



# DELHI POLICY GROUP

*Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power*



## DPG Conference Report, Vol. 3, Issue 3 Regional Conference on 'Advancing BIMSTEC Cooperation'

Yangon | Myanmar | June 14-15, 2018



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# **DPG Regional Conference on Advancing BIMSTEC Cooperation, Yangon, June 14-15, 2018**

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*Welcome Address by Ambassador Nyunt Maung Shein,  
Chairman, Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International  
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*Welcome Address by Dr. Zaw Oo, Executive Director, Centre  
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*Keynote Address by His Excellency Ambassador Vikram Misri,  
Ambassador of India to Myanmar*

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*Special Address by Dr. Khin Zaw, Permanent Secretary,  
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*Special Address by Shri Piyush Srivastava, Joint Secretary,  
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*Presentation by Prof. Chaw Chaw Shein, Head, Department of  
International Relations, University of Yangon*

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*Presentation by Dr. Nay Htun, Professor, Founder & Hon. Patron, Green Economy Green Growth (GEGG), Myanmar*

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*Presentation by Dr. Khin Maung Lwin, Director (Retd.), Ministry of Health & Sports, Myanmar*

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*Presentation by Mr. Sabyasachi Dutta, Director, Asian Confluence, India*

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*Paper by Mr. Soe Myint, Editor-in-Chief and Managing Director, Mizzima Media Group, Myanmar*

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*Presentation by Mr. Thuta Aung, Author and CEO, HamsaHub Consultancy, Myanmar*

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*Abstract of Presentation by Mr. Thet Win, Senior Managing Director, Shwe Than Lwin Co. Ltd., Myanmar*

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*Abstract of Discussant’s Comments by Mr. Ravindra Jain, Managing Director, 4R Consultancy Ltd., Myanmar*

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## CONCLUDING SESSION

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*Abstract of Closing Remarks by Ambassador H.K. Singh,  
Director General, Delhi Policy Group*

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*Abstract of Valedictory Address by His Excellency  
Ambassador Vikram Misri, Ambassador of India to Myanmar*

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*Abstract of Remarks by His Excellency Ambassador Bhim K  
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## *Preface and Acknowledgement*

The Delhi Policy Group commenced its journey to take stock of the ongoing efforts at Advancing BIMSTEC Regional Cooperation in March 2018 with a focus on reaping the benefits of regional integration and conducting an in-depth analysis of the opportunities and challenges of taking this cooperation forward in the five thematic areas of Trade and Economic Integration; Transit and Multimodal Connectivity (Roadways, Waterways, Road, Railways and Aviation); Energy, Water, Environment and Climate Change; People to People Connectivity through multi-sectoral Engagement; and Advancing Gender Issues in the BIMSTEC region.

The conference in Yangon on the 14-15 June 2018 was the second in the series organized by the DPG. For the same, we would like to extend a token of gratitude to the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS) and the Centre for Economic and Social Development (CESD), who were the local partners for the conference in Myanmar and played a crucial role in socializing the event and encouraging local participation. The participants brainstormed two-year Action Plans for BIMSTEC leaving behind a lasting outcome of the exercise.

The conference in Yangon, Myanmar was the outcome of sustained efforts and interest on part of many colleagues who contributed in putting it together. First and foremost, we would like to acknowledge the contributions of Ambassador H.K. Singh, the Director General of DPG without whose guidance and leadership this conference would have not come to fruition.

We owe a debt of gratitude also to Dr. Sagar Prasai, Country Representative, Asia Foundation, India; and Ms. Diya Nag, Head Programs Officer, Asia Foundation, India for their guidance and recommendations. We are grateful to Asia Foundation for funding support for the conference without which the project would not have been possible.

Last but not the least we would like to acknowledge the contributions of the BIMSTEC team in the DPG- Ambassador Biren Nanda, Senior Fellow, DPG, our Research Associates Ms Shulagna Pal, Mr Mohit Musaddi and Ms Gopika Shinghal whose efforts helped steer the conference to productive outcomes. We would also like to thank our summer intern Ms Devika Makkat for her contributions to the organization of the conference.



### *Abstract of Proceedings*

The Delhi Policy Group (DPG) in collaboration with the Asia Foundation organized a “Regional Conference on Advancing BIMSTEC Cooperation”, in Yangon, Myanmar on June 14-15, 2018. The conference was the second in the series organized by the DPG. The Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS) and the Centre for Economic and Social Development were the local partners for the conference in Myanmar. The conference hosted participants from six BIMSTEC Countries, namely, Myanmar, India, Bangladesh, Thailand, Nepal and Sri Lanka. The discussions were thematically divided into 5 sessions dealing with Trade & Economic Integration, Transit & Multi-modal Connectivity, Energy, Water, Climate Change, Environment & other Issues, People to People Connectivity through multi-sectoral engagement; and Advancing Gender Issues in the BIMSTEC region.

Ambassador H.K.Singh, Director General Delhi Policy Group, Ambassador Nyunt Maung Shein, the Chairman of the Myanmar Institute of Strategic Studies; and Dr. Zaw Oo, the Executive Director of the Centre for Economic and Social Development, Myanmar delivered welcome addresses during the inaugural session. The Indian ambassador to Myanmar, H.E. Amb. Vikram Misri graced the occasion and delivered a keynote address in the morning of June 14, 2018. Dr. Khin Zaw, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Myanmar; Ms. Naw Mutakapaw, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar; and Shri Piyush Shrivastava, Joint Secretary, BIMSTEC and SAARC, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India also delivered special addresses during the inaugural session.

The first day of the conference focused on the challenges and opportunities in the first four thematic areas of BIMSTEC regional cooperation, which were addressed in the presentations of all the participants. The second day of the conference was dedicated to the breakout sessions in which participants identified three priority areas in each of the four thematic areas, the implementation processes and the likely challenges. The participants formulated a comprehensive two-year action plan for each thematic area based on the outcome of these discussions. Further during the day, a few participants from each of the four sessions session broke out to identify challenges and opportunities in a special session on addressing gender issues in the BIMSTEC region. They further discussed and formulated a comprehensive two-year plan.

The proceedings on Day One began with a brief welcome address by Ambassador H.K Singh, Senior Fellow, Delhi Policy Group. He welcomed the distinguished Heads of Mission and all the participants who included academics, members of the think tank community and government officials. Ambassador Singh highlighted a lack of awareness among the general public about BIMSTEC’s role and called upon the members of civil society present there to take up an active role in spreading awareness about BIMSTEC’s importance in the region. Amb. Singh mentioned that BIMSTEC is a natural, historical community of people around the Bay of Bengal and emphasized upon the need to reimagine BIMSTEC in the contemporary setting. He spoke of Myanmar as a crucial link between South Asia and South East Asia, and emphasised the important role that public awareness and interest in Myanmar played for advancing awareness about BIMSTEC.

This was followed by a Welcome Address by Ambassador Nyunt Maung Shein, Chairman, MISIS. He reiterated Amb. Singh’s view that a lack of awareness amongst general public is a significant challenge faced by the organization. Amb. Shein stressed upon the need to increase press coverage about BIMSTEC as well as integrate knowledge on BIMSTEC into the education sector throughout the region. He called for people-to-people exchanges through tourism, exchange of scholars and youths, as well as cultural programs. He concluded by appreciating and acknowledging the agenda of the conference designed in a manner to address all 14 priority areas

of BIMSTEC cooperation and expressed hope to see a comprehensive action plan emerging after 2 days in each of the thematic areas.

Dr. Zaw Oo, Executive Director Centre for Economic and Social Development, in his Welcome Address expressed his and CESD's commitment to advancing BIMSTEC cooperation and addressing the challenges faced by the organization. He highlighted Myanmar's position as a leading agricultural country, calling it the very heart of Myanmar's economic integration and trade agenda. He spoke about the low levels of trade Myanmar has with South Asia and expressed the opinion that there is a large space for improvement which can be facilitated by BIMSTEC. Acknowledging the pall of humanitarian crisis in Myanmar- Bangladesh relations, he expressed hope that the matter can be resolved through deeper ties in economic cooperation.

His Excellency Ambassador Vikram Misri, the Indian Ambassador to Myanmar, began his Keynote Address by reiterating Myanmar's important position at the juncture of South and Southeast Asia and as an important catalyst of India's 'Act East' and 'Neighborhood First' policies. He emphasized the shared values and ways of life, people in the BIMSTEC nations have as they're encompassed by the Bay of Bengal and the Himalayas, making BIMSTEC a natural platform for cooperation. Amb. Misri too reiterated the issue of BIMSTEC not being as well-known as other initiatives like the ASEAN, Greater Mekong sub-region, the Lankan Cooperation etc. In this regard, he addressed the need for raising awareness among the people and government mechanisms of the added value that BIMSTEC brings. He also stressed on the need to look beyond hard infrastructure and move towards softer and institutional infrastructure which involves Free Trade Agreements, Preferential trading agreements, Land border crossing agreements, Motor vehicle agreements etc.

Dr. Khin Zaw, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Myanmar began his special address by establishing his ministry's commitment to improving the agriculture, livestock, irrigation and fishing sectors in accordance with an inclusive, competitive food and nutrition program in BIMSTEC. He addressed the challenges that climate change posed to Myanmar's fisheries sector and stressed on the need for sustainable agricultural practices like aquaculture to tackle the same. He also spoke of the lack of infrastructure development in energy, transport and communication as an obstacle to the supply of fresh and safe food to rural consumers. Expressing Myanmar's intentions to boost the sustainable production of nutritious foods like pulses and fish, he called for cooperation in the areas of agricultural research, agricultural practice, climate-resilient strategies and technological upgrades.

Ms. Naw Mutakapaw, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar in her special address spoke at depth about the status of the trade and investment sector in BIMSTEC. She began by speaking of Myanmar's position in the region as a link between South Asia, Southeast Asia and East Asia. Ms. Mutakapaw spoke of Myanmar's presence in BIMSTEC as crucial for opportunities in physical and market connectivity as well as for engagement with countries beyond the Bay of Bengal. She expressed opinion that negotiations should be resumed on the BIMSTEC FTA to facilitate intra-regional trade, investment and greater economic integration. Ms. Mutakapaw also stressed upon the need for trade promotional activities like trade fairs and exhibitions which can enhance trade, investment, tourism and people-to-people contact.

Shri Piyush Shrivastava, Joint Secretary, BIMSTEC & SAARC, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India in his Special Address highlighted the importance of the region and emphasized upon the Bay of Bengal region's increasing strategic and economic significance for its littoral countries. He underlined the organization's importance for the development of India's north-eastern states many of which share boundaries with one or more other BIMSTEC members,

including Myanmar. He spoke about the multiple successful initiatives across various sectors that BIMSTEC has successfully undertaken in the recent times and commended the key developments achieved across sectors like security and counter terrorism, transport and connectivity, trade, tourism, energy, environment and disaster management, and people-to-people contact.

The first session of the conference was moderated by Professor Prabir De and it focused on the trade and economic integration in the BIMSTEC region. The session dealt with non-tariff barriers/ measures, customs, border trade and border infrastructure and the BIMSTEC MVA among other pertinent issues.

Session two dealt with transit and multimodal connectivity. Dr. Swarnim Wagle moderated the session, which focused on roadways, waterways, railways, ports, coastal shipping, container transportation and aviation.

The third session of the conference focused on energy, water, climate change, environment and other related issues. The session was moderated by Dr. Nisha Taneja. The session dealt with grid inter-connections, non-conventional energy sources, the issue of water-sharing and environmental degradation and natural disaster management.

The last session of the day was moderated by Ambassador H.K. Singh. The session focused on the people-to-people connectivity through multi-sectoral engagement within the BIMSTEC region. The subjects discussed during the session included tourism, higher education, health, cultural heritage, media, film, performing arts, music and visual arts.

The second day of the conference was structured into breakout sessions where participants were encouraged to brainstorm ideas to formulate a cogent plan of action focussing on three priority areas under each thematic grouping. Each group came with a concrete Two-year Plan of Action, its implementation process and the likely challenges. Further, a few participants from each session broke out into a special session on 'Advancing Gender Issues in the BIMSTEC region'. They came up with action plans, implementation process and the likely implementation challenges to be faced in the field of gender advancements in the BIMSTEC region.

The Concluding Session of the conference was graced by H.E. Ambassador Vikram Misri, the Ambassador of India to Myanmar and H.E. Ambassador Bhim K. Udas, the Ambassador of Nepal to Myanmar. Ambassador Misri in his concluding speech, emphasized upon the bilateral relations between India and Myanmar and addressed some issues that had been discussed over the previous day. He spoke of the issue of trade in pulses between India and Myanmar as important for the larger trade basket between two BIMSTEC countries. Ambassador Misri also stressed upon the Indian government's massive efforts in developing border infrastructure in the northeast, crediting it for converting India's 'Look East Policy' into an 'Act East' Policy. Ambassador Udas reiterated the need to address the trust deficit between BIMSTEC countries and concluded by emphasizing the importance of India's 'Act East' initiative and Myanmar's position as a bridge between ASEAN and SAARC for the region.

Overall, the conference concluded on a note of optimism and progressed in identifying key issues and recognizing practical solutions to address the same. The discussion group members were encouraged to stay connected, to strengthen the discussions and mould them into executable recommendations.



**DELHI POLICY GROUP**



**The Asia Foundation**

**DPG Regional Conference on Advancing BIMSTEC Cooperation**

Venue: Park Royal, Yangon

June 14-15, 2018

**Programme**

**Day 0: Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2018**

**Venue: Padamyar 5, Park Royal, Yangon**

**7:30 PM onwards**    Welcome Dinner

**Day I: Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2018**

**Venue: Yadanar Ballroom 1, Park Royal, Yangon**

**09.00 – 09.30**        **Registration**

**09.30 – 10.45**        **Inaugural Session**

09.30 – 09.40        Welcome Address by Ambassador H.K. Singh, Director General, Delhi Policy Group [10 minutes]

09.40 – 09.50        Welcome Address by Ambassador Nyunt Maung Shein, Chairman, Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS) [10 minutes]

09.50 – 10.00        Welcome Address by Dr. Zaw Oo, Executive Director, Centre for Economic and Social Development (CESD), Myanmar [10 minutes]

10.00 – 10.15        Keynote Address by His Excellency Ambassador Vikram Misri, Ambassador of India to Myanmar [15 minutes]

10.15 – 10.25        Special Address by Dr. Khin Zaw, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Myanmar [10 minutes]

10.25 – 10.35        Special Address by Ms. Naw Mutakapaw, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar [10 minutes]

10.35 – 10.45        Special Address by Shri Piyush Srivastava, Joint Secretary, BIMSTEC & SAARC, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India [10 minutes]

*10.45 – 11.00*        *Coffee/ Tea Break*



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**The Asia Foundation**

**11.00 – 12.15**

**Session I: Trade and Economic Integration**

[The session will deal with Non-Tariff Barriers/ Measures, Customs and Electronic Data Interchange, Banking, Border Trade and Border Infrastructure, BIMSTEC Free Trade Agreement, etc.]

*Moderator:* **Prof. Prabir De, Research and Information System, New Delhi**  
[5 minutes]

*Lead Speaker:* **Dr. Swarnim Wagle, Economist and Former Vice-Chair, National Planning Commission, Nepal** [10 minutes]

*Speakers:* [10 minutes each]

1. *Dr. Zaw Oo, Executive Director, Centre for Economic and Social Development (CESD), Myanmar*
2. *U Khin Maung Nyo, Senior Advisor, MISIS*
3. *Dr. Shwe Hein, Secretary, Thilawa SEZ Management Committee*
4. *Daw Win Myint, National Project Coordinator, International Labour Organization, Myanmar*
5. *Dr. Janaka Wijayasiri, Research Fellow, IPS, Colombo, Sri Lanka*
6. *Zin Zin Naing, Lecturer, Yangon University of Economics*

**12.15 – 12.45**

Comments by Discussants followed by Q & A [30 minutes]

**12.45 – 13.30**

*Lunch Break*

**13.30 – 14.15**

**Session II: Transit and Multimodal Connectivity (Roadways, Waterways, Railways and Aviation)**

[The session will deal with Ports and Shipping, Aviation, Waterways, Road, Railways, Coastal Shipping, Container Transportation, etc.]

*Moderator:* **Dr. Swarnim Wagle, Economist and Former Vice-Chair, National Planning Commission, Nepal** [5 minutes]

*Lead Speaker:* **Prof. Prabir De, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi** [10 minutes]

*Speakers:* [10 minutes each]

1. *Mr. Prithviraj Nath, Consultant, Asian Development Bank*
2. *Prof. Sathaporn Opananon, Director, Faculty of Commerce and Accountancy, Thammasat University*
3. *Dr. Nisha Taneja, Professor, ICRIER*



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14.15 – 14.45      Comments by Discussants followed by Q & A [30 minutes]

*Discussant:* [10 minutes]

1. *U Lahpai Zau Goone, Senior Member and In-Charge BIMSTEC, Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS), Myanmar*

**14.45 – 16.00      Session III: Energy, Water, Environment, Climate Change and other issues**

[The session will deal with Energy, Agriculture, Fisheries, Environment and Natural Disaster Management, Climate Change, etc.]

*Moderator:* **Dr. Nisha Taneja, Professor, ICRIER** [5 minutes]

*Lead Speaker:* **Dr. Sajjad Zohir, Executive Director, Economic Research Group** [10 minutes]

*Speakers:* [10 minutes each]

1. *Prof. Chandan Mahanta, Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati*
2. *Prof. Chaw Chaw Shein, Head, Department of International Relations, University of Yangon*
3. *Dr. Nay Htun, Professor, Founder & Hon. Patron, Green Economy Green Growth (GEGG), Myanmar*
4. *Dr. Khin Maung Lwin, Director (Retd.), Ministry of Health & Sports*
5. *Dr. Win Myo Thu, Director, Eco-Dev Myanmar*

16.00 – 16.30      Comments by Discussants followed by Q & A [30 minutes]

**16.30 – 17.35      Session IV: People to People Connectivity through multi-sectoral Engagement**

[The session will deal with people to people contact, cultural cooperation, poverty alleviation, tourism and public health, etc.]

*Moderator:* **Amb. H.K. Singh, Director General, Delhi Policy Group** [5 minutes]

*Lead Speaker:* **Mr. Sabyasachi Dutta, Director, Asian Confluence** [10 minutes]

*Speakers:* [10 minutes each]

1. *Prof. Nay Win Oo, Deputy Director-General, Higher Education, Ministry of Education and Joint Secretary, National Education Policy Commission, Myanmar*



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2. *Mr. Soe Myint, Editor-in-Chief and Managing Director, Mizzima Media Group*
3. *Mr. Thuta Aung, Author and CEO, HamsaHub Consultancy*
4. *Mr. Thet Win, Senior Managing Director, Shwe Than Lwin Co. Ltd.*

17.35 – 18.05

Comments by Discussants followed by Q & A [30 minutes]

*Discussant:* [10 minutes each]

1. *Mr. Ravindra Jain, Managing Director, 4R Consultancy Ltd.*

**18.05 – 18.15**

**Concluding Remarks**



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**Day II: Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

**Venue: Yadanar Ballroom 1, Park Royal Hotel, Yangon**

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>09.00 – 09.30</b> | <b>Registration</b>  |
| 09.30 – 09.45        | Opening Remarks and Briefing by Amb. Biren Nanda, Senior Fellow, DPG<br>[15 minutes]   |
| <b>09.45 – 10.45</b> | <b>Breakout Session I: Participants will discuss the identified issues and themes and frame policy recommendations to address each issue</b> |
| <b>10.45 – 11.45</b> | <b>Breakout Session II: Consensus arrived from each policy recommendation will be discussed and put forth in a concrete plan of action</b>   |
| 11.45 – 12.00        | <i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>  |
| 12.00 – 13.00        | <i>Deliberations within Core Groups on the Priorities and Action Plans in each of the Four Thematic areas.</i>                               |
| 13.00 – 14.00        | <i>Lunch Break</i>   |
| 14.00 – 16.00        | Presentation by Core Group Mentors [120 minutes]   |

#### **GROUP MENTORS**

- 1. Group Mentor: Trade and Economic Integration**  
*Dr. Swarnim Wagle*
- 2. Group Mentor: Transit and Multimodal Connectivity**  
*Mr. Prithviraj Nath*
- 3. Group Mentor: Energy, Water, Environment, Climate Change and Other Issues**  
*Prof. Chandan Mahanta*
- 4. Group Mentor: People to People Connectivity through Multi-Sectoral Engagement**  
*Mr. Sabyasachi Dutta*
- 5. Group Mentor: Advancing Gender Issues in BIMSTEC Regional Cooperation**  
*Ms. Diya Nag*

16.00 – 17.00 **Closing Session**

*Speakers:*

- 1. Amb. H.K. Singh, Director General, Delhi Policy Group*
- 2. H.E. Amb. Vikaram Misri, Ambassador of India to Myanmar*
- 3. H.E. Amb. Bhim K. Udas, Ambassador of Nepal to Myanmar*



**DPG Regional Conference on  
Advancing BIMSTEC  
Cooperation, Yangon, June  
14-15, 2018**

**Summary Note of Recommendations  
from Break Out Sessions**

## **Day II: Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

### **Breakout Session: Trade and Economic Integration**

#### **Recognized 3 priority issues –**

- I) Finalize the BIMSTEC FTA.
- II) Design the BIMSTEC Investment Protocol.
- III) Strengthen the BIMSTEC Secretariat.

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Issue Plan of Action for 2 years**

- 1) An agreement on tariff cuts and preferences (D/F/Q/F; short Sensitive Lists) should be reached without delay.
- 2) NTMs, especially SPS standards regarding agriculture and fisheries (including cataloguing, classifying, harmonizing of standards; NTM portal; Recognition of tests; accreditation of labs) should be established.
- 3) Services agreement should be signed. GATS-plus agreement, including MRAs, in selected sectors (tourism, energy, health, education, ICT).

#### **Implementation Process**

- a) Expedite work on TNC by forming dedicated subcommittees for NTMs and Services.

#### **Challenges to Implementation**

- Convincing all the countries on the merits of Framework T&I Agreements that could pave the way for specific BTAs and BITs.
- Translate the political will into bureaucratic ‘buy-in and technical operationalization’.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Issue Plan of Action for 2 years**

- 1) Draft Regional Investment Treaty with key principles of National Treatment, within-region Dispute Settlement Mechanism, TRIPS-compliant IPRs.
- 2) Engage private business associations and chambers of commerce to encourage shared production through RVCs.

#### **Implementation Process**

- a) Form a negotiating subcommittee dedicated to the Investment sector.
- b) Spread greater public awareness about BIMSTEC, leveraged through Summits and Ministerial meetings.

### Challenges to Implementation

- Convincing all the countries on the merits of Framework T&I Agreements that could pave the way for specific BTAs and BITs.
- Translate the political will into bureaucratic 'buy-in and technical operationalization'.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Issue Plan of Action for 2 years**

- 1) Establish a set-up of the professional staff with senior seconded inter-ministerial civil servants.
- 2) Set up Endowment Fund and augment member contributions.
- 3) Set a stronger research wing and a network of regional think tanks to strengthen the Secretariat.
- 4) Explore new issues: digital connectivity; trade and employment under the purview of the Secretariat.
- 5) Further empower the legal authority of the BIMSTEC Secretariat to engage with other secretariats (SAARC, ASEAN).

### Implementation Process

- a) Endorsement of the action plan in BIMSTEC Summit held yearly.
- b) Formal engagement of the Secretariat with donors (MDBs, bilateralism) for TA & projects.
- c) Encourage private-sector engagement and PS-friendly website/mobile apps with substantive content.

### Challenges to Implementation

- Scarcity and unavailability of bureaucratic capital.
- There exists a diverse pool of 'needs and interests' of member states.

## **Day II: Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

### **Breakout Session: Transit and Multi-modal Connectivity**

#### **Recognized 4 priority issues –**

- I) Direct Shipping among BIMSTEC Countries.
- II) Completing missing road links between Thailand-Myanmar-India.
- III) Connecting BIMSTEC region through railways.
- IV) More passenger airlinks among the BIMSTEC countries.

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Issue Plan of Action for 1 year**

- 1) Encourage the BIMSTEC Secretariat to form a network of shipping companies.
- 2) Set up an expert group to come out with strategies to implement direct shipping lines among BIMSTEC Countries.

#### **Implementation Process**

- a) Come up with strategies to attract shipping lines to provide direct service in the BIMSTEC region.
- b) Build a Network of BIMSTEC shipping companies to implement the action plan.
- c) Regular Dialogues need to be held between Shipping companies in the region.
- d) Completion of Dawei and other ports in the region.

#### **Challenges to Implementation**

- There are insufficient port facilities in Myanmar to establish direct shipping links.
- This process may face resistance from existing cartels to form a network of shipping links.
- There exists unavailability of adequate finance for infrastructure.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Issue Plan of Action for 1 year**

- 1) Establish a joint working group to expedite road-building between Thailand-Myanmar-India.
- 2) The BIMSTEC member states need to ensure speedy clearance for import of spare parts of ships.

#### **Implementation Process**

- a) BIMSTEC nations need to hold regular meetings of the working groups.

- b) Member states need to establish regular interaction between contractors, agents and port agencies to resolve spare part issues.

### Challenges to Implementation

- Road linkages between these nations are difficult to establish due to the construction-unfriendly geographical terrain.
- Repairing construction equipment's is difficult since spare parts have to be imported and that takes a long time, thereby holding up work.
- Payment clauses for contractors who engage with the work related to the trilateral highway is not sufficiently friendly.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Issue Plan of Action for 1 year**

- 1) Form a joint working group OF BIMSCTEC railway officers.
- 2) Complete the BIMSTEC Connectivity Master Plan on time, i.e. by 2019.
- 3) Develop a Railway Development fund for BIMSTEC.
- 4) Explore possibilities for Dual-gauge where existing systems can be accommodated with new ones.

### Implementation Process

- a) The action plan can be implemented by forming an expert group to compile a quick report on rail connectivity projects and priorities.
- b) The BIMSTEC Secretariat should convene member countries to discuss priorities in road development.
- c) High Level Political dialogues between member states should be utilised to agree on priority projects.
- d) In the long run, BIMSTEC members need to involve media to highlight the benefits of connectivity in the BIMSTEC region.
- e) Pilot trial runs of roadways in the region should be the immediate goal.

### Challenges to Implementation

- There may be a difficulty in funding feasibility studies and financing for implementation of the action plan.
- There may be a disagreement on priority issues among member countries.
- There is no consensus among countries on who is going to be the lead country in undertaking the implementation process.
- Inter-operability between member countries may prove to be an issue.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Issue Plan of Action for 1 year**

- 1) Signing BIMSTEC air agreement.
- 2) Explore single-market aviation.

#### **Implementation Process**

- a) Convene regular meetings of airlines operating in the BIMSTEC region.
- b) Allowing 5<sup>th</sup> freedom to BIMSTEC airlines. E.g. Thai airways can fly from Bangkok to Guwahati and then on to Bodhgaya.

#### **Challenges to Implementation**

- Resistance from existing cartels.
- Fleet capacity of the airlines.

## **Day II: Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

### **Breakout Session: Energy, Water, Climate Change, Environment and other Issues**

#### **Recognized 3 priority issues –**

- I) Green, Sustainable, Climate Resilient Projects and Infrastructure for BIMSTEC Region.
- II) Enhanced data, knowledge, wisdom and best practices.
- III) BIMSTEC Strategic inclusive partnership to mobilize global investment & funding.

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Issue Plan of Action for 2 years**

- 1) Develop guidelines for green projects to be undertaken in the region.
- 2) Place certain mechanisms for protection of local interests.
- 3) Build a network of relevant institutions to achieve the above goals e.g. Displaced community.

#### **Implementation Process**

- a) Form and facilitate relevant expert groups task force.
- b) Involve and engage stakeholders with transparent process.
- c) BIMSTEC Secretariat should build & facilitate a network of institutions.

#### **Challenges to Implementation**

- Short term profit centric attitudes ignoring local & ecological interests is a challenge to achieve the desired results.
- Lack of coordination and integration among member states.
- Limited availability and restricted access to data & knowledge sources.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Issue Plan of Action for 2 years**

- 1) Cloud-based Integrated open data information System.
- 2) Capacity Building.
- 3) Leveraging BIMSTEC knowledge of best practices.

#### **Implementation Process**

- a) Build a network of relevant data institutions.
- b) Access other data sources beyond BIMSTEC.
- c) Data & knowledge training /workshop among member states.

### Challenges to Implementation

- Reservation & concern about data-sharing between member states.
- Quality of data may not be good.
- Comparability and compatibility of data may prove challenging.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Issue Plan of Action for 2 years**

- 1) High- level BIMSTEC groups to explore and access global funds & investments.
- 2) Develop sustainable, inclusive equitable guidelines for utilization of such funds & investment.

### Implementation Process

- a) BIMSTEC Secretariat should take steps to implement & follow up the action plans.
- b) BIMSTEC to develop a mechanism of accountability for APT utilization of funds.

### Challenges to Implementation

- Good quality of projects (meeting the guidelines) may be challenging.
- To meet criteria like sustainability, equitability etc, may be difficult.



## **Day II: Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

### **Breakout Session: People to People Connectivity through multi-sectoral engagement**

#### **Recognized 3 priority issues –**

- I) Tourism
- II) Media
- III) Education

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Issue Plan of Action for 2 years**

- 1) Establish Buddhist and Heritage Tourism below 1000 USD.
- 2) Bay of Bengal Cruises should be started.
- 3) Development of Eco and Adventure Tourism Circuits should be done.
- 4) Health and Wellness schemes should be established.
- 5) A common 'Water Festival' should be started in the region.

#### **Implementation Process**

- a) A group of BIMSTEC Tour Operators should be established in the region.
- b) Branding and Marketing Support should be extended to tourist circuits.
- c) Database Creation on potential tourists should be done.
- d) Tourist Friendly port Infrastructure should be built.
- e) Festivals and Seminars which highlight the intangible and tangible cultural heritage of the rivers and the Bay of Bengal should be celebrated with a sense of togetherness.
- f) We should add a film and food section to each festival.

#### **Challenges to Implementation**

- Visa on arrival is still incompetent in a few places.
- High airfare and bad fare linkages will deter tourism.
- Financing and Banking challenges in BIMSTEC countries.
- Instable Political conditions in BIMSTEC countries.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Issue Plan of Action for 2 years**

- 1) BIMSTEC Network of media houses should be established.
- 2) Sharing of media content amid member countries.
- 3) BIMSTEC Association of film makers should be established.
- 4) Documentary Film Festival should be organized.
- 5) Technical Resource Sharing Forums should be established.

### Implementation Process

- a) Media Coordinator in BIMSTEC Secretariat needs to be appointed to carry out the issue plan.
- b) Exchange Programs with media celebrities and resource persons needs to be organised time-to-time.
- c) Joint workshops amongst the BIMSTEC member states need to be established.
- d) A push should be given to the social media strategies, to cover the BIMSTEC regional developments.
- e) Identify film shooting locations in the region and promote them.
- f) Conservation and preservation of heritage sites in the region.

### Challenges to Implementation

- The capacity of the BIMSTEC Secretariat is still unsatisfactory.
- Connectivity among BIMSTEC states is still a challenge.
- Banking and Funding of the projects are still problematic in the region.
- Perceptions related to Political stability in the region.
- Standards of quality may differ country to country.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Issue Plan of Action for 2 years**

- 1) BIMSTEC Exchange Programs.
- 2) BIMSTEC University Networks.
- 3) BIMSTEC School Network.
- 4) Joint Research Initiatives on Research.

### Implementation Process

- a) Vice Chancellors/ Rector Forums and BIMSTEC Education Ministers Conferences should be organised time-to-time.
- b) BIMSTEC Joint Educational Curriculum Development should be done in coordination with universities across the region.
- c) BIMSTEC Scholarship should be offered to students over the region.
- d) BIMSTEC Eminent Experts group in Education should be established to promote educational quality throughout the region.

### Challenges to Implementation

- The capacity of the BIMSTEC Secretariat is still unsatisfactory.
- Connectivity among BIMSTEC states is still a challenge.
- Banking and Funding of the projects are still problematic in the region.
- Perceptions related to Political stability in the region.

## **Day II: Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

### **Breakout Session: Addressing Gender issues in the BIMSTEC region**

#### **Recognized 3 priority issues –**

- I) BIMSTEC member countries should develop a formal gender framework.
- II) Identifying triggers, and initiating dialogues based on locally generated ideas on the role of gender in improved BIMSTEC cooperation.
- III) Engaging men in the gender discourse.

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Issue Plan of Action for 2 years**

- 1) Develop a profile of socioeconomic indicators pertaining to gender for BIMSTEC countries.
- 2) Culling out gender disaggregated data.
- 3) Conduct studies on existing gender frameworks in other organizations.

#### **Implementation Process**

- a) Review APEC gender framework and revamp it to the BIMSTEC context.
- b) Model the gender framework for BIMSTEC along the lines of the APEC gender framework.
- c) CSO / Think tanks can provide inputs on the gender framework to share with the BIMSTEC Secretariat.
- d) BIMSTEC Secretariat can draft the gender framework and share it with the gender experts across BIMSTEC for consultations.
- e) Secretariat to pursue UN Women to identify and place a gender experts as a resource person at the Secretariat.
- f) BIMSTEC Secretariat will create a gender cell with gender experts from all BIMSTEC countries to make up a “gender working group” with a convener who is based at the Secretariat.

#### **Challenges to Implementation**

- Convincing stakeholders that a gender framework is necessary may prove challenging.
- Unavailability of gender disaggregated data.
- Difficulty in getting funding and resources.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Issue Plan of Action for 2 years**

- 1) Conduct a series of ground-level, subnational, national, and then regional dialogues (pyramid of dialogues) in all BIMSTEC countries.

### **Implementation Process**

- a) BIMSTEC Secretariat Gender Working Group to conceive the dialogues, and then work closely with local partners to conduct them.
- b) GWG should also participate in existing dialogues and align with existing discourses on gender wherever possible.
- c) Encourage media and experts to write regularly about cross-cutting issues and host conferences / workshops / field work on this.

### **Challenges to Implementation**

- Unavailability of funding and resources.
- Gender issues / women's challenges are considered "secondary" and are often sidelined in the development discourse.
- Gender issues are not always operating in silos and you cannot disassociate from the greater milieu.
- Recognizing that there is a deep and diverse local context of gender in every BIMSTEC nation is quite challenging.

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Issue Plan of Action for 2 years**

- 1) Reach out to the influential men in the region to engage and contribute.
- 2) Identify some male "gender champions" to take forward the issue of gender in BIMSTEC.
- 3) Identify the triggers that make men interested in engaging in gender.
- 4) Understand what are the gaps that men do not understand how to engage with.

### **Implementation Process**

- a) Conduct a series of ground-level, subnational, national, and then regional dialogues (pyramid of dialogues) in all BIMSTEC countries but also engage men specifically on gender issues.

### **Challenges to Implementation**

- Cultural barriers and lack of awareness and sensitivity towards gender issues.
- Identifying male champions will be difficult and also, convincing them won't be easy.

# **INAUGURAL SESSION**

**DPG Regional Conference on  
Advancing BIMSTEC  
Cooperation, Yangon, June  
14-15, 2018**

**Welcome Address by Ambassador  
H.K. Singh, Director General, Delhi  
Policy Group**

**Ambassador H. K. Singh**  
**Director General, Delhi Policy Group**

Ambassador Singh in his Opening Address welcomed the Indian Ambassador to Myanmar, H.E. Amb. Vikram Misri; Dr. Khin Zaw, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Myanmar; Ms. Naw Mutakapaw, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar; and Shri Piyush Shrivastava, Joint Secretary, BIMSTEC and SAARC, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. He welcomed and thanked Ambassador Nyunt Maung Shein, the Chairman of the Myanmar Institute of Strategic Studies; and Dr. Zaw Oo, the Executive Director of the Centre for Economic and Social Development, Myanmar for being the local partners of the DPG Regional Conference on “Advancing BIMSTEC Cooperation”. He thanked the group moderators and mentors who were to guide the sessions for the two-day conference. He extended a special thanks to the Senior Program Officer, Ms. Diya Nag of the Asia Foundation for her consistent support for DPG’s BBIN and BIMSTEC projects.

Ambassador Singh began by addressing primary areas of concern in the functioning of the BIMSTEC organization. Firstly, he highlighted a lack of awareness among the general public about BIMSTEC’s role and called upon the members of civil society present there to take up an active role in spreading awareness about BIMSTEC’s importance in the region. Secondly, acknowledging the importance of the current leadership-driven model of BIMSTEC, he pointed out shortfalls with regard to people-to-people contact which he said is a major cause of BIMSTEC lagging behind other entities like the ASEAN. He stressed on the importance of Myanmar and Thailand, who are also members of ASEAN, in guiding BIMSTEC towards a more people-centric approach. Thirdly, Amb. Singh highlighted the need for fewer priority areas with sharper focus which would have to be accompanied by feasible, result-driven projects. He acknowledged the difficulties faced by BIMSTEC like harmonizing different national interests and facing fiscal constraints to undertake developmental projects.

Speaking about Economic integration, he pointed out the value and progress of trade amongst the BIMSTEC nations. At the same time, he underlined how the FTA framework agreed to in 2004 was yet to be brought into fruition as a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (FTA). Coming to Transit and Multi-modal connectivity he highlighted the ADB Report that is a connectivity blueprint for BIMSTEC and acknowledged the challenge of monitoring around 166 projects. He identified the BIMSTEC Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA) and the Coastal Shipping Agreement as two key projects to be completed. In the Energy sector, he spoke about the shortcomings in energy capability to transform the energy surplus in north-eastern parts of India to a meaningful ‘Energy Cooperation’ with neighboring countries due to a lack of infrastructure for trans-border electric transmission or natural gas pipelines. Finally, coming to people-to-people connectivity, he reiterated the need for a more people-centric approach, highlighting the integral role of civil society, media, think-tanks and educators in the same.

Amb. Singh concluded by saying that BIMSTEC is a natural, historical community of people around the Bay of Bengal and emphasized upon the need to reimagine BIMSTEC in the contemporary setting. He spoke of Myanmar as a crucial link between South Asia and South East Asia, focusing on the important role that public awareness and interest in Myanmar plays for advancing the BIMSTEC awareness. He concluded by expressing his hope for a successful and productive conference, the outcomes of which could be consolidated into a helpful plan of action.



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**Welcome Address by Ambassador  
Nyunt Maung Shein, Chairman,  
Myanmar Institute of Strategic and  
International Studies (MISIS)**

**Ambassador Nyunt Maung Shein**  
**Chairman, Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS)**

Ambassador Nyunt Maung Shein, Chairman, MISIS - one of the local partners in Myanmar of the DPG Regional Conference on Advancing BIMSTEC Cooperation, in his Welcome Address spoke about BIMSTEC's current position and Myanmar's role in it. He spoke about India as the primary player in advancing BIMSTEC owing to its size and further reiterated Ambassador Singh's thought that a lack of awareness amongst general public is a significant challenge faced by the organization. Ambassador Shein stressed upon the need to increase press coverage about BIMSTEC nations as well as integrate knowledge on BIMSTEC into the education sector throughout the region. He also focused on the importance of coordination between ministerial departments of BIMSTEC nations to work in sync with each other on matters of regional interest.

He reiterated Myanmar's commitment to BIMSTEC by speaking about the BIMSTEC Unit of Myanmar's Foreign Affairs Ministry and its people-centric foreign policy. He called for people-to-people exchanges through tourism, exchange of scholars and youth, as well as cultural programs. He also addressed the idea of a Buddhist circuit to link all seven BIMSTEC countries which have each got a sizeable Buddhist presence. He concluded by expressing appreciation for and acknowledging the agenda of the conference, which was designed in a manner to address all 14 priority areas of BIMSTEC cooperation and expressed the hope to see a comprehensive action plan emerge after two days of discussion in each of the thematic areas.

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**Welcome Address by Dr. Zaw Oo,  
Executive Director, Centre for  
Economic and Social Development  
(CESD), Myanmar**

**Dr. Zaw Oo**

**Executive Director, Centre for Economic and Social Development (CESD), Myanmar**

Dr. Zaw Oo, Executive Director Centre for Economic and Social Development, and one of the local partners in Myanmar of the DPG Regional Conference on Advancing BIMSTEC Cooperation, in his 'Welcome Address' expressed his and CESD's commitment to advancing BIMSTEC cooperation and addressing the challenges faced by the organization. He highlighted Myanmar's position as a leading agricultural country, describing it as the very heart of Myanmar's economic integration and trade agenda. Speaking of CESD's involvement in agricultural transformation and market integration, he expressed the hope of contributing to ideas of cooperation in this sector. Dr. Oo reiterated Ambassador Singh's view that there was a need to bring sharper focus to a narrower set of priority areas.

He suggested agriculture as a potential area of sharper focus which can provide value for deepening cooperation in BIMSTEC. Finally, he spoke about the low levels of trade Myanmar had with South Asia and expressed the opinion that there was a large space for improvement which could be facilitated by BIMSTEC. Acknowledging the pall of humanitarian crisis in Myanmar- Bangladesh relations, he expressed the hope that the matter could be resolved through deeper ties in economic cooperation.

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**Keynote Address by His Excellency  
Ambassador Vikram Misri,  
Ambassador of India to Myanmar**

**H.E. Ambassador Vikram Misri**  
**Ambassador of India to Myanmar**

His Excellency Ambassador Vikram Misri, the Indian Ambassador to Myanmar, began his Keynote Address by reiterating Myanmar's important position at the juncture of South and Southeast Asia and as an important catalyst for India's 'Act East' and 'Neighborhood First' policies. He emphasized the shared values and ways of life, people in the BIMSTEC nations had as they were encompassed by the Bay of Bengal and the Himalayas, making BIMSTEC a natural platform for cooperation. He mentioned that connectivity, counter terrorism, energy security, food self-sufficiency, disaster management and environment conservation were important sectors that needed focus in BIMSTEC. He mentioned the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development or the ICIMOD initiative, carried out by India, Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar as a potential focus area to be brought under BIMSTEC. He also spoke about the inauguration of two projects by India in Myanmar, the 'Long lead Flood Early Warning System' and the 'Earthquake Monitoring System'. He called for such bilateral arrangements to be brought under the ambit of the shared ecological and environmental concerns in BIMSTEC.

Ambassador Misri too reiterated the issue of BIMSTEC not being as well-known as other initiatives like the ASEAN, Greater Mekong sub-region, the Lankan Cooperation etc. In this regard, he addressed the need for raising awareness among the people and government mechanisms of the added value that BIMSTEC brought. He stressed upon personal experiences he had involving resistance that is often faced at a policy level when it comes to decisions taken at the ministerial or summit levels. He added to Ambassador Shein's opinion regarding the need to address the disconnect between organs of the government, importantly the line ministries in BIMSTEC nations which deal with such multilateral agreements.

He spoke about connectivity in terms of transport and energy as two important areas concerning Myanmar in BIMSTEC. He mentioned the Kaladan multimodal transit-transport project, the port in Sittwe, the Indian water terminal in Paletwa etc. carried out by Indian initiatives in Myanmar as bilateral agreements that work as important multilateral agreements in BIMSTEC. He further mentioned developments in the India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway calling the project important for people-to-people connectivity, while at the same time being financially sustainable for the Government of Myanmar. Coming to energy and telecom connectivity, he commended the connectivity achieved between the energy grids of India, Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh and emphasized upon the huge potential for improvement in the sector. He spoke of important avenues for cooperation between India and Myanmar concerning energy connectivity. He also mentioned the spare capacity in India's private sector which could be brought to Myanmar to avoid building unsustainable power plants.

He stressed upon the need to look beyond hard infrastructure and move towards softer and institutional infrastructure which involved Free Trade Agreements, Preferential Trading

Agreements, Land border crossing agreements, Motor vehicle agreements etc. He mentioned the land border crossing agreement between India and Myanmar, where two points on the border have been designated, thereby making land border crossing easier for citizens. He said that the completion of the MVA will be the next step in this cooperation. Ambassador Misri also spoke of terrorism as a primary concern and an important area of cooperation in the region. Mentioning meetings between top government officials of member nations concerning this issue, he termed the developments essential for an understanding between BIMSTEC members concerning the security of neighboring nations. Ambassador Misri concluded by pitching for a 'Look West' policy for Myanmar for which BIMSTEC provides the perfect platform. He laid the ground for a long-term consideration of the relations that BIMSTEC nations would want to establish with India.

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**Special Address by Dr. Khin Zaw,  
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of  
Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation,  
Myanmar**



**Dr. Khin Zaw**

**Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Myanmar**

Dr. Khin Zaw, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation began his special address by establishing his ministry's commitment to improving the agriculture, livestock, irrigation and fishing sectors in accordance with an inclusive, competitive food and nutrition program in BIMSTEC. He called for securing sustainable agricultural systems in a way that contributed to the development of farmers and rural populace and the larger economy of the BIMSTEC region.

Dr. Zaw expressed the Government of Myanmar's dedication to rapid economic development of the sub-region and partnership in matters of education, science and technology. He spoke of the centuries long people-to-people contact and trade relations that have existed in the region. Acknowledging Myanmar's sizeable agricultural trade with India, Bangladesh and Thailand, Dr. Zaw expressed hope of further expansion and cooperation in the area. He addressed the challenges that climate change posed to the Myanmar's fisheries sector and stressed upon the need for sustainable agricultural practices like aquaculture to tackle the same. He also spoke of the lack of infrastructure development in energy, transport and communication as an obstacle to the supply of fresh and safe food to rural consumers.

He spoke of the national aquaculture development plan and agriculture development strategy that Myanmar is developing to counter these challenges and integrate with regional markets. Expressing Myanmar's intentions to boost the sustainable production of nutritious foods like pulses and fish, he called for cooperation in the areas of agricultural research, agricultural practice, climate-resilient strategies and technological upgrades. He also addressed the issue of non-tariff barriers that often restrict trade and investment across borders.

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**Special Address by Ms. Naw  
Mutakapaw, Deputy Director General,  
Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar**

**Ms. Naw Mutakapaw**  
**Deputy Director General, Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar**

Ms. Naw Mutakapaw, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Commerce in her special address spoke in depth about the status of the trade and investment sector in BIMSTEC. She began by speaking of Myanmar's position in the region as a link between South Asia, Southeast Asia and East Asia. Ms. Mutakapaw spoke of Myanmar's presence in BIMSTEC as crucial for opportunities in physical and market connectivity as well as for engagement with countries beyond the Bay of Bengal. Coming to trade and investment, she identified how the sector was among the initial six areas of cooperation in BIMSTEC.

She mentioned that the sector has developed an international mechanism to coordinate its conduct through stages like Trade and Economic Ministerial meeting, Senior Trade and Economic Officials meeting, Trade Negotiation Committee and its working groups, BIMSTEC Economic Forum and BIMSTEC Business Forum. She expressed her opinion that negotiations should be resumed on the BIMSTEC FTA in order to facilitate intra-regional trade, investment and greater economic integration. She also pointed out some technical issues like the place of origin and customs cooperation and emphasized that there was no alternative solution other than operationalizing the FTA. Ms. Mutakapaw also stressed upon the need for trade promotional activities like trade fairs and exhibitions which can enhance trade, investment, tourism and people-to-people contact.

She concluded by expressing her conviction that an in-depth discussion and analysis of specific areas will go a long way in bringing about significant outcomes in sustainable development and cooperation among BIMSTEC nations.

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**Special Address by Shri Piyush  
Srivastava, Joint Secretary, BIMSTEC  
& SAARC, Ministry of External  
Affairs, Government of India**

## **Shri Piyush Srivastava**

**Joint Secretary, BIMSTEC & SAARC, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India**

Mr. Srivastava began his special address by greeting the august gathering and expressing his appreciation of the conference agenda and its content. He highlighted the importance of the region as the fastest growing region in the world. He emphasized upon the Bay of Bengal region's increasing strategic and economic significance for its littoral countries. He also stressed BIMSTEC's importance as a regional organization, linking South and South-East Asia. Coming to BIMSTEC's importance for India, he mentioned BIMSTEC as India's 'natural choice' for key foreign policy priorities like the 'Neighbourhood First' and 'Act East' policies. He underlined the organization's importance for the development of India's north-eastern states many of which share boundaries with one or more other BIMSTEC members, including Myanmar. He reiterated Amb. Misri's opinion about the importance of India-Myanmar bilateral relations for connectivity in the BIMSTEC framework. He spoke about the importance of India's northeast corridor as a vital link to its civilizational neighbours in South East Asia.

Joint Secretary Srivastava spoke about the multiple successful initiatives across various sectors that BIMSTEC has successfully undertaken in the recent times. He commended the key developments achieved across sectors like security and counter terrorism, transport and connectivity, trade, tourism, energy, environment and disaster management, and people-to-people contact. He mentioned the Leaders Retreat hosted by India with the agenda of making BIMSTEC more effective and result oriented. Emphasizing upon the leaders' commitment to sustaining momentum, he went on to speak about the multiple follow-up meetings among high level officials such as foreign ministers and national security chiefs. He also mentioned sectoral meetings organised by India to further the progress of Coastal Shipping Agreement, Motor Vehicles Agreement, and the Customs Cooperation Agreement.

He went on to stress the importance of trade in energy and mentioned the MoU on grid interconnectivity, reporting it almost ready for further official ratification. He also reported an upcoming trade negotiation meeting regarding the BIMSTEC FTA. Mr. Shrivastava also spoke about complete operationalisation of the BIMSTEC Centre for Weather and Climate in Noida, India. He recognized the role played by inter-governmental initiatives and the sustained dialogue among academia, think tanks, business community etc. in the development of the BIMSTEC policy. He appreciated the events organised by member states which have contributed to increasing visibility for BIMSTEC as well as initiatives undertaken to promote people-to-people contact. In this regard, he spoke of the 'Bodhiparva festival' organised in New Delhi in December 2017. He also commended the establishment of important infrastructures like the Permanent Secretariat in Dhaka, the formulation of a clear action agenda and immense political support, all contributing to realising the potential of BIMSTEC for economic prosperity of the region.

**SESSION 1:**  
**“TRADE AND ECONOMIC  
INTEGRATION”**

**DPG Regional Conference on  
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Cooperation, Yangon, June  
14-15, 2018**

**Abstract of Moderator's remarks by  
Prof. Prabir De, Research and  
Information System, New Delhi**

**Prof. Prabir De**

**Research and Information System, New Delhi**

As the moderator for the session on Trade and Economic Integration, Prof. Prabir De began by reiterating the progress achieved by BIMSTEC in recent times like the resumption of the FTA negotiations scheduled for August 2018. He pointed out the obstacles in transactions where trade barriers are not limited to customs but also in fields of banking and finance. He also stressed on the lack of necessary infrastructure for trade, both at the border and behind the borders. He underlined the importance of dialogue for enhanced regional integration and commended the Delhi Policy Group and the Asia Foundation for their efforts. Prof. De concluded by setting the stage for further discussion and introducing the speakers of the Trade Session.



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**Abstract of Presentation by  
Dr. Swarnim Wagle, Economist and  
Former Vice-Chair, National Planning  
Commission, Nepal**

## **Dr. Swarnim Wagle**

**Economist and Former Vice-Chairman, National Planning Commission, Nepal**

Dr. Swarnim Wagle began by commending the logical extension of BBIN to the BIMSTEC region, calling BIMSTEC the link between two of the most dynamic regions in the world for potential trade development. Dr. Wagle highlighted a certain symmetry in the economic units of Myanmar, Thailand, Nepal, and Bangladesh with that of the North East India. He also termed BIMSTEC as an appropriate case study for the multilateralization of regionalism. He expressed Nepal's pleasure in hosting the BIMSTEC Summit scheduled for 2018 in Kathmandu and mentioned the role of the 15th ministerial meeting held in Kathmandu and the potential of the upcoming Trade Negotiation Committee in Dhaka while explaining the Nepal government's commitment to BIMSTEC.

Speaking of the big picture, Dr. Wagle identified the three C's- Commerce, Connectivity and Culture as the crux of BIMSTEC cooperation. From the perspective of Nepal, he mentioned five examples to highlight the same. The first was trade costs, where he pointed out that trade costs between any two South Asian countries were 20% higher than among a South Asian country and a country elsewhere. He identified sub-standard infrastructure, non-tariff barriers and hurdles at the border as primary concerns regarding the same. Secondly, he identified tourism as an important sector in terms of trading services. Drawing a parallel between Nepal and the Indian state of Assam, he went on to compare the international tourist arrivals to highlight the need for an integrated route to better market underperforming but similar areas.

Thirdly, he identified the issue of connectivity and called for better air connectivity and open skies in order to address the connectivity challenges. Fourthly, he pointed towards energy infrastructure and underlined the need for regional collaboration, synchronization of electric grids, building of cross-border transmission lines etc. to extend the potential of clean energy beyond bilateral ties. Finally, the fifth issue that he highlighted was the need for a regulatory cooperation on financial and monetary arrangements, which he spoke of in context of the hardships faced by Nepali citizens working in India in the wake of the demonetization event. He mentioned the need to address the trust deficit in this area before coming to more technical issues of regional cooperation.

He concluded by calling for lowering trade costs, encouraging shared production networks, forging service links in tourism, education, health, opening up payment gateways, sharing surplus energy and establishing closer regulatory cooperation. Calling BIMSTEC a trade bloc worth betting on, he urged for the formalization of important agreements. He expressed conviction that through the multilateralization of the region, BIMSTEC can prop up South Asia to be an advanced regional bloc.

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**Presentation by Dr. Zaw Oo, Executive  
Director, Centre for Economic and  
Social Development (CESD),  
Myanmar**

# Enhancing Trade: How Cooperation in Agriculture Production Systems Help All Farmers in BIMSTEC!

Zaw Oo

Centre for Economic and Social Development

Yangon – 14 June 2018

[www.myanmarcesd.org](http://www.myanmarcesd.org)

Email: [zawoo.cesd@gmail.com](mailto:zawoo.cesd@gmail.com)

# Role of Agriculture in Myanmar

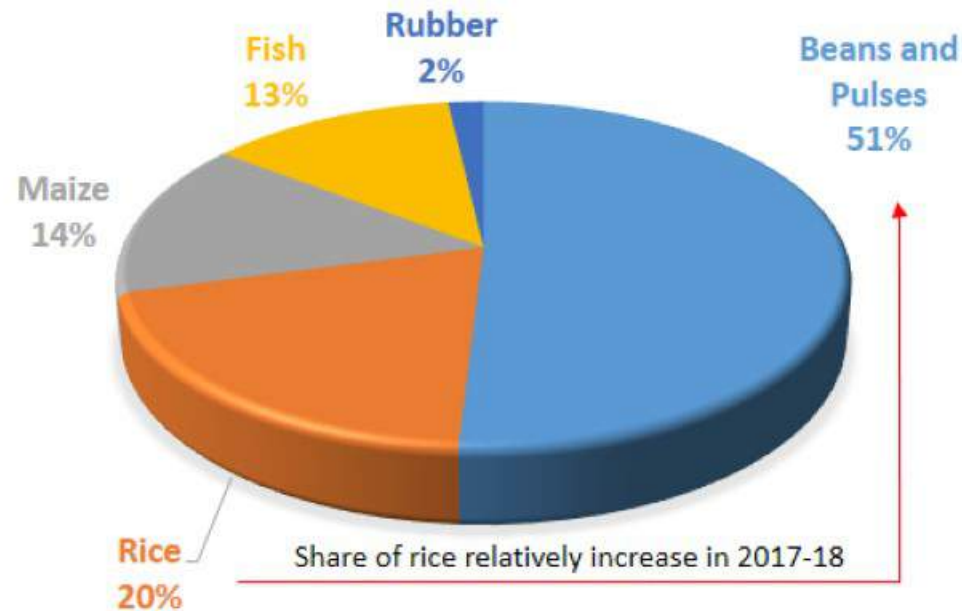


- ❑ Small holders, landless laborers dependent on agriculture; productivity remained low.
- ❑ Poverty is deeply entrenched, caused by lackluster agriculture growth, causing high migration .
- ❑ Export basket is relatively small: rice, beans and pulses, fish, rubber. Low value added.
- ❑ Role of government in upgrading agriculture value chains is key; decentralizing reforms is essential.
- ❑ Access to global market is still limited to neighboring economies; global access hindered by sanctions.

