



SASEC EVENTS

**SASEC VISION
DOCUMENT NATIONAL
CONSULTATION
WORKSHOP**



SASEC PROJECTS

**ADB APPROVES SASEC
ROADS IMPROVEMENT
PROJECT IN NEPAL**



SASEC NEWS

**INDIA, MYANMAR,
THAILAND HOLD
FRIENDSHIP MOTOR
CAR RALLY**



PUBLICATIONS

**TRADE COSTS AND
INCLUSIVE GROWTH**



SASEC NEWS

THE SOUTH ASIA SUBREGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION NEWSLETTER

ISSUE #40 NOVEMBER 2016

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SASEC Portfolio Tops \$9 Billion

1 December 2016: Manila, Philippines

The SASEC project portfolio has surpassed the \$9 billion mark with the approval of Nepal's SASEC Roads Improvement Project, worth \$256.5 million. There are now 44 SASEC investment projects worth a cumulative \$9.13 billion. During 2016, seven projects have been approved for a total of \$2.37 billion: Bangladesh's SASEC Chittagong-Cox's Bazar Railway Project – Tranche 1, and the Railway Sector Investment Program - Tranche 4; India's Visakhapatnam-Chennai Industrial Corridor Development Program – Project 1, and the Bihar New Ganga Bridge Project; Bhutan's additional financing for the Air Transport Connectivity Enhancement Project, as well as the SASEC Transport, Trade Facilitation, and Logistics Project; and Nepal's SASEC Roads Improvement Project. The SASEC transport sector now comprises 31 active projects worth \$7.30 billion, followed by the energy sector with 10 projects worth \$1.28 billion, 1 trade facilitation project worth \$48 million, and 1 ICT project worth \$18 million.

SASEC EVENTS



EVENT
**BANGLADESH, INDIA,
MALDIVES, NEPAL,
SRI LANKA**
SASEC Vision Document
National Consultation



EVENT
INDIA
National Consultation on
Sanitary/Phytosanitary and
Technical Barriers to Trade



EVENT
NEPAL
Customs Reform and
Modernization Strategies
and Action Plan Validation
Seminar

Nepal: Customs Reform and Modernization Strategies and Action Plan Validation Seminar

27 November 2016: Chitwan, Nepal

Nepal's Department of Customs held a validation seminar to confirm the next phase of the Customs Reform and Modernization Strategies and Action Plan (CRMSAP) 2017-2021, in Chitwan, Nepal. The Asian Development Bank provided technical and expert support for preparation of the CRMSAP 2017-2021.

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India: National Consultation on Sanitary/Phytosanitary and Technical Barriers to Trade

23 November 2016: New Delhi, India

The national consultation meeting on sanitary/phytosanitary (SPS) and technical barriers to trade (TBT) held in New Delhi, India, agreed on (i) an adjusted terms of reference for the national SPS/TBT diagnostic study in India; (ii) working arrangements for the India SPS/TBT Focal Point and Core Group; and (iii) confirmed next steps for launching the national SPS/TBT diagnostic study.

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Top Tweets

November 2016



ADB-supported coastal industrial corridor in India to enhance trade links between South & Southeast Asia [Read](#)

India's Visakhapatnam-Chennai Industrial Corridor receives major support from ADB [Read](#)

\$48 million ADB support to help Assam expand, upgrade its power distribution system [Read](#)

Bangladesh, Nepal to conduct a road route survey under the BBIN transport agreement in December [Read](#)

Bangladesh willing to invest \$1 billion in Bhutan's 1,125MW Dorjilung Hydropower Project [Read](#)



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Bangladesh: SASEC Vision Document National Consultation Workshop

21 November 2016: Dhaka, Bangladesh

The National Consultation Workshop for the draft SASEC Vision document in Bangladesh discussed key elements of this long-term strategy document with stakeholders from the Government of Bangladesh and representatives of the private sector, to obtain inputs for consideration in the revision and finalization of the Vision.

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Sri Lanka: SASEC Vision Document National Consultation Workshop

18 November 2016: Colombo, Sri Lanka

The National Consultation Workshop for the draft SASEC Vision document in Sri Lanka discussed key elements of this long-term strategy document with stakeholders from the Government of Sri Lanka and representatives of the private sector, to obtain inputs for consideration in the revision and finalization of the Vision.

