

**Policy Dialogue on Economic and Transport Development  
in Border Areas in Eastern South Asia  
Shillong (Meghalaya), India, 4-5 December 2013**

**Tentative Agenda**

**DAY 1: Wednesday, 4 December 2013**

10:00 – 10:30 **Registration**

10:30 – 11:30 **Opening session**

Welcome address: Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Meghalaya  
Opening remarks: **Dr. Nagesh Kumar**, Director, ESCAP-SSWA and Chief Economist of UNESCAP  
Opening remarks: Representative of ADB  
Special Address: **H.E. Mr. M.P. Bezbaruah**, Member, North Eastern Council, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, Government of India, Shillong  
Keynote Address: Hon'ble Minister, Government of Meghalaya  
Inaugural Address: **H.E. Dr. Mukul Sangma**, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Meghalaya  
Vote of thanks: Principal Secretary, Department of Commerce and Industries, Government of Meghalaya

11:30 – 11:45 Group Photo and Tea and Coffee break

11:45 – 13:30 **Session 1: Key Issues in border area and crossing management and economic development**

*Chair:* tba

*Presentations:*

Poverty alleviation and the social aspects of border area development:

**Dr. Manas Bhattacharyya**, ESCAP-SSWA, UNESCAP

SASEC Transport and Trade Facilitation Sectors: **Mr. Cuong Minh Nguyen**, Senior Economist (Regional Cooperation), South Asia Department, Asian Development Bank

Current status of economic and transport development in border areas in Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal

Open discussion

13:30 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:30 **Session 2: Best practices and models in cross-border transport facilitation, infrastructure and economic development**

*Chair:*

*Presentations:*

Experiences of Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Viet Nam in realizing cross-border opportunities: **Yuwei Li**, Transport Division, UNESCAP

Logistics and economic development at border crossings: **Prof. Wang Xi Fu**, Head, Logistics Engineering Department, Transport College, Beijing Jiaotong University

Efficient and secure Cross-Border Transport Models by **Sandeep Raj Jain**, Transport Division, UNESCAP

Border crossing management in India – Designing and Operation of Integrated Check Posts: **Mr. Abbas Kumar**, Senior Deputy General Manager, Rail India Technical and Economic Services Limited, India

Open discussion including on the systematic assessment of non-physical barriers in cross-border transport in the subregion.

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee break

16:00 – 17:30 **Session 3: Potential of transport facilitation and special economic zones for the development of the border areas of the subregion**

*Chair:* **Mr. Ram Mohan Mishra**, Principal Secretary, Planning Department, Government of Meghalaya

*Presentations:*

Government of Meghalaya (tba)

Border Haats in India – Evaluation of social and economic impact:

**Mr. Prithviraj Nath**, CUTS International, Calcutta Resource Centre  
Mainstreaming North Eastern States of India in the Look East Policy:

**Dr. Arvind Kumar**, President, India Water Foundation and Member, Meghalaya State Water Resources Council

Government and business representatives from Bangladesh/ Bhutan/ Nepal

Open discussion

17:30 – 18:00 Wrap-up of Day 1

19:00 Dinner (tba)

**DAY 2: Thursday, 5 December 2013**

09:00 – 16:00 **Field visit to border crossing**

16:30 – 18:00 **Concluding session**

*Chair:* Secretary, North Eastern Council, Shillong

Discussion of Draft Conclusions and Recommendations

Valedictory address: Hon'ble Minister, Government of Meghalaya

Wrap-up

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