



Cultural Connectivity in BIMSTEC Region

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Summary

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- **Brief on BIMSTEC**
- **BIMSTEC Cultural Sector**
- **Cultural Connectivity in BIMSTEC Region**
- **Conclusion**



A Glance on Culture



Culture Basics

❖ **Cultivation of the soul, mind or intellect**

❖ **Social behavior and norms found in human societies**

- **Knowledge**
- **Civilization**
- **Language**
- **Arts**
- **Laws**
- **Social Structure**
- **Capabilities**
- **Heritage**

- **Philosophy**
- **Religion**
- **Beliefs**
- **Practices**
- **Habits**
- **Literature**
- **Music**
- **Painting**

- **Way of Life**
- **Family Values**
- **Customs**
- **Traditions**
- **Festivals**
- **Cuisine**
- **Costume**
- **Greetings**

- **Culture is who we are, and what shapes our identity**
- **Culture passes from generations to generations**



Culture Basics (contd.)

- ❖ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted in September 2015 by the United Nations, the international development agenda refers to culture for the first time.
- ❖ Culture is noted specifically in Target 4.7 (SDG 4-Quality Education), which calls for education to promote a culture of peace and non-violence , an appreciation of cultural diversity, and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.



Components of Culture

- ❖ **Behaviour patterns of group** (mores, folkways, customs, traditions, stereotypes, taboos, legends, fashion, cuisines, costumes, myth etc.)
- ❖ **Ethics and religion** (laws, morals, worship, observance of rituals, sacrifice, prayers, feasts and festivals etc.)
- ❖ **Language, literature and arts** (prose, poetry, drama, story, music, dance, sculpture, paintings, architecture, photography etc.)
- ❖ **Educational and recreational institutions** (library, museum, school, cinema, theatre, cultural clubs etc.)
- ❖ **Socio-economic and political institutions** (social structure, family structure, market system, governance etc.)



Characteristics of Culture

- ❖ Sum total of traits acquired by socialization process and Good behaviour patterns of people in the society
- ❖ As social heritage, it has not its individual connotation
- ❖ Obsolesces and outmodes if does not meet the recurring needs and demands of society
- ❖ Dynamic, receives good things from other cultures, adaptative in nature and changes as civilization changes
- ❖ Culture is modified and renewed in the light of new experiences.
- ❖ Transmitted from generation to generation and each generation is free to modify and transmit it to the next generation



Types of Culture

- ❖ According to Ellwood, culture is of two types viz. material and non-material culture.
- ❖ **Material culture** includes all sorts of man- made objects and things that have been evolved over ages for man's well-being and comforts such as:
 - ❖ clothes, utensils, homes, roads, ornaments, T.V., radio, machines, gadgets and various means of transport and communication.
- ❖ **Non-material culture includes** all those ideals, attitudes and values which modify the behaviour of an individual such as:
 - ❖ language, literature, art, music, religion, customs, tradition, morality, law.



Domestic vs International Culture

Domestic Culture

- ❖ Languages/heritages/greetings
- ❖ Feasts/festivals/cuisines/costumes

International/Global Culture

- ❖ Intra-regional- common in region
- ❖ Inter-regional – diversity
- ❖ International- acquired internationally



We preserve and promote domestic as well as international (intra-regional and inter-regional) culture BIMSTEC region.



Brief on BIMSTEC



Map of BIMSTEC Region

A regional Organization in Littoral Zone of Bay of Bengal





BIMSTEC: Bridging South and South East Asia



- ❖ Seven Member States: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand
- ❖ Among seven, five (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka) are from South Asia and two (Myanmar and Thailand) from South East Asia.



BIMSTEC: Establishment and Facts

- ❖ Established as a Regional Organization through Bangkok Declaration on 06 June, 1997.
- ❖ BIST-EC to BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation)
 - Economic bloc to Multi-Sectoral Organization
 - Myanmar joined on 22 Dec 1997
 - Nepal and Bhutan joined in Feb 2004
- ❖ SECRETARIAT has been established at Dhaka, Bangladesh and is operative since September 2014
- ❖ BIMSTEC a platform for intra-regional cooperation :
 - Covers 3.7% of global area
 - Is a market of almost 1.7 billion people (22.2% of global population)
 - With US\$ 3.7 trillion economy which accounts for 4.3% of global GDP (2018)



