

BIMSTEC Newsletter

A Monthly Newsletter from BIMSTEC Centre



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BIMSTEC Event

4th BIMSTEC Chief Executives of Railways Meeting



The 4th Meeting of BIMSTEC Chief Executives of Railway was held on 3-4 December 2007 at the Novotel Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand. The Meeting was organised by the State Railway of Thailand with the assistance of the Asian Institute of Transport Development (AITD), New Delhi.

The Meeting was presided over by Mr. Sansern Wong-Chaum, Thailand's Deputy Transport Minister. The participants included delegates from Bhutan, India, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. In addition, representatives of AITD, BIMSTEC Centre, World Bank, ADB, UNESCAP, CRIS, IRCON, JICA, KOICA, KfW, Mass Rapid Transit Authority, Bangkok, Bangkok Mass Transit System Public Company Limited and Boston Consulting Group also participated.

The Meeting discussed and considered various issues including human resources development, multimodal transport, roles of railways in logistics and supply chain, and integration of railway systems etc. Series of training course associated in this area are available to 12 countries of the region irrespective of their membership of different regional organisations, supported by AITD up to December 2010, which opens a new era of enhanced cooperation in rail transport. It was noted that the specific projects of inter-country rail connectivity developed by regional groupings—SAARC, MGC, GMS, etc. in South and South-east Asia should be integrated so as to obtain optimal benefits.

National Day of the Kingdom of Bhutan



The Royal Bhutanese Embassy, Bangkok hosted a reception on 17 December 2007 at J.W. Marriott Hotel, Bangkok on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the National Day of the Kingdom of Bhutan.

The National Day of Bhutan marks a historic event in 1907 when the people of Bhutan unanimously elected Gongsar Ugyen Wangchuck as the first hereditary Monarch of Bhutan which marked the beginning and continuous era of unprecedented peace and prosperity for Bhutan.



H.M. the King's 80th Birthday Anniversary



For Celebrations on the auspicious occasion of His Majesty the King's, please go to : www.80thbirthdayanniversary.go.th.

In Bangkok, on the auspicious occasion of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej's 80th Birthday anniversary on 5 December 2007, hundreds of thousands of people from all walks of life, wearing yellow, gathered around the route where the motorcade of Their Majesties the King and Queen and members of the royal family's motorcade passed through from Chitralada Villa to Chakri Throne Hall in the Grand Palace. They all chanted "Long Live the King".

At 10.30 am HM the King graciously granted a mass audience to his loyal subjects from the front balcony of the Chakri Throne Hall inside the Grand Palace in Bangkok. The audience comprised Cabinet members, legislators, judicial officials, representatives of civic groups and members of the public. His Majesty the King stressed national conciliation with virtues and accountability for the sake of national development and stability when delivering a keynote speech before the mass audience.

In the provinces, government agencies held many activities to celebrate the royal occasion. The public gathered to take oaths to be good persons and loyal citizens, and to view exhibitions on the sufficiency economy philosophy developed by the King, which has lead Thailand to be a largely self-sufficient economy.

The King was born on December 5, 1927, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where his father, Prince Mahidol, was studying medicine. He became the ninth king of Thailand's Chakri dynasty on June 9, 1946.

Last year marked the 60th anniversary of King Bhumibol's accession to the throne which made him the world's longest-reigning and most-loved monarch in the world, in this occasion. The celebrated festivities were attended by royalty from around the world.

BIMSTEC upcoming Activities

Date	Activity	Venue
3-4 December 2007	4th Meeting of Chief Executives of Railways	Bangkok
9-10 January 2008	Ministerial Meeting on Poverty Alleviation	Dhaka

For further information on activities and programs of BIMSTEC, please contact:

Abhisra Chaikittisilp, Project Officer

BIMSTEC Centre

Building No. 20, 5th Floor

126/22-25 Vibhavadee-rangsit Rd., Dindaeng, BKK 10400, Thailand

Tel : (66) 2 692 3162-3; Fax : (66) 2 692 3161

E-mail : bimstecinfo@tradestrategies.org