



Australian Government  
AusAID



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.

## **Inception meeting of the projects**

### **Trade and Transport Facilitation Audit in South Asia and Promoting Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) for Inclusive, Equitable and Sustainable Development in South Asia**

Organized by SAWTEE and UNDP APRC with support of AusAID

1-2 October 2013, Radisson Hotel, Kathmandu

#### **Programme Schedule**

**1 October 2013**

**08:30 –08:55**            **Registration**

**09:00 –10:00**            **Inaugural session**

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

Welcome remarks and introduction of the project “Trade and Transport Facilitation Audit in South Asia”: Dr. Ratnakar Adhikari, Chief Executive Director, SAWTEE, Kathmandu

Special remarks: H. E. Amb Glenn White, Australian Ambassador to Nepal

Special remarks: Ms. Shoko Noda, Country Director, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Nepal

Special remarks: Mr. Iqbal Tabish, Secretary General, SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Chief Guest: Honourable Mr. Shanker Prasad Koirala, Minister for Finance; and Industry, Commerce and Supplies, Government of Nepal

10:00 –10:15

Tea/Coffee

10:15 –12:15

**Technical session I: Trade Facilitation, Global Trade Costs Database and Export/Import Procedures in South Asia**

Session objectives

- To have a general understanding of trade facilitation and trade cost issues;
- To understand the various trade processes and their implications for intra-regional trade in South Asia; and
- To exchange experiences among various stakeholders in relation to trade cost and procedures, and measures to overcome them.

Chair: Mr. Purushottam Ojha, Former Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Supplies, Government of Nepal

*UNESCAP Trade Cost Database and Implications for South Asia*

Dr. Tengfei Wang, Economic Affairs Officer, Trade Facilitation Unit, Trade and Investment Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Bangkok

*Trade Facilitation in South Asia: An Analysis of Import and Export Processes*

Dr. Prabir De, Senior Fellow, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi

Discussants:

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

Dr. Nilanjan Banik, Professor and Programme Director, Institute for Financial Management and Research, Chennai

Dr. Selim Raihan, Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka, Dhaka

Ms. Suwendrani Jayaratne, Research Officer, Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS), Colombo

**12:15 –13:15**                    **Lunch**

**13:15 –15:15**                    **Technical Session II: Methodologies for Understanding Trade and Transport Bottlenecks and Ascertaining their Costs**

Session objectives

- To be familiar with various methodologies applied to understand trade and transport bottlenecks; and
- To understand challenges in implementing the methodologies on the ground in countries with similar socio-economic setting as in South Asia.

Chair: Ms. Robina Akhtar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Government of Pakistan

*Time Release Study*

Mr. Shyam Dahal, National Trade Facilitation Expert, Asian Development Bank, Kathmandu

*The Southern Economic Corridor Time-Cost-Distance Study (The Blue Book on Trade and Transport Facilitation), and Trade and Transport Facilitation Assessments in the Greater Mekong Sub-region*

Mr. Christian Ksoll, Trade Logistics Consultant, World Bank Country Office in Cambodia, Phnom Penh

*Towards Integrated and Sustainable Trade and Transport Facilitation Performance Monitoring Systems: Business Process Analysis Plus*

Dr. Tengfei Wang, Economic Affairs Officer, Trade Facilitation Unit, Trade and Investment Division, UNESCAP, Bangkok; and Mr. Cuong

Minh Nguyen, Senior Economist (Regional Cooperation), South Asia Department, Asian Development Bank, Manila

**15:15 –15:30**

**Tea/Coffee**

**15:30 –17:15**

**Technical Session III : Trade and Transport Facilitation Audit in South Asia: A Methodological Framework**

Session objectives

- To present the methodology to be adopted for the trade and transport facilitation audit study under the project; and
- To receive inputs from stakeholders to fine-tune the methodology.