Sectors of Cooperation in BIMSTEC

S.N.	Sector	Lead Country	Identified/ Added on
1	Trade & Investment	Bangladesh	19 December 1998 by 2 nd Ministerial Meeting (MM), Dhaka
2	Technology	Sri Lanka	
3	Transport & Communication	India	
4	Energy	Myanmar	
5	Tourism	India	
6	Fisheries	Thailand	
7	Agriculture	Myanmar	19 December 2005 by 8 th MM, Dhaka
8	Cultural Cooperation	Bhutan	
9	Environment & Disaster Management	India	
10	Public Health	Thailand	
11	People to People Contact	Thailand	
12	Poverty Alleviation	Nepal	
13	Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime	India	12 November 2008 by 11 th MM, New Delhi
14	Climate Change	Bangladesh	

❖ Mountain Economy & Blue Economy are considered as possible new areas of cooperation by 4th BIMSTEC Summit, held in Kathmandu on 30-31 August 2018.



BIMSTEC Cultural Cooperation Sector



BIMSTEC Tourism Sector: Mechanisms and Meetings

BIMSTEC Culture Ministers' Roundtable	BIMSTEC Working Group on Culture
First Meeting: • Held on 23 -25 May 2006 in Paro, Bhutan • Prepared and discussed Plan of Action of Cultural Cooperation for the BIMSTEC Region Second Meeting: • Proposed to be held in Dhaka on 2020	First Meeting: • Held on 23 September 2013, New Delhi, India • Agreed on BIMSTEC Cultural Fund to run Information Centre in India • Agreed to appoint nodal officers Second Meeting: • Proposed to be held in Dhaka on 2020



Cultural Connectivity in BIMSTEC Region



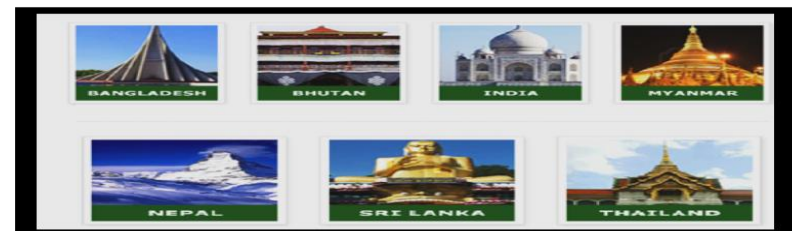
Why Tourism Connectivity in BIMSTEC Region?

“Towards a Peaceful, Prosperous and Sustainable Bay of Bengal Region”



- ❖ The above was the main theme of Fourth BIMSTEC Summit held in Kathmandu on 30-31 August 2018.
- ❖ **Peace** comes from solidarity, stability, harmony, unity, collaboration, coordination and mutual respects.
- ❖ **Prosperity** comes from sustainable high economic growth- further from massive investment, employment generation, plentiful earnings and efficient use of resources. High backward and forward linkages of different sectors create high multiplier effects and high economic growth.