Source: Central Statistical Organization (2015), National Census (2014)

# Pulses-led Agriculture Export: A Hard Hit in 2017!

**AGRICULTURE EXPORTS, 2016**



- Beans and pulses dominate agriculture export revenue
- Rubber accounts a small share this year mainly due to 60% price drop
- Rice export also fell due to floods.

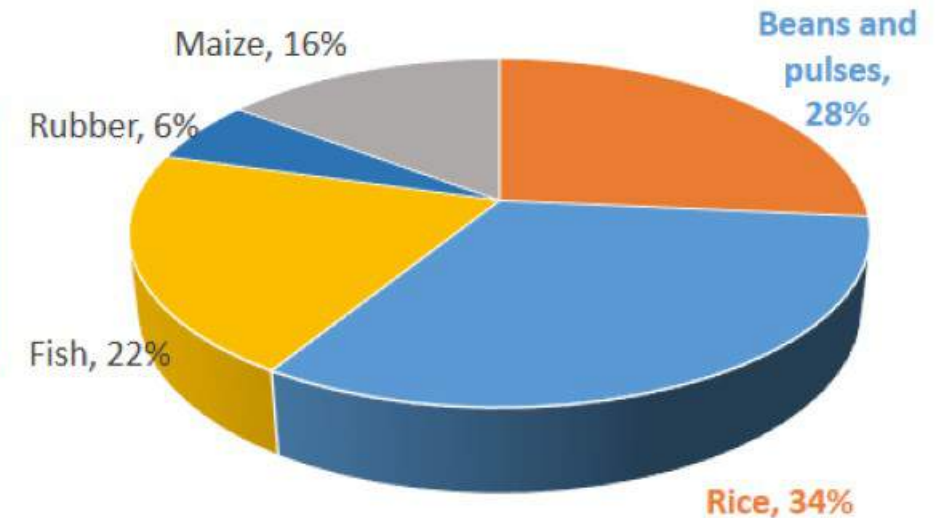
Share of Beans and Pulses in total agriculture export (2011-15)

**70%**

Share of Rice in total export (2011-15)

**14%**

**AGRICULTURE EXPORT, 2017**

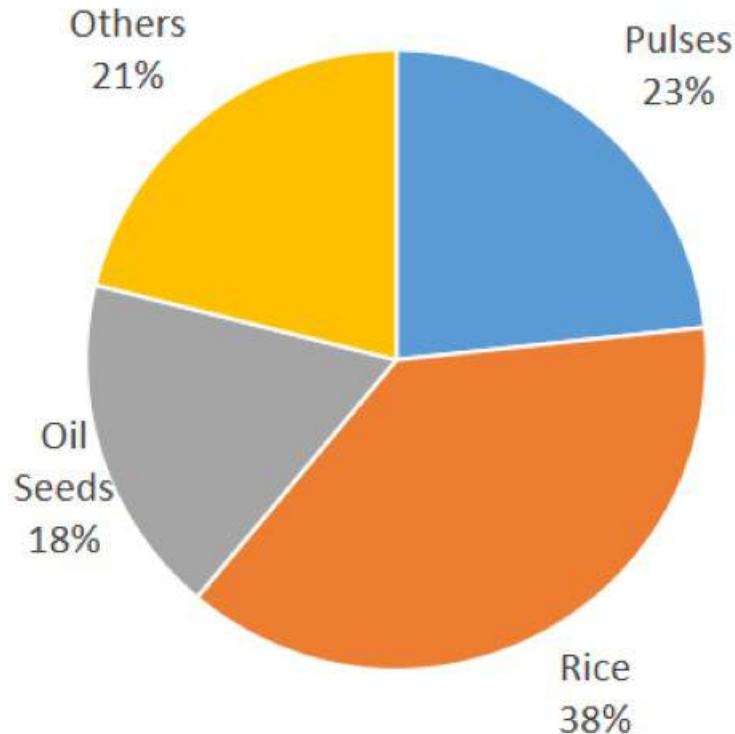


- Due to trade-shocks in 2017, pulses share of export sharply decline in 2017
- Rice export to China also rapidly increases in the same period, going above the traditional ceiling of 1 billion ton export.

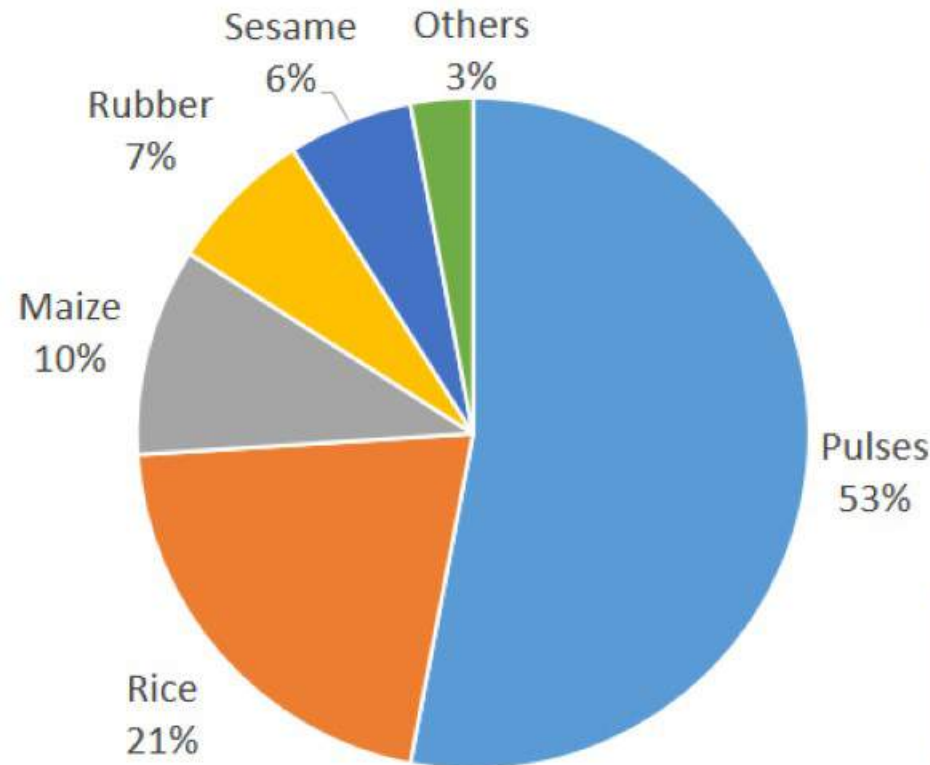
# Trade Shock: When Myanmar Depends On a Monopsony?

- **Long-term Trend:** Myanmar cultivated pulses in less than 25% of its total sown area; however, the crop fetched more than 50% of export revenue. Myanmar monopolizes black gram and pigeon peas export to India while the latter is also a monopstic buyer.
- **Recent Crisis:** The Government of India (GoI) issued a notification on August 5, 2017 to restrict the quantity of import of pigeon peas (toor) to 200,000 tons as well as to impose similar quantitative restrictions on black gram (urad) and green gram (moong) until end of fiscal year – 31 March 2018. The GoI justified a sharp decline of domestic prices of pulses due to bumper harvest and area expansion in the year of 2016-17 as the main reason to restrict import quantities. The quota was maintained in May 2018.

## Cultivation Area



## Export Revenue



## Share of Myanmar Export: INDIA

Pigeon Pea

92%

Black Gram

80%

## Share of India Import: MYANMAR

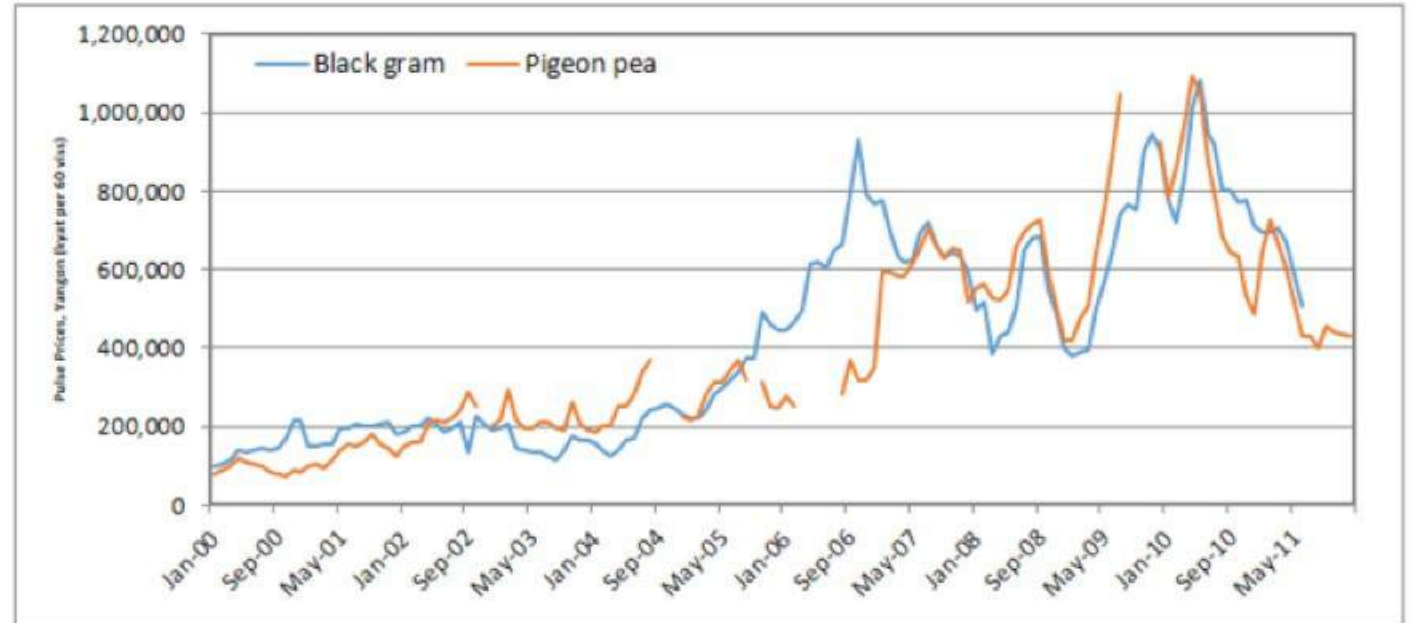
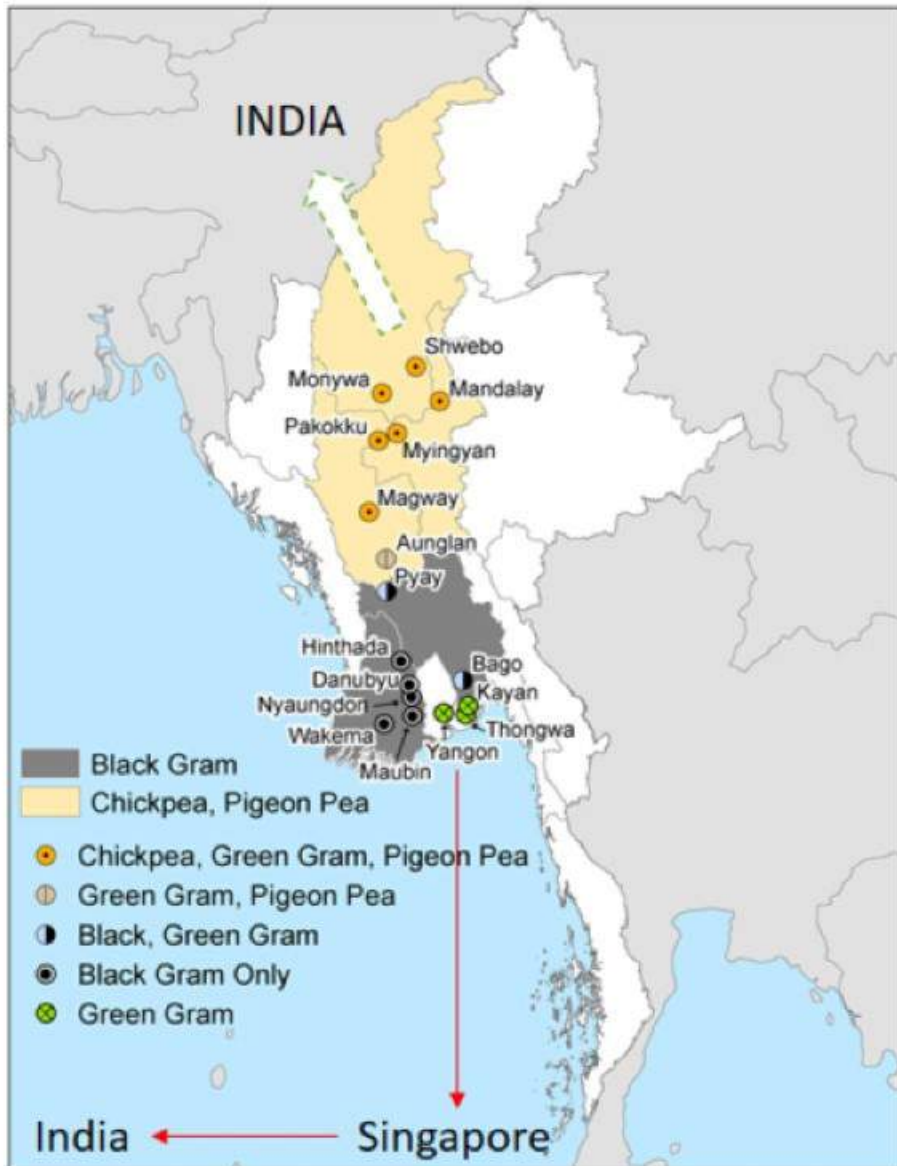
Pigeon Pea

49%

Black Gram

70%

# State of Beans and Pulses Sector: Top export crop



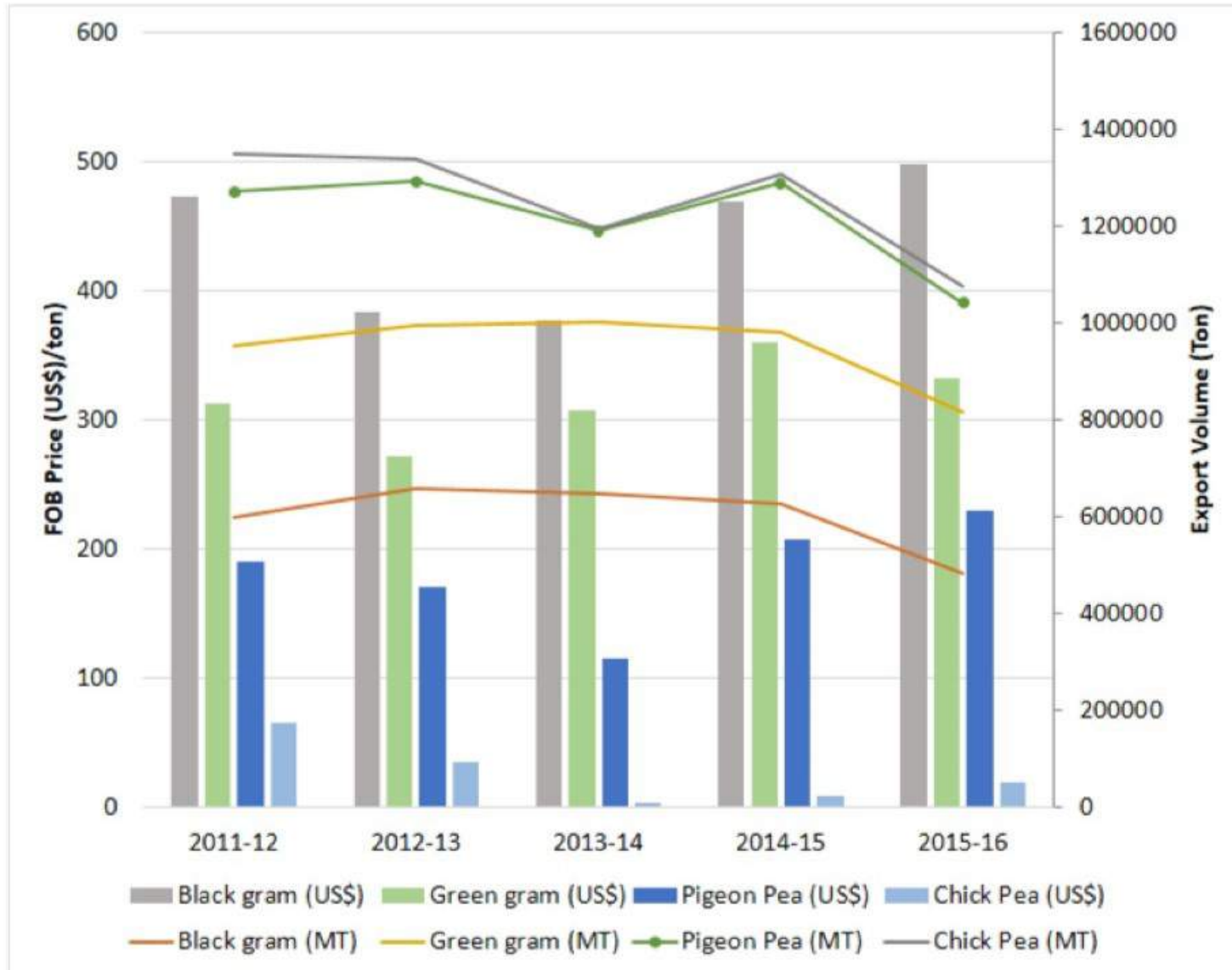
Top agriculture export commodity

**\$1.2 billion (2015)**

- Small holders in beans and pulses sector received little support
- Input markets are not fully developed; low technology, poor seeds
- No linkage with GVC, farmers suffer from unstable demands and price fluctuations, and indirect transit trade through Singapore

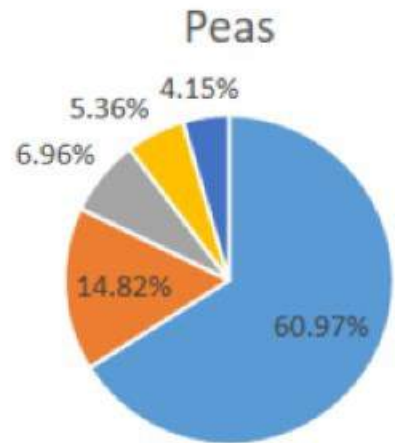


# Pulses export: volume and price

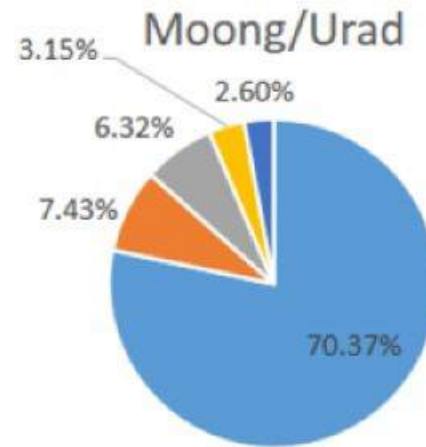


- Unit price for green gram is much stable than black gram
- In the last five years, green gram prices are more or less stable.

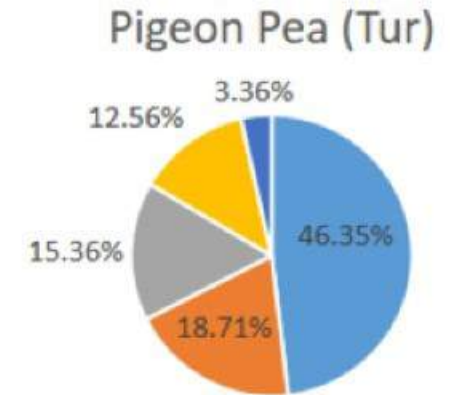
# State of India Import: Share of Myanmar's Export



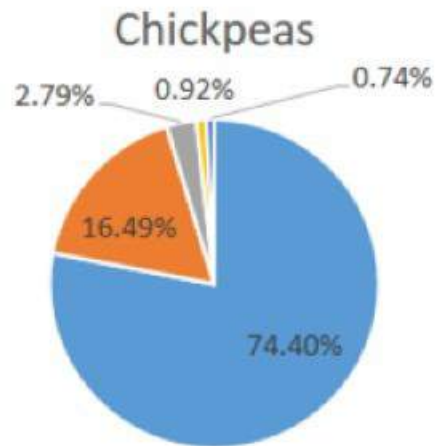
■ Canada ■ Russia ■ USA  
■ France ■ Lithuania



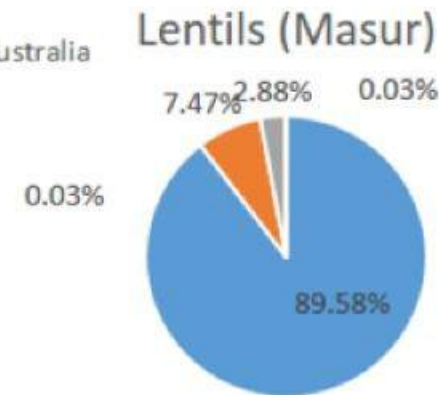
■ Myanmar ■ Kenya ■ Australia  
■ Tanzania ■ Uzbekistan



■ Myanmar ■ Tanzania  
■ Mozambique ■ Malawi  
■ Sudan

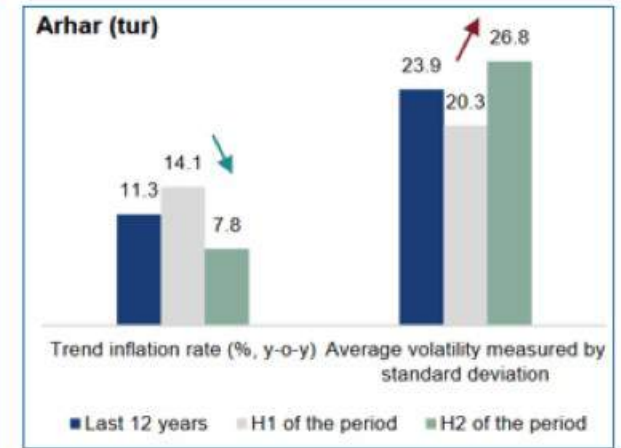
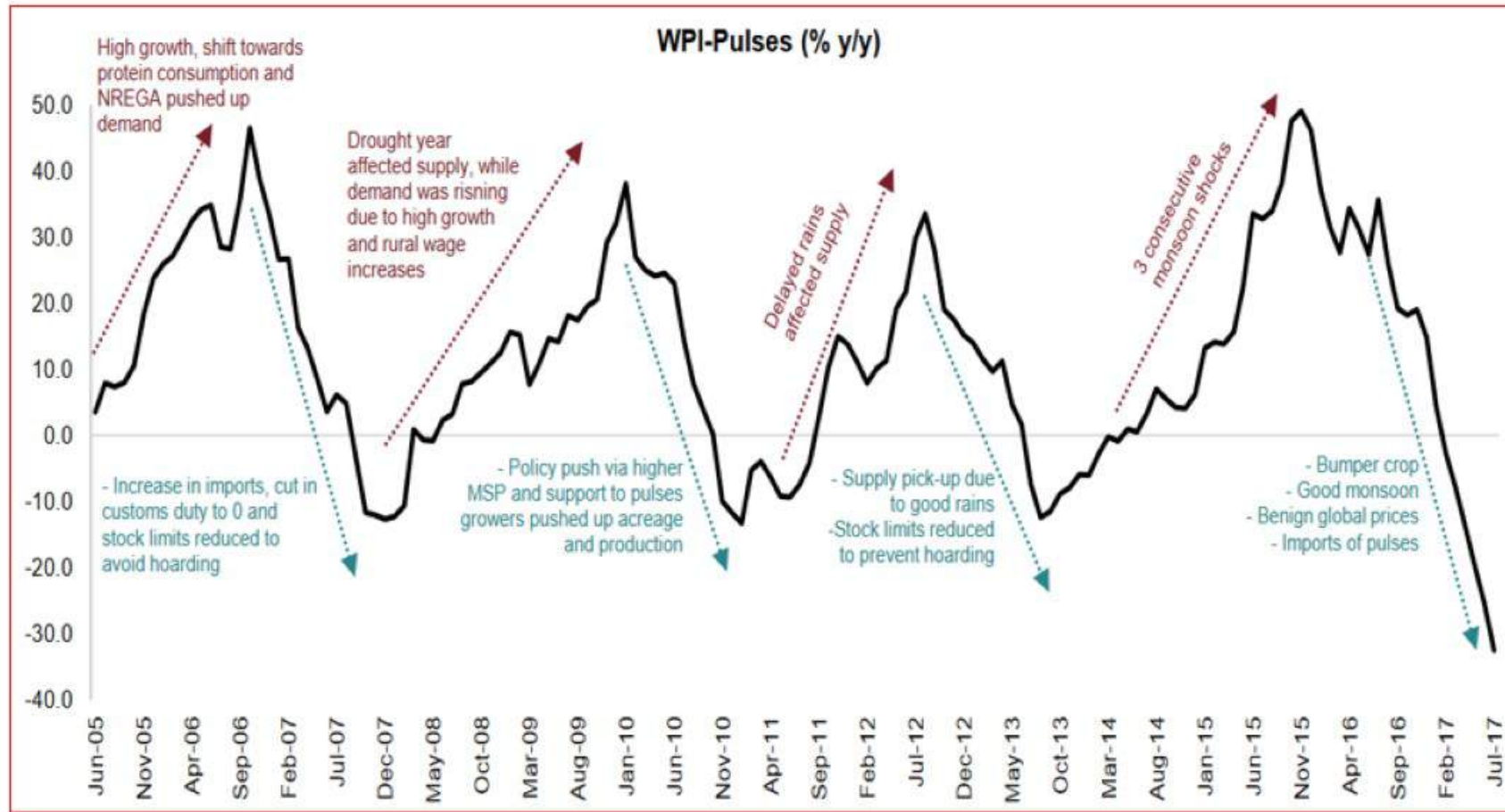


■ Australia ■ Russia ■ Tanzania  
■ Myanmar ■ USA



■ Canada ■ USA  
■ Australia ■ Turkey  
■ Mozambique

# Price volatility in India: Tur and urad – “the worst”



- India – catching pulses fire every 3 years: However, 2017 dip is different, as more than half of previous price rise wiped out.
- Price movement of tur and urad is the most volatile among all pulses in India – the ones Myanmar farmers tend to export
- However, prolong farm distress of last 18-months suppresses profitability of pulses production in both countries, disincentivizing farmers from both countries

# Agriculture cooperation can enhance BIMSTEC trade/integration



## 1. Co-dependent integration

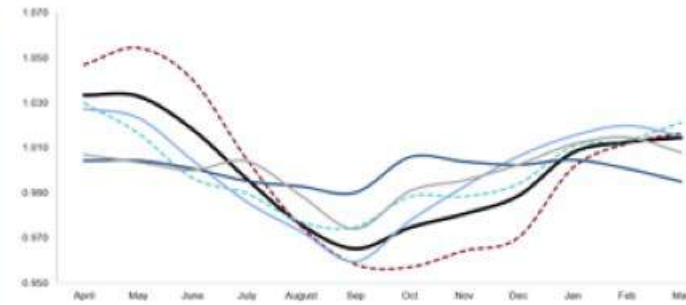
- ✓ 92% of Myanmar pigeon pea (tur) end up in India of which Myanmar share of India's import stands almost of 50% of all total.
- ✓ Co-dependent relationship in black gram (urad) is even more pronounced as 80% of Myanmar grams go to India while Myanmar's share stands as 70% of total India's import.

## 2. Quantitative restrictions are not helpful

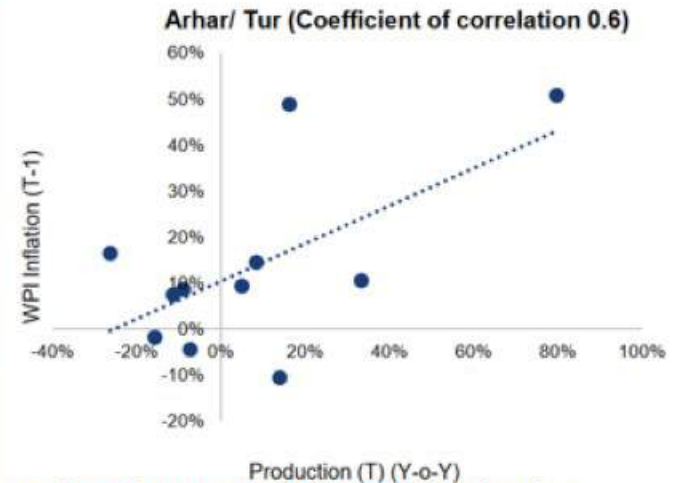
- Quantitative restrictions may temporarily help stabilize India's falling prices, but do not address price volatility and supply constraints.
- Myanmar farmers responded by abandoning pulses cultivation, undermining India's safety net position of having a quick supply source.

## 3. Cooperation can benefit all farmers!

- GoI/BIMSTEC can step up cooperation in agriculture sector to manage seasonality and cyclicity of agricultural trade.
- Minimum support price scheme and buffer stock scheme can go beyond borders, BIMSTEC arrangement can stabilize price volatility.



Seasonal price movements of pulses in India can be adjusted with crop calendars of neighboring countries.



Cobweb pattern of farmers behavior arisen out of time-lag between demand and supply decisions led to price volatility; however, recent estimates suggest that arhar and tur price fluctuations widen further in the future.

**DPG Regional Conference on  
Advancing BIMSTEC  
Cooperation, Yangon, June  
14-15, 2018**

**Presentation by U Khin Maung Nyo,  
Senior Advisor, MISIS**



# Myanmar- India Economic Relation: An example for BIMSTEC?

Khin Maung Nyo  
Senior Advisor  
Myanmar ISIS



# Development Projects

- Direct development projects and soft loans straddling connectivity, infrastructure, capacity building in Myanmar and India and small development projects including in the Chin and Naga border areas, amounts to US\$ 2 billion over the last decade, most of it over the last few years. (Ambassador of India to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Gautam Mukhopadhaya's address on the occasion of India's 67th Republic Day reception on January 26, 2016)



# India Myanmar

- Look East , Also need to look Myanmar
- Act East ( Act Myanmar?)
- Way Forward ??





- India's trade with Myanmar more than doubled in the last few years. In 2013-14 total trade has crossed \$ 2 billion with Indian exports at \$787.01 million and imports at \$1.395 billion.
- The economic engagement between Myanmar and India has gained momentum in the last few years and trade relations between the two countries have witnessed a steady growth.



- India accounts for a sizeable share in Myanmar's imports of pharmaceutical products (37 percent), essential oil, perfumes, and cosmetics (6.6 percent), rubber and articles (6.2 percent), articles of iron or steel (5.6 percent), cotton (5.6 percent), and iron and steel (5.5 percent)



# Border Trade

- Although the India-Myanmar border is more than 1600 kilometers, border trading is still a castle in the air, as Myanmar needs infrastructure upgrades.



## Border trade

- 2012-13 ,2013-14 Myanmar export 25% and Import 15% through border
- Myanmar India border trade stands at 1 % of total Myanmar border trade
- Officially recorded trade between India and Myanmar through the border trade points of Moreh and Zokhawthar was only US\$ 6.5 million in 2012-13
- Informal trade that takes place across the border are several times higher.
- Estimated current overall annual trade through Moreh as exceeding US\$ 500 million.
- Large unregulated informal trade, is fraught with security, health, safety and other risks.



# Trade

- Currently, trade between the two countries amounts to around US\$2 billion.
- Considering the proximity and size of both our economies, India's trade with Myanmar is still very much lagging behind China, Japan, South Korea, Thailand and even Singapore.
- to double trade to around US\$4-\$5 billion over the next 2-3 years.??????



# IMCC

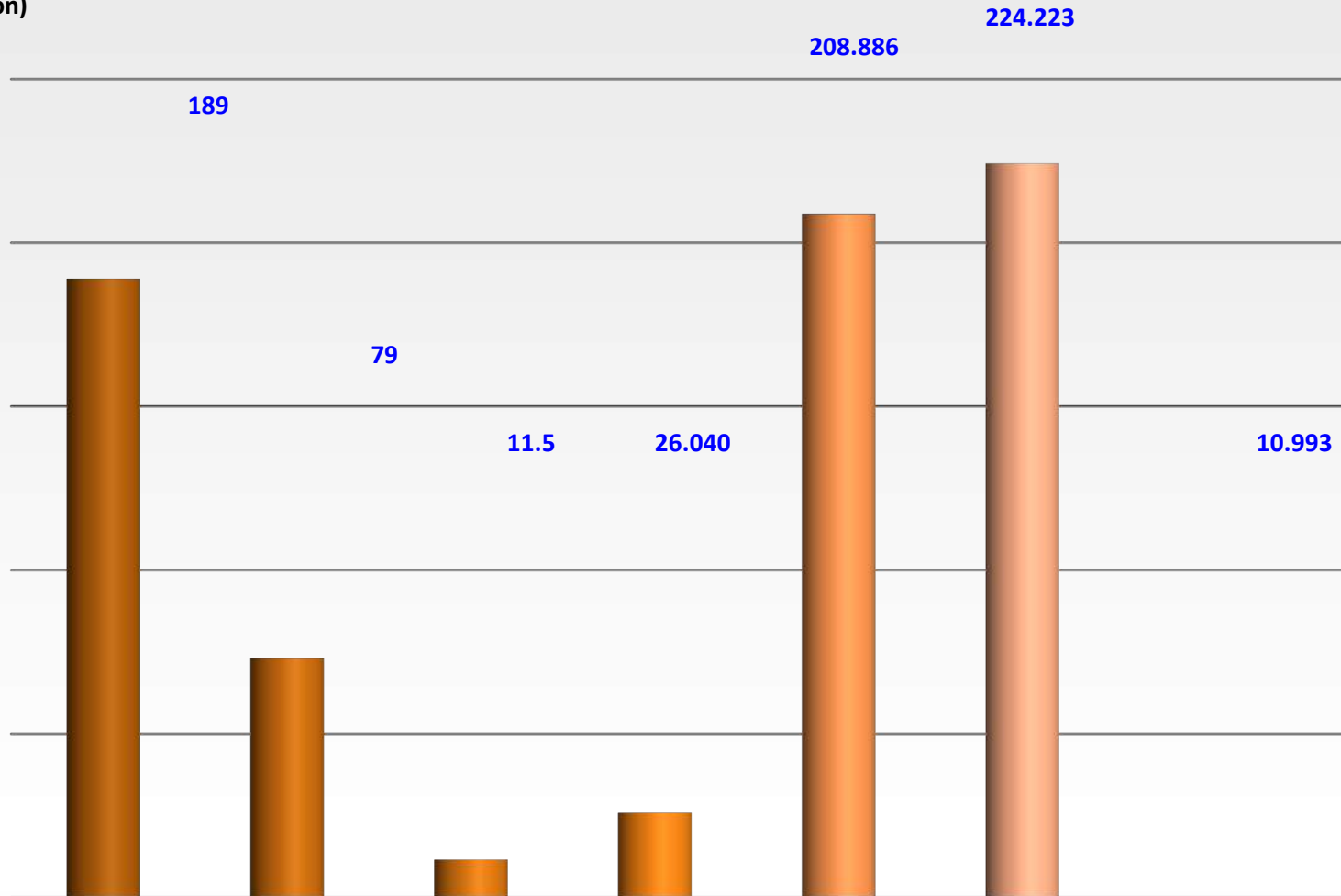
- “Considering that both our countries are rich in resource and labour, the fact that trade is lagging is a big concern for India.
- have started the IMCC, which is represented by large Indian corporations, as well as small and medium enterprises and entrepreneurs based in Myanmar, to promote more trade with Myanmar
- The companies include steel and energy conglomerate TATA International
- It is the right time to expand in Myanmar now that the new Investment Law and Companies Act have come in. We are very bullish on this country.
- “The country’s image may be impacted [affected] if the situation in Rakhine continues over the long term, but we are positive that this will be resolved,” Mr Sunil



- Myanmar's exports to India mainly comprise of crops and fish.
- Currently, more than 80 percent of its annual 1.2 million tonne pulse and bean produce is exported to India, according to Mr Sunil's estimates.
- Recently India stop Beans and Pulses import from Myanmar
- Meanwhile, the country also imports pharmaceutical products, steel and machinery from India.

# India Investment in Myanmar (1988-89 to 2017- September)

(US\$ in Million)





# India Investment in Myanmar

| Sr | Particulars                      | No of Enterprises | Amount in USD (Million) |
|----|----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 1  | Manufacturing Sector             | 10                | 55.936                  |
| 2  | Agriculture                      | 1                 | 4.5                     |
| 3  | Oil & Gas Sector                 | 11                | 668.65                  |
| 4  | Transport & Communication Sector | 1                 | 5.225                   |
| 5  | Other Service                    | 1                 | 1.831                   |
| 6  | Livestock & Fisheries Sector     | 1                 | 3                       |
|    | Total                            | 25                | 739.142                 |

# India's Companies in Myanmar

| Sr | Particulars | No of Companies |
|----|-------------|-----------------|
| 1  | Trading     | 18              |
| 2  | Industry    | 17              |
| 3  | Services    | 158             |
| 4  | Bank        | 3               |
| 5  | General     | 1               |
|    | Total       | 197             |



# Myanmar's advantages

- Strategic position
- Coastline
- Being LDCs, higher scope of market access Linking two largest emerging economies, China and India



# Myanmar's Disadvantages

- Smaller population size
- Weak institutions
- Capacity constraints
- Limited infrastructure
- Narrow trade basket

**DPG Regional Conference on  
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Cooperation, Yangon, June  
14-15, 2018**

**Abstract of Presentation by  
Dr. Shwe Hein, Secretary, Thilawa  
SEZ Management Committee**

**Dr. Shwe Hein****Secretary, Thilawa SEZ Management Committee**

Dr. Shwe Hein in his talk focussed on the border trade between Myanmar and its neighbouring countries. Dr. Hein pointed out the relatively low levels of trade between Myanmar and its immediate neighbours in South Asia, including India with which it shares over 1000 km of border. He linked the lack of trade infrastructure along India's northern border to the lack of regional security. He also noted the limited economic and market development of the Indian north-east due to insurgency along the border. He recommended the expansion of effective cooperation among countries in peace-making processes and synchronising border area economic development plans with the national economic development plans.

He also called for sensitivity in core connectivity infrastructure towards unfavourable conditions like the rainy season and emphasised on expanding the BIMSTEC governance cooperation for connectivity and suggested bringing in organizations like the ASEAN for inputs and support. He also underlined the need for building up public-private partnerships, adequate trade infrastructure, government agencies and capacities, financing and banking facilities, logistics services, warehousing, and laboratory.

He also spoke of the need for effective and speedy reforms in domestic financial institutions and banking industry in Myanmar and acknowledged the role of foreign financial institutes and banks and further encouraged their involvement in Myanmar. In border trade, he focused on the necessity of developing financial and banking services in border areas and providing necessary infrastructure facilities before bringing in policy changes.

Dr. Hein concluded by pitching Myanmar as an important player for the future of the economic-political security of the BIMSTEC region. He stressed the importance of materialising ideas and policies concerning BIMSTEC border trade. He envisioned improvements in regional interconnectivity through infrastructure development, trade facilitation and regulatory harmonization providing benefits for the economies of member nations. This, he opined, could transform trade relations between Myanmar and South Asian countries like India, Bangladesh etc. and bring them to the same level as those of Myanmar-China or Myanmar-Thailand.

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**Abstract of Presentation by Daw Win  
Myint, National Project Coordinator,  
International Labour Organization,  
Myanmar**

**Daw Win Myint****National Project Coordinator, International Labour Organization, Myanmar**

Daw Win Myint spoke about gender perspectives in trade. Highlighting the labour force participation of men and women, she pointed out how 60% women are employed only in the agricultural sector and thus, called for better employment opportunities. Calling agriculture sector as the main sector in Myanmar, she termed its development crucial for improving the lives of women. She also pointed out the negative impacts that high levels of an informal workforce in agriculture has on households owing to the irregularities of employment, health and safety hazards and unequal social protection. She called for a policy to facilitate shifting of people from informal to formal sector.

She further highlighted the high rates of employment and low pay of women in the informal sector in both rural and urban spaces. Citing this, she called for an equitable and inclusive pay philosophy and underlined its importance to raise the productivity in the agriculture sector. She also addressed the need to create employment opportunities in post-conflict areas. She concluded by urging for inclusion of provisions with benefits to women in the Free trade agreement and the establishment of a law enforcement and coordination framework, bringing together the employer and the employee.



**DPG Regional Conference on  
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14-15, 2018**

**Presentation by Dr. Janaka  
Wijayasiri, Research Fellow, IPS,  
Colombo, Sri Lanka**



Challenges to a  
BIMSTEC Free Trade  
Agreement (FTA):  
A Sri Lankan  
Perspective

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*Janaka Wijayasiri, IPS*

# Outline

- Background
- Current status of trade within the region
- Sri Lanka's existing trade agreements
- Role for the BIMSTEC FTA?
- Issues relating to existing FTAs and lessons for BIMSTEC

# Background

- BIMSTEC has been slow in moving towards regional economic integration under a FTA
- BIMSTEC FTA proposed in 2004 and agreement expected to finalised by 2006, aims to strengthen economic cooperation by providing preferential treatment in trade in goods and services while facilitating investment cooperation.
- Even after more than a decade and several rounds of negotiations, the grouping has not been able to reach a consensus and finalize the agreement
- Despite delays, a BIMSTEC FTA still remains in its agenda.

# Trade in the BIMSTEC

- Intra-regional exports from BIMSTEC increased from USD 1.4 bn (2002) to 33.4bn (2014); growth of 47 percent vs a vis 20 percent with ROW
  - Intra-regional exports have increased from less than 2 percent (2002) to 6 (2014)
  - Main exporters within the region: IN (50%) and TH (35% of intra-regional exports)
- Intra-regional imports from BIMSTEC also show an increase from USD 4.2 bn to 20.4bn; a growth of 17 percent vis a vis 23 percent with ROW
  - Intra-regional imports fell from 5.3 percent (2002) to 2.07 percent (2014)
  - IN, TH, BG are important importers in the region (75 percent of imports from the region)



# Current status of trade

Intra-regional Exports as % of Country's Total Exports, 2011

|         | BG   | BH   | IN    | SL   | MY   | NP   | TH   | BIMSTEC |
|---------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|------|---------|
| BG      | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.94  | 0.18 | 0.04 | 0.01 | 0.18 | 2.33    |
| BH      | 5.83 | 0.00 | 75.73 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.36 | 0.02 | 81.94   |
| IN      | 1.13 | 0.07 | 0.00  | 1.48 | 0.15 | 0.85 | 0.92 | 4.60    |
| SL      | 0.46 | 0.00 | 5.21  | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.76 | 6.43    |
| MY      |      |      |       |      |      |      |      |         |
| NP      | 2.87 | 0.35 | 67.69 | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.24 | 71.18   |
| TH      | 0.53 | 0.01 | 2.26  | 0.21 | 1.24 | 0.03 | 0.00 | 4.29    |
| BIMSTEC | 0.83 | 0.04 | 1.26  | 0.88 | 0.58 | 0.46 | 0.51 | 4.58    |

Source: Computed from WITS

- BIMSTEC is an important destination for exports of BH and NP due to substantial portion of exports from these countries (over 60 percent) is sent to IN.
- BIMSTEC accounts for 6 percent of SLs exports

# Current status of trade

Intra-regional Imports as % of Country's Total Exports, 2011

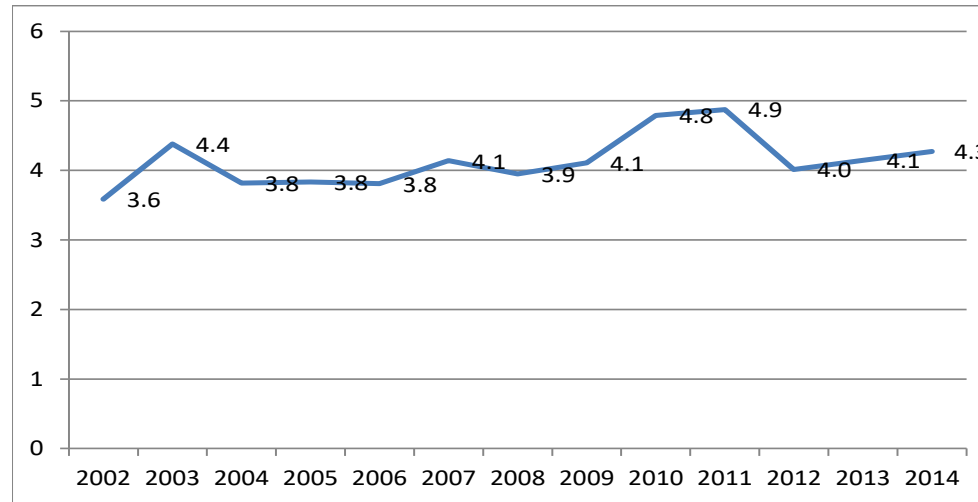
|         | BG   | BH   | IN    | SL   | MY   | NP   | TH    | BIMSTEC |
|---------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|-------|---------|
| BG      | 0.00 | 0.00 | 11.23 | 0.17 | 0.37 | 0.00 | 22.78 | 34.56   |
| BH      | 0.35 | 0.00 | 72.28 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.29 | 2.51  | 75.43   |
| IN      | 0.13 | 0.04 | 0.00  | 0.16 | 0.27 | 0.11 | 1.09  | 1.80    |
| SL      | 0.12 | 0.00 | 22.08 | 0.00 | 0.04 | 0.00 | 2.49  | 24.74   |
| MY      |      |      |       |      |      |      |       |         |
| NP      | 0.33 | 0.04 | 63.42 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.00 | 1.71  | 65.53   |
| TH      | 0.02 | 0.00 | 1.33  | 0.04 | 1.45 | 0.00 | 0.00  | 2.84    |
| BIMSTEC | 0.09 | 0.03 | 2.18  | 0.12 | 0.62 | 0.07 | 1.99  | 5.09    |

Source: Computed from WITS

- In terms of imports in the region, BIMSTEC is an importance source of imports not only to BH and NP but also to BG, and SL
- These countries are mainly dependent on IN

# Current status of trade

Intra-BIMSTEC Trade as a Share of Total BIMSTEC Trade



Source: Computed from WITS

BIMSTEC intra-regional trade in goods accounted for only 5% of member states' total trade with the world.

BIMSTEC's intra-regional trade is marginally better than SAARC, and notably less than ASEAN's intra-regional trade



# SL's Existing Trading Arrangements



- Currently, SL participates in five trade agreements:
  - South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA)
  - Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA)
  - Indo-SL Free Trade Agreement (ISFTA)
  - Pakistan-SL Free Trade Agreement (PSFTA)
  - Sri Lanka-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (SLSFTA)
- On-negotiations with IN and China on comprehensive agreements while BG and some ASEAN countries have expressed some interest for FTA
- BIMSTEC is one of many regional trade agreements that SL has signed up to
- At present the potential benefit from a BIMSTEC agreement to SL is limited to increased market access to TH and MY since SL already has some access to IN, BG, BH, and NP through bilateral and regional trade agreements

# Role for BIMSTEC FTA?

- Provisions made under the bilateral agreements are much more favorable than SAFTA.
- Both bilateral agreements have given SL greater market access to IN & Pk.
- Nevertheless, the trade between SL and IN, and SL and PK still occur outside FTAs.
- Although there has been improvement in trade between SL and FTA partners, utilization of agreements has been low.
- ISFTA utilization rate 65% (exports) and 14% (imports) in 2013.
- In this context, BIMSTEC FTA could provide greater access to IN, BH, BG, NP beyond the existing agreements as well as to TH and MY if the Agreement is more comprehensive/ambitious in its coverage of trade and addresses the problems/issues which have limited the use of the agreements already in place in the region.

# Issues Related to Existing RTAs & Lessons for BIMSTEC

- Negative List - BIMSTEC should be mindful in its approach to liberalisation considering the lessons learnt from the existing FTAs in the region.
- NTMs –These should be identified at the onset of negotiating a BIMSTEC FTA and addressed along with tariff reductions/eliminations.
- Rules of Origin - Relax and simplify ROO so that they are easy for traders to understand and to comply with, while ensuring the necessary controls are in place to prevent fraud.
- Mutual Recognition Agreements - MRA should be signed together with the BIMSTEC trade agreement specifying the mutually recognized or agreed standards.
- National Awareness/Consultation - Lack of knowledge/awareness among traders of the concessions offered by the FTAs has been a key impediment to garner benefits of FTAs.

# Issues Related to Existing RTAs & Lessons for BIMSTEC

- Institutional support - absence of a fixed body to address problems arising when trading under the agreement is an impediment in using the FTAs.
- Trade Facilitation - more emphasis should be given to trade facilitation; there is a need to reduce bureaucratic delays and paper work at the border, and upgrade customs procedures (ie single window).
- Comprehensive Agreement - strategically negotiated comprehensive agreement, including agreements on services and investments, and MRAs, can address shortcomings of existing agreements to a large extent and boost FDI
- Connectivity - In addition to trade facilitation issues, and weak supply side issues, the full potential of the region will remain largely untapped due to poor connectivity.



**Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka**

100/2 Independence Avenue,  
Colombo 7, Sri Lanka

T: +94 11 2143100

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**Presentation by Zin Zin Naing,  
Lecturer, Yangon University of  
Economics**

# **Market Access and Non-Tariff Measure in Myanmar**

Zin Zin Naing

14<sup>th</sup> June 2018

# Introduction

- ❖ Liberalization of trade and foreign investment has been an integral part of the economic reforms.
- ❖ Myanmar has been exporting primary products with low price, and importing manufactured and investment goods.
- ❖ The government of Myanmar is actively encouraging export diversification and promoting downstream processing of primary commodities, improving support services in trade financing, market access and trade facilitation as well as removing barriers to inbound foreign direct investment.
- ❖ Increased economic integration into ASEAN does not much cause trade diversion.
- ❖ Thailand remains a main trading partner while China and India have been increasingly important through border trade.



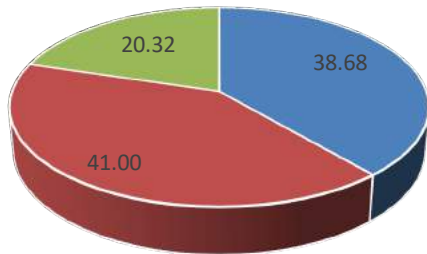
## Trade Flow of Myanmar

| Year      | Value in million US\$ |           |             |
|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|-------------|
|           | Export                | Import    | Total Trade |
| 2010-2011 | 8861.0                | 6412.7    | 2448.3      |
| 2011-2012 | 9135.602              | 9035.063  | 18170.67    |
| 2012-2013 | 8977.015              | 9068.14   | 18045.929   |
| 2015-2016 | 11136.878             | 16577.948 | 27714.826   |
| 2016-2017 | 11998.544             | 17211.062 | 29209.606   |

Source: Customs Department, Myanmar.

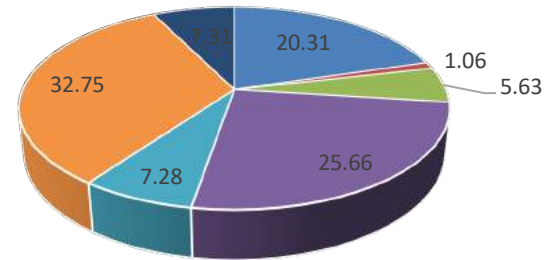
- ❖ Total value of trade results a 38% gain compared to last five years, and 5% from 2015-2016 to 2016-2017.
- ❖ Myanmar recently experienced sharp declines in its trade balance.
- ❖ Since 2012-2013, the size of Myanmar's trade deficit continued to deteriorate.

Pattern of Import in 2010/11  
(Commodity Group)



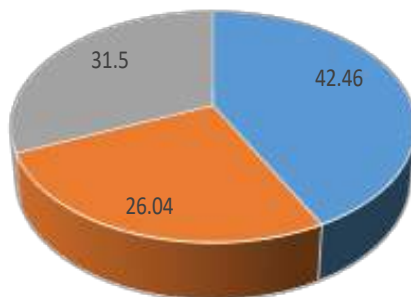
- Capital Goods
- Intermediate Goods
- Consumer Goods

Pattern of Export in 2010/11  
(Commodity Group)



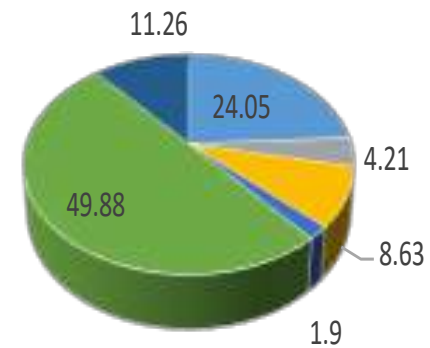
- Agriculture
- Animal
- Marine
- Metal
- Forestry
- Manufacturing
- Other

Pattern of Import in 2015/16  
(Commodity Group)



- Capital Goods
- Intermediate Goods
- Consumer Goods

Pattern of Export in 2015/16  
(Commodity Group)



- Agriculture
- Animal
- Marine
- Metal
- Forestry
- Manufacturing
- Other

| <b>Top 10 Export Items in 2015-16</b> |  |                   | <b>Top 10 Import Items in 2015-16</b> |                                       |                   |
|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
|                                       | Million USD                            |                   |                                       | Million USD                           |                   |
| Sr. No                                | Items                                  | % of Total Export | Sr. No                                | Items                                 | % of Total Import |
| 1                                     | Natural gas                            | 39.00             | 1                                     | Vehicles and spare parts              | 11.06             |
| 2                                     | Beans and pulses                       | 9.70              | 2                                     | Petroleum products                    | 10.14             |
| 3                                     | Garment                                | 7.63              | 3                                     | Machinery and equipment               | 9.52              |
| 4                                     | Jade                                   | 5.11              | 4                                     | Ship and ship spare parts             | 6.78              |
| 5                                     | Rice and rice products                 | 4.72              | 5                                     | Iron and steel                        | 5.00              |
| 6                                     | Fish and prawn                         | 2.78              | 6                                     | Iron and steel construction materials | 4.98              |
| 7                                     | Corn                                   | 2.74              | 7                                     | Broadcasting and telecommunication    | 3.67              |
| 8                                     | Metal and ores                         | 2.69              | 8                                     | Plastic raw materials                 | 3.07              |
| 9                                     | Sugar                                  | 1.53              | 9                                     | Palm oil                              | 2.66              |
| 10                                    | Sawn timber, sawn hardwood and plywood | 1.44              | 10                                    | Motor cycles                          | 2.19              |
| Total value of export (Million USD)   |  | 11136.88          | Total value of import (Million USD)   |                                       | 16577.95          |

Source: Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar.

Source: Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar.

