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:

1. Signing of the Memorandum of Intent (MoI) on Customs Capacity Building in the presence of the Chief Guest
2. Review the implementation status of subregional and national projects in the SCS Work Plan 2014–2018
3. Discuss the way forward for priority Customs-related projects under SASEC Operational Plan 2016–2025
4. Application of Electronic Cargo Tracking System for Customs and transport facilitation
5. Propose SASEC study on coordinated development of border infrastructure
6. Discuss subregional capacity-building activities in the six priority areas, as well as activities under the MoI on Customs capacity building

14 June 2017 — 09:00–16:30 Learning Event: Implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement

15 June 2017 — 09:00–17:30 Sixth Meeting of the SASEC Customs Subgroup

Chair: Mr. Yonten Namgyel, Director, DRC, Bhutan
Co-Chair: Ms. Rosalind McKenzie, Senior Regional Cooperation Specialist, ADB

15 June 2017 Thursday

08:45–09:00 Registration

09:00–09:30 Opening Session

- Welcome Remarks: Mr. Yonten Namgyel, Director, DRC, Bhutan (Chair)
- Opening Remarks: Ms. Kanokpan Lao-Araya, Bhutan Country Director, ADB
- Inaugural Address of the Chief Guest: Lyonpo Namgyel Dorji, Finance Minister, Royal Government of Bhutan
- Signing of the Memorandum of Intent on Customs Capacity Building in the presence of the Chief Guest

Group photo and departure of Chief Guest
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| 09:30–10:10| Session 1: Opening Statements by Heads of Country Delegations and Updates on SCS National Projects  
(Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, and Sri Lanka)  
Delegations are requested to include a concise update on the SCS national projects underway in their respective countries, summarizing the circulated progress reports.  
Presenters: SASEC member country Heads of Delegation |
- Subregional Project 1: Exchange of documents (export declarations) at selected border crossing points (India)  
- Subregional Project 2: Assessment of regulatory framework and infrastructure facilities for containerized movement of cargo through land borders (Country/ies)  
- Subregional Project 3: Institutionalize border meetings between/among Customs authorities at major BCPs (Country/ies)  
- Subregional Project 4: Automation of transit process: the use of ICT in the processing of transit cargo (India)  
- Subregional Project 5: Conduct of a Feasibility Study on Electronic Exchange of Data among SASEC Customs Administrations (Country/ies)  
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.  
Presenter: Mr. Satish Reddy, ADB Consultant |
| 11:40–12:00| Coffee/Tea Break                                                       |
| 12:00–13:00| Session 3: Customs-related Priority Projects Included in the SASEC Operational Plan, 2016-2025  
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.  
Presenter: Mr. Satish Reddy, ADB Consultant |
| 13:00–14:00| Lunch                                                                  |
| 14:00–15:15| Session 4: Use of Electronic Cargo Tracking Systems (ECTS) for Customs and Transport Facilitation  
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.  
Presenter: Mr. Satish Reddy, ADB Consultant |
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<td>Session 5: Proposed SASEC Study on Coordinated Development of Border Infrastructure</td>
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<td>Session 6: Subregional Capacity Building in Customs</td>
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<td>16:30–16:45</td>
<td>Coffee/Tea Break</td>
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<td>Session 7: Consideration of Summary of Proceedings of SCS-6</td>
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<td>Session 8: Date and Venue of SCS-7 and Closing of Meeting</td>
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**Session 5: Proposed SASEC Study on Coordinated Development of Border Infrastructure**

ADB will present the proposed SASEC study on coordinated development of border infrastructure including the objective, scope, activities, and timelines.

**Presenter:** Mr. Soumya Chattopadhyay, ADB Consultant

**Session 6: Subregional Capacity Building in Customs**

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.

WCO ROCB A/P will report on the completed capacity-building activities since SCS-5, and future capacity-building plans under ROCB A/P.

This will be followed by a discussion on the way forward, including possible activities under the MoU on Customs Capacity Building.

**Presenter:** 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

**Session 7: Consideration of Summary of Proceedings of SCS-6**

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.

**Moderator:** Ms. Rosalind McKenzie, ADB

**Session 8: Date and Venue of SCS-7 and Closing of Meeting**

The SCS-6 participants will agree on the date and venue of the SCS-7.

The Chair will give his closing remarks.