Subregional Capacity Building Workshop
Supporting policies on low carbon and resilient transport infrastructure
Promoting Multi-modal Connectivity in the BBIN Countries

Venue: Hotel Taj Vivanta, Shillong, Meghalaya and online
22-24 November 2023

The BBIN Subregion - constituted by Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal - assumes strategic importance as a critical land bridge for economic integration between South Asia and Southeast Asia. To be able to effectively deliver on this role, the Subregion urgently needs to improve its internal connectivity, especially by linking landlocked and economically isolated localities of the subregion, such as the North-East Region (NER) of India, with major sea ports and international transport corridors and gateways.

The Subregional Workshop, organised by ESCAP with the support of the Government of Meghalaya, aims to explore opportunities for the BBIN Subregion in improving its internal multimodal connectivity, oriented on sustainable and resilient transport infrastructure development and policies for optimal utilisation of such infrastructure for trade and development. It brings together transport officials from BBIN countries, trade and industry officials from various state governments of the NER of India, multilateral organisations, think-tanks, connectivity experts and industry associations.

Day 1 of the workshop will be dedicated to assessing the state of the BBIN transport connectivity by road, rail and waterborne transport, Day 2 will offer opportunities for multi-stakeholder discussions on supporting regional and public-private cooperation dialogue and cooperation on sustainable transport and trade logistics.

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

Day 1: 22 November 2023	
09:45 – 10:30	**Registration**
10:30 – 11:00	**Opening Remarks** • **Dr. Vijay Kumar D**., Commissioner and Secretary, Department of Planning and Finance, Government of Meghalaya • **Ms. Mikiko Tanaka**, Director and Head, South and South-West Asia Office, ESCAP **Inaugural Address** • **H.E. Mr. Conrad Kongkal Sangma,** Chief Minister of Meghalaya

11:00 – 11:15	**Tea break**
PART I	**ASSESSING THE STATE OF THE BBIN TRANSPORT CONNECTIVITY**
11:15 – 12:30	**Session 1: The role of the Asian Highways network in enhancing road transport (freight and passenger) connectivity among BBIN countries** The session will discuss key segments and corridors of strategic importance for the BBIN subregion along the Asian Highways (AH) network, their current status, border crossing requirements, policy challenges, and priorities for their future development. **Moderator: Mr. Edouard Chong,** Transport Division, ESCAP Bangkok **Country presentations (15 minutes each):** • **Mr. Abu Naser**, Deputy Secretary, Road Transport and Highways Division Bangladesh • **Ms. Sonam Choden**, Dy. Executive Engineer, Department of Surface Transport, Bhutan • **Mr. Paresh Kumar Goel**, Director (Transport and IC), Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, India • **Mr. Amrit Mani Rimal**, Senior Divisional Engineer, Department of Road, Nepal *Open floor discussion*
12:30 – 13:30	**Lunch break**
13:30 – 14:45	**Session 2: Promoting multimodal transport system to enhance seamless and sustainable connectivity in the BBIN subregion** This session will discuss the requirements of multi-modal connectivity in the subregion, including railways, inland waterways and dry ports **Moderator: Mr. Fedor Kormilitsyn,** Transport Division, ESCAP Bangkok **Country presentations (15 minutes each):** • **Mr. A M Salah Uddin**, Joint Director General (Operation), Bangladesh Railway, Bangladesh • **Ms. Sonam Choden**, Dy. Executive Engineer, Department of Surface Transport, Bhutan • **Mr. Priya Ranjan Parhi**, Executive Director (Infra)-I, Railway Board , Ministry of Railways, India • **Mr. Tulsi Narayan Maharjan**, Senior Divisional Engineer, Nepal Shipping Office, Nepal *Open floor discussion*

14:45 – 15:00	**Tea break**
15:00 – 16:30	**Session 3: Supporting regional cooperation for sustainable and inclusive transport connectivity among BBIN countries** This session will discuss best practices for sustainable and resilient infrastructure, multimodal transport corridor management, ongoing projects in the BBIN subregion, and opportunities for synergies in this session. The session will also discuss gender mainstreaming in road transport sector as well as the capacity constraints at border and behind the border points where technical assistance from various agencies can be provided. **Moderator: Ms. Azhar Jaimurzina Ducrest,** Section Chief, Transport Division, ESCAP Bangkok **Resource persons (7 minutes each):** • **Mr. Tesfamichael Nahusenay**, Senior Transport Specialist, World Bank, India • **Mr. Jiro Kodera**, Counsellor, Economic Section, Embassy of Japan, New Delhi • **Mr. Hajime Taniguchi**, Senior Representative, JICA, New Delhi (*Virtual*) • **Dr. Chunho Yeom**, Professor, University of Seoul, Republic of Korea (*Virtual*) • **Dr. Prabir De**, Professor, RIS, New Delhi • **Dr. Carrie Antal**, General Development Officer, Indo-Pacific Office, USAID, India *Open floor discussion*
16:30 -17:00	**Concluding Session**