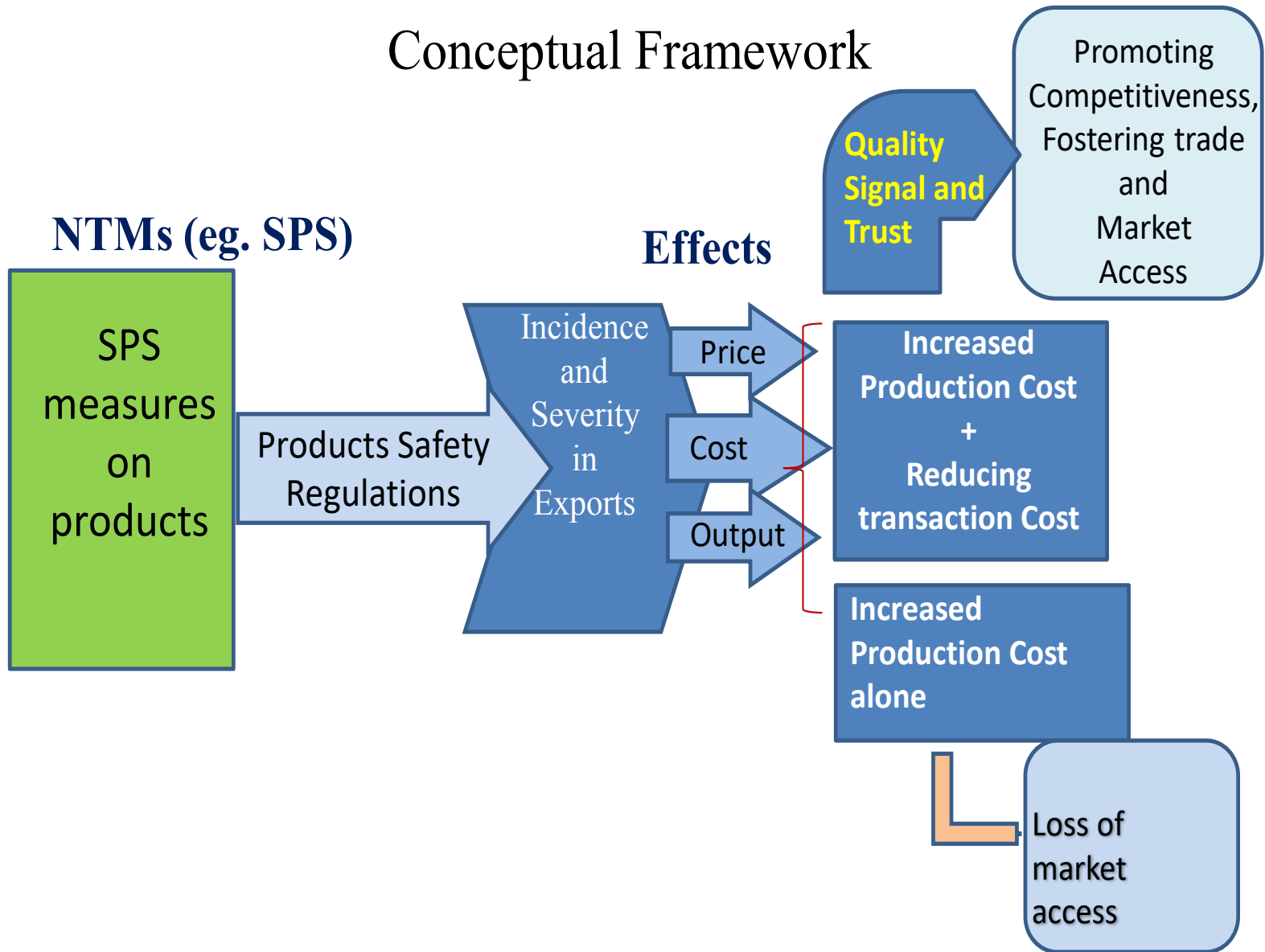
## Top 10 Importing countries of Myanmar

Million USD

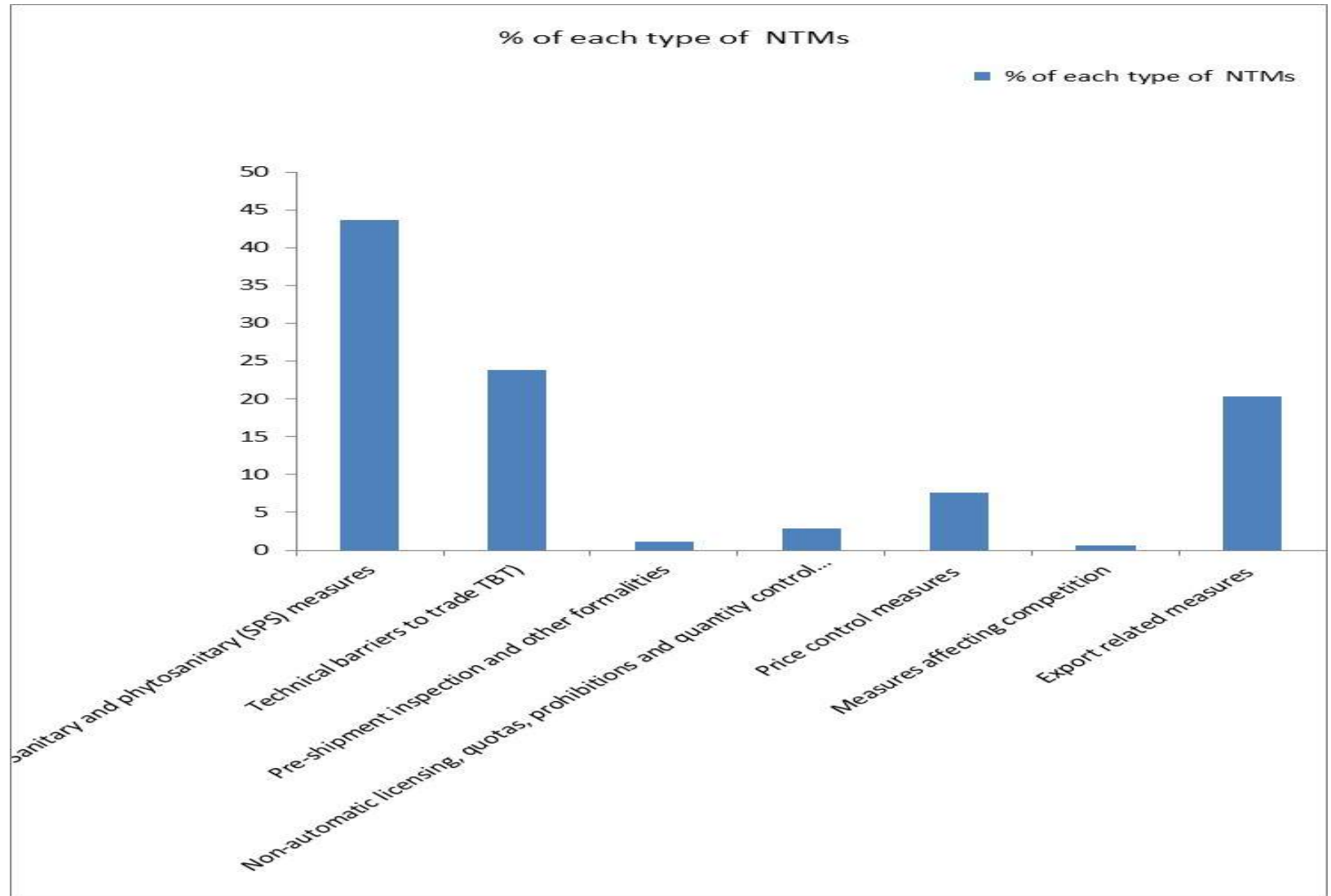
| Rank | 2011/12   |              | 2013/14   |              | 2015/16              |              |
|------|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|
|      | Country   | Export Value | Country   | Export Value | Country              | Export Value |
| 1    | China     | 2786.84      | China     | 4105.50      | China                | 6395.43      |
| 2    | Singapore | 2516.13      | Singapore | 2910.20      | Singapore            | 2970.9       |
| 3    | Thailand  | 691.15       | Thailand  | 1377.00      | Thailand             | 1972.82      |
| 4    | Japan     | 502.17       | Japan     | 1296.20      | Japan                | 1452.22      |
| 5    | Korea     | 451.93       | Korea     | 1218.00      | India                | 807.35       |
| 6    | Indonesia | 431.82       | Malaysia  | 839.70       | Indonesia            | 601.96       |
| 7    | India     | 325.38       | India     | 493.50       | Malaysia             | 588.72       |
| 8    | Malaysia  | 303.41       | Indonesia | 438.80       | Korea                | 396.6        |
| 9    | USA       | 263.62       | Vietnam   | 169.90       | Vietnam              | 290.19       |
| 10   | Germany   | 95.15        | Italy     | 107.90       | United Arab Republic | 128.99       |
|      | Total     | 9035.06      | Total     | 13759.5      | Total                | 16577.83     |

Source: 2016 Myanmar Statistical Yearbook

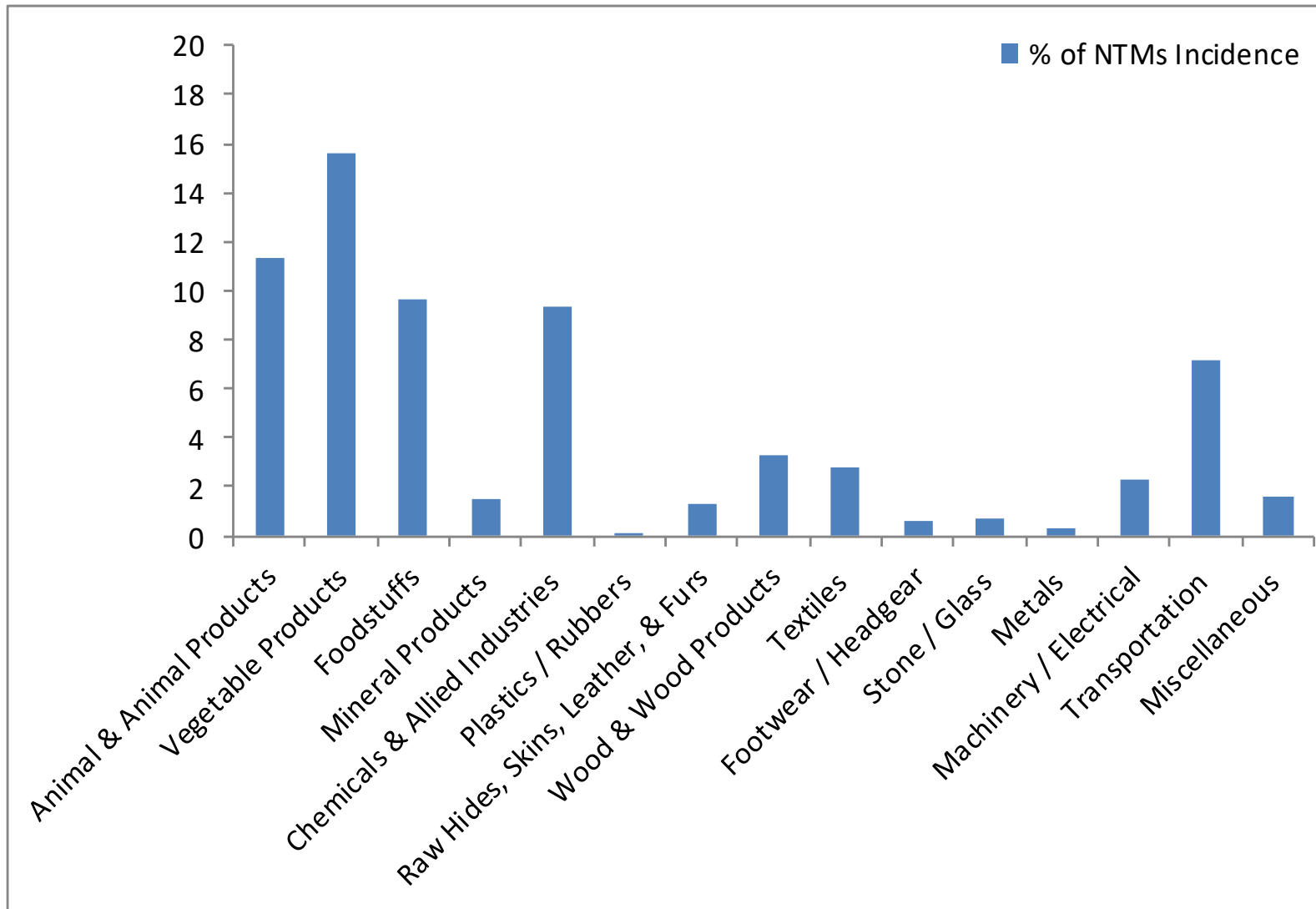
# Conceptual Framework



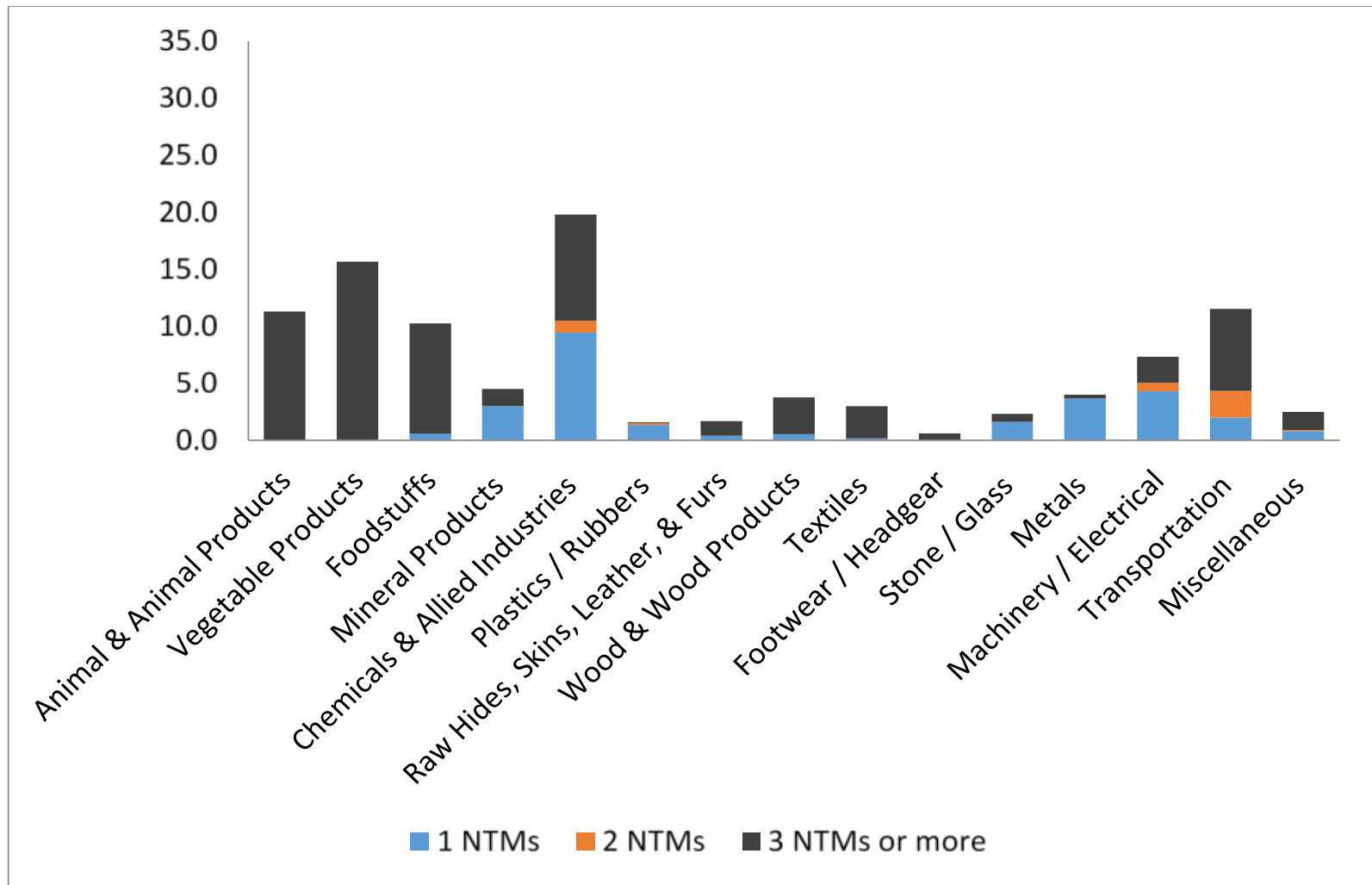
# Non-tariff Measures



# Incidence of NTM by Product Group



## Incidence of Multiple Non-tariff Measures, by Product Group





**SESSION 2:  
“TRANSIT AND  
MULTIMODAL  
CONNECTIVITY  
(ROADWAYS,  
WATERWAYS, RAILWAYS  
AND AVIATION)”**

**DPG Regional Conference on  
Advancing BIMSTEC  
Cooperation, Yangon, June  
14-15, 2018**

**Abstract of Moderator's Remarks by  
Dr. Swarnim Wagle, Economist and  
Former Vice-Chair, National Planning  
Commission, Nepal**

**Dr. Swarnim Wagle****Economist and Former Vice-Chairman, National Planning Commission, Nepal**

As a moderator for the Transit Session, Dr. Wagle addressed the renewed interests of BIMSTEC countries in waterways as they offer a cheaper mode of transport. He acknowledged the importance of airways, especially for landlocked countries. Concerning roadways, he termed the mode as a primary connector between the BIMSTEC nations. Talking about transit issues, he also spoke of the difficulties faced by the landlocked areas like northern parts of India, and Myanmar which are otherwise part of coastal economies. Dr. Wagle also drew attention to the 'neighborhood effect' aspect of developmental economics and pointed out the important role of landlocked countries in BIMSTEC, thus asking for better infrastructure and connectivity routes for the landlocked regions.

**DPG Regional Conference on  
Advancing BIMSTEC  
Cooperation, Yangon, June  
14-15, 2018**

**Presentation by Prof. Prabir De,  
Research and Information System for  
Developing Countries, New Delhi**

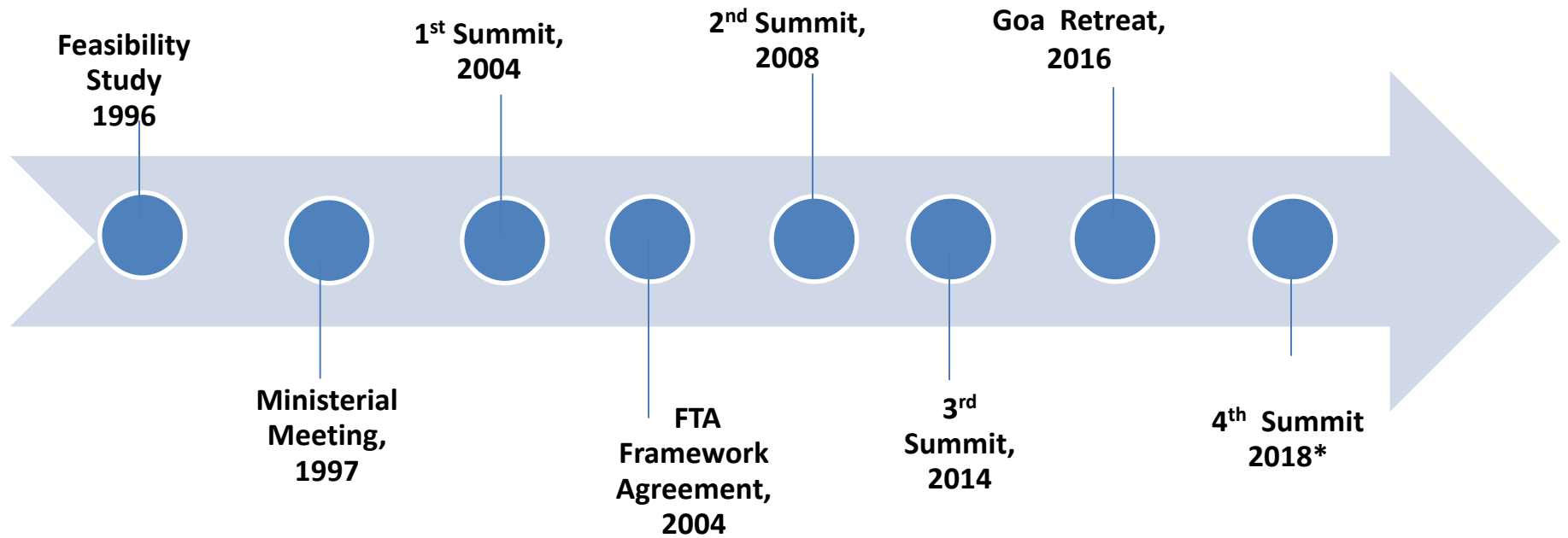
**Regional Conference on Advancing BIMSTEC Cooperation,  
Park Royal, Yangon, 14-15 June 2018**

**Transit and Multimodal  
Connectivity in BIMSTEC: Dealing  
the Challenges**

**Prabir De  
RIS, New Delhi**

**14 June 2018; New Delhi**

# BIMSTEC: major milestones crossed



\*Proposed

# Goa Retreat 2016 – leaders much needed political direction to BIMSTEC

- In the Goa Retreat in October 2016, the Leaders of BIMSTEC have given the following directions:
  - to seek greater physical and economic connectivity between South and South East Asia.
  - to advance multi-modal physical connectivity (air, rail, roads and waterways) in the BIMSTEC region
  - to prepare a Master Plan for BIMSTEC Connectivity.
  - to conclude BIMSTEC Coastal Shipping Agreement.
  - to explore the possibility of having a BIMSTEC Motor Vehicle Agreement.



# Connectivity Initiatives

## Connectivity Initiatives

Beyond  
ASEAN  
region

**BIMSTEC**

**Mekong +**

**APEC  
Connectivity**

**ASEM  
Connectivity**

**Belt Road  
Initiative**

**Indo-  
Pacific**

**APT  
Connectivity**

**Master Plan  
on ASEAN  
Connectivity  
2025**

**EAS on  
ASEAN  
Connectivity**

ASEAN

Within  
ASEAN  
region

**GMS**

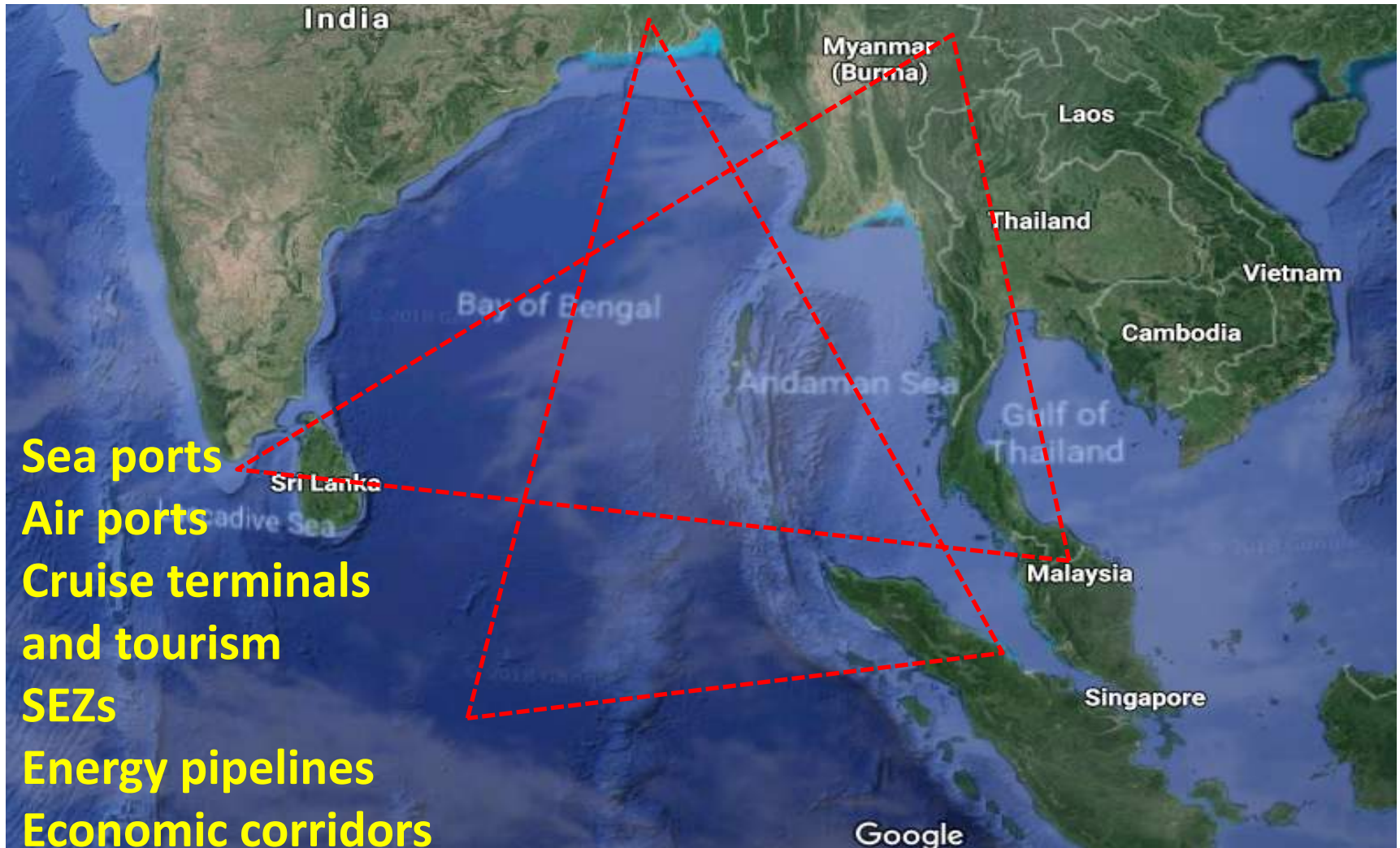
**IMT-GT**

**BIMP-  
EAGA**

National and Sub-National Undertakings



# Most happening place in Asia-Pacific / Indo-Pacific: Bay of Bengal



# A transformed trade facilitation on way

- Tariffs are (often) already low and getting lower. But, trade liberalisation in a reverse direction in recent months.
- Trade flows increasingly associated with regional/global production networks
  - Predictability / timeliness is essential
  - High import content of exports
- Rise in trade in creative goods and services, IT services, a.o.
- Differentiated logistics services (e.g. Economic Corridor, Express Delivery services, etc.)
- Supply chain security initiatives
- Trade facilitation standards and certification
- Easier and cheaper trade procedures important for implementation of SDGs
- WTO TFA a new baseline for TF
- Regional trade facilitation to strengthen the global agenda

# Transition of BIMSTEC connectivity

| Connectivity     | Focus  | Agreement   |
|------------------|--|---|
| 1997- 2005       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Road and rail connectivity</li> <li>•Border development</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Asian Highway</li> <li>•Trans-Asian Railway</li> </ul>  |
| 2006 - 2011      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Corridors</li> <li>•Road, rail and waterways</li> <li>•Customs cooperation</li> </ul>                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•E-customs</li> <li>•BTILS</li> </ul>  |
| 2011 - 2014      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Digital connectivity</li> <li>•Border development</li> <li>•Customs cooperation</li> </ul>                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•ICP</li> <li>•Border haats</li> <li>•E-customs</li> </ul>   |
| 2015 – Till date | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Corridors</li> <li>•Digital connectivity</li> <li>•Paperless trade</li> <li>•Coastal shipping + IWT</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•BBIN MVA</li> <li>•UNESCAP paperless trade agreement</li> <li>•IBCSA</li> <li>•BIMSTEC MVA*</li> <li>•BIMSTEC CSA*</li> </ul> |

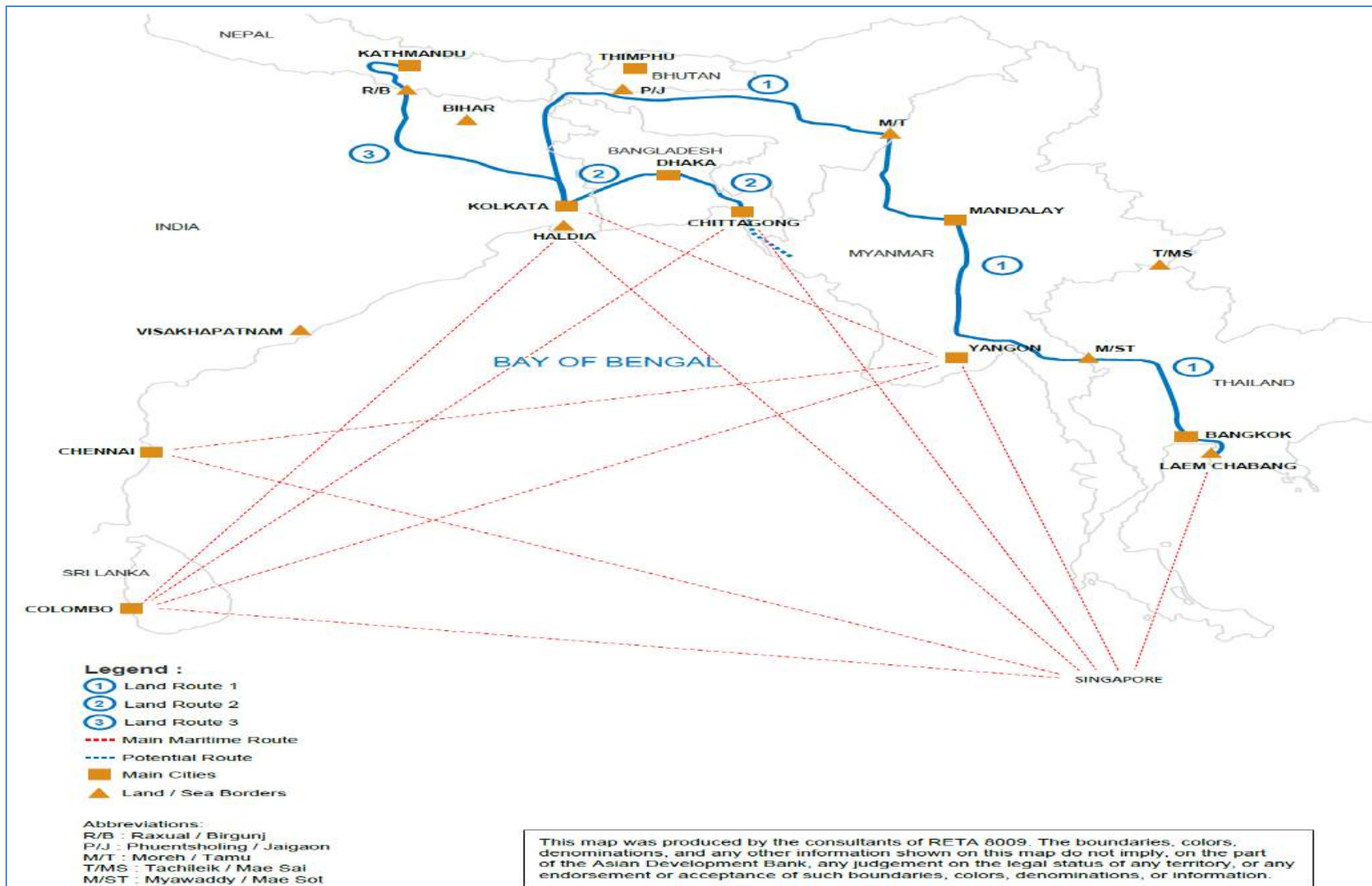
# India's recent initiatives in connectivity

1. Single market through GST and transparency
2. Customs single window (SWIFT), AEO, a.o.
3. Ratification of TIR convention
4. Ratification of WTO TFA
5. Improved services and information for traders (Trade portals; Trade facilitation committees)
6. Synchronization of border (24x7 Petrapole-Benapole border)
7. Acceptance (and on-arrival) of visa at Myanmar-India border
8. Improved banking and payment system
9. Strong security establishment
10. Enhanced construction on corridors

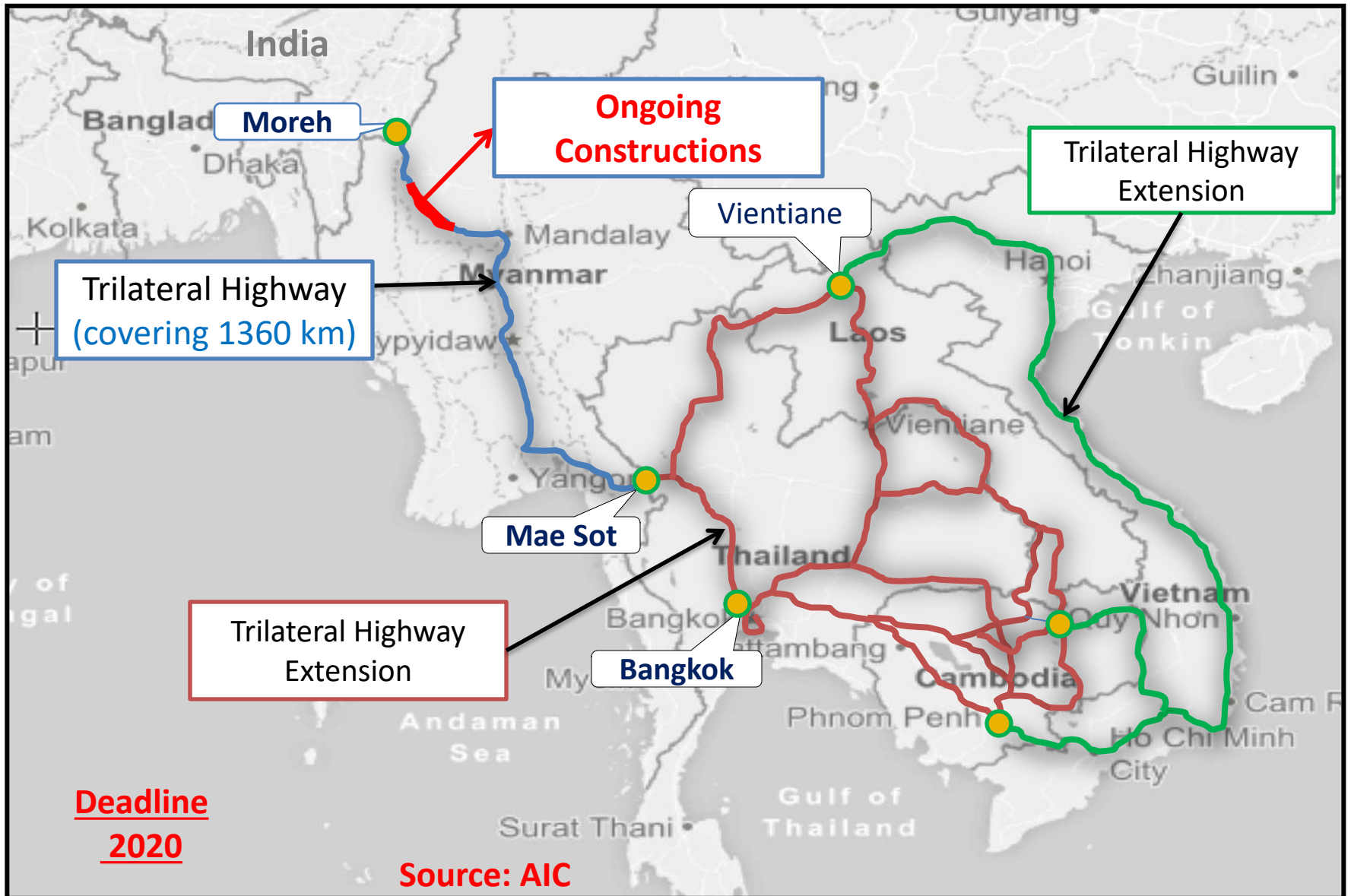
# BIMSTEC yet to witness major progress in regional connectivity

- ADB has already finished the project so called BIMSTEC Transport Infrastructure and Logistic Study (BTILS). BTILS Updating completed in July 2014 by ADB
- Updated BTILS: Road projects: 74; Railway projects: 34; Maritime projects: 22; IWT projects: 3; Aviation projects: 21; Trade facilitation projects: 13
- Three major surface routes identified:
  - Route 1: Kolkata – Siliguri – Guwahati – Imphal - Moreh/Tamu – Mandalay – Bago -Myawaddy/Mae Sot – Tak – Bangkok - Laem Chabang;
  - Route 2: Kolkata - Petrapole/Benapole – Jessore - Dhaka - Chittagong; and
  - Route 3: Kolkata – Raxaul/Birgunj - Kathmandu.

# BIMSTEC key trade routes



# Trilateral Highway and its extension

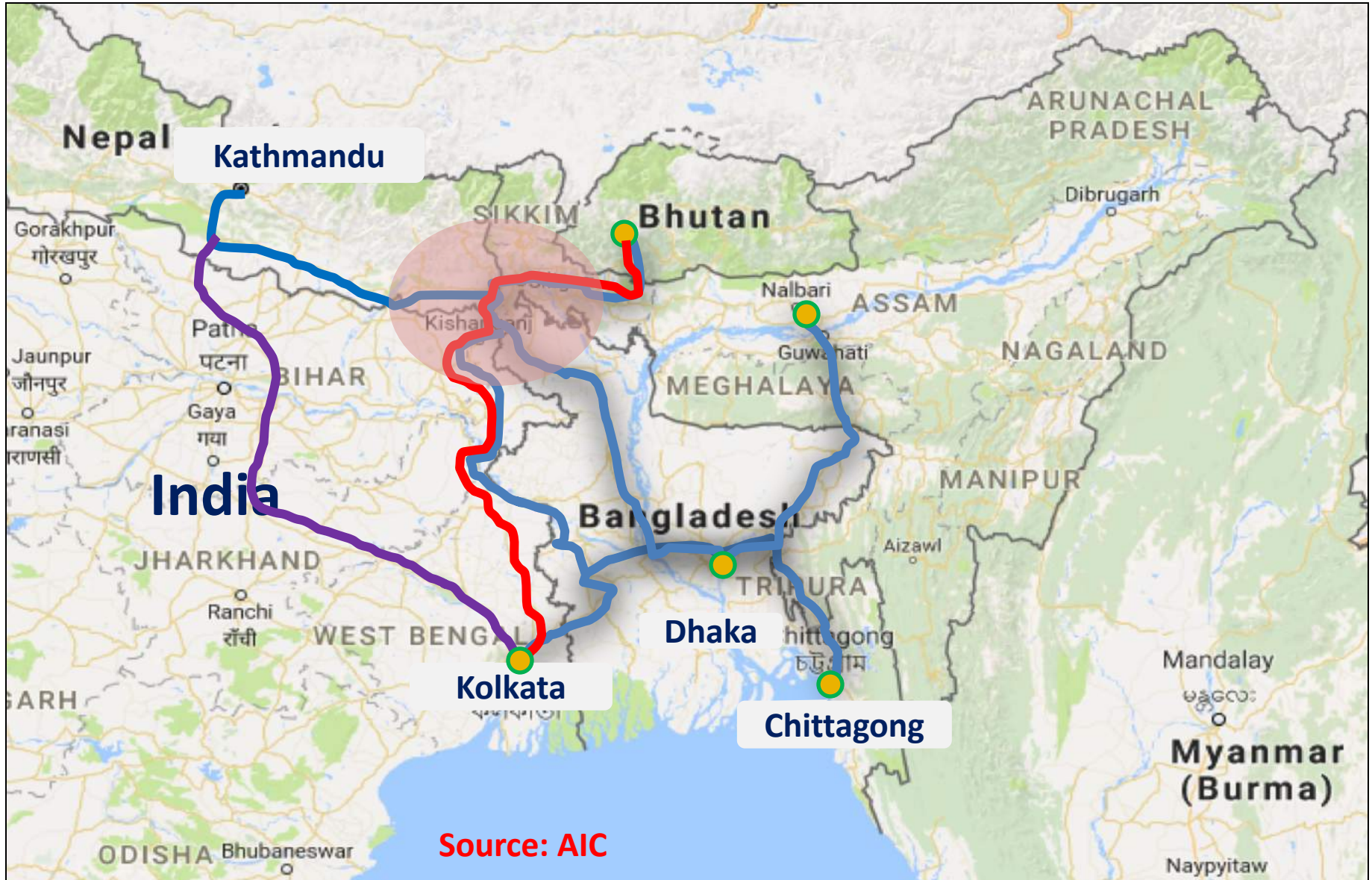


# Kaladan Multi-modal Transit Transport Corridor



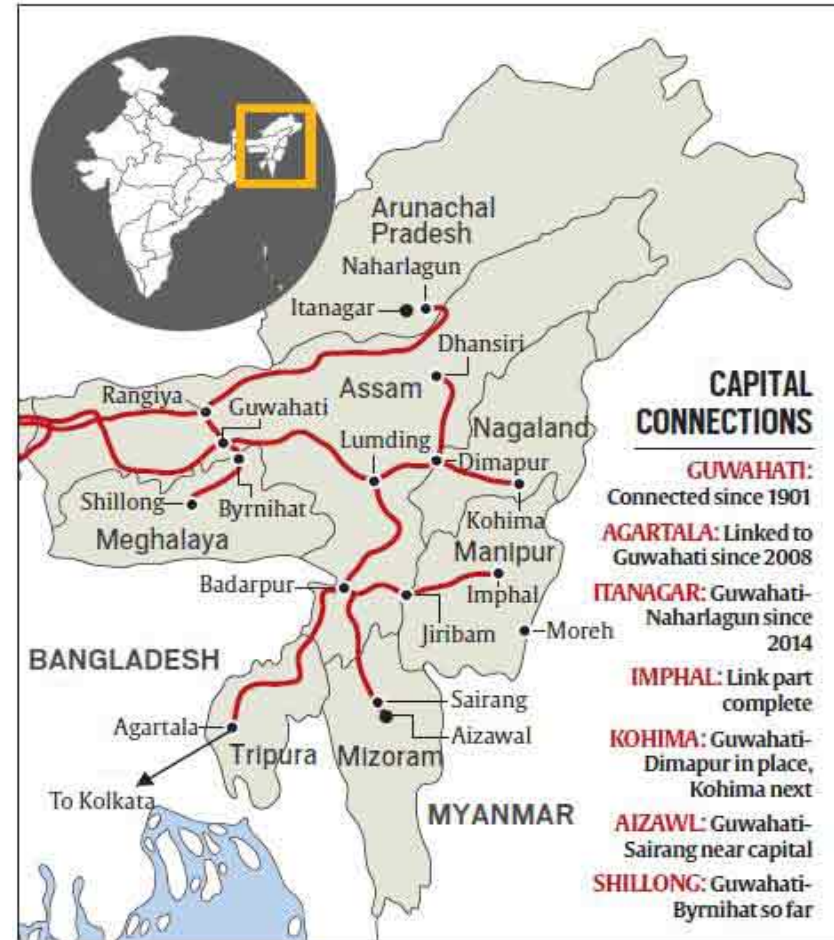


# Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) Corridors



# Railways making extensive progress in India's Northeast, opening opportunities for ASEAN-India Rail Connectivity

- Connect all state capitals in Northeast India with railways
- Recently, Mizoram and Manipur connected by broad-gauge railway lines
- Tripura already connected, and regular trains are running
- Railway will reach Imphal by 2020
- Arunachal Pradesh: Bhalukpong-Tenga-Tawang (378 km), North Lakhimpur-Bame-Aalo-Silapathar (247.85 km) and Pasighat-Tezu-Parsuram Kund-Rupai (227 km)
- Challenges: Terrain; technology and funding
- Possible to connect with Myanmar railway (e.g. Delhi – Hanoi Railway Links)



Source: Samudra Gupta Kashyap (2016)

# Connectivity plans in BIMSTEC - status

- BIMSTEC connectivity master plan – Ongoing
- BIMSTEC MVA negotiation – ongoing
- BIMSTEC coastal shipping agreement – Ongoing
- BIMSTEC TFA - ?

# BIMSTEC needs a major study on connectivity - a Master Plan

- One of the recommendations of the BTILS Study was to create **a single Working Group on transport and trade facilitation to be referred as BIMSTEC Transport Connectivity Working Group (BTCWG)**
  - Inception Meeting of the BTCWG held in Bangkok in August 2016
- Member countries have approached ADB to conduct the BIMSTEC Connectivity Master Plan
- ADB started working on connectivity master plan, which is likely to be completed this year

# BIMSTEC Trade Facilitation Agreement yet to be negotiated

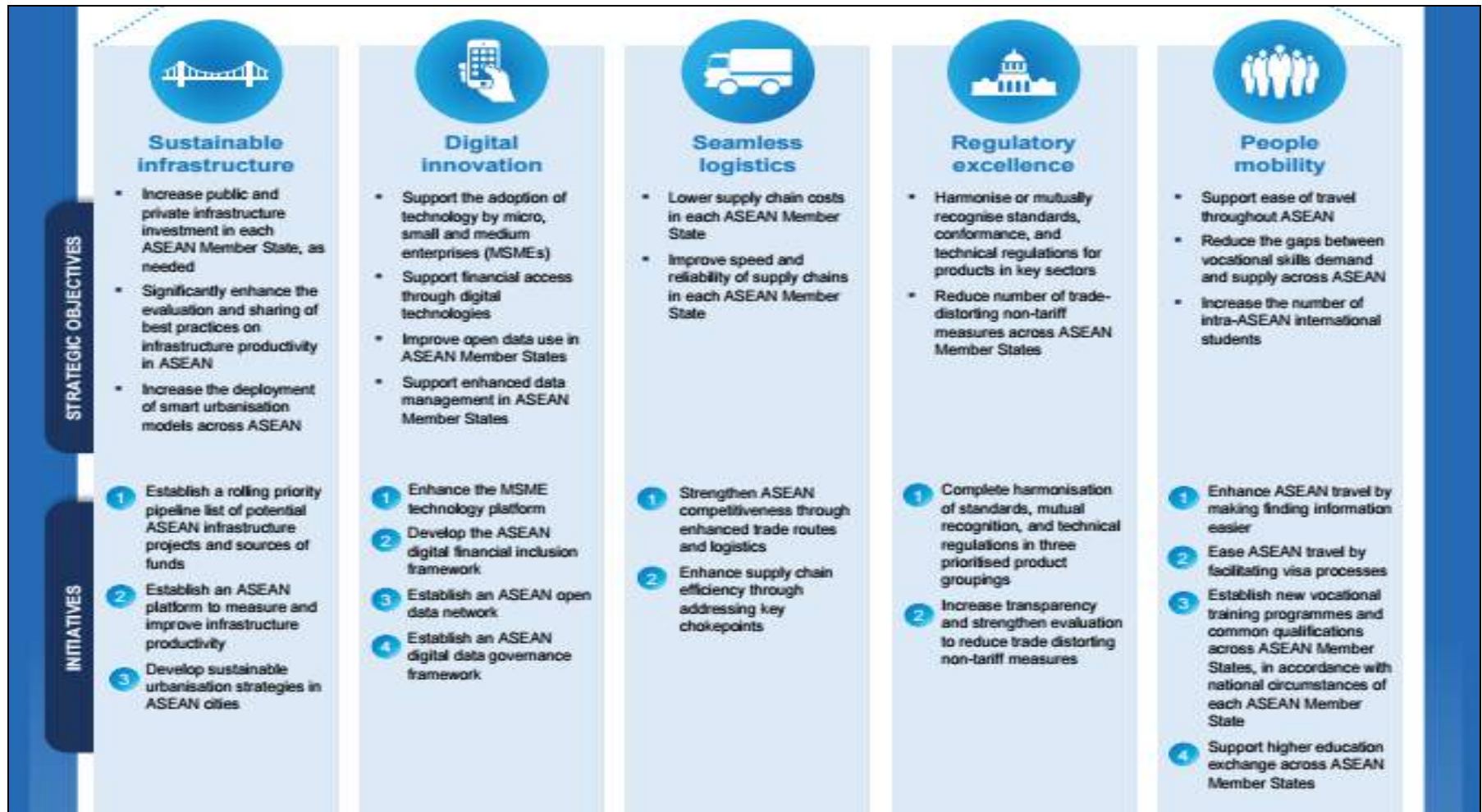
- **BIMSTEC countries have completed the negotiations for the Agreement on Mutual Assistance on Customs Matters.**
- Since all the BIMSTEC countries have ratified the WTO TFA, a regional trade facilitation agreement in BIMSTEC with greater commitments and possibly higher levels of obligation and wider coverage (WTO+) would pave the way to facilitate regional trade and value chains.
- Stronger cooperation between the Customs authorities of BIMSTEC countries is needed to not only facilitate trade but also link up each other's EDI systems, establishment of a 'single window', promote safe and secure trade, particularly at the border.
- BIMSTEC regional trade facilitation agreement is for cooperation in the matter of customs, training and capacity building, exchange of information, setting disputes, etc.
- This draft Agreement is yet to be negotiated

# Priority 1: Build synergy with connectivity plans

- BIMSTEC to have synergy with connectivity plans with:
  - ASEAN's focus on sustainable infrastructure
  - Connectivity plans of INSTC, CAREC, SCO, ECO, GMS, ASEAN, etc
  - Japan's quality infrastructure initiative

# ASEAN Connectivity Master Plan 2025

**Vision:** “To achieve a seamlessly and comprehensively connected and integrated ASEAN that will promote competitiveness, inclusiveness, and a greater sense of Community.”



