



# Conference on Regional Cooperation and Integration

## Experiences in Asia and the Pacific

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## Papers and Presentations

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**BIMP-EAGA**  
East ASEAN Growth Area



**CAREC**



**IMT-gt**  
Indonesia - Malaysia - Thailand  
Growth Triangle



**SASEC**





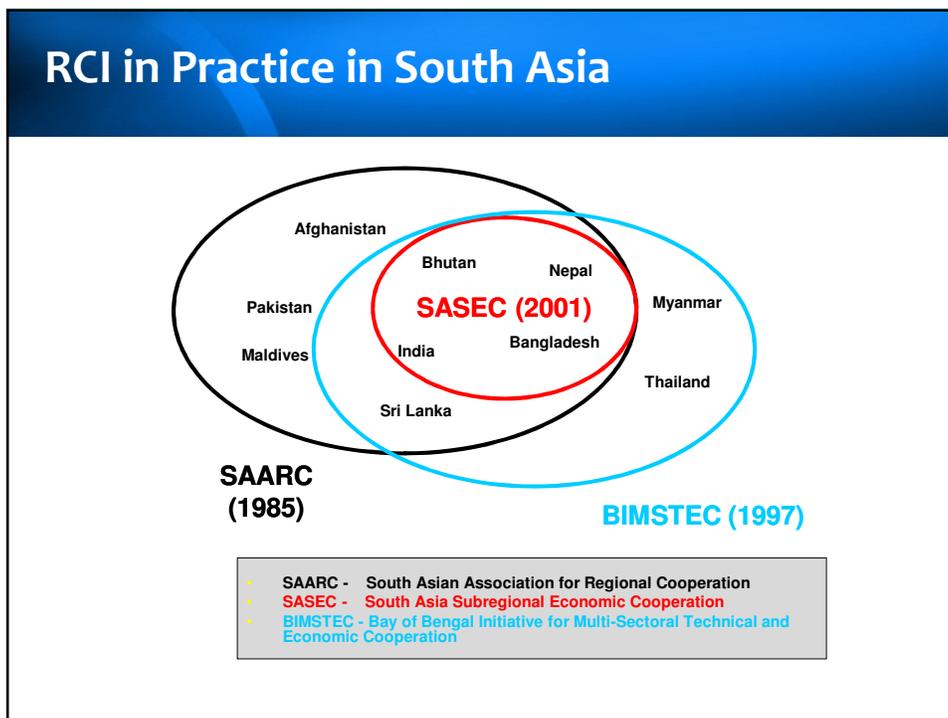


## Regional Cooperation Initiatives in South Asia and the Importance of Regionalism

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## RCI Approaches in South Asia

- National (w/subregional dimensions)
- Subregional (SASEC)
- Regional (SAARC)
- Inter-regional (SAARC-BIMSTEC)

- Government ownership
- Multi-speed, Multi-track approach

**Bottom-up phased approach in accelerating RCI:**  
**National ->> Subregional ->> Regional**

**Building-block, Multi-track, Multi-speed framework:**  
**2 countries ->> 2+1 countries ->> 2++ countries**

## SASEC: Major Accomplishments (2001-2009)

### Trade, Investment and Private Sector Cooperation

- South Asia Business Forum
- Tariff and Non-Tariff Barriers
- Human Resource Development
- ICT
- Agro-processing
- Audio-visual Entertainment
- Tourism

### Energy and Power

- BAN-IND Project
- Dagachhu Hydropower
- Rural Electrification
- Compressed Natural Gas
- Other cross border projects

### Environment

- Regional Air Quality Management
- Networking of Experts
- Freshwater Pollution
- Hazardous Waste
- Sustainable Development Corridor

