



BIMSTEC

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

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Editorial



Welcome to 4th Edition(April 2025) of our Monthly BIMSTEC E-Newsletter!

I am pleased to present 4th Edition of our Monthly E-Newsletter for 2025, featuring key developments and engagements that continue to foster regional cooperation and integration among the BIMSTEC member States, including highlights of the 6th BIMSTEC Summit and its associated Meetings as well as our engagements with external partners.

The most significant event was the 6th BIMSTEC Summit, held on 04 April in Bangkok, which brought together all BIMSTEC Leaders, 3 years after the 5th BIMSTEC Summit, virtually held in March 2022 in Colombo. The 6th Summit marked a pivotal turning point in BIMSTEC's journey towards deeper regional collaboration. It was preceded by 25th BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meeting and 20th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting. Key outcomes of the Summit are: adoption of the Summit Declaration, BIMSTEC Bangkok Vision 2030, Report of the Eminent Persons' Group and adaption of Rules of Procedures for BIMSTEC Mechanisms. The Summit also witnessed signing of BIMSTEC Agreement on Maritime Transport Cooperation and Memoranda of Understanding with the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Indian Ocean Rim Association(IORA). In addition, the 6th Summit provided valuable opportunities for bilateral engagements among the Leaders of the BIMSTEC member States.

On the sidelines of the Summit, I had the honour of calling on Leaders and Foreign Ministers of the BIMSTEC member States to apprise them of the progress in regional cooperation under BIMSTEC and to seek their guidance on the way forward. I also met with the Regional Director of the Asia-Pacific Regional Office of United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction, (UNDRR) and Executive Director of Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre, (ADPC) to explore potential partnerships in disaster risk reduction and preparedness. Further, I participated at the valedictory Session of the 3rd BIMSTEC Dialogue 2025 and opening Session of the BIMSTEC Young Gen Forum, which were organized on the margins of the Summit.

The Month also witnessed successful convening of the 3rd BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture in Kathmandu, preceded by Sectoral Senior Officials' Meeting. It discussed establishment of a BIMSTEC food reserve, promotion of regional trade in agricultural commodities and capacity-building initiatives in agriculture, fisheries, and livestock. On the sidelines of the Ministerial Meeting, I had the opportunity to call on Agriculture Ministers of Bhutan, India and Nepal to discuss future collaborative initiatives in this vital sector of regional cooperation under BIMSTEC.

I undertook an official visit to Geneva, where I engaged with Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union,(ITU) Director-General of the World Health Organization,(WHO) Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization, (WIPO), Special Representative of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and Director of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), with a view to exploring and forging institutional collaboration with them in the areas of mutual interest. As part of our public outreach efforts, I was honoured to deliver a lecture titled "Promoting Regional Cooperation in the Bay of Bengal" to the students of Master of Advanced Studies in European and International Governance (MEIG) Programme at the University of Geneva. I also briefed Permanent Representatives of the BIMSTEC member States to the UN and other International Organisations in Geneva on progress in regional cooperation under BIMSTEC and the role that they can play in enhancing it.

I had the privilege of participating at 81st Session of UNESCAP in Bangkok. In my remarks at the High-Level Dialogue on "Subregional Perspectives on Current and Emerging Policy Issues for Inclusive and Sustainable Development in the Asia-Pacific region, " I underscored the key challenges facing the Asia-Pacific region including climate change, digital divides and global trade disruption. On the sidelines of the Session, I met with UNESCAP Executive Secretary, WMO Director, Dy. Secretary General of Asia Cooperation Dialogue and Secretary General of Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) to explore avenues for collaboration between BIMSTEC and these Organizations.

The BIMSTEC Secretariat, in collaboration with Jahangirnagar University, organised an outreach program aimed at enhancing awareness of BIMSTEC's initiatives among the faculty members and students. The Secretariat also conducted a capacity development programme on carbon market, trading, and accounting in Thimphu for the BIMSTEC member States, in partnership with ADB and the Royal Government of Bhutan.

As we move forward, the BIMSTEC Secretariat remains dedicated to work with the member States in enhancing regional cooperation aimed at fostering inclusive and sustainable development and security in Bay of Bengal. We deeply value your readership and welcome your suggestions to strengthen regional cooperation under BIMSTEC and to improve our E-Newsletter.

