

South Asian Sub-regional Economic Cooperation(SASEC) Brainstorming Meeting on SPS Priorities and Challenges

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Background

- ⦿ Area: 38,394 sq km
- ⦿ Altitude: 180 - 7550 masl
- ⦿ Forest Cover: 72.5%
- ⦿ Population: About 0.7 millions
- ⦿ Capital: Thimphu
- ⦿ Predominantly subsistence agrarian country – 79% of population still living in rural areas
- ⦿ Agriculture & livestock farming are the main source of livelihood



Background

Bhutan is well known:

- for its vitality of rich traditional culture and heritage with unique identity
- pristine and beautiful natural environment-80.89%(GNHC 2013) intact rich natural forest cover including 51.44 % protected areas to preserve the biodiversity
- has been recognized as one amongst the ten global biodiversity 'hotspots'
- a country whose development philosophy is based on "Gross



Existing Legal Documents related to:

Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS)

- Plant Quarantine Act of Bhutan 1993 - Rules and Regulations
- Seeds Act of Bhutan 2000 – Rules and Regulations
- Pesticide Act of Bhutan 2000 - Rules and Regulations
- Livestock Act of Bhutan 2001 - Rules and Regulations
- Food Act of Bhutan 2005 - Rules and Regulations 2007
- Biosecurity Policy 2010

Disease Control Bill 2010 (Drafting Stage)

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Ministry of Economic Affairs

- Department of Trade, MoEA- To promote and facilitate trade by creating an enabling environment and to provide prompt and efficient services to the private sector.

Trade Facilitation Mechanism:

- Coordinate national initiatives and actions in trade facilitation
- Review procedures, simplify licensing procedures
- Harmonize trade information and make it transparent
- Coordinate with other external agencies involved with Trade Facilitation e.g

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Bhutan Agriculture and Food Regulatory Authority ([BAFRA](#)), [Ministry of Agriculture and Forests](#)

- Branch offices in 20 districts
- 4 Plant & Animal Quarantine Offices in the border towns.
- 1 Plant & Animal Quarantine Office at International Airport, Paro
- National Food Testing Laboratory (NFTL)
- One of the mandates is to implement regulatory and quarantine measures to prevent pest and diseases
 - issuance of import and export permits
 - import and export inspection and certification
 - inspection and certification of products for domestic consumption

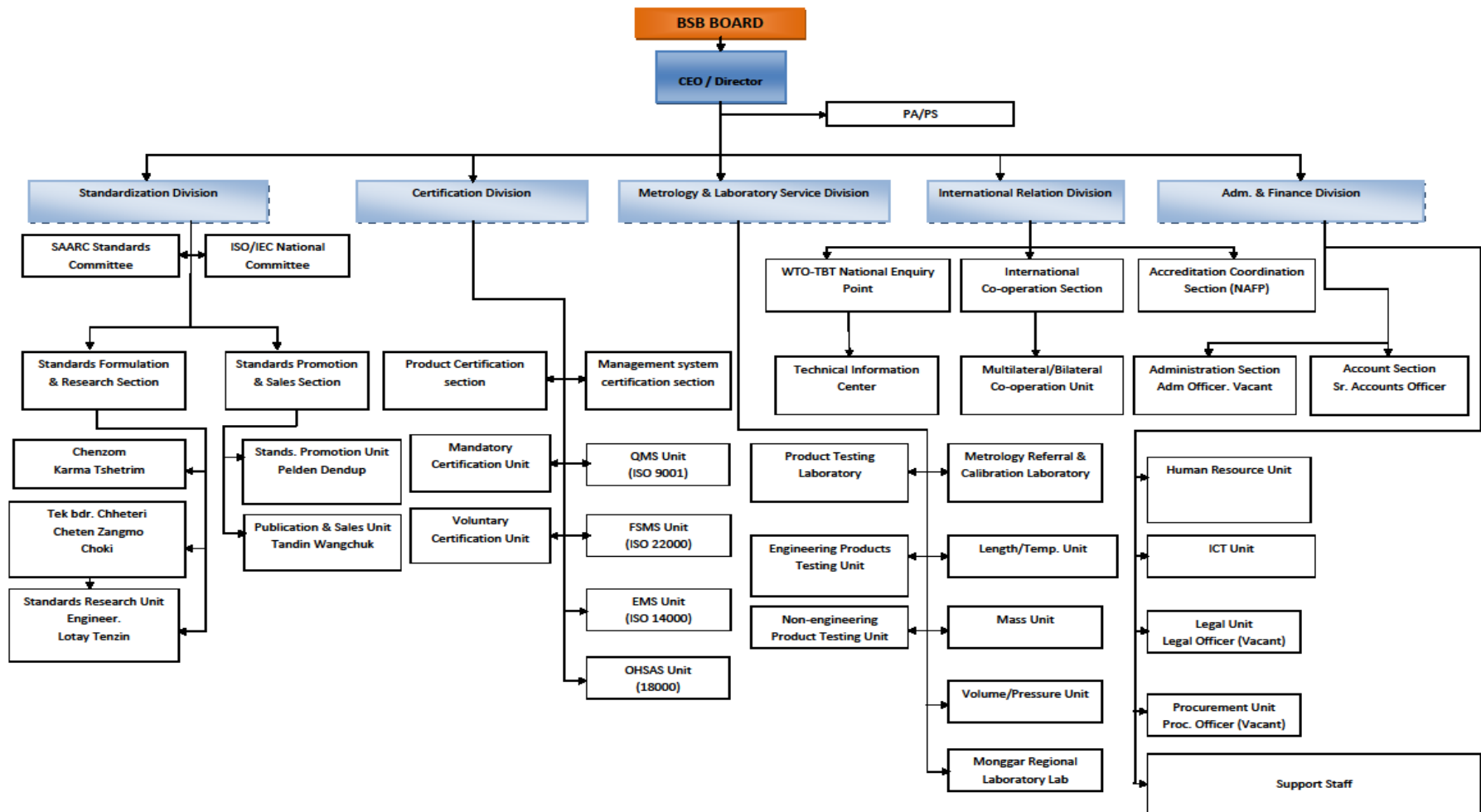
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Mandates of BSB as National Standards Body :

- ① develop national standards and facilitate their implementation;
- ② establish and operate metrological referral and calibration laboratories;
- ③
- ④ establish and operate product testing infrastructure;
- ⑤ carry out/operate product and management system certification schemes;
- ⑥ permit, coordinate and facilitate accreditation of laboratories and certification bodies
- ⑦ promote quality and standardization;
- ⑧ **oversee the implementation of the regional and international trade agreement related to standards and technical barriers to trade**

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Bhutan Standards Bureau (BSB)-2010



Challenges/Constraints

- Capacity to meet/implement agreements/SPS Standards
- Technical assistance to SPS services/ measures
- Developing Conformity Infrastructure (testing laboratories, etc.) & standards
- Financial and qualified human Resources
- Training of trainers and qualified standard developers/committees
- Insufficient access to scientific/technical

Priority areas for future needs:

- Import inspection and testing facilities in the entry points
 - Development of standards and harmonization
 - Capacity need assessment on SPS and TBT
 - Establishing or upgrading microbiological/chemical and metrological laboratories with international accreditation for SPS testing.
 - Compliance with TBT/SPS and food safety
 - Capacity Building for relevant HR
 - Metrology, Testing, Certification; Accreditation
- Vital



**THANK YOU
TASHI DELEK...!!**