



**Sixth Meeting of the SASEC Customs Subgroup  
14–15 June 2017: Thimphu, Bhutan**

**AGENDA**

**Chair:** Mr. Yonten Namgyel, Director, Department of Revenue and Customs (DRC), Bhutan  
**Co-Chair:** Ms. Rosalind McKenzie, Senior Regional Cooperation Specialist, South Asia  
 Department, Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Expected participants:	SASEC Customs Officials (Director General [DG]/ Deputy DG level), ADB, World Customs Organization (WCO), World Trade Organization (WTO)
Objectives:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Signing of the Memorandum of Intent (MoI) on Customs Capacity Building</li> <li>2. Review the implementation status of subregional and national projects in the SCS Work Plan 2014-2018</li> <li>3. Discuss the way forward for priority Customs-related projects under SASEC Operational Plan 2016–2025</li> <li>4. Application of Electronic Cargo Tracking System for Customs and transport facilitation</li> <li>5. Propose SASEC study on coordinated development of border infrastructure</li> <li>6. Discuss subregional capacity-building activities in the six priority areas, as well as activities under the MoI on Customs capacity building</li> </ol>
14 June 2017 — 09:00–16:30	<b>Learning Event: Implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement</b>
15 June 2017 — 09:00–17:30	<b>Sixth Meeting of the SASEC Customs Subgroup</b> Chair: Mr. Yonten Namgyel, Director, DRC, Bhutan Co-Chair: Ms. Rosalind McKenzie, Senior Regional Cooperation Specialist, ADB
<b>15 June 2017 Thursday</b>	
08:45–09:00	<i>Registration</i>
09:00–09:30	<b>Opening Session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome Remarks: Mr. Yonten Namgyel, Director, DRC, Bhutan (Chair)</li> <li>• Opening Remarks: Ms. Kanokpan Lao-Araya, Bhutan Country Director, ADB</li> <li>• Inaugural Address of the Chief Guest: Lyonpo Namgyel Dorji, Finance Minister, Royal Government of Bhutan</li> <li>• Signing of the Memorandum of Intent on Customs Capacity Building in the presence of the Chief Guest</li> </ul> <i>Group photo and departure of Chief Guest</i>

09:30–10:10	<p><b>Session 1: Opening Statements by Heads of Country Delegations and Updates on SCS National Projects</b></p> <p>(Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, and Sri Lanka)</p> <p><i>Delegations are requested to include a concise update on the SCS national projects underway in their respective countries, summarizing the circulated progress reports.</i></p> <p><b>Presenters:</b> SASEC member country Heads of Delegation</p>
10:10–11:40	<p><b>Session 2: The SCS Work Plan 2014-2018: Discussion on Subregional Projects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Subregional Project 1</u>: Exchange of documents (export declarations) at selected border crossing points (India)</li> <li>• <u>Subregional Project 2</u>: Assessment of regulatory framework and infrastructure facilities for containerized movement of cargo through land borders (Country/ies)</li> <li>• <u>Subregional Project 3</u>: Institutionalize border meetings between/among Customs authorities at major BCPs (Country/ies)</li> <li>• <u>Subregional Project 4</u>: Automation of transit process: the use of ICT in the processing of transit cargo (India)</li> <li>• <u>Subregional Project 5</u>: Conduct of a Feasibility Study on Electronic Exchange of Data among SASEC Customs Administrations (Country/ies)</li> </ul> <p><i>ADB will give a brief overview of the subregional projects in the SCS Work Plan, including the agreed decisions at the previous SCS Meetings. Country proponents and/or representatives will lead the discussion on the subregional projects followed by open discussion on each project.</i></p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Mr. Satish Reddy, ADB Consultant</p>
11:40–12:00	Coffee/Tea Break
12:00–13:00	<p><b>Session 3: Customs-related Priority Projects Included in the SASEC Operational Plan, 2016-2025</b></p> <p><i>ADB will brief participants on the Customs-related priority projects in the SASEC Operational Plan 2016–2025. Country delegations will discuss possible implementation of the projects and how to initiate projects of interest.</i></p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Mr. Satish Reddy, ADB Consultant</p>
13:00–14:00	Lunch
14:00–15:15	<p><b>Session 4: Use of Electronic Cargo Tracking Systems (ECTS) for Customs and Transport Facilitation</b></p> <p><i>ADB will present the application, features, and benefits of the ECTS. This will be followed by open discussion by SASEC delegations on deploying ECTS to facilitate off-border clearances and transit.</i></p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Mr. Satish Reddy, ADB Consultant</p>

15:15–15:45	<p><b>Session 5: Proposed SASEC Study on Coordinated Development of Border Infrastructure</b></p> <p><i>ADB will present the proposed SASEC study on coordinated development of border infrastructure including the objective, scope, activities, and timelines.</i></p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Mr. Soumya Chattopadhyay, ADB Consultant</p>
15:45–16:30	<p><b>Session 6: Subregional Capacity Building in Customs</b></p> <p><i>ADB will present the capacity-building activities that have taken place in the six priority areas since the Fifth Meeting of the SCS (SCS-5) and proposed activities for 2017.</i></p> <p><i>WCO ROCB A/P will report on the completed capacity-building activities since SCS-5, and future capacity-building plans under ROCB A/P.</i></p> <p><i>This will be followed by a discussion on the way forward, including possible activities under the Mol on Customs Capacity Building.</i></p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head, World Customs Organization Regional Office for Capacity Building in Asia and the Pacific; Ms. Carolina Guina, ADB Consultant; and Mr. Satish Reddy, ADB Consultant</p>
16:30–16:45	Coffee/Tea Break
16:45–17:15	<p><b>Session 7: Consideration of Summary of Proceedings of SCS-6</b></p> <p><i>The Co-Chair, assisted by the SASEC Secretariat, will go over the SCS-6 Summary of Proceedings, paragraph by paragraph, with a view to adopting it.</i></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms. Rosalind McKenzie, ADB</p>
17:15–17:30	<p><b>Session 8: Date and Venue of SCS-7 and Closing of Meeting</b></p> <p><i>The SCS-6 participants will agree on the date and venue of the SCS-7.</i></p> <p><i>The Chair will give his closing remarks.</i></p>