



BIMSTEC Secretariat,
Dhaka, Bangladesh

PRESS RELEASE

SIGNING OF BIMSTEC AGREEMENT ON MARITIME TRANSPORT COOPERATION

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Agreement on Maritime Transport Cooperation (AMTC) was signed on the occasion of the 6th BIMSTEC Summit held on 04 April, 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Foreign Ministers of BIMSTEC member States signed the Agreement, marking a transformative step towards enhancing maritime partnerships in the region.

With AMTC in place, BIMSTEC now has a comprehensive framework for seamless maritime transport, aimed at reducing logistical bottlenecks and deepening economic integration. The Agreement will enhance port efficiency, harmonize maritime policies, and streamline customs procedures, ensuring smoother movement of goods and services.

Beyond trade facilitation, AMTC seeks to boost investment in key maritime infrastructure, including ports, shipping lanes, and coastal logistics hubs, fostering regional economic growth and stability. It also promotes cooperation in maritime safety, environmental sustainability, digitalization of shipping processes, and capacity-building.

BIMSTEC Leaders welcomed the signing of the AMTC, recognizing its potential to enhance regional maritime connectivity, facilitate cross-border trade, and spur investment in port infrastructure, logistics, and related sectors. They also directed relevant authorities to expedite its implementation.

BIMSTEC comprises seven countries of the Bay of Bengal region: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand. It pursues regional cooperation in 7 broad sectors: Agriculture & Food Security; Connectivity; Environment & Climate Change; People-to-People Contact; Science, Technology & Innovation; Security; and Trade, Investment & Development. The cooperation also covers 8 sub-sectors: Blue Economy, Mountain Economy, Energy, Disaster Management, Fisheries & Livestock, Poverty Alleviation, Health, and Human Resource Development.

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