

South Asia Breakout Session: Developing Trade Facilitation in South Asia

Summary report by session chairpersons

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Summary of Discussions and Recommendations

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Review of issues discussed

South Asia still has significant trade facilitation problems that are adversely affecting trade potential. Studies have shown for example:

- Exports Nepal to Bangladesh take 16 days with 10 procedures, exports Bhutan to Bangladesh 10.5 days with 10 procedures and exports from Nepal through Kolkata takes 19 days with 15 procedures
- Average shipment required up to 22 different forms with overall requirements for about 50 documents (originals + copies).
- Sri Lanka (2009) TF times imports 20 days 6 different documents and exports 21 days 8.5 documents – 12 days for import documentation preparation (some reductions since survey)
- Bangladesh (2011) TF times imports 29 days 8 different documents and exports 23 days 6 documents – 12 days for document preparation – 20 days for import document preparation

These represent significant non-tariff barriers to trade

Review of issues discussed

Documentation

- Too many different documents
- Lack of standardization/harmonization nationally and regionally
- Continued manual processing of documentation, as hard copies still have to be submitted – dual process means benefits of automation lost
- Customs procedures remain cumbersome, non-transparent and time consuming

Ports

- Port performance remains poor with long delays

Infrastructure

- Lack of connecting infrastructure and at borders delays shipments

Transit

- Lack of effective transit systems disadvantages landlocked countries

Review of issues discussed

Transport Facilitation

- Traffic still be transhipped at borders raising costs

Certification and Testing

- Lack of accredited testing laboratories
- Certificates of other countries not recognized

Trade Facilitation Information

- Lack of information available to traders
- Lack of awareness at to regulations resulting in non-compliance
- Inconsistencies due to differing interpretation of regulations

Trade Facilitation Committees

- Not all countries have such committees
- Some not effective private-public consultation mechanism

Review of issues discussed

Single Window

- Single window is a transformational change demanding effective public -private stakeholder collaboration for ownership/buy-in
- SW is a program not IT in isolation
- Implementation complexity can result in loss of support and buy-in due to time lag – single window fatigue
- Importance of recognizing its potential value and ensuring active participation
- Appreciation that implementation will be challenging
- Different development approaches will be required in different countries using a step-by-step approach

Key challenges

Documentation

- Reductions in numbers of documents and copies
- Harmonization using international formats
- Eliminating need for hard copies unless suspect shipment

Ports

- Reduction in port dwell times

Infrastructure

- Investment in border crossings and ICDs

Transit

- Negotiation of simplified transit system with electronic controls

Key challenges

Legal

- Need to change legislation to introduce and develop e-customs and SW
- Potential implementation delays awaiting approval of draft legislation

Institutional Capacity

- Need for capacity building and training to support changes in approaches and technology

Trade Facilitation Information

- Establishment of trade website
- Maintaining data on website

Trade Facilitation Committees

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_7345

