

BIMSTEC Secretariat, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Press Release, 29 April 2024

Secretary General participated at 80th Session of UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

Secretary General, H. E. Indra Mani Pandey, participated at the 80th Session of UNESCAP, which was held during 22-26 April 2024 in Bangkok, Thailand. He addressed the High-level Dialogue with sub-Regional Organizations on “Leveraging digital innovation for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific”. He also addressed the Side Event on “Leveraging Digital Innovation for Promoting Cross-Border Connectivity in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal (BBIN) Subregion”. These four countries are member States of BIMSTEC.

During the visit, SG called on the Executive Secretary of UNESCAP, Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, and discussed various avenues for structured cooperation in future between the BIMSTEC and UNESCAP.

Besides, SG met with the following Dignitaries, on the sidelines of the UNESCAP Session, and discussed with them various ways of forging cooperation between the BIMSTEC and their respective regional/international organizations:

- H.E. Rabab Fatima, Under-Secretary-General, High Representative of United Nations for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS);
- H.E. Mr. Henry Puna, Secretary General, Pacific Islands Forum (PIF);
- H.E. Kairat Sarybay, Secretary General, Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA);
- H.E. Dr. Vinaya Prakash Singh, Secretary General, Asian-Pacific Postal Union (APPU);
- Ms. Fatima Yasmin, Vice-President (Sectors and Themes), Asian Development Bank (ADB);
- Ms. Atsuko Okuda, Regional Director, International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific;
- Mr. Marco Toscano-Rivalta, Chief of Office, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific;
- Ms. Alia El-YASSIR, Regional Director, UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific;
- Mr. Jonathan Gilman, Officer-in-Charge and Deputy Regional Director, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific;
- Mr. Greg Browder, Lead Water Resources Management Specialist, World Bank (WB);

BIMSTEC comprises seven countries of the Bay of Bengal region: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand. It pursues regional cooperation in the following seven sectors: Agriculture and Food Security; Connectivity; Environment and Climate Change; People to People Contact; Science, Technology and Innovation; Security; and Trade, Investment and Development.
