

BIMSTEC Newsletter



A Monthly Newsletter from BIMSTEC



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

Established in 1997

India Hosts BIMSTEC Workshop on Seasonal Prediction and Application to Society

BIMSTEC Workshop on Seasonal Prediction and Application to Society, India Meteorological Department, was held in New Delhi on June 22-23, 2011. Participants from BIMSTEC Member Countries attended the Workshop. The themes of workshop were:

- (i) Observed Variability in Seasonal to Inter-annual timescales;
- (ii) Dynamic Modeling and Seasonal prediction;
- (iii) Dynamic Downscaling;
- (iv) Statistical Methods & Statistical Downscaling; and
- (v) Climate Risk Management in Agriculture and Water Resources.

Dr. Shailesh Nayak, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences (MOES), Government of India opened the Workshop in the presence of Dr. Ajit

Director General of Meteorological Services to strengthen and improve seasonal prediction capabilities. In the discussions, it was noted that BIMSTEC neighboring countries could share developments in this field through mutual interaction.

Several application sectors demand prediction in seasonal timescales. Hydrology applications need precipitation, snowmelt runoff, surface temperature forecasts etc. while agriculture applications need precipitation, temperature forecasts.

Source: Embassy of India, Bangkok



Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Ambassador Mohamed Mijarul Quayes with the leaders of BIMSTEC delegations to the Fourth Joint Working Group Meeting on the Establishment of the BIMSTEC Permanent Secretariat, 30-31 May 2011, Dhaka.

Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces Visits Myanmar

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar H.E. U Thein Sein received the high-level goodwill delegation led by Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces General Songkitti Jaggabatara at the President Office on 8 June 2011 in Nay Pyi Taw. General Songkitti Jaggabatara also met General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of Myanmar Defense Services, to discuss matters for promoting friendly relations and cooperation between the two armed forces.

Source: Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok & Royal Thai Armed Forces website



India's High Growth Path Expected

“Overall GDP growth in 2010-11... has been estimated at 8.5% and the economy is expected to maintain the momentum in 2011-12.”



H.E. Mr. Shri Pranab Mukherjee, the vibrancy of Indian entrepreneurs, Union Finance Minister of India, said strong services sectors, emerging knowledge spheres and sunrise on US-India Economic and Financial Partnership in Washington DC on 27 June 2011 that Indian economic growth will be sustained at a high rate of 8 to 9 per cent per annum over the next few decades.

The growth is driven by the increase in the savings and investment ratios, India's young working age population, buoyancy in domestic demand driven by growing middle class incomes, and rapid progress in infrastructure and better access to cutting edge technology.

Moreover, the Indian Finance Minister highlighted the ongoing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy reforms, including the consolidation of all prior regulations guidelines into one comprehensive document, which would make FDI policy more user-friendly. He said that this has been done with the specific intent of enhancing clarity and predictability of India's FDI policy to foreign investors.

He also pointed out that there are many other drivers of the Indian growth story including the energy and

Source: www.pib.nic.in

Bhutan PM Welcomes Delegates from Thailand

Hon. Lyonchhen Jigme Y. Thinley, Prime Minister of Bhutan, welcomed a delegation from King Prajadhipok's Institute of Thailand on 6 June 2011 at the Terma Linca Resort & Spa, Thimphu. The Prime Minister shared his thoughts and had an exchange of views with the executives and students of King Prajadhipok's Institute on important issues, such as the Gross National Happiness (GNH) and decentralisation of power to local communities. The delegation from King's Prajadhipok's Institute, led by Dr. Sumet Tantivejkul, was on a study field trip in Bhutan between 4 - 8 June 2011.

Kandy International Film Festival A Success

Sri Lanka organised the Kandy International Film Festival (KIFF), the first international film festival in Sri Lanka, between 22 - 26 June 2011. KIFF was conceptualised with the objective of showcasing the Sri Lankan identity in cinema while promoting inter-cultural harmony.

