

Regional Meeting

Multimodal Connectivity in the BBIN Subregion

Thursday, March 02, 2023

India International Centre, New Delhi

Seminar Hall – II, Kamladevi Block

(Also virtually on Zoom)

Delhi
09:30 to 17:10

Dhaka
10:00 to 17:40

Kathmandu
9:45 to 17:25

Thimphu
10:00 to 17:40

Draft Agenda

09:30 - 10:00	Registration
Opening Session	
10:00 – 10:40	<p><i>This session will deliberate on the importance of multimodal connectivity in the BBIN subregion, and will highlight challenges and opportunities therein.</i></p> <p>Welcome Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bipul Chatterjee, Executive Director, CUTS International <p>Opening Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Didar Singh, Former Secretary of Overseas Affairs, Government of India and Distinguished Fellow, CUTS International • Kuancheng Huang, Professor, Department of Transportation and Logistics Management, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, Taiwan • Sutapa Choudhury, Deputy Head, Indo-Pacific Regional Department, India and Indian Ocean Directorate, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, United Kingdom, New Delhi <p>Release of the Study and the Screening of a Video Documentary</p>
10:40-11:00	<p>Keynote Address</p> <p>Gopal Krishna, Former Shipping Secretary, Government of India</p>
11:00 - 11:15	Tea/Coffee

Session - 1: Recent Initiatives on BBIN Connectivity	
11:15 - 13:00	<p><i>This session will highlight sector-specific policy and infrastructure developments undertaken by the BBIN governments to promote multimodal connectivity. It will deliberate on good policies, processes and deliveries to address connectivity challenges.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Indranil Bose, Consultant, CUTS International</p> <p>Panellists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neelima Akhter, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges, Bangladesh • Pushpa Chhetri, Director, Bodhi Media & Communications Institute, Bhutan • Sanjeev Gupta, Member (Planning & Development), Land Ports Authority of India, Government of India • Rabi Shanker Sainju, Senior Fellow, Institute of Integrated Development Studies, Former Joint Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Commerce & Supplies, Government of Nepal
13:00 - 13:45	Lunch
Session - 2: Political Economy Challenges to Multimodal Connectivity	
13:45 - 15:15	<p><i>In this session, insights from a perception survey entitled ‘Enabling Transport Connectivity in the BBIN subregion: Stakeholders’ Perception and Way Forward’ will be presented. By looking at existing political economy challenges, it will deliberate on specific recommendations for enabling a better-informed political economy discourse including their gender and social implication aspects.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Mustafizur Rahman, Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh</p> <p>Presentation: Indranil Bose, Consultant, CUTS International</p> <p>Panellists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mohammad Abdur Razzaque, Chairman, Research and Policy Integration for Development, Bangladesh • Bhimlal Suberi, Former Chief, Policy and Planning Division, Ministry of Information and Communication, Royal Government of Bhutan • Riya Sinha, Associate Fellow, Centre for Social and Economic Progress, New Delhi • Apekshya Shah, Senior Fellow, Nepal Economic Forum
15:15 - 15:30	Tea/Coffee

Session - 3: Future Connectivity and Trade Opportunities in the BBIN Subregion	
15:30 - 17:00	<p><i>This session will focus on the emerging investment opportunities in the field of multimodal connectivity in the BBIN subregion. It will deliberate on the initiatives undertaken by various bilateral and multilateral agencies tuned to governmental priorities in the infrastructure sector.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Pritam Banerjee, Professor & Head, Centre for WTO Studies, New Delhi</p> <p>Panellists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitali Nikore, Transport Specialist, The World Bank Group, New Delhi • Taniguchi Hajime, Senior Representative, Japan International Cooperation Agency, India Office • Mikiko Tanaka, Head Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, New Delhi • Soumya Chattopadhyay, Senior Program Officer, South Asia Department, Asian Development Bank, India Resident Mission
17:00	High Tea