



The World Bank

*Seminar on Trade Facilitation and Customs Reform in South Asia  
Sponsored by the World Bank and the European Union*

June 8-10, 2004

Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel  
107, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue  
Dhaka, Bangladesh 3595



European Union

**Day One (June 8)**

**Trade facilitation and customs reform - the broader context**

**Ballroom Foyer**

09:00-10:00 Registration

**Ballroom I**

10:00-10:45 Opening Remarks

- Remarks by Mr. **Esko Kentschynsky**, Head of Delegation, EU Commission
- Remarks by Ms. **Christine I. Wallich**, Country Director, World Bank, Bangladesh
- Remarks by Special Guest, Air Vice Marshal (Retd) **Altaf Hossain Choudhury**, Honorable Minister of Commerce, Government of Bangladesh
- Remarks by Chief Guest, Mr. **M. Saifur Rahman**, Honorable Minister of Finance, Government of Bangladesh

10:45-11:00 Coffee – **Ballroom Foyer**

**Ballroom III**

**Chair:** Mr. **Zakir Ahmed Khan**, Secretary, Ministry of Finance, People's Republic of Bangladesh

11:00-12:30: Trade facilitation and development (Mr. **Jose Rubiato**, Chief, Transport Section, UNCTAD)

A brief discussion of different aspects of trade facilitation

- Evolving definition, current scope and impact of trade facilitation
- UNCTAD approach to trade facilitation
- Relevance of cooperative structures in trade facilitation

Experience with trade facilitation and customs reform (Mr. **Michel Zarnowiecki**, Senior Trade Facilitation Specialist, The World Bank)

- What has been the Bank experience with trade facilitation and customs reform?
- Why has it proven so difficult?
- Political economy of customs reform
- What are the lessons learned?

12:30-14:00 Lunch – **Ballroom I**

**Ballroom III**

14:00-15:30 **Chair:** Mr. **Jayanta Roy**, Principal Adviser, the Confederation of Indian Industry and Chairman, Working Group on Trade Facilitation, Government of India.

Case studies of trade facilitation and customs reform

- **Philippines** (Mr. **Guillermo Parayno**, Commissioner, Bureau of Internal Revenue)
- **Pakistan** (Ambassador **Manzoor Ahmad**, Ambassador & Permanent Representative to the WTO, Permanent Mission of Pakistan)
- **Bangladesh** (Mr. **Amir Humayun Mahmud Chowdhury**, President, Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry)

15:30-16:00 Coffee – **Ballroom Foyer**

16:00-17:30 **Chair:** Mr. **Jayanta Roy**, Principal Adviser, the Confederation of Indian Industry and Chairman, Working Group on Trade Facilitation, Government of India.

Old and new issues in Trade facilitation and customs reform

- Integrity: an old issue that is now being addressed (Mr. **Simon Royals**, WCO)
- Security: Facilitating trade in a secure environment and the growing importance of advance information (Mr. **Tom Butterly**, Deputy Chief, Global Trade Solutions Branch, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe)

**Day Two (June 9)**  
**Addressing trade facilitation through a multilateral agreement**

**Ballroom III**

**Chair:** Professor **Wahiduddin Mahmud**, Former Advisor to the Caretaker Govt, Ministry of Finance and Professor of Economics, Dhaka University

8:30-9:30 Introduction: Which aspects of TF are best achieved unilaterally, regionally and multilaterally? (Mr. **Peter Wilmott**, Director, SITPRO)

9:30 –11:00 Multilateral Aspects of Trade facilitation (Ms. **Nora Neufeld**, Legal Affairs Officer, Market Access Division, WTO)

- Basic principles of the GATT/WTO and trade facilitation
- Doha Mandate
- Key issues involved within the legal framework of the WTO
- Current status of work
- An examination of WTO members’ proposals on trade facilitation
- Future prospects

11:00-11:30 Coffee – **Ballroom Foyer**

**Chair:** Mr. **Mahmudur Rahman**, Executive Chairman, Board of Investment

11:30 – 13:00 Overview and description of main international trade facilitation techniques and initiatives

- Kyoto Convention, Automation, Post-entry audit, business/customs interface, etc.

