South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation Program

SASEC Trade Facilitation Program and Activities

Nepal National Consultation on SPS/TBT
Kathmandu, Nepal
13 June 2016

Outline of Presentation

- SASEC Overview
- Trade Facilitation as a SASEC Sector
- SASEC TF Program and TA Resources
- SASEC Trade Facilitation Strategic Framework 2014-2018
- SASEC 2025: the Way Forward
SASEC Overview

- Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka
- SASEC goal – “to increase trade and economic cooperation within South Asia, create linkages to East and Southeast Asia, and promote sustained and inclusive economic growth through regional cooperation”
- 37 investment projects worth over $6.7 billion
- 69 TA projects worth almost $64 million
- 3 sectors: transport, energy, trade facilitation
- ADB serves as SASEC Secretariat

Trade Facilitation as a SASEC Sector

Reduction of trade transaction cost

Improved competitiveness of firms

Trade Expansion

More trade creates more jobs and income opportunities

Economic growth
SASEC TF Program and TA Resources

SASEC Trade Facilitation Program (2012)

- Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal – $48 million
  - modern and effective customs administration
  - streamlined and transparent regulations and procedures
  - improved information and responsiveness to the private sector

Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction TAs

- National TAs – Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal
- Regional TA – six SASEC countries

SASEC TF Strategic Framework

Developed 2013, endorsed 2014

- Customs modernization & harmonization
- Standards & conformity assessment
- Cross border facilities improvement
- Through transport facilitation
- Institution & capacity building
SASEC TFSF: Pillar 2

• Standards & conformity assessment

i. Identify SPS-sensitive products commodities

ii. Strengthen national conformity assessment boards through SARSO

SASEC TFSF: Pillar 2

November 2013 – SASEC Brainstorming Meeting on Sanitary/Phytosanitary Priorities and Challenges in SASEC Member Countries

December 2014 – SASEC Trade Facilitation Week: Sanitary/Phytosanitary and Technical Barriers to Trade
SASEC 2025: the Way Forward

- SASEC 2025 – 10-year strategy and operational plan, laying out a road map to achieve the fundamental SASEC goal
- Strengthen national conformance bodies and the development of infrastructure and automation in SPS-related and other border agencies
  - upgrading testing and certification facilities to expedite cargo clearance
  - strengthening national conformance bodies and promoting harmonization of standards - creating opportunities for Mutual Recognition Agreements
  - promoting automation in other border agencies to enable them to link into the NSWs

For Discussion / Agreement

i. Review the terms of reference for the national SPS/TBT diagnostic study, reflecting the national priorities and preferences for Nepal;

ii. Review the commodities chosen by Nepal for the national diagnostic study;

iii. Confirm the willingness of the nodal point and group to work with the national consultant for the 6 month period of the diagnostic study; and

iv. Schedule for conducting the study.
SASEC Information Sharing

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