

# Bay of Bengal Updates: Regional Economic Cooperation at a Crossroads

Feb 9, 2026 (Mon)  
14:00-17:00

Free &  
Hybrid  
at JETRO-HQ  
and  
on Zoom.

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The collapse of the Hasina administration in August 2024 stagnated the positive trend of economic cooperation in the Bay of Bengal region. Diplomatic tensions between India and Bangladesh, security problems in India's NER, and the recent political upheaval in Nepal have cast uncertainty over the region's political and economic future. This symposium brings together researchers from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal to share the latest assessments of national developments and to explore pathways for revitalizing regional economic cooperation through enhanced connectivity.

## Program

- Opening Remarks Shinya Imaizumi (Executive Vice President, IDE-JETRO)
- Presentation 1: “Regional background and updates”  
Mayumi Murayama (Senior Research Fellow, Area Studies Center, IDE-JETRO)
- Presentation 2: “Role of Japan in the regional cooperation”  
Yuji Ando (Senior Director for Global Strategy (Southwest Asia), Planning Division, Planning Department, JETRO)

### ~Session 1 : Country Updates~

- Bangladesh Mustafizur Rahman (Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh)
- Bhutan Phuntsho Rapten (Eminent Member, National Council, Parliament of Bhutan)
- India Sabyasachi Dutta (Executive Director, Asian Confluence, India)
- Nepal Sunil KC (Founder, Asian Institute of Diplomacy and International Affairs (AIDIA), Nepal)

### ~Session 2: Panel Discussion, Q&A~

Theme: “Regional Economic Cooperation in the Bay-of-Bengal Rim: Ways Forward”

Moderator: So Umezaki (Director-General, Development Studies Center, IDE-JETRO)

Panelists: All speakers

※The presentation titles and the program are subject to change.

**Venue : Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) Headquarters, 5F JETRO HALL and Online**

**Languages: Japanese and English (with simultaneous interpretation)**

**Participation Fee: Free**

**Details and Registration**

**IDE-JETRO Website**

<https://www.ide.go.jp/English/Events/Sympo/260209.html>

**Registration Deadline**

**Thursday, 5 February, 2026 13:00 JST**

Registration will be closed once we reach capacity

