



**South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Trade Facilitation Week:
Sanitary/Phytosanitary and Technical Barriers to Trade**

1-3 December 2014

Bangkok, Thailand

AGENDA

Day 1: Monday, 1 December 2014	
08:30 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:15	Welcome and Opening UNESCAP representative ADB representative
09:15 – 09:45	Session 1: Update on SASEC Trade Facilitation Program and Activities ADB will provide an update on the work of the SASEC Trade Facilitation Program and development of the SASEC trade facilitation strategic framework.
09:45 – 10:15	Coffee break and official photograph
10:15 – 11:00	Session 2: Outcome of Brainstorming Meeting in November 2013 ADB and ESCAP will recapitulate the outcome of SASEC Brainstorming meeting held in November 2013 and the recommendations made by country representatives. Open discussion
	<i>In sessions 3-7, the moderator will bring in the relevant international experts for commentary/shared experience and facilitate discussion.</i> <i>The relevant international experts will make power-point presentations covering:</i> <i>(i) their organizations' role in facilitation in regional standard settings;</i> <i>(ii) how can they help in harmonization of standards as well as setting up of regional standards, and</i> <i>(iii) how can they facilitate MRAs, conformity assessments etc.</i> <i>Power point presentations will be kept to a maximum of 10 essential slides as required.</i>
11:00 – 12:00	Session 3: World Trade Organization Ms. Marlynne Hopper, STDF Secretariat Open Discussion



Japan
Fund for
Poverty
Reduction



12:00 – 13:00	Lunch
13:00 – 14:00	<p>Session 4: SAARC – Building Effective Partnerships in SPS and TBT Standards Ms. Lakshman Savithri, Director Economic, Trade and Finance Division, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)</p> <p><i>Open discussion</i></p>
14:00 – 15:00	<p>Session 5: Analysis of Prevailing Non-Tariff Measures in SAARC Dr. Selim Raihan, Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh and Executive Director, South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM)</p> <p><i>Open discussion</i></p>
15:00 – 16:00	<p>Session 6: SARSO – Building Effective Partnerships in SPS and TBT Standards Dr Syed Humayum Kabir, Director General, South Asian Regional Standards Organization (SARSO)</p> <p><i>Open discussion</i></p>
16:00 – 16:15	Coffee break
16:15 – 17:00	<p>Session 7: Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) Ms. Marlynne Hopper, STDF Secretariat</p> <p><i>Open discussion</i></p>
17:00 – 17:15	<p>Wrap-up and Close of Day 1 UNESCAP representative ADB representative</p>



Japan
Fund for
Poverty
Reduction



Day 2: Tuesday, 2 December 2014	
09:00 – 09:15	Review of Day 1 and introduction of Day 2 ADB representative UNESCAP representative
	<i>In sessions 8–11, following an hour spent refining and discussing their presentation with the resource persons, each country will deliver a 15-minute presentation guided by the following:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>How does the country wish to carry forward the recommendations made in the brainstorming meeting in November 2013?</i> • <i>What are the best options to seek support within the mandate of SARSO to address these issues, without causing duplication of effort, including possible formation of a SASEC Subgroup on Standards and Regulations and taking into account the past work done on these areas/issues?</i> • <i>What efforts is the government is taking to address these issues?</i> • <i>Comments on the TOR for national and regional diagnostics studies.</i>
09:15 – 10:15	Session 8: Discussion and refinement of national presentations, drawing on inputs and guidance of resource persons.
10:15 – 10:45	Coffee break
10:45 – 12:15	Session 9: Issues and Approaches in Developing SASEC SPS and Standards Agenda Bangladesh and Bhutan Open discussion
12:15 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 15:00	Session 10: Issues and Approaches in Developing SASEC SPS and Standards Agenda India and Maldives Open discussion
15:00 – 16:30	Session 11: Issues and Approaches in Developing SASEC SPS and Standards Agenda Nepal, and Sri Lanka Open discussion



Japan
Fund for
Poverty
Reduction



16:30 – 16:45	Coffee break
16:45 – 17:45	Session 12: Discussions on the methodology to identify the potential export items facing SPS and TBT measures Moderator: ADB and UNESCAP
17:45 – 18:00	Wrap-up and Close of Day 2 UNESCAP representative ADB representative

Day 3: Wednesday, 3 December 2014

09:00 – 09:15	Review of Day 2 and introduction of Day 3 ADB representative UNESCAP representative
09:15 – 10:30	Session 13: Discussions on the TOR for the national and subregional diagnostics studies identifying the potential export items facing SPS and TBT measures, and the way forward Moderator: ADB and UNESCAP
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee break
10:45 – 12:30	Session 14: Adoption of the TOR for the national and subregional diagnostics studies ADB representative UNESCAP representative
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 15:30	Session 15: Consideration of TOR, work plan and priority capacity-building activities for a possible SASEC SPS/TBT Subgroup (SSTS) ADB representative UNESCAP representative
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break
16:00 – 17:00	Summary of Recommendations and Wrap-Up UNESCAP representative ADB representative



Japan
Fund for
Poverty
Reduction

