Outcomes of the National Workshop on the Secure and Efficient Cross-Border Transport in Bhutan

Presentation at the National Workshop on Secure and Efficient Cross-Border Transport in India
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Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination Division
South Asia Department
Asian Development Bank

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SASEC Trade Facilitation Strategy 2014-2018

Mission

Increased trade, including intra-regional trade, of SASEC countries

Goals

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
Results of SASEC SCBTM Workshop

• There is a need to facilitate cross-border transport
• UNESCAP SCBTM provides possible solutions
  – Hong Kong - Shenzhen, PRC: trans-customs clearance
  – Thai model: electronic cargo system for inland transit
  – Lancang/Mekong river navigation and monitoring
• Agreed on the need for national consultations
Results of Bhutan National Workshop

• Pilot application of electronic tracking to be explored
  – Possible corridor: Kolkata-Jaigaon-Phuentsholing-Thimphu

• Agreed to conduct feasibility study
  – Technical design
  – Institutional arrangements
  – Suitability of vehicles for use of the system
  – Costs and benefits
  – Financial and economic analyses

• DRC to be the lead agency
Results of Bhutan National Workshop

- Scope of tracking – entire trip
- Use of common tracking software is preferred
- Information between relevant parties may be shared
- Tracking centers in Thimphu, Phuentsholing, Kolkata
- Potential to interface with e-customs to be checked
- Pilot to cover vehicles and goods (incl vehicles)
For more information:
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