



BIMSTEC

Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation

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Editorial



Welcome to 8th monthly BIMSTEC e-Newsletter of 2024!

We are pleased to share with you highlights of August 2024, providing glimpses of some of the significant developments during the Month.

The inaugural BIMSTEC Business Summit was hosted by Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), New Delhi, India. It brought together over 400 businesspersons and Leaders, providing a platform for forging business linkages for promotion of trade and investments in Bay of Bengal region.

7th Meeting of the BIMSTEC Permanent Working Committee was held virtually to discuss, inter alia, draft Declaration of the 6th BIMSTEC Summit. The 1st Meeting of the BIMSTEC Expert Group on Human Resource Development (HRD) reviewed national strategies, policies and programmes of the member States related to HRD and identified avenues for enhancing regional cooperation.

I addressed students of Kautilya School of Public Policy on "Promoting Regional Cooperation in the Bay of Bengal Through BIMSTEC.", highlighting its vision, goals and achievements. I met with Mr. V. Srinivas, Director General, National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) and explored the avenues for cooperation within the BIMSTEC Framework.

We appreciate your continued readership and welcome your valuable suggestions!

(Indra Mani Pandey)
Secretary General

BIMSTEC Business Summit 2024



The inaugural BIMSTEC Business Summit, organized by the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India, was held from August 06-08, 2024 in New Delhi, India.

The Summit aimed at identifying the way forward to promote trade and investments through early conclusion of BIMSTEC FTA, promotion of Business-to-Business (B2B) linkages and partnerships between the private sector and Governments.

The Summit focused on key facets of regional trade, including technology transfer; Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises; blue, mountain and digital economies; services sector; and women-led development.

Secretary General, BIMSTEC shared his perspectives at the Plenary Session of the Summit on "**Strengthening Cooperation in Services Sector among BIMSTEC countries focusing on Tourism, ITES, Education and Health sector**". He made specific proposals at the Ministerial Session to boost intra-regional trade and promote more investment within the region.

The Summit was attended by over 4000 key policymakers, leading businesses, think-tanks, academia, apex Chambers of Commerce & Industries, investment promotion organizations, etc. from the BIMSTEC member States. A CII study on BIMSTEC Economic Cooperation was also released during the inaugural session.



7th Meeting of BIMSTEC Permanent Working Committee



Thailand hosted the 7th Meeting of the BIMSTEC Permanent Working Committee (BPWC) on 01 August 2024. Delegations from all the member States participated in the Meeting.

The Meeting discussed the draft Agenda and draft Declaration of the 6th BIMSTEC Summit, 20th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting and 24th BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meeting.

1st Meeting of BIMSTEC Expert Group on Human Resource Development



The 1st Meeting of the BIMSTEC Expert Group on Human Resource Development was hosted by Sri Lanka virtually on 21-22 August 2024.

The Meeting reviewed the national strategies, policies and programmes related to human resource development and discussed avenues for enhancing regional cooperation. The Meeting also finalized the Draft Terms of Reference of the Expert Group and the Draft BIMSTEC Plan of Action (PoA) on Human Resource Development (2024-2029).

The finalized PoA includes several activities across nine different goals with focus on enhancing skill development, education and capacity building of the human resources in the region.

The Human Resource Development is a sub-sector under the Science, Technology and Innovation Sector with Sri Lanka as the lead country.

Secretary General Addresses Students at Kautilya School of Public Policy



Secretary General, BIMSTEC made an insightful presentation on **"Promoting Regional Cooperation in the Bay of Bengal Through BIMSTEC"** on 09 August 2024, at the Kautilya School of Public Policy at GITAM University in Hyderabad, India. He shared a succinct overview of BIMSTEC, highlighting the existing technical and economic cooperation and stressing the salience of the BIMSTEC for promoting regional cooperation in Bay of Bengal.

Secretary General visits the National Centre for Good Governance



The Secretary General called on Mr. V. Srinivas, Director General, National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) of India, at the latter's office in New Delhi on 13 August 2024. They explored the avenues for cooperation within the BIMSTEC framework.



BIMSTEC SECRETARIAT

The BIMSTEC Secretariat was established on 13 September 2014 in Dhaka, Bangladesh, following signing of the MoA on the Establishment of the BIMSTEC Permanent Secretariat at the 3rd Summit in 2014. Secretary General acts as the Head of the Secretariat. The Secretary General carries out the directives of the member States and coordinates, monitors and reports on the progress in their implementation.

The present Secretary General of BIMSTEC, H.E. Indra Mani Pandey, is a distinguished diplomat from India. He is the 4th Secretary General of BIMSTEC.



BIMSTEC SECRETARIAT

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