



South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Program Customs Subgroup





SASEC: Project-based Partnership to Promote Regional Prosperity

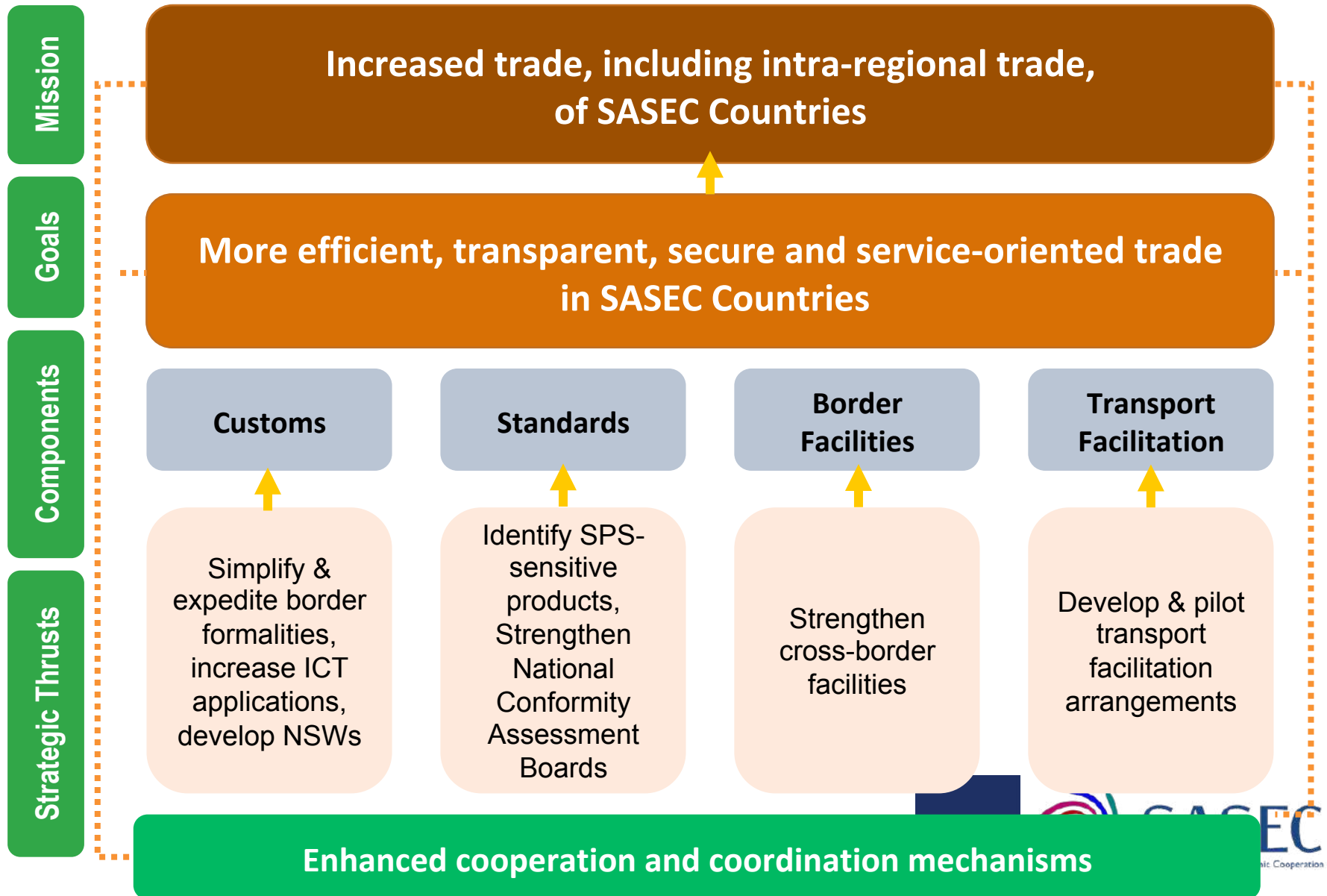
- Members: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, and Sri Lanka
- Three sectors: Transport, Trade Facilitation, Energy
- Institution light, projects-heavy: Nodal Officials, Working Groups
- Flexible, Multi-track, Multi-speed, Building Block approach
- ADB is the secretariat and lead supporter
- 2001-2018, 52 projects worth \$11.3 billion approved, of which ADB extended \$6.5 billion of financing, 81 TA projects worth \$106.44 million





