

Regional cooperation on trade, climate change and food security in South Asia: Some reflections and way forward

13-14 March 2014, Godavari Village Resort, Lalitpur

Organized by
South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE)
In collaboration with
Oxfam and Swedish Standards Institute (SIS)

Programme Agenda

Session	Resource persons	Chair
13 March 2014 (Day 1)		
8:30 – 9:00	Registration	
9:00 – 9:30 Inaugural session	<p>Welcome and Highlights of the Programme: Mr. Puspa Sharma, Research Director, SAWTEE, Kathmandu</p> <p>Special remarks: Dr. Dinesh Bhattarai, Advisor to the Prime Minister of Nepal</p> <p>Special remarks: Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi, Officiating Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Nepal (GoN)</p> <p>Remarks by the Chair</p>	Dr. Posh Raj Pandey , Executive Chairman, SAWTEE
9:30 – 11:00 South Asian LDCs and trade facilitation agreement, with reference to Aid for Trade	<p><u>Presentation</u> Dr. Ratnakar Adhikari, Executive Director, Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) Secretariat, Geneva</p> <p><u>Discussants</u> Prof. Mustafizur Rahman, Executive Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka Dr. Nisha Taneja, Professor, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), New Delhi</p> <p>Floor discussion</p> <p>Remarks by the Chair</p>	Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi , Officiating Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, GoN
11:00 – 11:15 (Tea)		

<p>11:15 – 12:45 The 9th WTO Ministerial declaration on food security: Need for more regional cooperation in South Asia?</p>	<p><u>Presentation</u> Dr. Posh Raj Pandey, Executive Chairman, SAWTEE</p> <p><u>Discussants</u> Ms. Robina Ather, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Government of Pakistan Dr. Simrit Kaur, Professor, Delhi University, New Delhi</p> <p>Floor discussion</p> <p>Remarks by the Chair</p>	<p>Dr. Debapriya Bhattacharya, Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka</p>
12:45 – 13:45 (Lunch)		
<p>13:45 – 15:15 Operationalizing the SAARC Food Bank</p>	<p><u>Presentation</u> Dr. Krishna P. Pant, Fellow, South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE), Kathmandu</p> <p><u>Discussants</u> Prof. I.N. Mukherji, Executive Member, Governing Body, Centre for International Relations and Community Well-being, Gurgaon and Consultant, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), New Delhi Mr. Choni Dendup, Specialist - Agriculture, Marketing and Cooperatives, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Royal Government of Bhutan</p> <p>Floor discussion</p> <p>Remarks by the Chair</p>	<p>Ms. Robina Ather, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Government of Pakistan</p>
15:15 – 15:30 (Tea)		
<p>15:30 – 17:00 Towards a South Asian Transit Agreement</p>	<p><u>Presentation</u> Dr. Prabir De, Senior Fellow and Professor, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi</p> <p><u>Discussants</u> Mr. Bipul Chatterjee, Deputy Executive Director, CUTS International, Jaipur Dr. Vaqar Ahmed, Deputy Executive Director, SDPI, Islamabad Dr. Selim Raihan, Professor, University of Dhaka</p> <p>Floor discussion</p> <p>Remarks by the Chair</p>	<p>Mr. Purushottam Ojha, Former Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Supplies, Government of Nepal</p>
<p><i>Welcome dinner (19:00 – 21:00)</i></p>		

14 March (Day 2)		
<p>9:00– 11:00 Regional cooperation to address climate change impacts in South Asia</p>	<p><u>Presentation</u> Mr. Bishal Thapa, Co-founder, Saral Urja Nepal, Kathmandu</p> <p><u>Discussants</u> Dr. Fahmida Khatun, Research Director, CPD, Dhaka Mr. Nitya Nanda, Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi</p> <p>Floor discussion</p> <p>Remarks by the Chair</p>	<p>Mr. Arvind Kumar, Advisor, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi</p>
11:00 – 11:15 (Tea)		
<p>11:15 – 12:45 Agriculture adaptation practices in South Asia: Learning from each other</p>	<p><u>Presentations</u> Case of India: Mr. Tirthankar Mandal, Freelance Consultant, New Delhi Case of Sri Lanka: Mr. Athula Senaratne, Research Fellow and Head, Environmental Economic Policy Research, Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS), Colombo</p> <p><u>Discussants</u> Dr. Gautam Vohra, Chairman, Development Research and Action Group (DRAG), New Delhi Mr. Shafqat Munir, Regional Rights in Crisis Coordinator, Oxfam Asia, Islamabad Ms. Rajju Malla Dhakal, Executive Director, South Asia Center for Policy Studies (SACEPS)</p> <p>Floor discussion</p> <p>Remarks by the Chair</p>	<p>Ms. Ramani Ellepola, Former Director General, Central Environment Authority of Sri Lanka, Colombo</p>
12:45 – 13:45 (Lunch)		
<p>13:45 – 15:15 Trade promotion through standardization</p>	<p><u>Presentation</u> Mr. Indu Bikram Joshi, Under Secretary, Nepal Bureau of Standards and Metrology (NBSM), Kathmandu</p> <p><u>Discussants</u> Mr. Akhtar Bughio, Director, Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA), Islamabad Ms. S. Saroja, Coordinator, Citizen consumer and civic Action Group (CAG), Chennai</p> <p>Floor discussion</p> <p>Remarks by the Chair</p>	<p>Ms. L. Savithri, Director - Economic, Trade and Finance Division, SAARC Secretariat</p>
15:15 – 15:30 (Tea)		
<p>15:30 – 16:00 Closing session</p>	<p>Future work agenda for regional cooperation on trade, climate change and food security in South Asia: Mr. Puspa Sharma, Research Director, SAWTEE</p> <p>Remarks and vote of thanks: Mr. Scott Faiia, Nepal - Country Director, Oxfam, Kathmandu</p>	<p>Dr. Posh Raj Pandey, Executive Chairman, SAWTEE</p>

	Closing remarks by the Chair	
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