## Priority 2: Closer cooperation with ASEAN, GMS, SAARC, SASEC on connectivity

- Regular interactions are needed to:
  - review the progress
  - identify new projects
  - mitigate the challenges

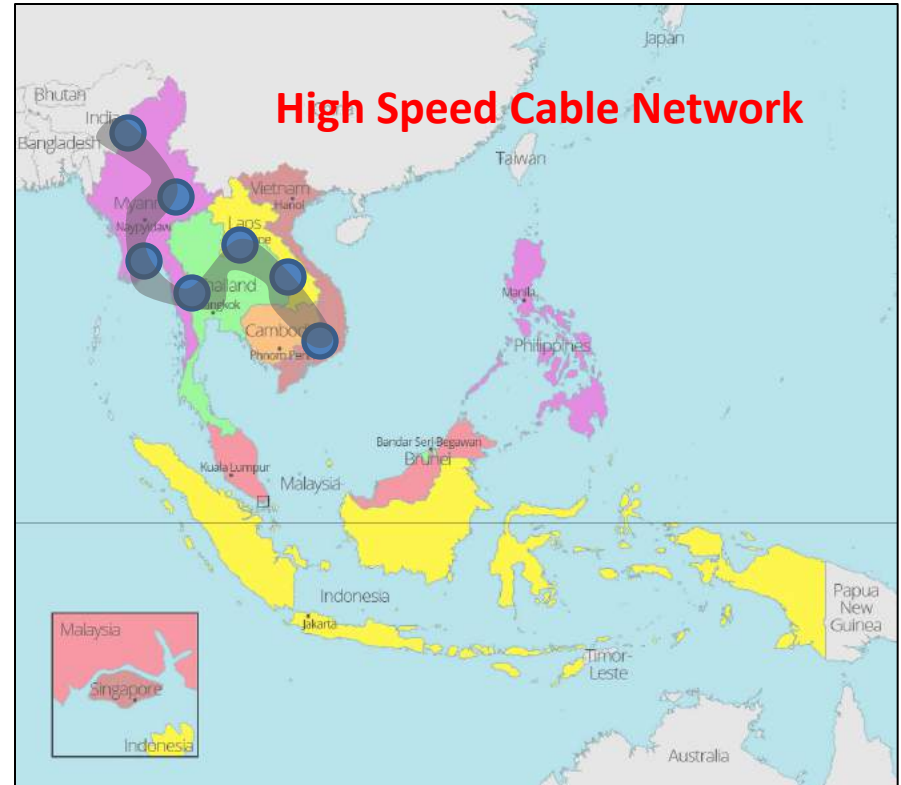


## Priority 3: Complete constructions of ongoing corridors

- Trilateral Highway and MVA
- Kaladan multi-modal transit transport project
- BBIN corridors and MVA
- Coastal shipping

# Priority 4: Focus on BIMSTEC digital connectivity

- India is ranked 91<sup>st</sup> among 139 countries on the Networked Readiness Index 2016 (WEF)
- Digital India - The National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) – flagship project to connect rural India (offering a 100-Mbps connectivity to 0.25 million villages)
- To build digital connectivity, India's Gigabit-capable Passive Optical Network (GPON) technology has been welcomed by ASEAN.
- Line of Credit of US\$ 1 billion to promote projects that support physical and digital connectivity between India and ASEAN.
- BIMSTEC countries (Myanmar and Thailand) to gain



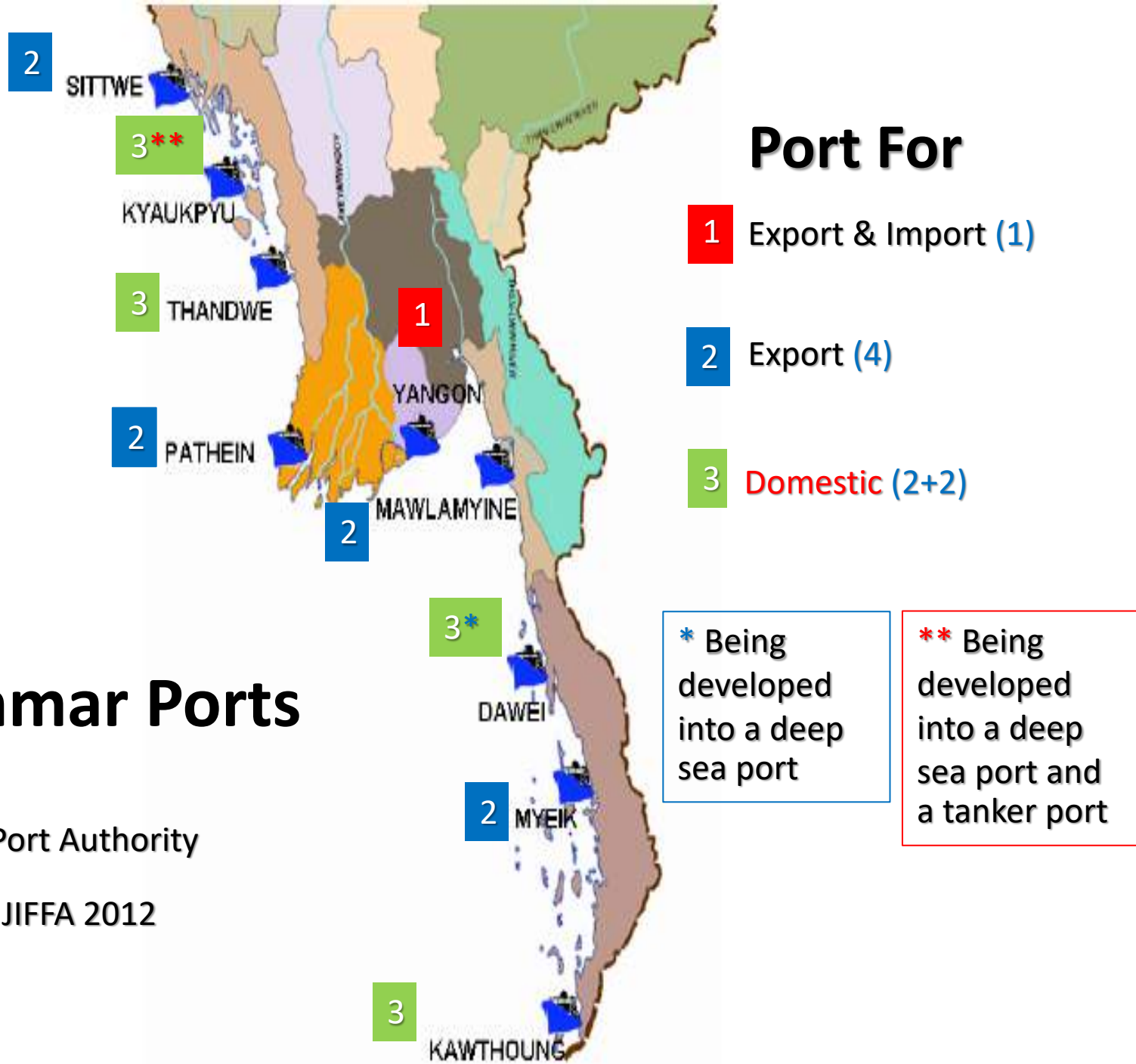
## Priority 5: Identify and implement new projects

- Islands connectivity – cruise, ro-ro, tourism, etc
- Port connectivity
  - Ports in Bay of Bengal Sittwe, Dawei, Ranong, Myeik
- BIMSTEC Rail Links
  - Route along trilateral highway and south of Myanmar (e.g. Dawei – Myeik (*In Progress*) – Kawthaung)
- Energy cooperation
  - Renewable energy, training and capacity
- New SEZs in Myanmar (e.g. Sittwe), Thailand, etc.
- Development of dry ports, logistics hubs, etc.
- BIMSTEC open sky in air

# Myanmar Ports

Myanmar Port Authority

Cited in JIFFA 2012



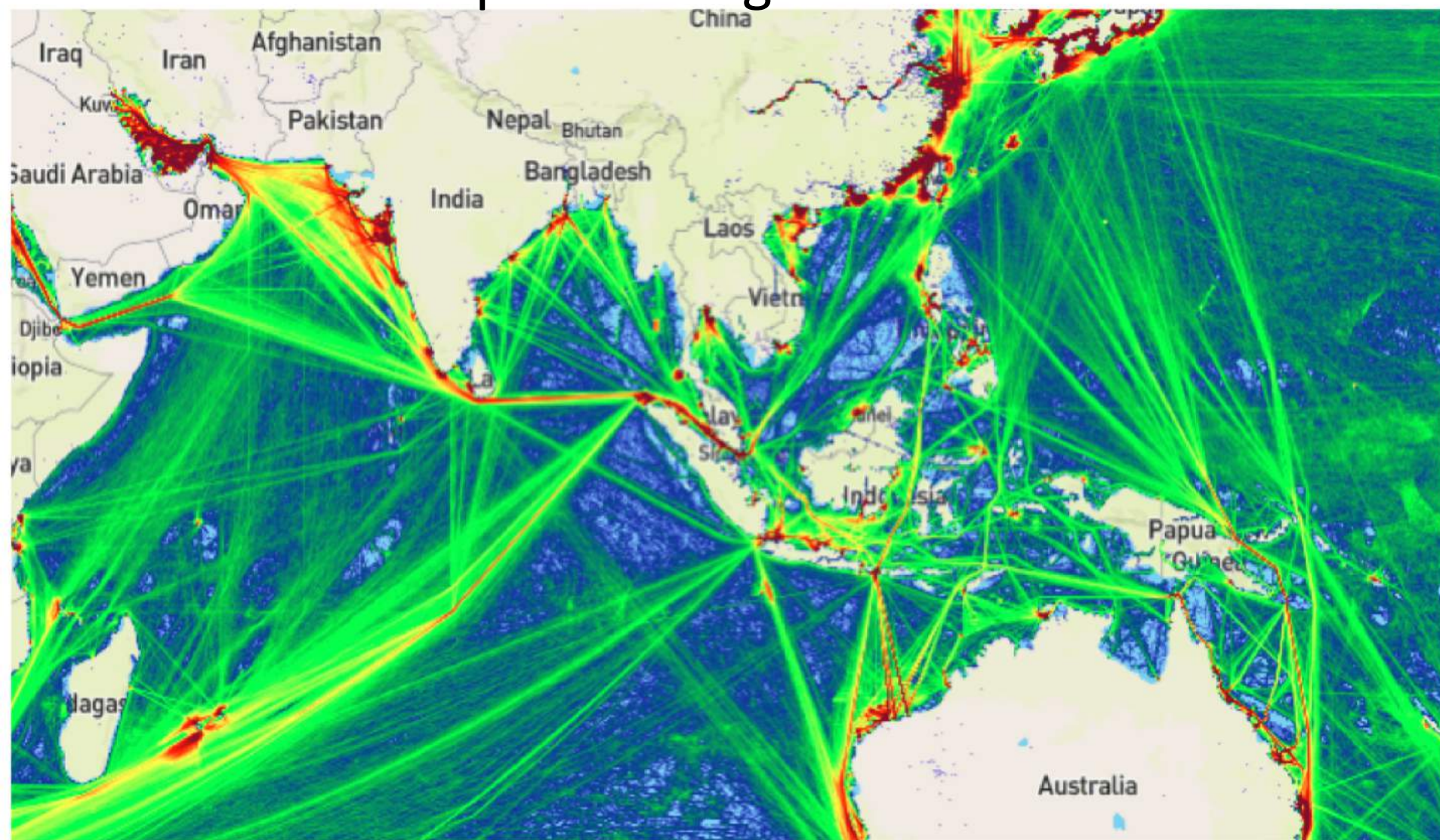
## Priority 6: A comprehensive BIMSTEC FTA in goods and services needed

- An FTA in BIMSTEC would be able to rationalize NTMs which, in turn, would facilitate regional trade as well as production networks.
- BIMSTEC countries must complete FTA in goods, services and investment
- Alternative would be sector-specific BIMSTEC services agreement
- Regional investment agreement is essential to encourage regional and/or global value chains

## Priority 7: BIMSTEC countries to enhance energy cooperation

- Hydropower potential of the mountainous Myanmar, Nepal and Bhutan regions, and India's Northeastern region offers opportunities to overcome these shortages in a sustainable manner if investments in hydropower can be realized and the necessary regional cooperation is put in place.
- BIMSTEC countries have completed negotiations for the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Establishment of the BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection. This needs to be signed quickly so that its implementation begins soon.
- BIMSTEC grid interconnection would help energy deficient areas in BIMSTEC to tap power from energy surplus part of BIMSTEC.
- New projects such as BIMSTEC Gas Grid, BIMSTEC Renewable Energy Cooperation, etc.

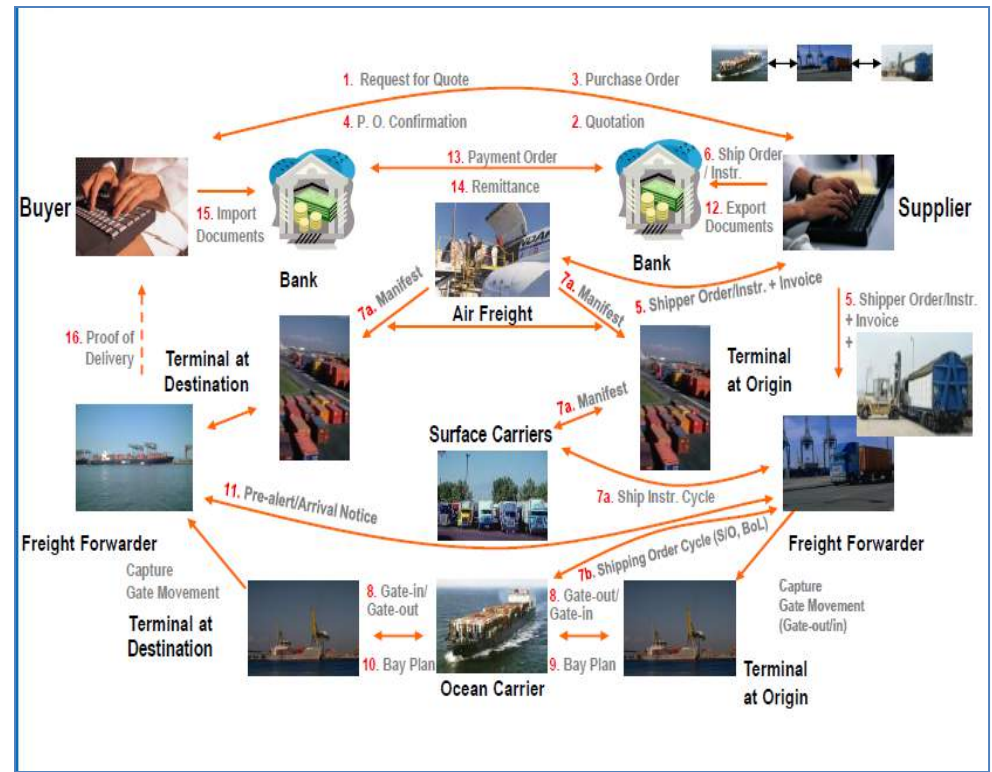
# Priority 8: Securing shipping lanes - BIMSTEC may consider signing BIMSTEC maritime security and cooperation agreement



# Priority 9: Regulatory convergence, paperless trade and simplification of trade procedures

- Regulatory convergence needed –transportation standards, in particular
- Trade facilitation to support value chains
- Paperless trade
  - UN Paperless Trade Agreement
- Sign the international arrangements such as TIR
- Standards (e.g. international compliance of marine and shipping)
- Training and capacity building

Standard supply chain of IBM





# Customs EDI in BIMSTEC

| Country    | EDI System | Status                              |
|------------|------------|-------------------------------------|
| Bangladesh | ASYCUDA    | Working for Single Window           |
| Bhutan     | Own EDI    | No plan for Single Window           |
| India      | SWIFT      | Operational                         |
| Myanmar    | MACCS      | Working for Single Window           |
| Nepal      | ASYCUDA    | Feasibility study for Single Window |
| Sri Lanka  | ASYCUDA    | Operational                         |
| Thailand   | NSW        | Operational                         |

Source: Author

# Priority 10. Border area development, next big investment opportunity in BIMSTEC

## Dawki (India) – Tamabil (Bangladesh) Border

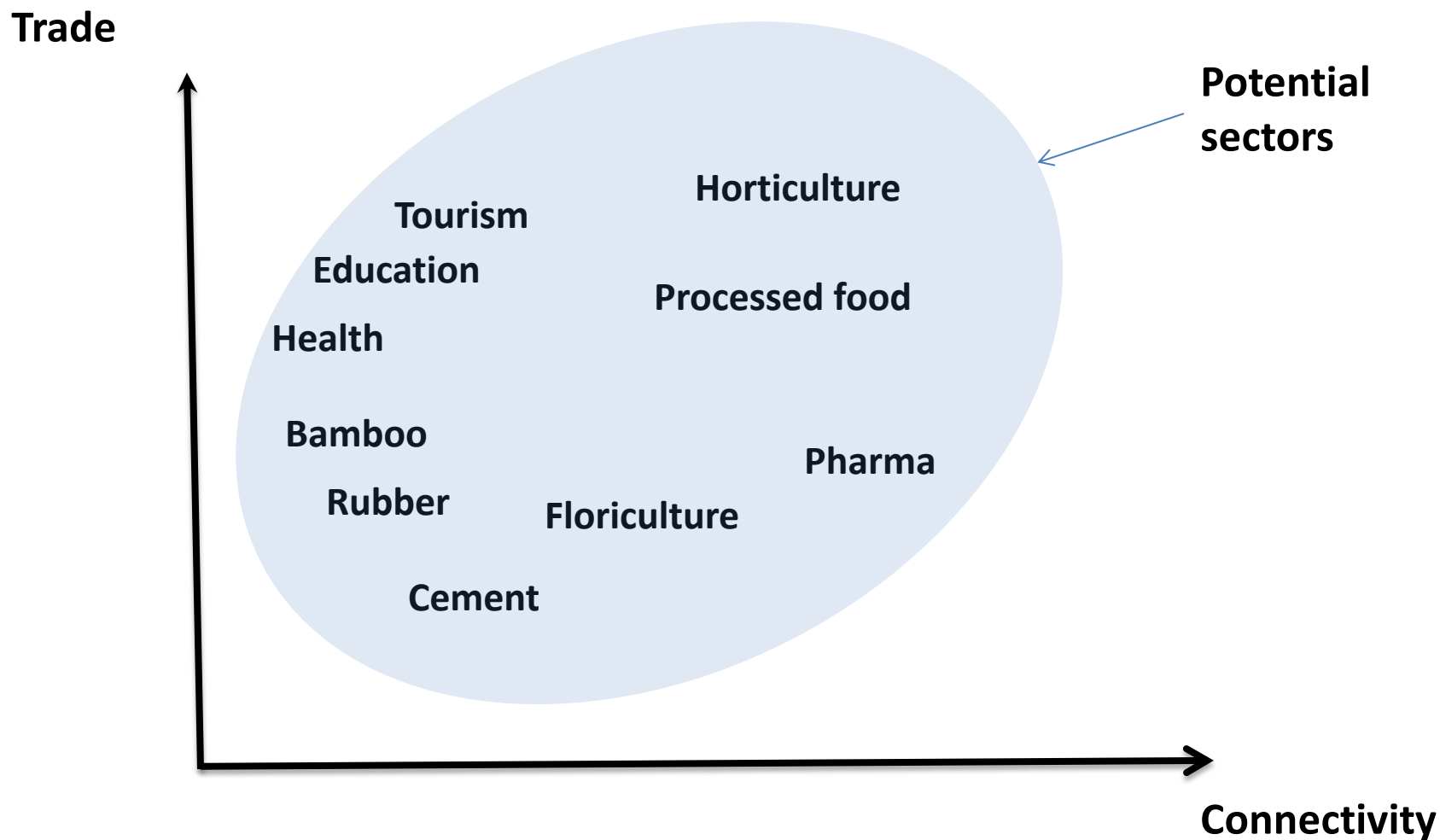


Dawki (India)

Tamabil (Bangladesh)

@Prabir Das: Dawki-Tamabil border, 25 June 2015

# Priority 11. Build value chains in India's Northeast with ASEAN, Mekong and Bangladesh



Source: Prabir De (2018)

## Priority 12. Dealing BIMSTEC observer countries and induct new members

- Engage them in regional infrastructure projects
  - ACCC in ASEAN for implementation of MAC
- Financing projects, technical assistance, training and capacity building, etc.
- Indonesia may be added as a new member

# Opportunities for cooperation between Different Connectivity Frameworks

- Map priorities of different connectivity frameworks
- Identify specific areas of cooperation and develop projects for implementation
- Foster dialogues, exchange of good practices, capacity building activities, research / policy studies
- Create synergies through:
  - bringing together resources in the same project (that could be a single action or a group of coordinated actions) in view of achieving greater impact and efficiency
  - successive projects that build on each other; or
  - parallel projects that complement each other.

# Agenda for BIMSTEC Connectivity

1. Agree to all BTILS corridors
2. Accept regional transit – road and rail
3. Regional trade facilitation programme
  - BIMSTEC single window, customs cooperation, etc.
4. Sign and ratify BIMSTEC MVA (road), BIMSTEC coastal shipping agreement
5. Establish BIMSTEC Open Sky for cargo and then passengers
6. New areas: BIMSTEC railway agreement, BIMSTEC TFA, BIMSTEC digital network, BIMSTEC energy network, etc.

## Next steps

1. BIMSTEC may form an Expert Group / EPG to help design BIMSTEC connectivity
2. Track 1.5 BIMSTEC Forum on Connectivity may be constituted
3. An industry group with national chambers on connectivity shall be formed
4. Induct Japan as development partner of BIMSTEC
5. New dialogues on sectors

**Thank you**

prabirde@hotmail.com



**DPG Regional Conference on  
Advancing BIMSTEC  
Cooperation, Yangon, June  
14-15, 2018**

**Presentation by Mr. Prithviraj Nath,  
Consultant, Asian Development Bank**

# Connectivity Infrastructure: Possibilities

Prithviraj Nath

Consultant, Asian Development Bank

# Connectivity Projects connecting land ports- India

- Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Myanmar
- 48 Border Crossing Points – 8 states - Assam, Bihar, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal
- **148 Projects**
  - 85 road projects
  - 28 rail projects
  - 35 water/waterways projects

# Land Port Development Projects- India

- 5 Integrated Check Posts
  - Agartala, Attari, Jogbani, Petrapole, Raxaul
- 13 more planned
  - Jaigaon, Sunauli, Panitanki, Hili, Changrabandha  
Sutarkandi, Nepalgunj Road (Rupaidiha)  
Ghojadanga, Mahadipur, Fulbari, Gauriphanta  
Bhithamore, Kawrpuichhuah

# What is the regional scenario?

- Are projects across countries and sub-regions being mapped and dove-tailed? Are port development initiatives mirrored across the border?
- Leveraging of each other's investment on connectivity and port infrastructure?
- Need for a comprehensive mapping and preparing a compendium of all such projects in the region so as to optimise investments, planning and effectiveness.

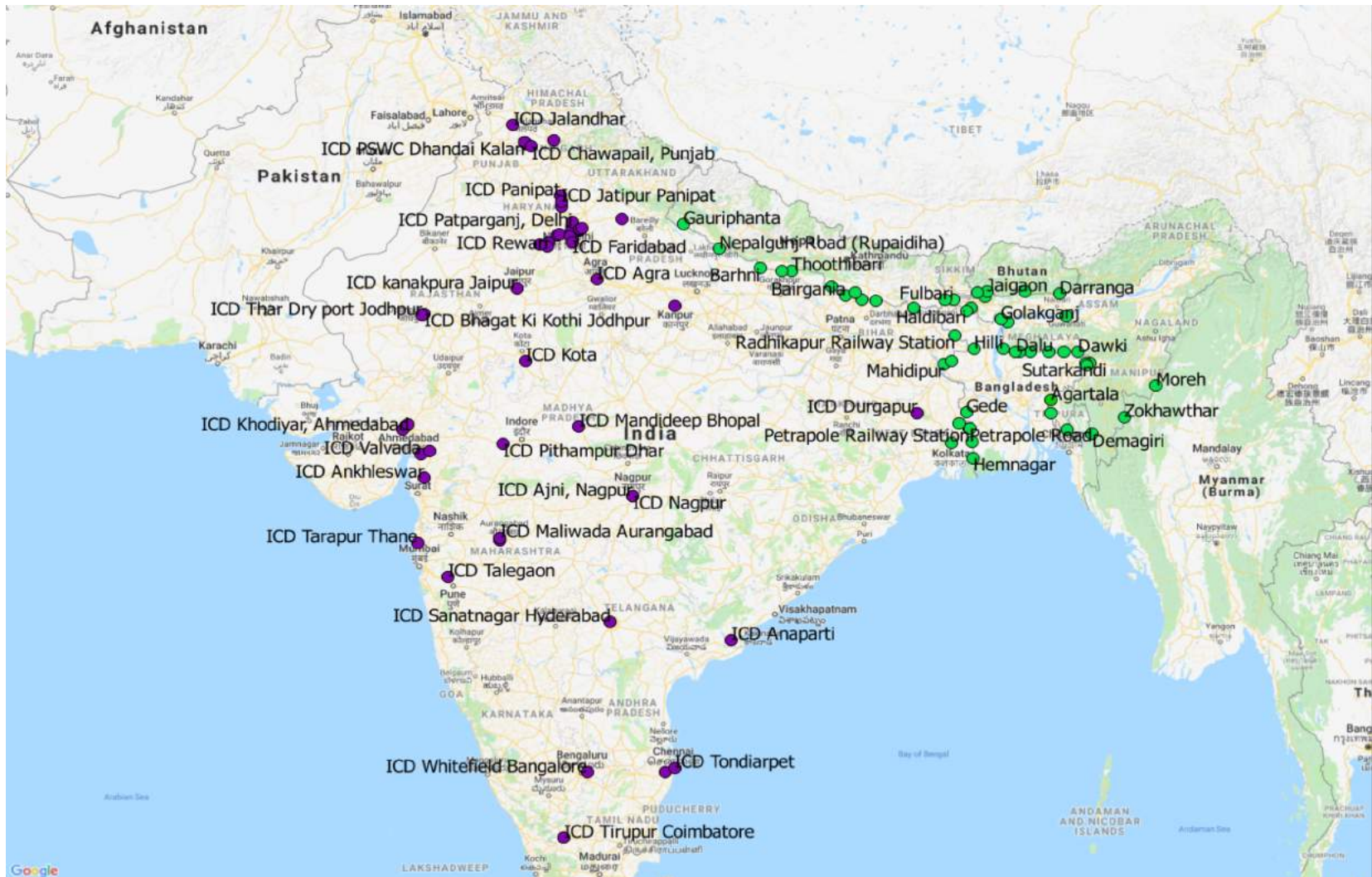
# Possibilities

- Is there an alternative to building grand port infrastructure - inland **off-border clearance** of cargo?
  - Aligned with the idea of through movement of cargo and passenger via soft arrangements, BBIN MVA, IMT MVA
  - Availability of human resource, digital and financial connectivity
  - Possible [clubbing together](#) of port linked infrastructure can free-up vital resources for development of border areas and second or third tier cities/towns that are part of trade corridors
- Do we have existing or planned infrastructure ([Inland Container Depots](#)) to facilitate inland clearance?
- Immigration and Tourism focused developments of certain ports and corridors can be useful

# Suggestions

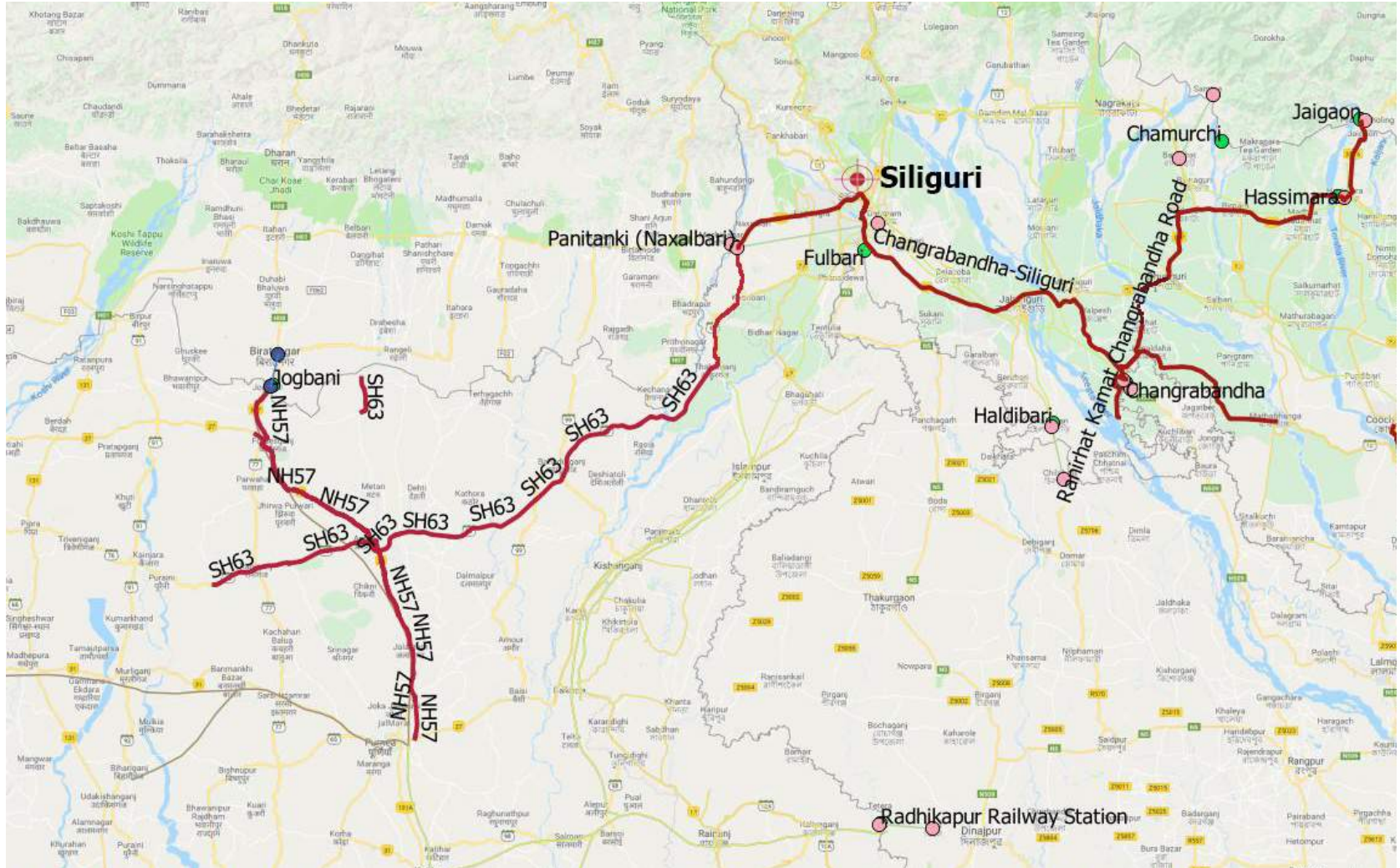
- Inland, off-border clearance of cargo – exploring needs to this end
- Tourism focused development of certain corridors and ports
- Convergence and dove-tailing of national physical infrastructure development for leverage– Master Plan for Connectivity

# ICDs and Land Ports- India





# Central Facilities?



**DPG Regional Conference on  
Advancing BIMSTEC  
Cooperation, Yangon, June  
14-15, 2018**

**Presentation by Prof. Sathaporn  
Opasanon, Director, Faculty of  
Commerce and Accountancy,  
Thammasat University**

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# Road & Rail Connectivity: Thailand's perspective

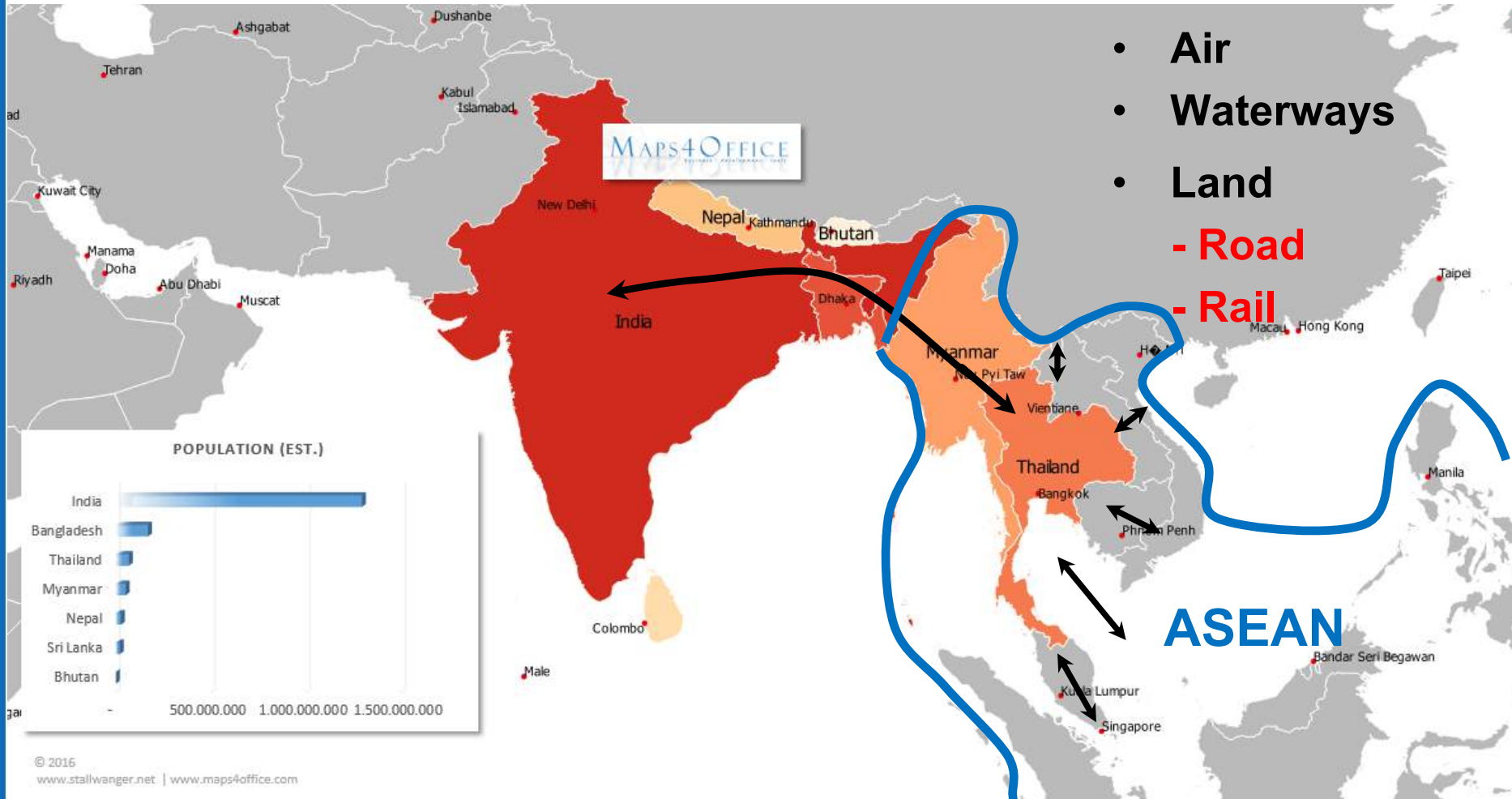


Asso.Prof. Sathaporn Opananon (PhD)  
Thammasat Business School

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[opasanon@tu.ac.th](mailto:opasanon@tu.ac.th)

# BIMSTEC



# Air

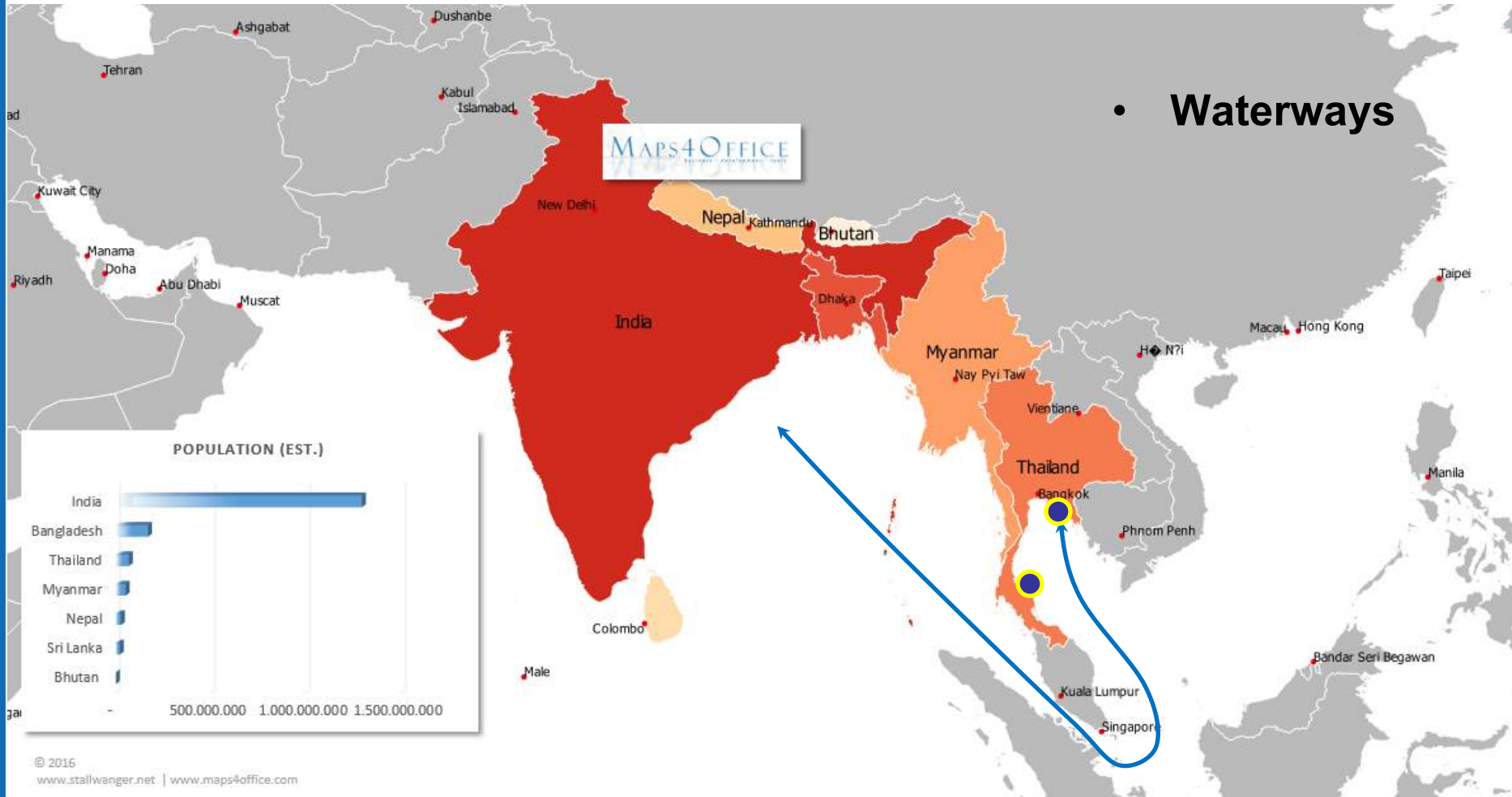


62 International Cities  
37 Countries  
5 Continents

Australia

13 Domestic Cities

# BIMSTEC



• Waterways

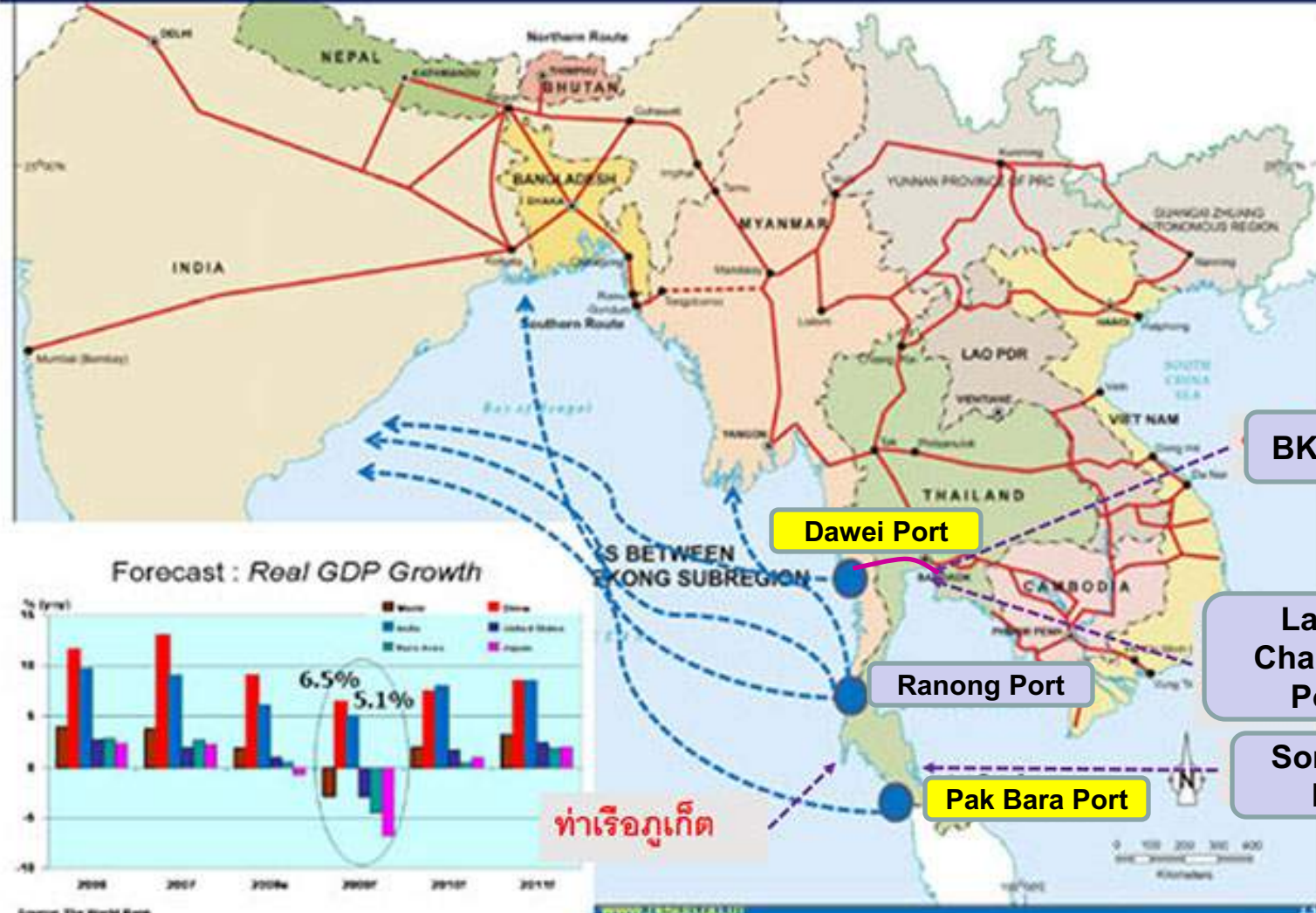
# Ranong Port



124.5 Acres, Located at Ban Khao Nanghong, Pak Num, Muang, Ranong

# Waterways

## STRATEGIC LINKAGES BETWEEN SOUTH ASIA AND THE GREATER MEKONG SUBREGION





# Dawei Port



This photo, taken in 2015, shows the site of the planned Dawei industrial park.



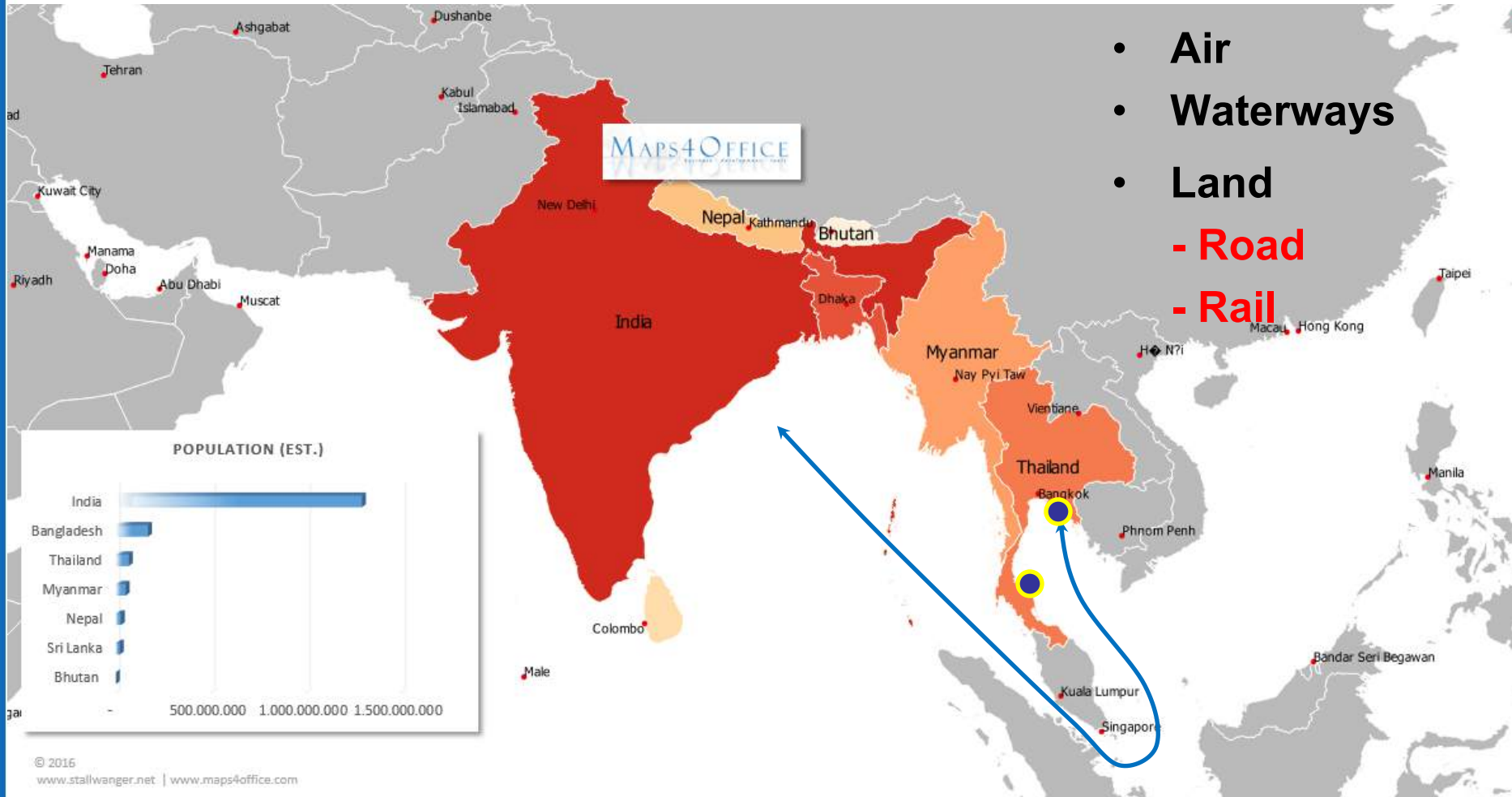
<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics-Economy/Economy/Work-to-begin-on-big-Myanmar-industrial-park>

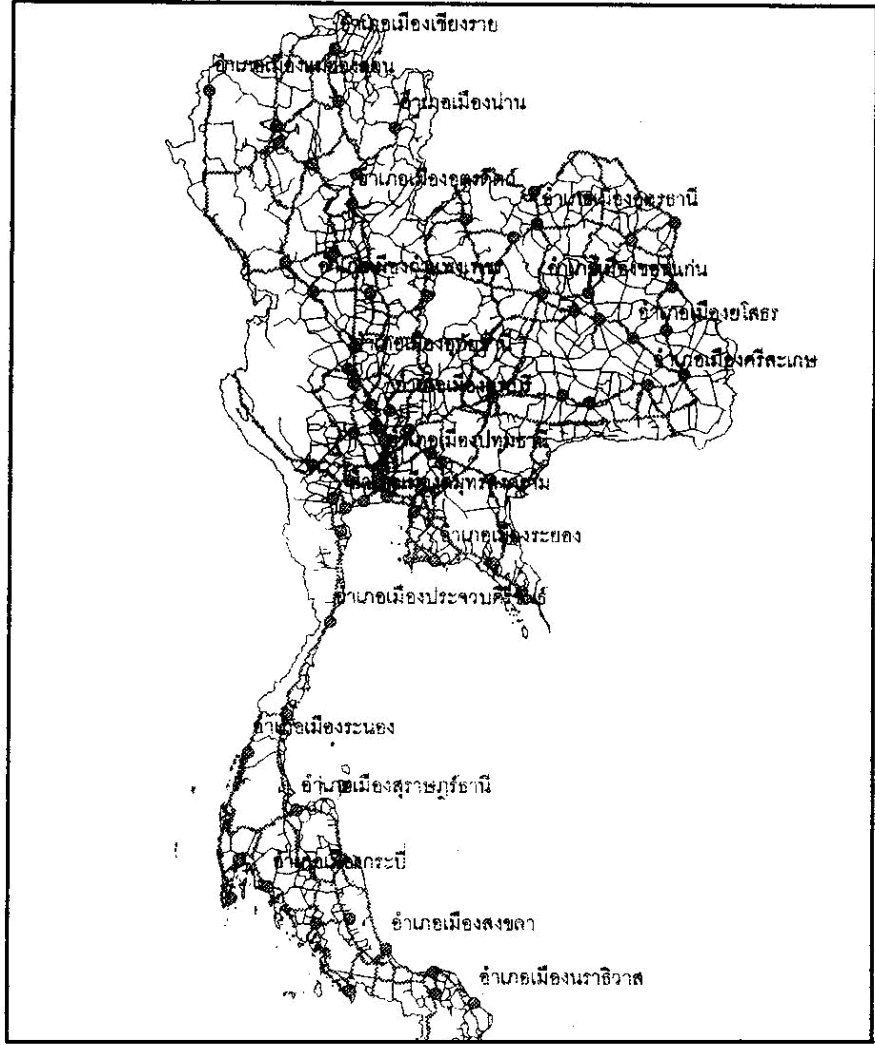
Taken in 2016



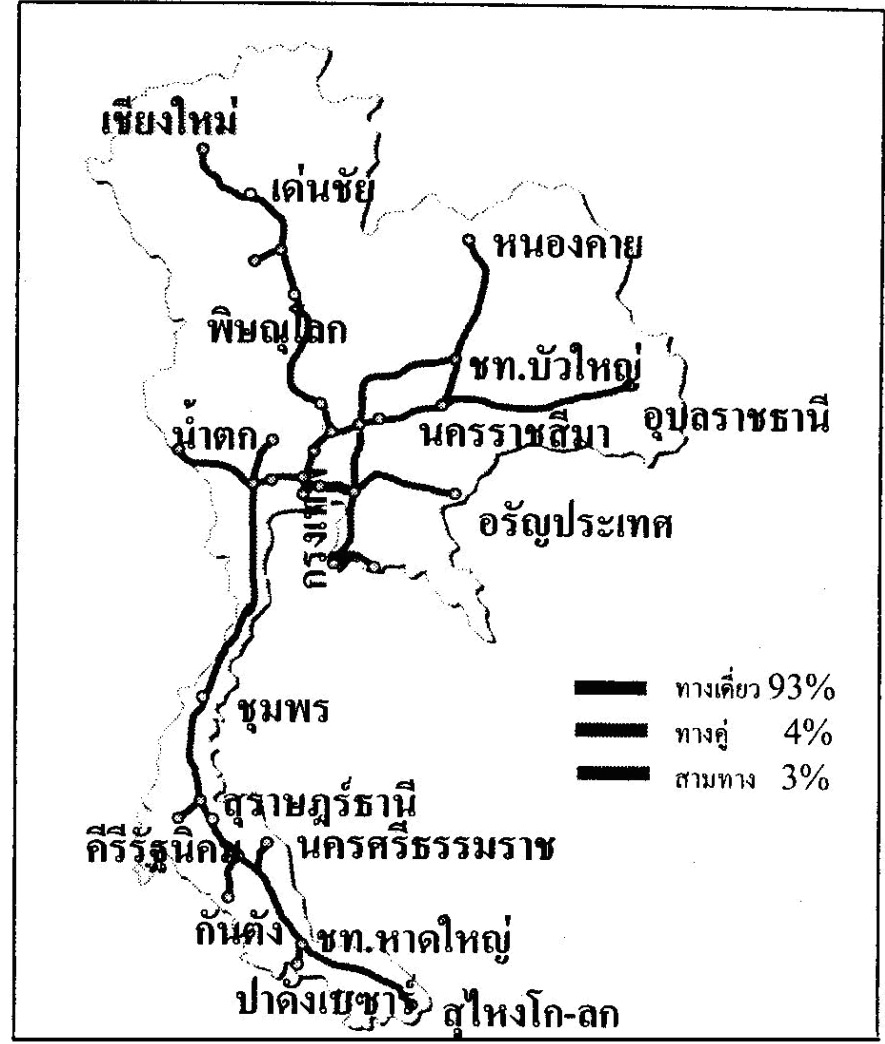
<https://www.mekongeye.com/2016/03/07/chinese-firms-look-for-part-in-dawei-sez/>

# BIMSTEC





ภาพแสดงจำนวนช่องทางวิ่งของถนน



ภาพแสดงจำนวนช่องทางวิ่งของรถไฟ

# Existing Railway Network



Network (Meter Gauge) 4,043 km

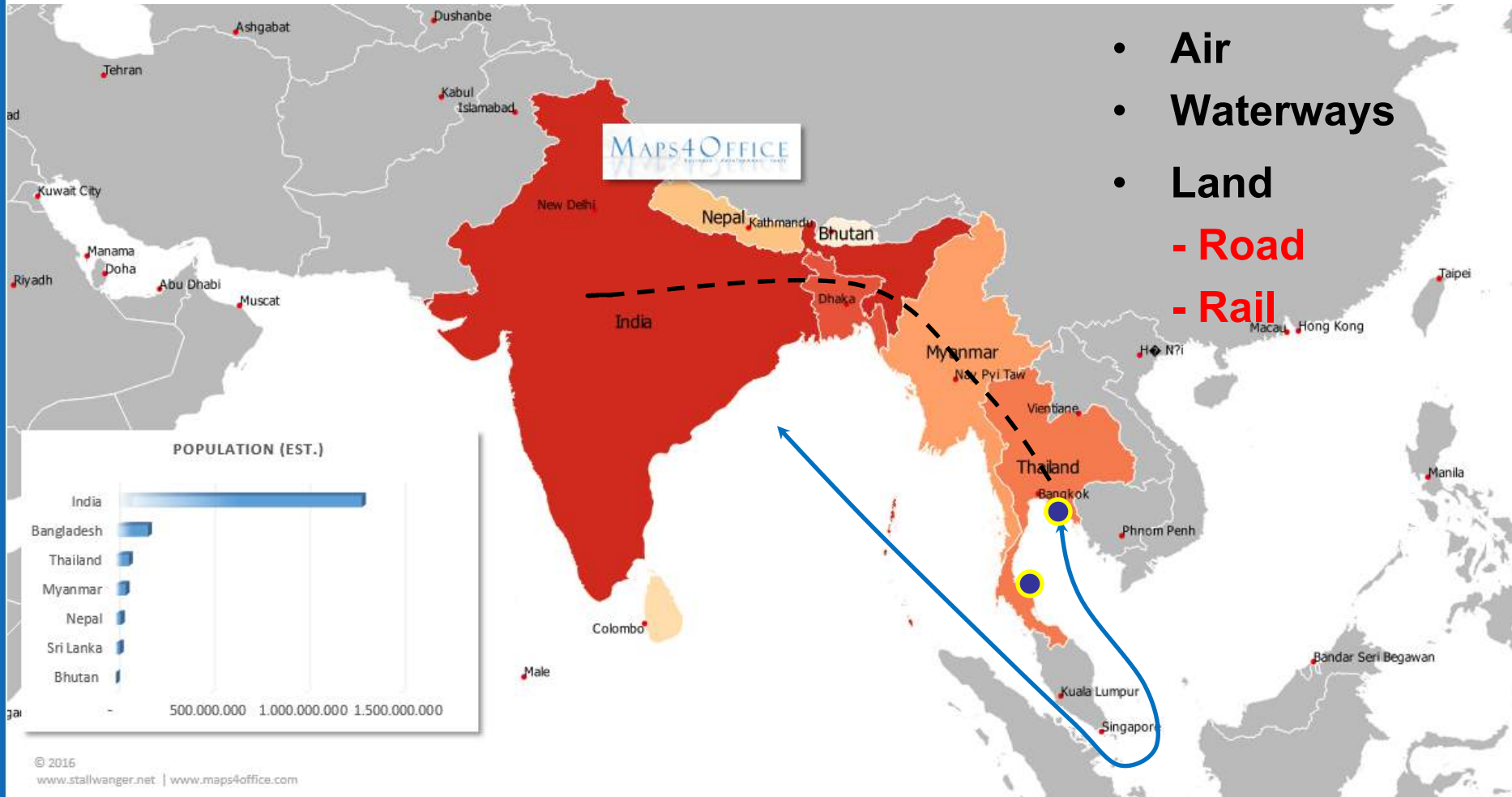
Single Track 3,685 km.

Double Track 251 km.

Triple Track 107 km.

