



Ministry of Commerce and Supplies
Government of Nepal

AITIC Regional Workshop¹

WTO Trade Facilitation Negotiations for Asian LDC Members and Observers

**Kathmandu, Nepal
29 June – 1 July 2010**

Programme

Countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

Tuesday, 29 June

09.00 – 09.30 Registration of Participants

09.30 – 10.00 **Introductory Remarks and Welcome Speech**

Speakers: Mrs. Gayatri Kanth, Deputy Executive Director, AITIC
Mr. Purushottam Ojha, Secretary,
Ministry of Commerce and Supplies, Nepal

Session I: WTO Trade Facilitation Negotiations: Main Issues and State of Play

10.00 – 10.30 **State of Play of Trade Facilitation Negotiations at the WTO**

Speaker: Ms. Maria Misovicova, Economic Affairs Officer,
Trade Facilitation Section, UNCTAD

10.30 – 11.00 **Trade Facilitation Negotiations from the LDC Perspective**

Speaker: Mr. Ravi Bhattarai, Deputy Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Nepal, Geneva

11.00 – 11.15 Discussion

11.15 – 11.30 Coffee/Tea Break

11.30 – 12.45 **Negotiations on GATT Articles V (*Freedom of Transit*)**

Speaker: Ms. Maria Misovicova, Economic Affairs Officer,
Trade Facilitation Section, UNCTAD

12.45 – 13.00 Discussion

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

¹This workshop was made possible by funding through DFID

Session II: WTO Trade Facilitation Negotiations: Main Issues and State of Play (continued)

- 14.00 – 14.30 **Negotiations on GATT Article VIII** (*Fees and Formalities on Imports and Exports*)
Speaker: Mr. Scott Nance, International Legal Consultant
- 14.30 – 14.45 Discussion
- 14.45 – 15.15 **Negotiations on GATT Article X** (*Publication and Administration of Trade Regulations*)
Speaker: Mr. Scott Nance, International Legal Consultant
- 15.15 – 15.30 Discussion
- 15.30 – 15.45 Coffee/Tea Break
- 15.45 – 16.45 **Special and Different Treatment from the LDC Perspective**
Speaker: Mr. Motaher Hussain, Economic Minister
Permanent Mission of Bangladesh, Geneva
- 16.45 – 17.00 Discussion

Wednesday, 30 June

Session III: Border Agency Coordination

- 09.30 – 10.15 **Harmonisation of Customs Procedures in the Region**
Speaker: Mr. Lee Sang-Hyup, Professor and WCO Expert
Customs Border Training Center, Korea Customs Service
- 10.15 – 10.30 Discussion
- 10.30 – 11.15 **National Experiences in Border Agency Coordination**
Speakers: Mr. Ram Chandra Man Singh
Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers,
Nepal
- 11.15 – 11.30 Discussion
- 11.30 – 11.45 Coffee/Tea Break
- 11.45 – 12.30 **Single Window and Other Related Measures vis-à-vis the Future WTO Commitments**
Speaker: Ms. Maria Misovicova, Economic Affairs Officer,
Trade Facilitation Section, UNCTAD
- 12.30 – 13.00 Discussion
- 13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

Session IV: Regional Trade Facilitation Initiatives, Challenges and Interests

- 14.00 – 14.45 **Regional Trade Facilitation Initiatives**
Speaker: Mr. Sang Won Lim, Trade Facilitation Section, UNESCAP
- 14.45 – 15.00 Discussion

- 15.00 – 15.45 **Transit Cooperation and Concerns of Landlocked Developing Countries**
Speaker: Mr. Sang Won Lim, Trade Facilitation Section, UNESCAP
- 15.45 – 16.00 Discussion
- 16.00 – 16.15 Coffee / Tea Break
- 16.15 – 16.45 **Identifying the Real Costs of Trade Facilitation**
Speaker: Mr. Scott Nance, International Legal Consultant
- 16.45 – 17.00 Discussion

Thursday, 1 July

Session V: Looking to the Future

- 9.30 – 10.00 **Establishing and Operating National Working Groups**
Introduction and Brainstorming Exercise
Speaker: Ms. Maria Misovicova, UNCTAD
- 10:00 – 10.30 The Experience of Nepal
Speaker: Senior Official, Customs Department, Nepal
- 10.30 – 10.45 Coffee / Tea Break
- 10.45 – 11.15 The Experience of Pakistan
Speaker: Mr. Javaid Mansoor, Executive Director of the Pakistani National Trade and Transport Facilitation Committee
- 11.15 – 11.45 Discussion
- 11.45 – 12.30 **Role of the Private Sector in Trade Facilitation**
Speaker: Mr. R.B. Rauniar, Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FNCCI), Nepal
- 12.30 – 12.45 Discussion
- 12.45 – 13.00 **Summary and Closing**