



BIMSTEC E-Newsletter

August 2026



Message from BIMSTEC Secretary General

Welcome to August 2026 Edition of our Monthly BIMSTEC E-Newsletter.

In August 2026 we made significant progress in advancing regional cooperation in Science, Technology & Innovation; Human Resources Development; and Fiscal and Monetary Policy.

The First Meeting of the Governing Board of the BIMSTEC Technology Transfer Facility (TTF), on 3 August 2026 in Colombo, proposed steps to operationalise the TTF and accelerate regional innovation in AI and digital transformation. Further, the joint Webinar series with WIPO, launched on 20 August, aims at strengthening intellectual property frameworks to facilitate cross-border technology transfer.

BIMSTEC Energy Centre hosted an Online Capacity Building Programme on "Cyber Security in Energy Infrastructure", addressing infrastructure security. Joined by over 200 participants, the Programme underscored our shared commitment to safeguarding regional energy networks from cyber threats.

The Expert Group on Human Resource Development (HRD) met in Colombo to advance HRD Plan of Implementation (2025-2029) focusing on digital learning with convening of the inaugural Meeting of

the Expert Group on Fiscal and Monetary Policy, joined by central bank and finance ministry representatives from the member States, BIMSTEC began regional cooperation to foster macroeconomic stability in the member States.

Financed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) with technical support from International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), the regional Workshop on "Capacity Development for Promoting Better Understanding of Mountain Ecosystems for Deriving Economic Benefits", hosted by Nepal, served as a key platform for regional knowledge sharing on sustainable mountain-based economic frameworks.

Looking forward, BIMSTEC is poised to serve as a preferred platform for establishing regional cooperation, contributing to security and sustainable and inclusive development of its member States.

We deeply value your readership and welcome your suggestions both to strengthen regional cooperation under BIMSTEC and improve this E-Newsletter.

Indra Mani Pandey
BIMSTEC Secretary General

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In Focus: BIMSTEC SG's Engagements

Third Meeting of the BIMSTEC Expert Group on Human Resource Development (HRD)



The **Third Meeting of the BIMSTEC Expert Group on Human Resource Development (HRD)** was held on 18–19 August 2026 in Colombo, Sri Lanka, bringing together representatives from all seven BIMSTEC member States. The Meeting reviewed progress under the BIMSTEC Plan of Implementation on HRD (2025–2029) and deliberated on strengthening regional cooperation in skills development, education, digital learning, AI, academic and skills mobility, and TVET.

Inaugural Meeting of the BIMSTEC Expert Group on Fiscal and Monetary Policy



The **1st Meeting of the BIMSTEC Expert Group on Fiscal and Monetary Policy** was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 18–19 August 2026 in hybrid mode, bringing together representatives from the Ministries of Finance and Central Banks of BIMSTEC member States.

The Meeting provided an important platform for member States to exchange experiences and perspectives on fiscal and monetary policy, macroeconomic stability, fiscal sustainability, monetary policy frameworks, and responses to emerging economic challenges.

The Meeting deliberated on the Terms of Reference (ToR) and Plan of Action of the Expert Group, laying the foundation for sustained cooperation and knowledge exchange in the area of fiscal and monetary policy.

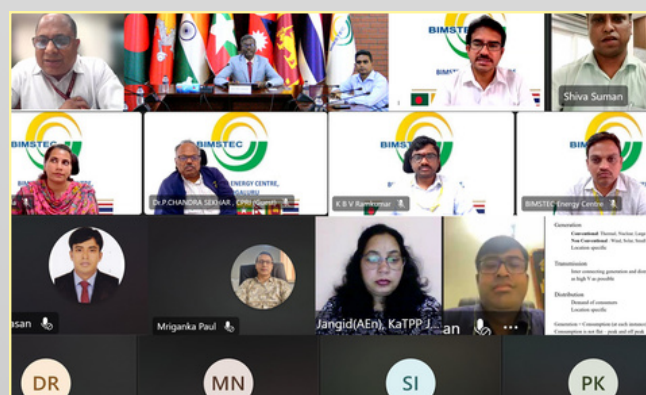
Inaugural Meeting of the Governing Board of the BIMSTEC Technology Transfer Facility



The First Meeting of the Governing Board of the BIMSTEC Technology Transfer Facility (TTF) was held virtually on 3 August 2026 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The Meeting brought together representatives from all seven BIMSTEC member States to discuss technology transfer, artificial intelligence, digital transformation, capacity building, research collaboration and partnerships with international organisations, alongside operationalisation of the TTF. The Governing Board welcomed progress on the Host Country Agreement, endorsed steps towards operationalising the Facility and reaffirmed its commitment to fostering innovation-led, technology-driven and sustainable development in the BIMSTEC member States.