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- Sector Meeting;
- Secretary General's Engagements; and
- Others.

(Indra Mani Pandey)
Secretary General

Thailand Hosts 6th BIMSTEC Summit in Bangkok



The 6th Summit of the Heads of State/Government of the member States of BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) was held on 04 April 2025, in Bangkok, Thailand. It was preceded by the 25th BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meeting on April 02 and 20th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting on April 03. The 6th Summit was attended by:

1. H.E. Professor Muhammad Yunus, Chief Adviser of People's Republic of Bangladesh;
2. H.E. Dasho Tshering Tobgay, Prime Minister of Kingdom of Bhutan;
3. H.E. Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of Republic of India;
4. H.E. Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of State Administration Council and Prime Minister of Republic of the Union of Myanmar;
5. H.E. K.P. Sharma Oli, Prime Minister of Nepal;
6. H.E. Dr. Harini Amarasuriya, Prime Minister of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka; and
7. H.E. Ms. Paetongtarn Shinawatra, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand.

The 6th Summit, themed **“Prosperous, Resilient, and Open BIMSTEC”**, focused on fostering collaboration among the member States to address their shared security and developmental challenges. It provided a new impetus to regional cooperation to realise the goal of a “Prosperous, Resilient and Open BIMSTEC”.

BIMSTEC Leaders, in their Statements, at the Summit reiterated their commitment to BIMSTEC, identified the areas of priority for regional cooperation and presented specific proposals and initiatives. They underlined the need to make progress in enhancing intra-regional trade & investment, connectivity, tourism, culture exchanges, climate action, green and renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, food security, disaster management and security.

The Secretary General, in his Report to the Leaders, outlined progress made since the 5th BIMSTEC Summit, which was held in Colombo in March 2022. He sought their guidance to further advance the BIMSTEC agenda for the greater benefit of the region and reaffirmed the Secretariat's commitment to working closely with the member States to strengthen regional cooperation under BIMSTEC.

At the conclusion of the Summit, Bangladesh, a founding member of BIMSTEC, assumed the Chairmanship of BIMSTEC. H.E. Professor Muhammad Yunus, Chief Adviser, Interim Government of Bangladesh, reiterated Bangladesh's commitment to working collaboratively with other member States to take BIMSTEC cooperation forward.

As BIMSTEC's highest policymaking body, the Summit plays a pivotal role in setting organization's strategic direction and priorities. Against the backdrop of an increasingly complex and uncertain global political and economic landscape, the 6th BIMSTEC Summit reaffirmed BIMSTEC's critical role in forging regional cooperation to enable the member States to deal with their shared security and sustainable development challenges. With institutional reforms already underway, BIMSTEC is poised to evolve into a vibrant and dynamic regional organization, advancing peace, prosperity and resilience in the Bay of Bengal region.

Key Outcomes of 6th BIMSTEC Summit:

- Adoption of Declaration of 6th BIMSTEC Summit, which reflects the vision of the Leaders as well as their decisions and directives for future cooperation;
- Adoption of BIMSTEC Bangkok Vision 2030, the first-ever Vision Document of BIMSTEC, which provides a comprehensive and practical roadmap for future cooperation amongst the member States to achieve the vision of Prosperous, Resilient and Open BIMSTEC;
- Signing of Agreement on Maritime Transport Cooperation, a significant step towards strengthening regional partnerships to enhance maritime connectivity, enabling more trade and travel amongst the member States;
- Signing of Memorandum of Understanding between BIMSTEC and Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), institutionalizing future partnership between IORA and BIMSTEC in key areas of shared interest;
- Signing of Memorandum of Understanding between BIMSTEC and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), formalizing partnership between UNODC and BIMSTEC in areas of shared priorities;
- Adoption of Rules of Procedure for the BIMSTEC Mechanisms laying a strong foundation of institutional framework for regional cooperation under BIMSTEC, ensuring greater efficiency and consistency;
- Adoption of the Report of Eminent Persons Group on the Future Direction of BIMSTEC, which contains a number of recommendations to reform and revitalize BIMSTEC; and
- Endorsement of BIMSTEC Leaders' Joint Statement on the Impact of Earthquake which struck Myanmar and Thailand on 28th March; expressing Leaders' condolences, solidarity, and commitment to supporting the affected countries, and reaffirming their commitment to collaborate in regional disaster management and to strengthen response mechanisms for natural disasters.