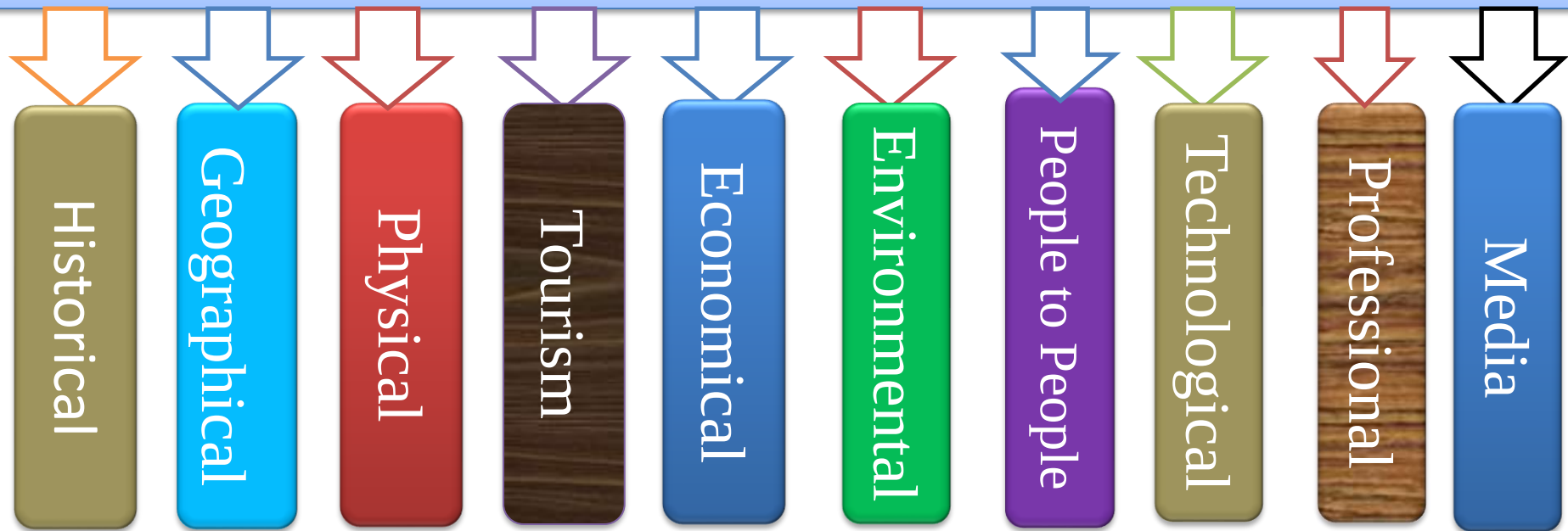
- ❖ **Sustainably** comes from environmentally bearable, economically viable, inclusive and equitable allocation and use of factors of production and resources.
- ❖ **Culture**, being one of the major sectors of economic cooperation, can contribute to peaceful, prosperous and sustainable BIMSTEC region if made **sustainable** and have high multiplier effect.
- ❖ **Sustainable cultural cooperation** can reduce poverty, promote people's welfare and bring happiness in this region.
- ❖ Therefore, **sustainable cultural cooperation** is the main aim of tourism connectivity in BIMSTEC region.





Different Facets of Connectivity

Cultural Connectivity in BIMSTEC Region



- These different types of connectivity directly or indirectly supporting cultural cooperation in BIMSTEC region.
- Historical, geographical, physical, tourism, economical/financial, environmental/natural, people to people, technological, professional and media (social or print) linkages among the seven Member States in one or another way create unique identity of BIMSTEC region and help for its economic integration.



How are these Linkages Formed?

Historical Connectivity: Shared history, migration of nationals, historical rulers, not all but some states are also member of commonwealth nations.

Geographical Connectivity: Shared borders or in same littoral zone.

Physical Connectivity: Connected through air, land, water, infrastructures.

Cultural Connectivity: Sharing same or similar cultures, traditions, languages, lively diasporas, foods, agricultural products, textiles/garments/apparels, radio- television programs and cinema, common culture to serve **“guest as god (*atithi devo bhava: in Sanskrit*)”**.

Economical Connectivity: Relations of trade and investment, financial institutions, development assistance, employment, remittance etc.

Environmental Connectivity: Shared nature and ecological zones, interdependent ecosystems from high Himalayas to blue ocean, glacier melt down and heavy rains in mountains bring flood in Bay of Bengal and polluted upper part affect life in lower, migration of birds and animals.

People to people Connectivity: Kith and keen relationship, family and friends, marriage and migration, education and medical treatment.

Technological Connectivity: Sharing technology in information & communication, construction, banking, agriculture, industries, transport, technical human resource and many more.

Professional Connectivity: Networks and links of political parties and leaders, bureaucrats, tours and travels operators, journalists, economists, doctors, engineers, research scientists, students etc.

