



Embassy of Nepal, Dhaka

Press Release

The 139th Meeting of the BIMSTEC Working Group (BWG) was held at the Embassy of Nepal, Dhaka on 10 June 2014 to follow up the implementation of various decisions taken by the Third BIMSTEC Summit and Ministerial Meeting held in Myanmar in March this year. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Hari Kumar Shrestha, Ambassador of Nepal to Bangladesh and attended by all Ambassadors/High Commissioners and senior diplomatic officials of diplomatic missions of BIMSTEC member states in Dhaka and senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh.

The meeting was held in accordance with the decision of the BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting in Myanmar to hold the BWG meeting in Dhaka, chaired by the BIMSTEC chair country mission in Dhaka. Nepal holds the current chair of BIMSTEC.

The BWG meeting was shifted from Bangkok to Dhaka in view of the permanent BIMSTEC secretariat in Dhaka, which will be operational in near future. H.E. Mr. Sumith Nakandala from Sri Lanka will assume responsibility as the first BIMSTEC Secretary General.

As per the decision of the BIMSTEC Summit, the third BIMSTEC energy ministers' meeting is scheduled to be held in Kathmandu in the last week of June 2014, which will deliberate to forge cooperation among BIMSTEC countries on power generation, grid connectivity etc. Earlier, Nepal hosted the 2nd BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting on Poverty Alleviation in Kathmandu on 15-16 January 2012, which adopted Kathmandu Declaration and BIMSTEC Poverty Plan of Action (PPA). Nepal is designated as a lead country on poverty alleviation.

BIMSTEC has identified fourteen areas of cooperation in such priority areas as trade, tourism, investment, poverty alleviation, infrastructural development, energy cooperation, connectivity, climate change and disaster management, people-to-people contacts etc. BIMSTEC is often considered as a bridge between SAARC and ASEAN as it comprises five SAARC member states: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka, and two ASEAN member states of Myanmar and Thailand.

10 June 2014