20th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting



The 20th Session of BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting(MM) was held on 03 April 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand. Chaired by Thailand, the Meeting brought together Foreign or External Affairs Ministers of the member States to review progress, finalize key agreements and outline the future course of regional cooperation.

Following are the Key Outcomes of 20th MM:

- Finalization of the draft Declaration of 6th BIMSTEC Summit, outlining vision, decisions and directives of the Leaders, to be adopted at the Summit;
- Finalization of the draft Joint Statement by the BIMSTEC Leaders on the Impact of the Earthquake in Myanmar and Thailand on 28 March 2025, underscoring early establishment of BIMSTEC Centre of Excellence in Disaster Management in India;
- Consideration of the Report of Eminent Persons Group on the Future Direction of BIMSTEC, which includes recommendations to reform and revitalize BIMSTEC;
- Approval of the Reports of 24th and 25th BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meetings, containing key decisions and initiatives for fostering collaboration among the member States and advancing BIMSTEC agenda;
- Approval of the BIMSTEC Sectoral Plans of Action on Science, Technology & Innovation; Public Health; Human Resource Development; and Environment & Climate Change which will serve as the frameworks for implementation for respective sectors;
- Approval of the finalized Concept Notes and Memorandum of Understanding(MoUs) between the Indian Ocean Rim Association(IORA) & BIMSTEC; United Nations on Drugs and Crime(UNODC) & BIMSTEC; and the World Bank & BIMSTEC on Strengthening Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response and Health Systems Resilience among BIMSTEC Member States;
- Approval of Institutional Arrangement for Financial Support from the World Bank for Implementation of the BIMSTEC Plan of Action on Public Health (2023-2025);
- Approval of the Concept Note on BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting;
- Approval of the Concept Note on Establishment of Expert Group on Fiscal & Monetary Policy;
- Approval of the Budget of the Secretariat for Financial Year (2023-2024) and estimated budget for Financial Year(2025); and
- Approval of the Concept Note on BIMSTEC Centre of Excellence on Tropical Medicine.

They also witnessed the signing of Memorandum of Understanding between BIMSTEC and IORA, as well as BIMSTEC and UNODC, formalizing partnership in areas of Mutual interest.

25th BIMSTEC Senior Officials Meeting



The 25th Session of BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) was held on 02 April, 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Following are the Key Outcomes of 25th SOM:

- Finalization of the Draft Declaration of 6th BIMSTEC Summit, outlining vision, decisions and directives of the Leaders, to be adopted at the Summit;
- Consideration of the Report of Eminent Persons Group on the Future Direction of BIMSTEC, which includes recommendations to reform and revitalize BIMSTEC;
- Consideration of the Reports of the Meetings held since the 24th Session of BIMSTEC SOM, including the meetings of the BIMSTEC Permanent Working Committee;
- Consideration of the Report of Panel of Auditors for Financial Year(2014-2015);
- Consideration of the Draft Concept Note on BIMSTEC Centre of Excellence on Tropical Medicine, which will serve as a framework for establishing the BIMSTEC Centre for Excellence on Topical Medicine in Bangkok, Thailand.

The BIMSTEC SOM is the key consultative and decision-making mechanism and it comprises Foreign Secretaries/Secretaries/appropriate Senior Officials of the member States. The Leaders of the Delegations of the member States expressed their deep appreciation to the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand for successfully hosting the 25th SOM.

Signing of the BIMSTEC Agreement on Maritime Transport Cooperation



BIMSTEC Agreement on Maritime Transport Cooperation (AMTC) was signed on the occasion of the 6th BIMSTEC Summit, held on 04 April, 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Foreign Ministers of BIMSTEC member States signed the Agreement, marking a transformative step towards enhancing maritime connectivity in the region. With AMTC in place, BIMSTEC now has a comprehensive framework for seamless maritime transport, aimed at reducing logistical bottlenecks and deepening economic exchanges. The Agreement will enhance port efficiency, harmonize maritime policies and streamline customs procedures, ensuring smoother movement of goods and services.

Beyond trade facilitation, AMTC seeks to boost investment in key maritime infrastructure, including ports, shipping lanes and coastal logistics hubs, fostering regional economic growth and stability. It also promotes cooperation in maritime safety, environmental sustainability, digitalization of shipping processes, and capacity-building.

