



BIMSTEC

Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation

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Editorial



Welcome to our 10th monthly BIMSTEC e-Newsletter of 2024!

In a significant development, I had the honour to call on Hon'ble Chief Advisor of the Interim Government of Bangladesh, H.E. Dr. Muhammad Yunus. While reiterating the commitment of Bangladesh to BIMSTEC, he called for theme-based regional cooperation with focus on youth, women empowerment and environment. I also had the pleasure of calling on Ambassador Md. Jashim Uddin, Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh. We discussed the present and future role of Bangladesh in expanding and deepening regional cooperation through BIMSTEC.

The 3rd Meeting of the BIMSTEC Expert Group on Poverty Alleviation, held in Nepal, reviewed the existing Poverty Plan of Action and updated the Activity Matrix to strengthen regional cooperation aimed at eradicating poverty. The Special Meeting of the Governing Board of the BIMSTEC Energy Centre, held virtually, finalized the draft Rules of Procedure for the Centre and launched a website along with a Regional Energy Database to promote efficient energy management in the region.

BIMSTEC, in partnership with the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies and Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, co-hosted a policy implementation workshop on "Climate Change and HADR in the Bay of Bengal". The workshop provided a valuable platform to assess the implementation of HADR guidelines in the BIMSTEC region. I addressed, virtually, the Project Dissemination Event on "Shaping a Climate Resilient and Sustainable Food System in the BIMSTEC region."

The BIMSTEC Secretariat remains committed to advancing multi-faceted regional cooperation in Bay of Bengal. We appreciate your continued readership and welcome your valuable suggestions to enhance regional cooperation in Bay of Bengal through BIMSTEC and improve our News Letter.

(Indra Mani Pandey)
Secretary General

Secretary General Calls on Hon'ble Chief Advisor of Bangladesh



Secretary General BIMSTEC (SG), H.E. Indra Mani Pandey, called on H. E. Dr. Mohammad Yunus, Hon'ble Chief Advisor of the Interim Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on 28 October 2024.

SG congratulated Hon'ble 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. SG underlined the key role of Bangladesh, a founding member of BIMSTEC, in forging regional cooperation in the 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.

Hon'ble 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.

3rd Meeting of BIMSTEC Expert Group on Poverty Alleviation



The 3rd Meeting of BIMSTEC Expert Group on Poverty Alleviation was held on 7-8 October 2024 in Dhulikhel, Nepal. It reviewed the achievements and challenges in alleviation of poverty and explored the ways to strengthen cooperation within the BIMSTEC framework to realise this goal. It updated the 2012 BIMSTEC Poverty Plan of Action, and reviewed the Activity Matrix to for implementation of Plan of Action.

Special Meeting of Governing Board of BIMSTEC Energy Centre



The Special Meeting of Governing Board of BIMSTEC Energy Centre, held virtually on 29 Oct 2024, finalized the draft Rules of Procedure for BIMSTEC Energy Centre. The Meeting was briefed on Website for “BIMSTEC Energy Centre” and the “Regional Energy Database.”

Secretary General Calls on Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh



Secretary General 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.

Workshop on Climate Change and HA/DR in Bay of Bengal



IPCS-HD-BIMSTEC Policy Implementation Workshop

CLIMATE CHANGE & HA/DR IN THE BAY OF BENGAL

24-25 October 2024
Bangkok, Thailand



BIMSTEC in collaboration with the Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies (IPCS) and Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue(HD), organized a Policy Implementation Workshop on Climate Change and Humanitarian Assistance(HA)/Disaster Relief(DR) in the Bay of Bengal on 24-25 October, 2024 in Bangkok, Thailand.

The workshop was aimed at stock-taking of HA/DR Guidelines in the Bay of Bengal region, assessing the implementation of these guidelines and synthesizing HA/DR best practices to enhance regional cooperation. Representatives of the BIMSTEC member States, Clingendael Institute, Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre, Academia and the BIMSTEC Secretariat attended the workshop.

Secretary General, in his opening remarks, highlighted the importance of the workshop in addressing interrelated challenges of adverse impacts of climate change and providing HA/DR in Bay of Bengal region. He hoped that the workshop would enable BIMSTEC to initiate concrete steps to strengthen its capacity and efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change and provide HA/DR.

Secretary General Speaks at Project Dissemination Event



Secretary General of BIMSTEC, H.E. Indra Mani Pandey addressed through a video message the Project Dissemination Event, titled “Shaping a Climate-Resilient and Sustainable Food System in the BIMSTEC Region”, hosted by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) on 3 October 2024 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Training Programme on Enhancing Public Service Delivery



The National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) launched its inaugural Mid-Career Training Programme for Civil Servants from BIMSTEC nations and the Maldives on 14 October 2024, in Mussoorie and Delhi, India. Attended by 36 participants from BIMSTEC member States and the Maldives, it focuses on administrative reforms, digital governance and enhancing citizen-centric public service delivery. They also visited the Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy in Dehradun on 21 October 2024.

In Focus : BIMSTEC Centre for Weather & Climate



BIMSTEC Centre for Weather and Climate

The BIMSTEC Centre for Weather and Climate was established in 2014 in Noida, India, primarily to enhance the BIMSTEC region's ability to tackle extreme weather, safeguard lives, and boost economic resilience.

KEY FUNCTIONS:



Arrange collaborative research & development activities and training programmes on weather and climate modeling;



Create a regional data bank, information network on weather and climate;



Improve disaster preparedness and early warning systems; and



Strengthen communication networks & outreach programmes.

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