



**USAID-UNESCAP Round Table on BIMSTEC
Post-Summit Progress and Way Ahead
8 - 9 December 2022, Bangkok (Hyatt/Grand)**

Agenda

Thai time, Hybrid

Day 1: 8 December 2022

09.00 – 10.30 Inaugural Session

- Manu Sithiprasasana, Executive Director, International Institute for Trade and Development (ITD), Thailand
- Rupa Chanda, Director, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, UNESCAP, Thailand **(Online)**
- Yann Duval, Chief, Trade Facilitation Division, UNESCAP
- Buniga Chamsai, Deputy Director-General, Department of Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Commerce, Thailand
- Nihal Pitigala, Lead Economist, WBD and Selim Raihan, Executive Director SANEM, Bangladesh

10.30 – 11.00 Group Photo, Tea/Coffee Break

11.00 – 12.30 Session I: Enhancing Trade and Strengthening Value Chains in BIMSTEC

Chair: Ganeshan Wignaraja (Professorial Fellow, Gateway House, India and Senior Research Associate, ODI Global, UK)

Speakers:

- Daria Taglioni, Director TI, World Bank **(Online)**
- Nihal Pitigala, WBD
- Archanun Kophai boon, Associate Professor, Thammasat University, Thailand
- Abdul Motaleb Sarker, Director General (SAARC & BIMSTEC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh
- Dhan Bhadur Oli, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nepal **(Online)**

12.30 – 14.00 Lunch break

14.00 – 15.30 Session II: Making the BIMSTEC FTA a Reality

Chair: Mustafizur Rahman, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka

Speakers:

- Abdur Rahim Khan, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Bangladesh
- Dechen Zam, Senior Trade Officer, Export Promotion Division, Department of Trade, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Bhutan
- Mandakini Kaul, South Asia Regional coordinator, World Bank **(Online)**
- Selim Raihan, SANEM
- Adul Chotinisakorn, Former Director-General of Foreign Trade, Thailand

15.30 – 16.00 Tea/Coffee Break

16.00-16.15 Special Remarks: Steve G. Olive, Mission Director, USAID, Thailand

16.00 – 17.30 Session III: Opportunities in Paperless Trade in BIMSTEC: Tasks Ahead

Chair: Yann Duval, UNESCAP

Speakers:

- Tengfei Wang, UNESCAP, Thailand **(Online)**
- Pushpa Sharma, Consultant, Nepal
- Rahul Bhatnagar, Bhatnagar Advisers **(Online)**
- Satya Prasad Sahu, World Bank **(Online)**
- Pema Ghaley, General Secretary, ABI, Bhutan **(Online)**
- Mahishini Colonne, Director, BIMSTEC Secretariat

Day 2: 9 December 2022

09.30 – 11.00 Session IV: Infrastructure Connectivity and Trade Facilitation in BIMSTEC: What Next

Chair: Sanchita Basu Das, Economist, Asian Development Bank (ADB) **(Online)**

Speakers

- Li Donxiang Lead Regional Cooperation and Integration Specialist, ADB **(Online)**
- Tiem Hee Ng, Director, Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination Division South Asia Department, ADB **(Online)**
- Ruth Banomyong, Thammasat Business School, Thailand
- Ganeshan Wignaraja, Gateway House and ODI
- Pritam Banerjee, ADB, New Delhi
- Weerasakdi, Prem-Aree, Director, BIMSTEC Secretariat
- Rakesh Tiwari, Under Secretary (BIMSTEC), Ministry of External Affairs, India **(Online)**

11.00 – 11.30 **Tea / coffee break**

11.30 – 13.00 **Session V: Facilitating Investments in the Region: Challenges and Opportunities**

Chair: Rupa Chanda, Director, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, UNESCAP

Speakers:

- Ravi Sehgal, President, Indo-Thai Chamber of Commerce, Thailand **(Online)**
- Rajeev Singh, Director General, Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) **(Online)**
- Madhurjya Kumar Dutta, Director, Mekong Institute, Thailand. **(Online)**
- Sonam Lhamo, Dy. Chief Industries Officer, FDI Division, Department of Industry, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Bhutan
- Nadeeka Wataliadda, Additional Secretary Development and Innovation, Ministry Foreign Affairs, Sri Lanka

13.00 – 14.00 **Lunch Break**

14.00 – 15.15 **Session VI: BIMSTEC Cooperation for Dealing with Macroeconomic Challenges**

Chair: UNESCAP Macro Division (tbc)

Speakers:

- Sabyasachi Kar, Professor of Indian Institute of Economic Growth **(Online)**
- Ganeshan Wignaraja, Gateway House and ODI Global
- Kiatipong Ariyapruच्या, Senior Country Economist for Thailand, World Bank, Thailand

- Selim Raihan, SANEM

**15.15 – 16.30
BIMSTEC**

Session VII: Toward Sustainable Energy Transition in

Chair: Hongpeng Liu, Director, Energy Division, ESCAP

Speakers

- Venkatachalam Anbumozhi, Director of Research Strategy and Innovation, ERIA **(Online)**
- Jai Govind Singh, Associate Professor and Head of EECC Department, Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Thailand
- Madhusudan Adhikari, Executive Director, Alternative Energy Promotion Center (AEPC), Nepal **(Online)**
- Krittiya Petsee, Senior Policy and Plan Analyst, International Affairs Division, Ministry of Energy, Thailand

16.30 – 17.30

Session VIII: Concluding Session: Scaling up BIMSTEC

Chair: Shahidul Islam, former SG, BIMSTEC

Speakers:

- Bangladesh: Selim Raihan, SANEM
- Bhutan: Dechen Zam, Ministry of Economic Affairs
- India: Prabir De, Professor, RIS, India
- Nepal: Puspa Sharma
- Thailand: Watcharas Leelawath, Bolliger & Company (Thailand)
- BIMSTEC Secretariat: Weerasakdi Prem-Aree
- Jiraporn Wattanasophorn, BIMSTEC Unit Chief, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand
- Sri Lanka: Nihal Pitigala

Vote of Thanks: Sirikan Prasertying, Director of International Cooperation, ITD