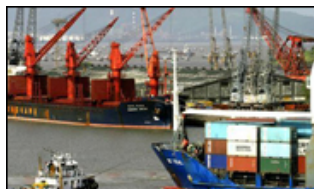




SASEC EVENTS
SASEC HOLDS CUSTOMS
WORKSHOP ON TRADE
MEASURES FOR AEOs



SASEC PROJECTS
ADB UNDERTAKES
STUDY ON COASTAL
SHIPPING



SASEC NEWS
RANONG PORT TO BE
THAILAND'S GATEWAY
TO SOUTH ASIA



PUBLICATIONS
THE WEB OF TRANSPORT
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ASIA



SASEC NEWS

THE SOUTH ASIA SUBREGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION NEWSLETTER

ISSUE #60 SEPTEMBER 2018

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SASEC Elevated Highway to Improve Connectivity and Trade in Sri Lanka

27 September 2018: Manila, Philippines

A toll highway to be built in central Colombo will ease traffic congestion, improve connectivity, and facilitate trade logistics in Sri Lanka. The Asian Development Bank has approved a \$300 million loan to help in the construction of about 5.3 kilometers of the highway, under the SASEC Port Access Elevated Highway Project.

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SASEC EVENTS



EVENT THAILAND

Workshop on BIMSTEC
Transport Master Plan



EVENT INDIA

Workshop for SASEC
Customs Administrations
on Trade Facilitation
Measures for AEO



EVENT INDIA

Workshop on Coastal
Shipping Study

Workshop on BIMSTEC Transport Master Plan

17-18 September 2018: Bangkok, Thailand

The Asian Development Bank organized a Workshop to finalize the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Master Plan on Transport Connectivity. The Workshop introduced the process of developing the Master Plan; presented the Master Plan's overall structure and main contents; and gathered feedback from ministries of foreign affairs and transport line ministries/agencies of the seven BIMSTEC member states on further improvements to the Master Plan.

[Read More](#)

Workshop for SASEC Customs Administrations on Trade Facilitation Measures for Authorized Economic Operators

12-14 September 2018: Faridabad, India

The National Academy of Customs, Indirect taxes, and Narcotics (NACIN) conducted a capacity building program for SASEC customs administrations on trade facilitation measures for authorized economic operators. SASEC Customs administrations have endorsed a multiyear knowledge-sharing program between SASEC and NACIN, following the signing of the Memorandum of Intent for Cooperation in Customs Capacity Building between SASEC program countries and the Asian Development Bank at the Seventh SASEC Customs Subgroup meeting in July 2018 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. This program is designed to enhance SASEC countries' efforts to comply with provisions of the WTO TFA.

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Top Tweets

September 2018



South Asia's Transport Corridors Can Become Engines of Growth [Read](#)

Commentary: India-Myanmar-Thailand Highway, SASEC Road Connectivity project promise to boost trade and commerce in India and enhance the country's logistics capabilities [Read](#)

Exhibition by SAARC women entrepreneurs showcases goods from Afghanistan, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, etc. [Read](#)

Bangladesh's import of hydroelectricity from Nepal and Bhutan through Indian territory discussed at a joint working group meeting between India and Bangladesh [Read](#)

BIMSTEC foreign ministers agree to push forward 167 connectivity-related projects at an estimated cost of \$50 billion [Read](#)



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CALENDAR

October and November

India: Workshop on the Coastal Shipping Study

8 October 2018: Mumbai, India

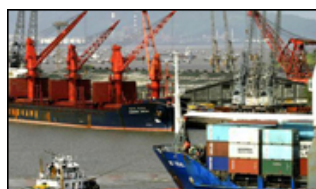
Inter-subregional Forum on Enhanced Implementation of the WTO TFA

30-31 October 2018: Bangkok, Thailand

NACIN Workshop on Time Release Study

26-27 November 2018: Faridabad, India

SASEC PROJECTS



PROJECT

ADB UNDERTAKES
STUDY ON COASTAL
SHIPPING



PROJECT

SASEC ELEVATED
HIGHWAY TO SPUR SRI
LANKA CONNECTIVITY



PROJECT

SASEC REGIONAL
ENERGY COOPERATION



PROJECT

SASEC ROAD
CONNECTIVITY
INVESTMENT PROGRAM

India: SASEC Road Connectivity Investment Program -Tranche 2

1 October 2018: Manila, Philippines

This project is the second disbursement of a multitranche financing facility investment program that will increase domestic and regional trade through North Bengal and the northeastern region of India. Tranche 2 will finance upgrading a section of the Asian Highway (AH)-1 linking Manipur state to Myanmar, and will construct last mile connectivity improvement of an international bridge between India and Nepal, along AH-2. The tranche 2 subprojects will further reduce transaction costs along the targeted cross-border corridors, ushering in economies of scale and commercial prosperity.

[Read More](#)

ADB Undertakes Study on Coastal Shipping

27 September 2018: New Delhi, India

The Government of India has tasked the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to undertake a study on coastal shipping. The Government aims to analyze constraints to coastal shipping to facilitate seamless connectivity between consumers and producers using the coastal shipping route. ADB is expected to submit a report on coastal shipping issues and suggested recommendations to the Ministry of Shipping in December.

[Read More](#)

Regional: SASEC Regional Energy Cooperation

10 September 2018: Manila, Philippines

The new regional knowledge and support technical assistance will prepare development master plans and enhance capacity development for the energy sector's regional cooperation and integration under the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation program.

