Presentation on
Economic Cooperation under SAARC

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SAPTA or SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement was signed during Seventh SAARC Summit in Bangladesh on 11 April 1993 – Based on Positive List Approach

SAFTA or South Asian Free Trade Area was signed during Twelfth SAARC Summit in Pakistan on 6th January 2004 – based on Negative List Approach

SAPTA and SAFTA notified to WTO

SATIS or SAARC Agreement on Trade in Services was signed during 16th SAARC Summit in Bhutan on 29 April 2010 – not yet operational
signed on 6 January 2004;
ratified by all Member States;
entered into force on 1 January 2006;
TLP commenced on 1 July 2006;
sensitive lists being reduced phase-wise (third phase is underway;
India has 25 products on Sensitive List for LDCs;
Bhutan and Maldives have about 150 products only.
Intra-SAARC Trade Flows under SAFTA have been witnessing upward trend since launching of TLP in July 2006. Still it is much below the expected levels and much below the existing regional trade taking place currently among the Member States. Efforts are on to bring intra-SAARC trade taking place under the bilateral trade regimes of Member States under the umbrella of SAFTA.
For smooth flow of trade in goods, it is essential to facilitate trade.

South Asian Regional Standards Organisation (SARSO) based in Dhaka

Governing Board; Technical Management Board; and Sectoral Technical Committees

Harmonisation of Standards

SAARC Expert Group on Accreditation (SEGA)

Metrology
Customs Cooperation
Simplification and Harmonisation of Customs Documentation
Harmonisation of 8-digit HS Codes
Capacity Building
Nine Meetings of Sub-Group held
Tenth Meeting scheduled to be held in Pakistan this year
SAARC Arbitration Council (SARCO)
Based in Islamabad
For Settlement of disputes
Through Conciliation and Arbitration
Panel of Arbitrators finalised
Meetings of Governing Board
Sixth Meeting of GB was held in Lahore in September 2015
The Eighth Meeting of SAFTA Ministerial Council held in Thimphu on 24 July 2014 reviewed the progress with regard to progress towards regional economic integration and urged all concerned SAARC mechanisms for expeditious action towards the implementation of mandates of higher SAARC bodies.

The Ninth Meeting of SAFTA Ministerial Council is scheduled to be held in Afghanistan preceded by the Tenth Meeting of the SAFTA Committee of Experts.
Study on the Regional Economic Integration in SAARC, its current extent and recommendations for further deepening (Phase-I) Completed

Study on Regional Economic Integration (Phase-II) Completed

These are supported by ADB.
Questions, if any, are welcome.

Thank you for your attention!