BIMSTEC Leaders welcomed the signing of the AMTC, recognizing its potential to enhance regional maritime connectivity, facilitate cross-border trade and spurring investment in port infrastructure, logistics, and related sectors. They also directed relevant authorities to expedite its implementation.



Memorandum of Understanding signed between BIMSTEC and IORA



BIMSTEC and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the occasion of the 6th BIMSTEC Summit held on 04 April, 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand.

BIMSTEC Secretary General and H.E. Mr. Sanjiv Ranjan, IORA Secretary General, signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organizations. The signing of the MoU was welcomed by BIMSTEC Leaders, marking a significant step in deepening interregional cooperation.

The signing of MoU formalizes future partnership between IORA and BIMSTEC in key areas of shared interest, including trade & investment facilitation, environment & climate change, maritime security & connectivity, science & technology, people-to-people contact & tourism, blue economy & ocean management and fisheries management. This partnership will be instrumental in jointly addressing the security and developmental challenges in the region and beyond.

Memorandum of Understanding signed between BIMSTEC and UNODC



BIMSTEC and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the occasion of the 6th BIMSTEC Summit held on 04 April, 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand.

BIMSTEC Secretary General and Ms. Anubha Sood, Regional Representative of UNODC Regional Office for South Asia, signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organizations. The signing of the MoU was welcomed by BIMSTEC Leaders, marking a significant step in deepening inter-regional cooperation.

The MoU formalizes the future partnership between UNODC and BIMSTEC in areas of shared interest, providing a framework of cooperation in facilitating collaboration to prevent and combat transnational organized crime, illicit drug trafficking and terrorism in the Bay of Bengal region. This partnership will be instrumental in jointly addressing the pressing non-traditional security concerns in the region and beyond.

Secretary General Calls on BIMSTEC Leaders at the Summit



BIMSTEC Secretary General (SG) Called on H.E. Professor Muhammad Yunus, Hon'ble Chief Adviser of Bangladesh on the Sidelines of 6th BIMSTEC Summit. They discussed Bangladesh's vision for an inclusive and action-oriented BIMSTEC during its Chairmanship; advancing cooperation in trade, investment, and development sector; and reaffirming their commitment to regional cooperation and sustainable development in the Bay of Bengal region.

SG called on H.E. Dashi Tshering Tobgay, Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bhutan. They discussed Bhutan's critical role in advancing

cooperation in the Environment and Climate Change sector and regional cooperation for shared prosperity and reiterated their steadfast commitment to BIMSTEC's agenda for the greater benefit of the region.

SG also Called on H.E. Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the State Administration Council. They discussed the critical role played by Myanmar in advancing BIMSTEC cooperation, including hosting the 4th Meeting of BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs and strengthening cooperation in the agriculture and food security sector.

SG Called on H.E. K.P. Sharma Oli, Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal. They exchanged views on building a resilient Bay of Bengal region and advancing people-to-people contacts, including establishment of BIMSTEC Tourism and Culture Centre in Nepal.

Secretary General Calls on BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers at the Summit



BIMSTEC Secretary General met with H.E. Md. Touhid Hossain, Adviser for Foreign Affairs, on the Sidelines of 6th BIMSTEC Summit. They discussed the critical role of Bangladesh, as the incoming BIMSTEC chair and the lead member State for trade, investment and development sector.

SG met with H.E. D.N. Dhungyel, Foreign Minister of Bhutan and discussed deepening regional cooperation under BIMSTEC and vital contribution of Bhutan in its success.

SG met with H.E. Dr. Arzu Rana Deuba, Foreign Minister of Nepal, to discuss progress in BIMSTEC-led regional cooperation including in culture, tourism and people-to-people contact fields.

SG also met with H.E. Mr. Arun Hemachandra, Deputy Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka. Their discussion focused on deepening regional cooperation and Sri Lanka's contribution to BIMSTEC, including its vital role in the science, technology and innovation sector.

SG met with H.E. Mr. Maris Sangiampongsa, Foreign Minister of Thailand and discussed Thailand's significant contribution during its chairmanship of BIMSTEC and its role in strengthening BIMSTEC-ASEAN collaboration.

Secretary General Reaches Out to External Partners on the sidelines of the 6th BIMSTEC Summit



Secretary General met with Mr. Marco Toscano-Rivalta, Chief, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). They discussed partnership in disaster recovery between the two organisations.