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Maldives: SASEC Vision Document National Consultation Workshop

15 November 2016: Male, Maldives

The National Consultation Workshop for the draft SASEC Vision document in Maldives discussed key elements of this long-term strategy document with stakeholders from the Government of Maldives, to obtain inputs for consideration in the revision and finalization of the Vision.

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India: SASEC Vision Document National Consultation Workshop

10 November 2016: New Delhi, India

The National Consultation Workshop for the draft SASEC Vision document in India discussed key elements of this long-term strategy document with stakeholders from the Government of India and representatives of the private sector to obtain inputs for consideration in the revision and finalization of the Vision.

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Nepal: SASEC Vision Document National Consultation Workshop

7 November 2016: Kathmandu, Nepal

The Nepal Ministry of Finance hosted the National Consultation Workshop for the draft SASEC Vision document. The Workshop discussed key elements of the draft SASEC Vision document, and launched the SASEC Operational Plan 2016-2025.

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December

Fourth Meeting of the SASEC Electricity Transmission Utility Forum

12-13 December 2016: Thimphu, Bhutan

SASEC PROJECTS



PROJECT
ADB APPROVES SASEC
ROADS IMPROVEMENT
PROJECT IN NEPAL



PROJECT
SASEC ROAD
IMPROVEMENT TO
BOOST CONNECTIVITY



PROJECT
FIRM TO DEVELOP
SRI LANKA PORTS
MASTER PLAN



PROJECT
SASEC OPERATIONAL
PLAN LAUNCHED IN
NEPAL

SASEC Roads Improvement Project to Boost Nepal's Transport Connectivity and Export Competitiveness

1 December 2016: Manila, Philippines

The Asian Development Bank has approved a loan for \$187 million to Nepal for the SASEC Roads Improvement Project, which will upgrade transport connectivity and bring transformational gains by making social services more accessible, opening up previously untapped economic opportunities, and supporting trade between Nepal and India.

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Sri Lanka Ports Authority, ADB Engage Firm to Develop Master Plan

30 November 2016: Manila, Philippines

The Sri Lanka Ports Authority and the Asian Development Bank has engaged the Maritime and Transport Business Solution company to develop a National Ports Master Plan to further strengthen Sri Lanka's port sector.

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SASEC Operational Plan Launched in Nepal

7 November 2016: Kathmandu, Nepal

The SASEC Operational Plan, which aligns and brings together all SASEC sectoral strategies, was launched in Kathmandu, Nepal. With 37 of the 200 planned projects set to be implemented in Nepal, the Government's policy reform efforts to integrate with global markets is set to receive a significant boost, especially given the priority areas of focus in the Operational Plan: transport, trade facilitation, energy, and economic corridor development.

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SASEC NEWS



NEWS

IMT FRIENDSHIP CAR RALLY COVERS 5,722 KILOMETERS



NEWS

BANGLADESH, BHUTAN DISCUSS POTENTIAL HYDROPOWER PROJECT



NEWS

BANGLADESH, NEPAL TO CONDUCT ROAD ROUTE SURVEY



NEWS

NEW INDIA-BHUTAN TRADE AGREEMENT SIGNED

IMT Friendship Motor Car Rally Highlights IMT Connectivity

2 December 2016: Bangkok, Thailand

An India-Myanmar-Thailand (IMT) Friendship Motor Car Rally, beginning in New Delhi, India and culminating in Bangkok, Thailand, has highlighted potential benefits of intra-regional connectivity and integration, and sensitized stakeholders on the all-weather road that will make travel from New Delhi to Bangkok by road possible.

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Nepal's Third Country Trade through Vizag Port Moves Forward

21 November 2016: Kathmandu, Nepal

A notification for moving export and import cargo to and from Nepal through Visakhapatnam (Vizag) Port in Andhra Pradesh, India, was issued by the Nepal Department of Customs. This follows the go-ahead given by the Central Bank of Nepal to issue letters of credit to clients using Vizag Port to bring in trade. Furthermore, the Government of Nepal is considering establishing a consulate in Andhra Pradesh to ensure more efficient utilization of Vizag Port.

