

BIMSTEC Newsletter

A Monthly Newsletter from BIMSTEC Centre



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BIMSTEC Event

16th Meeting of TNC

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The 16th Meeting of BIMSTEC Trade Negotiating Committee was held from 17-21 March 2008 in New Delhi, India under the chairmanship of Ms. Manel De Silva, Director General, Department of Commerce, Government of Sri Lanka.

The Working Groups on Rules of Origin, Customs Cooperation, Services and Investment were held prior to the plenary session. The next TNC meeting will be held in Myanmar from 2-4 June 2008. It was agreed that next meeting would deliberate on all outstanding matters on the Agreement on Trade in Goods and continue discussions on Trade in Services and Investment.

Updates from BIMSTEC Working Group

The latest development from BIMSTEC Working Group;

Newly accredited Ambassadors to Thailand: The BWG welcomed H.E. Mr. Naveen Prakash Jung Shah, Ambassador of Nepal and H.E. Mr. Jayaratna Banda Disanayaka, Ambassador of Sri Lanka recently accredited to Thailand.

Future Cooperation with ADB : ADB has submitted the Final BIMSTEC Transport, Infrastructure and Logistics Study (BTILS) to the BWG in January 2008, which is being considered by BIMSTEC member countries. ADB has also proposed possible future areas of cooperation focusing on Energy and Tourism. ADB representatives will meet with the BWG to discuss further on the details in the 79th BWG Meeting on 21 April 2008.

High-Level Meetings in second half of 2008:

- Ministerial Meeting on Poverty Alleviation on 9 July 2008 at Dhaka
- 10th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting on 29 August 2008 at New Delhi
- 2nd BIMSTEC Summit on 11-12 November 2008 at New Delhi

The decision of the launching of the BIMSTEC Permanent Secretariat is set to be an important issue to be considered at the 2nd BIMSTEC Summit to be held in New Delhi in November 2008, along with other deliverables.

Independence and National Day of Bangladesh



The Embassy of Bangladesh in Bangkok celebrated the 37th Anniversary of its Independence and National Day of Bangladesh on 26 March 2008. H.E. Mr. Mustafa Kamal, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Thailand hosted a Reception at the Sheraton Grande Sukhumvit Hotel to mark the

occasion where a large number of Thai dignitaries, Senior Government Officials, members of the diplomatic corps, prominent businessmen, media persons and Bangladeshi nationals attended. On this day, Bangladesh pays respect to the valiant freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives in the war of liberation in 1971 to achieve an independent and sovereign Bangladesh. Addressing the guests the Ambassador noted that Bangladesh gives special emphasis on expanding relations with all the BIMSTEC countries in the 13 areas of co-operation.

BIMSTEC upcoming Activities

Date	Activity	Venue
21 April 2008	79 th BWG Meeting	MFA
24-25 April 2008	2 nd Expert Group Meeting on Agricultural Cooperation	New Delhi
2-4 June 2008	17th TNC Meeting and its Working Groups	Myanmar
8 July 2008	Senior Officials' Meeting on Poverty Alleviation	Dhaka
9 July 2008	Ministerial Meeting on Poverty Alleviation	Dhaka
26-28 August 2008	12th BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meeting and Working Groups	New Delhi

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