Service area 47 Provinces

# BIMSTEC





# THAI-CHINESE 800-KM RAILWAY PROJECT

Investment cost:

## Bt500 billion



### Key benefits:

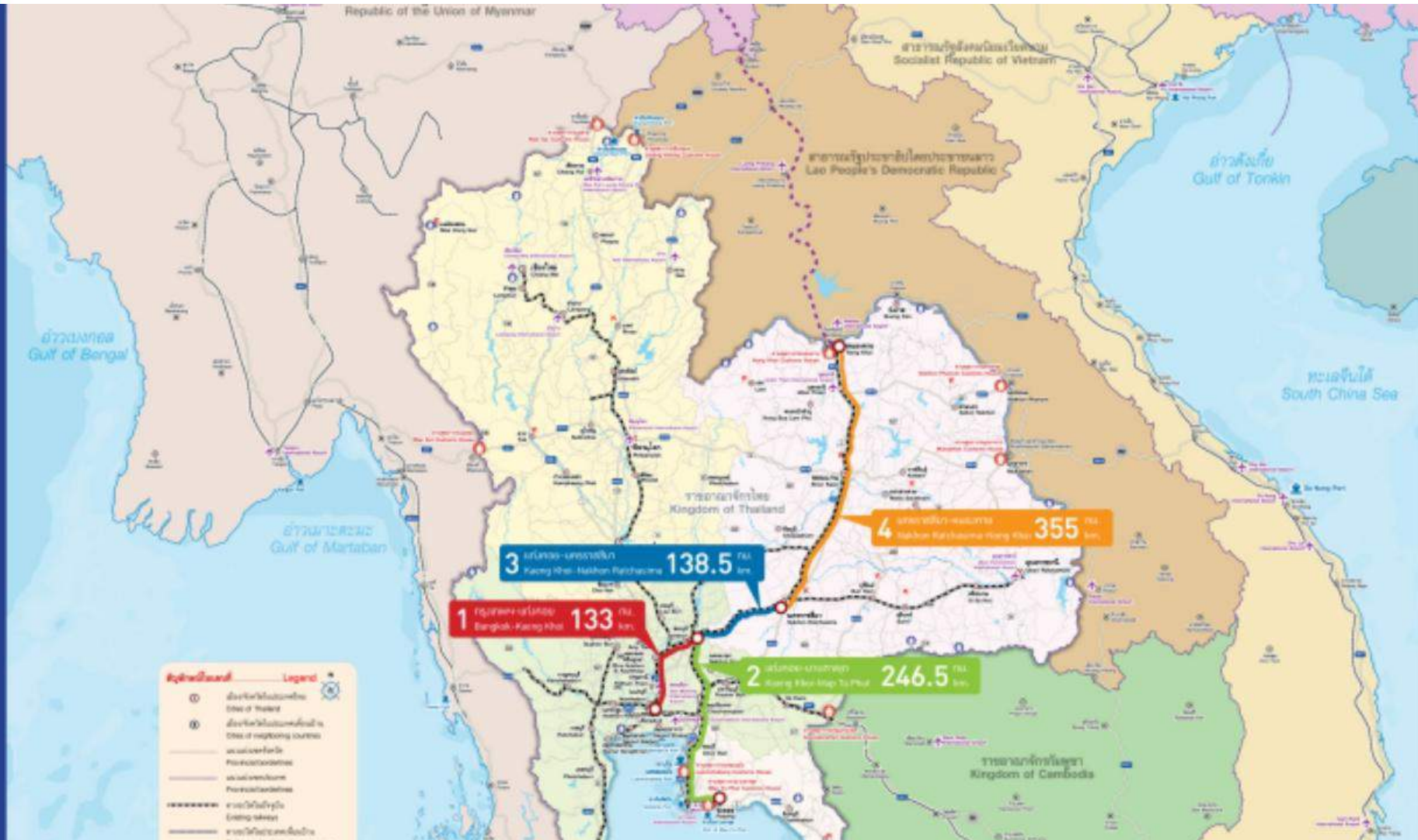
- Passenger and cargo transport
- Thai exports to Europe in 12 days
- Tourism, development of Thai northeast

Source: The Nation

NATION GRAPHICS



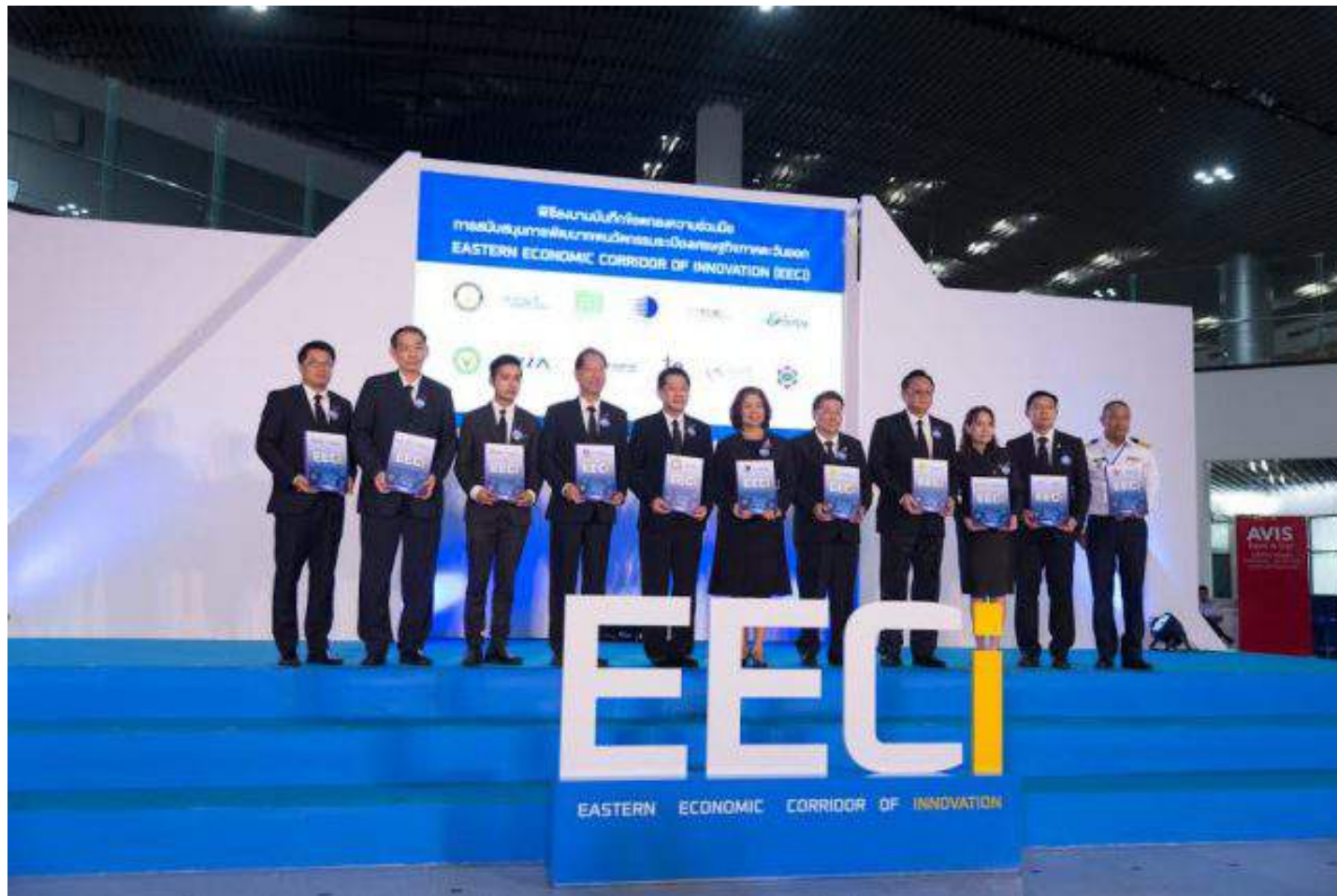
# Thai-Chinese high-speed train route

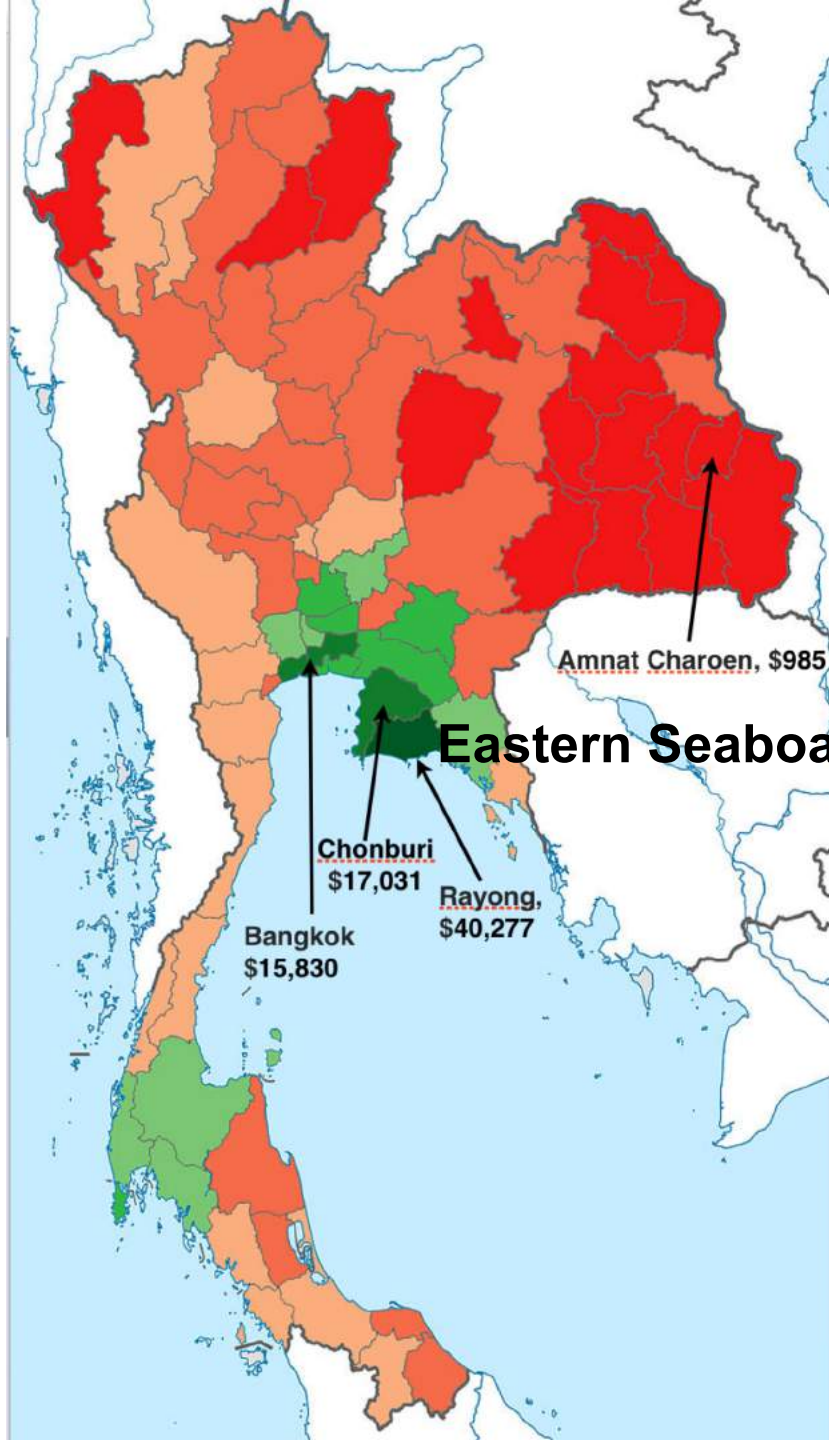




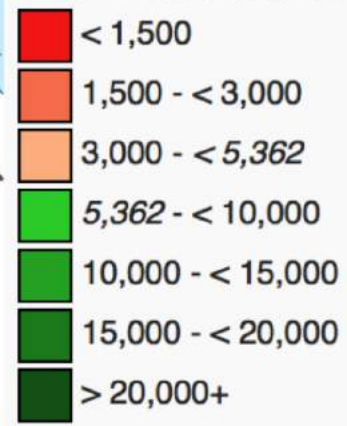
# **20-year National Development Strategy & associated infrastructure development**

# Eastern Economic Corridor





Map of Thai provinces by GDP per capita in 2011. National average is 5,362 USD.



Base Map: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Thai\\_provinces\\_by\\_GDP](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Thai_provinces_by_GDP)

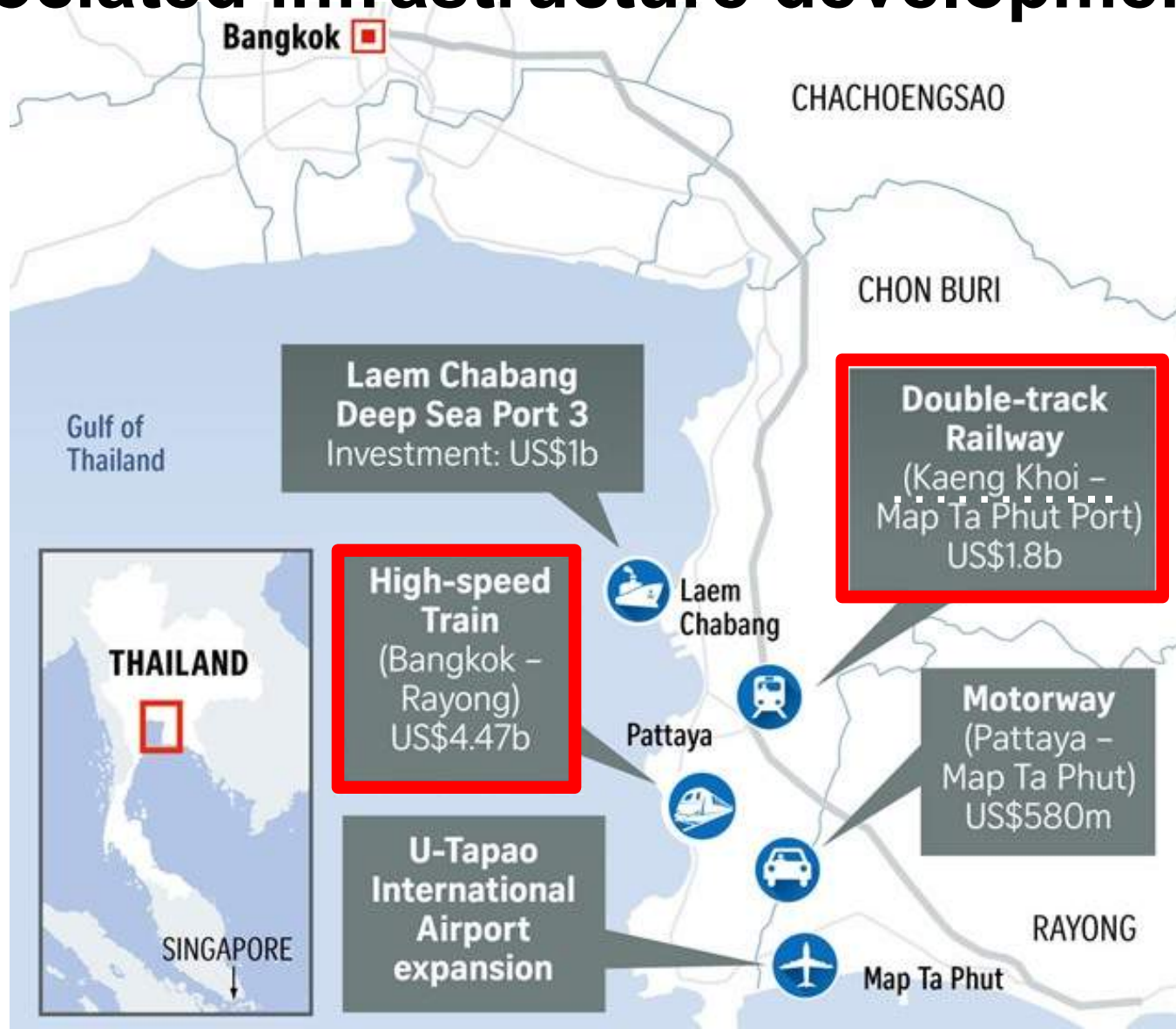
**Eastern Seaboard**

Amnat Charoen, \$985  
 Bangkok \$15,830  
 Chonburi \$17,031  
 Rayong, \$40,277

**EEC**

- Thailand 4.0
- Enhancement of Eastern Seaboard
- Next-generation industries
- Logistics infrastructure development

# 20-year National Development Strategy & associated infrastructure development





Digital Transformation

April 2018

EEC  
Alibaba Group



# Rail Development Projects

---

- EEC & Laem Chabang Port support
- Thai - China transport facilitations
- High-speed trains – passengers & high valued products

# Thai-Myanmar Borders





# Southern Economic Corridor (SEC)



# Baan Phu Namron Customs Post

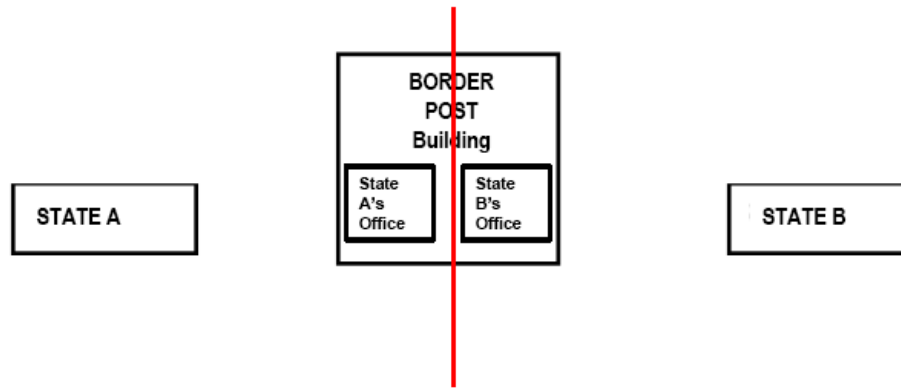


# Common Control Area (CCA)

FIGURE  
INSPECTION  
THE COMMON BORDER

FACILITY

1  
STRADDLING



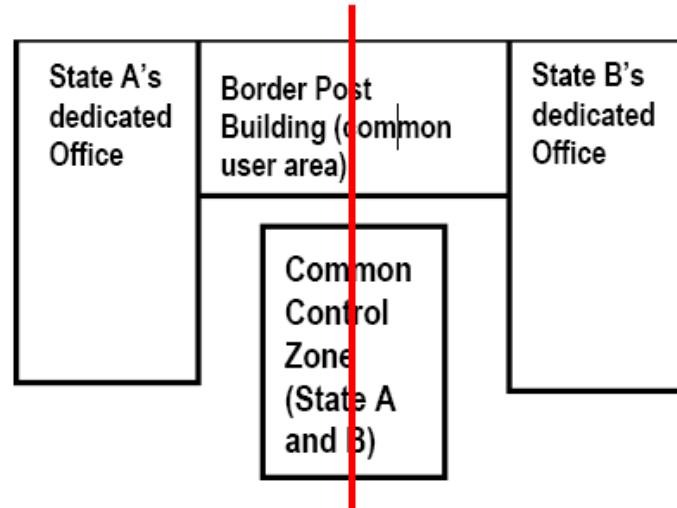
## Common Control Area

FIGURE  
INSPECTION  
COMMON CONTROL ZONE STRADDLING THE BORDER

FACILITIES

LOCATED

2  
IN

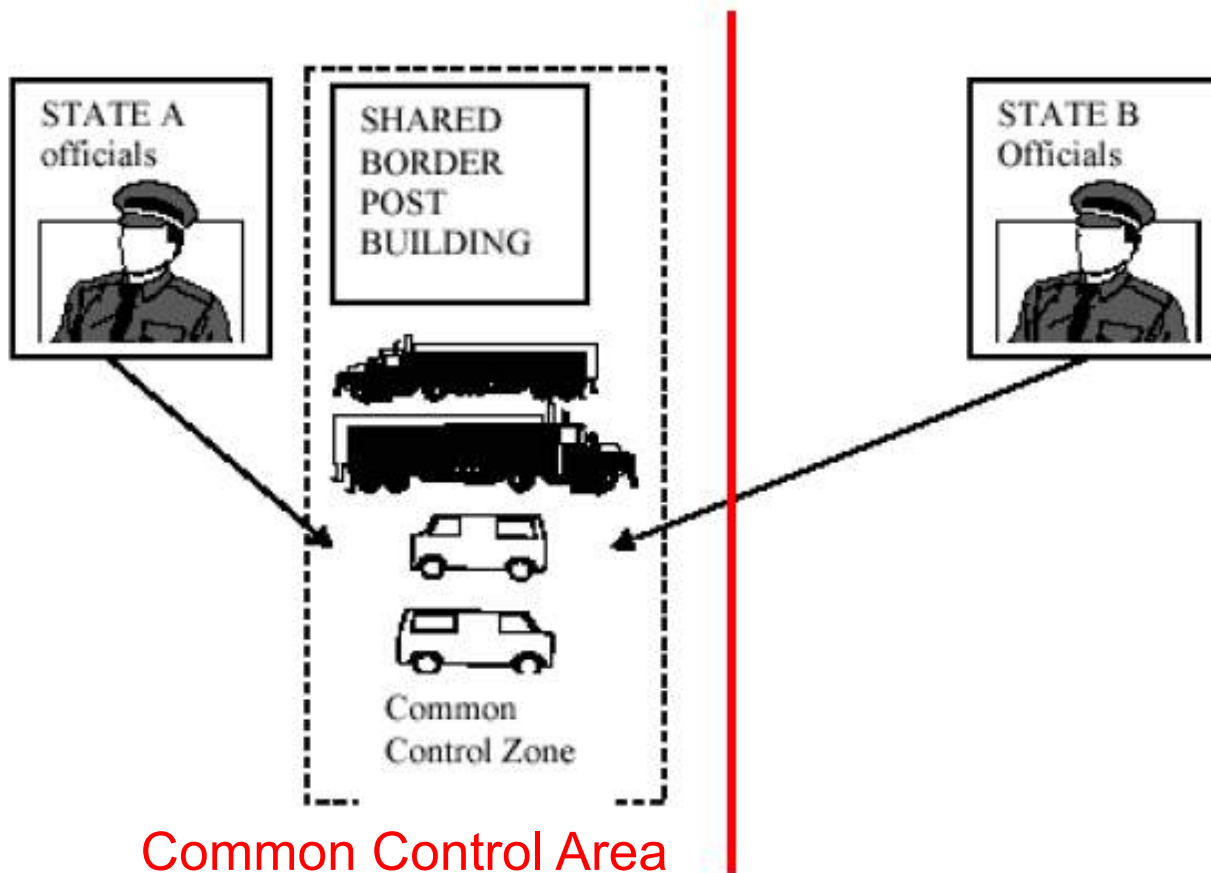


# Common Control Area (CCA)

FIGURE  
INSPECTION  
WHOLLY WITHIN ONE STATE

FACILITIES

3  
LOCATED



# Split Arrangement + Joint Inspections

FIGURE 4  
SPLIT FACILITIES WITH EXCHANGE OF PERSONNEL CONTROL  
INDIVIDUAL FACILITY DEDICATED TO PASSENGER OR FREIGHT

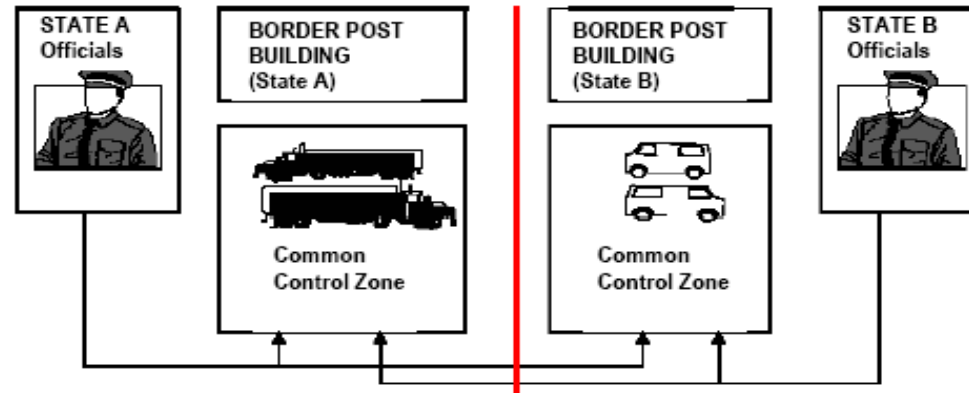
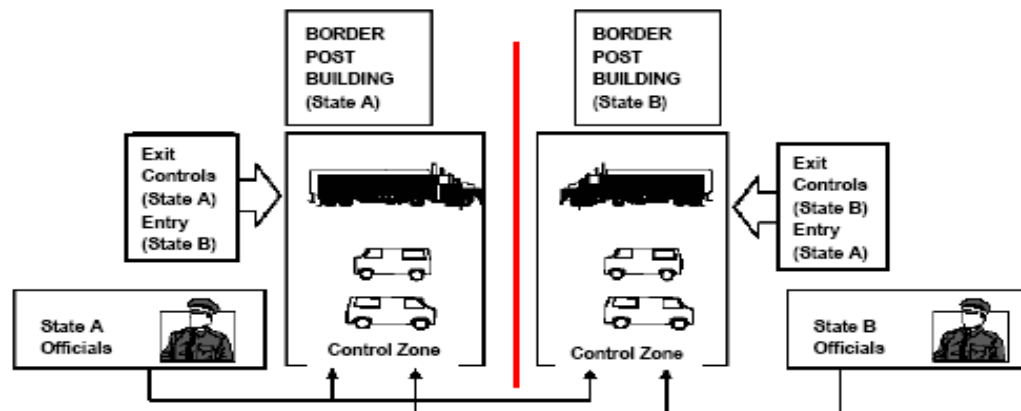


FIGURE 5  
SPLIT FACILITIES WITH EXCHANGE OF PERSONNEL -  
INDIVIDUAL FACILITY DEDICATED TO CONTROL OF TRAFFIC  
ACCORDING TO PASSENGER/FREIGHT AND DIRECTION



# Lao Bao International Border Gate



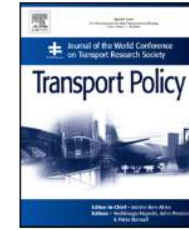
# Lao Bao International Border Gate





Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

# Transport Policy

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/tranpol](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/tranpol)

## Border crossing design in light of the ASEAN Economic Community: Simulation based approach

Sathaporn Opasanon <sup>a,\*</sup>, Songyot Kitthamkesorn <sup>b</sup><sup>a</sup> Department of International Business, Logistics & Transport, Faculty of Commerce & Accountancy, Thammasat University, Bangkok 10200, Thailand<sup>b</sup> Department of Civil Engineering, Chiang Mai University, Chiang Mai, Thailand

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### ABSTRACT

Customs post is a logistics infrastructure playing a critical role in international transportation. This research provides a systematic framework and simulation analysis for designing operations and infrastructure for modern customs and cross-border transport. A case study of the largest customs post of Thailand in terms of cargo traffic, is carried out to portray the procedural steps of the proposed approach. Literature review and in-depth interviews with associated control agencies were conducted to identify required infrastructure components, border clearance procedures and customs formality in light of the ASEAN Economic Community. Linear regression models were developed to predict the future annual volume of traveler and vehicle flow. Simulation models were constructed to justify various operations and designs of key border-crossing facilities, including immigration control booths, vehicle inspection station and truck clearance area. The principles of transport and trade facilitation were adopted to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of border crossing process. The results suggest that split configuration with joint inspections on both sides is the most practicable border control for the customs post where joint customs inspection is performed in the country of entry. To avoid unnecessary traffic interruption by different types of traffic, passenger and freight flow are separated in the design. For personal vehicles, a drive-through border crossing is proposed to allow a driver to obtain immigration and customs checks via the vehicle inspection booths without getting off the car. The analytical framework and simulation analysis proposed in this research is practical and useful for analyzing the design of other customs posts with similar traffic and cross-border patterns.

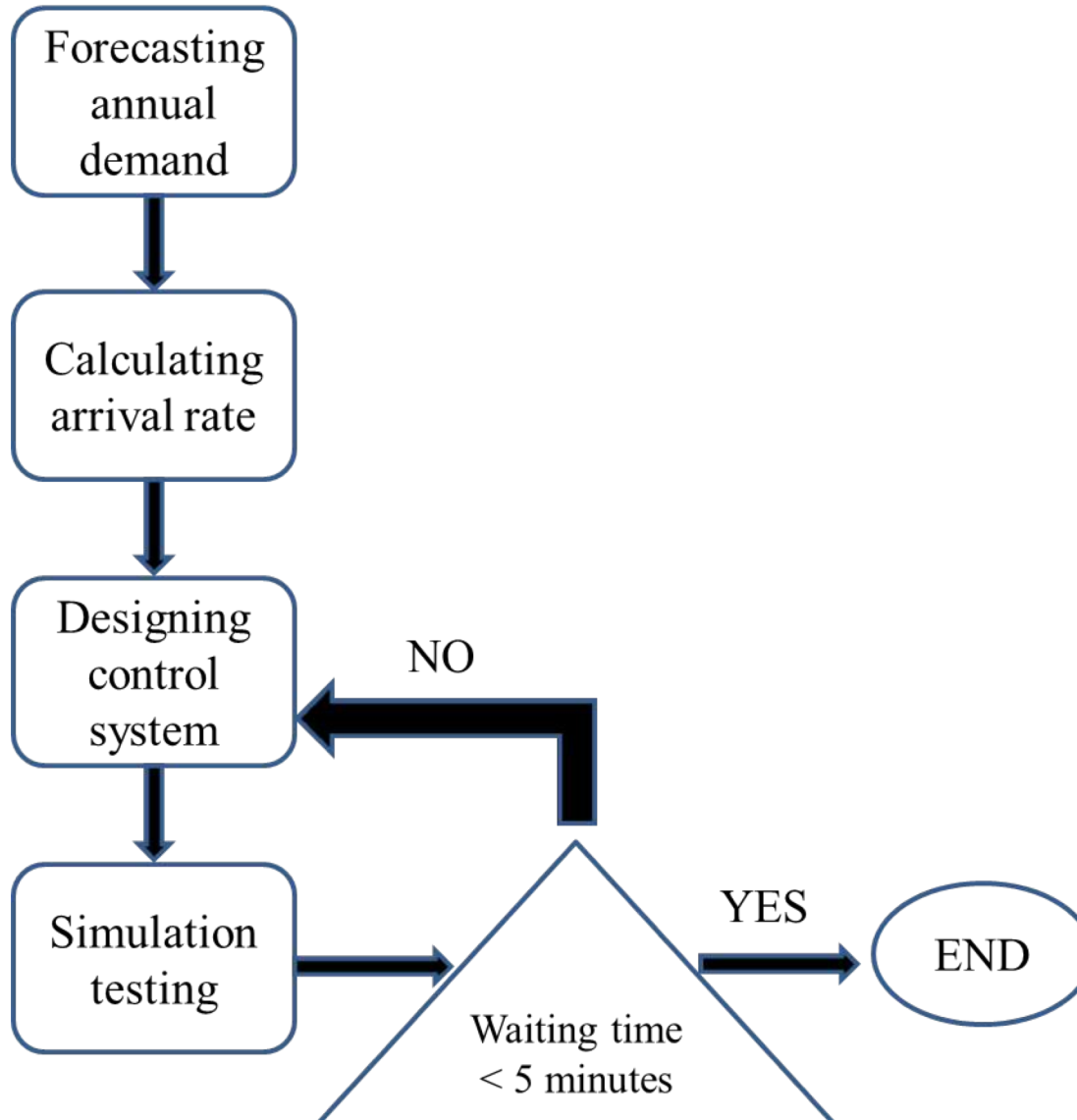


# Simulation models

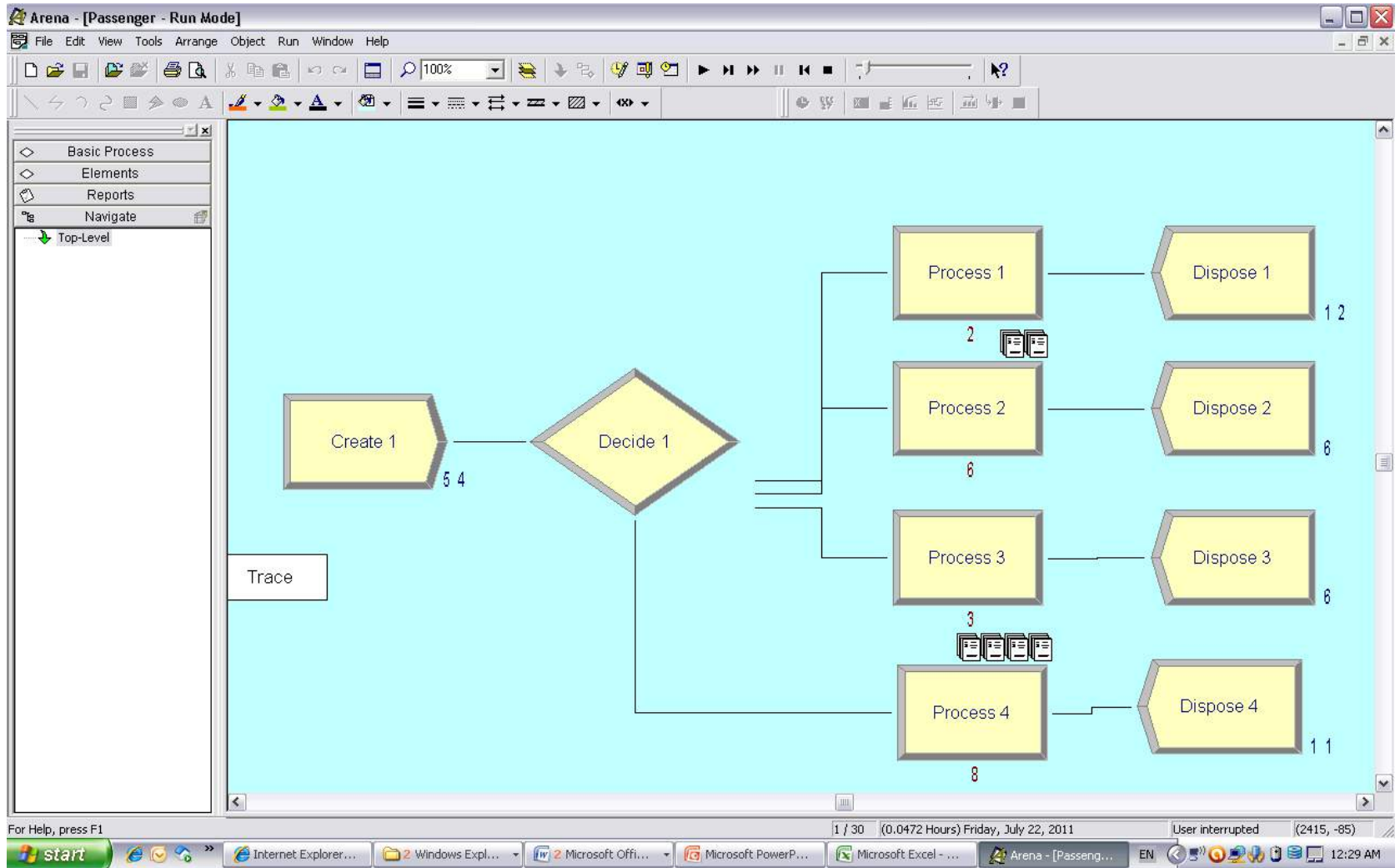
various operations and designs of key border-crossing facilities

- immigration control booths
- vehicle inspection station
- truck clearance area.

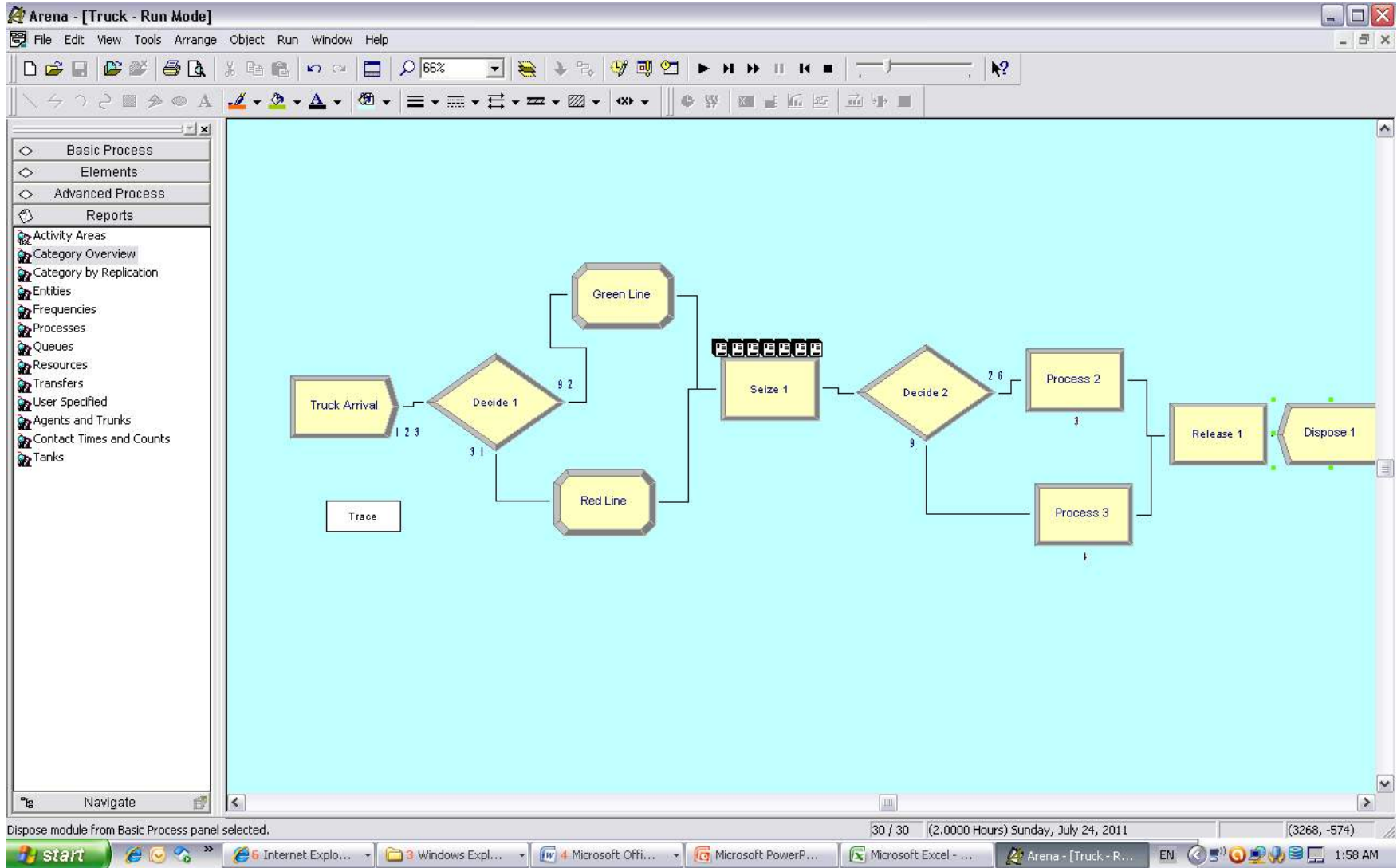
# Procedural steps for designing immigration control system



# ARENA Simulation: Passenger



# ARENA Simulation: Truck



# Road Development Projects

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- Physical and institutional connectivity
- Linkage nodes – customs and border control infrastructure
- CBM – CCA
- Simulation analysis to design border operations and facilities

---

**END**

**DPG Regional Conference on  
Advancing BIMSTEC  
Cooperation, Yangon, June  
14-15, 2018**

**Abstract of Presentation by Dr. Nisha  
Taneja, Professor, ICRIER**

**Dr. Nisha Taneja**  
**Professor, ICRIER**

Dr. Nisha Taneja in her talk addressed the hard and soft aspect of connectivity infrastructure in the form of the transport and communication network. Speaking about communications, she focused on the importance of IT-driven systems for advanced logistics. She commended Sri Lanka, India and Thailand which have adopted such systems and pointed out the need to bridge the gap between them and the other countries in the region. She also pointed out how all BIMSTEC members are part of the WTO which provides an opportunity to align the trade facilitation reform measures of BIMSTEC member nations. In this regard, she also mentioned how all members nations follow international conventions like TIR which will bring in global-based practices.

Coming to India Dr. Taneja spoke of the importance of domestic logistics since goods often travel long distances before reaching sea ports which need an institutional coordination mechanism like the National Trade Facilitation committee for trade. She also pointed out a need for a regulatory system to govern dry ports. Concerning Myanmar, she raised the question of how Myanmar's participation in the BRI would affect the development of SEZs in the region. Coming to the importance of land borders, she addressed the large gap in the land based trade in the India-Myanmar border region compared to Myanmar-China. She suggested that immediate attention be given to the land borders of India and Myanmar.

Addressing the rigid trade regime between India-Myanmar which was eased in 2015, she raised the concern of decreasing formal trade and increasing informal trade. She underlined the need to examine why formal trade policies are not working. Dr. Taneja also called for a BIMSTEC Forum for border regions of the members countries to bring in a coherent approach to border development.

She concluded by bringing focus to the north-east region of India with regard to hard infrastructure and the BIMSTEC MVA. Elaborating on the BIMSTEC MVA, she stressed on the need to evaluate why the BBIN MVA has not become operational despite protocols being finalised and trial runs conducted. She opined that adhering to international conventions will help subsume all bilateral and trilateral transit agreements in the BIMSTEC MVA without any overlap of protocols.



**DPG Regional Conference on  
Advancing BIMSTEC  
Cooperation, Yangon, June  
14-15, 2018**

**Abstract of Discussant's Comments by  
U Lahpai Zau Goone, Senior Member  
and In-Charge BIMSTEC, Myanmar  
Institute of Strategic and International  
Studies (MISIS), Myanmar**

**U Lahpai Zau Goone****Senior Member and In-Charge BIMSTEC, MISIS, Myanmar**

U Lahpai Zau Goone began by commending all the speakers for raising relevant concerns and issue areas. He reiterated and elaborated on Dr. Taneja's opinion that every agreement should be in conformity with international conventions to avoid repetitions and redundancies. Moving ahead, he opened the platform for further discussions.

**SESSION 3:  
“ENERGY, WATER,  
ENVIRONMENT,  
CLIMATE CHANGE AND  
OTHER ISSUES”**

**DPG Regional Conference on  
Advancing BIMSTEC  
Cooperation, Yangon, June  
14-15, 2018**

**Abstract of Moderator's Remarks by  
Dr. Nisha Taneja, Professor, ICRIER**

**Dr. Nisha Taneja**  
**Professor, ICRIER**

As the moderator in the Energy session, Dr. Nisha Taneja identified Energy, Water, Environment and Climate change issues as the least controversial of all areas of regional integration as well the easiest to implement. She raised the question of why this area has been facing difficulties despite being so favourable to cooperation. She further introduced the speakers of the session and hoped for fruitful recommendations.

**DPG Regional Conference on  
Advancing BIMSTEC  
Cooperation, Yangon, June  
14-15, 2018**

**Presentation by Dr. Sajjad Zohir,  
Executive Director, Economic  
Research Group**

# Accessing Energy Resources in the Region: Need for the right balance between growth, stability and human values

*Session III on*

**Energy, Agriculture, Fisheries, Environment & Natural  
Disaster Management, Climate Change**

DPG Regional Conference on

**Advancing BIMSTEC Cooperation**

Yangon, 14-15 June 2018

## Avoiding introduction to save on time

- This session which covers almost everything under the sky – resources under the ground, on land, and in water and the atmosphere!
- Energy and the rest; and a ‘region’ within a ‘Region’ – a brief look at segments of the DPG paper and rationalize why ‘all and the etc.’ are in one session
- Resources of the ‘region’ – diversity in human species and the nature’s bounty
- Energy resources, currently revealed planning on their uses and the two sets of issues: (i) political economy of regional energy security, and (ii) Issues of the ‘region’ ignored



# Recast essence of DPG's thematic paper on Energy

Argument for joint initiative on energy runs as follows:

- investments on generation will take place only if there is a reliable market to pay for; and there is a need to invest on infrastructure in order to create a wider market. Traditionally, pipelines were dominant forms of transporting gas and petroleum. Subsequently, LNG and LPG transported on roads or by sea provided additional outlets. With huge potential to tap hydroelectricity, urge by few to relocate generation of 'dirty energy' and with technological advancements achieved in grid inter-connections (HV AC/DC minimizing transmission loss), the plea is to revisit the efficiency of connectivity infrastructure.

# Selected observations on the Energy paper

- The concerns are genuine; and some of those are elaborated towards the end – on energy issues
- One however needs to go beyond short term corporate interests. Few additional issues that need to be addressed:
  - Project designs ought to account for spatial distribution of benefits and costs, and include appropriate measures to compensate for those displaced. The center-periphery dimension is often ignored at sub-national levels, but hard to ignore when multiple countries are involved.
  - Succumbing to ‘markets’ perpetuate, or, should I say, accentuate the uneven distribution of power, often defeating the cause of the sovereignty of people in the local societies (the ‘region’), and
  - The concept of identity is unfortunately being shaped by our persistent attempt to bar natural mobility (migration and circulation) of labor across territories, and the beauty of diversity is mesmerized by those in power through infusion of divisiveness in the names of one or the other identity.  
<Sunil Amrith, The Bay of Bengal: Rise and Decline of a South Asian Region, presentation at Kings College, London, 2 February 2015.>

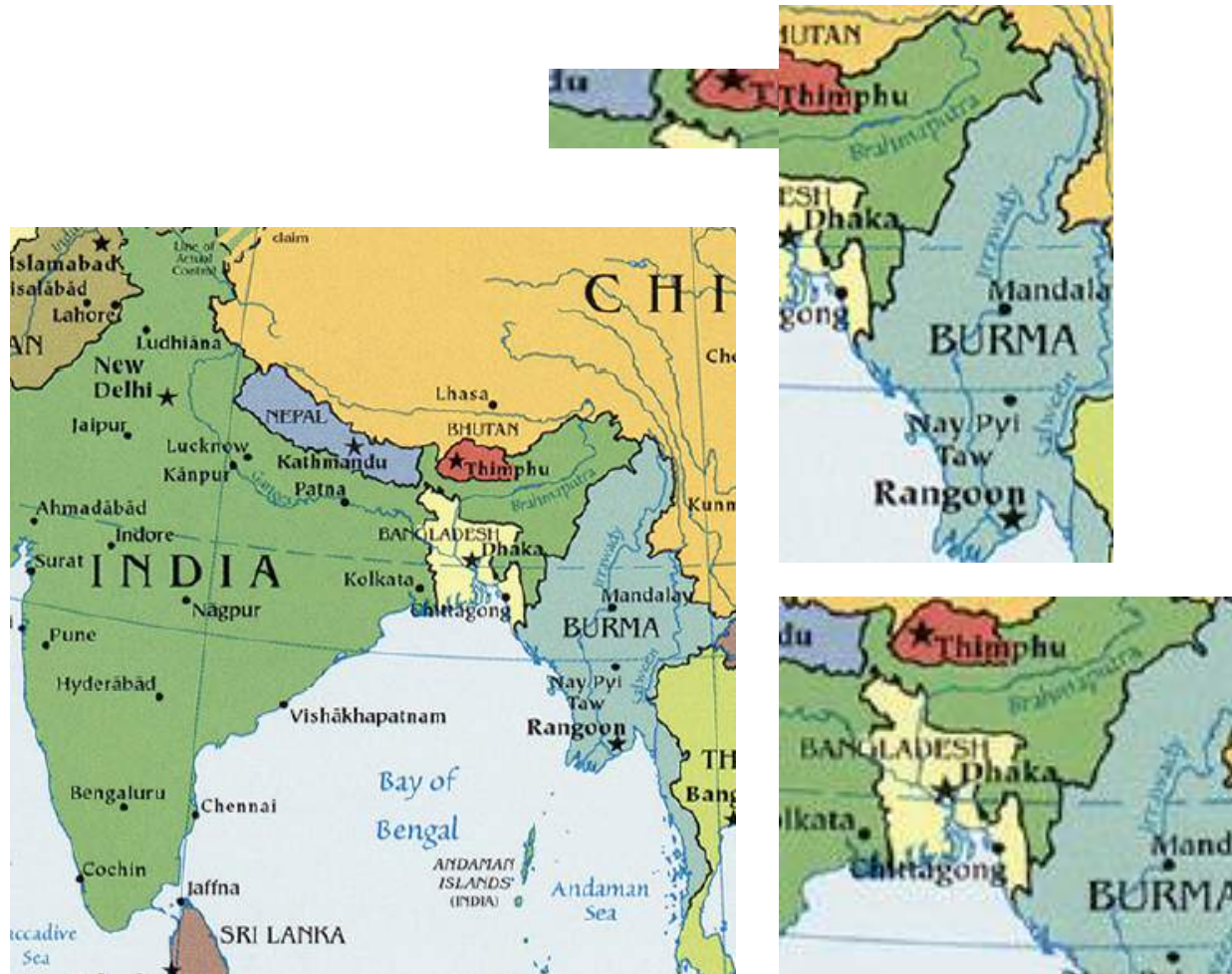
# Cross-effects between Energy and the Rest vary

- There are ample historical evidence to suggest that the traditional modes of realizing short term Corporate interests around energy resources led to devastation of local societies, otherwise rich in actual or potential energy resources. The ‘inhuman’ approaches led to instability in society as well as in the environment, making economic growth vulnerable. <The atrocities by MNCs are well-documented in Anu Muhammad, Natural Resources and Energy Security Challenging the ‘Resource-Curse’ Model in Bangladesh, *Economic and Political Weekly*, January 24, 2014.>
- The presence of strong effects of (energy) resource extractions/generations on water, performances in “agriculture, fisheries, environment’ and on climate and the frequency of natural disasters are widely recognized. For meaningful exchanges in a session that encompasses all these subjects therefore require appreciation of a framework that ties all those within a single framework.
- The direction of effects however vary – fresh look at ‘region’

# Why look for region within a Region

- The effects (externality) of resource extraction in a specific region is expected to be positive for a larger Region, particularly for territories at safe distances.
- The effects have been generally negative in smaller regions (sub-national levels, or, parts of several neighboring countries).
- General apprehensions applicable for both multi-country region and sub-national regions within a country are, cross-effects are mostly negative in places where resources are extracted, and generally positive in larger territorial context – other than possibly, climate change.

# Cuts from an old Political Map of Asia



# Assets that we may neglect

- Rich diversity in Human species
  - An area where major pathways of human settlements converge . The major rivers along which such movements are commonly perceived to be associated with pass reach their final destination in this region – Ganges/Padma, Jamuna, Brahmaputra, Meghna, Karnafuli and Irawaddy. <contradicts the recent inferences from genetic based evidence>
  - Diversity in language, and physical characteristics associated with ethnicity
  - NE India: 150-200; Myanmar $\geq$ 13; Bangladesh $\geq$ 13, Yunan along Myanmar border $\geq$ 13..
- Nature's visible Bounty – Mountains, Hills and valleys – Tourism and easy movement of people who then jointly own environment

# Two sides of Bay of Bengal Region – a detour

- Wider canvas: defines the Bay of Bengal region in terms of historical interconnectedness revealed through mobility of people between various coasts in the Bay – Colombo, Madras (Chennai), Kolkata, Chittagong, Rangoon (Yangon), Bangkok, Malay and Singapore.
- Beyond the maritime routes (which had extended beyond the Bay to other Southeast Asian countries), there were land routes stretching from Nepal, NE India, eastern parts of Bangladesh, Myanmar and Bangkok.
- Passenger movements along those maritime routes have long ceased <Sunil>, and since offshore drilling generally remains outside the reach of human settlements, the narrow canvas would cover the smaller segment of land mass identified earlier.

# Choices of projects in the Bay Region

- Larger canvas – reviving maritime connectivity is not to facilitate movement of passengers, but for cargo movement. We rather see obstructions to labor mobility that had historically bonded the region culturally and yet maintain harmonious diversity.
- The above fits in well with the undertakings on the narrowly defined land mass, where the interests appear to be in investing on generation of hydro-electricity and its transmission to other parts of the larger BIMSTEC region. In addition, we have pipelines to transport hydrocarbon; and road, rail and waterways for transportation of cargo.
- We may choose to confine to the latter only – on energy.



# Who are interested

- All the sovereigns
- Japan's interest surfaced briefly, and may choose to engage via individual country
- ADB is keen on road and rail infrastructure
- WB on electric grid connectivity
- Driving forces: energy hungry industries >> West of India, China, and increasingly Bangladesh-based industries.
- Contractors and consultants are no less powerful!
- Citizens of the countries in the region
- Indications >> the driving forces remain in the driving seat

# Selected examples on Electricity

- Electricity largely hydroelectricity – Bhutan-India, Nepal-India, and BD-India
- Arunachal to Agra HV AC-DC grid >>what do we learn from such designs >> Dr. Wagle was suggesting of trust deficit (move towards counter-terrorism often goes against it)
- Pipelines for HSD (high speed fuel) - Indo-Bangla Friendship Pipeline between Siliguri and Parbatipur.
- Coal generated electricity at Rampal with Indian investment

# Hydrocarbon

- Hydrocarbon >> Pipeline; Sitwe – Kunming is stretched beyond, moving towards Guangzho
- LPG import terminal at Chittagong by Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) and its onward transportation by road to Tripura bottling plant and onshore LNG Terminal by Petronet LNG Ltd (PLL) in Kutubdia Island near Chittagong. PLL is finalising an MoU with Petrobangla on setting up of the LNG terminal. Both Sides also discussed the possibility of supplying gas through a pipeline from Dhamra LNG Terminal which is under construction to Bangladesh via Duttapulia in West Bengal.

# Questions for discussion

- Project design > to ensure that costs and benefits are assessed by narrow region, and end beneficiaries are identified so that adequate compensation package can be worked out in more humane ways
- Making prices and other terms of contract visible.
- Accommodating multiple member countries at design stage, for equity participation and in developing inter-linked contracts for sustenance of these contracts
- Appeasing current market power versus proactive engagements
- People to people engagement – Visa > tourism, and state-level declared commitments to appease no ideology that divides people in the region
- Strengthening the local power of the smaller region may go a long way to secure investment and sustain development – the triangle of NE India
- Lack of Trust and dependence on the Chicken neck
- Revisit security issues

## Few other Issues

- developing the market of energy, particularly for electricity, calls for
  - developing right instruments to facilitate trade,
  - which encompass finance,
  - building joint liability through equity participation, and
  - finding right ways to ensure security of investments in production as well as in transmission
- Strengthen a third party who can negotiate with major powers competing for resources. Or, let the major forces agree and persuade the dependent local partners to agree and implement
- A lesson to learn with qualification: Ruili-Muse border, which was once one of the key drug and other illicit trade point, has become major border trade hub accounting for 60 percent of Yunnan's trade (and 30 percent of China's total trade) with Myanmar.

# ANNEX

- Few additional slides to be inserted on generation/production, and trade in energy, as well as on lists of projects

## Overview of Migration Routes

The research methods that have revealed the major migration patterns of modern humans out of Africa have also been used to study later migrations of smaller subpopulations of people.



A conclusion from the genetic evidence is that there are about 5,000 extended human families. Interestingly, that number matches fairly well with the number of human language families.

