

**Embassy of India
Thimphu

Press Release

Capacity Building Workshop to Further Strengthen India-Bhutan Trade & Economic Partnership

The Embassy of India, Thimphu organised a series of capacity-building workshops titled "Advancing India-Bhutan Trade and Economic Partnership", to share information on customs, regulatory requirements and procedures to facilitate trade between India and Bhutan. The workshops were conducted in four cities of Bhutan - Thimphu, Phuentsholing, Gelephu, and Samdrup Jongkhar, from 29 July to 1 August 2024.

2. On 29 July, the inaugural workshop in Thimphu was graced by Hon'ble Lyonchhen Dasho Tshering Tobgay, Prime Minister of Bhutan. Hon'ble PM welcomed the initiative and encouraged participants to engage actively with the visiting Indian delegation, share their experiences, and take advantage of this opportunity to understand each other's trade systems and procedures.

3. The workshop in Thimphu was jointly inaugurated by the Ambassador of India to Bhutan H.E. Mr. Sudhakar Dalela and Hon'ble Lyonpo Lekey Dorji, Minister of Finance of Bhutan. In his remarks, Ambassador Dalela reiterated the commitment of Government of India to working together with the Royal Government and business community in Bhutan, to further deepen India-Bhutan trade and economic linkages. He expressed confidence that the deliberations at the workshops would offer comprehensive insights into trade policies, procedures, and best practices to further facilitate trade between Bhutan and India.

4. A composite delegation from the Government of India, including officials from the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, and the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, visited Bhutan to participate at the workshops. The delegation engaged with Bhutanese businesses and officials on important aspects to facilitate trade between Bhutan and India.

5. Over three hundred participants from various ministries and departments of the Royal Government of Bhutan, including the Department of Revenue and Customs, Department of Trade, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade, Royal Bhutan Police, Local Administration, as well as members from the business community and associations such as the Bhutan Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Bhutan India Friendship Association, attended the workshops in all four cities.

6. The workshops provided an excellent opportunity for participants from both sides to exchange practical knowledge and experiences, which will further facilitate trade between the two countries.

**Thimphu
03 August 2024**