



ROUNDTABLE MEETING ON

'Future of Regional Connectivity in South Asia'

India International Centre, New Delhi on Monday, 29 April, 2019

Background Note

Context

CUTS International in partnership with the U. S. Department of State organised an event titled 'Regional Connectivity Conference: South Asia in the Indo-Pacific Context' in New Delhi, India on November 1-2, 2018. Following this event, CUTS is continuing its efforts to support the strategic goal of bringing together key interlocutors to discuss challenges and solutions to economic, investment, and security issues relevant to South Asia and the United States.

This final closed-door roundtable is part of a series of meetings that CUTS has conducted across Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka to deliberate on emerging investment opportunities in this part of the Indo-Pacific region. More details: <http://www.cuts-citee.org/sarcc/>

Objective

- Connect and generate discussion on emerging infrastructure investments among relevant stakeholders of the South Asia region, the United States of America
- Leverage existing and possible partnerships and collaborations to promote greater connectivity and advance new policies

Discussion Points

- i. Discussion on infrastructure investments in regional projects such as:
 - Bay of Bengal Industrial Growth Belt Initiative
 - Partnership for Quality Infrastructure Initiative
 - Regional gas pipeline grid between Bangladesh, India (and Myanmar)
 - Asia-Africa Growth Corridor
- ii. Discussion on converting the 'Asia Reassurance Initiative Act of 2018' (ARIA) and the 'Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018' (BUILD) into Actions.

Tentative Participants

- i. Bangladesh: Bangladesh Investment Development Authority, Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources
- ii. Bhutan: Druk Holding & Investments Limited, Ministry of Economic Affairs
- iii. India: Invest India, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of External Affairs
- iv. Nepal: Investment Board Nepal, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Water and Energy Commission Secretariat
- v. Sri Lanka: Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Ports & Shipping
- vi. Asian Development Bank, The World Bank Group, Japan International Cooperation Agency; and Representatives from the Government of Australia, EU, Japan, UK and US



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Agenda

9:30 – 10:00am **Registration & Tea/Coffee**

10:00 – 10:15am **Welcome Remarks**
Pradeep Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS International
Robert Garverick, Counselor for Economic Affairs and Environment,
Science and Technology, U.S. Embassy New Delhi

10:15 – 10:45am **The Indo-Pacific Picture: Sustainable Investments for Resilient Infrastructures in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal & Sri Lanka**
Presentation: Bipul Chatterjee, Executive Director, CUTS International

10:45 - 11.15am **Tea/Coffee**

11:15am – 1:15pm **Roundtable Discussion: 'Future of Regional Connectivity in South Asia'**
Moderator: Satu Limaye, Director, East-West Center, Washington D. C.

1:15 - 2:00pm **Lunch**