SG also met with Mr. Aslam Perwaiz, Executive Director of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC). They discussed potential avenues of cooperation between BIMSTEC and ADPC.

Secretary General participates at 3rd BIMSTEC Dialogue 2025 on the sidelines of the 6th BIMSTEC Summit



SG attended the Valedictory Session of the 3rd BIMSTEC Dialogue 2025 “The Imperatives and Impediments of BIMSTEC”, organized by India Foundation and Chulalongkorn University on the margins of the 6th BIMSTEC Summit. The Dialogue was an opportunity to underline BIMSTEC’ role in regional cooperation and the expected outcomes of the 6th BIMSTEC Summit.

Secretary General participates at BIMSTEC Young Gen Forum on the sidelines of the 6th BIMSTEC Summit



SG attended the Opening Ceremony of the BIMSTEC Young Gen Forum on the margins of the 6th BIMSTEC Summit. It was inaugurated by Professor Muhammad Yunus, Hon’ble Chief Adviser of Bangladesh. It brought together young entrepreneurs and experts from seven BIMSTEC member States to exchange ideas, share experiences and explore opportunities for regional cooperation. The forum aimed to foster innovation-driven growth, strengthen regional cooperation and empower youth to contribute to a more prosperous, resilient and open BIMSTEC community.

3rd BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture



The 3rd BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture was held on 09 April in Kathmandu, Nepal. It was preceded by the 3rd BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meeting on Agriculture on 08 April, 2025.

Chaired by Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Development of Nepal, H.E. Mr. Ram Nath Adkikari, the Meeting brought together Agriculture Ministers from the BIMSTEC member States, both in person and virtual, to review the progress and outline the future course of regional cooperation in fields of Agriculture, food security, fisheries and livestock.

BIMSTEC Agriculture Ministers, in their Statements at the Meeting, expressed their strong commitment to enhancing collaboration in agriculture, food security, fisheries and livestock sectors. They highlighted the importance of adopting innovative and climate-resilient technologies, aimed at promoting sustainable agriculture and enhancing food security of the member States.

BIMSTEC Secretary General, in his Report to the Meeting, outlined the progress made since 2nd BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture, which was held virtually in New Delhi in November 2022. The Ministers commended the progress outlined in Secretary General's Report and deliberated on the future initiatives to strengthen regional cooperation, as outlined in the Report of 3rd Meeting of Senior Officials on Agriculture, such as establishment of a BIMSTEC food reserve, promotion of regional trade in agricultural commodities, capacity building workshops and programs for sharing of knowledge, technologies, and best practices in agriculture, fisheries and livestock. They also discussed the proposal for establishing a seed bank and cooperation in climate-resilient agriculture. While appreciating India's proposal for setting up a Centre of Excellence in Agriculture, they underlined its swift implementation.

During the Meeting, the Ministers also adopted the Plan of Action on BIMSTEC Fisheries and Livestock Cooperation, which outlines a comprehensive framework to revitalize the fisheries and livestock sector in the region. They also adopted a Joint Statement, calling upon the BIMSTEC member States to strengthen regional cooperation in agriculture and allied sectors under BIMSTEC.

As the key decision-making mechanism, the BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture (BAMM) guides regional cooperation in agriculture and allied sectors, setting direction and promoting collective action to enhance food security and increase resilience to climate change. Under the BIMSTEC Plan of Action (2023–2027), 17 targeted initiatives are being implemented, including scholarship programmes, capacity building workshops, promotion of good agricultural practices, and sustainable fisheries development.

Secretary General calls-on Agriculture Ministers of Bhutan, India and Nepal



BIMSTEC Secretary General called on H.E. Younten Phuntsho, Honourable Agriculture and Livestock Minister of Bhutan. They discussed new initiatives proposed by BIMSTEC member States to enhance regional cooperation in agriculture and role of Bhutan in their success.



BIMSTEC Secretary General called on H.E. Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Honourable Union Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Rural Development Minister of India. They discussed India's proposals for enhancing regional cooperation in Agriculture and allied sectors under BIMSTEC.



