

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



**REPORT OF  
THE 13<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF BIMSTEC SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING  
11 NOVEMBER 2008, NEW DELHI**

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**I. Opening of the Meeting**

1. The Thirteenth BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) was held in New Delhi, India on 11 November 2008. Delegates from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand attended the Meeting. The list of participants is at **Annex-I**.
2. The SOM was opened by H.E. Mr. N. Ravi, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, who chaired the SOM.

**II. Adoption of the Agenda**

3. The Agenda as adopted by the SOM is at **Annex-II**.

**III. Business Arrangements**

4. The SOM took note of the programme and business arrangements for the 13<sup>th</sup> SOM.

**IV. Report of the Chairperson of the BIMSTEC Working Group (BWG)**

5. The Report of the Chairperson of the BIMSTEC Working Group (BWG) was presented by H.E. Ms. Latha Reddy, Ambassador of India to Thailand and is at **Annex III**.

6. The SOM noted the Report with appreciation. The SOM commended the BWG for its valuable coordinating role in furthering the work of BIMSTEC and expressed appreciation for the support provided by Thailand.

**V. BIMSTEC Convention on Combating International Terrorism, Transnational Organized Crime and Illicit Drug Trafficking**

7. The SOM welcomed the progress made in the 4<sup>th</sup> Joint Working Group meeting on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (JWG-CTTC) held in New Delhi on 22-23 October 2008 by way of finalising the text of the 'Convention on Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism, Transnational Organised Crime and Illicit Drug Trafficking'. The agreed text of the Convention is at **Annex IV**. The SOM recommended that this Convention may be signed by the BIMSTEC Member States at an early date.

**VI. Memorandum of Association (MoA) for the establishment of the BIMSTEC Energy Centre**

8. The SOM finalised the text of the Memorandum of Association (MoA) of the BIMSTEC Energy Centre which was approved by the 10<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting with a minor amendment in the MoA, reflecting the decisions arrived in the 12<sup>th</sup> SOM in respect of appointment of Executive Director. The agreed text of the MoA is at **Annex V**. The SOM recommended that the MoA may be signed by the BIMSTEC Member States at an early date.

**VII. The Memorandum of Association (MoA) of the BIMSTEC Centre for Weather and Climate**

9. The SOM recommended that the Memorandum of Association (MoA) of the BIMSTEC Centre for Weather and Climate, which was approved by the 10<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting, be signed by the BIMSTEC Member States at an early date. The agreed text of the MoA is at **Annex VI**.

**VIII. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), of BIMSTEC Cultural Industries Commission (BCIC) and BIMSTEC Cultural Industries Observatory (BCIO)**

10. The SOM recommended that the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of BIMSTEC Cultural Industries Commission (BCIC) and BIMSTEC Cultural Industries Observatory (BCIO), which was approved by the 10<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting be signed by the BIMSTEC Member States at an early date. The agreed text of MOU is at **Annex VII**.

**IX. BIMSTEC Free Trade Area**

11. The SOM noted with satisfaction the substantial progress made in the 17th Meeting of the BIMSTEC Trade Negotiating Committee which was held in Colombo from 15 – 17th October 2008. The SOM reiterated that the BIMSTEC FTA will be a significant achievement for the regional grouping. The SOM further noted that the remaining issues can be sorted out by the meeting of BIMSTEC Senior Trade/Economic Officials Meeting (STEOM) or Trade/Economic Ministers Meeting (TEMM). The SOM recommended the early convening of STEOM/TEMM to finalise the BIMSTEC Agreement on Trade in Goods.

**X. BIMSTEC Transport Infrastructure and Logistics Study (BTILS)**

12. The SOM recalled the discussion during the 12<sup>th</sup> SOM on the BIMSTEC Transport Infrastructure and Logistics Study (BTILS) conducted by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and including the proposed institutional mechanism and terms of reference that was being evaluated by Member States.

**XI. Discussion on BIMSTEC Secretariat**

13. The SOM welcomed the first meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on BIMSTEC Permanent Secretariat held in Dhaka on 23-24 October 2008. The SOM directed the JWG to continue its efforts to finalise the draft agreement, financing mechanism, operational/organisational structure of the Secretariat and BIMSTEC Centres to be established in the Member States in subsequent meetings of the Joint Working Group (JWG). As regards the location of the Secretariat, the SOM noted that a decision on the matter may be reached at the forthcoming BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting or Summit.

