

BIMSTEC Newsletter

A Monthly Newsletter from BIMSTEC Centre



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BIMSTEC Event

AYUSH Scholarship for BIMSTEC Member Countries

The Government of India, through the General Cultural Scholarship Scheme (GCSS) administered by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) has announced the allocation of 15 scholarships to students from BIMSTEC member countries to study in fields of Indian Traditional Medicine System i.e. Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy or AYUSH scheme for the academic years of 2008-2009. The scholarships are offered in undergraduate, postgraduate and a Ph.D. programs.

Students BIMSTEC member countries are welcomed to apply for this scholarship. Interested and eligible candidates are to submit their application form before 15 April 2008. For more information, application form and eligibility criteria, please go to www.iccrindia.org or contact Embassy of India in BIMSTEC member countries.

Every year, the Government of India grants a number of scholarships to students around the region under various schemes, including Mekong Ganga Cooperation Scholarship, Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Scheme (ITEC) and Technical Cooperation Scheme of Colombo Plan etc.

58th National Democracy Day of Nepal



The Ambassador of Nepal to the Kingdom of Thailand hosted a reception to mark 58th National Democracy Day of Nepal on Saturday, 23rd of February 2008 at the Embassy of Nepal. The National Democracy Day is observed every year in Nepal to mark the establishment of democracy in Nepal by abolishing century-old autocratic Rana regime in 1951.

Addressing the gathering of Nepalese from various walks of life in Thailand, His Excellency Ambassador of Nepal to the Kingdom of Thailand Mr. Naveen Prakash Jung Shah shed light on the importance of the Democracy Day and emphasized the need to further strengthen and consolidate democracy in Nepal by making it much more inclusive. While paying tributes to the known and unknown martyrs in the course of establishing democracy in Nepal, the Ambassador appealed to all the Nepalese present in the programme to contribute from their respective positions towards the economic and social development of Nepal.

Magha Puja Day



On this day, Thai people go to their local temple in the morning to make merit, listen to sermons and also take part in a candle-lit procession around the chapel.



Magha Puja is an important religious festival celebrated by Thai Buddhists. Like other Buddhist holidays, Magha Puja Day doesn't happen on the same date every year. It is all to do with the phases of the moon, and this day lies on the full moon of the third lunar month (this usually falls in February or early March).

Magha Puja day marks the four auspicious occasions, which happened nine months after the Enlightenment of the Lord Buddha at Veluvana Bamboo Grove, near Rajagaha in Northern India. On that occasion, four miraculous events coincided;

- 1,250 enlightened disciples of the Buddha spontaneously gathered.
- every one of those enlightened disciples had been given monastic ordination personally by the Lord Buddha.
- those disciples knew to meet together without any previous appointment
- it was the full-moon day.

The Lord Buddha gave an important teaching to the assembled monks on that day 2,500 years ago called the 'Ovadapatimokkha' which laid down the principles by which the monks should spread the Buddhist teachings.

BIMSTEC upcoming Activities

Date	Activity	Venue
17-21 March 2008	16 th Meeting of the BIMSTEC Trade Negotiating Committee	New Delhi
April 2008	2 nd Expert Group Meeting on Agricultural Cooperation	New Delhi
1 st Week of May 2008	Ministerial Meeting on Poverty Alleviation	Dhaka
To be announced	Expert Group Meeting on the Establishment of a BIMSTEC Technology Transfer Exchange Facility	Sri Lanka

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

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