

Regional Policy Dialogue

Connectivity Imperatives in the Bay of Bengal Region

May 2-3, 2018, Hotel Metropolitan, New Delhi

Agenda

Day 1: Wednesday, May 2, 2018

1600 - 1630 Registration

1630 - 1830 Opening: Emerging Trends in Regionalism and Strategic Issues for Better Connectivity in the Bay of Bengal Region

This will be a high-level plenary with speakers sharing their insights on emerging strategic and geopolitical issues impacting connectivity in the Bay of Bengal region. This will also highlight how countries in the Bay of Bengal region are looking at regionalism at present and what priorities define their approach to the region.

1900 Reception & Dinner

Day 2: Thursday, May 3, 2018

0900 - 1030 Session 1: Linking Connectivity to Livelihoods

This session will deliberate on how better connectivity between and among countries in the Bay of Bengal region will impact job creation and sustainable livelihoods. It will look at evidence presented from the recent relevant studies to discuss trends and come up with recommendations for promotion of sustainable livelihoods, with particular focus on women

There will be a presentation by CUTS International followed by a panel discussion with around 5-6 panellists comprising of a mix of government officials, transport sector experts, multilateral agencies and private sector. The session will be chaired by a senior expert/official.

1030 - 1100 Networking Break

1100 - 1300 Session 2: Leveraging Infrastructure for Better Physical Connectivity

This session will look at the status of existing infrastructure and the gaps, how on-going and planned infrastructure development can be leveraged for optimum outcomes from enhanced connectivity and what more needs to be done at the national and regional levels in terms of physical infrastructure, to come up with specific and prioritised infrastructure

recommendations. The session will also spend some time on how to look at infrastructure from a gender lens

There will be a presentation by CUTS International followed by a panel discussion with around 5-6 panellists comprising of a mix of government officials, transport sector experts, multilateral agencies and private sector. The session will be chaired by a senior expert/official.

1300-1400 Lunch

1400 - 1530 Session 3: Software of Connectivity: The BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement and Other Initiatives

This session will focus on the current status and possible challenges to the implementation of the BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement and examine how tools like the TIR Convention can enable and facilitate implementation of such connectivity initiatives. It will also discuss the implications of a successful implementation of BBIN MVA for other connectivity initiatives in the region.

There will be a presentation by CUTS International followed by a panel discussion with around 5-6 panellists comprising of a mix of government officials, transport sector experts, multilateral agencies and private sector. The session will be chaired by a senior expert/official.

1530 - 1600 Networking Break

1600 - 1730 Session 4: Private Sector Perspectives on Leveraging Connectivity

This session will discuss the envisaged and desired outcomes of connectivity initiatives in the region as perceived by private sector players. It will collate private sector inputs on the sectors, projects and dialogues, which are to be prioritised and at what levels. The idea is to come up with a prioritised action agenda to enable private sector to leverage various connectivity initiatives.

There will be a presentation by CUTS International followed by a panel discussion with around 5-6 panellists comprising of a mix of government officials, transport sector experts, multilateral agencies and private sector. The session will be chaired by a senior expert/official.

1730 - 1830 Closing: Key Policy Recommendations and Action Agenda

This session will focus on bringing together the suggestions in the form of either policy and/or practice changes or specific business/investment opportunities/ideas that emerged from all the different sessions. A compilation of the key recommendations will be presented by CUTS International followed by reflections from government officials and experts to sum-up the key takeaways from the dialogue.