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

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<th>Q1</th>
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<td>1. World Customs Organization Asia-Pacific Workshop on Time Release</td>
<td>1. Asia and the Pacific and the Americas Customs Leaders Partnership Dialogue: Efficient and Secure Trade for Shared Prosperity (Panama, 4-5 April)</td>
<td>1. WCO Asia/ Pacific Regional Workshop on Risk-Based Cargo Selectivity (Kashiwa, 9-13 September 2013)</td>
<td>1. Regional Workshop on National Trade Facilitation Committee (in cooperation with UNCTAD) (Kathmandu, 9-10 October 2013)</td>
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<td>3. Establishment of SASEC Customs Sub-group (Bangkok, 28 March 2013)</td>
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<td>3. SASEC Brainstorming Meeting on Sanitary/Phytosanitary Priorities and Challenges in SASEC Member Countries (Bangkok, 24-25 November 2013)</td>
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<td>4. Inception Workshop for the Business Process Analysis Study II (Bangkok, 26-27 November 2013)</td>
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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

- Increased trade, including intra-regional trade, of SASEC countries
  - More efficient, transparent, secure and service-oriented trade
    In SASEC countries

- Components
  - Customs: Simplify & expedite border formalities, increase ICT applications, develop NSWs
  - Standards: Identify SPS sensitive products, Strengthen National Conformity Assessment Boards
  - Border Facilities: Strengthen cross-border facilities
  - Transport facilitation: Develop & pilot transport facilitation arrangements

- Strategic Thrusts
  - Enhance cooperation and coordination mechanisms
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 email sasec@adb.org