[Read More](#)

Regional: Implementing Trade Facilitation Initiatives under the SASEC Program

3 September 2018: Manila, Philippines

This new technical assistance will support continued trade facilitation activities for the seven participating countries of the SASEC program, focusing on modernizing and harmonizing customs, strengthening standards and conformity assessment, facilitating cross-border transport, and building institutional capacity. This TA will provide studies and analytical work needed to bring trade facilitation initiatives closer to implementation and ensure effective knowledge sharing and capacity development of SASEC trade-related agencies.

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NEWS

**NEW BUS SERVICES
LINK BIHAR AND
KATHMANDU**



NEWS

**RANONG PORT TO BE
THAILAND'S GATEWAY
TO SOUTH ASIA**

India-Nepal Meeting on Energy Cooperation Discusses Potential LPG and LNG Pipelines

28 September 2018: Kathmandu, Nepal

Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India, and Mr. Matrika Prasad Yadav, Minister for Industry, Commerce and Supply, Government of Nepal, held a bilateral meeting to discuss strengthening of energy and economic ties between the two countries. Both ministers agreed to explore potential pipelines for LPG and LNG to supply fertilizer plants and industries in Nepal.

[Read More](#)

Bangladesh and India Review Trade, Investment, and Connectivity

26 September 2018: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Mr. Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation, Government of India, and Mr. Tofail Ahmed, Minister of Commerce, Government of Bangladesh, held a bilateral meeting to discuss matters of trade, investment, and connectivity. The two ministers agreed to undertake a joint study for a potential Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, fast-track six new border "haats" (markets), and improve infrastructure of Land Customs Stations. They also remarked on the proposal to restore pre-1965 railway linkages.

[Read More](#)

15th Bangladesh-India JSC Meeting on the Power Sector Reviews Energy Cooperation

25 September 2018: Sylhet, Bangladesh

The 15th Meeting of the Bangladesh-India Joint Steering Committee on Power Sector reviewed the existing cooperation between the two countries in the energy sector. Bangladesh plans to import an additional 340 megawatt electricity through the Surjomoni-Cumilla North Link, under government-to-government modality. The meeting also reviewed the proposal to set up a power transmission line that will enable Bangladesh to import electricity from Bhutan and Nepal through India.

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Bangladesh and India Inaugurate Friendship Pipeline, Railway Projects

18 September 2018: Dhaka, Bangladesh and New Delhi, India

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and India Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a video conference, jointly inaugurated the 130-kilometer India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline Project, and the third and fourth dual-gauge rail lines in the Dhaka-Tongi section and dual-gauge rail line in the Tongi-Joydebpur section of Bangladesh Railway. The pipeline will support pumping of oil from India to Bangladesh, helping fulfill the country's energy needs at less costly rates.

[Read More](#)

Bangladesh Grants India Access to its Chittagong and Mongla Ports

17 September 2018: Dhaka, Bangladesh

The Bangladesh Cabinet approved the proposal to allow India access to its Chittagong and Mongla ports to transport cargo to its northeastern region. This will reduce transit time and help traders save costs. International rules and the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade will be applied, as well as applicable laws and rules on freight in Bangladesh. Goods bound for India's northeastern region will be carried onboard Bangladeshi vehicles that will be equipped with tracking systems.

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Nepal Experts Study India's Inland Waterways

17 September 2018: New Delhi, India

A team of technical experts from Nepal undertook an official visit to India to (i) study India's inland waterway infrastructures in consideration of Nepal's needs, and (ii) hold discussions with their counterparts in India. This field visit follows the meeting between Indian and Nepalese government officials held in July 2018 in Kathmandu, Nepal, which agreed that the Narayani river basin will be used for Nepal's cross-border trade with India and inland waterways within the country.

[Read More](#)

Bus Services Linking Bihar and Kathmandu Launched

10 September 2018: Bihar, India

The bus service connecting Bihar, India, to Nepal was flagged off by Mr. Nitish Kumar, Chief Minister, Bihar, India. Two routes have started running beginning 13 September: (i) Bodh Gaya in Bihar to Kathmandu, Nepal, and (ii) Patna, Bihar to Kathmandu, via Janakpur, Nepal. The service aims to promote tourism between the two countries, and further strengthen India-Nepal relations.

[Read More](#)

Ranong Port to be Thailand's Gateway to South Asia

10 September 2018: Kolkata, India

The Government of Thailand aims to increase bilateral trade with India by developing Ranong port. According to Mr. Tharadol Thongruang, Minister Counsellor (Commercial), Office of Commercial Affairs, Royal Thai Embassy in New Delhi, India, using Ranong port for trade with India's Kolkata and Chennai ports will reduce distance between the two countries and boost trade.

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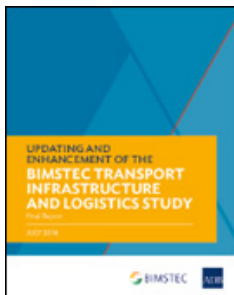
**SASEC TRADE
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**SASEC WEBSITE
BROCHURE**



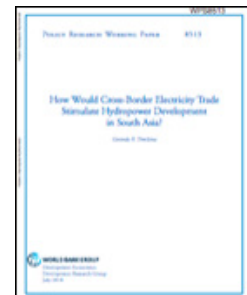
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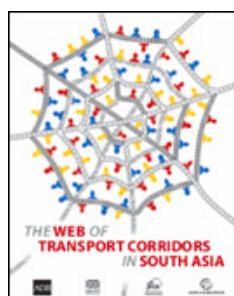
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