

SASEC Trade Facilitation

Brainstorming Meeting on SPS and Standards
24-25 November 2013

SASEC Unit
Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination Division
South Asia Department
Asian Development Bank

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Scope

- Ongoing initiatives
- SASEC Trade Facilitation Strategic Framework

TF Program Loans/Grants

- BAN (\$21M); BHU (\$11.67M); NEP (\$15M)
- Policy reforms in:
 - Modernizing customs
 - Streamlining trade processes
 - Improving services to and information of traders
- First tranche fully disbursed
- Action plans for second tranche agreed



Capacity Building and Discussion Platform

- Training to support customs reforms
- Knowledge sharing on key TF issues
- SASEC Customs Subgroup established

SASEC Capacity Building 2013

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. World Customs Organization Asia-Pacific Workshop on Time Release Studies (Kashiwa, 4-8 March) 2. SASEC Trade Facilitation Week (Bangkok, 25-28 March 2013) 3. Establishment of SASEC Customs Sub-group (Bangkok, 28 March 2013) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Asia and the Pacific and the Americas Customs Leaders Partnership Dialogue: Efficient and Secure Trade for Shared Prosperity (Panama, 4-5 April) 2. Regional Knowledge Sharing Workshop on SAFE Framework, Authorized Economic Operators and Authorized Trader Program (Singapore, 27-31 May 2013) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. WCO Asia/ Pacific Regional Workshop on Risk-Based Cargo Selectivity (Kashiwa, 9-13 September 2013) 2. National Workshop on the Authorized Economic Operators' Program (Cox's Bazar, 17-19 September 2013) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regional Workshop on National Trade Facilitation Committee (in cooperation with UNCTAD) (Kathmandu, 9-10 October 2013) 2. Workshop on Secure and Efficient Cross-Border Transport for the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Program (Bangkok, 9-11 October 2013) 3. SASEC Brainstorming Meeting on Sanitary/ Phytosanitary Priorities and Challenges in SASEC Member Countries (Bangkok, 24-25 November 2013) 4. Inception Workshop for the Business Process Analysis Study II (Bangkok, 26-27 November 2013)

Resource Mobilization for TF

- Ongoing AusAID grant of \$1.175M
- Portion of supplemental TA for SASEC (\$3M)
- Recently approved TAs for TF funded by Japan
 - National TAs (\$1.5M each) for BAN, BHU, NEP
 - Regional TA for South Asia (\$1.5M)
- Strategic partnerships
 - World Customs Organization
 - UNESCAP, WTO, UNCTAD
 - Government of Japan

Business Process Analysis (BPA)

