

# BIMSTEC Newsletter

A Monthly Newsletter from BIMSTEC Centre



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## BIMSTEC Events

### Regional Workshop and Study Visit on Biomass Gasification for Power Production under BIMSTEC Cooperation

The Department of Alternative Energy Development and Efficiency (DEDE), Ministry of Energy of Thailand had organised a 2-day Regional Workshop and Study Visit on Biomass Gasification for Power Production under BIMSTEC Cooperation on 13-14 May 2008. The regional workshop and study visit was held at the Royal Princess Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand.

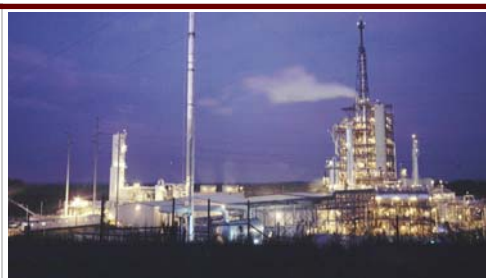
All participants of member countries presented country presentation on renewable energy development with an emphasis on rural electrification. The workshop also included two interesting field trips arranged for the delegations to visit Three Stage Gasification System in Pathum Thani province and rice mill in Chai Nat province.



*The Second  
BIMSTEC  
Summit was  
proposed to  
be held on*

*11-12*

*November 2008  
in New Delhi,  
India*



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### Updates from BIMSTEC Working Group

The latest development from BIMSTEC Working Group:

**2<sup>nd</sup> Expert Group Meeting on Agricultural Cooperation:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> Expert Group Meeting on Agricultural Cooperation was successfully held on 24-26 April 2008 in New Delhi, India.

**Ministerial Meeting on Poverty Alleviation:** The date of SOM/MM on Poverty Alleviation meeting was proposed to be held on 8-9 July 2008.

## Bhutan General Election

On 24 March 2008, Bhutan held its first-ever general election for the National Assembly, the lower house of parliament. The turnout reached nearly 80% of the eligible voters, Election Commissioners had set up 865 polling stations and more than 180 electronic voting machines were available. The *Druk Phuensum Tshogpa* (Bhutan Peace and Prosperity Party) won 45 seats, with the People's Democratic Party winning 2 seats. Both parties had pledged to follow the king's guidelines of "pursuing Gross National Happiness".

The DPT officially approved its leader, Mr. Jigme Yoser Thinley, as candidate for PM on 5 April 2008 which he later took office on 9 April 2008. Mr. Jigme was also the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bhutan from 1998 until 2003 and subsequently served as Minister of Home and Cultural Affairs.



## BIMSTEC Upcoming Activities

Date	Activity	Venue
13-14 May 2008	Regional Workshop and Study Visit on Biomass Gasification for Power Production under BIMSTEC Cooperation	Bangkok
21 May 2008	80 <sup>th</sup> BWG Meeting	MFA
2-4 June 2008	17 <sup>th</sup> 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
27-28 August 2008	Senior Officials' Meeting	New Delhi
29 August 2008	Ministerial Meeting	New Delhi
11-12 November 2008	2 <sup>nd</sup> BIMSTEC Summit	New Delhi

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