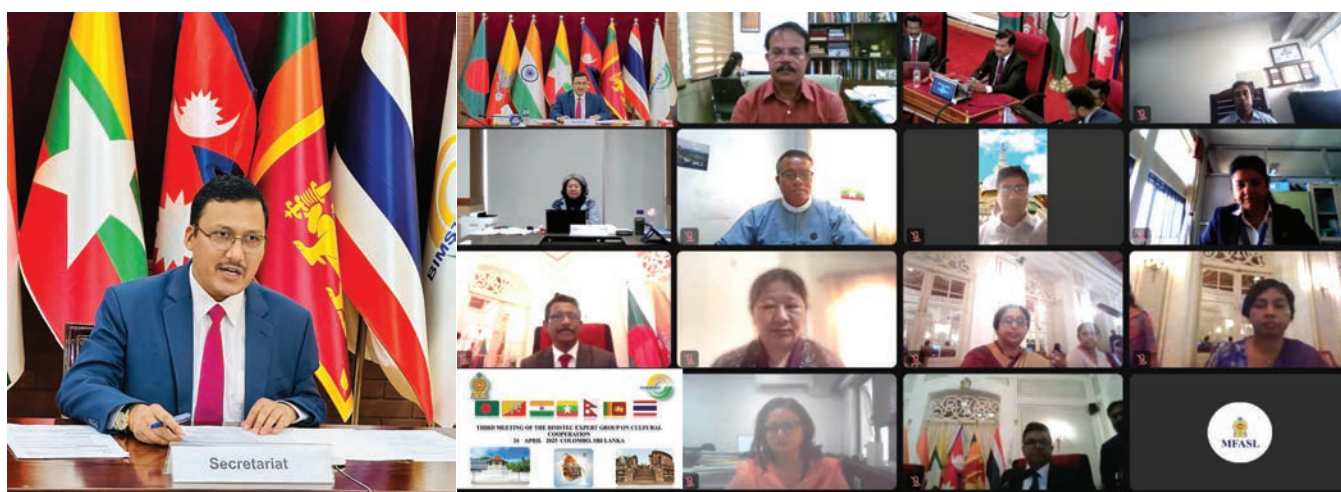
BIMSTEC Secretary General called on H.E. Ram Nath Adhikari, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture & Livestock Development of Nepal. They noted the success of 3rd BIMSTEC Agriculture Ministerial Meeting in taking various initiatives for expanding regional cooperation in agriculture & food security sector.

3rd Meeting of BIMSTEC Sub-Group on Human Trafficking



The 3rd Meeting of the BIMSTEC Sub-Group on Human Trafficking was held on 06-07 April, 2025 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The meeting discussed implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Human Trafficking; establishment of a secure and interactive digital platform on trafficking-related matters; and Standard Operating Procedures for rescue and repatriation of the victims of human trafficking.

3rd Meeting of BIMSTEC Expert Group on Cultural Cooperation



The 3rd Meeting of the BIMSTEC Expert Group on Cultural Cooperation was held virtually on 24 April 2025. Hosted by Sri Lanka, it discussed promotion of BIMSTEC Buddhist Circuits; creation of digital inventory of BIMSTEC cultural heritages; establishment of BIMSTEC Network of Cultural Institutions; organization of regular BIMSTEC cultural events and activities; and forging partnerships with the relevant international organizations.

Secretary General participates at the 81st Session of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific



BIMSTEC Secretary General (SG) participated at the 81st Session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), held from 21-25 April 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand.

During the High-Level Dialogue on “Subregional Perspectives on Current and Emerging Policy Issues for Inclusive and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific,” SG highlighted the critical challenges to sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region, including escalating impacts of climate change, widening digital divides and persistent disruptions in global trade. He emphasized the importance of South-South Cooperation and underscored the vital role of regional organizations like BIMSTEC in promoting South-South cooperation for advancing inclusive and sustainable development.

SG also attended the side Event on Harnessing Digital Technologies for Sustainable Development in the Bay of Bengal, organised by the BIMSTEC Secretariat and UNESCAP, where he underscored the need for deeper regional collaboration to address digital challenges and expressed BIMSTEC’s readiness to work with UNESCAP on the shared goal of enhancing regional digital connectivity.

On the sidelines of the 81st Session of UNESCAP, SG engaged in several bilateral meetings to strengthen institutional cooperation with Regional and International Organisations. He met with Executive Secretary of UNESCAP, H.E. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, to discuss deepening collaboration between BIMSTEC and UNESCAP, particularly in areas aligned with sustainable development and regional connectivity goals.

