

BIMSTEC Secretariat, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Press Release, 25 November 2024

Fourth Meeting of the BIMSTEC Expert Group on Visa Matters

The 4th Meeting of the BIMSTEC Expert Group on Visa Matters was held in Kathmandu, Nepal, on 20–21 November 2024. It underscored the importance of cooperation amongst the BIMSTEC member States on visa matters and decided to pursue BIMSTEC Visa Facilitation Scheme to promote intra-BIMSTEC travels, people-to-people exchanges, trade and tourism. The Meeting agreed to facilitate issue of visas and other related matters for the participants at BIMSTEC meetings/events/activities.

The Meeting encouraged the member States, inter alia, to conclude visa exemption agreements through bilateral mechanisms and ease visa procedures etc. It emphasized on organising capacity development and knowledge-sharing activities on a regular basis.

The BIMSTEC Secretariat thanks the Government of Nepal for convening the Meeting. It is grateful to all the BIMSTEC member States for their participation and contribution to the success of the Meeting. The next Meeting of BIMSTEC Expert Group on Visa Matters will be hosted by Sri Lanka.

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.