



SASEC Events



Bangladesh National Consultation on SPS and TBT Diagnostic Study **28 September 2016: Dhaka, Bangladesh**

The Bangladesh Ministry of Commerce, together with ADB, conducted a national consultation meeting on sanitary/phytosanitary (SPS) and technical barriers to trade (TBT) on 28 September in Dhaka, Bangladesh, in preparation for launching a national SPS/TBT diagnostic study.

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- [Agenda](#)
- [Terms of Reference](#)



Workshop on International Standards and Conventions Relating to Temporary Admission **22-23 September 2016: New Delhi, India**

ADB and the ADB Institute conducted a Workshop on International Standards and Conventions Relating to Temporary Admission in New Delhi, India. The Workshop sought to facilitate trade in SASEC by promoting standardization and harmonization of formalities associated with temporary admission of goods and vehicles, and by building the capacity of SASEC Customs administrations and related agencies.

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ASYCUDA World Intensive Training **13-23 September 2016: Pokhara, Nepal**

The Nepal Department of Customs (DOC) is graduating its core Customs automation system from ASYCUDA++ to the web-based ASYCUDA World. A prototype of ASYCUDA World was developed and implemented first in Mechi Customs Office in January 2016, and a second pilot was rolled out in Sirsiya Dryport Customs Office in July 2016.

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SASEC Projects



ADB Approves \$1.5 Billion Railway Project for Bangladesh **29 September 2016: Manila, Philippines**

The Asian Development Bank has approved a multitranchise loan of \$1.5 billion to the Government of Bangladesh for construction of a key section of the Chittagong-Cox's Bazar railway line—the largest ever investment in railways by ADB. The new line will improve Bangladesh's access to Myanmar and beyond, facilitate trade, and boost tourism in southeastern Bangladesh.

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SASEC Calendar

October 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	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

Bhutan: SASEC 2025 Vision Document National Workshop
26 October
Thimpu, Bhutan

Nepal: SASEC 2025 Vision Document National Workshop
7 November
Kathmandu, Nepal

India: SASEC 2025 Vision Document National Workshop
11 November
Guwahati, India

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SASEC News

ADB to Fund India's First Coastal Industrial Corridor **29 September 2016: Manila, Philippines**

ADB has approved a multitranche financing facility and grant of \$500 million for the Visakhapatnam-Chennai Industrial Corridor Development Program to develop India's first coastal industrial corridor, with the Government of India also contributing \$215 million in funding. The Visakhapatnam-Chennai Industrial Corridor is a key section of India's planned East Coast Economic Corridor that will spur development on the country's eastern coast and create seamless trade links with other parts of South and Southeast Asia.

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- [Kuensel](#)

13th SAARC Trade Fair Held in Thimphu **9-12 September 2016: Thimphu, Bhutan**

The 13th SAARC trade fair was held in Thimphu, Bhutan, to promote intra-regional trade and investment among SAARC countries. In his opening address, Mr. Lekey Dorji, Bhutan Economic Affairs Minister, underscored the importance of fostering business links among companies in the region to accelerate economic growth and improve people's well-being.

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Nepal Parliament Ratifies Protocol of Amendments to the Revised Kyoto Convention

9 September 2016: Kathmandu, Nepal

The Nepal Parliament ratified the Protocol of Amendments to the International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedure (Revised Kyoto Convention) on 9 September 2016, tabled by Mr. Krishna Bahadur Mahara, Nepal Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister. The ratification is expected to boost the capacity of Nepal Customs to facilitate trade.

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- [Financial Express](#)

India Sets IMT Trilateral Highway Completion **9 September 2016: Vientiane, Laos**

The India-Myanmar-Thailand (IMT) Trilateral Highway is set to be completed by 2019-2020. India Prime Minister Narendra Modi has assigned the India Ministry of External Affairs to monitor and oversee its completion. Prime Minister Modi also proposed creation of a joint task force on connectivity comprising India and ASEAN members. The IMT Trilateral Highway will link South and Southeast Asia, starting from India's Moreh City in Manipur, passing through Myanmar's Tamu City, and continuing up to Thailand's Tak Mae Sot.

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- [Dhaka Tribune](#)

Bangladesh Forming a Hydropower Generation Company **9 September 2016: Dhaka, Bangladesh**

The Government of Bangladesh plans to form a hydropower generation company to import hydropower from countries including Bhutan and Nepal. The initiative will be set up under Bangladesh's Power Division, Ministry of Power, Energy, and Mineral Resources. The company's memorandum of association and articles of association will soon be formulated. A trilateral meeting was set among Bangladesh, Bhutan, and India in October 2016.

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Seminar Emphasizes Need to Attract More FDI for Nepal's Hydropower Sector 8 September 2016: Kathmandu, Nepal

A 'Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Hydropower' forum in Kathmandu, Nepal, stressed the need for more FDI in hydropower projects. According to Nepal Minister for Energy Janardan Sharma, Nepal needs more investment to be able to fully harness its hydropower capacity. The Power Trade Agreement signed by Nepal and India promises a huge market for Nepal's hydroelectricity.

