



Trade and Transport Facilitation Audit in South Asia: Dissemination of study findings

29-30 September 2016, Hotel Annapurna, Kathmandu

Programme

29 September 2016

09:00 –09:15 **Registration**

09:15 –10:20 **Inaugural session**

Welcome remarks and introduction to the project

Mr. Asish Subedi, Senior Programme Officer, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Kathmandu

Remarks

Ms. L. Savithri, Director for Trade, Finance and Economics, SAARC Secretariat on behalf of H. E. Mr. Arjun Bahadur Thapa, Secretary General, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Kathmandu

Special remarks

Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President, SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Islamabad

Remarks from the Chief guest

Hon'ble Mr. Romi Gauchan Thakali, Minister for Commerce, Government of Nepal

Chair: Dr. Posh Raj Pandey, Executive Chairman, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Kathmandu

10:20 –10:30 **Tea/coffee**

10:30 –12:30 **Technical session I: Trade facilitation—Global trends and implications for South Asia**

Chair: Dr. Dilli Raj Khanal, Former Member of Parliament, Nepal

Presentation: Trade Facilitation Agreement of the WTO: Implications for South Asia
Dr. Nisha Taneja, Professor, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), New Delhi

Presentation: Emerging issues in Trade Facilitation: Lessons for South Asia
Dr. Prabir De, Professor, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) and Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC), New Delhi

Discussants:

Mr. Sudattha Silva, Superintendent of Customs (ICT), Sri Lanka Customs, Colombo

Mr. Shyam Dahal, Accredited WCO Customs Modernisation Advisor, Kathmandu

Dr. Farazi Binti Ferdous, Research Fellow, South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM), Dhaka

Dr. Pushpa Raj Rajkarnikar, Chairman, Institute for Policy Research and Development (IPRAD), Kathmandu

Discussion

12:30 –13:30

Lunch

13:30 –15:30

Technical session II: Trade and Transport Facilitation Audit in South Asian non-landlocked countries I—Understanding bottlenecks and costs

Chair: Mr. Zubair Ahmad Malik, Member, Advisory council, SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SAARC CCI); and Former President, Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), Islamabad

Presentation: Trade and Transport Facilitation Audit in India

Mr. Bipul Chatterjee, Executive Director, Consumer Unity & Trust Society, Jaipur

Presentation: Trade and Transport Facilitation Audit in Pakistan

Dr. Vaqar Ahmed, Deputy Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Islamabad

Discussants:

Mr. Shantanu Bhadkamkar, Former Chairman, Federation of Freight Forwarders' Associations in India (FFFAI), Mumbai

Discussion

15:30 –15:40

Tea/coffee

15:40 –18:00

Technical session III: Trade and Transport Facilitation Audit in South Asian non-landlocked countries II—Understanding bottlenecks and costs

Chair: Mr. Amitava Chakraborty, Director, Bangladesh Foreign Trade Institute (BFTI), Dhaka

Presentation: Trade and Transport Facilitation Audit in the Maldives
Ms. Suwendrani Jayaratne, Research Officer, Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS), Colombo

Presentation: Trade and Transport Facilitation Audit in Bangladesh
Mr. Md. Zafar Sadique, Senior Research Associate, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka

Presentation: Trade and Transport Facilitation Audit in Sri Lanka
Ms. Suwendrani Jayaratne, Research Officer, Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS), Colombo

Discussants:

Mr. Abdulla Waheed, Chief Superintendent, Maldives Customs Service, Malé

Ms. Selima Ahmad, Founder President, Bangladesh Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Vice Chairperson, Nitol Group, Dhaka

Mr. Rohan Masakorala, Chief Executive Officer, Shippers' Academy Colombo, Colombo

Discussion

19:00–22:00

Reception dinner

09:30 –09:55

Registration

10:00 –12:00

Technical session IV: Trade and Transport Facilitation Audit in South Asian landlocked countries—Understanding bottlenecks and costs

Chair: Mr. Rabi Shankar Sainju, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Government of Nepal

Presentation: Trade and Transport Facilitation Audit in Afghanistan
Dr. Vaqar Ahmed, Deputy Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Islamabad

Presentation: Trade and Transport Facilitation Audit in Bhutan
Mr. Bipul Chatterjee, Executive Director, Consumer Unity & Trust Society, Jaipur

Presentation: Trade and Transport Facilitation Audit in Nepal
Mr. Puspa Sharma, Research Director (on leave), SAWTEE, Kathmandu

Discussants:

Mr. Kezang Yeshey, Assistant Collector of Regional Revenue, Department of Revenue and Customs, Ministry of Finance, Thimphu

Mr. Rajan Sharma, Member, Executive Committee, Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce & Industries (FNCCI), Kathmandu

Discussion

12:00 –13:00

Lunch

13:00 –15:00

Technical session V: Trade and Transport Facilitation in South Asia—A regional perspective

Chair: Prof. Mustafizur Rahman, Executive Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka

Presentation: Trade and Transport Facilitation Audit in South Asia
Dr. Posh Raj Pandey, Executive Chairman, SAWTEE, Kathmandu

Panellists:

Mr. Abdulla Waheed, Chief Superintendent, Maldives Customs Service, Malé

Mr. Waqas Masud, Member, Industrial Development Committee, Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI), Islamabad

Mr. Sudattha Silva, Superintendent of Customs (ICT), Sri Lanka Customs, Colombo

Dr. Nisha Taneja, Professor, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), New Delhi

Prof. Selim Raihan, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka and Executive Director, South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM), Dhaka

Discussion

15:00–15:30

Tea/coffee

15:30 –16:30

Closing session: Trade and Transport Facilitation in South Asia—future directions

Chair: Dr. Posh Raj Pandey, Executive Chairman, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Kathmandu

Panellists:

Mr. Zubair Ahmad Malik, Member, Advisory council, SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SAARC CCI); and Former President, Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), Islamabad

Prof. Mustafizur Rahman, Executive Director, CPD, Dhaka

Ms. L. Savithri, Director for Trade, Finance and Economics, SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu

Remarks from the Chief guest:

Dr. Swarnim Wagle, Member, National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal