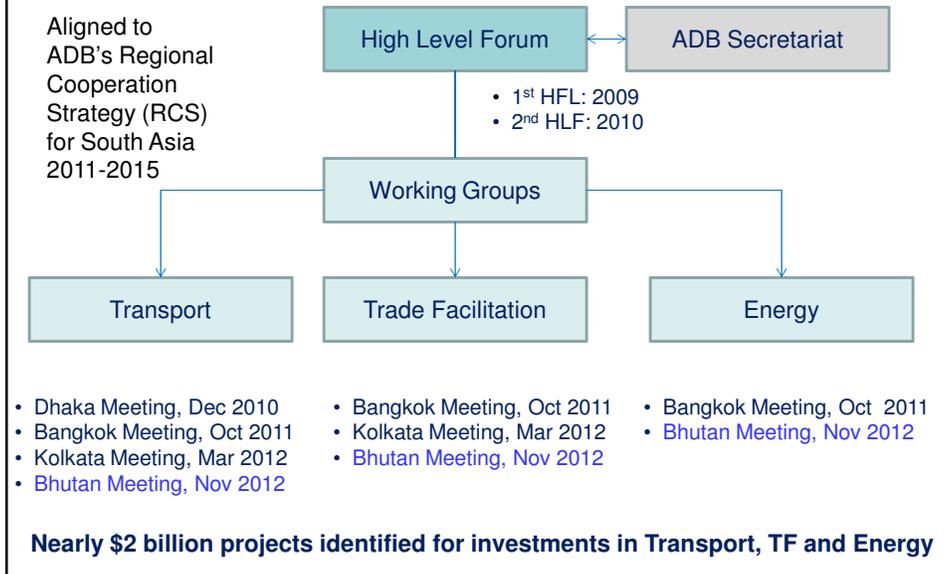
### Tourism

- SASEC Tourism Infrastructure Project
- Tourism Development Plan
- Tourism Promotion Website and Office

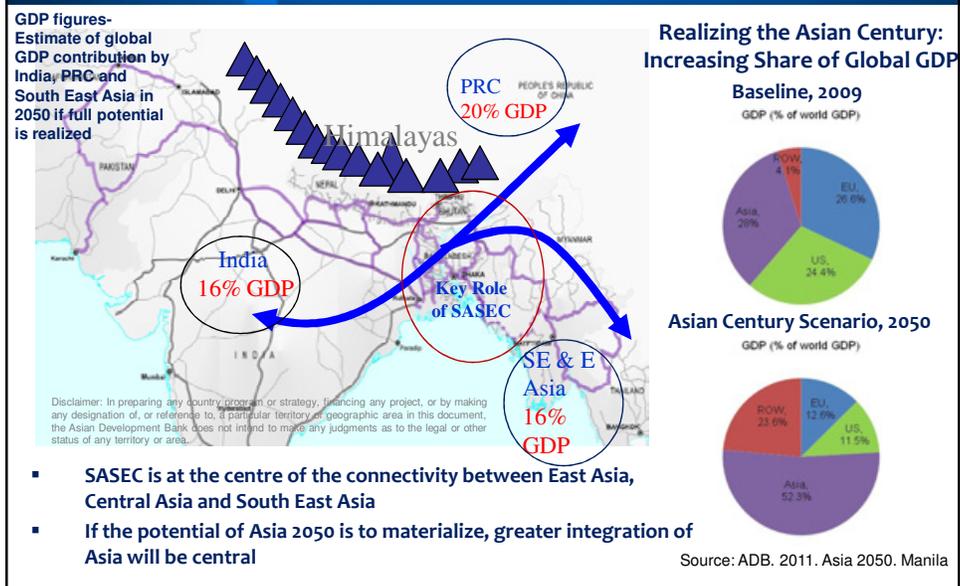
### ICT

- Information Highway Corridor Project
- ICT Masterplan
- E-community Centers and HRD
- Harmonization of regulations

## SASEC: Operational Framework (2010 onwards)



## SASEC lies at the center of Asian connectivity



## Prospects and Opportunities

1. Opportunities for SASEC countries
  - Increased access to ports for land-locked countries
  - Improved transport and transit agreements
  - Streamlining trade regulations and processes across borders
2. SASEC++
  - Strengthen coordination with other programs (BIMSTEC, GMS, CAREC,...)
  - Enhance interregional connectivity (Asian Highways, Trans-Asian Railways)
  - Create win-win opportunities and unlock full growth potentials

## Prospects and Opportunities

3. Increasing trade and investments will have large benefits
  - Integrated production and supply chain networks
  - Improved specialization will increase global competitiveness
  - Expanding intraregional and interregional trade
  - Increased business and job opportunities
4. Address regional issues
  - Energy security and energy efficiency
  - Climate adaptation and food security
  - Disaster management
  - Resilience to external market shocks
  - Technology spillovers