Chair: Dr. Nagesh Kumar, UNESCAP Regional Office for South and South-West Asia, New Delhi

Theme Presentation:

Dr. Posh Raj Pandey, Executive Chairman, SAWTEE

Panelists:

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

Mr. Cuong Minh Nguyen, Senior Economist (Regional Cooperation), South Asia Department, Asian Development Bank, Manila

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

**17:15 –17:30**

**Wrap up and next steps**

Mr. Puspa Sharma, Research Director, SAWTEE, Kathmandu

**2 October 2013**

**09:00 –09:30**                    **Registration**

**09:30 –10:00**                    **Introduction of the project “Promoting Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) for Inclusive, Equitable and Sustainable Development in South Asia”**

Chair: Mr Muhammad Adnan Jalil, Managing Proprietor, Al-Jabran Enterprises, Peshawar

Presentation: Ms. Yumiko Yamamoto, Programme Specialist, UNDP APRC, Bangkok

**10:00 –11:00**                    **Technical Session IV: MSME Development and Regional Value Chains in South Asia**

Session objectives

- To present relevant projects in the region and discuss the design of the project under discussion ensuring synergies with existing ones; and
- To identify gaps and discuss the added value of the project.

Chair: Dr. Basudeb Guha-Khasnobis, Senior Economist, UNDP Nepal/ Bhutan

*Analysis of Prevailing Non-tariff Measures in SAARC*

Dr. Selim Raihan, Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka, Dhaka

*Promoting Participatory Approaches for Removing Regional Trade Barriers in South Asia*

Mr. Bipul Chatterjee, Deputy Executive Director, CUTS International, Jaipur

*Microenterprise Development Programme (MEDEP) Project Phase IV*

Dr. Lakshman Pun, National Programme Manager, MEDEP Project,  
UNDP Nepal

11:00 –11:30

Tea/Coffee

11:30 –13:00

**Technical Session IV (continued)**

Discussion: Creating synergies among the projects

13:00 –14:00

Lunch

14:00 –15:30

**Technical Session V: Panel Discussion on “Promoting MSMEs for Inclusive, Equitable and Sustainable Development in South Asia”**

Session objectives

- To discuss the challenges faced by the private sector in South Asia, and mechanisms to address those challenges to enhance private sector competitiveness in general;
- To discuss possible approaches for country studies on database generation on women-led and -owned MSMEs (WMSMEs) and identify critical constraints faced by WMSMEs in participating in regional and extra-regional trade and their moving up the value chain; and
- To agree on the project approach, including research questions and methodology as well as clear outputs and timeline.

Chair: Dr. Bina Pradhan, Gender Expert and Socioeconomist,  
Kathmandu

*Addressing the Challenges to Build Private Sector Competitiveness in South Asia*

Mr. Hamza Abbas, Research Analyst, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Islamabad

*Critical Constraints faced by WMSMEs in Participating in Value Chains and in Regional and International Markets*

Ms. Pramila Acharya Rijal, Chairperson, SAARC Chamber Women Entrepreneurs Council, Kathmandu

*Some Research Questions from the Perspective of Gender and Women's Economic Empowerment*

Ms. Yumiko Yamamoto, Programme Specialist, UNDP APRC, Bangkok

**15:30 –16:00**            **Tea/Coffee**

**16:00 –17:00**            **Project Implementation**

Chair: Ms. Yumiko Yamamoto, Programme Specialist, UNDP APRC  
*Discussion on Activities, Timeline and Advisory Board/Steering Committee*

**17:00 –18:00**            **Closing Session**

Chair: Mr. Krishna Gyawali, Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Government of Nepal

Summary of discussions: Dr. Ratnakar Adhikari, Chief Executive Director, SAWTEE, Kathmandu

Special remarks: Mr. Amrit Lugun, Director, Economic, Trade and Finance Division, SAARC Secretariat

Chief Guest's remarks: Mr. Lila Mani Poudel, Chief Secretary, Government of Nepal

Vote of thanks: Ms. Caitlin Wiesen, Regional Manager, UNDP APRC, Bangkok

**18:00 –21:00**            **Reception Dinner**