

Trade, Transport and Transit Facilitation in South Asia
Imperative of Bridging Macro-Meso-Micro Gaps
29-30 October 2014, Hotel Lalit Great Eastern, Kolkata, India

Agenda

Day 1: Wednesday, the 29th of October 2014

1730-1800 Registration

1800-2000 Opening Session: The need for a broader agenda (policy and practice changes) for trade facilitation in South Asia

Welcome Remarks and Introduction of the Theme

Bipul Chatterjee, Deputy Executive Director, CUTS International

Distinguished Speakers

Sagar Prasai, Country Representative, The Asia Foundation, India Office

Ramesh Kumar Mutha, Vice President, SAARC Chamber of Commerce & Industry, India Chapter and Senior Committee Member, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry

Paramita Dasgupta, Manager, Trade & Competitiveness, South Asia, The World Bank Group

P K Bohra, Joint Commissioner of Customs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India

Sanjeev Nandwani, Additional Director General of Foreign Trade, Department of Commerce, Government of India

M P Bezbaruah, Member, North Eastern Council, Government of India

Syed Humayun Kabir, Director General, South Asian Regional Standards Organisation

2000-2200 Reception & Dinner

Day 2: Thursday, the 30th of October 2014

0900-1045 Session 1: Macro and meso level gaps relating to trade, transport and transit facilitation in South Asia with a particular focus on India

Chair

Y S Shahrawat, Chairman, Land Ports Authority of India

Presentation

Surendar Singh, Policy Analyst, CUTS International

Designated Panellists

Md Zafar Sadique, Senior Research Associate, Centre for Policy Dialogue of Bangladesh

Dil Maya Rai, Principal Consultant, InfoAge Consulting, Bhutan

Hosna Ferdous Sumi, Associate Operations Officer, Trade & Competitiveness, The World Bank Group

Debashis Dutta, Chairman, Federation of Freight Forwarders' Association in India

Shahabuddin Mohammad, Secretary General, Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce & Industry

1045-1115 Break & Networking
1115-1300 Session 2: Procedural barriers (micro level issues) in some specific trade corridors in South Asia

Chair

Sathish K Reddy, Regional Cooperation Specialist, Asian Development Bank

Presentation

Prithviraj Nath, Policy Analyst, CUTS International

Designated Panellists

Sudeep Bajracharya, Programme Officer, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment, Nepal

Ashish Narain, Senior Operations Officer, The World Bank Group

Zahid Hossain, Director, Bangladesh Freight Forwarders Association

Pritam Banerjee, Senior Director, Corporate Public Policy (South Asia), DHL Limited

Durgesh Buxy, Deputy General Manager, Raymond India Limited

1300-1400 Lunch & Networking

1400-1545 Session 3: Standards and transport related barriers to trade facilitation between Bangladesh and India

Chair

S P Rao, Consultant, CUTS International

Presentation

Nilanjan Banik, Fellow, CUTS International

Designated Panellists

Arpit Bhutani, Consultant, United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

K M Zaman, Senior Director, Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce & Industry & Chairman, Management Coordination Committee, Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers & Exporters Association

Rezaul Karim, Deputy Director, Bangladesh Standards & Testing Institute

Rakesh Kumar, Deputy Director General, Eastern Region, Bureau of Indian Standards

Md Nazrul Islam, Chairman, Bangladesh Road Transport Authority

1545-1615 Break & Networking

1615-1800 Concluding Session: A broader agenda for trade facilitation and regional connectivity in South Asia - implementation issues, technical assistance and capacity building needs

Chair

Rajiv Kumar, Senior Fellow, Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi

Presentation

Joseph George, Consultant, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, South and South West Asia Office

Designated Panellists

Sunil Mitra, Former Revenue Secretary of India

Pema Wangchen, Joint Commissioner, Liaison & Transit Office, Royal Bhutan Customs Office, Kolkata

Md Mofidul Islam, Director, Bangladesh Land Port Authority & Joint Secretary to the Government of Bangladesh

Ram Sharan Chimoria, Deputy Director General, Department of Customs, Government of Nepal

Md Mozibur Rahman, Chief Executive Officer, Bangladesh Foreign Trade Institute