

25 YEARS OF BIMSTEC

ENHANCING BIMSTEC CONNECTIVITY IN THE NEW ERA

Wednesday, 30 March 2022

Day 1

Inauguration Session

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| 16:30 - 16:40 | Welcome Remarks by Dr. Dayantha Laksiri Mendis, Executive Director, LKI |
| 16:40 - 16:50 | Keynote Address by Hon. Prof. G.L. Peiris, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sri Lanka |
| 16:50 - 17:00 | Special Remarks Mr. Reed Aeschliman, Mission Director Sri Lanka and the Maldives, USAID |
| 17:00 - 17:30 | Brief Recap of the Summit, Charter, and Orientation of the Panel Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Selim Raihan, Executive Director, SANEM, Bangladesh• Dr. Nihal Pitigala, Lead Economist, WBD & InReach Global• Dr. Prabir De, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), India• Dr. Watcharas Leelawath, Honorary Advisor, Bolliger & Company, Thailand |
| 17:30 - 17:50 | Q & A |
| 17:50 - 18:00 | Closing Remarks by Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya, State Minister of Regional Cooperation, Sri Lanka |

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Thursday, 31 March 2022

Day 2

Opening Ceremony

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| 10:00 - 10:05 | Welcome Remarks by Dr. Dayantha Laksiri Mendis, Executive Director, LKI |
| 10:05 - 10:10 | Opening Remarks by Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya, State Minister of Regional Cooperation, Sri Lanka |
| 10:10 - 10:20 | Keynote Address by Adml. Prof. Jayanath Colombage, Foreign Secretary, Sri Lanka |
| 10:20 - 10:30 | Special Remarks by H.E. Tenzin Lekphell, Secretary General, BIMSTEC |
| 10:30 - 10:45 | Introductory Remarks by Dr. Selim Raihan, Executive Director, SANEM, Bangladesh and Dr. Nihal Pitigala, Lead Economist, WBD & InReach Global |
| 10:45 - 11:00 | Refreshments |

Panel One : Trade and Investment

Panel Chair - Dr. Nihal Pitigala, Lead Economist, WBD & InReach Global

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| 11:00 - 11:40 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Selim Raihan, Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka & Executive Director, South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM), Bangladesh• Dr. Mustafizur Rahman, Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh• Dr. Nisha Taneja, Professor, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), India• Dr. Watcharas Leelawath, Honorary Advisor, Bolliger and Company, Thailand |
| 11:40 - 12:00 | Q & A |

Panel Two : Infrastructure and Multimodal Connectivity

Panel Chair - Mr. Achyut Bhandari, Co-Founder, Centre for Research on Bhutanese Society, Bhutan

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| 12:00 - 12:40 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Ganeshan Wignaraja, Senior Fellow, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore• Dr. Prabir De, Professor, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), India |
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- Dr. Ruth Banomyong, Dean, Thammasat Business School, Thammasat University, Thailand

12:40 - 13:00

Q & A

13:00 - 14:00

Lunch

Panel Three : Digital Economy

Panel Chair: Mr. Oshada Senanayake, Chairman, Information and Communication Technology Agency (ICTA), Sri Lanka

14:00 - 14:40

- Dr. Arpita Mukherjee, Professor, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), India
- Dr. Surat Teerakapibal, Associate Professor, Department of Marketing, Thammasat University, Thailand
- Dr. Mona Shrestha Adhikari, Chief Executive Officer, Enterprise for Management, Economic Reform & Gender Equality (EMERGE), Nepal
- Dr. Tshering Cigay Dorji, Former Chief Executive Officer, Thimphu TechPark Limited, Bhutan

14:40 - 15:00

Q & A

Panel Four: BIMSTEC Charter, BIMSTEC Fund and Institution

Panel Chair: Dr. Selim Raihan, Executive Director, SANEM

15:00 - 15:40

- Amb. Sumith Nakandala, Senior Director, Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies (BCIS) and Former Secretary-General of BIMSTEC
- Dr. Posh Raj Pandey, Chairman, South Asia Watch on Trade Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Nepal
- Dr. Bipul Chatterjee, Executive Director, CUTS International, India

15:40 - 16:00

Q & A

16:00 - 16:30

Afternoon Tea/ Coffee

Panel Five: People to People Contacts

Panel Chair: Dr. Posh Raj Pandey, Chairman, South Asia Watch on Trade Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Nepal

16:30 - 17:10

- Amb. Shahidul Haque, Professorial Fellow, NSU, Bangladesh and Former Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh
- Mr. Sabyasachi Dutta, Executive Director, Asian Confluence, India

- Dr. Jirayudh Sinthuphan, Assistant Professor, Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand

17:10 - 17:30

Q & A

Closing Session : Way Forward: 2047: Fifty Years of BIMSTEC

Panel Chair: Amb. Sumith Nakandala, Senior Director, BCIS and Former Secretary General of BIMSTEC

17:30 - 18:10

- **Bangladesh:** Dr. Selim Raihan
- **Bhutan:** Mr. Achyut Bhandari
- **India:** Dr. Prabir De
- **Nepal:** Dr. Posh Raj Pandey
- **Sri Lanka:** Dr Nihal Pitigala
- **Thailand:** Dr. Jirayudh Sinthuphan

18:10 - 18:20

Vote of Thanks

- **SANEM:** Dr. Selim Raihan
- **LKI:** Mr. Chathuka Senanayake

18:20 - 18:30

Refreshments