# China's trans-Myanmar oil and gas pipelines

Pipelines will bring 12 million tonnes of crude oil and 12 billion cubic metres of gas a year into China



Source: shve.org

Reuters graphic/Colin Payne/Reuters

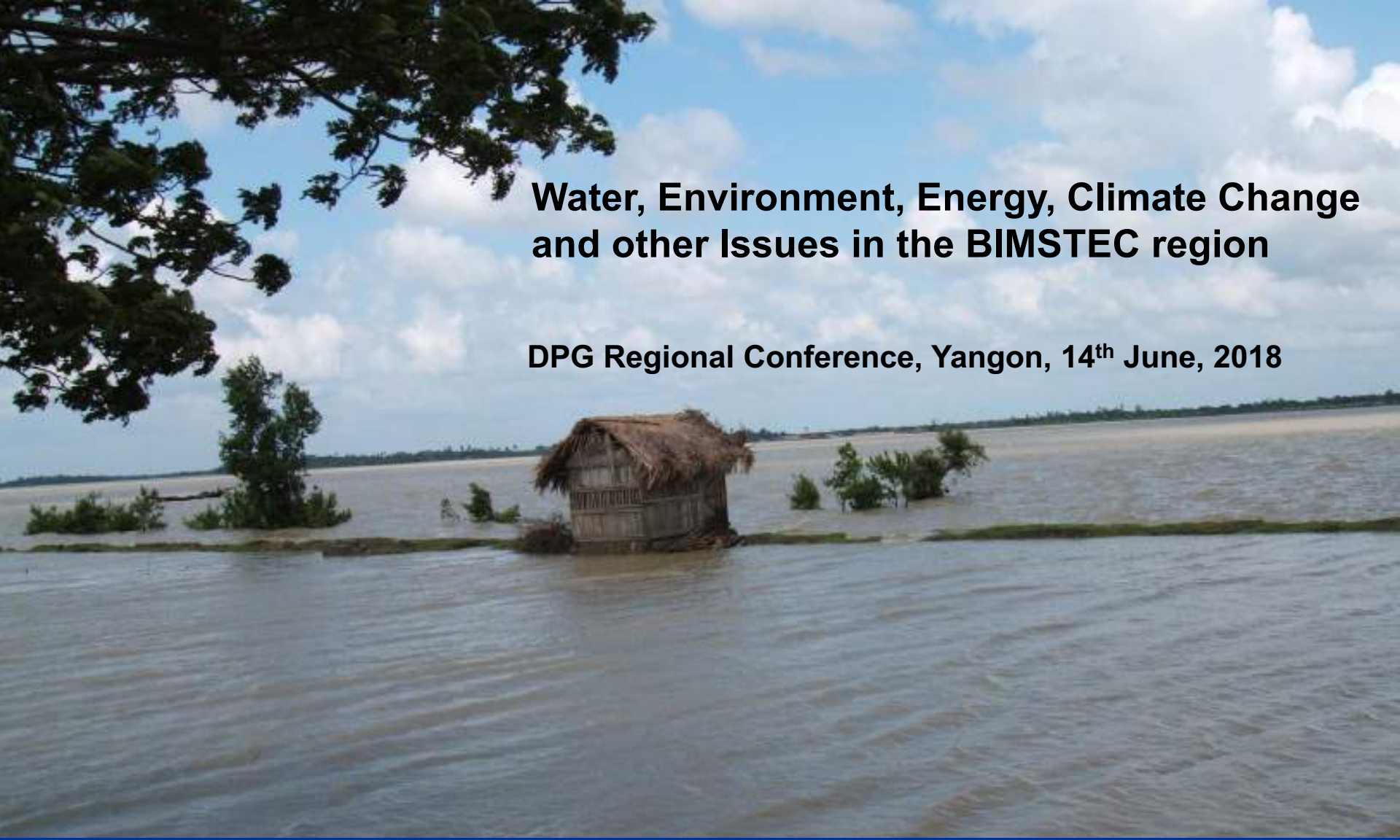
REUTERS

04/05/10



**DPG Regional Conference on  
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14-15, 2018**

**Presentation by Prof. Chandan  
Mahanta, Indian Institute of  
Technology, Guwahati**



# Water, Environment, Energy, Climate Change and other Issues in the BIMSTEC region

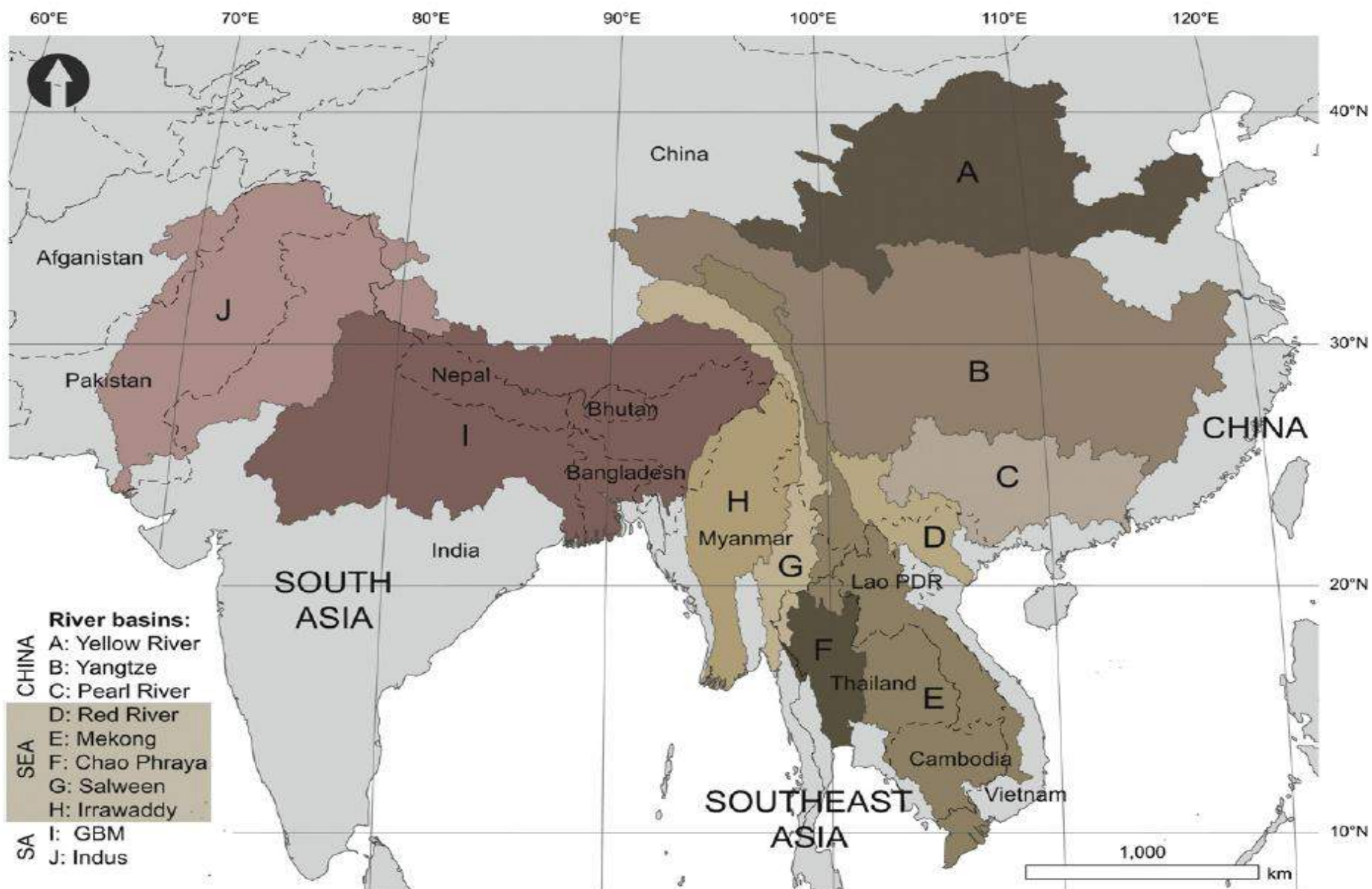
DPG Regional Conference, Yangon, 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2018

Chandan Mahanta  
Department of Civil Engineering  
**IIT Guwahati**  
[mahantait@gmail.com](mailto:mahantait@gmail.com)



# Water Resources

O. Varis et al. / *Applied Geography* 32 (2012) 441–454



Map showing  
The Brahmaputra Basin

**Legend**

- International Boundary
- Capital
- Cities
- Important Location
- River
- Basin Area

N

30 0 30 60 90 120 150 Kilometers

Figure :



- Brahmaputra is the fourth largest river in terms of annual discharge - average discharge 20,000m<sup>3</sup>/s (Immerzeel, 2008)
- Drains an area of around 580,000km<sup>2</sup> covering four countries: China (50.5%), India (33.6%), Bangladesh (8.1%) and Bhutan (7.8%)

## Water Resources of Myanmar: A snapshot

| Sl. | River Basin                                   | Catchment Areas (Km <sup>2</sup> x 10 <sup>3</sup> ) | Estimated Annual Inflow (Cubic Km) | Prosperous Ground Water (Cubic Km) |
|-----|---|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1   | Chindwin River.                               | 115.3  | 227.8                              | 57.578                             |
| 2   | Ayerawaddy River. (till junction of Chindwin) | 193.3  | 141.22                             | 92.599                             |
| 3   | Ayerawaddy River. (till mouth of Bangal)      | 95.6   | 85.75                              | 153.249                            |
| 4   | Sittaung River.                               | 48.1   | 81.09                              | 28.402                             |
| 5   | River of Rakhine State.                       | 58.3   | 139.17                             | 41.774                             |
| 6   | River of Thanintharyi Region.                 | 40.68  | 130.86                             | 39.278                             |
| 7   | Than Lwin River.                              | 158.0  | 257.79                             | 74.779                             |
| 8   | Mekong River.                                 | 28.6   | 17.62                              | 7.054                              |
|     | Total   | 737.88   | 1081.3                             | 494.713                            |

# BIMSTEC's Energy Potential

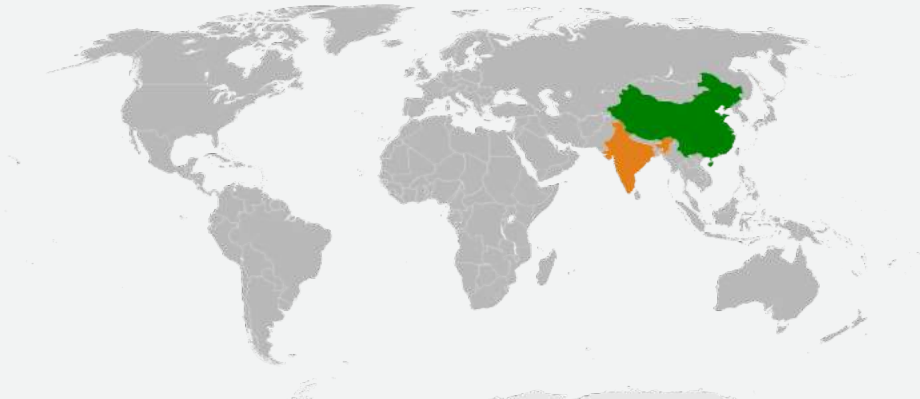
## BIMSTEC's renewable power

| Description        | Bangladesh | Bhutan   | India   | Myanmar | Nepal    | Sri Lanka | Thailand |
|--------------------|------------|----------|---------|---------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Peak               | 9000       | 333      | 160,00  | 2,400   | 1462     | 2,164     | 27,346   |
| Installed Capacity | 12,780     | 1,606    | 307,000 | 4,422   | 712      | 3,963     | 37,602   |
| Solar Potential    | 50,000     | > 58,000 | 784,990 | >26,900 | > 25,000 | >6000     | 22,800   |
| Wind Potential     | >4600      | NA       | 302,251 | >33,800 | >30,000  | >25,000   | NA       |
| Hydro Potential    | NA         | 30,000   | 235,000 | >46,000 | 83,000   | NA        | 15,155   |

*\*All figures in MW*

Sources: <http://www.nepalenergyforum.com/bimstec-needs-a-power-tool-heres-why-it-is-time-for-a-green-energy-revolution/>

# Energy: Potential



Bhutan hydropower potential, is estimated at around 30,000 MW, of which 23,760 MW has been identified as economically feasible.

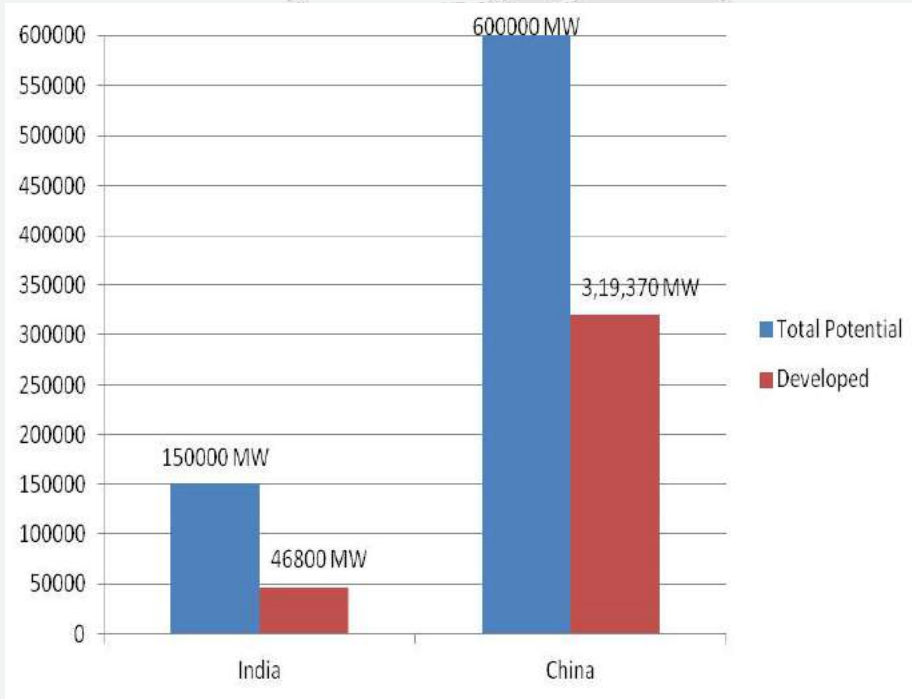


Chart: Hydropower Capacity Developed vis-à-vis Potential (in MW) – India vs China

Myanmar has the potential for more than 100 GW of hydropower, of which only 3 GW has been developed so far. The largest potential is to be found in the Kayin, Shan, and Kayah states, where the Salween River is the major hydropower resource

South Asia's considerable hydropower potential is concentrated in the Himalayan region,. Tapping the vast hydropower resources of Nepal and Bhutan, in particular, will be critical in order to meet the region's rapidly growing demand in a cost-effective and environmentally sustainable manner.

|                                       |                         |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Area:</b>                          | 676,600 km <sup>2</sup> |
| <b>Population:</b>                    | 53,260,000              |
| <b>Installed hydropower capacity:</b> | 3,151 MW (2014)         |
| <b>Hydropower generation:</b>         | 5.52 TWh (2014)         |

|                                       |                         |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Area:</b>                          | 147,181 km <sup>2</sup> |
| <b>Population:</b>                    | 28,175,000              |
| <b>Installed hydropower capacity:</b> | 753 MW (2015)           |
| <b>Hydropower generation:</b>         | 3,635 GWh (2015)        |

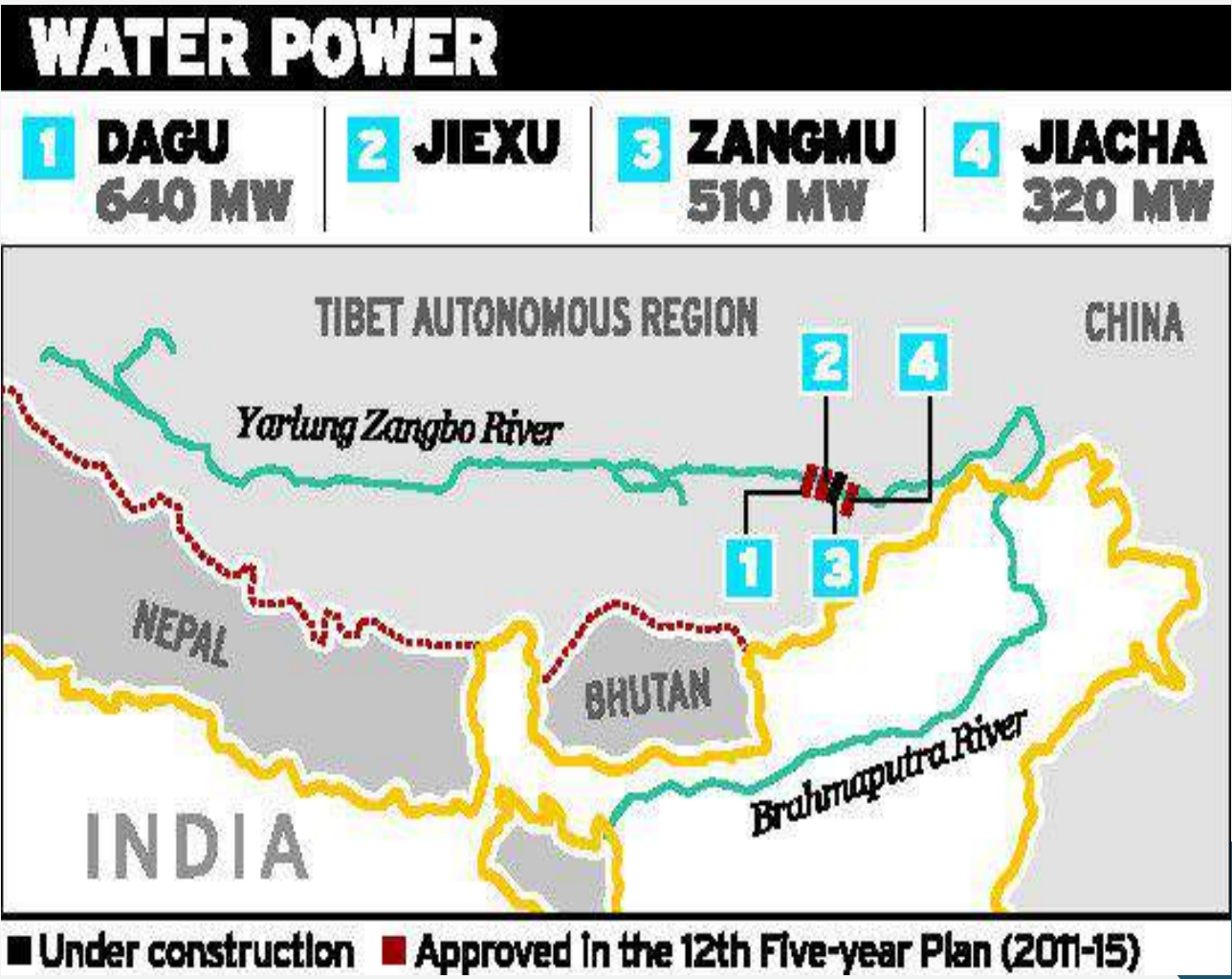




# Energy: Challenges

With an estimated hydropower potential of 66,092 MW , series of dams and reservoirs being constructed has implications on the river and downstream

“The alteration of a river’s flow and sediment transport downstream of a dam often causes the greatest sustained environmental impacts,” (International Rivers online magazine). “Life in and around a river evolves and is conditioned on the timing and quantities of river flow. Disrupted and altered water flows can be as severe as completely de-watering river reaches and the life they contain.”



Unilateral and non-transparent dam-building activities on trans-boundary rivers are at the heart of rising political distrust in Asia

# Landslide dammed Lakes Outburst Floods

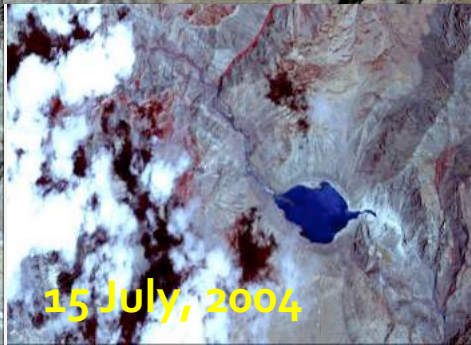
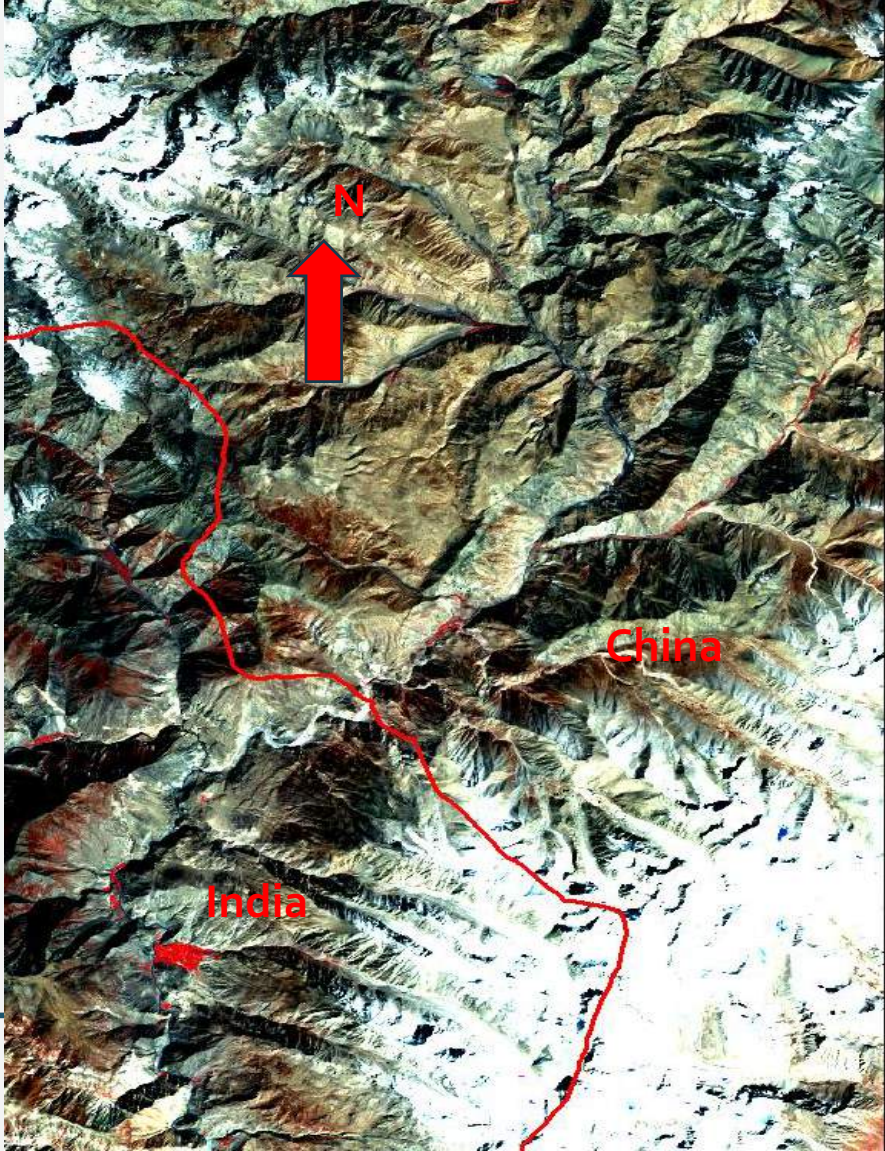
- **Yigong Landslide and the Flash Flooding in the drainage basin of Yarlung Zambo in Tibet China**
- Maximum Discharge: 24,000 m<sup>3</sup>/sec
- Volume of water released: 3,000 million m<sup>3</sup>
- Height of Flood: 50 mts
- (17 km downstream of the dam in Tibet/China)
- Height of Flood: **15 mts. In Arunachal Pradesh, North East India**



**The trimline created by the flood resulting from the overtopping of the Yigong landslide dam.**

# Landslide dammed lakes Outburst Floods

Landslide Dam Lake in Parre Chu in Tibet Autonomous Region of PR China about 35 Km upstream of India in Sutlej basin started draining on 26 June 2005



Source: ICIMOD

# Climate Change and BIMSTEC

The BIMSTEC region—comprising 22 percent of the global population, recording a combined gross domestic product (GDP) of US\$2.7 trillion, and accounting for seven percent of intra-regional trade—is getting increasingly exposed to various threats from natural disasters induced by climate change (Masudur and Kim, 2016).

## Sectoral Impacts of Climate Change

- Agriculture, Livestock and Food Security
- Environment, Natural Resources and Biodiversity
- Energy, Industry and Transport
- Human Settlements and Cities
- Public Health

## Climate Change impacts in Myanmar

- Drought years were frequent in the 1980s and the 1990s, and there was a severe drought in 2010
- From 1887 to 2005, 1,248 tropical storms formed in the Bay of Bengal. Eighty of these storms (6.4 per cent of the total) reached Myanmar's coastline
- Over the period 1960-2009, there were shorter rainfall seasons in combination with erratic and intense rainfall resulted in numerous flooding events
- Between 2001 and 2010, sea-level rise in coastal areas caused cultivated lands inundated, and ground water contamination.
- From 1910 to 2000, 12 major floods occurred in the country

**Increase in recurrent flooding events**



**Reduced freshwater flow  
increasing salinity intrusion and  
forest dieback**

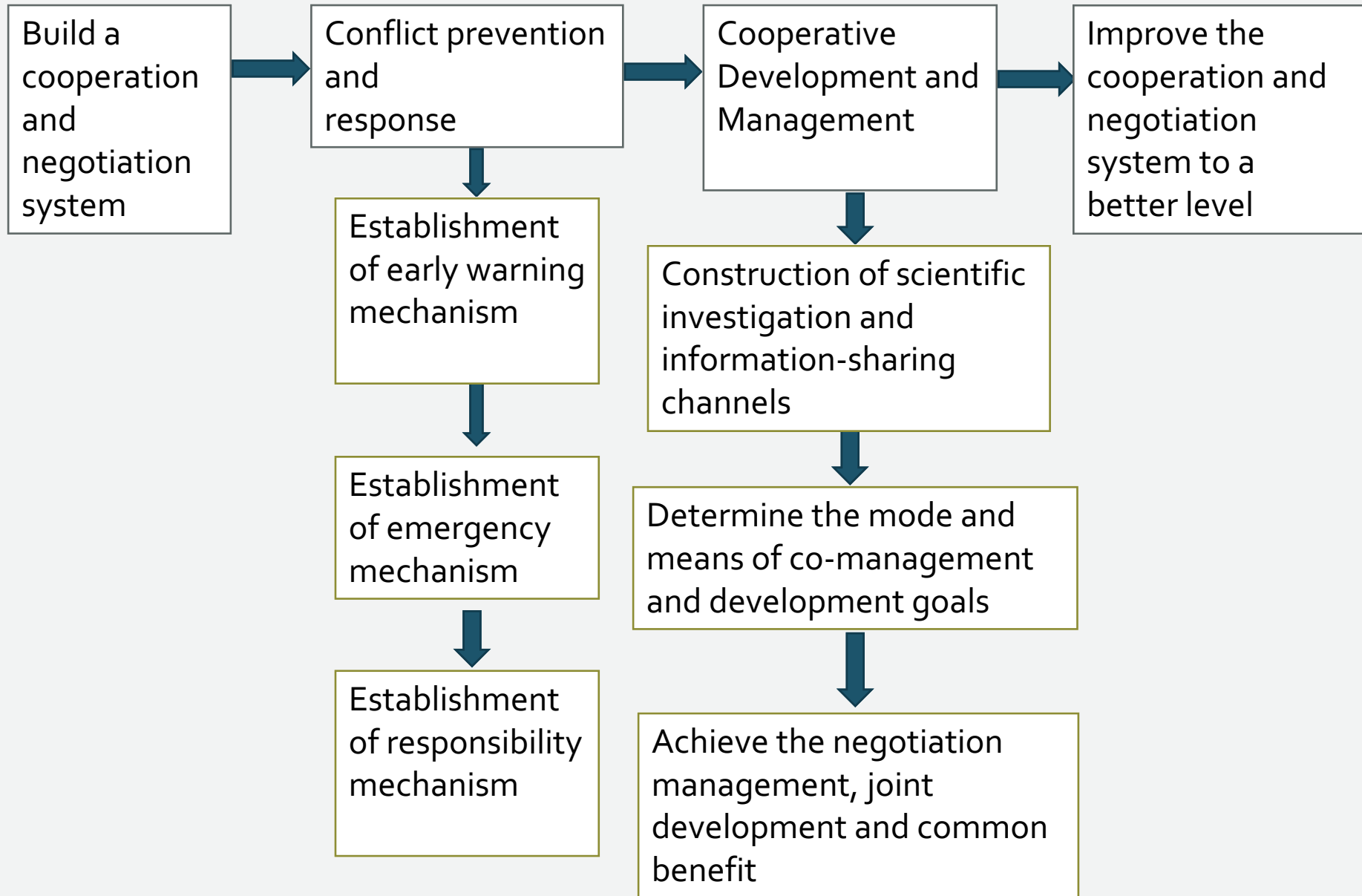


**Rising Sea Level**

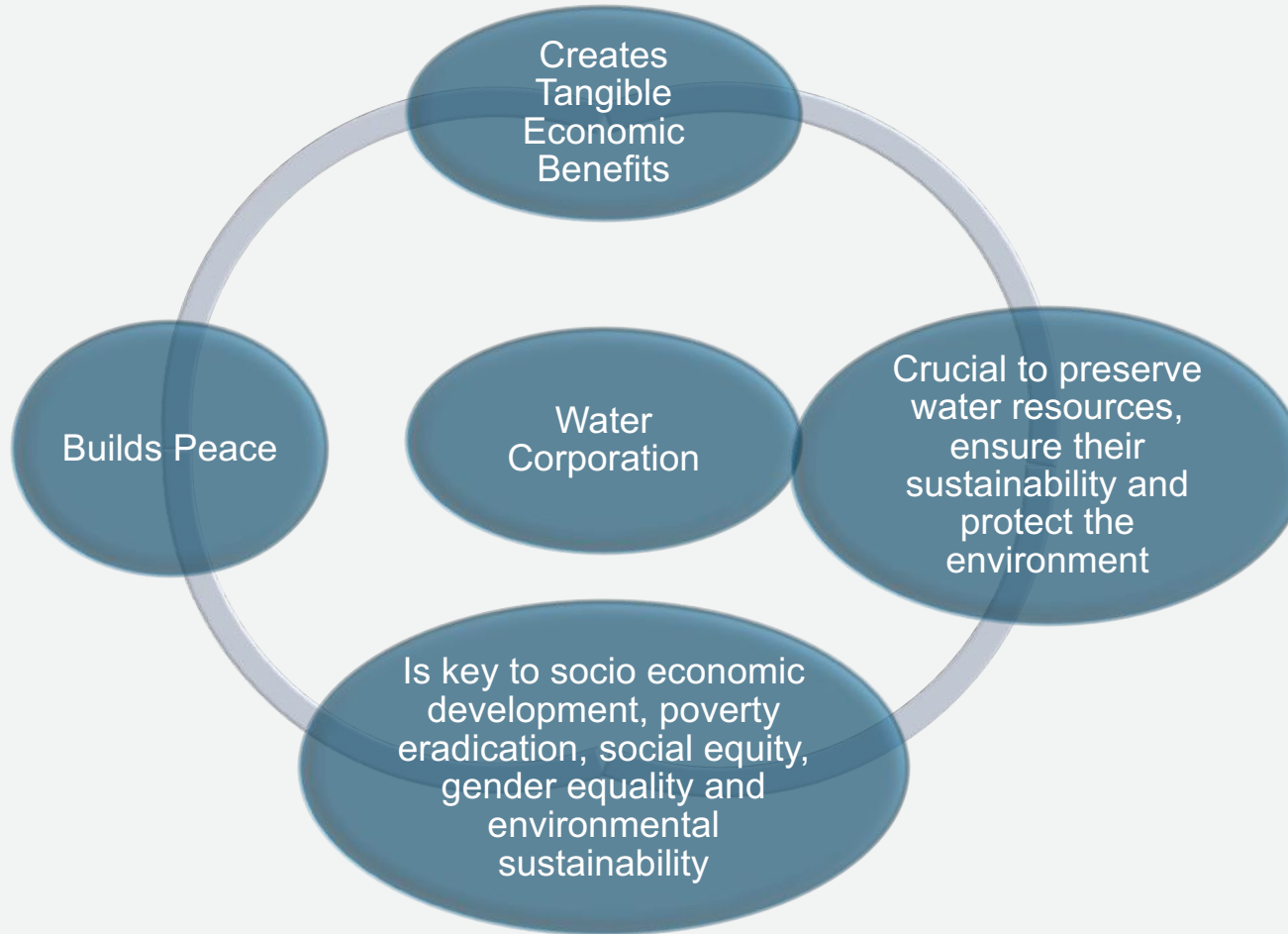


photo by zin min s

# Tools to achieve Transboundary Cooperation



# Water cooperation: an opportunity

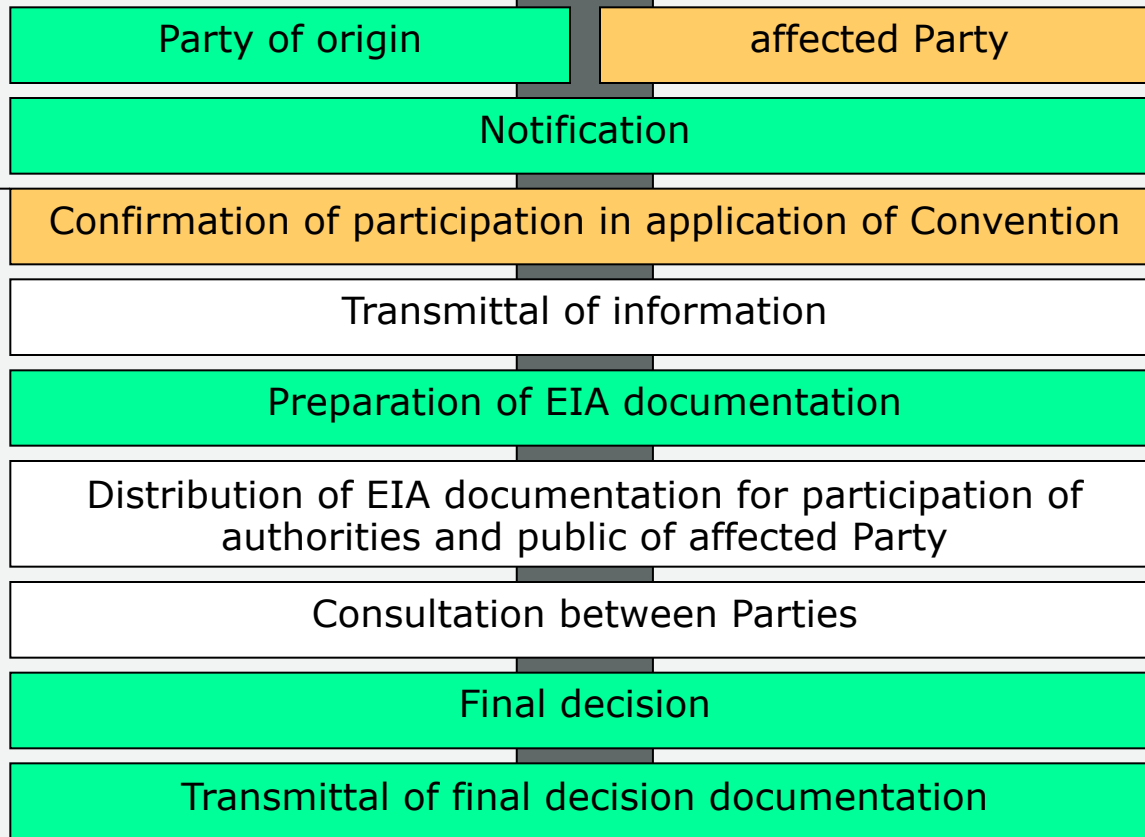


## Data requirement for Transboundary cooperation

- Climate Data viz. Rainfall, Evapotranspiration etc.
- Hydrology viz. Peak Flow, annual flows, water flow etc.
- Water Demand
- Real Time Flood Forecasting Data
- Sediment transport Data
- Climate Change Impact Data
- Hydrological data on dam construction and water divergence projects

Rivers cross political boundaries and international cooperation is necessary to share the water resources of a transboundary river basin between upstream and downstream users with different and sometimes conflicting needs, claims and cultures. Countries also need to cooperate on the sharing of transboundary groundwater, an important and increasing source of freshwater.

**Transboundary  
Water Cooperation  
Conventions**



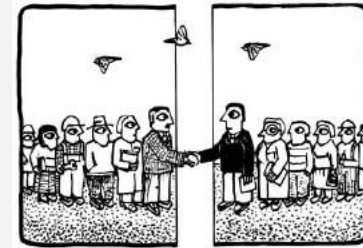
Application stops if the affected Party is not interested in participating

**Espoo  
Convention**

- Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context
- Adopted in 1991 in Espoo, Finland, entered into force in 1997
- Now 44 Parties, including the European Community

If Parties so decide

Post-project analysis



**Public participation**  
(may include one or more rounds)

**Framework of EIA in Espoo Convention**

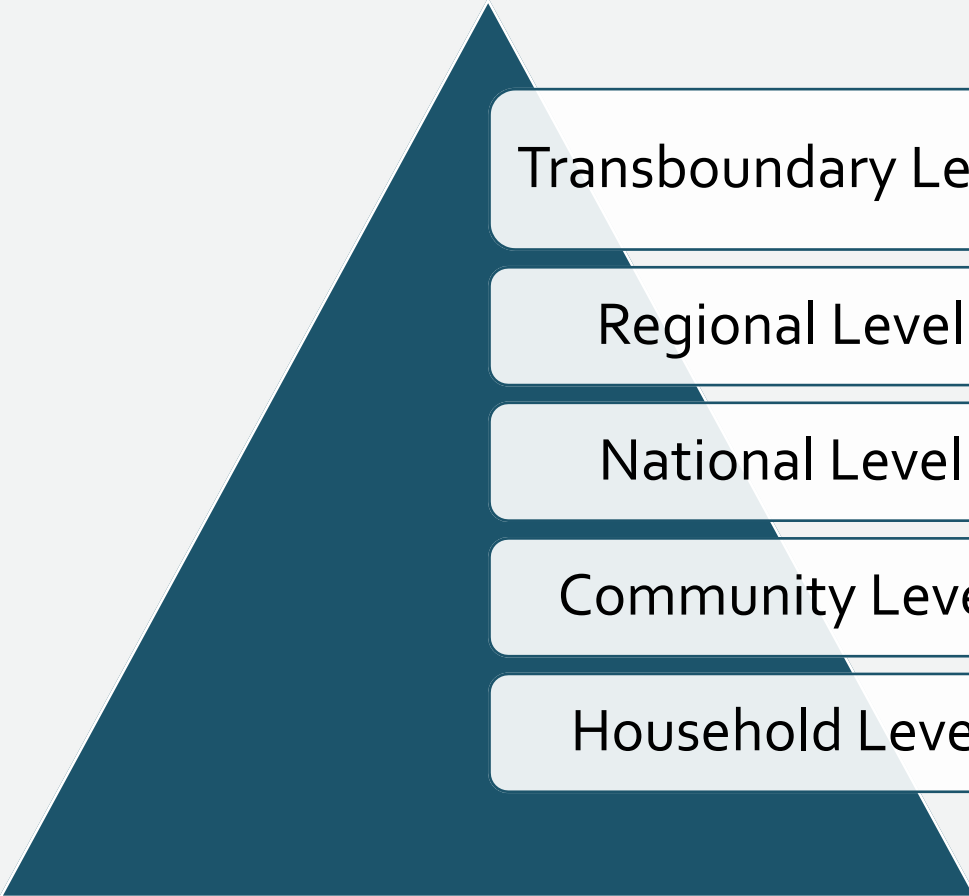


# Transboundary Water Resource Management

## Water Demand Management

- Managing conjunctive use of surface and groundwater
- Rehabilitation and modernization of existing infrastructure
- Increasing water productivity (WP) for agriculture (irrigated and rainfed)
- Economic instruments (e.g. water pricing)
- Restriction of water uses during drought periods
- Virtual water import-export

# Levels of Cooperation



Transboundary Level

e.g. Joint management institution can help to distribute and protect shared resources

Regional Level

e.g. Development of a regional framework for resource Management

National Level

e.g. Policies for multilateral cooperation between organizations/institutions

Community Level

e.g. Formulation of water users' associations

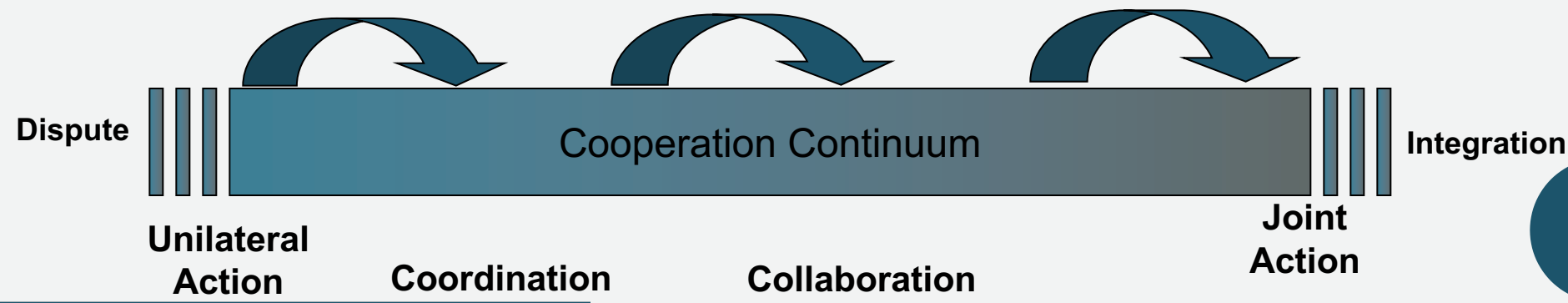
Household Level

e.g. Measuring one's Water Footprint and working out collective means to reduce the footprint at the household level

# Mitigation Policy: A Cooperation Continuum

*Without 'riparian' cooperation, water will increasingly breed conflict while 'riparian' cooperation can catalyze growth, economic integration & peace*

- Communication and notification
- Information sharing
- Regional assessments
- Identify, negotiate & implement sets of national investments that capture cooperative gains
- Adapt national plans to mitigate regional costs
- Adapt national plans to capture regional gains
- Joint project assessment and design
- Joint ownership
- Joint institutions
- Joint investment



# *Concluding thoughts..*

- ❑ Looking at the inherent risk of climate change, viz. water security , environmental degradation ,hydrology of the river basin, declining average annual flow of the river etc. transboundary cooperation is an emerging need, and opportunity for leveraging water and energy resources in an integrated manner.
- ❑ Joint watershed management would be a sustainable approach to reduce climate change vulnerabilities and its impacts on common water resources
- ❑ Water conflict arising out of any of these issues should be dealt amicably with a broader perspective of optimal resources utilization
- ❑ Comprehensive transboundary data sharing would be a critical beginning

Thank You



**DPG Regional Conference on  
Advancing BIMSTEC  
Cooperation, Yangon, June  
14-15, 2018**

**Presentation by Prof. Chaw Chaw  
Shein, Head, Department of  
International Relations, University of  
Yangon**

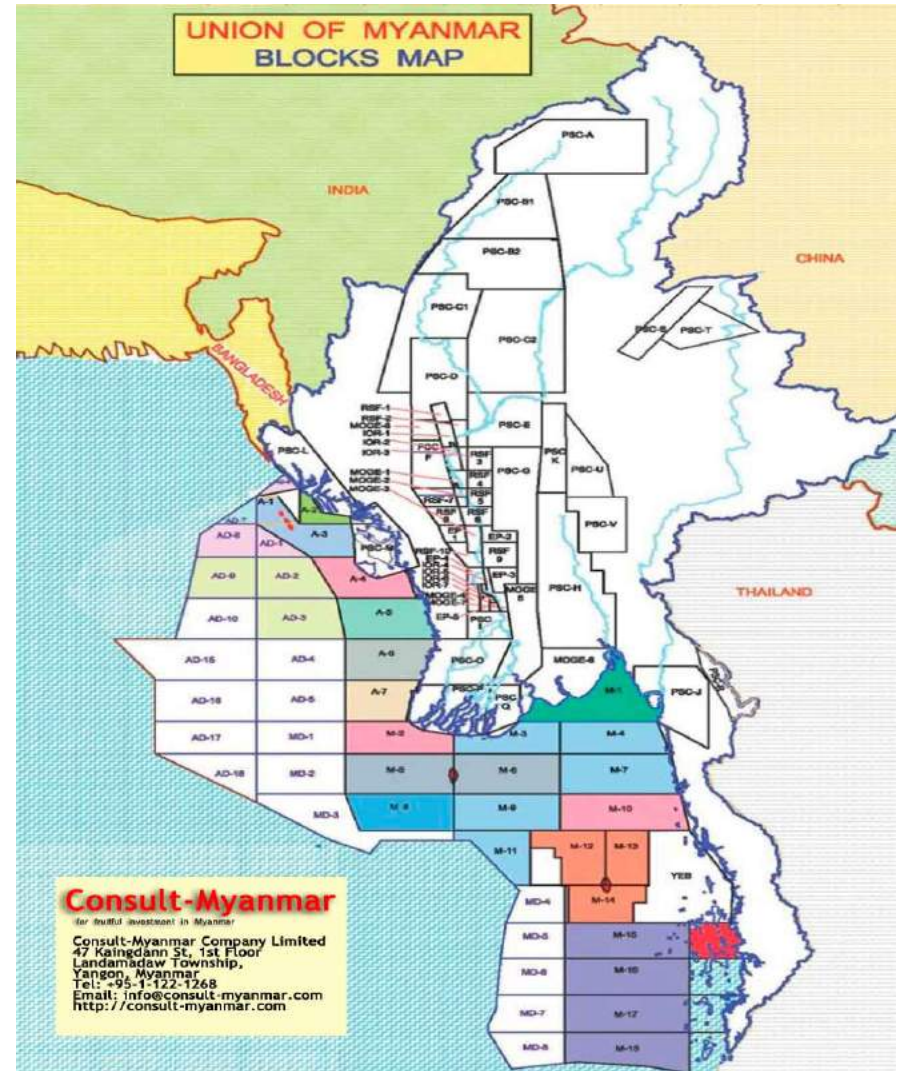
# Myanmar Energy Cooperation with Neighbouring Countries: Options & Obstacles

Professor Chaw Chaw Sein  
Head

Department of International Relations  
University of Yangon

# Introduction

- Myanmar's oil and gas and energy needs countries,
- Myanmar's gas reserves and strategic position are significant for energy security and regional cooperation





# Master Plan for Energy

## Energy MP

- Stable energy supply
- Effective investment environment
- Minimize environment impact

## Current energy mix by capacity

- 63% from hydro
- 32% from gas
- 3% from coal
- 2% from RE

## National Electricity MP

- Hydropower will be reduced gradually from 54% in 2020-2021 to 38% in 2030-31
- The need of electricity will be filled up with coal and RE (wind and solar)



# Cooperation with China



## China involvement in Myanmar energy

- oil exploration, dam construction and oil and gas transportation through pipeline

### Gas pipeline

- Parallel pipeline, which is 2,520 km long (793 km from Myanmar side and 1727 km side of China).
- Crude oil pipeline from Rakhine to Yunnan operated under NLD administration
- Pipeline dilemma

### Hydropower

- Myitstone dam project

### Coal

- Tikyit, Shan state

## Options



- FDI
- Transit fees
- Land rental
- 2 million gallons per day of oil for domestic
- Political needs



- Mitigate reliance on Malacca strait
- 400,000 barrels of oil a day
- Reduce transport

## Obstacles

- Economic difficulties for local people, fishermen
- Huge pressure on environment
- High cost of pipeline
- Resentment towards Chinese businessmen



# Cooperation with India v. Bangladesh



## India Interest of energy

- Access to NEI

## Hydropower project

- 1,200 MW Tamanthi Hydroelectric Project on Chindwin River
- 500 MW Manipur (Kalewa) and 150 MW Homalin

## Exploration

- ONGC , GAIL, ESSAR

## Pipeline

- B- I-M tri-nation gas pipeline project with challenges

## Situation under NLD administration

- Cooperation in RE



# Cooperation with Thailand



## Yadana gas field

- Total
- 600 million cubic feet per day to Thailand

## Yetagun gas field

- Discovered by Texaco, developed by Petronas
- 400 million cubic feet per day to Thailand

## Cross-border gas pipeline

- from Gulf of Mataban across Taninthayi region to the Kanchanaburi province of Thai

## Cooperation in the BIMSTEC

- India-Myanmar-Thailand

## Options

- capital, employment, technology, market access, skill development and management
- Greater inflows of investment increase economic activity, output and incomes
- create jobs

## Obstacles

- Understanding
- Local community and companies
- Environment
- Energy resource nationalism of host countries
- Cross border pipelines can create conflicts as parties of different interests
- Compensation of land use

THANK YOU



**DPG Regional Conference on  
Advancing BIMSTEC  
Cooperation, Yangon, June  
14-15, 2018**

**Presentation by Dr. Nay Htun,  
Professor, Founder & Hon. Patron,  
Green Economy Green Growth  
(GEGG), Myanmar**



# **ADVANCING BIMSTEC COOPERATION**

**Regional Conference Yangon, 14 & 15 June 2018**

*“Transformative Green Paradigm Change Imperative for  
Climate Change, Sustainability, Resiliency”.*

Presentation by

**Nay Htun, PH.D., FIC**

**Founder & Hon Patron**

**Green Economy Green Growth, GEGG Myanmar (not for profit) Association**

**[www.geggmyanmar.org](http://www.geggmyanmar.org)**

**Supporting AIGE (ASEAN Institute for Green Economy).**

**Former UN Assistant Secretary General, UNDP, UNEP and  
Programme Director, UNCED (aka 1992 Rio Earth Summit)**

# COOPERATION, CONNECTIVITY, DIVERSITY, OPPORTINUNITY



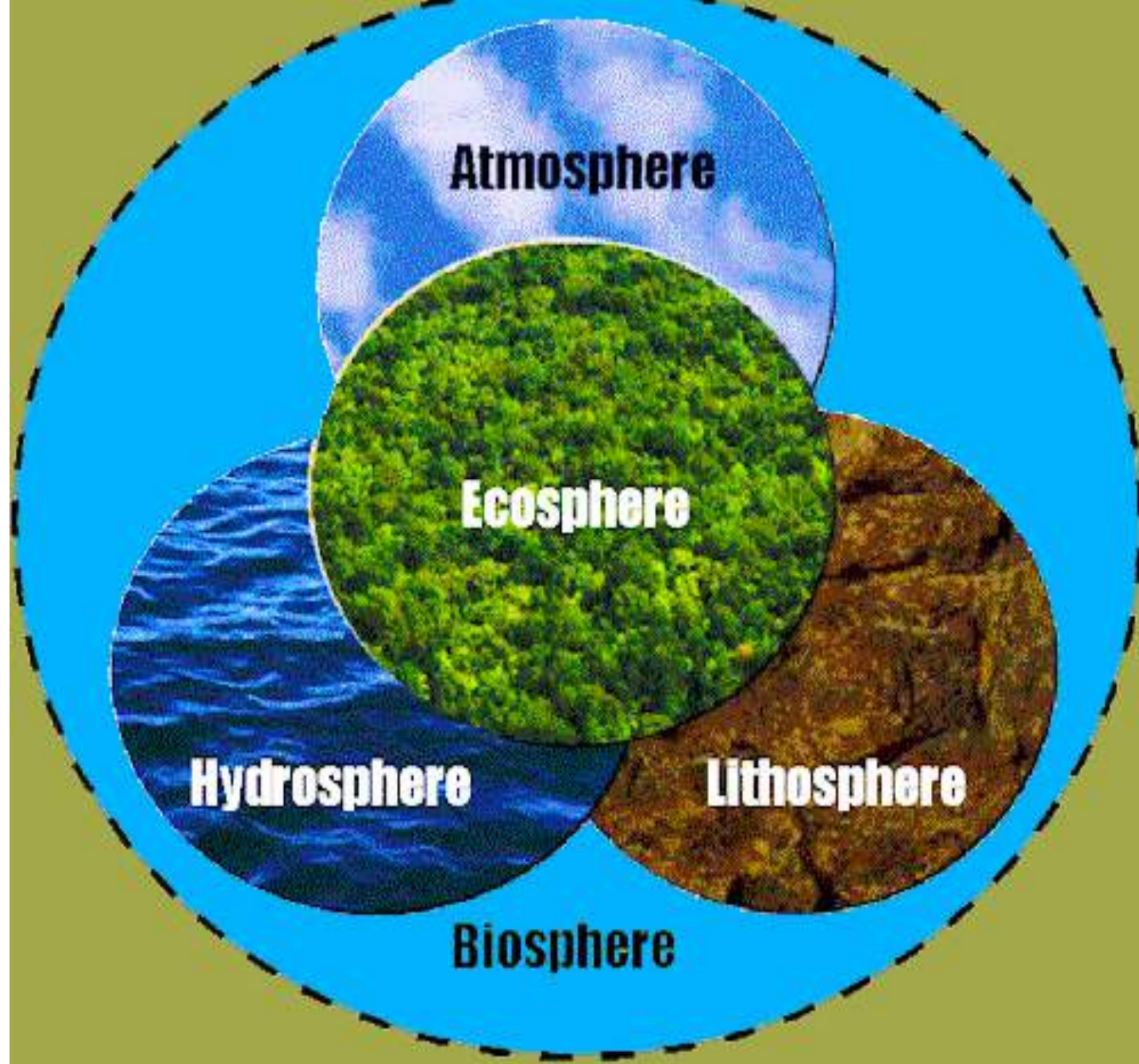
# ASEAN INSTITUTE FOR GREEN ECONOMY, AIGE, An ASEAN Charter Entity

- ❖ Proposed by Myanmar Government and Endorsed at 25<sup>th</sup>. ASEAN Summit November 2014.
- ❖ ToR reviewed and approved by AMS Sectoral bodies on 10 September 2017
- ❖ *Article 1. “The Institute will be located at the Centre of Excellence for Greening (CoE-G) of the Green Economy Green Growth Association, Myanmar (**GEGG Myanmar Association**) in the campus of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Department of Research and Innovation, Yangon, Myanmar”*
- *Article 2. The Institute shall serve as a centre of excellence to **promote policies and practices to address green economy and green growth opportunities ---- knowledge-sharing of green technologies and management practices including through joint research, education and training.***
- *Article 3 The Institute shall be composed of: (a) Steering Committee, (b) **Senior Advisory Group of Experts, (SAGE)**, (c) Permanent Secretariat*
- *Article 10 **Scientific and Technical Personality** ---shall be established with the cooperation of GEGG CoE-G*

# BIMSTEC WEALTH:

Rich, Bountiful, Diverse Human and Natural Resources

- **Ancient civilizations and cultures**
- **Most diverse Ecosystems, Mountains, Glaciers; Watersheds; Tropical and Boreal Forests, Deserts, Drylands, Rivers; Lakes; Indian & Pacific Oceans; Coastal zones**
- **All the world's five major Biomes: aquatic, Deserts, Forests, Grasslands, Tundra.**
- **Most diverse Economic; Social; Governance Systems**
- **Most diverse demography ; young and aging populations; large and small**



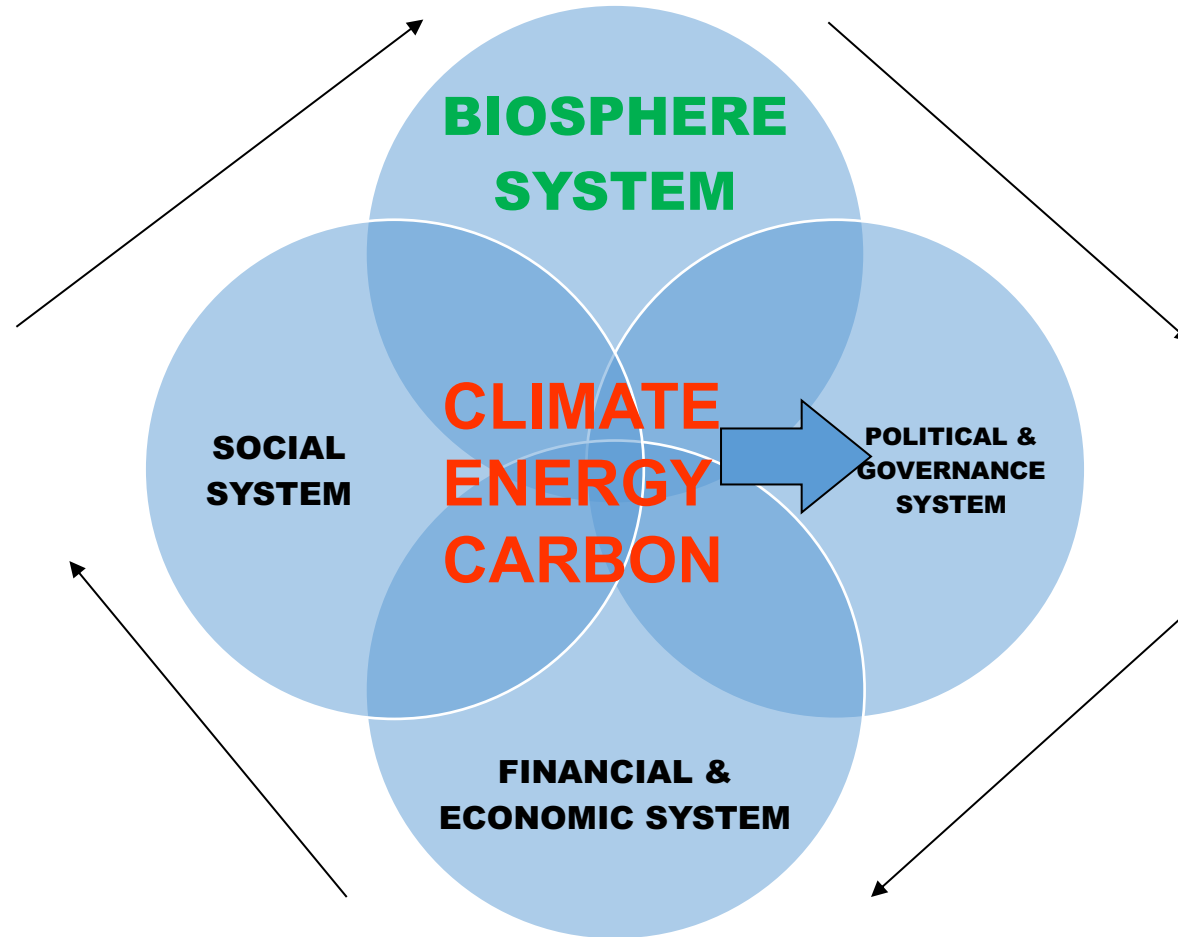
*Source: [www.endes.com](http://www.endes.com)*