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East Coast Economic Corridor to Include Odisha

18 November 2016: Visakhapatnam, India

The State Government of Odisha will prepare a conceptual development plan for the first phase of the East Coast Economic Corridor (ECEC) by March 2017. Odisha has been included in the ECEC following discussions between officials of the Government of India and the Asian Development Bank.

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Bangladesh-Nepal Road Route Survey to be Held in December

15 November 2016: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Government officials of Bangladesh and Nepal will conduct a joint survey on a potential road route under the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) Motor Vehicle Agreement (MVA), starting from 5 December 2016. It will check road conditions, length of travel, and necessary infrastructure to ensure seamless movement of vehicles.

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New India-Bhutan Bilateral Trade Agreement Signed

12 November 2016: Thimphu, Bhutan

The new India-Bhutan Trade, Commerce and Transit Agreement was signed on 12 November 2016 in Thimphu, Bhutan. The bilateral Agreement focuses on promoting trade between the two countries through trade facilitation, improving trade procedures, and adding exit and entry points to facilitate Bhutan's third-country trade.

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Bangladesh, Sri Lanka to Sign a Free Trade Agreement

10 November 2016: Colombo, Sri Lanka

Bangladesh and Sri Lanka have agreed to sign a free trade agreement to enhance bilateral trade between the two countries. This decision came out of the Fifth Joint Economic Cooperation Session between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, and reflects an eagerness of both countries to improve trade volumes.

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Bangladesh to Improve Ease of Doing Business to Attract More Indian Investors

10 November 2016: Dhaka, Bangladesh

In a meeting with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Mr. Kazi M. Aminul Islam, Chairman, Bangladesh Investment Development Authority, promised CII delegates that Bangladesh will work toward improving the country's 'Ease of Doing Business' to encourage more investors from India. Bangladesh has set a five-year target to improve its ease of doing business.

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Bangladesh Foreign Minister, Bhutan Ambassador Discuss Joint Development of Hydropower Projects

8 November 2016: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Bangladesh Foreign Minister A.H. Mahmood Ali highlighted the potential joint development of hydropower projects between Bangladesh and Bhutan during discussions with Bhutan Ambassador to Bangladesh Sonam Tobden Rabgye.

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Online Alert System for SPS/TBT Notifications Launched

8 November 2016: Geneva, Switzerland

EPing, an online alert system for updates on the latest information on regulatory requirements for international trade, was launched by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the World Trade Organization, and the International Trade Centre. The system enables access to WTO member notifications on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures, and facilitates dialogue among the public and private sector in the early stages of potential trade issues.

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Conference Highlights Deepening Economic Integration, Boosting Connectivity in South Asia

7 November 2016: Kathmandu, Nepal

Nepal Minister for Foreign Affairs Prakash Sharan Mahat urged conclusion of the SAARC Agreement on Promotion and Protection of Investment to deepen economic integration among South Asian countries, and emphasized the need to improve connectivity in the region.

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Conference Promotes Paperless Trade Implementation in Sri Lanka

3 November 2016: Colombo, Sri Lanka

A conference held by the Sri Lanka Press Institute highlighted how enabling paperless trade will improve Sri Lanka's business competitiveness, and help the country achieve its ambition of becoming a regional logistics hub. Significant benefits in adopting a paperless trading system in Sri Lanka include faster document handling.

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New MoU to Expand Border Haats in Bangladesh and India

2 November 2016: Guwahati, India

The Governments of Bangladesh and India are preparing a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to expand their agreement on Bangladesh-India border 'haats' (markets). The MOU extends the provision to operate border haats to five years, increases the number of vendors allowed, and sets a \$200 purchase limit per person.

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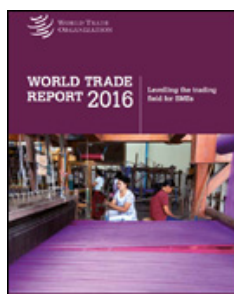
SASEC WEBSITE BROCHURE



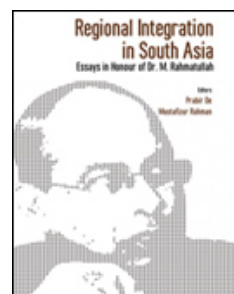
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