

**Closing speech by Mr. Shovakanta Poudel, DDG Customs for Work Plan Formulation  
Workshop - Sunday, September 24, 2017**

My Colleagues Deputy Director General Mr. Shreekrisha Nepal  
Chief Customs Administrator, TIA  
Chief, PCA office  
Mr. Ronald Antonio Butiong, Director, ADB Manila,  
Ms. Sonoko Sunayama, Senior Economist, ADB,  
Representative from NRM,  
Officials and  
Experts

Good afternoon,

1. It gives me immense pleasure to speak in this successful event's closing session.
2. Our objective of this program was to formulate the Work Plan for the SASEC Trade Facilitation Program to comply with the 2nd tranche policy actions and implementation of CRMSAP 2017-21. I can say with confidence that the workshop has been very successful.
3. Department of Customs has accorded high priority to this today's program. This is because the work plan will lay down road map for the program implementation. This will also help us to concentrate our focus and would ascertain financial requirements and gaps.
4. As we know, we had also very extensive discussion yesterday in the Department on the Work Plan. I believe Yesterday's discussion must have contributed a lot for the today's program.
5. I was closely observing the today's workshop. Each Thematic Group has extensively discussed on their areas. They have discussed on the project, tasks, timeline and resource requirements. And, most importantly, they have come up the final Draft.
6. I understand Work Plan is a live document. We need to focus on implementation overtime in line with work plan in one part, and, in other part, we have to revise the plan continuously so that it can be best suited with the situation. But, in any circumstances, our ultimate goal should always be attaining the 2nd tranche in the given timeline.
7. On behalf of Department of Customs, I assure you all that Department of Customs will be guided by this work plan. We will always be committed and monitor the progress for its successful outcome.
8. We all know that this Work Plan would not have been possible without the technical and financial support of ADB. I take liberty to thank Mr. Ronald Antenio Butiong and his team for this support. All these efforts are directed toward complying the Policy Action, which is supplemented by JFPR support. I heartily express my thanks to

Government of Japan for their continuous support to Nepal Customs. I would also extend special thanks to all the participants who actively participated in the workshop and made it successful. I would like to commend the effort, vision and actions exerted by Shreekrishna sir from the beginning of this program, which have been crucial. I would like to thank from the inner side of my heart for his great support.

9. Now, the Work Plan is ready to submit to DOC for formal decision. We will adopt this plan formally and communicate to ADB for technical and financial resource mobilization. The readiness of ADB at each stage in the past has been praiseworthy. I particularly appreciate Ms. Sonoko Sunayama's great effort to move the things in right pace and expect same level of support in future.

10. Last not the least, Let me reiterate again my assurance to ADB for our full commitment to the implement of the program within 2 years timeframe.

Thank you

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