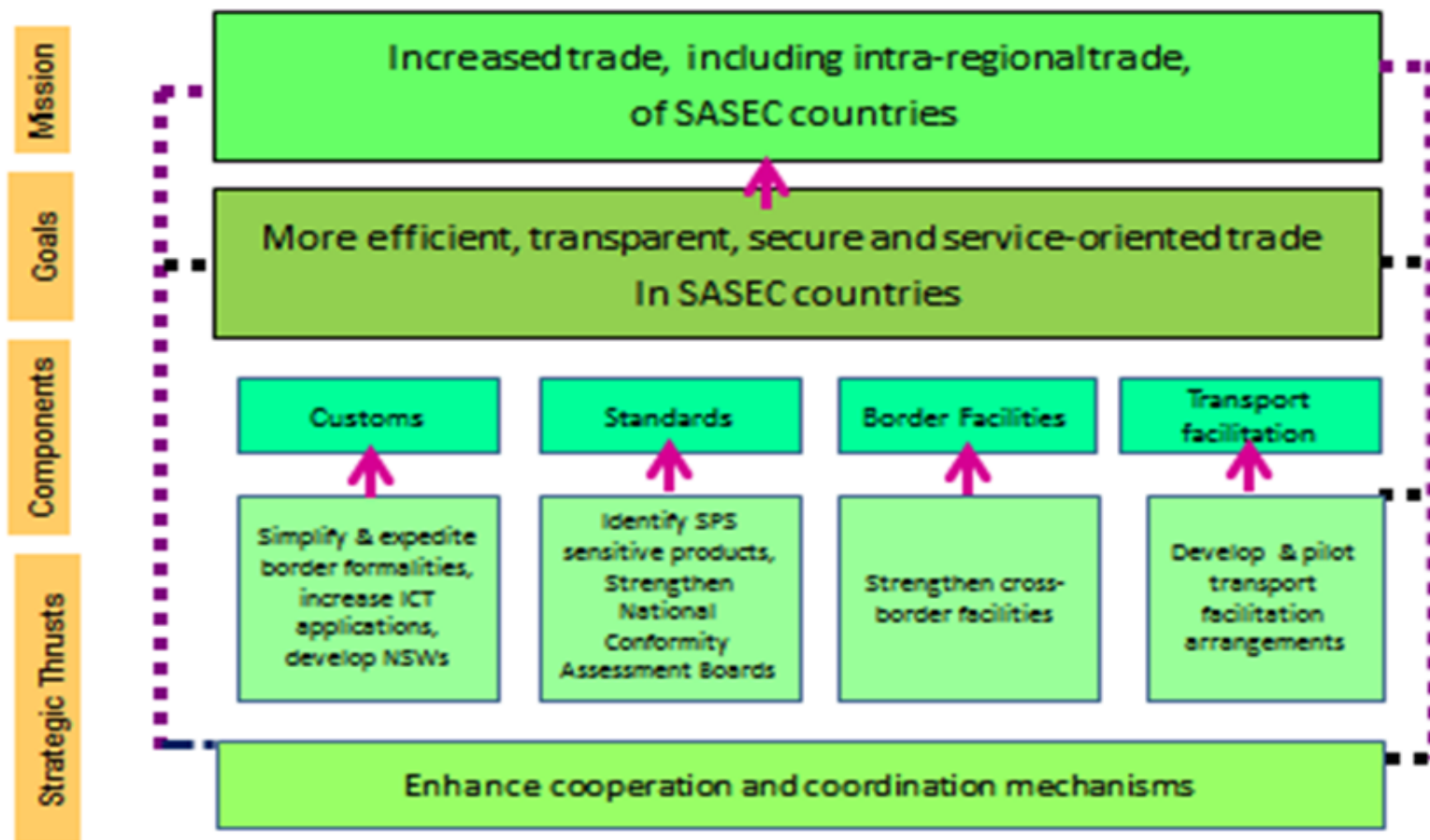
- Used to measure TF results
- BPA-1 assessed performance of 3 corridors
- BPA-2 will provide more reliable indicators
- BPA-2 will cover entire supply chain
- BPA-2 includes TRS and TCD methodologies