Day 2: 23 November 2023	
PART II	**MULTI STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE ON SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT AND TRADE LOGISTICS IN BBIN**
09:30 – 09:45	**Introduction and setting the objectives for sessions** **Ms. Mikiko Tanaka,** Director and Head, South and South-West Asia Office, ESCAP
09:45 – 10:15	**Gender inclusive transport, logistics and supply chain networks amongst BBIN** In the BBIN, like many other regions, the gender dimensions in transport, logistics and supply chains are seen through a gender-neutral lens, though the

	impact on male and female are different. This session will discuss the ways to make transport and logistics sector more inclusive in terms of gender. **Presentation: Ms. Stephanie Choo,** Social Affairs Officer, South and South-West Asia Office, ESCAP **Comments by**: **Mr. Mohammad Mahfuz Kabir**, Research Director, BIISS, Bangladesh *Open floor discussion*
10:15 - 10:30	**Tea break**
10:30 – 12:15	**Potentials for developing trade and supply chain networks amongst BBIN** This session will cover analysis of trade potential and sectoral analysis carried out by ESCAP. Discussions will include major products and sectors which are of importance for trade amongst BBIN countries through corridors connecting the north-eastern regions of India and Bangladesh, with implications for formation of value chains and production networks in the BBIN subregion, and priority policies and actions needed to enhance trade in such sectors. **Presentation on '***Potential of Trade Opportunities between Bangladesh and North-Eastern Region (NER) of India***' Dr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna,** Deputy Head and Senior Economic Affairs Officer, South and South-West Asia Office, ESCAP **Panel discussion (5 minutes):** • **Mr. Sadeq Ahmad**, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Bangladesh Private sector • **Mr. Pravin Bakshi**, Commissioner and Secretary, Department of Commerce and Industries, Government of Meghalaya. • **Ms. Nidhi Pandey**, Under Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, India • **Mr. Kuenzang Leki**, General Secretary, Bhutan Exporters Association, Bhutan • **Mr. Md. Mosharaf Hossain,** Director, BIMSTEC • **Mr. Mahendra Prasad Lama**, Professor, JNU, New Delhi, India *Open floor discussion*
12:15 —13:30	**Sharing of experiences in developing trade and supply chain networks** **Moderator: Ms. Mikiko Tanaka,** Director and Head, South and South-West Asia Office, ESCAP • **Mr. Lari Kupar Lyngdoh**, AGM, Meghalaya Livelihoods and Access to Markets Project (LAMP), MBMA, Government of Meghalaya • **Ms. Alemchila Tzudir**, Fellow, Promotion and Incubation of Market Driven Enterprises (PRIME), Planning Department, Government of Meghalaya • **Mr. Sabyasachi Dutta**, Executive Director, Asian Confluence, Shillong

	Open floor discussion
13:30 – 14:30	**Lunch**
14:30 – 15:30	**Concluding session** **Conclusions, recommendations, and way forward:** • **Dr. Vijay Kumar D**., Commissioner and Secretary, Department of Planning and Finance, Government of Meghalaya • **Ms. Mikiko Tanaka,** Head and Director of ESCAP South and South-West Asia • **Ms. Azhar Jaimurzina Ducrest,** Section Chief, Transport Division, ESCAP, Bangkok **Special Remarks: Mr. Shombi Sharp,** United Nations Resident Coordinator for India, India

Day 3: 24 November 2023	
Visit to Dawki, ICP	
8:00	**Delegates leave from Shillong for Dawki by road**
11:00– 13:00	• **Welcome** - Mikiko Tanaka, Head/Director, ESCAP Subregional Office for South and Southwest Asia • **Opening remarks** - Mr. Vivek Verma, Secretary, Land Ports Authority of India • **Presentation on Dawki ICP** - Mr. T.C. Chacko, Manager, Dawki Integrated Check Post • **Bangladesh perspectives** - Mr. Zillur Rahman Chowdhury, Chairman, Bangladesh Land Port Authority • **Private sector perspectives** – Representatives from Meghalaya (India), Sylhet (Bangladesh), Bhutan • **Open dialogue**
13:00—13:30	**Site tour of Dawki Land Port**
13:30 – 14:30	**Lunch**
14:30	**Delegates leave for Shillong**