Online Capacity Building Program on “Cyber Security in Energy Infrastructure”

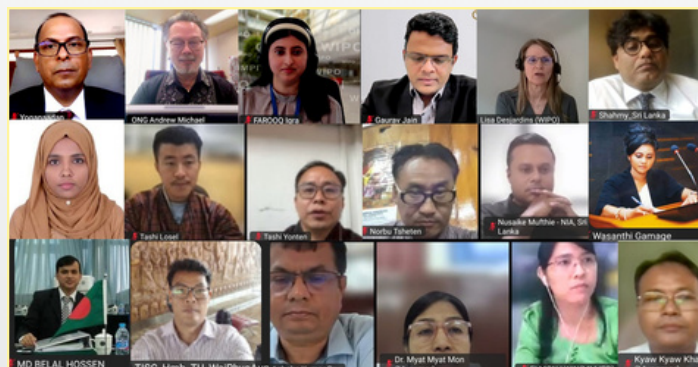
BIMSTEC Energy Centre (BEC), India, organized an **Online Capacity Building Program on “Cyber Security in Energy Infrastructure”** on 11 August 2026. It highlighted the growing importance of strengthening cybersecurity measures to safeguard critical energy infrastructure and ensuring resilience against emerging cyber threats in the BIMSTEC member states. It also facilitated knowledge sharing, enhance awareness of cybersecurity best practices, and promote a collaborative approach towards securing energy systems and infrastructure across the region. Over 200 participants from BIMSTEC Member States joined the online capacity building program, reflecting the strong interest and commitment of member states towards strengthening cybersecurity in the energy sector.



WIPO-BIMSTEC Webinar Series on "Intellectual Property Frameworks for Cross-Border Technology Transfer"

A cumulative series of webinars on **"Intellectual Property Frameworks for Cross-Border Technology Transfer"** are being organised by BIMSTEC Secretariat, in collaboration with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). The first webinar was held on 20 August 2026, with the upcoming sessions scheduled for 10 and 22 September 2026.

The series aim to focus on IP frameworks, technology transfer, sector-specific considerations and regional cooperation, with all seven BIMSTEC member States sharing their national IP and innovation environments.



BIMSTEC-ADB Workshop on Mountain Ecosystems and Economic Benefits Successfully Concluded



A workshop on **"Capacity Development for Promoting Better Understanding of Mountain Ecosystems for Deriving Economic Benefits"** was successfully held from 26–27 August 2026 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The workshop brought together delegates from BIMSTEC Member States for a valuable opportunity to facilitate regional knowledge exchange on sustainable mountain economies, highlighting opportunities in eco-tourism, green enterprises, value chains, and ecosystem-based livelihoods.

The discussions identified practical approaches to better understand the opportunities and challenges in enhancing economic benefits from mountain resources; and the policy and institutional approaches for promoting sustainable mountain economy. During these discussions, delegates spoke of the need to support the implementation of the BIMSTEC Mountain Economy Action Plan and made a number of suggestions accordingly.

Participants also made a visit to ICIMOD's Living Mountain Lab in Godavari which pilots innovative mountain solutions while serving as a catalyst for knowledge exchange and capacity building across the Hindu Kush Himalayan region. The workshop was financed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) with technical support from ICIMOD.

CONDOLENCE MESSAGE

The BIMSTEC Secretariat expresses its deepest condolences and solidarity with the People and Government of Nepal following the devastating floods. Our thoughts are with the families who have lost their loved ones and all those affected by this tragic disaster. The Secretariat thanks the BIMSTEC member States for providing HADR to Nepal.

The graphic has a blue background with a subtle city skyline. In the top left corner is the flag of Bangladesh (green with a red circle). In the top right corner is the BIMSTEC logo. The central text reads: "BIMSTEC Secretary General Congratulates H.E. Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir on his election as the 23rd President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh." Below this text are two circular portraits. The left portrait shows H.E. Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, an older man with grey hair and glasses, wearing a suit and blue tie. The right portrait shows H.E. Indra Mani Pandey, a man with glasses wearing a suit and patterned tie, gesturing with his hands. Below each portrait is a white rounded rectangle containing their names and titles.

**BIMSTEC Secretary General
Congratulates
H.E. Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir**
on his election as the 23rd President of the
People's Republic of Bangladesh.

H.E. Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir
Hon'ble President

H.E. Indra Mani Pandey
BIMSTEC Secretary General



**BAY OF BENGAL INITIATIVE FOR MULTI-SECTORAL
TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION**

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