

BIMSTEC Secretariat, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Press Release, 29 October 2024

Secretary General of BIMSTEC calls on Chief Advisor of Bangladesh

Secretary General BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation), H.E. Indra Mani Pandey, yesterday afternoon called on H. E. Dr. Mohammad Yunus, Honourable Chief Advisor of the Interim Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

Secretary General congratulated Honourable Chief Advisor on his appointment as the Chief Advisor of Bangladesh and briefed him on the journey and key achievements of BIMSTEC since its inception in 1997, including its core and sectoral mechanisms for regional cooperation, engagements with external partners and role of key institutions such as the BIMSTEC Centres for Energy and BIMSTEC Centres for Weather and Climate as well as Technology Transfer Facility (TTF). Secretary General underlined the key role of Bangladesh, a founding member of BIMSTEC, in forging regional cooperation in Bay of Bengal and commended Bangladesh's substantial contributions to the success of BIMSTEC.

As regards the forthcoming 6th BIMSTEC Summit, SG briefed the Chief Advisor on the expected outcomes of 6th BIMSTEC Summit and, in this context, he informed that Bangladesh would take over the Chairmanship of BIMSTEC from Thailand after the 6th BIMSTEC Summit, which would present a welcome opportunity for Bangladesh to take initiatives to expand and deepen the existing regional cooperation within the BIMSTEC framework, in Bay of Bengal region, specially in Trade, Investment and Development as well as Blue Economy Sectors, which it leads.

Honourable Chief Advisor, reiterating the abiding commitment of Bangladesh to BIMSTEC, as its founding member, assured SG of Bangladesh's dedication to realizing the goals of regional cooperation in Bay of Bengal region through BIMSTEC. He stressed on identifying underlying themes for focused pursuit of regional cooperation within BIMSTEC, such as youth engagement and environment. In this context, SG referred to the "3 Zeros" [zero poverty; zero unemployment; and zero carbon emission] vision of Chief Advisor, who suggested that BIMSTEC member States could create 3ZERO Regional Clubs, with a view to realize these goals in BIMSTEC member States. In context of youth engagement, the Chief Advisor drew attention to the forthcoming Youth Festival in Dhaka, in December 2024, and invited the BIMSTEC member States to participate in it which will enhance the visibility of BIMSTEC. Earlier yesterday, Secretary General had called on Ambassador Md. Jashim Uddin, Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh. They discussed the key role of Bangladesh in enhancing regional cooperation within the BIMSTEC framework, and in this context, they exchanged views on the opportunity for Bangladesh to lead BIMSTEC during its forthcoming Chairmanship.

BIMSTEC comprises seven countries of the Bay of Bengal region: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand. It pursues regional cooperation in seven broad sectors: Agriculture and Food Security; Connectivity; Environment and Climate Change; People to People Contact; Science, Technology and Innovation; Security; and Trade, Investment and Development. The cooperation also covers 8 sub-sectors: Blue Economy, Mountain Economy, Energy, Disaster Management, Fisheries and Livestock, Poverty Alleviation, Health and Human Resource Development.

Attachments:

- Photographs of Secretary General, BIMSTEC with Honourable Chief Advisor of Bangladesh
- Photograph of Secretary General, BIMSTEC with the Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh



