

**Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal Motor Vehicles Agreement:
*Facilitating implementation and stakeholder buy-in in the BBIN region***

16-17 February, 2017, Oberoi Grand, Kolkata, India

Agenda

Day 1: Thursday, 16th February, 2017

0830 – 0900 Registration

0900 – 1100 Opening: The Need for a Broader Agenda for Trade, Transport and Transit Facilitation in the Bay of Bengal Region

Welcome Remarks

Pradeep S. Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS International

Craig L. Hall, U.S. Consul General, Kolkata

Introduction of the Theme

Bipul Chatterjee, Executive Director, CUTS International

Speakers

- A D James, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport & Highway, Government of India
- Sandeep Raj Jain, Economic Affairs Officer, Transport Facilitation and Logistics Section, Transport Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
- Atiur Rahman, Professor, Dhaka University and Former Governor, Bangladesh Bank
- Alapan Bandhopadhyay, Principal Secretary, Department of Transport, Government of West Bengal*
- Badrul Hassan Babul, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce. Government of Bangladesh
- Bhupinder Singh Bhalla, Joint Secretary (SAARC/South Asia), Department of Commerce, Government of India
- Sandeep Kumar, Commissioner (Customs & Export Promotion), Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, Government of India
- Dasho Karma W Penjor, Secretary, Ministry of Information and Communications, Royal Government of Bhutan

1100 – 1130 Break

1130 – 1300 Session 1: Project Outline

Chair: Bhupinder Singh Bhalla, Joint Secretary (SAARC/South Asia), Department of Commerce, Government of India

Objectives, Activities, Methodology, Outputs and Outcomes

Prithviraj Nath, Associate Director, CUTS International

Discussants

- Nilanjan Ghosh, Senior Fellow, Observer Research Foundation
- Mona Shrestha Adhikari, Fellow, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment
- Sathish K Reddy, Consultant, Asian Development Bank
- Takayuki Kawakami, Head of Economic and Development Section, Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh
- Dasho Kinley Dorji, Former Secretary, Ministry of Information and Communications, Royal Government of Bhutan

1300 – 1400 Lunch

1400 – 1530 Session 2: Political Economic Hurdles to BBIN MVA Implementation and Possible Strategies: Country Perspectives

Chair: Atiur Rahman, Professor, Dhaka University and Former Governor, Bangladesh Bank

Panellists

- A.K. Enamul Haque, Professor, East West University and Emeritus Scholar, Unnayan Shamannay, Bangladesh
- Shankar Shinde, Vice Chairman, Outreach Council, Federation of Freight Forwarders Association of India
- Sujeev Shakya, Founder, Nepal Economic Forum
- Mahbul Anam, President, Federation of Freight Forwarders Association of Bangladesh

1530 – 1545 Break

15:45 – 17:30 Session 3: BBIN MVA - Concerns and Aspirations: Private Sector Perspectives

Chair: Sandeep Kumar, Commissioner (Customs & Export Promotion), Department of Revenue, Government of India

Panellists

- Md. Mizanur Rahman, Chief of Export, PRAN – RFL Group, Bangladesh
- M. B.Subba, Senior Reporter, Kuensel, Bhutan*
- Goutam Ghosh, Director and Head, South Asia and Arab Division, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry
- Pritam Banerjee, Senior Director, Corporate Public Policy (South Asia), Deutsche Post DHL
- Alhaj Mohammad Kafiluddin, Secretary, Bangladesh Bus Truck Owners Association
- Anil Srivastav, Chairman, North Eastern India- ASEAN Chamber of Commerce and Industry

1730 – 1745 Wrap Up of Day 1

Surendar Singh, Policy Analyst, CUTS International

2000 Reception & Dinner

Day 2: Friday, 17th February, 2017

0900 – 1030 Session 4: Enabling Connectivity – International Conventions and Treaties

Chair: A.K. Enamul Haque, Professor, East West University and Emeritus Scholar, Unnayan Shamannay, Bangladesh

Harmonisation of legal and operational environment for enabling regional transport connectivity-ESCAP initiatives

Sandeep Raj Jain, Economic Affairs Officer, Transport Facilitation and Logistics Section, Transport Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Panellists

- Temsunaro Jamir, Under Secretary, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, Government of India
- Kazem Asayesh, Senior Adviser on TIR and Trade Facilitation, International Road Transport Union
- Nisha Taneja, Professor, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations
- Rajan Sharma, Chairperson, Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce

1030 – 1100 Break

1100 – 1230 Session 5: Experience from beyond the Region

Chair: Dasho Karma W Penjor, Secretary, Ministry of Information and Communications, Royal Government of Bhutan

Presentation

The East African Experience on the Development of Economic Corridors

Abhishek Sharma, Director (Logistics), Trademark East Africa

Discussants

- Subir Bhowmik, South Asia Correspondent and Senior Editor, BD News 24
- A D James, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport & Highway, Government of India
- Badrul Hassan Babul, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce. Government of Bangladesh

1230 – 1330 Lunch

1330 – 1500 Session 6: Leveraging the BBIN MVA with Other Modes of Transport Connectivity

Chair: Alapan Bandhopadhyay, Principal Secretary, Department of Transport, Government of West Bengal*

Panellists

- Md. Saiful Islam, Joint Director, Maritime Safety and Traffic Management, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority
- Jaya Verma Sinha, Senior Deputy General Manager, South Eastern Railways, Ministry of Railways, Government of India
- Paresh Agarwal, General Manager (International Marketing), Container Corporation of India Ltd.*
- Amitabh Verma, Chairman, Inland Waterways Authority of India*
- Prakash Singh Karki, President, Nepal Freight Forwarder's Association

1500 – 1530 Break

1600 – 1700 Closing: BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement and Larger Economic Gains in the Region – Implementation Issues, Technical Assistance and Capacity Building

Chair: Atiur Rahman, Professor, Dhaka University and Former Governor, Bangladesh Bank

Panellists

- Md. Zakir Hossain, Joint Commissioner, Benapole Customs, National Board of Revenue, Government of Bangladesh
- Dasho Kinley Dorji, Former Secretary, Ministry of Information and Communications, Royal Government of Bhutan
- Sandeep Kumar, Commissioner (Customs & Export Promotion), Department of Revenue, Government of India
- Bipul Chatterjee, Executive Director, CUTS International

* *TBC*