TOWARDS
BIMSTEC-JAPAN

COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC COOPERATION

THE BENEFITS OF MOVING TOGETHER

ANTHEM SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES
TOWARDS BIMSTEC–JAPAN COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC COOPERATION
The Benefits of Moving Together

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Towards BIMSTEC–JAPAN Comprehensive Economic Cooperation: The Benefits of Moving Together

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a subregional association combining some geographically contiguous South and South East Asian countries located around the Bay of Bengal. The objective of this association is to provide trade and technological cooperation among its members in areas of trade, investment, tourism, transport, communication, technology, energy and fisheries.

Recently, the BIMSTEC countries have realized that in order to sustain the regional integration process, each member will have to strengthen economic interdependence, particularly in the areas of capital and technology, with the developed countries. Notwithstanding the region’s vast advantages on resource endowments, the BIMSTEC nations are lagging behind the developed world in terms of economic well-being. Paradoxically, one of their immediate Asian neighbours – Japan – is considered to be one of the most progressive and developed countries in the world. Therefore, it is assumed that trade and investment cooperation between the BIMSTEC members and Japan will certainly help to re-energize the economies of South and South East Asia.

By focusing on trade and investment, this book analyzes the current state of affairs of the BIMSTEC–Japan economic relations and also provides a preliminary proposal for establishing closer economic ties between the two. Moreover, this book will particularly be useful to the Asian policymakers, researchers and business professionals seeking better understanding of the dynamics of BIMSTEC–Japan relations and its future prospects.

Anthem South Asian Studies

Series Editor: Crispin Bates Ph.D, Department of History, University of Edinburgh

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