USAID: Partnering for BBIN Connectivity



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USG Regional Infrastructure Priorities

USG Indo-Pacific Strategy

Sovereignty and Prosperity: Reinforce national sovereignty by diversifying trade partners and boosting cross-border transit and trade volumes

Transparency: Strengthen the ability of governments to promote fair, transparent policies and practices

Consensus-Driven Standards: Regionally define and adopt high standards regimes for infrastructure

Sustainable Development: Expand climate-resilient infrastructure while conserving natural resources and biodiversity



USAID and Infrastructure since 2001

- Post-war reconstruction (Iraq, Afghanistan) → cross-border trade connectivity
- Limited funds, concentrated in 4-5 conflict-affected countries
- ~5 Engineering Officers
- Energy is USAID's main infrastructure priority
- Established in 2018, the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) is new USG lead for international infrastructure financing



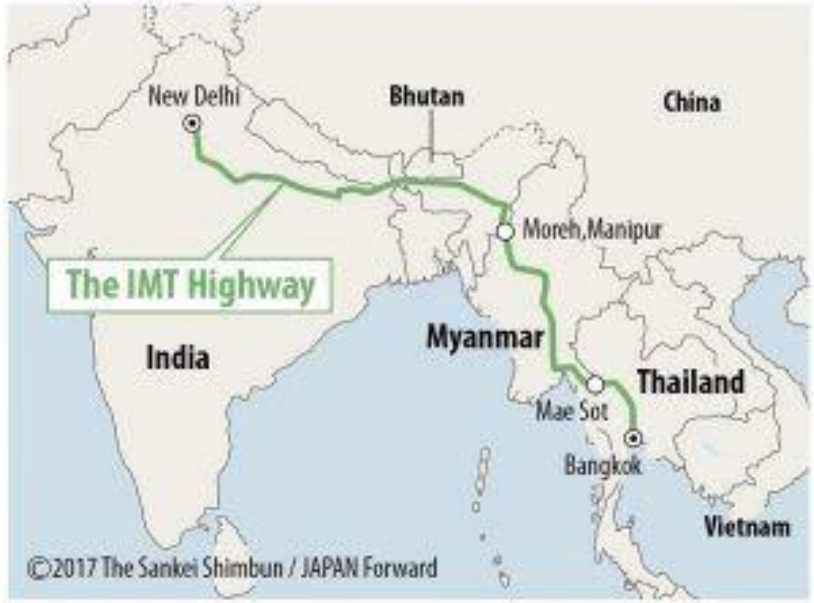
Asia's Linear Infrastructure Safeguarding Nature (ALIGN)



- Four-year, $6 million USD activity (ends September 2025): Nepal, India, Mongolia
- Goal: develop and adopt effective, high quality linear infrastructure safeguards that support people and conserve nature
- Nepal – transport sector (roads): wildlife crossings on East-West highway; capacity building for banks and engineering firms
- India – infrastructure financing (roads and railways): India's first elevated bridge (Delhi-Mumbai Expressway)
- Integrate wildlife-friendly infrastructure planning and design in university courses

Cross-Border Infrastructure and Connectivity (CBIC)

TA complementing existing investments to improve cross-border connectivity and trade along the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway



Illustrative activities: India

- Feasibility study and design of lock at Jangipur to increase shipping potential of key inland waterway connecting to Bangladesh (supports ongoing GOI, WB investments)
- Feasibility study to convert freight terminal into multimodal hub at Balagarh
- Design of green inland waterway shipping vessels

Infrastructure Challenges

Internal USG:

Interagency Alignment: Engineering knowledge and project management skills with USAID, infrastructure financing with USDFC

Country-Oriented Operations: Most planning and resourcing within a country, not a region; difficult to coordinate across borders

External:

Country-Level Impediments: Government personnel turnover, shifting or conflicting priorities

Undesired Effects: Livelihoods for the boat builders of Balagarh?

Thank you!

Additional Questions:

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