# ALL SPHERES ARE INCREASINGLY AT GREAT THREATS AND RISKS. E.G.

- **ATMOSPHERE.** Daily average concentration of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> exceeded 400 ppm on 10 May 2013 at [Mauna Loa Observatory](#) Hawaii. The *National Geographic* "concentration this high— probably more than 3 million years of Earth history, --- may be the highest in the last 20 million years" Apr. 2018: 410.26 ppm; Apr.2017 : 409.00ppm (adjusted 6 May 2018),
- **HYDROSPHERE :** Acidification: COX; NOX; SOX. Ocean pH has dropped from 8.2 to 8.1 since the industrial revolution, and is expected to fall another 0.3 to 0.4 pH units by the end of the century. (Smithsonian) The pH scale is logarithmic. Plastics, micro-plastic fine particles.
- **LITOSPHERE:** Crust and uppermost mantle of the Earth that reacts with the atmosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, cryosphere for soil forming process and interact to influence diverse life –functions. Increasing erosion, degradation, desertification, conversion.
- **BIOSPHERE:** *From National Geographic* "is simply the home of all known life that has ever existed in the entire universe." It is being abused and misused,

# GREAT TRANSFORMATIONS

## Systems & Systemic Drivers



**FOOD SAFETY & SECURITY; WATER; HEALTH & WELL BEING**

# **TRANSFORMATIONS OF**

➤ **WHAT**

➤ **WHERE**

➤ **WHEN**

**ARE INCREASINGLY KNOWN**

**HOW TO RESPOND IS LACKING**



**Translating and Operationalizing**  
**WHAT, WHERE**  
**to**  
**HOW & NOW**

**GREAT TRANSFORMATIONS  
REQUIRE  
PARADIGM CHANGE**

**Business as usual incremental mini-steps will not address  
Unprecedented Challenges and Opportunities**

# HOW

## Vision, Process and Framework Aligned, Connected , Integrated

- **VISION**  **LEADERSHIP: Above and Beyond**
- **POLICY**
- **STRATEGY**
- **IMPLEMENTATION**
- **FRAMEWORK** for expanding cooperation, integration, innovation and transformation.
- **INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM, GOVERNANCE**
- **TRUST**

**DPG Regional Conference on  
Advancing BIMSTEC  
Cooperation, Yangon, June  
14-15, 2018**

**Presentation by Dr. Khin Maung  
Lwin, Director (Retd.), Ministry of  
Health & Sports**

# PERMANENT INUNDATION IN BIMSTEC REGION

Prof. Dr. Khin Maung Lwin

14.6.18    Yangon

# POST NARGIS



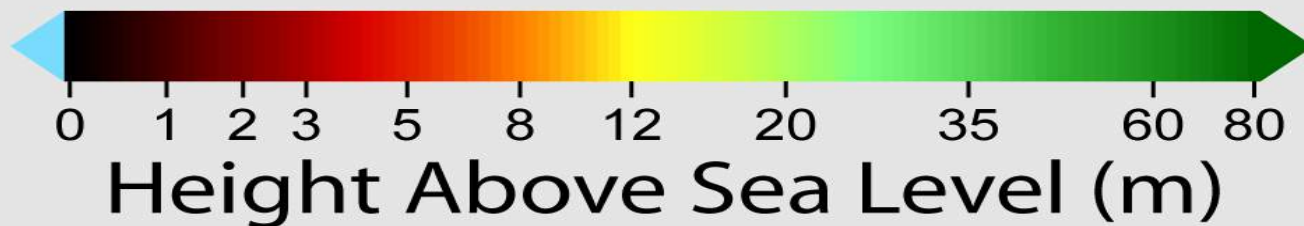
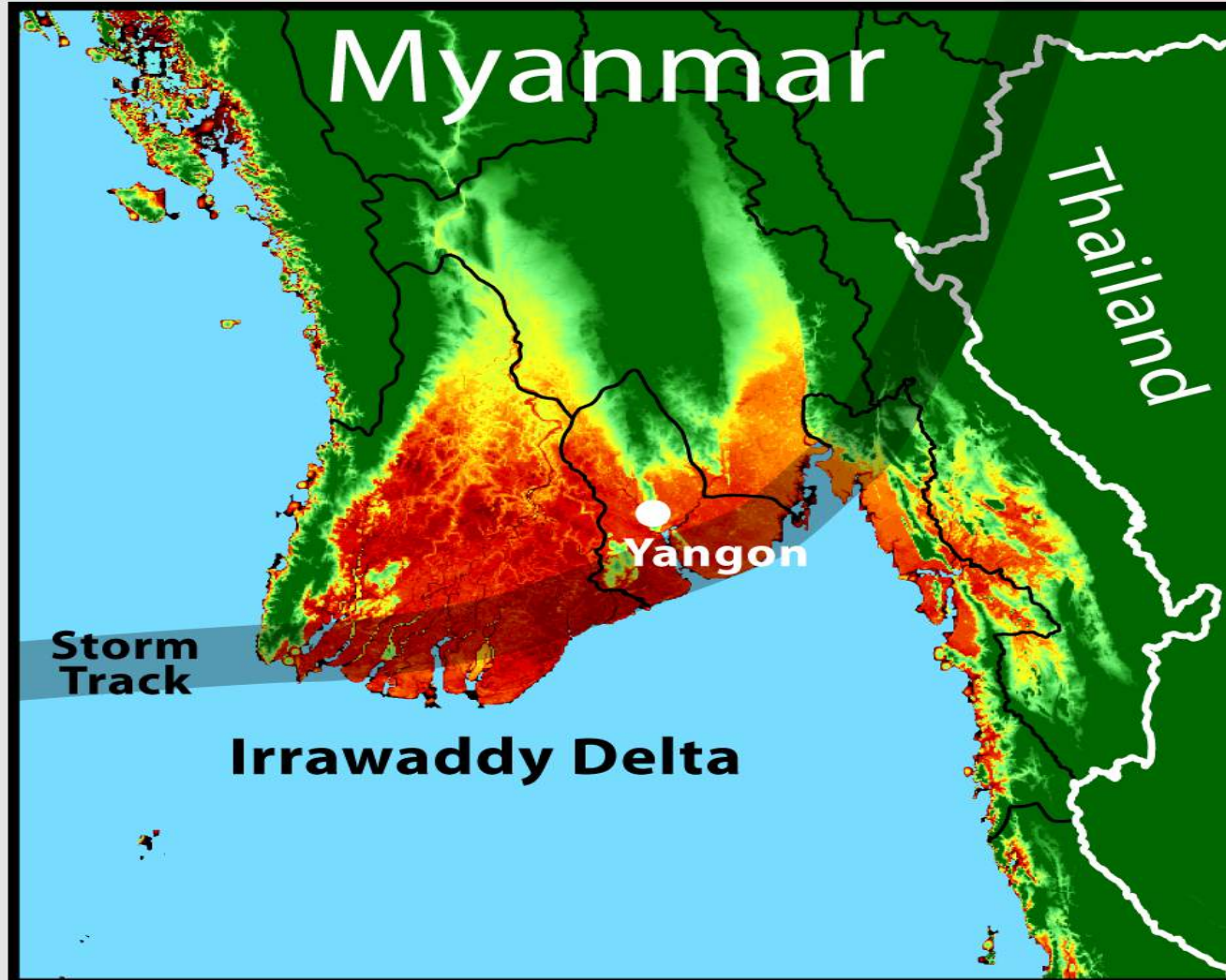
- Nargis Inundation
- Ayeyarwaddy Delta
- Yangon Region
- Bago Region (Sittaung)

# POST NARGIS GENDER ISSUES

- Trafficking
- Reproductive Health Issues (Menstrual Hygiene, +++)
- Marriages between victims
- Resettlement vs Jobs
- Lost of middle ages



# Disaster Area Topography

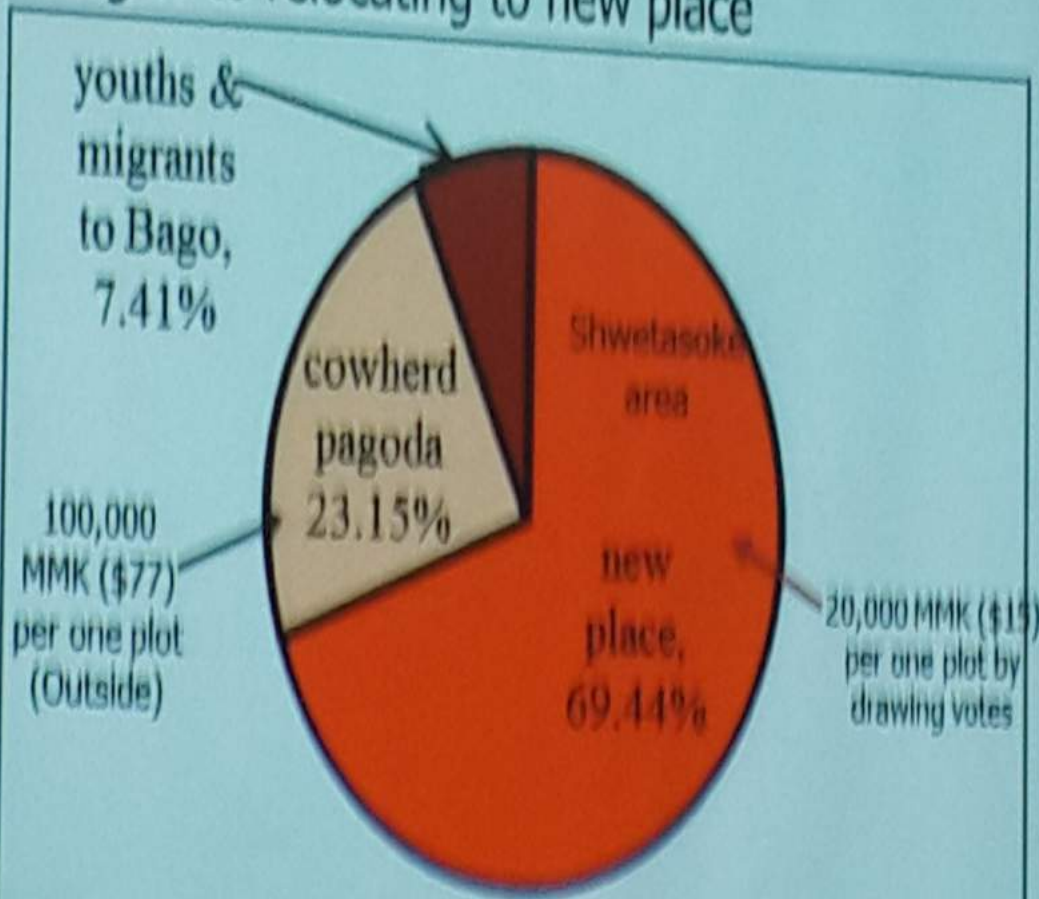




# BANK EROSION OF SITTAUNG RIVER

## Responses of Shwetasoke villagers to erosion

### 1. Strategies to relocating to new place



## Conclusion and recommendation

- manual labours, landless people groups are the most vulnerable
- Due to their traditional knowledge, responses reduced only part of vulnerability to erosion by sea in 2015
- Adaptive strategies building embankment by land only resist to short-term coping strategy which are not sustainable for them
- Not the stable situation until now

# YANGON FUTURE INUNDATION



# CHANGES IN 30 YEARS (Nyaungdon Town, 1988 - 2018)



# PREDICTIONS (Myanmar)

- Sea Level Rise and people effected
- 6 to 18" – 247,191 people
- 100" - 491,567
- 1000" - 6,913,114 people effected
- displaced 4.5 millions only in Yangon
- 0.5 meters rise – 10 km of land inundated
- (Global Flood Map.org)

# PREDICTIONS (Bangladesh)

- Sea Level Rise and people effected
- 17 to 20% of landmass under sea water in 2050 and 15 to 20 millions displaced
- Other prediction – 35 millions
- (Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies, 2014)

# SCENARIOS

- Sea Level Rise only
- Sea Level Rise + Melting of Himalayan Glaciers
- Sea Level Rise + Super Storms
- Above 3 combined
- (Assume that those could happen under the peaceful BIMSTEC Region and India, Sri Lanka and Thailand are spared)

# PERMENANT REFUGEES

- Myanmar – 7 million (Maximum)
- Bangladesh – 35 million (Maximum)
- Where to place the 42 million?
- How to feed the 42 million?
- How to handle the Gender Issues?
- Their livelihoods and their future?
- (NAPA Mmr.2012, Global Climate Risk Ind. 2016, Assessing Climate Risk inMmr 2017)

# WHAT TO DO?

- Food Security
- Water Security
- Settlements (land rights for women)
- Total Security (priority to women/girls)
- Livelihoods (job opportunities for women)
- Sustainable solutions (education, skills,+)
- Other Gender Issues (male involvement+)



# BIMSTEC'S BUSINESS

- Networks
- Informatics
- Strategic Management
- Capacity Building
- Collaboration
- Prioritization
- Value Set on Gender Sensitive Measures

# SUPPORT

- Within the Region
- International
- (Where is the committed 100 billion \$ as a Climate Change support for the poor in 2020?)
- (Any proactive plan with enough budget committed by the Governments concerned in the BIMSTEC?)

# CONCLUSION

- Permanent Inundation
- Permanent Climate Refugees
- Consolidated Partners without Borders
- Holistic and Strategic Collaboration
- United for Survival
- Thinking out-of-the-box (apart from routine rehabilitation)

BIMSTEC CAN DO

- THANK YOU IN ADVANCE

**DPG Regional Conference on  
Advancing BIMSTEC  
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14-15, 2018**

**Abstract of Presentation by Dr. Win  
Myo Thu, Director, Eco-Dev  
Myanmar**

**Dr. Win Myo Thu**  
**Director, Eco-Dev Myanmar**

Dr. Thu began by highlighting the issue of environmental security, majorly, the increasing threat posed by climate displacement. To tackle the same, he proposed a BIMSTEC regional Framework Agreement on how to deal with climate displacement and other larger environmental security issues.

Addressing increasing environmental pollution in the Bay of Bengal, he questioned the capability of BIMSTEC nations to deal with emergencies like oil spills in the region. Dr. Thu also focused on environmental crimes like illegal logging and fishing along the Myanmar border with India, Bangladesh. He emphasized on the need to look beyond big projects and focus on such matters which are often overlooked but can have serious consequences at the local level.

Calling for sustainable financing for energy initiatives, he drew attention to sustainable initiatives carried out at the community level for decentralized grids, renewable energy initiatives etc. and proposed a Green incubator to govern the same.

He concluded by stressing on the need to start with people to people projects and work upwards from there. He underlined the need for a social and environmental safety framework so that proposed investment projects can be screened and ensure there is minimal risk in associating with it. Such a safety framework would also address how women are often left out of development projects and the biggest victims of environmental degradation.

He called for a volunteer model to tackle the weak implementation of laws, wherein projects can be tested with the help of intelligentsia and expanded according to necessity.

**SESSION 4:**  
**‘PEOPLE TO PEOPLE**  
**CONNECTIVITY**  
**THROUGH**  
**MULTI-SECTORAL**  
**ENGAGEMENT’**

**DPG Regional Conference on  
Advancing BIMSTEC  
Cooperation, Yangon, June  
14-15, 2018**

**Abstract of Moderator's Remarks by  
Amb. H. K. Singh, Director General,  
Delhi Policy Group**



**Ambassador H.K. Singh**  
**Director General, Delhi Policy Group**

As the moderator of the session on People to People Connectivity, Ambassador Singh started by describing people-to-people contacts as the heart of cooperation in the BIMSTEC region and emphasised the need for an equitable and democratic regional institutional body that furthers this engagement. He reiterated the need for a shift from a top-down approach to a people-driven, local community benefit-led focus.

He further identified 5 components as relevant for people-to-people cooperation in BIMSTEC. The first included people-centred cooperation and cultural ties coupled with a human-security focus over state-security focus. The second focused on the need to take forward cultural, educational, medical, technology and media interlinkages between the BIMSTEC nations. Thirdly, he focussed on environmentally sensitive behaviour wherein he mentioned the example of Bhutan where the consideration of the BBIN MVA has encountered certain environmental concerns affecting locally-sustainable tourism. The fourth element called for an institutional, community-level network, especially along border areas to eliminate disparities in development and ensure seamless cooperation for security and development of border areas. The fifth focused on people-centred connectivity projects to ensure localised benefits and capacity building.

Amb. Singh stressed upon the need for an open, viable, transparent connectivity which covered sensitive issues, concerning debt traps, sovereignty and identities. He underlined the special nature of BIMSTEC owing to the duality in relations, both terrestrial and maritime which involved different types of communities and connectivity. He expressed conviction that a slow and deliberate movement towards each strand with the inputs generated along such forums can bring about progress in the region.

**DPG Regional Conference on  
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14-15, 2018**

**Presentation by Mr. Sabyasachi Dutta,  
Director, Asian Confluence**



# Advancing BIMSTEC Cooperation

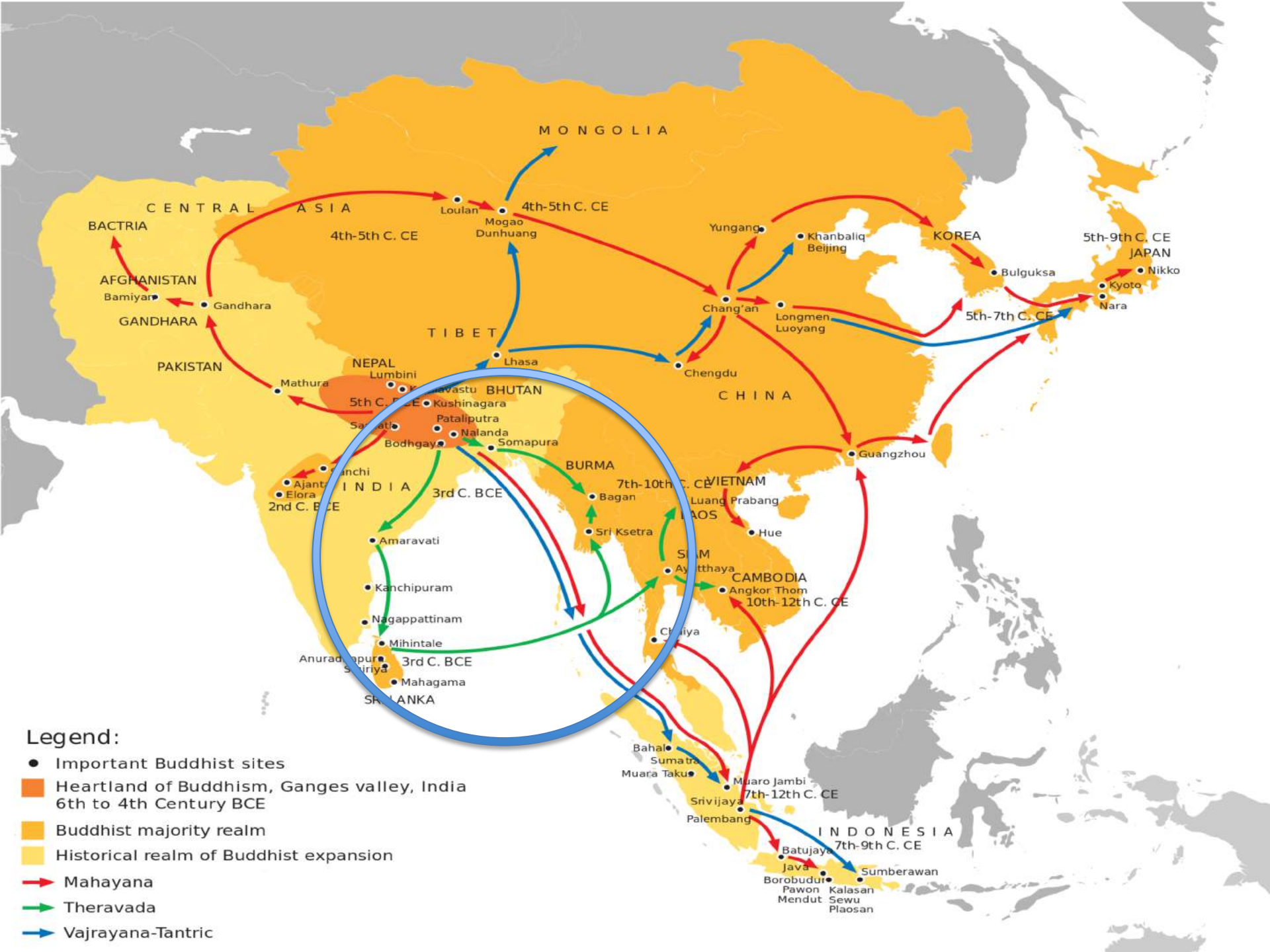
## Mapping Ideas and Institutions: for Enhanced People to People Connectivity



YANGON , June 14<sup>th</sup> 2018

 **ASIAN  
CONFLUENCE**  
ENGAGING THE THIRD SPACE

[www.asianconfluence.org](http://www.asianconfluence.org)



**Legend:**

- Important Buddhist sites
- Heartland of Buddhism, Ganges valley, India 6th to 4th Century BCE
- Buddhist majority realm
- Historical realm of Buddhist expansion
- Mahayana
- Theravada
- Vajrayana-Tantric

**CENTRAL ASIA**  
 4th-5th C. CE  
 Loulan, Mogao Dunhuang

**BACTRIA**  
 Gandhara

**AFGHANISTAN**  
 Bamiyan

**PAKISTAN**  
 Mathura

**INDIA**  
 3rd C. BCE  
 Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka  
 Mahagama

**NEPAL**  
 Lumbini

**BHUTAN**  
 5th C. BCE  
 Kushinagara

**TIBET**  
 Lhasa

**CHINA**  
 4th-5th C. CE  
 Yungang, Khanbaliq Beijing, Chang'an, Longmen Luoyang, Chengdu

**KOREA**  
 5th-7th C. CE  
 Bulguksa

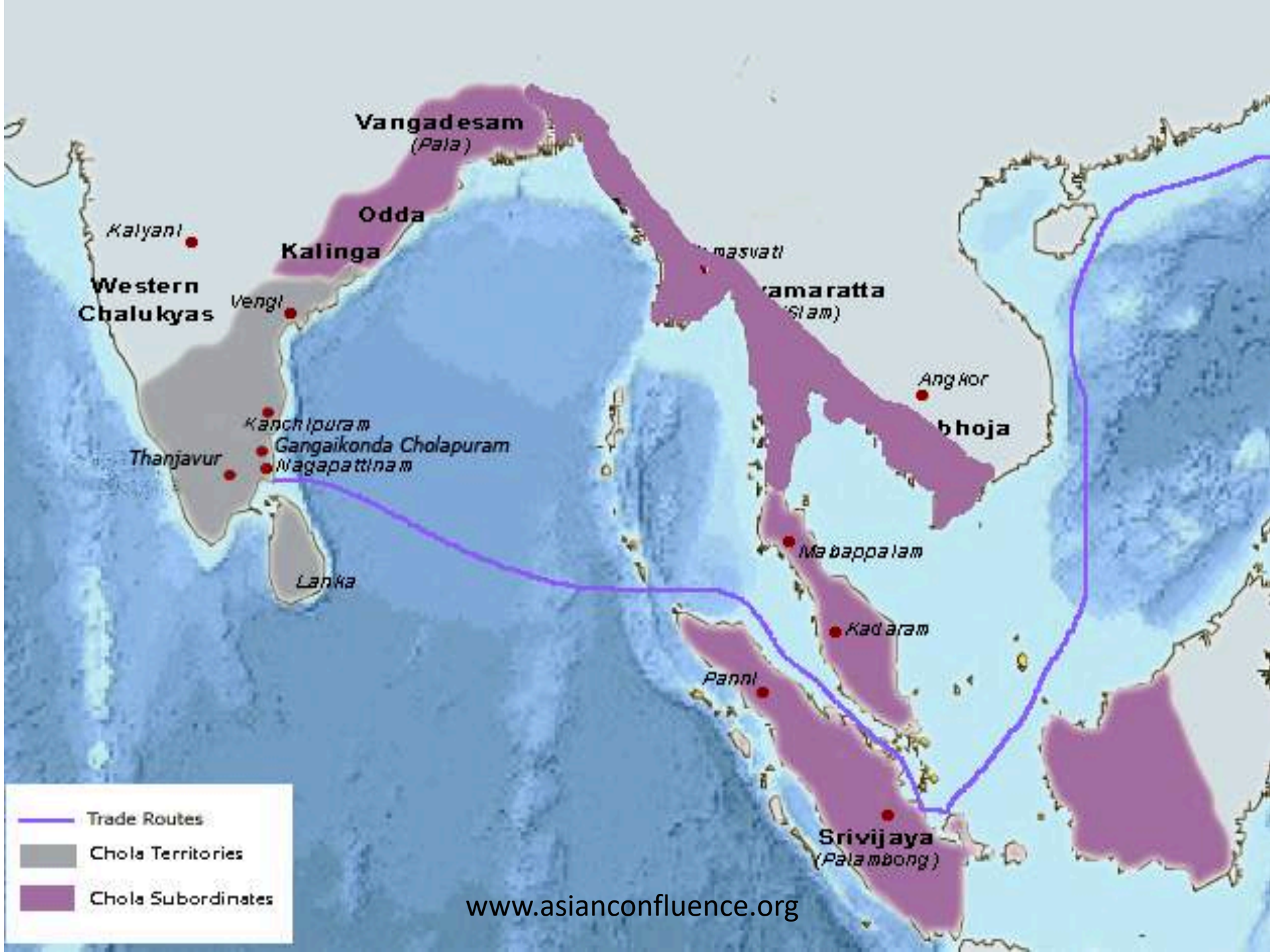
**JAPAN**  
 5th-9th C. CE  
 Nikko, Kyoto, Nara

**BURMA**  
 7th-10th C. CE  
 Bagan, Sri Ksetra

**VIETNAM**  
 Luang Prabang, Hue

**CAMBODIA**  
 10th-12th C. CE  
 Angkor Thom

**INDONESIA**  
 7th-9th C. CE  
 Muara Jambi, Srivijaya, Palembang, Muara Taku, Bahal, Sumatra, Batujaya, Java, Borobudur, Pawon Mendut, Kalasan Sewu, Plaosan, Sumberawan



- Trade Routes
- Chola Territories
- Chola Subordinates

Hundreds of drug capsules dumped in the sea are washed up on this stretch of coast, in an area where residents lay out fish to dry



A woman lays out fish to dry on a sea wall in Puducherry that is strewn with rubbish. Every day, 15,000 tonnes of plastic waste is generated in India. Only 9,000 tonnes of this gets collected





- Pollution : Bay of Bengal is becoming a waste dump
- 21 UNESCO designated Ramsar Sites along the Rim of the Bay
- Ship Breaking
- Global Warming Rise in Ocean water affects every nation
- Decline of critical Habitats: Mangroves in Peril

Legend for the map:

- Trade Routes (indicated by a purple line)
- Chola Territories (indicated by a grey square)
- Chola Subordinates (indicated by a pink square)





# PEOPLE'S SPACE

INTELLECTUAL  
EMOTIONAL,  
SPIRITUAL  
Economic

Creating  
NARRATIVES  
To Create  
TRUST

Agreements  
Geo Politics  
Diplomacy  
Security  
Intelligence  
CustomsFacilitations  
Taxation

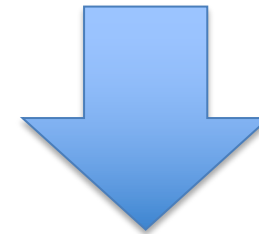
Trade  
Investments  
Manufacturing

GOVERNMENT LED POLITICAL SPACE

GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY LED ECONOMIC SPACE

## SPACES FOR ENGAGEMENT

# Mapping Ideas and Institutions



Traverse Silos of various disciplines

Convergence

Policies to Projects  
Institution to projects

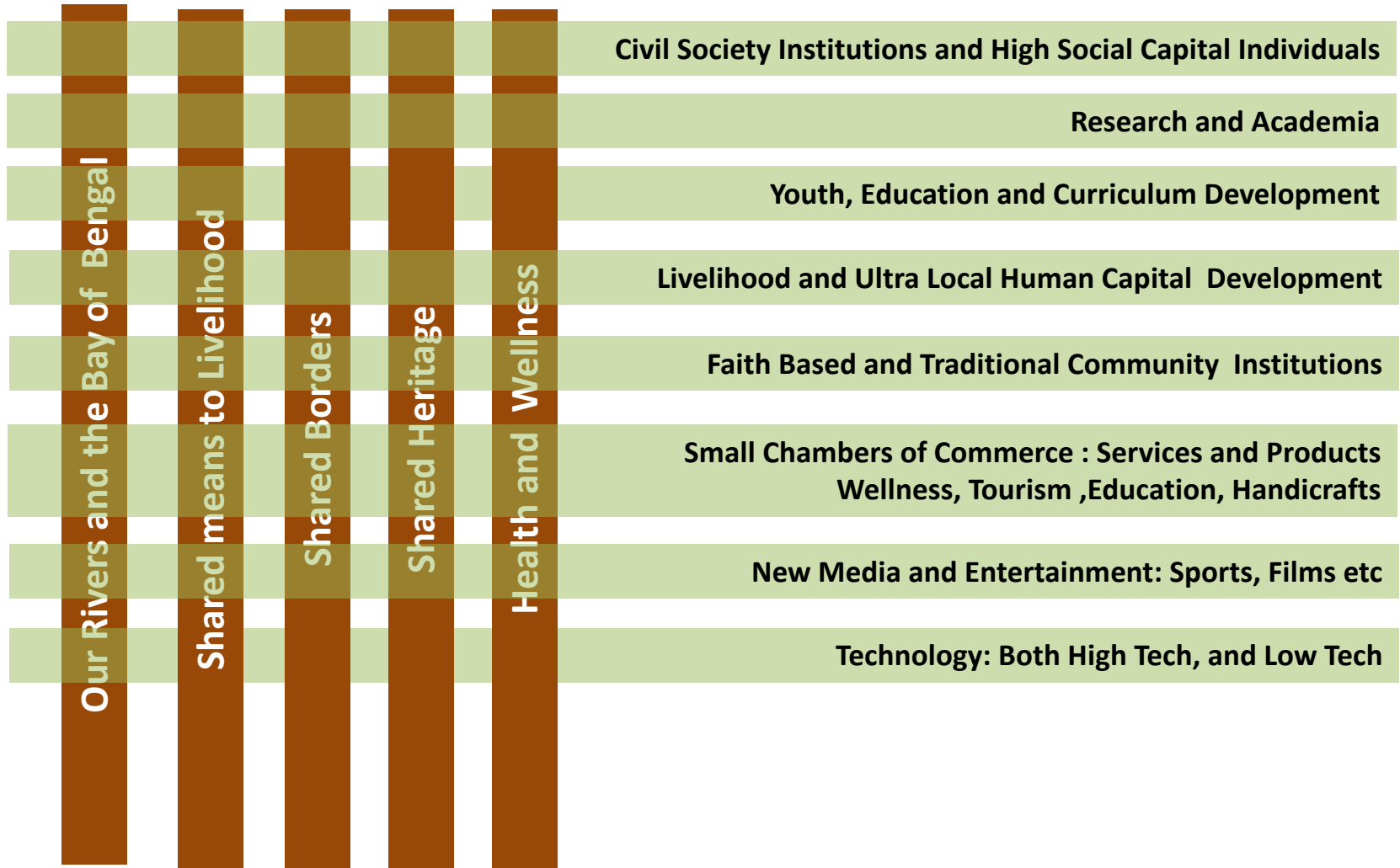
Branding

Include More stakeholders

Generate, Sustain ground up synergies  
from the Third Space



# Mapping Ideas and Institutions



# Weaving a Peoples Network

- Brand BIMSTEC to put Bay of Bengal at the center of a people centric narrative
- Bay of Bengal network of empowered Third Space Organizations
- Formation of experts groups
- Lock in few projects and make them happen to build confidence
- Leverage existing Institutions

**DPG Regional Conference on  
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14-15, 2018**

**Abstract of Presentation by Prof. Nay  
Win Oo, Deputy Director-General,  
Higher Education, Ministry of  
Education and Joint Secretary,  
National Education Policy  
Commission, Myanmar**

**Prof. Nay Win Oo**

**Deputy Director-General, Higher Education, Ministry of Education and Joint Secretary, National Education Policy Commission, Myanmar**

Prof. Nay Win Oo addressed the area of educational policy in Myanmar. He emphasised upon the importance of autonomy, inclusiveness and equality of opportunity in universities as important for quality education. He reiterated the Myanmar government's commitment to bringing meaningful change in society through reforms of curriculum and pedagogical practices, thereby preparing the young men and women of Myanmar for a more democratic society.

Prof. Oo spoke of how the global economy was dependent on knowledge, skill and competitiveness of people and underlined how countries which invested more in education eventually gained the benefits of greater and economic and social security. Addressing the traditional importance of education in the Burmese society, he spoke of education and poverty-alleviation as the key drivers to the peace building process in Myanmar and to help the country achieve its goal of becoming an upper-middle income country by 2030.

He also spoke at length about the National Educational Policy Commission of Myanmar which was involved in the formulation of policies and curriculum, regulation of quality standards, implementation of objectives, consolidation of funds etc. Prof. Oo concluded by calling for a freer higher education between BIMSTEC countries through student and teacher exchange programs to improve the quality of educational research as well as create cordial social and cultural ties.

**DPG Regional Conference on  
Advancing BIMSTEC  
Cooperation, Yangon, June  
14-15, 2018**

**Paper by Mr. Soe Myint,  
Editor-in-Chief and Managing  
Director, Mizzima Media Group**

DPG Regional Conference on Advancing BIMSTEC Cooperation  
People to People Connectivity through multi-sectoral Engagement

*Presentation by U Soe Myint, Editor In-Chief and Managing Director of Mizzima Media*

Thank you. And thanks to the Delhi Policy Group and Asia Foundation for helping to make our conference possible. It is again a privilege to be among the invited guests as we strive to lay the foundations for the greater well-being and prosperity of the greater Bay of Bengal community.

I would like to begin my brief look at people to people contacts in BIMSTEC by breaking the subject into two equally important, and overlapping, spheres. The first is improved physical connectivity such as infrastructure. The second is far less tangible and includes such theatres as the flow of knowledge and intra-regional promotional schemes.

Regarding the first category, physical connectivity, this needs to be a near-term priority for BIMSTEC member states. High quality infrastructure is indispensable if we truly hope to enable improved flows of people, services and goods in the region.

Looking specifically at Myanmar, we must focus – along with other stakeholders – on the development of multi-modal projects such as the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project.

However, while this is an erstwhile goal, it alone is not going to realize the cross-border potential between India and Myanmar. At present, land-based trade between India and Myanmar comprises a mere 3.5 per cent of bilateral trade. Though, perhaps this should not be too surprising as the India-Myanmar border is one of the least open borders regionally.

As such, both Nay Pyi Taw and New Delhi need to invest in physical and human development in the border regions. Such investment is necessary if the region is to realize the potential benefits from such organizational initiatives as the adoption of the Framework Agreement on Transit, Transshipment and Movement of Vehicular Traffic and the Coastal Shipping Agreement.

Further, as to priorities for Myanmar in physical infrastructure development to help meet the goals of BIMSTEC, we need to make steady progress toward the completion of the India-Myanmar-Thailand Highway. Myanmar serves as the gateway for BIMSTEC in accessing Southeast Asian markets. And while there remain air and maritime alternatives, access to Southeast Asia will never meet its potential without this land corridor.

Turning now to the less tangible forms of people to people contact from which the regional could potentially realize huge gains, we should first acknowledge the history of the region, which has in the past greatly benefitted from the free flow of people, capital and ideas. And while there are a number of reasons why our region has lost much of this asset – the rise of



the nation-state, colonial legacy, rising nationalism and anti-immigrant sentiments, etc. – it is time that we reverse this trend and once again embrace the shared history and culture of the region.

To this end, I wish to highlight four areas in which each member state together should look to make inroads: scholarship, the free flow of people and ideas, tourism and brand recognition.

Returning to the understanding of a shared regional heritage, we must appreciate the importance of scholarship and an increased flow of knowledge with colleagues in other member states in pursuit of rediscovering a shared narrative for the region – historically, culturally and geostrategically.

Member states should dedicate increased resources for cross-country scholarship that identifies and works with both past and present flows of people, capital, and ideas across the region. Member states should further be encouraged to establish nodal research institutions, such as we see in Thailand.

Educational exchanges should further be encouraged. This includes grants for study abroad, collaborative research, visiting professorships and a vast network of linked institutions of higher learning. Lastly, on the subject of facilitating the realization of this regional scholarship/educational web, we should steadily work toward the goal of common university standards and mutual recognition of degrees awarded by linked institutions.

And this free flow of scholarship needs to be joined by a greater allowing for the free movement of people, including young people, across the region.

Looking at tourism, last year's announcement of a BIMSTEC Tourism Fund and Network of Tour Operators is a step in the right direction in the promotion of the intra-regional flow of people. Member states should now follow this initiative with joint campaigns promoting the shared heritage and man-made and natural wonders throughout the region – possibly even permitting for the visa free travel of populations of member states.

And such initiatives in the tourism sector may even realize an added benefit of abetting in the creation of conditions for greater regional mobility in a broader sense of the term.

Finally, in linking all of these goals and pursuits for the development of people to people contact, member states must invest financially in the promotion of the BIMSTEC brand name across the region. It is likely the case that most citizens of BIMSTEC member states remain unaware of the very existence of our regional bloc. And while it will never be the case that every individual is aware of the initiative, we can certainly raise the visibility of the BIMSTEC brand above its current level.

Possibly one small step in this direction could be the revival of the BIMSTEC young ambassadors program – again emphasizing the role the youth in the region have in the future development and prosperity of the greater Bay of Bengal community.

In conclusion, relations that hinge on improved connectivity and people to people exchanges would help to meet the strategic aims of each member state of BIMSTEC. And today I am pleased to say there are strong possibilities for such cooperation that would serve the interests of all countries. However, for this to happen, we must be adamant that initiatives are undertaken at a multi-national level.

Finally, I would like to look at what BIMSTEC as a grouping can learn from our recent experiences here in Myanmar. As you are all aware, we have been undergoing massive social and political reforms here in Myanmar since the restoration of parliamentary governance. And we admittedly have a long journey ahead of us to reach our national aspirations. But, one of the most important aspects of journey – even if at times a challenging one – is the need to foster trust between different groups and stakeholders. There must be nurtured a feeling of acceptance and familiarity with the various people of our diverse country; an understanding that Myanmar as a whole is strengthened if we are open to greater integration and inclusiveness.

And I see this as an overarching priority of BIMSTEC as well. For all the potential advances in people to people contact that have been outlined above will only come to fruition if there is an elevated and broad level of trust, acceptance and familiarity between the populations of all BIMSTEC member states.

Thank you.

Contact – [sm@mizzima.com](mailto:sm@mizzima.com)

14 June 2018. Yangon.

**DPG Regional Conference on  
Advancing BIMSTEC  
Cooperation, Yangon, June  
14-15, 2018**

**Presentation by Mr. Thuta Aung,  
Author and CEO, HamsaHub  
Consultancy**

# P2P NOW and the Future

**Prepared for friends and colleagues @ DPG Regional Conference**

Thuta Aung, CEO

14<sup>th</sup> June 2018

# THE GLORIOUS PAST

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- Kyansittha Mission to Gaya
- Ceylon Missions
- Astrology – Brahmin Imports
- Monastic Traditions – Amarapura Exports

# PRE-1948 – THE MISERY

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No romance please!

# NOW

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- Outward tourism from Myanmar to Thailand and (The Pilgrim Trail).
- Strong connectivity with the ASEAN.
- Active engagement from the North East (Myanmar's NE).

# FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

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Areas for improvement



# I.TOURISM - HEY

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- HNIs
- Experiences
- Younger

## 2. POVERTY REDUCTION VIA SKILLS TRANSFER

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- Quantitative Skills
- Negotiation
- Absorption capacity

### 3. STRATEGY FOR RECONNECTING

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- BIMSTEC as a platform.
- Myanmar entrepreneurs and civic leaders need greater global connectivity for their strategies and partners.
- Involve non-traditional stakeholders, such as EAO.
- Westward airlinks via (DEL, BOM, CMB)

THANK YOU!

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THUTA AUNG, CEO  
HAMSAHUB CONSULTING

[THUTA.AUNG@HAMSAHUB.COM](mailto:THUTA.AUNG@HAMSAHUB.COM)

**DPG Regional Conference on  
Advancing BIMSTEC  
Cooperation, Yangon, June  
14-15, 2018**

**Abstract of Presentation by Mr. Thet  
Win, Senior Managing Director, Shwe  
Than Lwin Co. Ltd.**

**Mr. Thet Win**

**Senior Managing Director, Shwe Than Lwin Co. Ltd.**

Mr. Thet Win began by mentioning how BIMSTEC lagged behind other regional organizations when it came to people to people contacts. Commending the bureaucratic mechanism of ASEAN and its capabilities of disaster management, he underlined the importance of media in furthering people to people interactions in the BIMSTEC region. He proposed the media entity, Skynet tv, should participate in promoting BIMSTEC and raising awareness among the general public concerning advancements of BIMSTEC. He concluded by stressing on the importance of such platforms and tourism and cross-border energy in improving people to people contact.

**DPG Regional Conference on  
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**Abstract of Discussant's Comments by  
Mr. Ravindra Jain, Managing  
Director, 4R Consultancy Ltd.**

**Mr. Ravindra Jain**  
**Managing Director, 4R Consultancy Ltd.**

Mr. Jain emphasised the importance of improving air connectivity between India and Myanmar and the other BIMSTEC nations. He termed connectivity issues as the biggest stumbling block in the way of enhanced people to people interaction. He identified Myanmar's Buddhist attractions and Bodh Gaya in India as major pilgrimage sites, and areas which can facilitate people to people contact. To this end, Mr. Jain called for cheaper travel facilities, falling below \$500, for Myanmar citizens visiting Bodh Gaya.

Mr. Jain identified India as a growing economic power in the region and called for the manufacturing facilities of the major Indian MNCs to be brought to lesser developed economies like Myanmar, Bangladesh etc. Mr. Jain also commended the free visa policy that Myanmar citizens travelling to India could avail themselves of as a monumental step towards improved connectivity.

Medical tourism was yet another area he addressed. Speaking about how less than 1% of Myanmar's medical tourists go to India, he called for improved connectivity measures between the two countries. Mr. Jain concluded by drawing attention to the natural beauty of Myanmar and other BIMSTEC countries like Nepal and Bhutan and identifying the enhanced potential for people to people ties through tourism.



# **CONCLUDING SESSION**

**DPG Regional Conference  
on Advancing BIMSTEC  
Cooperation, Yangon, June  
14-15, 2018**

**Abstract of Closing Remarks by  
Ambassador H.K. Singh, Director  
General, Delhi Policy Group**

**Ambassador H.K. Singh**  
**Director General, Delhi Policy Group**

Ambassador Singh expressed his satisfaction at the conclusion of a rewarding and productive conference and underlined the importance of the avenue it had created for future academic ventures with Myanmar. He then called upon the Indian Ambassador to Myanmar, H.E. Amb. Vikram Misri to address some bilateral issues in India-Myanmar relations.

**DPG Regional Conference on  
Advancing BIMSTEC  
Cooperation, Yangon, June  
14-15, 2018**

**Abstract of Valedictory Address by  
His Excellency Ambassador Vikram  
Misri, Ambassador of India to  
Myanmar**

**H.E. Ambassador Vikram Misri**  
**Ambassador of India to Myanmar**

Amb. Misri in his concluding speech, emphasized the bilateral relations between India and Myanmar and addressed some issues that had been discussed over the previous day. He spoke of the issue of trade in pulses between India and Myanmar as important for the larger trade basket between two BIMSTEC countries. He drew attention to certain developments in 2016, when the Indian Government had offered an agreement to the Government of Myanmar for a direct purchase of pulses with an innovative pricing system. But neither the Myanmar government nor the trading community in Myanmar expressed any interest. He stressed that the financial practices in India Myanmar trade had to be brought in line with international practices.

Concerning the matter of Myanmar farmers switching to alternative crops and the consequences of this for both India and Myanmar, he stressed the need for the trading community in Myanmar to develop direct links with the consumer base in India and eliminate intermediaries. He pointed out that Myanmar traders as a group were not adequately well informed about the dynamics of the Indian market due to which they could not anticipate the controlled trading regime that followed a massive domestic harvest in India. He suggested that the Myanmar trading community engage more directly with their Indian counterparts so that they remain better prepared for future developments in the market. He proposed a commodities futures exchange to better address the issue.

Next, he refuted the assertion that India's 'Look East' policy hasn't included Myanmar completely. Drawing upon the experience of his two years in Myanmar, he mentioned how the Indian portfolio of development assistance in Myanmar is \$1.75 billions of which the majority is grant assistance. He highlighted how it's unlikely that any other country contributes as much in grant assistance to Myanmar as India does. He went on to point out how much of this grant assistance is in the form of large infrastructure and capacity building projects which he described as the manifestation of the 'Look East' policy by every sense of the word. The projects, which constituted a portfolio of about half a billion dollars, included the final road section of the Kaladan multimodal transit-transport project and sections of the India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway in which India is taking up the construction of the 69 bridges from Tamu to Kalewa, and the road from Kalewa to Yagyi.

Amb. Misri also pointed out the investment Indian assistance had made in soft infrastructure like education and training areas. He mentioned the Myanmar Institute of Information Technology which was set up in Mandalay and is becoming one of the premier institutes in the country for the IT sector. In the agriculture sector, he pointed out the 'Advanced Centre for Agriculture Research and Education' which was established. He emphasized the massive change the institute

had brought about, simply by placing some experts in the field of agricultural education in the country. He reiterated that Myanmar was the first country India looked to in its 'Look East' policy and said that it was inaccurate to suggest that Myanmar had been excluded from the same.

He also addressed the claim that India had neglected border infrastructure with Myanmar. Conceding that such was the case in the past, he said that the reality was fast changing. He pointed out how there is an enormous amount of investment in infrastructure currently being pumped into India's northeast. This included roads, railways, airports, regional connectivity and border infrastructure being developed across the region. He spoke of the integrated check post in Moreh, opposite Tamu, which is an integrated facility addressing everything, including customs, immigration, logistics, marshalling and transport. Further, the Indian government has offered to build, at its own cost, an identical facility on the Myanmar side in Tamu to have matching facilities which can aid trade and commerce in the region.

Ambassador Misri referred to the current Indian government's massive efforts in developing border infrastructure in the northeast, crediting it with converting India's 'Look East' Policy into an 'Act East' Policy. He also touched upon infrastructure development in Rhi, the other border point identified as the international entry-exit checkpoint as a result of the recently signed land border crossing agreement between India and Myanmar. Ambassador Misri expressed his conviction that the development of the region would pick up now that it had been officially recognized and further revealed how there are already talks going on to modernize a bridge in the area.

Next, Ambassador Misri spoke about the suggestion made during day one that India should invest more aggressively in agriculture in Myanmar. In this regard, he pointed out two types of investment, the first of which was the investment in the technical side. He pointed out the existing Indian efforts in this area like the 'Advanced Centre for Agricultural Research and Education' and the 'Rice Biopark' that was set up to demonstrate how to get more out of the paddy value chain than just rice. The second type of investment he mentioned is in terms of 'growing' the economy. Concerning such direct involvement, he spoke about how he himself advises discretion and sensitivity to Indian businesspersons in this regard. Calling matters of land and agriculture extremely sensitive, drawing upon the prior experiences of other countries, he opined it was better to err on the side of caution in this matter.

Ambassador Misri also said that trade policies were rigid between India and Myanmar till 2015. He referred to the case of the betel nut trade to illustrate the reasons for this change. He attributed a slowdown in Myanmar betel nut reaching India to modern trading practices. Ambassador Misri clarified that the concept of border trade doesn't exist anymore in India and that all trade was now 'normal trade'. This meant that there were no specific lists of commodities designated for trade across a border and anything that could be normally traded between two

countries could be traded across a land border. This regime came into place in late 2015-early 2016.

At the Tamu-Moreh border specifically where betel nut was a major trading commodity, it came under the ambit of normal trade. The tariff rate for import of betel nut into India was 100% whereas earlier Myanmar was exporting betel nut into India at the rate of 5% which was the duty for border trade items. However, border trade was meant to be restricted to items transported by headload, but betel nut was being transported by the truckloads. Once trade became normal, customs imposed the normal rate of duty even though Myanmar was given duty free tariff preferences by which the rates were brought down to 40%. However, a lot of the betel nut that was coming in was Malaysian and Indonesian betel nut of quite substandard quality. Consequently, customs started asking for certificates of origin which couldn't be produced and as a result trade of this commodity went down. Ambassador Misri reiterated that there could be no compromise regarding the adoption of modern trading practices and given that Myanmar complied with them, its betel nut exports to India should not be impacted.

**DPG Regional Conference  
on Advancing BIMSTEC  
Cooperation, Yangon, June  
14-15, 2018**

**Abstract of Remarks by His Excellency  
Ambassador Bhim K Udas, Ambassador  
of Nepal to Myanmar**



**H.E. Amb. Bhim K Udas**  
**Ambassador of Nepal to Myanmar**

Amb. Udas expressed his interest and pleasure at attending the BIMSTEC Conference in Myanmar. He spoke about the spillover effects of bilateral trade between India and Myanmar that concerns Nepal. Conceding how SAARC is a much more widely known entity than BIMSTEC, Amb. Udas reiterated the need to address the trust deficit between BIMSTEC countries and take advantage of areas that are like the low-hanging fruits. He also stressed on a need for a member country to take leadership in BIMSTEC to advance people to people contacts more effectively. He concluded by emphasizing the importance of India's Act East initiative and Myanmar's position as a bridge between ASEAN and SAARC for the region.

# **Recommendations of Break Out Sessions**

# **Breakout Session: Trade and Economic Integration**

## **Policy Recommendations for 2 years Plan of Action**

### Recognizing 3 Priority Issues (15 Minutes)

- 1) Finalize BIMSTEC Framework FTA
- 2) Design BIMSTEC Investment Protocol
- 3) Strengthen BIMSTEC Secretariat

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Issue Plan of Action for 2 Years (25 Minutes)

- 1) Agreement on tariff cuts and preferences (D/F/Q/F; short Sensitive Lists)
- 2) NTMs, esp. SPS standards re. agriculture and fisheries (Cataloguing, classifying, harmonizing of standards; NTM portal; Recognition of tests; accreditation of labs)
- 3) Services (GATS-plus agreement, including MRAs, in selected sectors (tourism, energy, health, education, ICT)

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Issue Plan of Action for 2 Years (25 Minutes)

- 1) Draft Regional Investment Treaty with key principles of National Treatment, within-region Dispute Settlement Mechanism, TRIPS-compliant IPRs.
- 2) Engage private business associations and chambers of commerce to encourage shared production through RVCs.

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Issue Plan of Action for 2 Years (25 Minutes)

- 1) Professional staff with senior seconded inter-ministerial civil servants
- 2) Set up Endowment Fund and augment member contributions
- 3) Stronger research wing and a network of regional think tanks
- 4) Explore new issues: digital connectivity; trade and employment
- 5) Empowered legal authority to engage with other secretariats (SAARC, ASEAN)

#### Implementation Process (15 Minutes)

- 1) Expedite work on TNC by forming dedicated subcommittees for NTMs and Services

#### Implementation Process (15 Minutes)

- 1) Form a negotiating subcommittee for Investment.
- 2) Greater public awareness about BIMSTEC, leveraged through Summits and Ministerial.

#### Implementation Process (15 Minutes)

- 1) Endorsement in Summit.
- 2) Formal engagement with donors (MDBs, bilaterals) for TA & projects.
- 3) Private-sector engagement and PS-friendly website/mobile apps with substantive content.

#### Challenges to Implementation (15 Minutes)

- 1) Convincing all the countries on the merits of Framework T&I Agreements that could pave the way for specific BTAs and BITs.
- 2) Translate the political will into bureaucratic buy-in and technical operationalization

#### Challenges to Implementation (15 Minutes)

- 1) Convincing all the countries on the merits of Framework T&I Agreements that could pave the way for specific BTAs and BITs.
- 2) Translate the political will into bureaucratic buy-in and technical operationalization.

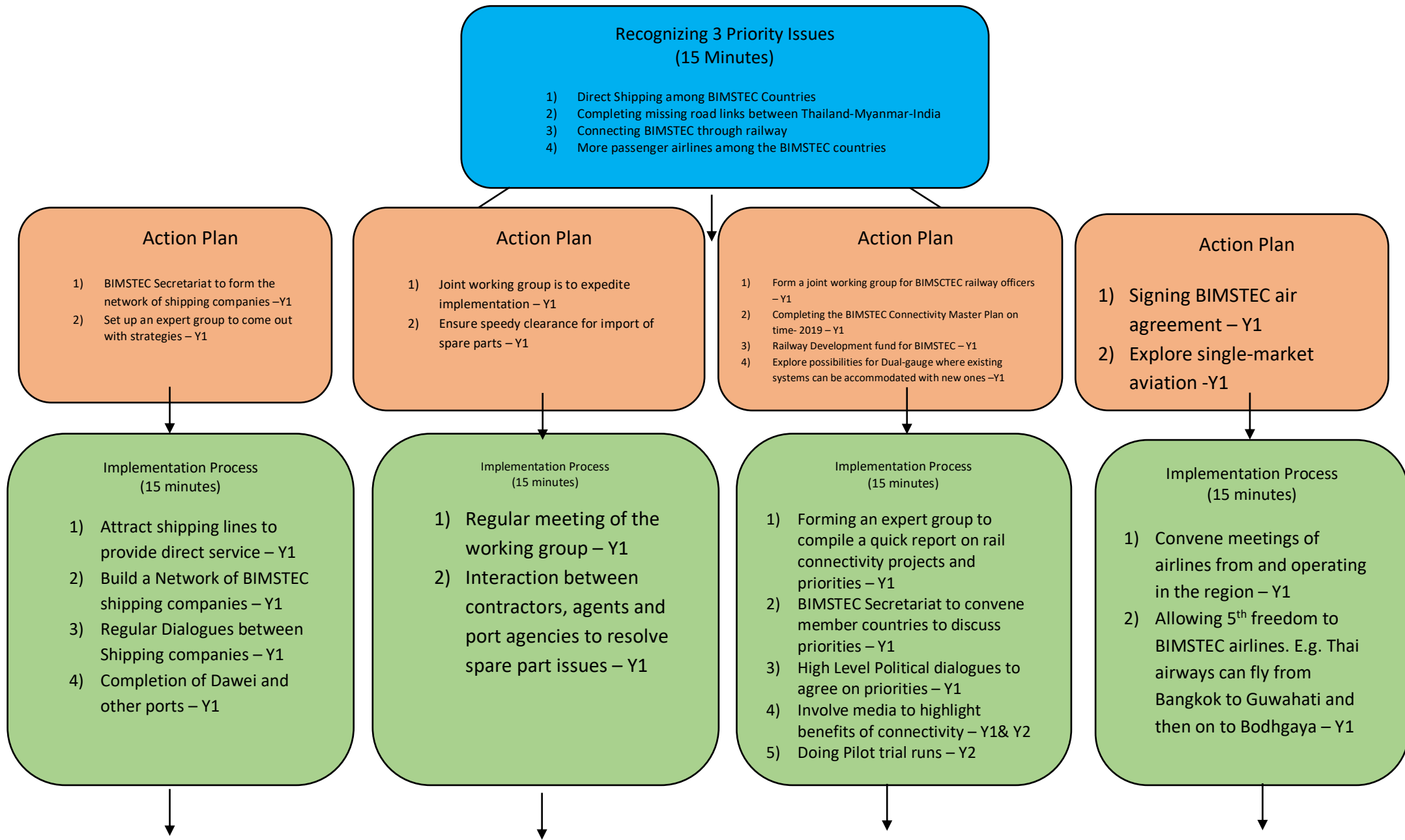
#### Challenges to Implementation (15 Minutes)

- 1) Fatigue and scarce bureaucratic capital.
- 2) Diverse needs and interests of member states.

