South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC)

SASEC Trade Facilitation

Presentation at the

Second WCO-ADB Joint Subregional Train-the-Trainer Workshop on Customs Valuation

Male, Maldives: 21-24 October 2014

Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination Division South Asia Department, Asian Development Bank



SASEC: 4-2-6



2014: the Maldives and Sri Lanka



Outline of Presentation

- WCO-ADB Joint Subregional Train-the-Trainer
 Workshop on Customs Valuation
- ADB's Engagement in Trade Facilitation / Customs Modernization Reforms
- Commitment



First WCO-ADB Joint Subregional Train-the-Trainer Workshop on Customs Valuation: Colombo, February 2014



SASEC Trade Facilitation Strategic Framework 2014-2018

INCREASED TRADE, INCLUDING INTRA-REGIONAL TRADE, Mission **OF SASEC COUNTRIES** Goals More efficient, transparent, secure and serviceoriented trade in SASEC Countries Components BORDER **T**RANSPORT **C**USTOMS **S**TANDARDS **FACILITATION F**ACILITIES Simplify & dentify SPS-Develop & Strengthen Strategic Thruste expedite border ensitive products pilot transport cross-border formalities. Strenathen facilitation facilities Increase ICT National arrangements applications Conformity Develop NSWs Assessment Boards

MANCE COOPERATION AND COORDINATION MECHANISMS



Pillar 1: Customs Modernization and Harmonization

Objectives

- ☐ Simplify and expedite border formalities to facilitate the movement of goods, vehicles, and people
- ☐ Increase the application of ICT processing
- ☐ Develop NSW system that links all border agencies with the trading community

SASEC Customs Subgroup

- ☐ Work Plan 2014-2016
- ☐ Capacity Building Program
- ☐ Collaboration with WCO



TF Strategic Framework Pillars 2-4:

Pillar 2: Standards and Conformity Assessment Strengthening

Pillar 3: Cross-Border Facilities Improvement

Pillar 4: Transport Facilitation

'Pillar 5': Institution and Capacity Building



SASEC Trade Facilitation Program

- \$48 million Regional Program
 - Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal
- Objectives
 - Modern and effective Customs administration / management
 - ☐ Streamlined and transparent trade processes
 - ☐ Improved services and information for private sector traders and investors
- JFPR Technical Assistance
 - ☐ SASEC JFPR Technical Assistance



How Does the Multiyear Assistance Program Work??

- Regional workshop
 - Colombo, Sri Lanka, February 2014
- National workshop / activity
 - Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka
- Regional workshop
 - ☐ Male, the Maldives, October 2014
- National workshop / activity
 - Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka



Commitment....??

WCO

- **T**echnical expertise and experience
- □Close working knowledge of SASEC countries
- ☐ Facilitation of learning / knowledge events

ADB

- Lateral trategic underpinning at regional and national levels
- Qogistical support
- **□**Financing

SASEC Customs Administrations

- Commitment to multi-year ToT approach
- ☐ Frainers and 'champions' of customs valuation
- Production and implementation of Action Plan for future support funded by ADB



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