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- [My Republica](#)



Maldives Invites Sri Lankan Firms to Invest in Projects 8 September 2016: Male, Maldives

The Government of Maldives has invited Sri Lankan businesses to invest in the archipelago, and bid for projects in airport development, housing, hospitals and renewable energy. Maldivian High Commissioner in Sri Lanka, Zahiya Zareer emphasized the need for Maldives and Sri Lanka to build more commercial ties, in addition to traditionally traded goods between the two countries, including fruits, vegetables and fisheries, to expand Maldives-Sri Lanka trade links.

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- [Adaderana](#)
- [Economy Next](#)



Agricultural Value Chains can be Game Changer for India-Bangladesh Trade 8 September 2016: Tripura, India

A seminar organized by CUTS International has recommended promotion of regional value chains in agriculture between India and Bangladesh. A recent CUTS International study revealed huge opportunities for trade in agricultural produce: for example, in Tripura, India, produce sourced from Indian states can be easily imported from nearby areas of Bangladesh at a much faster time and for less cost.

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- [BDnews24](#)



National Single Window to Simplify Bangladesh Cross-border Trade 7 September 2016: Dhaka, Bangladesh

The Government of Bangladesh will establish a National Single Window to simplify cross-border trade procedures and improve Bangladesh's ease of doing business. The system will facilitate import, export, and transit transactions using an electronic portal that links all relevant agencies for cross-border trade.

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- [Financial Express](#)



Customs-free BBIN Borders to Cut Time, Cost for Traders 7 September 2016: New Delhi, India

Customs-free borders for Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal will save time and money for importers and exporters and thereby increase the ease of doing business, according to the Federation of Indian Exporters Organisation (FIEO). Because goods no longer have to be unloaded at the border, trucks can easily cross borders, reducing time and logistics costs for both buyer and seller.

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- [KNN](#)



India to Prioritize Working towards TFA for Services **6 September 2016: Hangzhou, China**

India Prime Minister Narendra Modi shared the country's desire to prioritize a trade facilitation agreement (TFA) for services, on 6 September at the G20 Summit in Hangzhou, China, noting its potential to help professionals and business move from one country to another. Mr. Modi said that the service sector has huge potential and contributes significantly to the economy.

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- [Economic Times](#)



Second BBIN Trial Run Demonstrates Benefits of BBIN MVA **5 September 2016: Biratnagar, Nepal**

A new chapter in trade relations and people-to-people contact between Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal (BBIN) began on 5 September 2016, as a Bangladeshi cargo truck rolled into the Customs Inland Container Depot, Patparganj, Delhi. Though the vehicle entered India through Petrapole Land Customs Station, Customs clearance was done at the ICD, Patparganj, as part of a trial run of the BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement.

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- [High Commission of India](#)



Bangladesh to Sign FTA, Coastal Shipping Deal with Sri Lanka **5 September 2016: Colombo, Sri Lanka**

Bangladesh is set to sign a free trade agreement and a coastal shipping deal with Sri Lanka to boost trade and investments between the two countries. A Joint Study Group will be formed to accelerate development of the coastal shipping agreement, for which standard operating procedures are being drafted.

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- [Financial Express](#)

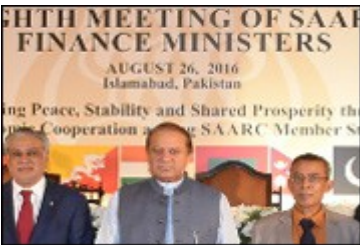


India to Provide Rail Link to Bhutan **5 September 2016: New Delhi, India**

As part of the Government of India's Act East Policy, Indian Railways is set to provide a rail link to Bhutan to boost ties with its South Asian neighbors. Feasibility studies have been conducted for extended links between Kokrajhar-Gelephu, Rangiya-Samdrupjonkhar, Banarhat-Samtse, and Pathsala-Nanglam. India's Northeast Frontier Railway has also undertaken survey work for rail connectivity to Nepal and Bangladesh.

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- [Northeast Today](#)
- [Shillong Times](#)



SAARC Ministers Push for Economic Union **4 September 2016: Islamabad, Pakistan**

Finance Ministers from the eight SAARC member states are pushing for the formation of a South Asian Economic Union (SAEU) to ensure larger inflow of investments, higher trade volumes, and energy generation. The ministers highlighted the need to fast-track the formation of the SAEU to help boost the inflow of investments and trade volumes.

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- [Khaleej Times](#)



India Calls on BRICS to Deepen Ties with BIMSTEC Countries **4 September 2016: Hangzhou, China**

India Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that BRICS nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) share the responsibility to shape an agenda to help developing nations. He also spoke of the need to deepen ties with Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) countries.

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- [Indian Express](#)



• Himalayan Times

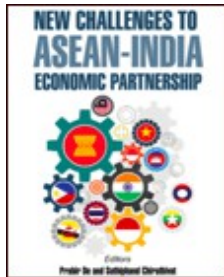
SAARC Framework Agreement for Energy Cooperation Endorsed by Nepal Parliament

25 August 2016: Kathmandu, Nepal

The Parliament of Nepal has endorsed the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Framework Agreement for Energy Cooperation, enabling the 8 SAARC member countries to conduct cross-border electricity trade. Under the Agreement, SAARC member states have agreed to provide non-discriminatory access to the regional transmission grids.

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Related Publications



Celebrating the Third Decade and Beyond: New Challenges to ASEAN-India Economic Partnership



South Asian Approach to Sustainable Development Goals



South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation Operational Plan 2016-2025



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