

A satellite-style image of the Earth showing the Bay of Bengal region. The landmasses of South and Southeast Asia are visible, with the Bay of Bengal in the center. The text is overlaid on the image.

**National Seminar on Blue Economy  
Bangladesh and Bay of Bengal Regional Cooperation**

**Summary presentation on  
Different writers from BIMSTEC  
Countries**

# Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical Economic Cooperation

- ✓ A group of countries in South Asia and South East Asia established in 1997
- ✓ Aiming to set the multi-sectoral connectivity among the countries.
- ✓ Brings 1.56 billion people (2015) (22% of world population)
- ✓ Combined GDP is over \$2.8 trillion (2014)



# Member Countries

Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand



# Bangladesh

**Area:** 147,610 km<sup>2</sup>

**Population:** 163 million

**GDP:** Total-\$ 687 billion and per capita-\$4,000

**Major resources:** Natural gas, arable land timber, coal



# Opportunities by BIMSTEC for Bangladesh

- ✓ Maritime port facilities especially Chittagong port as this is near to India, Nepal and Bhutan
- ✓ Land based integration between Southeast and South Asia
- ✓ Development of functional zone of the Bay of Bengal
- ✓ Trading with neighboring countries like India and Myanmar



# Bhutan

- ✓ **Area:** 38,394 km<sup>2</sup>
- ✓ **Population:** 0.74 million
- ✓ **GDP:** National-\$6.5 billion, per capita-\$ 8000
- ✓ **Major resources:** Timber, hydro power, gypsum calcium carbonate





# Opportunities by BIMSTEC for Bhutan

- ✓ Can be established BIMSTEC Tourism center
- ✓ Bhutan can lead the cultural cooperation sector
- ✓ Can use the ports of India and Bangladesh
- ✓ Development of Trading facilities as India, Bangladesh and Thailand are among the top trading countries



# India

- ✓ **Area:** 3,287,263 km<sup>2</sup>
- ✓ **Population:** 1.3 billion
- ✓ **GDP:** National-\$2.5 trillion, per capita-\$ 1850
- ✓ **Major resources:** Coal, chromite, natural gas, diamonds, petroleum, lime stone, arable land





# Opportunities by BIMSTEC for India

- ✓ Recent development of multi-model connectivity particularly India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka
- ✓ Motor vehicle agreement among Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal
- ✓ Initiated dialogue to set Mekong-Ganga basin for getting connectivity among Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam
- ✓ Can be possible for free trade agreements among the countries



# Nepal

- ✓ Area: 147,181 km<sup>2</sup>
- ✓ Population: 26.5 million
- ✓ GDP: National-\$74 billion, per capita-\$ 2573
- ✓ Major resources: Quartz, water, timber, hydropower, scenic beauty



# Opportunities by BIMSTEC for Nepal

- ✓ Can import marine products from other BIMSTEC member countries
- ✓ Can use the Bay for international trade with low costs
- ✓ Scope of ecotourism
- ✓ Nepal can use Kolkata and Haldia sea ports in India
- ✓ Power Trade Agreement between Nepal and India



# Sri Lanka

- ✓ Area: 65,610 km<sup>2</sup>
- ✓ Population: 20 million
- ✓ GDP: National-\$84 billion, per capita-\$ 3927
- ✓ Major resources: Lime =stone, graphite, mineral sands, hydropower



# Opportunities by BIMSTEC for Sri Lanka

Have increased to market access with other BIMSTEC member countries



# Thailand

- ✓ Area: 513,120 km<sup>2</sup>
- ✓ Population: 68 million
- ✓ GDP: National-\$1.2 trillion, per capita-\$ 16706
- ✓ Major resources: Tin, rubber, natural gas, timber, lead, fish



# Opportunities by BIMSTEC for Thailand

- ✓ Tourism and fisheries are contributing to the economy of the region
- ✓ Engaged other BIMATEC member countries' efforts on sustainable coastal management
- ✓ Lesson for other to manage the mangrove forests and the sea line.





# Challenges:

- ✓ Lack of political will from the governments of the countries
- ✓ Lack of institutional and regulatory connectivity and harmonization
- ✓ Socio political and security issue
- ✓ Capacity and economic gaps among the countries
- ✓ Over population trends to over exploitation of resources of the Bay due to lack of knowledge



# Recommendations

- ✓ Increasing the inter-governmental cooperation among the member countries
- ✓ Harmonizing relevant regulations like traffic, vehicle, pollution norms etc.
- ✓ Running the political and diplomatic negotiations
- ✓ BIMSTEC member countries should translate its high population into human resources





Thank you