Mr. **Simon Royals**, Mr. **Michel Zarnowiecki**, and Mr. **Peter Wilmott**

13:00-14:00 Lunch- **Ballroom I**

**Chair:** H.E. Dr. **Toufiq Ali**, Ambassador & Permanent Representative to the WTO, Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

14:00-15:30 Implications of a multilateral TF agreement for countries in the region:

- Potential consequences and benefits of implementing a multilateral approach

- View from the private sector: Representatives and business leaders of the Private sector called upon by the chair make a brief presentation of their views and experience with trade facilitation in their respective countries along the lines of the points raised in the questionnaire sent to them

Mr. **Abdul Awal Mintoo**, President, Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industries

Mr. **Jayanta Roy**, Principal Adviser, The Confederation of Indian Industry and Chairman, Working Group on Trade Facilitation, Government of India.

Mr. **Prema Cooray**, President, Sri Lanka Chamber of Commerce and other representatives

15:30-16:00 Coffee – **Ballroom Foyer**

16:00-18:00 Views from government representatives

- Country customs representatives called upon by the chair discuss the pros and cons of Kyoto proposals along the lines of the points raised in the questionnaire sent to them.

Mr. **Mohammad Alam**, Commissioner of Customs, Customs Valuation and Internal Audit Commissionerate

Mr. **Rabi Raj Pant**, Director, Nepal Department of Customs

Mr. **Sarath Jayatilake**, Director General of Customs, Sri Lanka Customs

Mr. **Muhammad Shafqat Karim**, Secretary (Customs), Pakistan Central Board Revenue

Ms. **Sangay Zam**, Director, Department of Revenue and Customs, Bhutan Ministry of Finance

Mr. **Abdul Baquee Khogaini**, Policy Advisor, Afghanistan Customs Department

Ms. **Vizaad Ali**, Superintendent, Maldives Customs Services and other representatives

**Day 3 (June 10)**  
**Practical tools and other support for implementation**

**Ballroom III**

Chair: Mr. **Hari Sharan Shrestha**, Director, Nepal Department of Commerce

8:30 – 10:00 Tools for trade facilitation

- World Bank Tools (Mr. **Michel Zarnowiecki**, Senior Trade Facilitation Specialist, The World Bank)
- WCO Tools other than the Revised Kyoto Convention (Mr. **Simon Royals**, Technical Officer, World Customs Organization)
- Other Tools - UNECE activities in TF and electronic business, establishment of a single window, UN eDOC, others (Mr. **Tom Butterly**, Deputy Chief, Global Trade Solutions Branch, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe)

10:00-10:30 Coffee Break – **Ballroom Foyer**

10:30-12:00 Technical Assistance and Capacity-building support for Trade Facilitation

**Chair:** Mr. **Suhel Ahmed**, Ex-Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Government of Bangladesh

World Bank (Mr. Michel Zarnowiecki)  
Asian Development Bank (Mr. Prodyut Dutt)  
UNCTAD (Mr. Jose Rubiato)  
WCO (Mr. Simon Royals)  
WTO (Mr. Nora Neufeld)  
EU (Mr. Esko Kentrschynsky)

12:00 – 13:00 Concluding session: Panel discussion and Concluding Remarks by the Chair

**Chair:** Professor **M. A. Taslim**, Chairman, Bangladesh Tariff Commission

(Panel: Ambassador **Toufiq Ali**, Ambassador **Manzoor Ahmad**)

Workshop Evaluation

Lunch – **Ballroom I**

**Ballroom II**

2:30-5:30

Informal one-on-one parallel sessions with Experts on any remaining issues

Speakers and Experts from WTO, UNCTAD, World Bank, SITPRO, UNECE, Asian Development Bank, and other agencies answer informal questions from regional participants in their respective areas of expertise

**Note: Presentations in each session are timed so as to leave 30 minutes at the end of each session for questions and answers. Additional remaining questions are discussed in the afternoon of the final day.**