TRS – time release studies

TCD – time cost distance methodology

Proposed Future Directions

SASEC Trade Facilitation Strategy 2014-2018



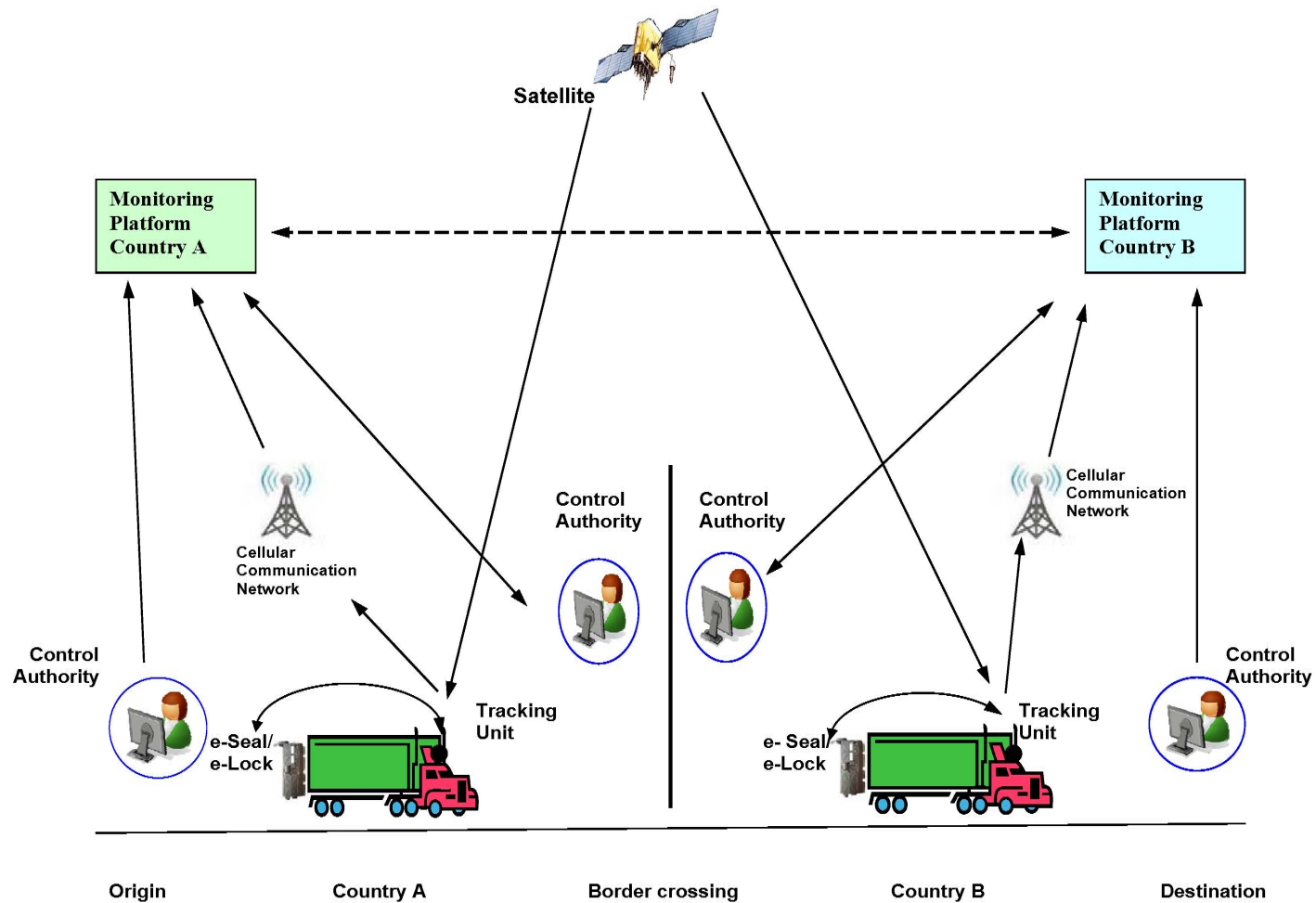
Customs Modernization

- Simplify and expedite formalities
- Increase ICT application
- Develop national single windows

Standards & Conformity

- Improve SPS environment
- Strengthen national conformity assessment
 - Develop mutual recognition agreements
- Conduct study to identify major traded items

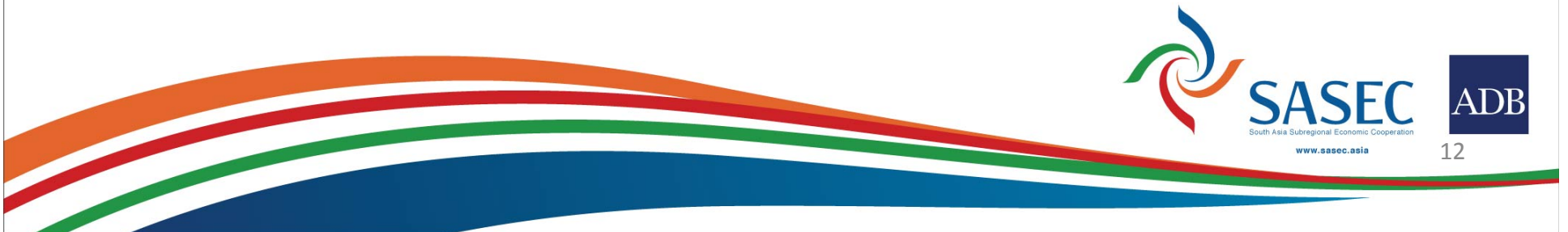
Through Transport



Source: UNESCAP

Institution & Capacity Building

- Establish trade facilitation committees
- Establish/improve trade portals
- Build capacities linked to operational changes



For more information:
Visit www.sasec.asia or
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