

April 21, 2010

Proposals
Roundtable on SAFTA: a precursor to 16th SAARC Summit

Key proposals worked out from the technical sessions on Roundtable on SAFTA, organized by SAARC Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SAARC CCI) in collaboration with the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) on April 20-21, 2010 at Katmandu, Nepal would read as follows:

1. Increase of SAARC Visa Exemption Stickers from 100 to 500 and issuance of 500 multiple visa , exempted from city restrictions by each member state of South Asia
2. Since SAARC CCI is an accredited organization of SAARC, its representation should be ensured at Ministerial and Summit levels. Participation of SAARC CCI as a consultative representative of the Private Sector in allied institutions of SAARC should also be protected.
3. Non Tariff Measures (NTMs) and Para-tariff Measures (PTMs) not notified in WTO should be prohibited.
4. It is recommended that Governments of SAARC should give effect to the implementation of already identified Multimodal transport system at the 15th SAARC Summit held in Colombo in 2008 in the interest of promoting intra-regional trade.
5. To encourage the Governments of SAARC countries to recommend their respective trade and commerce ministries to initiate processing and expediting of considerable reduction in the list of sensitive items under SAFTA
6. Cross border trade regulations and documents should be made available online as the conducting of trade through Electronic Data interchange (EDI) will be a predictable and cost effective
7. Up-gradation of SAFTA into a Comprehensive Economic Frame work Agreement covering services and Regional Investment Treaty are recommended for consideration by the summit for enhancing the pace of economic integration in the interest of the region

8. studies should be commissioned through respective trade and commerce Ministries of SAARC countries to make quantified analysis of impact on trade due to barriers (other than tariff) and the improvement of trade with gradual phasing out of barriers
9. SAARC CCI should have liaison office at SAARC Secretariat for stronger linkage between SAARC Secretariat (public sector) and the Private Sector of the region
10. It is recommended that the Governments of SAARC as policy matter should agree to allow exchange of expertise from power, water, agriculture, industry, Science and Technology to ensure sharing knowledge in the overall interest of development of economies of SAARC countries.
11. It is recommended to the Summit that Government of SAARC may pass appropriate orders/declarations as deem necessary to cover the objectives hereunder mentioned;
 - i)- Ministries, dealing with water and power and environment should have coordination so that the multilateral obligations towards environment are ensured being reconciled with.
 - ii)- Water scarcity and conservation; storages of water should also be made subject of critical studies so that within the cooperation of countries of SAARC, the storages should act as a water supply resources during the short water supply period. Increasing evidence of water shortages due to global climate changes are already registering the needs to prepare for adjustments and actions as would require. This becomes more imperative for the reason that one country of SAARC at upstream can hold the flood water of down stream and allows the releases during the shortages or required period for agriculture purposes. This will help a better agriculture management with the cooperation of SAARC countries and as well as make the region food secure