In his meeting with Mr. Ben Churchill, Director, Regional Office for Asia and the South-West Pacific, Member Services and Development Department, World Meteorological Organization (WMO), SG explored potential areas of partnership in weather, climate change, and disaster management in BIMSTEC region. He also held discussions with Dr. Mohammed Taghi Hosseini, Deputy Secretary General of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), focusing on avenues for institutional cooperation between the two Organisations. SG also met with Ambassador Kairat Sarybay, Secretary General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), to exchange views on enhancing cooperation in areas of peace, security and development across Asia.



Secretary-General Explores Opportunities for Collaboration with UN and International Organizations Based in Geneva



BIMSTEC Secretary General (SG) paid a fruitful visit to Geneva, Switzerland, during 15-17 April 2025, as a part of his endeavours to reach out to various UN and International Organizations, based in Geneva, aimed at fostering institutional partnerships with them.

During his visit, SG called on H.E. Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union (ITU), at ITU Headquarters, and explored various avenues for collaboration in fields of information and communication technologies, with particular focus on artificial intelligence and digital connectivity. It may be noted that BIMSTEC is already engaged with ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and ITU Area Office and Innovation Centre in New Delhi for forging collaboration.

SG also called on H.E. Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of World Health Organization (WHO). He congratulated Dr. Tedros on successful conclusion of the Pandemic Treaty and discussed opportunities for closer cooperation between WHO and BIMSTEC, particularly in strengthening health systems, enhancing pandemic preparedness and supporting public health initiatives of the BIMSTEC member States.

SG also called on H.E. Daren Tang, Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), and discussed with him and his Team the possible areas of cooperation, including capacity building and technical assistance in promoting innovations and IPRs. BIMSTEC and WIPO Teams have been engaged in discussions and have already drawn up programs for future collaboration.

SG met with H.E. Kamal Kishore, Special Representative of United Nations Secretary-General (SRSG) for Disaster Risk Reduction and Head of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), Geneva, at a Dinner and discussed with him the possible areas of collaboration to deal with the challenges posed by natural disasters in Bay of Bengal region. BIMSTEC has already been engaged with UNDRR Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

SG also met with Mr. Daniel Kull, Director (Development Partnerships), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), for identifying opportunities for collaboration in sectors of climate change and disaster management, including early warning for All. BIMSTEC is looking forward to working with the WMO Regional Office for Asia and the South-West Pacific to identify specific projects.

SG also held a meeting over lunch with Permanent Representatives/Delegates to the United Nations in Geneva of the BIMSTEC member States. SG briefed them on the latest developments in BIMSTEC's regional cooperation efforts and sought their cooperation in fulfilling the Organization's commitment to promoting security and sustainable development in Bay of Bengal region.

As part of BIMSTEC Public Outreach initiatives, SG delivered a lecture titled "Promoting Regional Cooperation in the Bay of Bengal" at Geneva University. Addressing students of the Master of Advanced Studies in European and International Governance (MEIG) Programme, he highlighted BIMSTEC's growing role and salience in fostering regional cooperation in Bay of Bengal Region.

Capacity Development Programme on Carbon Market, Trading, and Accounting



A three-day Capacity Development Programme on “Carbon Market, Trading, and Accounting” was organized by BIMSTEC, in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank and the Royal Government of Bhutan, from 23–25 April 2025 in Thimphu, Bhutan.

It brought together over 43 participants from BIMSTEC Member States, aimed at enhancing understanding of carbon markets, trading mechanisms and accounting frameworks. It also sought to strengthen institutional capacity for implementing Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and promote regional cooperation through exchange of knowledge and best practices on climate action.

BIMSTEC Outreach Program at Jahangirnagar University



The BIMSTEC Secretariat, in collaboration with Jahangirnagar University (JU), organized an outreach program titled “Promoting Regional Cooperation through BIMSTEC” on April 15, 2025 at JU, Dhaka, which was aimed at raising awareness about BIMSTEC’s initiatives and enhance its visibility among faculty and students.

It was attended by over 90 participants from Department of International Relations. Underscoring the role of youth in advancing regional cooperation, the BIMSTEC Secretariat plans to conduct similar outreach to other universities and academic institutions across the region.



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