Trade Digitalization in the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Program

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**SASEC: Project-based Partnership to Promote Regional Prosperity**

- **Members:** Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, and Sri Lanka
- **Three sectors:** Transport, Trade Facilitation, Energy
- **Institution light, projects-heavy:** Nodal Officials, Working Groups
- **Flexible, Multi-track, Multi-speed, Building Block approach**
- **ADB is the secretariat and lead supporter**
- **2001-2018, 52 projects worth $11.3 billion approved, of which ADB extended $6.5 billion of financing**
SASEC Trade Facilitation Strategic Framework

Providing the software to connectivity

Increased trade, including intra-regional trade, of SASEC Countries

More efficient, transparent, secure and service-oriented trade in SASEC Countries

**Components**

- **Customs**: Simplify & expedite border formalities, increase ICT applications, develop NSWs
- **Standards**: Identify SPS-sensitive products, Strengthen National Conformity Assessment Boards
- **Border Facilities**: Strengthen cross-border facilities
- **Transport Facilitation**: Develop & pilot transport facilitation arrangements

**Strategic Thrusts**

Enhanced cooperation and coordination mechanisms
Experiences on Digitalization for Trade Facilitation in SASEC

• Technology driven transit facilitation
• Implementing an Electronic National Single Window in Maldives
Technology driven transit facilitation

From:
- Manual process
- Excessive documentation
- Delay in discharge of bonds
- Lack of visibility
- Inadequate security and monitoring capability

To:
- Automated process
- Digital uploads
- Automatic discharge of bonds
- Shipment visibility
- High security and real time monitoring

Electronic Cargo Tracking System
Technology driven transit facilitation - Features

SECURITY

REFORMS AND SIMPLIFICATION

ANALYTICS

VISIBILITY
## Technology driven transit facilitation – Roles of stakeholders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Activity (Previous)</th>
<th>Activity (with ECTS)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shipping Company</td>
<td>Files Manifest; issues delivery order</td>
<td>Files IGM; files application for transhipment and gets approval; issues delivery order in Nepal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consulate of Nepal</td>
<td>Issues letter to Indian Customs</td>
<td>NONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal Importer (rep. by Customs Broker)</td>
<td>Files CTD along with invoice, packing list, import license etc.; gives undertaking; container re-positioning</td>
<td>NONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Authority</td>
<td>Unloading/custodianship of goods</td>
<td>Unloading/custodianship of goods</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Technology driven transit facilitation – Roles of stakeholders

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transporter</td>
<td>- NONE</td>
<td>Furnish bond/security for secure movement of cargo through Indian territory</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Customs    | • Declaration scrutiny; duty computation;  
            | • Seal affixation and removal  
            | • Discharge of bond                                                           | • Permission based on Manifest  
            | • Seal affixation and removal  
            | • Discharge of bond                                                            |
Technology driven transit facilitation – Experiences and Challenges

- Fulfilling compliance requirements by Nepal traders in country of transit (India)
- Advocacy to encourage greater participation
- Reduced role of intermediaries
- Dealing with exceptions
- Change management
- Congestion in transport network
Implementing an Electronic National Single Window in Maldives
Implementing an Electronic National Single Window in Maldives

What is National Single Window?

It is a facility that allows parties involved in trade and transport to lodge standardized information and documents with a single entry point to fulfill all import, export, and transit-related regulatory requirements.

UNECE Recommendation No. 33
Implementing an Electronic National Single Window in Maldives

- Relevant regulatory agencies
- Business Process Reengineering
- Compliance requirements
- Governance structures
- Data harmonization
- Business model
- Hardware and software
- Capacity building
Implementing an Electronic National Single Window in Maldives

NSW Application Architecture

CLIENT / PRESENTATION
- Web-forms CBRA user
- Web-forms Trader
- Web-forms Information Consumer
- Browser (IE / Firefox, etc) Secure HTML - GUI

MESSAGING GATEWAY
- G2G Messaging
  - Gov't Agency
  - XML / Edifact, NSW Protocol
- B2G Messaging
  - Trader
  - XML / Edifact

Message Transformation

APPLICATION INTEGRATION LAYER
- Workflow Management
- Risk Management
- CBM Support
- SLA Management
- Trade Information Services
- Archiving
- NSW Administration
- Billing Services

APPLICATION SERVER LAYER
- NSW Webservices
- COTS Webservices
  - (e.g. Business Intelligence, File sharing)
- (Commercially available and supported multithreading tool, e.g. a J2EE application server)

DATABASE SYSTEM LAYER
- (Commercially available and supported, ANSI SQL Complaint, e.g. Oracle 11 EE, Microsoft SQL)

OPERATING SYSTEM LAYER
- (Commercially available and supported portable product: Windows Server, Unix)

External Applications
- AsycudaWorld
- MPL
- MAACL
- MED
- MNDF
- MOFA
- MFDA
- ePayment
Implementing an Electronic National Single Window in Maldives – Recommended Good Practices

• Empowered Lead Agency
• Single Entry and Electronic Submission
• Standardized documents and data elements
• Paperless environment
• Information sharing and routing
• Integrated Risk Management
• Coordination of Controls and Inspections
• E-Payments
• Single Output to trader
• Trade Analytics Capability
Implementing an Electronic National Single Window – Challenges

• Multiple portals, apps and ‘single windows’
• Lack of standards
• Payment gateways

Efforts for Stakeholder buy-in and Change Management should be continuous

Political support and long-term commitment from top decision-makers is key
Thank you.