

**BIMSTEC Secretariat, Dhaka, Bangladesh**  
**Press Release, 10 November 2024**

**With signing of Host Country Agreement, BIMSTEC takes the final step towards  
establishment of BIMSTEC Energy Centre**

The Host Country Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the BIMSTEC Secretariat for establishing BIMSTEC Energy Centre (BEC) in Bengaluru was signed in New Delhi on 08 November 2024. It was signed, on behalf of the Secretariat, by BIMSTEC Secretary General, His Excellency Indra Mani Pandey, while His Excellency Jaideep Mazumder, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, signed it on behalf of the Government of India. The establishment of BEC has been seen as a step towards promoting regional cooperation in energy sector within BIMSTEC framework, which is led by India. India also leads the Security and Disaster Management Sectors.

The BEC will manage a regional energy database, conduct feasibility studies for intra-BIMSTEC projects and enhance cooperation by preparing a framework for networking among national agencies of BIMSTEC member States. It will promote energy security through grid interconnections, renewable energy development and realization of energy efficiency. Moreover, the Centre will foster capacity building, cross-border investments and infrastructure development for training in energy sector.

It may be noted that a Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation was adopted by the BIMSTEC Energy Ministers' Conference in 2005. The MoU for establishing the BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection has been force since April 2019. The BIMSTEC policies for Transmission of Electricity and for Trade, Exchange of Electricity and Tariff Mechanism are being finalized. A BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection Master Plan is also under discussion.

BIMSTEC Energy Cooperation has focused on promoting renewable energy, improving energy efficiency, developing cross-border energy trade and undertaking grid interconnections, which aim to ensure energy security, transition to green energy and sustainable development in Bay of Bengal region.

BIMSTEC comprises seven countries of the Bay of Bengal region: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand. It pursues regional cooperation in seven broad sectors: Agriculture and Food Security; Connectivity; Environment and Climate Change; People to People Contact; Science, Technology and Innovation; Security; and Trade, Investment and Development. The cooperation also covers 8 sub-sectors: Blue Economy, Mountain Economy, Energy, Disaster Management, Fisheries and Livestock, Poverty Alleviation, Health and Human Resource Development.

\*\*\*\*\*