













PROJECT INCEPTION WEBINAR-II

DEVELOPMENT PARTNER

Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal

Tuesday

1530-1700 hrs (Indian Standard Time)

Comparative Learnings for Multi-Modal Connectivity



BIPUL CHATTERJEE **Executive Director CUTS International**



TARIQ KARIM Former High Commissioner of Bangladesh to India and Advisor to the World Bank for Regional Integration, South Asia Region



KUANCHENG HUANG Senior Transport Specialist Asian Development Bank



MUSTAFIZUR RAHMAN Distinguished Fellow Centre for Policy Dialogue Bangladesh



SREERADHA DATTA Centre Head, Neighbourhood Studies and Senior Fellow Vivekananda International Foundation



YUBAK DANGOL Director, Nepal Intermodal Transport Development Board



JULIAN MICHAEL BEVIS Senior Director, Group Relations, South Asia, A P Moller Maersk



CONSTANTINO XAVIER Fellow, Foreign Policy **Brookings India**

It is frequently the most reiterated fact that South Asia is one of the least integrated and the least connected region in the world. However, of late, political will for infrastructure and regulatory coherence for seamless connectivity, across standalone as well as inter-operable infrastructural nodes, is particularly anchored through the Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal (BBIN) group of countries.

A seamlessly connected BBIN sub-region is getting more and more important for greater intra and inter-regional connectivity in South Asia and with Southeast Asia, respectively. However, supporting connectivity efforts of multi-modal dimensions in the sub-region will require clear understanding of ground level challenges to both physical and digital infrastructure, policy and regulatory coherence.

It is also important to shed light on the conditions and factors responsible for successful regional/sub regional/bilateral intermodal and multimodal connectivity initiatives in Central, South and Southeast Asian countries.

In that context, CUTS International and its partners seek to solicit discussions that can further shape an informed political economy discourse for multi-modal connectivity in the sub-region. It will also seek to discuss why and how multi-modal connectivity can be better presented as a development necessity in the BBIN sub-region, particularly, in a post-COVID world. While the Inaugural Webinar discussed Project's goals, objectives and expected outcomes, this will provide a glimpse into comparative learnings from the initiatives in Central and Southeast Asia to relect upon possible infrastructure, digital and regulatory solutions in the context of shaping multi-modal connectivity in the BBIN sub-region.

It will be followed by another webinar, which will be held on 21st July, 2020.