



News



ADB-WCO ROCBP Planning Retreat

Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the World Customs Organization Regional Office for Capacity Building for Asia and the Pacific (WCO ROCBP), held a one-day planning retreat on 25 January 2013 at ADB's Thailand Resident Mission. The objective of the retreat was to identify and agree upon possible joint ADB-WCO training activities for supporting the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation Trade Facilitation Program (STFP).



Nepal Renewable Energy Week

On 20 January 2013, Priyantha Wijayatunga, Unit Head, Project Management Unit of ADB's Nepal Resident Mission, accepted a token of appreciation from Dr. Baburam Bhattarai, Prime Minister of Nepal, on behalf of ADB. The Government of Nepal recognized ADB's contribution to the development of the renewable energy sector in the country during the inauguration of Renewable Energy Week, 20-25 January 2013.



\$21 million Trade Facilitation Program Loan

ADB, through Country Director M. Teresa Kho and the Government of Bangladesh, signed a \$21 million loan to facilitate the movement of goods in the SASEC subregion. The project will provide assistance to Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal in adopting an international customs administration protocol, to upgrade existing automated customs management systems and establish web-based, electronic trade portals.

Recent Events

Date	Event	Venue
25 Jan	ADB-WCO ROCBP Planning Retreat	Bangkok, Thailand

2013 SASEC Indicative Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Venue
March		
25 -28	SASEC Trade Facilitation Week	Bangkok, Thailand
25	Concluding Workshop on Business Process Analysis	Bangkok, Thailand
26	Workshop to Exchange Experiences on Nonphysical and Non-tariff Barriers to Trade in the SASEC Subregion	Bangkok, Thailand
27	Information Exchange Seminar on Customs Procedures and Standards in the SASEC Subregion	Bangkok, Thailand
28	Inception Meeting of the Customs Sub-group of the Trade Facilitation and Transport Working Groups	Bangkok, Thailand
April		
4-5	Asia-Pacific and Americas: Customs Leaders' Partnership Dialogue	Panama City, Panama
May		
3	SASEC Nodal Officials' Meeting	New Delhi, India
27-31	Regional Knowledge Sharing Workshop on SAFE Framework, Authorized Economic Operators and Authorized Trader Program	Bangkok, Thailand
June		
13-15	Nepal National Trade Facilitation Workshop	Kathmandu, Nepal
July		
16	Workshop on Trade Facilitation	Singapore
17	Study Visit of Singapore-Malaysia border and Border Facilities for Trade Facilitation and Transport Working Groups Meeting Participants	Singapore
18	Meeting of the Customs Sub-group of the Trade Facilitation and Transport Working Groups	Singapore
19	SASEC Trade Facilitation and Transport Working Groups Meeting	Singapore

September

10-11	Meeting of the SASEC Electricity Transmission Utility Forum	Kathmandu, Nepal
12-13	Inception Meeting of SASEC Network of National Energy Efficiency Institutions	Kathmandu, Nepal
16-17	Subregional Workshop on Formation of National Trade Facilitation Committees and Improved Public Private Partnership for Trade Facilitation	Bangkok, Thailand
19-20	Workshop on the Interim Report of the BIMSTEC Transport Infrastructure and Logistic Study Updating	Bangkok, Thailand

November

12	Meeting of the Customs Sub-group of the Trade Facilitation and Transport Working Groups	Kathmandu, Nepal
13	Meeting of the Trade Facilitation and Transport Working Groups	Kathmandu, Nepal
14	Meeting of the Energy Working Group	Kathmandu, Nepal
15	Public-Private Sector Workshop on Hydropower Development in Nepal	Kathmandu, Nepal
18-22	SASEC Week	ADB HQ, Manila

Publications



Regional Integration and Economic
Development in South Asia
2012



Connecting ASEAN & India
Strong! Yet Stronger Together
2012

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