **ADB-Supported BBIN MVA Meeting Kicks Off Protocol Negotiations** **9 September 2015: Dhaka, Bangladesh**

The technical committees of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal (BBIN) wrapped up a two-day meeting for the BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA) protocol negotiations on 9 September 2015. The Meeting initiated negotiations, reaching agreement on guidelines for cross-border movement of passenger and cargo vehicles.

[Read More >>](#)

- [The Daily Star](#)
- [SASEC Technical Assistance](#)



### **Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal Discuss MVA Protocols in Dhaka** **8-9 September 2015: Dhaka, Bangladesh**

The Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges (MoRTB), Bangladesh hosted a two-day Secretary-level meeting of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal (BBIN) to discuss the protocols of the BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA). Secretary of Road Transport and Highways Division, MoRTB, said Bangladesh will allow cross-border cargo transport on roads connected to functional land ports.

[Read More >>](#)

- [The Financial Express](#)
- [The Daily Star](#)





### **Bangladesh Businessmen Call for Better Land Port Infrastructure** **7 September 2015: Dhaka, Bangladesh**

Bangladesh businessmen envisage increased trade with India if constraints on land port infrastructure are addressed. Land ports and land Customs stations play a significant role in the country's trade within the subregion. Current limitations in infrastructure, communication, and excessive documentation create hurdles for trade efficiency.

[Read More >>](#)

- Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry
- SASEC Project



### **Development of Land Ports in Bangladesh to Boost Regional Trade** **5 September 2015: Dhaka, Bangladesh**

The Government of Bangladesh will develop the country's land ports to spur regional trade, undertaking around \$84.76 million worth of projects to improve land port infrastructure, warehouse facilities, Customs control procedures, and the institutional and regulatory framework. This initiative will facilitate more efficient movement of goods by cutting border-crossing times to and from Bangladesh, toward Bhutan, India, and Nepal.

[Read More >>](#)

- Dhaka Tribune
- The Financial Express



### **6th Bhutan International Trade Fair 2015** **4 September 2015: Thimphu, Bhutan**

Bhutan and Nepal held an international trade fair to boost trade between the two countries. This private sector event recognized Bhutan as a potential market for a growing number of businesses. A total of 215 business entities from seven countries participated in the fair.

[Read More >>](#)

- Trade Fair Brochure
- Federation of Handicraft Associations of Nepal



### **India's Entry into APEC — A Welcome Move** **3 September 2015: New Delhi, India**

India's future membership in the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation is looking bright in 2015-2016. Joining this inter-regional cooperation would ensure India's access to the global supply chain, not only boosting India's economy but also easing its entry into new markets in the Pacific.

[Read More >>](#)

- The Economic Times



### **Fourth India-Bhutan Development Cooperation Talks** **2 September 2015: New Delhi, India**

The Fourth Annual India-Bhutan Development Cooperation Talks discussed bilateral development assistance to Bhutan, with India pledging about \$677.28 million of project assistance to Bhutan. Both sides noted with satisfaction the progress of Small Development Projects and overall project implementation.

[Read More >>](#)

- Kuensel Online
- The New Indian Express



### **SAARC Expresses Need for Regional Standard and Certification System 3 September 2015: Thimphu, Bhutan**

Representatives from South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) member countries expressed the need for a regional standard and certification system in Thimphu, Bhutan to create opportunities for farmers and exploit market potential in the region. Bhutan will soon export organically grown products to neighboring SAARC countries.

[Read More >>](#)

- [Kuensel Online](#)



### **Trade Restrictions on the Rise: WTO Report 3 August 2015: Geneva, Switzerland**

Data from the World Trade Organization's (WTO) latest monitoring report reveal 104 new trade restrictions were adopted by WTO members from mid-October 2014 to mid-May 2015, an increase of 12% since the last reporting period. WTO Director General Roberto Azevêdo said the organization should seek to make decisive progress in eliminating remaining trade-restrictive measures.

[Read More >>](#)

- [International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development](#)
- [WTO Report](#)

## **Related Publications**



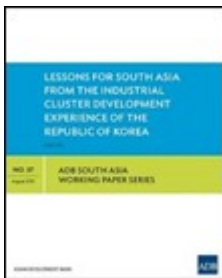
[Driving Across the South Asian Borders: The MVA between Bhutan, Bangladesh, India and Nepal](#)



[BBIN MVA: Unlocking the Potential for Vibrant Regional Road Freight Connectivity](#)



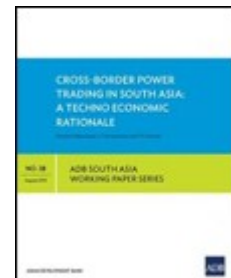
[Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures: Ensuring Safe Trading Without Unnecessary Restrictions](#)



[Lessons for South Asia from the Industrial Cluster Development Experience of the Republic of Korea](#)



[Asian Development Outlook 2015 Update: Enabling Women, Energizing Asia](#)



[Cross-Border Power Trading In South Asia: A Techno Economic Rationale](#)

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