



The 11th Anniversary of BIMSTEC

On 6 June 1998, four countries established a new regional group in Bangkok and named it BISTEC — Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand. Myanmar joined the group as a full member in 1997, upon which the name of the group was changed to BIMST-EC. Nepal and Bhutan joined in 2004, the group's name was changed to the 'Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation', BIMSTEC.

This 6 June 2008, BIMSTEC will celebrate its 11th anniversary. Over the past eleven years, BIMSTEC has grown into a viable organization and played a significant role as a bridge between Southeast Asian and South Asian countries. BIMSTEC brings together 1.3 billion people — 21 percent of the world population, a combined GDP of US\$750 billion, and a considerable amount of complementarities. BIMSTEC also serves as a strategic link of cooperation in the frameworks of ASEAN, GMS and ACMECS.