



## Regional Policy Dialogue

### **Connectivity and Trade Facilitation in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal (BBIN) Sub-region of the Indo-Pacific**

**Wednesday, September 04th, 2019, at Hotel Golden Tulip, Banani, Dhaka, Bangladesh**

#### Agenda

<b>08:30 – 09:00</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>09:00 – 10:30</b>	<b>Opening</b>
	<p><i>This session will deliberate on the current state of regionalism in Indo-Pacific and emerging strategic issues impacting connectivity and trade facilitation in the BBIN sub-region. It will highlight how the BBIN group of countries are looking at the virtues and challenges of regionalism at present and what priorities define their approach towards connectivity and trade facilitation.</i></p> <p><b>Chair: Atiur Rahman</b>, Chairperson, Unnayan Shamannay, Bangladesh</p> <p><b>Remarks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bipul Chatterjee</b>, Executive Director, CUTS International</li> <li>• <b>Mohammad Khairul Alam</b>, Assistant Trade Consultant, Ministry of Commerce, Bangladesh</li> <li>• <b>Damaru Ballabha Paudel</b>, Director, Trade and Investment and Social Affairs division, BIMSTEC Secretariat</li> <li>• <b>Ambassador Humayun Kabir</b>, Vice President, Bangladesh Enterprise Institute, Dhaka</li> </ul>
<b>10:30 – 11:00</b>	<b>Break and Group Photo</b>
<b>11:00 – 12:30</b>	<b>Positioning of the BBIN MVA for Fostering Multi-modal Connectivity and Trade Facilitation in the Indo-Pacific</b>
	<p><i>This session will deliberate on how the BBIN MVA can act as a catalyst for fostering multi-modal connectivity and trade facilitation in the Indo-Pacific. By looking at existing physical and regulatory infrastructure in the BBIN group of countries, it will make specific recommendations for infrastructure development and technical assistance including capacity building programmes for the BBIN group of countries to strengthen their trade and economic links in the Indo-Pacific.</i></p> <p><b>Moderator: Paras Kharel</b>, Research Director, SAWTEE, Nepal</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Salma Akter Khuky</b>, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of Bangladesh</li> <li>• <b>Pramod Kumar Srivastava</b>, Convenor, Eastern Region Chapter, Association of Multimodal Operators of India (AMTOI), Kolkata</li> <li>• <b>Mofizur Rahman Sazan</b>, President, Benapole Customs Clearing Agents Association, Benapole</li> <li>• <b>Rajan Sharma</b>, Former President, Nepal Freight Forwarders Association</li> </ul>
<b>12:30 – 13:30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>

<b>13:30 – 15:00</b>	<b>Political Economy and Gender Aspects of Connectivity and Trade Facilitation in the BBIN Sub-region</b>
	<p><i>Connectivity and trade facilitation has emerged as one of most important issues in regional integration agenda of the BBIN sub-region. This session will deliberate on two broad issues – firstly, what are the major trade facilitation challenges faced by various stakeholders in the sub-region; and secondly, how to address those challenges so as to make them make such initiatives politically balanced, economically equitable and structurally flexible.</i></p> <p><b>Moderator: Mustafizur Rahman</b>, Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Selima Ahmad</b>, President, Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry</li> <li>• <b>Damchae Dem</b>, Founder &amp; Chief Executive Officer, Bhutan Association of Women Entrepreneurs</li> <li>• <b>Sreeradha Dutta</b>, Centre Head &amp; Senior Fellow, Vivekananda International Foundation</li> <li>• <b>Nazneen Ahmed</b>, Research Fellow, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies</li> <li>• <b>Pushpa Chhetri</b>, Director, Bhutan Media &amp; Communications Institute, Thimphu, Bhutan</li> </ul>
<b>15:00 – 15:30</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>15:30 – 16:15</b>	<b>Role of Development Partners in Fostering Connectivity and Trade Facilitation in the BBIN Sub-region</b>
	<p><i>This session will discuss connectivity and trade facilitation initiatives undertaken by development partners including multilateral agencies in the BBIN sub-region. Other than hard infrastructure development, it will focus on the imperative of developing soft infrastructure including regulatory reforms through technical assistance and capacity building programmes. Synergies and alignments of development initiatives between and among various agencies will also be discussed.</i></p> <p><b>Moderator: Pete Gauthier</b>, Private Enterprise Officer, Economic Growth office, U.S. Agency for International Development, India</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mohammad A. Razzaque</b>, Research Director, Policy Research Institute, Dhaka, Bangladesh</li> <li>• <b>Sujeev Shakya</b>, Chairman, Nepal Economic Forum</li> </ul>
<b>16:15 – 16:30</b>	<b>Closing Session: Summing up followed by Vote of Thanks</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Arnab Ganguly</b>, Centre Head and Assistant Policy Analyst, CUTS International</li> <li>• <b>Bipul Chatterjee</b>, Executive Director, CUTS International</li> </ul>