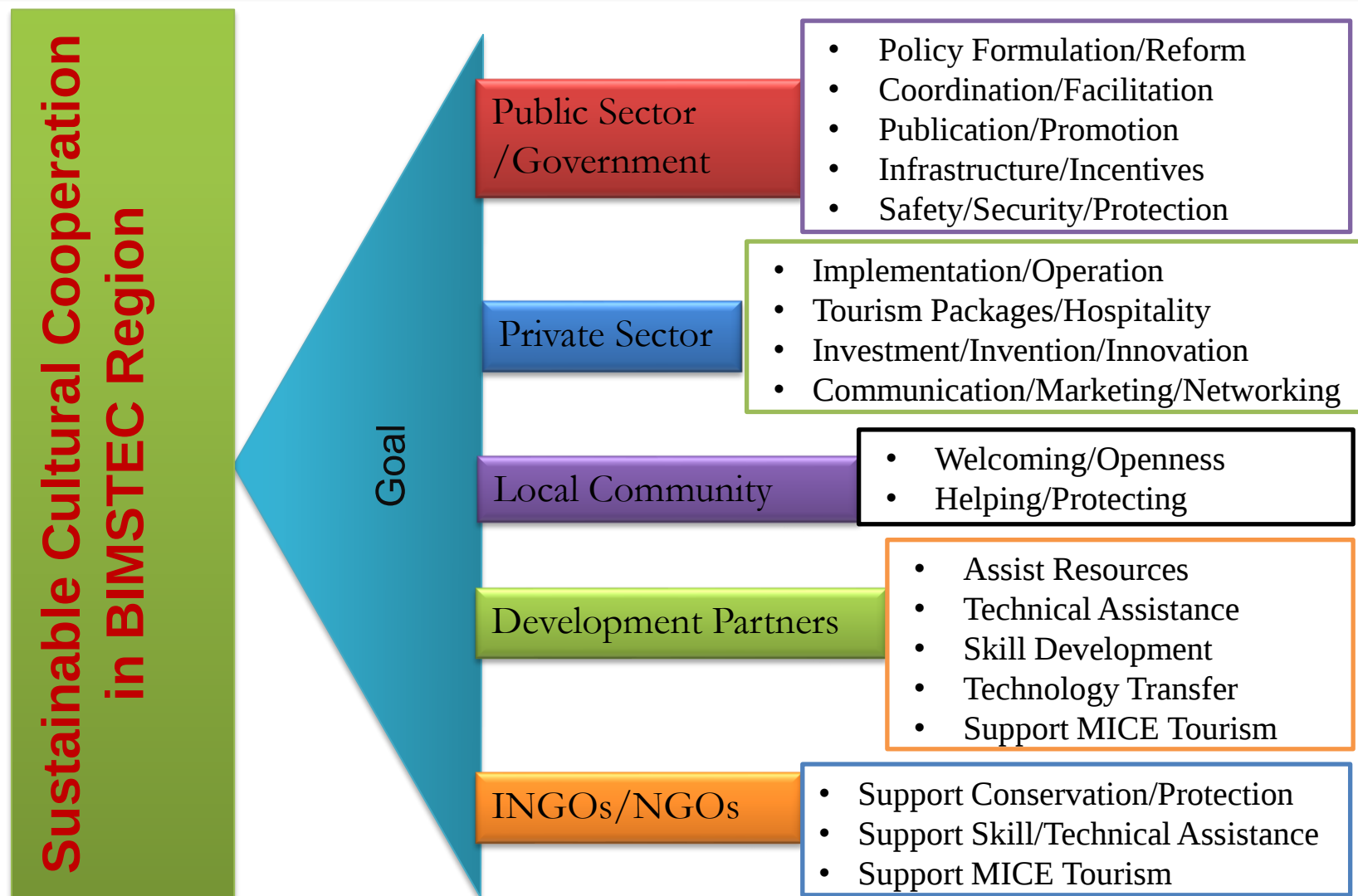
Media Connectivity: Networks through print and social media, email and internets, websites etc.



Sustainable Cultural Cooperation in BIMSTEC Region and Role of Different Actors



Sustainable Cultural Cooperation in BIMSTEC Region





Greetings and Costumes in BIMSTEC Region

Country	Greetings	Costumes	Foods	Festivals
Bangladesh				
Bhutan	 Kuzungpo la, Kadrin Cheyla, Tashi Delek			
India				
Myanmar				



Greetings and Costumes in BIMSTEC Region

Country	Greetings	Costumes	Foods	Festivals
Nepal				
Sri Lanka				
Thailand				



Conclusion



Conclusion

- “If you want to destroy a nation, destroy its culture.” — **Unknown**
- “The most effective way to destroy people is to deny and obliterate their own understanding of their history.” — **George Orwell**
- *A nation’s culture resides in the hearts and in the soul of its people.* — **Mahatma Gandhi**
- **Culture is identity- Lets Preserve it.**



Discussion Continues.....
Thank you !