The event featured screenings of short films and documentaries from various countries, including some BIMSTEC Member Countries, as well as panel discussions with the directors and workshops at three different venues, namely the Kandy City

Centre, the Open Air Theatre at the University of Peradeniya, and Sigiri Theatre, Katugastota.

The film festival attracted many film enthusiasts and was deemed a “landmark event in the history of the Sri Lankan film industry” by Sri Lankan actress Malini Fonseka, who was presented with the award for Outstanding Achievement in film for her exceptional contribution to Sri Lankan cinema.

Source: <http://www.priu.gov.lk>

Thai Ambassador to Nepal Presents Awards at 9th Tenzing-Hillary Everest Marathon

On 29 May 2011, Mr. Maris Sangiampongsa, Thai Ambassador to Nepal, was invited as chief guest to present the awards to the winners of the 9th Tenzing-Hillary Everest Marathon at Namche Bazaar, Nepal. 110 athletes - 45 Nepalese and 65 foreigners - participated in this marathon event, which started from Everest Base camp located at an altitude of 5,356 meters and finished at Namche Bazaar at an altitude of 3,446 meters, covering a total distance of 42.195 km.

After the award presentation ceremony, Ambassador Maris, together with the event organisers, held a press conference to



announce the organisation of the marathon event named “Buddhist Circuits Marathon”, held next year in Lumbini, Nepal, whereby the race will begin from the Royal

Thai Monastery via significant places that the Lord Buddha had visited and end at Mayadevi Temple, the birthplace of the Lord Buddha.

This event is organised by the Royal Thai Embassy in Nepal, in cooperation with the Royal Thai Monastery in Lumbini and the Nepali private sectors. Many participants, both Buddhists and interested people from around the world, are expected to join in the event.

Source: www.mfa.go.th

India and Myanmar to Establish Industrial Training Centre

India's Minister of External Affairs H.E. Mr. S.M Krishna paid a courtesy call on Myanmar Vice-President H.E. Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo on 21 June 2011 in Nay Pyi Taw. The Indian Minister held meeting with his counterpart, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs H.E. U Wunna Maung Lwin on bilateral relations. The MoU between Myanmar and India on Setting up of Indo-Myanmar Industrial Training Center at Myingyan was signed and the Minister handed over paperwork on 500-ton Food Security Shelter built under India-Myanmar Friendship Programme and cash to Tahlay earthquake victims.

Source: Myanmar Embassy, Bangkok

Ground Breaking Ceremony of the Dhaka Elevated Expressway

Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the Ground Breaking Ceremony of the Dhaka Elevated Expressway, on 30 April 2011, in Dhaka. His Excellency Mr. Kiat Sittheamorn, President of the Thai Trade Representative was present during the Ground Breaking Ceremony of the Dhaka Elevated Expressway, as a special Representative of the Thai Prime Minister.



The Dhaka Elevated Expressway Project is part of the Bangladeshi government's efforts to ease the capital's traffic problems. Italian-Thai Public Development Company Ltd, signed a deal on 19 January 2011 to build and operate a \$2 billion elevated expressway across Dhaka for 25 years. The signing ceremony was attended by Mr. Alongkorn Ponlaboot, Deputy Commerce Minister of Thailand, Mr. HT Imam and Mr. Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, Advisers to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Mr. Kiat Sittheamorn, President of Thailand Trade Representative .

Source: Bangladesh Embassy, Bangkok

India and Thailand Join Hands to Develop Educational Networks



On 12 – 17 June 2011, the Royal Thai Embassy in New Delhi led a delegation comprising executives from educational agencies of the Government of India and educators from leading universities in New Delhi to visit the Office of Higher Education Commission, Chulalongkorn University, Thammasat University and Mahidol University in Bangkok.

The delegation from India met the Deputy Secretary-General of the Higher Education Commission to discuss about possible cooperation and educational networks between Thailand and India, particularly to materialize the intergovernmental MoU on Cooperation in the Field of Education which the two countries signed in 2005.