SASEC Trade Facilitation Strategic Framework

Providing the software to connectivity





Transport Facilitation, Border Facilities, and Standards

- Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal Motor Vehicle Agreement
 - Trial run along Kolkata-Agartala road via Dhaka
 - Passenger bus trial run along Dhaka-Siliguri-Kathmandu route and Dhaka to Delhi
- Trade Facilitation Route Initiative Study
 - Kolkata-Dhaka route passing through key border points of Petrapole-Benapole, Ghojadanga-Bhomra; and Gede-Darsana
- Conducted Studies on Coordinated Development of Border Infrastructure
- Completed regional and national diagnostic study on SPS/TBT



Customs

ADB Loans and grants

- SASEC Trade Facilitation Program Loans to Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal (completed)
 - Accession to the RKC by the three countries
 - Web-based customs management systems launched and implemented in Bangladesh and Nepal
 - Reduced import and export trade documentation aligned to international standards
 - Trade information portals launched in Bangladesh
- SASEC Customs Reform and Modernization for TF Program in Nepal – 2017 (ongoing policy-based loan)
- SASEC Port Access Elevated Highway in Sri Lanka – 2018 (ongoing)
- SASEC National Single Window in Maldives – 2019 (ongoing)



Customs

ADB Technical assistance support

Implementing Trade Facilitation Initiatives under the SASEC Program

- Output 1: Developing implementation frameworks, blueprints, & road maps for modern customs administrations
- Output 2: Developing tools to enhance transparency of standards in SPS and TBT.
- Output 3: Preparing cross-border transport facilitation studies along key SASEC routes, & ECTS feasibility studies

Making trade more efficient through better compliance, adoption of international standards and capacity building



SASEC Customs Subgroup (SCS)

Background

- Customs key to enhancing trade facilitation
- SASEC customs organizations, adhere to Kyoto Convention
- Need for a forum to promote cooperation

Objectives

SASEC Customs Subgroup (SCS) to work for (i) customs reform/ modernization, (ii) stronger inter-agency cooperation, and (iii) enhance private partnerships

Scope of Work

- Concerted customs reform and modernization
- Single Window Schemes
- Capacity Building





SCS Meetings



28 March 2013
Bangkok, Thailand



22 – 23 May 2014
Kathmandu, Nepal



11 – 12 March 2015
Goa, India



27 – 28 October 2015
Cebu, Philippines



25 – 26 May 2016
Male, Maldives



14 – 15 June 2017
Thimphu, Bhutan



30 – 31 July 2018
Colombo, Sri Lanka



SCS Workplan – Subregional Projects

1. Exchange of Documents (Export Declarations) at Major Border Crossing Points
2. Assessment of the readiness of regulatory framework and infrastructure facilities in SASEC countries for containerized movement of cargo through land borders
3. Institutionalize Regular Border meetings between/among Customs authorities at major BCPs
4. Automation of transit process: the use of ICT in the processing of transit cargo
5. Conduct of Feasibility Study on Electronic Exchange of Data among SASEC Customs Administrations
6. SASEC ASYCUDA World Support Network (SASUN)
7. Customs, Transit, and Transport Facilitation: Use of Electronic Cargo Tracking System (ECTS)
8. Coordinated Development of Border Infrastructure
9. SASEC Cross-Border Transport Facilitation Routes Initiative



SCS Workplan – National Projects

Bangladesh

- Full implementation of all the modules/ components of ASYCUDA World (AW) in Customs procedures
- Port and Customs ICT connectivity for efficient Customs Management in six priority LCSs

Bhutan

- Accession to the RKC and General Annex of the Convention and enactment of the amended Customs Act
- Introduction of risk management (RM) and post clearance audit (PCA)

India

- Introduction of automation at more Land Customs Stations
- Regular sessions for raising awareness of the trading community and customs brokers on regulatory requirements





SCS Workplan – National Projects

Maldives

- Accession to the RKC and General Annex of the Convention
- Development of a Road Map for Establishing a National Single Window System

Nepal

- Accession to Revised Kyoto Convention
- Review of Existing Trade Documents

Sri Lanka

- Enhance the Capacity of ICT Division of Sri Lanka Customs in preparedness towards National Single Window



Capacity Building Programs

- SASEC ADB-National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes and Narcotic Memorandum of Intent for Cooperation in Customs Capacity Building
 - Authorized Economic Operators' Program – Sept 2018
 - Time Release Study – November 2018
 - Customs Valuation and Database – June 2019
 - Customs Cooperation – November 2019
- ADB-Korean Customs Multi-year WTO TFA Initiatives
 - 3 subregional workshops
 - 6 national workshops
- ADB supported national workshops/ trainings
 - Advance ruling in Maldives
 - Post clearance audit in Sri Lanka
 - Temporary admission
 - Rules of origin





Way Forward

- Facilitate multimodal movements
- Focus on emerging areas such as blockchain and e-commerce
- Develop sustainable capacity building programs



Thank you.

