

**Opening speech by Mr. Ram Sharan Chimoriya, DG Customs for Work Plan Formulation
Workshop - Sunday, September 24, 2017**

My Colleagues Deputy Director Generals
Chief Customs Administrator, TIA
Chief, PCA office
Mr. Ronald Antonio Butiong, Director, ADB Manila,
Ms. Sonoko Sunayama, Senior Economist, ADB,
Representative from NRM,
Officials and
National Experts

Good Morning

It is my extreme pleasure to welcome you here on this occasion of the work plan formulation workshop on the first day of the **Inception Meeting for the SASEC Customs Reform and Modernization for Trade Facilitation Program** jointly organized by the Department of Customs and the Asian Development Bank.

The government of Nepal and the ADB have a long history of cooperation which has strengthened this time focused on Trade Facilitation with a \$21 million policy-based loan to support the Government of Nepal's efforts to simplify, harmonize, and modernize the country's trade processes to meet international standards.

Being a policy-based loan, after the successful completion of the program, it is expected that national policy and legal framework for trade facilitation and Customs procedures would be improved, organization structure of the DOC would be strengthened and the capacity of DOC would be enhanced.

To achieve these objectives, we are here to discuss and prepare a work-plan for the upcoming years that will guide us to complete the policy actions. The specialized teams of the thematic task force will discuss and work to come up with the final work-plan.

I am confident that the outcomes of the discussions will be fruitful, concrete and achievable so that the DOC can execute the policy actions in the upcoming years. I will particularly thank Mr. Ronald Antonio Butiong, Director and Ms. Sonoko Sunayama to avail their time and attend today's and tomorrow program. I also thank Government of Japan for their support under JFPR funding for the program implementation.

I request all the participants to actively participate in the workshop and make it successful.

Thank you.

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