The delegation also met executives of the Thai universities to discuss about the establishment of intercollegiate academic exchanges including faculty/student visits, joint research and co-developed long-distance/online learning programs.

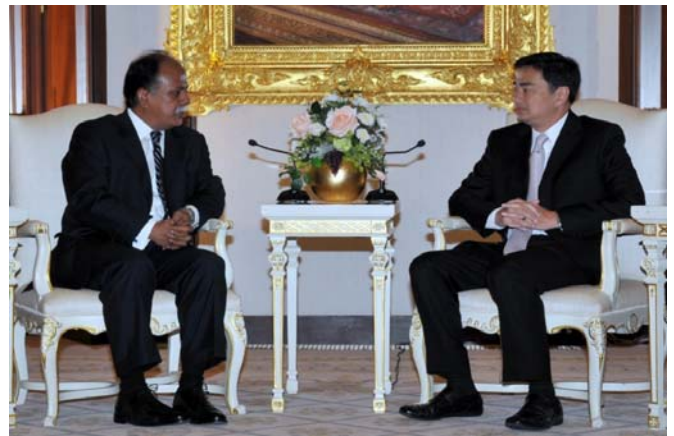
Source: Royal Thai Embassy in New Delhi



Thai Red Cross Aid for Earthquake Victims in

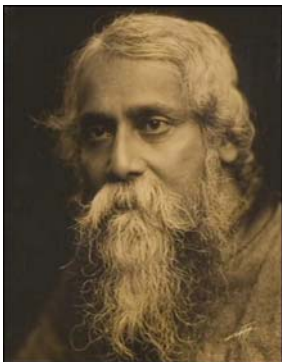
Thai Ambassador to Myanmar, Mr. Apirath Vienravi, handed over relief items from the Thai Red Cross Society for victims of the earthquake in Shan State of Myanmar at the Second Thai-Myanmar Friendship Bridge (Mai Sai – Tachilek) on 19 May 2011. The relief items were received by U Tu Maung, Shan State's Minister for Transport and Communication and President of the Committee of Relief Work for Earthquake Victims. The humanitarian assistance presentation ceremony was also attended by representatives from the Thai Red Cross Society and Myanmar Red Cross Society, and other concerned authorities.

Source: Department of East Asian Affairs,



Ambassador Mr. Kazi Imtiaz Hossain paid a courtesy call- on H.E. Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva, Hon'ble Prime Minister of Thailand, on 21 April 2011 in Bangkok. The Bangladesh Ambassador discussed wide-range of issues of mutual interest, particularly trade and investment promotion, with the Thai Prime Minister. The Prime Minister emphasized that Thailand has an intention to promote cooperation with Bangladesh in all dimensions and at all levels.

Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore



The Institute of Asian Studies, Chula Global Network, Indian Studies Centre of Chulalongkorn University, in conjunction with Indian Embassy and Indian Council for Cultural Relations, organised an international conference titled 'Tagore's Vision for Asia: Human Solidarity beyond Nationalism' at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok between 16 - 17 June 2011 to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. An exhibition of digital reprints of Tagore's paintings and a photo exhibition "Tagore and the Romance of Travel" was also inaugurated on June 16 and would remain for public viewing till July 16.

Rabindranath Tagore was a Bengali poet, novelist, musician, painter and playwright who reshaped Bengali literature and music. He was the first non-European and the only Indian to be awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913.

Source: Embassy of India, Bangkok



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

This issue of the BIMSTEC Newsletter has been compiled on behalf of the BIMSTEC Working Group by the Department of International Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand.

For past issues of the BIMSTEC Newsletter and more information about BIMSTEC, please visit us at:

WWW.BIMSTEC.ORG

Upcoming BIMSTEC Events and Activities

International Research Conference and Symposium in Ayurveda

15 - 17 July 2011, Colombo, Sri Lanka

3rd Meeting of the Task Force on BIMSTEC Trans-Power Exchange

23 - 24 August 2011, Dhaka, Bangladesh

5th Meeting of the Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime

TBC, Kathmandu, Nepal