**XII. Any other matter**

14. The SOM recommended the inclusion of Climate Change as the fourteenth priority sector of cooperation in the BIMSTEC framework as proposed by Bangladesh.

15. The SOM recommended the establishment of a BIMSTEC Tourism Centre as proposed by Nepal. The SOM also recommended that the Centre be established in Nepal.

**XIII. Consideration and adoption of the SOM Report**

14. The SOM adopted by consensus the above report of the 13<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meeting held in New Delhi on 11 November 2008.

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11 November, 2008

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

**Bangladesh**

1. H.E. Mr. Liaquat Ali Choudhury (SOM Leader)  
High Commissioner of Bangladesh to India
2. H.E. Mr. Mustofa Kamal  
Ambassador of Bangladesh to Thailand
3. Mr. Kazi Imtiaz Hossain  
Diretor General (SAARC,BIMSTEC and ACD)
4. Ms. Mashfee Binte Shams  
Minister (Political)  
High Commission of Bangladesh in New Delhi
5. Mr. Mohammad Monirul Islam  
First Secretary  
High Commission of Bangladesh in New Delhi
6. Mr. Nore Alam  
Assistant Secretary  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Bhutan**

1. Mr. Thinley Dorji (SOM Leader)  
Director, Multilateral Department  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
2. Mr. Pema L. Dorji  
Head, SAARC, BIMSTEC and ACD  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
3. Ms. Ugyen Chozom  
Deputy Head, SAARC, BIMSTEC and ACD  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**India**

1. Shri. N. Ravi (SOM Leader)  
Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs
2. Ms. Vijaya Latha Reddy  
Ambassador of India to Thailand
3. Shri. Yogender Kumar  
Additional Secretary (MER), Ministry of External Affairs
4. Shri. J.S Mukul  
Joint Secretary (ER/MER), Ministry of External Affairs
5. Shri. Bala Subramanyam Reddy  
OSD (MER), Ministry of External Affairs
6. Shri Zothan Khuma  
Director, Department of Commerce
7. Shri. Charan Jeet Singh  
Deputy Secretary (MER), Ministry of External Affairs

**Myanmar**

1. U Thant Kyaw (SOM Leader)  
Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
2. U Than Aye  
Deputy Director General, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
3. U Htin Aung  
Deputy Director General, Ministry of Energy
4. U Kyaw Swa  
Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
5. U Aung Kyaw Moe  
First Secretary,  
Embassy of Union of Myanmar, New Delhi
6. Daw Ei Mon Swe  
Head of Branch-2, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Nepal**

1. Mr.Gyan Chandra Acharya (SOM Leader)  
Foreign Secretary
2. Mr. Pradhumna Bikram Shah  
Joint Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
3. Mr. Lal Mani Joshi  
Joint Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
4. Mr. Kedar Bahadur Adhikari  
Minister (Economic)  
Nepalese Embassy, New Delhi
5. Mr. Prakash kumar Subedi  
Under Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
6. Mr.Yagya Bahadur Hamal  
Under Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Sri Lanka**

1. Mr. Prasad Karyawasam (SOM leader)  
Additional Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
2. Mr. A.A. Jawad  
Director-General/Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
3. Mr. Kapila Jayaweera  
Counsellor, Sri Lanka High Commission, New Delhi
4. Mr. P.R.S.S Gunaratna  
First Secretary, Sri Lanka High Commission, New Delhi
5. Mr. Niluka Kadurugamuwa  
Assistant Director/South Asia & SAARC, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Thailand**

1. Mr. Norachit Sinhaseni (SOM Leader)  
Deputy Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
2. Mr. Adisak Tanyakul  
Deputy Secretary-General  
Office of the National Security Council
3. Mr. Krit Kraichitti  
Director-General  
Department of International Economic Affairs  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
4. Mrs. Muntana Brikshavana  
Deputy Director-General of Administration  
Thai Meteorological Department
5. Ms. Nitivadee Manitkul  
Director, Division of Economic Relations and Cooperation  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
6. Mr. Manoth Suksubjarern  
Director of Planning and Monitoring Branch  
TICA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
7. Mr. Tull Traisorat  
Counsellor, Division of Economic Relations and Cooperation,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
8. Mr. Krirkbhumi Chitranukroh  
Second Secretary  
Division of Economic Relations and Cooperation  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
9. Miss Surada Monatrakul  
Third Secretary, Division of Economic Relations and Cooperation,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
10. Mr. Pathai Sithisuntorn  
Plan and policy Analyst, Bureau of External Security Affairs,  
Office of the National Security Council