**Breakout Session: Transit  
and Multi-modal  
Connectivity (Roadways,  
Waterways, Railways and  
Aviation)**

**Policy Recommendations for  
2 years Plan of Action**

PARTICIPANTS: : U Lahpai Zaw Goone, Prabir De, Sathaporn Opananon, Prithviraj Nath



Challenges to  
Implementation  
(15 minutes)

- 10) Insufficient port facilities in Myanmar
- 11) Resistance from existence cartels to forming a network
- 12) Finance for infrastructure

Challenges to  
Implementation  
(15 Minutes)

- 7) Geographical terrain is difficult and construction-unfriendly
- 8) Repairing construction equipment's is difficult since spare parts have to be imported and that take long time, holding up work
- 9) Payment causes for contractors engaging with the trilateral highway work is not sufficiently friendly

Challenges to  
Implementation  
(15 Minutes)

- 3) Funding feasibility studies and financing for implementation
- 4) Agreeing on priorities among member countries
- 5) Who is going to be the lead country/champion.
- 6) Inter-operability between member countries

Challenges to  
Implementation  
(15 Minutes)

- 1) Resistance from existing cartels
- 2) Fleet capacity

**Breakout Session: Energy,  
Water, Environment,  
Climate Change and other  
issues**

**Policy Recommendations for  
2 years Plan of Action**



Recognizing 3 Priority Issues  
(15 Minutes)

1. Green, Sustainable, Climate Resilient Projects and Infrastructure for BIMSTEC Region
2. Enhanced data, knowledge wisdom and best practices
3. BIMSTEC Strategic inclusive partnership to mobilize global investment & funding

1<sup>st</sup> Issue Plan of Action for 2  
Years (25 Minutes)

1. Develop guidelines for green projects
2. Mechanism in place for protection of local interest
3. Build network of relevant institutions to achieve above goals eg. Displaced community

2<sup>nd</sup> Issue Plan of Action for 2  
Years (25 Minutes)

1. Cloud-based Integrated open data information System
2. Capacity Building
3. Leveraging BIMSTEC knowledge of best practices

3<sup>rd</sup> Issue Plan of Action for 2  
Years (25 Minutes)

1. High-level BIMSTEC groups to explore & access global funds & investments
2. Develop sustainable, inclusive equitable guidelines for utilization of such funds & investment

Implementation Process  
(15 Minutes)

1. Form and facilitate relevant expert groups task force
2. Involve & engage stakeholders with transparent process
3. BIMSTEC Secretariats to build & facilitate a network of institutions

Implementation Process  
(15 Minutes)

1. Build network of relevant data institutions
2. Access other data sources beyond BIMSTEC
3. Data & knowledge training /workshop

Implementation Process  
(15 Minutes)

1. BIMSTEC secretariat should take steps to implement & follow up
2. BIMSTEC to develop a mechanism of accountability for APT utilization of fund.

Challenges to  
Implementation (15  
Minutes)

1. Short term profit centric attitudes ignoring local & ecological interests.
2. Lack of coordination and integration.
3. Limited availability & access to data & knowledge

Challenges to  
Implementation (15  
Minutes)

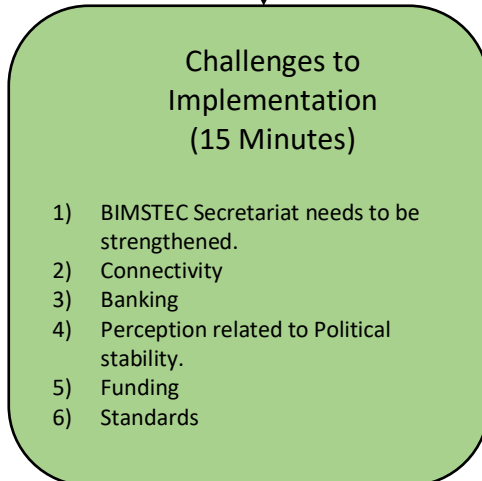
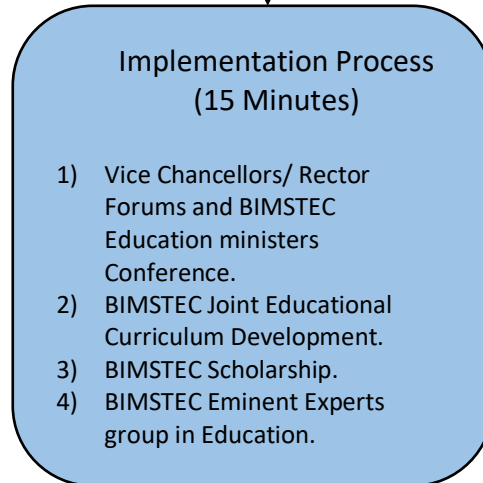
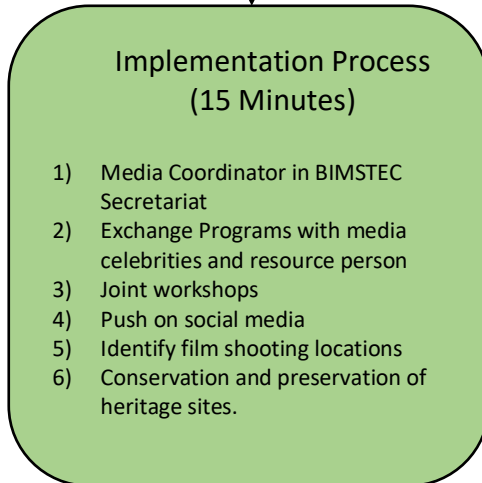
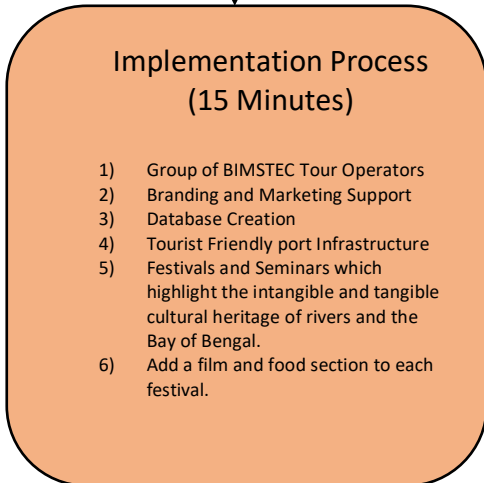
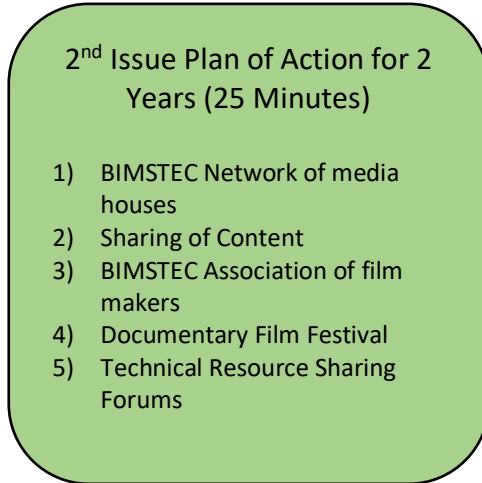
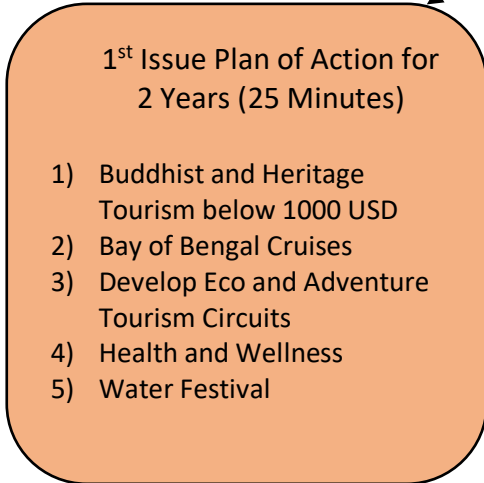
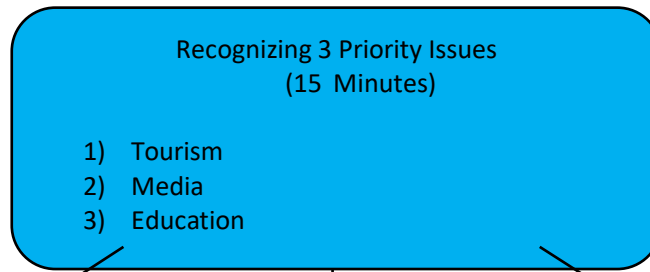
1. Reservation & concern for data-sharing
2. Quality of data
3. Comparability & compatibility of data & accordingly harmonization

Challenges to  
Implementation  
(15 Minutes)

1. Quality of project (meeting the guidelines) To meet sustainability, equitability etc.

**Breakout Session: People to  
People Connectivity through  
Multi-sectoral Engagement**

**Policy Recommendations for  
2 years Plan of Action**



**Breakout Session:  
Advancing Gender Issues in  
BIMSTEC Regional  
Cooperation**

**Policy Recommendations for  
2 year Plan of Action**

## Recognizing 3 Priority Issues (15 Minutes)

- 1) BIMSTEC member countries should develop a formal gender framework.
- 2) Identifying triggers, and initiating dialogues based on locally generated ideas on the role of gender in improved BIMSTEC cooperation.
- 3) Engaging men in the gender discourse.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Issue Plan of Action for 2 Years (25 Minutes)

- 1) Develop a profile of socioeconomic indicators pertaining to gender for BIMSTEC countries.
- 2) Culling out gender disaggregated data.
- 3) Conduct studies on existing frameworks elsewhere.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Issue Plan of Action for 2 Years (25 Minutes)

- 1) Conduct a series of ground-level, subnational, national, and then regional dialogues (pyramid of dialogues) in all BIMSTEC countries.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Issue Plan of Action for 2 Years (25 Minutes)

- 1) Reach out to influential men to engage and contribute.
- 2) Identify some male "gender champions" to take forward the issue of gender in BIMSTEC.
- 3) Identify the triggers that make men interested in engaging in gender.
- 4) Understand what are the gaps that men do not understand how to engage with.

### Implementation Process (15 Minutes)

- 1) Review APEC gender framework and adapt to BIMSTEC context.
- 2) Model the gender framework for BIMSTEC along the lines of the APEC gender framework.
- 3) CSO / Think tank can provide inputs on the gender framework to share with BIMSTEC Secretariat.
- 4) BIMSTEC Secretariat can draft the gender framework and share with gender experts for consultations.
- 5) Secretariat to pursue UN Women to identify and place technical gender experts a resource person at the Secretariat.
- 6) BIMSTEC Secretariat will create a gender cell with gender experts from all BIMSTEC countries to make up a "gender working group" with a convener who is based at the Secretariat.

### Implementation Process (15 Minutes)

- 1) BIMSTEC Secretariat Gender Working Group to conceive the dialogues, and then work closely with local partners to conduct them.
- 2) GWG should also participate in existing dialogues and align with existing discourses on gender wherever possible.
- 3) Encourage media and experts to write regularly about cross-cutting issues and host conferences / workshops / field work on this.

### Implementation Process (15 Minutes)

Conduct a series of ground-level, subnational, national, and then regional dialogues (pyramid of dialogues) in all BIMSTEC countries but engaging men specifically on gender issues.

### Challenges to Implementation (15 Minutes)

- 1) Convincing stakeholders that a gender framework is necessary.
- 2) Availability of gender disaggregated data.
- 3) Need to get funding and resources.

### Challenges to Implementation (15 Minutes)

- 1) Availability of funding and resources.
- 2) Gender issues / women's challenges are considered "secondary" and are often sidelined in the development discourse.
- 3) Gender issues are not always operating in silos and you cannot disassociate from the greater milieu.
- 4) Recognizing that there is a deep and diverse local context of gender in every BIMSTEC.

### Challenges to Implementation (15 Minutes)

- 1) Overcome cultural barriers and lack of awareness and sensitivity towards gender issues.
- 2) Identifying male champions will be difficult, convincing them won't be easy.

# **Speakers' Profile and Participants**



**DELHI POLICY GROUP**



**The Asia Foundation**

**DPG Regional Conference on Advancing BIMSTEC Cooperation**

**Venue: Park Royal, Yangon**

14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018

**Profile**

**Delhi Policy Group**



**Ambassador Hemant Krishan Singh**

Director General, Delhi Policy Group

Ambassador Hemant Krishan Singh served in the Indian Foreign Service from 1974-2010 and is a distinguished former career diplomat with extensive experience of geo-strategic and geo-economic issues as well as multilateral institutions which underpin international law and commerce.

He has been India's longest serving Ambassador to Japan (2006-2010), Ambassador to Indonesia and Timor Leste (2003-2006), Ambassador to Colombia, Ecuador and Costa Rica (1999-2002), and India's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva (1995-1999). He has held several significant assignments during his career, dealing with the United States, West Europe and the European Union and India's immediate neighbours.

Ambassador Singh has contributed to the forging of the India-Japan strategic and global partnership, the intensification of India's relations with Indonesia and ASEAN, the evolution of India's revitalised Look East Policy and the shaping of India's policy towards key neighbours and strategic partners.

From 2011-2016, Ambassador Singh was Professor for Strategic Studies at ICRIER, a leading think tank in New Delhi. In June 2016, Ambassador Singh assumed responsibilities as Director General, Delhi Policy Group, which is among India's oldest independent think tanks focused on strategic issues of critical national interest. He has been associated with several public policy initiatives and Track II / Track 1.5 strategic dialogues involving major think tanks of India, US, Russia, Japan and Asia. He has written and worked extensively on the ongoing transformation of India's foreign policy and relations with the United



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States and Japan and their growing convergences in shaping Asia's emerging economic and security architecture.

An alumnus of St. Stephen's College, Delhi, where he studied (1967-72) and later taught (1972-74), Ambassador Singh holds an M.A. degree from the University of Delhi. His varied interests include civilisation and culture, the natural environment and sports.



**Ambassador Biren Nanda**

Senior Fellow, Delhi Policy Group

Ambassador Biren Nanda served in the Indian Foreign Service from 1978 to 2015 and is a distinguished former career diplomat with extensive experience of working in East Asia.

He has been India's High Commissioner to Australia (2012-2015); Ambassador to Indonesia, Timor Leste and the ASEAN (2008-12); India's Deputy Chief of Mission in Tokyo (2000-2004) and Consul General in Shanghai (1996-2000). Ambassador Nanda has also served in Indian Missions in Beijing, Washington DC and Singapore. He spent a total of ten years in China during his three terms as a diplomat in that country. His entire career as a diplomat was spent in East Asia with the sole exception of his Washington posting.

During 2004-2008 Ambassador Nanda was posted in the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi as Joint Secretary (South) and was responsible for India's relations with Southeast Asia and the Pacific. Ambassador Nanda contributed to the strengthening of the strategic partnership between India and Indonesia, the strengthening and diversification of India's relations with Australia and helped reinvigorate India's Look East Policy and the intensification of India's ties with ASEAN and Pacific countries.

Ambassador Nanda retired from the Indian Foreign Service in January 2015. He has since participated in several Track 2 dialogues involving major Think Tanks of Japan, Australia and China. In July 2016, he joined the Delhi Policy Group as a Senior Fellow. The Delhi Policy Group is amongst India's oldest independent think tanks focussed on strategic issues of critical national interest.

He was the co-Chair of the India Indonesia Eminent Person's Group





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which prepared a report and a Vision Statement 2025 for the Strategic Partnership between the two countries. An alumnus of the St Stephen's College, New Delhi, (1971-74) Ambassador Nanda holds an MA degree from the Delhi School of Economics (1974-76). His interests include travel, listening to Indian Classical Music and reading.



**Shulgna Pal**

Research Associate, Delhi Policy Group

Shulgna Pal holds a Master's in 'Politics' with a specialization in International Relations from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and a Bachelor's in History from Jadavpur University, Kolkata. She has worked at the Delhi Policy Group from February 2017 on DPG's Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal (BBIN) project, DPG India-Japan Indo-Pacific Dialogue Series 2018 and the DPG-IDS West Asia in Transition Project among others.

She has previously worked as Research Assistant and Programme Officer at the Forum for Strategic Initiatives, New Delhi. Recently, she was part of the Indian delegation of Young scholars in the NGO exchange programme of the BRICS sponsored by Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament, Beijing, China. In the past, she has actively worked and organized national and international seminars, workshops and was also granted the Ryoichi Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship.



**Mohit Musaddi**

Research Associate, Delhi Policy Group

Mohit Musaddi is currently a Research Associate at the Delhi Policy Group. He has completed a Masters in International Relations from the War Studies Department of King's College London in September 2017. His Master's thesis focused on the difference in narratives of the Al Jazeera's English and Arabic media network. Prior to this, he had completed a Bachelor's degree in Political Science (Hons.) in 2016 from Kirori Mal College, Delhi University. He was previously an intern at the Delhi Policy Group from October – December 2017 and worked on the organisation's Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal (BBIN) project.



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**Gopika Shinghal**

Research Associate, Delhi Policy Group

Gopika Shinghal is a graduate of King's College London where she earned her MA Degree in International Relations at the Department of War Studies in September 2017. Her master's thesis focused on the persistence of the Sino-Indian border dispute from the Chinese and the Indian perspective. Prior to this, she had completed her BA Degree in Economics (Honours) from Kamala Nehru College, Delhi University in June 2016. She was previously an intern at the Delhi Policy Group from March-May 2018.



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**Dr. Sagar Prasai**

Country Representative, India  
The Asia Foundation

Sagar Prasai is The Asia Foundation's country representative in India. He was formerly the deputy country representative in Nepal. His current work involves regional cooperation in South Asia with focus on water, trade, and migration; transnational political economy; urban governance and women's security.

Prasai has worked with governmental as well as multilateral organizations on urban management, local governance, conflict, and political processes. He previously served as a programming advisor to the National Planning Commission of Nepal, and as a district development advisor to the United Nations Development Program in Nepal.

He has led several political economy analysis studies for The Asia Foundation including Drivers of Legitimacy in Nepal (2007), Political Economy of Local Governance in Nepal (2012), and Political Economy Analysis and Stakeholder Mapping of the Teesta Basin (2012). His articles have appeared in South Asian and global journals, portals and blogs. He is the author of the book Revisiting Transnational Migration-Development Nexus: Using Capability Approach in Migration Research.

Education: Bachelor's degree in Architecture from Nagpur University; master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Hawaii; and doctor of philosophy degree in Regional Planning from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.



**Ms. Diya Nag**

Senior Program Officer, India  
The Asia Foundation

Diya Nag came to The Asia Foundation in 2009 as a junior associate with the Governance, Law, and Civil Society Program in San Francisco, and then joined as a program officer in the India office in 2012, working on regional trade, and managing grants in the areas of women's security



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and open and accountable governance. She rejoined the Foundation once again in 2015, focusing more deeply on women's security and regional trade.

Prior to this, Diya worked with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), engaging closely with the Department of Justice in India, on strengthening justice delivery and access to justice for marginalized groups. She has also spent three years working with the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI), an international human rights organization based in New Delhi. Her work at CHRI involved advocating for police reforms and increased police accountability in South Asia. Before relocating to India, Diya practiced consumer law in New York City.

Education: Bachelor's degree in Human Rights and Sociology from Barnard College, Columbia University; Juris Doctor with a specialization in Global Law and Practice from the Syracuse University College of Law. Diya is a member of the New York Bar, First Appellate Division.



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**Day 1: Thursday, 14th June 2018**

**Venue: Park Royal, Yangon**

**Welcome Address: Ambassador H.K Singh**

Director General, Delhi Policy Group

**Welcome Address:**



**Amb. Nyunt Maung Shein**

Chairman, Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS)

U Nyunt Maung Shein has served the Government of Myanmar for forty years before retiring as Ambassador/Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office in Geneva in 2008. He held various diplomatic positions at Myanmar Missions in Bern, Hanoi, Bangkok, Dhaka and Tokyo.

He was Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Korea (2001-2002) and the Federal Republic of Germany (2002-2005) with concurrent accreditation to Austria, Poland, Finland and the Czech Republic as well as the Ambassador/Permanent Representative to the UNIDO, UNODC and IAEA, Vienna.

U Nyunt Maung Shein served in the Political Department in different capacities as Director of Boundary Division, (1990-1992), Deputy Director-General (1996) and Director-General (1998-2000). He has represented his country at the Senior Official's Meeting (SOM) and other related meetings of ASEAN including summits.

He holds a BSc. Degree from the University of Yangon and MIPP (Master of International Public Policy) from SAIS, the Johns Hopkins University, Washington DC, USA and a Diploma in French from the University of Foreign Languages, Yangon.

He received several medals from the Government for his services; the highest being the Excellent Performance in Administration Medal (First Class) awarded to him in the year 2000.

Since January 2013 he is serving as the Chairman of the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS) which is a think tank well known in the Asia-Pacific Region.



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**Dr. Zaw Oo**

Executive Director, Centre for Economic and Social Development (CESD), Myanmar

Dr. Zaw Oo is the Executive Director of the Centre for Economic and Social Development (CESD), Myanmar. He is a member of the National Economic and Social Advisory Council of the Office of the President and the Task Force on Public Service Performance Appraisal, and National Coordinator for the Myanmar Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative. Dr. Zaw Oo contributed to the development of Myanmar's Framework of Economic and Social Reform (January 2013), as well as the successful conclusion of the Paris Club agreement in January 2013. Previously, he was a lecturer at Chiang Mai University. He is a co-author of *Assessing Cease-fire Accords in Burma* (2007) and *Economic Development of Burma: A vision and a strategy* (2000) and has contributed to many scholarly journals and news media.

He holds graduate degrees from Columbia University and American University in international development, finance and banking, and political economy.

**Keynote Address:**



**H. E. Ambassador Vikram Misri**

Ambassador of India to Myanmar

H. E. Amb. Vikram Misri is the Ambassador of India to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, a post he took up on 31 August 2016. A career diplomat from the 1989 batch of the Indian Foreign Service, Ambassador Misri has served in various capacities at the Headquarters of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi, in the Prime Minister's Office in New Delhi and in various Indian Missions abroad in Europe, Africa, Asia and North America.

Ambassador Misri has served as the Ambassador of India to Spain from August 2014 to August 2016. In New Delhi, Ambassador Misri has served as Private Secretary to both Prime Minister Narendra Modi (from May 2014 to July 2014) and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh (



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from October 2012 to May 2014). Before that he was Joint Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office from March 2012 to October 2012. From September 2011 to February 2012 he was Consul General of India in Munich and Deputy High Commissioner of India in Sri Lanka from September 2008 to September 2011. Ambassador Misri was Director of the Office of the External Affairs Minister of India, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee from November 2006 to September 2008 and before that Under Secretary for the Pakistan Desk in the Ministry of External Affairs from April 1998 to August 2000.

He also served as Political Counsellor in the Embassy of India in Washington D.C from September 2003 to October 2006 and First Secretary/Counsellor/C.d'A in the High Commission of India in Islamabad from August 2000 to September 2003.

He started out as Private Secretary to the Prime Minister of India Mr. I.K Gujral from April 1997 to March 1998 and before that Under Secretary in the Office of the External Affairs Minister of India under Mr. I.K Gujral from November 1996 to April 1997.

He also served as Second/First Secretary in the Embassy of India in Tunis from September 1993 to October 1996 and Third/Second Secretary in the Embassy of India in Brussels from January 1991 to September 1993.

Ambassador Misri did his Bachelor's degree with Honours in History from the Hindu College, University of Delhi and an MBA from XLRI, Jamshedpur.

**Special Address:**

**Dr. Khin Zaw**

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, livestock and Irrigation,  
Myanmar

**Ms. Naw Mutakapaw**

Deputy Director General, Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar



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**Shri Piyush Shrivastava**

Joint Secretary, BIMSTEC & SAARC

Shri Piyush Srivastava is a career diplomat. He joined Indian Foreign Service (IFS) in 1998. He is presently working as the Joint Secretary (BIMSTEC & SAARC) in the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

Shri Srivastava has earlier served in PAI (Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran) and Southern Divisions of Ministry of External Affairs. He has served at senior positions in Indian Embassies in Germany, Bhutan, Nepal and in Indian High Commission in Ghana in different Wings - Political, Commercial & Economic Cooperation, Information and Media, to name a few. He has acquired rich experience and knowledge of India's neighbourhood, extended neighbourhood (South East Asia and Pacific) and economic diplomacy.

During his tenure as the Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of India, Kathmandu, he coordinated Government of India's relief and rescue efforts in wake of the major earthquake in Nepal in April 2015. Prior to taking charge of Joint Secretary (BIMSTEC and SAARC), Shri Srivastava served as Joint Secretary in the country's premier foreign policy think tank, Indian Council of World Affairs. He holds B.Tech. and M.Tech. degrees in Materials & Metallurgical Engineering from IIT Kanpur.

**Moderators:**

**Session 1: Trade and Economic Issues**



**Prof. Prabir De**

Research and Information System for Developing Countries

Prabir De is a Professor at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi. He is also the Coordinator of ASEAN-India Centre (AIC). De works in the field of international economics and has research interests in international trade and development. He was a Visiting Fellow of the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), Tokyo; and Visiting Senior Fellow of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Bangkok. He has been conducting policy research for the





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Government of India and several international organisations.

De has a PhD in Economics from the Jadavpur University, Calcutta. He has contributed several research papers in international journals and written books on trade and development. His recent publications as an editor and author include “ASEAN-India Development and Cooperation Report 2015” (Routledge, New Delhi, 2015) and ‘Celebrating the Third Decade and Beyond: New Challenges to ASEAN-India Economic Partnership’ (Knowledge World, New Delhi, 2016). He is also the Editor of the South Asia Economic Journal, published by Sage.

**Session II: Transit and Multimodal Connectivity (Roadways, Waterways, Railways and Aviation)**



**Dr. Swarnim Waglé**

Economist and Former Vice-Chair, National Planning Commission, Nepal

Dr. Swarnim Waglé is an economist who served as the 24th Vice-Chair of the National Planning Commission (NPC) in the Government of Nepal. He led the NPC from August 2017 to February 2018, prior to which he served as a Member of the Commission for 28 months at two different periods between 2014 and 2017. From a position with a rank equivalent to a minister, Dr. Waglé headed the Government’s apex policy advisory body with a 60-year history and 350 staff. He advised on the formulation of national development strategies ranging from macro-economics to climate change, human capital to infrastructure; coordinated policy across the public sector; monitored major national projects; and led several ministerial delegations on the international stage.

In the aftermath of the Great Nepal Earthquake of 2015 and the Flood of 2017, Dr. Waglé co-led the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) and helped garner billions of US dollars in pledges. Dr. Waglé worked as an international development professional for more than 15 years on policy assignments in over 20 countries, most recently as Senior Economist at The World Bank in Washington, D.C. He has published several flagship reports and papers in areas spanning public finance, trade and investment. At the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), he co-authored the 2013 Human Development Report titled “The Rise of the South.” From 2002 to 2007, he co-led the Asia-Pacific



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Trade and Investment Initiative.

Dr. Waglé serves on the Senate of Kathmandu University (2017-2019) and as advisor to several non-profit organizations. He has undertaken short-term assignments at the Asian Development Bank (Manila) and the International Trade Center (Geneva). Having been the South Asia editor of Harvard Asia Quarterly (1999-2000) and a regular broadcaster on BBC Nepali Service, he maintains an interest in current affairs. Dr. Waglé holds a PhD in Economics from the Australian National University, an MPA in International Development (MPA/ID) from Harvard University, and a BSc (Econ) from the London School of Economics.

**Session III: Energy, Water, Environment, Climate Change and other issues**



**Dr. Nisha Taneja**

Professor, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations

Nisha Taneja is Professor at Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations. Her broad areas of interest include WTO issues, regional trade, industrial economics, and institutional economics. In recent years, she has worked on tariffs, non-tariff barriers, and transport issues related to India-Nepal, India-Sri Lanka, India-Pakistan, India-Bhutan, India-Korea, India-Japan, India-China and sub-regional cooperation between India, Bangladesh and Myanmar.

She has served on committees set up by the Government of India on Informal Trade, Rules of Origin and Non-Tariff Barriers and was recently appointed as Transshipment Adviser to the Government of Nepal. Her research papers have been published in several journals and have been disseminated widely in India and abroad. She has worked as a Consultant with the Asian Development Bank, The United Nations and The World Bank on a range of issues which include supply chain analysis, regional integration in South Asia, informal trade and non-tariff barriers in South Asia.



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**Session IV: People to People Connectivity through multi-sectoral Engagement**

**Amb. H.K. Singh**

Director General, Delhi Policy Group

**Session I: Trade and Economic Issues**

**Dr. Swarnim Wagle**

Economist and Former Vice-Chair, National Planning Commission, Nepal

**Dr. Zaw Oo**

Executive Director, CESD, Myanmar

**U Khin Maung Nyo**

Chairman, Myanmar Economic Association (2014) - currently chief editor of world economic journal; Senior Advisor, MISIS



Khin Maung Nyo is Chief Editor of the World Economic Journal. He is also a Senior Research Fellow at Myanmar Development Resource Institute-Centre for Economic and Social development, and Chairman of Myanmar Economic Association.

Khin Maung Nyo studied economics, with a focus on Planning and Development, at Yangon Institute of Economics, Myanmar. He worked as a Lecturer at Department of Economics, Institute of Economics until 2001, before moving to Prime Minister's office as Deputy Director, until 2006. Nyo is also a Journalist and Columnist, contributing articles and commentaries to local and international media.

**Dr. Shwe Hein**

Secretary, Thilawa SEZ Management Committee

Dr. Shwe Hein is the Secretary of Thilawa Special Economic Zone Management Committee. He is also the Vice President of Myanmar Organization Development Association (MODA) and Myanmar Ethnic Entrepreneurs Association (MEEA). He also serves as President of CPC Public Company Limited. Dr. Hein is the CEO of SPH Co., Ltd and Chinland Synergy Company Ltd. Further, he also acts as the Patron of the Chin Advocacy Network and Vice President of GFA Football Club, Myanmar National League (MNA).



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He has co-authored publications like the English-Myanmar- Chin Dictionary 2012 and the English-Chin Phrasal Verbs Dictionary 2013. He is also the co-developer of the Talk-It-Eazy Travel and Entertainment App (16 languages). Dr. Shwe Hein did his MBA and PhD from the Assumption University of Thailand.

### **Daw Win Myint**

National Project Coordinator, International Labour Organization (Myanmar)  
Daw Win Myint is the the National Project Coordinator for Employment and Trade, International Labour Organization, Myanmar.

Daw Win Myint is the National Project Coordinator for Strengthening the impacts of International Trade on Employment at International Labour Organization (ILO), Myanmar. She has served in various capacities at the ILO where she was a Research Officer for the Myanmar Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour from 2016-17 and before that the Nation Program Officer, Labour Force, Child Labour and School to Work Transition Survey from 2014-2015.

Daw Win Myint was Deputy Director General, Central Statistical Organization from 2012-2013 , Deputy Director General at the Planning Department from 2011-2012, Director of the Economic Analysis Sector from 2008-2011 and Director, Agriculture, livestock and fishery, and Forestry Sector from 2003-1008.

She did her B. Econ (Statistics) from the Yangon Institute of Economic and Masters in Economics of Development from Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, The Netherlands.



### **Dr. Janaka Wijayasiri**

Research Fellow, IPS, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Dr. Janaka Wijayasiri is currently a Research Fellow and Head of International Economic Policy research at the IPS. Since joining the IPS in 1999, his areas of research interest have been primarily related to trade issues at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels. These include issues of policy significance to Sri Lanka in areas covering bilateral and regional preferential trade initiatives, multilateral negotiations under the World Trade Organization (WTO) and issues related to the textile and garment, tea and spice industries in Sri Lanka. He has been part of Sri Lanka's official delegation representing the academia at regional forums such as Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) and the



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Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC). He has also participated in various bilateral trade negotiations with other countries which Sri Lanka currently seeking agreements with.

Janaka Wijayasiri has a number of publications to his name which have appeared as articles and chapters in both journal and book publications. He is a member of the Editorial Board of Journal of Indian Ocean Rim Studies(JIORS).

Janaka Wijayasiri holds a BA in Economics with Development Studies from the University of Sussex, UK and an MA in Economics of Development from the Institute of Social Studies, the Netherlands, and PhD from Monash University, Australia. He has also received training in GTAP (Global Trade Analysis Project) from the Centre for Global Trade Analysis, Purdue University, Canada.

### **Zin Zin Naing**

Lecturer, Yangon University of Economics

Dr. Naing is a lecturer at the Yangon University of Economics, Ministry of Education, Myanmar since 2012. Prior to 2012, he was a lecturer at Yangon Institute of Economics, Ministry of Education, Myanmar and Meik-Hti-Lar Institute of Economics, Ministry of Education, Myanmar. Prior to 2003, he was a Tutor and Assistant Lecturer at the Yangon Institute of Economics, Ministry of Education, Myanmar. His Academic Specialization is in the field of ‘Agriculture and Resources Economics, International Economics and Quantitative Economic Analysis’.

He has undertaken research and development in many areas. Currently, he is a part of an on-going research on the ‘Incidence of Non-tariff Measures in Myanmar Fishery Exports’, at the Yangon University of Economics. Another one, concerned ‘Market Access of Myanmar to India’, conducted under ICRIER, India, research and presented at Conference on Sub-regional Cooperation between India, Bangladesh and Myanmar, on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

He has published articles in leading journals. His most recent publications is, Khin Thida Nyein and Zin Zin Naing (2018), “Market Access and India”, in Nisha Taneja, Deb Kusum Das and Samridhi Bimal (eds.), Sub-regional Cooperation between India, Myanmar and



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Bangladesh: trade, Investment and Connectivity, ICRIER, Academic Foundation, New Delhi. Others are, Khin Thida Nyein and Zin Zin Naing (2017), “NTMs in Textile and Apparel Industry in Myanmar: Analysis of Impact of Trade Barriers”, in Prabir De and Ajitava Raychaudhuri (eds.), Myanmar’s Integration with the World: Challenges and Policy Options, Palgrave Macmillan. He has also supervised more than 60 theses submitted toward Master of Public Administration (MPA) and Master of Development Studies (MDevS).

**Session II: Transit and Multimodal Connectivity (Roadways, Waterways, Railways and Aviation)**

**Prof. Prabir De**

Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi



**Mr. Prithviraj Nath**

Consultant, Asian Development Bank

Prithviraj Nath is currently engaged as a consultant with the Asian Development Bank working on border infrastructure development for regional connectivity. He has been the former Associate Director at CUTS International, an Indian think-tank. He has research interests in the areas of regional connectivity, trade and development. His recent and current research focuses on physical and institutional connectivity in the Bay of Bengal region, with particular emphasis on political economy of cross-border trade and its impact on regional integration parameters and local economic development. His is also

His other work spans energy governance, renewable energy and sustainable development issues. Before joining CUTS, he worked with the Department of Municipal Affairs, Government of West Bengal. He did his master's in Business Management after graduating in Economics from University of Calcutta and has published several research papers and articles. Prithviraj likes birding, trekking and exploring new cultures and cuisines.



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**Dr. Sathaporn Opananon**

Director, Faculty of Commerce and Accountancy, Thammasat University

Dr. Sathaporn Opananon is an Associate Professor in the Department of International Business Logistics and Transport, the faculty of Commerce and Accountancy, Thammasat University. He received his Bachelor of Engineering with Second Class Honors from Chulalongkorn University. In 1998, he was granted a scholarship by the Royal Thai Government for pursuit of Master's degree at the Pennsylvania State University. He received his PhD. in transportation engineering from the University of Maryland in 2004. After completion of his PhD., Sathaporn returned to Thailand to work for the Ministry of Transport.

Dr. Sathaporn joined Thammasat Business School in 2006. He served as the Director of the Journal of Business Administration from 2009 to 2017. Currently, he is the director of the PhD. program. His expertise includes logistics and supply chain management, network optimization, transportation management, system simulation, and evacuation. He has been involving a host of logistics research projects in both public and private sectors. His research papers have been published in Journal of the Operational Research Society, European Journal of Operational Research, Transportation Research Record, Transport Policy, International Transactions in Operational Research and Asia Pacific Journal of Marketing and Logistics.

He has also published articles in distinguished journals like the Journal of Management Studies and the Asia Pacific Journal of Marketing and Logistics

**Dr. Nisha Taneja**

Professor, ICRIER

**Discussant:**

**U. Lahpai Zau Goone**

Senior Member and In-Charge BIMSTEC, Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS), Myanmar

He was born on 13th January 1947. He graduated from Arts & Science University of Mandalay. Career: English Tutor, Myitkyina College - 1971-1974. He was served in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in various posts and positions from 1974 -2007.



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He also served in Myanmar Embassies in various post as Asst. Commercial Attache and Second Secretary in Tokyo (1980-84), Deputy Chief Of Mission & Deputy Permanent Delegate to UNESCO in Paris (1988-1993), Minister Counsellor in Tokyo (1997 - 2001), Minister Counsellor in Moscow (2005-2007).

In Sept 2011, he was appointed as a member of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission. At present, he is a member of Myanmar ISIS.

### **Session III: Energy, Water, Environment, Climate Change and other issues**



#### **Dr. Sajjad Zohir**

Executive Director, Economic Research Group, Bangladesh

Dr. Sajjad Zohir is the Executive Director of Economic Research Group (ERG) and Professor of Economics at BRAC University. He earned his PhD in Economics from University of Toronto and received his Bachelor's and Master's in Economics from University of Dhaka. Previously he worked as a Senior Research Fellow at the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS). Dr. Zohir have previously worked with organizations like the World Bank, UNICEF, FAO, UN-ESCAP, The European Commission, Asian Development Bank, Lois Berger Inc., UNDP, Asian Development Bank, IFAD and most recently as a advisor to Nathan Associates (London) Ltd. with them he was working to develop Bangladesh Bank's SME credit related policies. Dr. Zohir is an accomplished writer and has published several monograms, articles and papers on the themes of development, trade, agriculture and economics.



#### **Prof. Chandan Mahanta**

Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati

Prof. Chandan Mahanta Dean, Students' Affairs and Professor, Centre for the Environment Professor, Department of Civil Engineering Indian Institute of Technology – Guwahati Dr. Chandan Mahanta is currently the Dean of Students' Affairs and Professor in the Centre for the Environment at IIT Guwahati. He has served as the Head of the Centre for the Environment. He is also a BOG member of NIT Nagaland and Khelhoshe Polytechnic at Zunheboto, Nagaland. He has





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been an ASCE-EWRI visiting fellow at the Utah Water Research Laboratory of the Utah State University, USA and has been EurIndia visiting fellow to the University of Applied Sciences, Karlsruhe, Germany; he was in the Monash Sustainability Institute of Monash University under the Australian Leadership Award Fellowship Programme.

He was part of a Hydro Diplomacy programme jointly hosted by MIT, Harvard University and Tufts University in 2014. Prof Mahanta has served in various national and international committees including the Planning Commission of India. Prof Mahanta has carried out projects funded by national bodies and international agencies including MHRD, MoUD, MoEF, DST, SIDA, EURINDIA, UNICEF and IUCN. Prof. Mahanta has authored more than fifty technical publications in peer reviewed journals, proceedings and books.

He has organised trainings, workshops, conferences and has lectured to a cross section of professionals in USA, Australia, Canada, France, Italy, Germany, Sweden, Netherlands, China, Taiwan and Southeast Asian countries including Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka and had collaborations with several US and European universities. He has been advisor to eighteen PhD and more than fifty Masters Students. One of his major projects on Digital Brahmaputra has attempted to leverage IT applications in building robust hydrological information system. Several of his current research engagements are focused on sustainable drinking water and sanitation, and urban river restoration and management. Prof Mahanta has been part of past TERI events including DSIDS.

**Prof. Chaw Chaw Sein**

Head, Department of International Relations, University of Yangon



Chaw Chaw Sein has been Head of the International Relations Department, University of Yangon and since 2006. She was promoted to the post of Professor in 2011 and has now taken charge of both, International Relations and Political Science at University of Yangon. She works as an advisor to the Union Civil Service Board and Advisory Group for establishing Diplomatic Academy of Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She also supervises thesis and gives lectures at the National Defense University, the Ministry of Defense.



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Chaw Chaw Sein obtained her PhD Degree in International Relations from University of Yangon in 2004 and her research and interests is on China-Myanmar relations. She has written research paper on “Myanmar Foreign policy under New Government” edited “Myanmar Reintegrating into the International Community”, World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte Ltd, 2016, research paper on "Institutions in Myanmar's 2015 election: The election commission, international agencies and the military”, Conflict in Myanmar, ISEAS publication, Singapore, 2016.

Chaw Chaw Sein has written research papers on “Assessing the Perspectives of the EU and ASEAN on China's OBOR Initiative” and “Post-Election Myanmar Foreign Policy” (available at the Myanmar ISIS website). She has also participated in the international conferences as panels and her major discussions are “Myanmar and the Asia Pacific Policy Context”, East West Center and the Johns Hopkins University School for Advanced International Studies US-Korea Institute and Southeast Asia Program Washington DC, September 28-29, 2015, "Enhancing Mutual trust between ASEAN and China, 6<sup>th</sup> World Peace Forum held at Tsinghua University, 25-26-7-2017. Her articles such as “Myanmar’s Perspective on One Belt, One Road”, “Myanmar’s Potential for BIMSTEC” and “Myanmar’s Democratic Transition” can also be found in the Global New Light of Myanmar today.



**Dr. Nay Htun**

Professor. Founder and Hon. Patron, Green Economy Green Growth (GEGG), Myanmar

Nay Htun is Founder and Honorary Patron, Green Economy Green Growth, GEGG Myanmar (not for profit) Association,

< [www.geggmyanmar.org](http://www.geggmyanmar.org) > that is providing management and technical support as well as office space and facilities to the ASEAN Institute for Green Economy, AIGE an ASEAN Charter Entity endorsed at the 25<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in 2014.

He is Fellow & Visiting Professor Imperial College London; Research Professor Stony Brook University, N.Y; Honorary Professor Tongji University, Shanghai China, Visiting Professor and International Advisor, Chulabhorn Research Institute, Thailand.



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He was formerly Visiting Scholar Harvard; Visiting Scholar Fletcher School of International Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University; Chancellor Distinguished Fellow, University of California, Irvine; Visiting Professor and Senior Advisor Asia Pacific, International Institute for Industrial Environmental Economics, Lund University, Sweden.

He was with UNEP (Deputy Executive Director and Regional Director Asia Pacific) and UNDP (Assistant Administrator and Regional Director Asia Pacific Bureau) with the rank of UN Assistant Secretary General at both organizations. He was also UNCED (aka 1992 Rio Earth Summit) Programme Director & Special Advisor and the Focal point for Business and Industry

At the UN, he played a central role in supporting and fostering regional and international cooperation that included ASEAN; MRC (Mekong River Commission); TRADP (Tumen River Area Development Programme). Thematic cooperation included multi-year programmes addressing poverty, environment and sustainable development; gender and inclusive development; good governance.

Prior to joining the UN, he was with Exxon Thailand and managed the largest Department.

He was affiliated with a number of not –for-profit institutions, including Board Member International Research Institute for Climate and Society, Columbia University, New York; Institute for Global Environmental Studies, Japan; International Vaccine Institute, Seoul, Korea; Environment Advisory Council, International Council of Scientific Unions, France; Stockholm Environment Institute, Sweden; China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development, Beijing.

He received the International Institute for Energy Conservation, IIEC, Washington DC Award for *"outstanding contributions and guidance to the IIEC in its mission to accelerate energy and efficiency, promote sustainability and reduce GHG emissions in developing and emerging countries"* at its 30<sup>th</sup>. Anniversary in 2014.

He graduated with a Ph.D. degree in Chemical Engineering from Imperial College London and was elected Fellow of Imperial College,



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the highest honour the College recognize for outstanding Achievements.



**Dr. Khin Maung Lwin**

Director (Retd.), Ministry of Health & Sports

Dr. Lwin has been an elected member of the Global Steering Committee, representing the South-East Asia and East-Asia Region of Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council based in Geneva, Switzerland, affiliated to UNOPS since 2011. Since 2013, he has been appointed as an advisor for the National Water Resources Committee, chaired by the Vice-president of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar until the year 2020. He has served as a Government staff from 1975 till 2010 and retired as a Director of Central Health Education Bureau, Ministry of Health, Myanmar. After retirement, he continued teaching the post grad students in the University of Public Health as an Honorary Professor and Advisor for Public Health Domain for the Ministry of Health and Sports.

He started his career as a Writer/ Journalist in 1968. He has also published books and many communication materials related to Health and Environment. He was the recipient of the “Tun Foundation Literary Award” in 2008. He has attended the Institute of Medicine and University of Foreign Languages for degree courses. He has taken his training at the Central Institute of Political Sciences and Central Institute of Public Services in Myanmar and Faculty of Public Health, Mahidhol University of Bangkok, Thailand and Central Health Education Bureau of Indonesia.



**Dr. Win Myo Thu,**

Director, Eco-Dev Myanmar

Dr. Win Myo Thu is Co-founder and Managing Director of Ecodev, Myanmar’s leading environmental organisation. He has engaged in consulting works for United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations Environmental Program, Asian Development Bank among others, contributing to environmental policy framework development and interventions in both Myanmar and Greater Mekong Sub-region such as Environmental Performance Assessment System, National Communication on Climate Change and National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan.



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He studied at Rangoon University, Asian Institute of Technology(Bangkok), University of Wolverhampton (UK) and California State University (USA) and has done his B.Sc in Forestry, M.Sc in Rural Development Planning and Professional Certificate on Environmental Democracy and Governance.

#### **Session IV: People to People Connectivity through Multi-Sectoral Engagement**



**Mr. Sabyasachi Dutta**

Director, Asian Confluence, Shillong

Sabyasachi Dutta is the Founder-Director of the ‘Asian Confluence’, India East Asia Centre. Born in Shillong, a social entrepreneur, educationist, artist and a student of Indian history and international relations, Sabyasachi has had a successful career spanning 12 years in the Silicon Valley, California USA in cutting edge technology, innovation and entrepreneurships in large corporations such as SONY Corp as well as several successful start-ups, and holding several patents. He left that to start several social innovation projects in India. He pioneered a unique leadership program for rural youth of India; a unique model of youth led rural development which was lauded by the World Bank; set up a chain of eighty primary schools using the model of community participation propelled by youth leadership and introduced several innovations in the education.

In his current avatar, Sabyasachi continues to facilitate cultural programs, exchange programs, talks, discussions and symposia with scholars and leaders of culture and thought, from India and abroad. He holds a Master’s Degree in Electrical Engineering with special paper in Media and Communication from Arizona State University, USA.

**Prof. Nay Win Oo**

Deputy Director-General, Higher Education, Ministry of Education and Joint Secretary, National Education Policy Commission, Myanmar

Prof. Nay Win Oo is currently Deputy Director-General of Higher Education, Ministry Education and Joint Secretary of National Education Policy Commission, Myanmar. He served as Professor of Geography and Head of Geography Department from 2011 to 2014 as



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well as senate member of University of Yangon and Hinthada University. He taught as visiting professor at University of Yangon and University of Mandalay. He has been the recipient of the Young Scientist Award of Man and Biosphere, UNESCO in 2004. He studied Geography at University of Yangon for B.A. (Honours) and Environmental Geography at Tokyo Metropolitan University, Japan for M.Sc. and D.Sc.



**Mr. Soe Myint**

Editor-in-Chief and Managing Director, Mizzima Media Group

U Soe Myint is the Founder of Mizzima Group, Managing Director and Editor In-Chief, Mizzima Media Group, Chairman, Mizzima Foundation and Chairman, Board of Directors, Myanmar Journalism Institute (MJI).

Mr. Myint, together with Daw Thin Thin Aung, established Mizzima (derived from the Pali word for “middle” or “moderate”) in New Delhi, India in 1998. In January 2012, Mizzima was the first exile media to move back inside Myanmar, after the country opened up to democratic change.

Today, Mizzima Group includes Mizzima Media Co. Ltd., Mizzima Trading and Mizzima Media Publishing and Mizzima Foundation (a non-profit of Mizzima Group).

Currently Mizzima Media Co. Ltd. broadcasts a free-to-air digital TV channel, produces a digital daily newspaper in Myanmar language, a weekly print magazine in English, as well as websites in both Myanmar and English. Mizzima also prides itself on its active cooperation with other national and international stakeholders in the media reform process in Myanmar.

U Soe Myint’s publications include the 2003 release “Burma File: A Question of Democracy”, as well as numerous articles in various newspapers and magazines.

He is also a member of the Advisory Group (Academic) of Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies, a regular speaker and invited guest at national and international forums on media in Myanmar.



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**Mr. Thuta Aung**

Author and CEO, HamsaHub Consultancy

Having founded HamsaHub Consulting in 2012, the firm has emerged as a pioneer in designing CSR projects within a Myanmar context and in reforming local firms for international partnerships. Thuta has represented Myanmar at ASEAN and South Asia Regional fora in the area of inclusive business and MSME Development. He still continues his academic career started from England by regularly giving lectures as a Senior Fellow at Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies and Central Institutes of Civil Service where he curates a programme on Leadership and Coordination.

He is also actively involved in start-up development, having set up the first PPP operated Incubation Centre with the Department of SME Development of the Myanmar Ministry of Industry. With his artist wife Shwe Thiri Khit, Thuta is part of an initiative to build the fashion brand AmaraKhit in addition to a new spin off on forestry products. Thuta's latest book, "The Bumblebee Takes Flight" was a best seller on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) in 2017.

**Mr. Thet Win,**

Senior Managing Director, Shwe Than Lwin Co. Ltd.

**Discussants:**



**Mr. Ravindra Jain,**

Managing Director, 4R Consultancy Ltd.



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**Participants:**

**H.E. Amb. Bhim K. Udas**

Ambassador of Nepal to Myanmar

Mr. Bhim Krishna Udas, newly appointed Ambassador of Nepal assumed his responsibility in Yangon on 26 May 2017, and presented his credentials to H.E. U Htin Kyaw, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on 27 June 2017, accrediting as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Nepal.

Prior to this assignment, Mr. Udas served for the United Nations system for 30 years, from January 1981 to December 2010, in 8 different countries namely, Pakistan, Rome (Italy), Armenia, Geneva, Jordan, Russia, Myanmar and Lesotho (in order of service). Of them, he served as WFP Country Director and Representative in five countries including, Myanmar from 2003-06.

In Geneva, Mr. Udas covered emergency operations of the World Food Programme globally for coordination and dissemination of information to other UN and international organizations. He also covered the conferences of ECOSOC and WHO and ILO Assemblies.

In WFP headquarters Rome, Mr. Udas was responsible for two regional emergency operations dealing with Afghan refugees and the 1991 Gulf crisis. Mr. Udas was engaged in two development projects for 8 years in Nepal, prior to joining the UN system.

Mr. Udas graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from the Tribhuvan University in Nepal, and a Master degree in International Relations from the University of Peshawar, Pakistan in 1983. He attended a leadership crisis course in Kennedy School of Management, Harvard University, Boston, USA in 2005.

Mr. Udas was honoured with humanitarian medal by the Government of the Russian Federation in 2003, for rendering humanitarian services to the Chechen IDP operations.

Mr. Udas was the Founder of the Non-resident Nepali Movement started in 2002, and the Founder President of the Association of former International Professionals of the Multilateral Organizations established in Nepal in January 2015.





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**Gabriele Proietto**

Fellow at UNODC, Myanmar

Mr. Gabriele Proietto is a fellow at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Yangon, Myanmar. He has served as Consultant at Transcrime (Joint Research Centre on Transnational Crime) in Milan, Italy from January 2017 to July 2017. He was also a Legal trainee at Gilardoni Law Firm, Milan, Italy.

Mr. Proietto did his Masters in Law from Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan, Italy and attends Postgraduate Law School Università statale, Milan, Italy.

**Khin Maung Soe**

Senior Consultant, Mandalay Green City Public Company Ltd.

He is a listed advisor with MYANMAR-CHINA ONE BELT ONE ROAD ENTREPRENEURS DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION, which is waiting for the approval of the Union Ministry of Commerce.

He has worked with several prestigious international organisations (including Asian Development Bank and Overseas Development Institute) as a Communications, Socio-economic Specialist and National Consultant. He is also serving the Political Science Alumni Association as a Secretary. He co-founded MBA Alumni Association of University of Mandalay as a Secretary. On 21st April, 2017, he attended international conference on “THE BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE: India's perspectives on China's plan for infrastructural connectivity in Asia, Africa and Europe” co-organized by Observer Research Foundation Mumbai and Chinese Embassy in New Delhi. Recently he visited China to attend 2<sup>nd</sup> Myanmar-China Think Tank Forum on “Construction of Myanmar-China Economic Corridor” and made a presentation on “Assessment on OBOR/BRI in relation to Construction of the Myanmar-China Economic Corridor”. Mr. Khin Maung Soe holds an MBA and is currently reading Master of Political Studies (MPolS) with University of Mandalay.



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### Dr. Saw Htay Myint

Dr. Saw Htay Myint is President of the Myanmar Creative Institute, Yangon and Chairperson of SHM Group of Companies, Myanmar.

He has served as Director, Myaing Gyu Ngu- Thi Ta Gu Hospital, Kayin State, Myanmar. He was also Vice Chair of the Myanmar Migrants' Education Supportive Foundation.

### U Ba Hla Aye

U Ba Hla Aye joined the Myanmar Foreign Service in 1978 and has served at various capacities in the Headquarters and Embassies of Myanmar in New Delhi and Brasilia and Myanmar Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York and Geneva.

He retired from the service as Director in 2016 and in February 2016 joined the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies. U Ba Hla Aye has a major in Chemistry from the Rangoon Arts and Science University.

| <u>S. No</u> | <u>Name</u>         | <u>Designation</u>                    |
|--------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1)           | Daw Win Aye         |                                       |
| 2)           | Adithya B. Kumar    | Development Officer, CESD             |
| 3)           | Mr. Upendra         | Mizzima                               |
| 4)           | Michalel Eriksson   | Researcher                            |
| 5)           | Nsu Wu Win          | Policy Coordinator, CESD              |
| 6)           | Dr. Su Myo Thu      | Department of Fisheries               |
| 7)           | Kay Thi Soe         | DG, SSTD, Ministry of Foreign Affairs |
| 8)           | U Kye Myint         | MISIS                                 |
| 9)           | Ms. Mya Mya Sein    | Ministry of Commerce                  |
| 10)          | Khin Maung Lwin     | MISIS                                 |
| 11)          | Dr. Khintaw         | P.S. MOALI                            |
| 12)          | U Htun Win Myint    | Director, Department of Fisheries     |
| 13)          | Ms. Udit Gaurav     | Embassy of India                      |
| 14)          | Htoo Kyaw Myint Soe | MISIS                                 |
| 15)          | Daw Kaythi Soe      | MOFA                                  |
| 16)          | Daw Nang Go Khaing  | MOFA                                  |
| 17)          | Kim Ninh            | The Asia Foundation, Myanmar          |

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**Delhi Policy Group**

Core 5A, First Floor, India Habitat Centre

Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003

Ph. +91-11-48202100

[www.delhipolicygroup.org](http://www.delhipolicygroup.org)