

Panel Brief: Climate-Smart Trade: South Asia's Path to a Sustainable Future

1. Event Details

Event Name: The WCP-Nepal 3rd Annual Conference on Climate Change and Trade Sustainability in South Asia

Date and Time: 11 January, 2025

Venue: Hotel Yak and Yeti

Duration: 60 minutes

2. Panel Topic

Title: Climate-Smart Trade: South Asia's Path to a Sustainable Future

Brief Description: South Asia, a region with immense economic potential and environmental challenges, stands at the crossroads of integrating climate considerations into its trade strategies. The concept of climate-smart trade entails aligning trade policies and practices with environmental sustainability goals, fostering green growth, and mitigating the adverse effects of climate change. This panel will explore the opportunities and challenges in promoting climate-smart trade in South Asia, emphasizing innovative solutions, policy frameworks, and regional cooperation.

3. Objectives:

1. To discuss how aid for trade and capacity building can help countries in the region transition towards climate smart trade
2. To discuss the intersection of trade and climate change in South Asia.
3. To identify key sectors where climate-smart trade can have the greatest impact.
4. To explore policy and regulatory measures needed to advance climate-smart trade.
5. To share best practices and lessons from global and regional initiatives.
6. To encourage collaborative efforts among governments, businesses, academia, and international organizations

4. Audience Profile

Expected Audience: Policymakers/ government officials, students, researchers, business professionals.

Audience Size: 50

5. Panel Composition:

1. **Moderator:** Dr. Ratnakar Adhikari, Executive Director, Enhanced Integrated Framework Secretariat, WTO

2. Panelists:

- o Prof. Wenxing CUI, School of Global Governance, Shanghai University of International Business and Economics (SUIBE)
- o Prof. Biju Thapalia Vice Chancellor, Purbanchal University
- o Dr. Toya Narayan Gyawali Former Member Secretary, National Planning Commission Former Secretary, GoN
- o Dr. Maharani Hapsari, WCP Indonesia, Faculty of Social and Political Science Universitas Gadjah Mada
- o Mr. Rajan Sharma, Former President - Nepal Freight Forwarders Association; Executive Member of the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI)

6. Discussion Flow

Opening (10 minutes):

Welcome remarks and introduction of the topic and panelists by the moderator.

Moderated Discussion (30 minutes):

The moderator asks prepared and follow-up questions to foster discussion among the panelists and encourage them to share their insights and experiences.

Audience Q&A (15 minutes):

Open the floor to questions from the audience.

Closing (5 minutes):

Summary of key insights by the moderator and thank-you remarks.