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**SARTTAC**  
SOUTH ASIA REGIONAL TRAINING  
& TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER

**WORK AGENDA**

**IMF - SARTTAC Technical Assistance Attachment**

**Meeting between the Nepal Rastra Bank  
and  
India Ministry of Commerce and Industry Economic Adviser's Office**

**“Improving Nepal’s Wholesale Price Index”**

June 27-29, 2017

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

IMF-SARTTAC, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Worldmark Building 2, Aerocity, New Delhi 110037

This technical assistance attachment is designed to enable representatives from the Nepal Rasta Bank (NRB) to gather information to improve Nepal’s Wholesale Price Index (WPI) from representatives of Office of Economic Adviser (OEA), Ministry of Commerce and Industry and related Departments.

**Proposed Schedule of Meetings\***

Tuesday, June 27<sup>th</sup>

Timing	Required Participants	Topics for Discussions
10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	NRB and OEA Teams, and SARTTAC Officials	Scene setting, introductions, and finalizing the scope of the meetings.
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	NRB and OEA Teams (Speaker: Rajan Pant)	Overview of Nepal’s plans for, and issues with, improving its WPI.
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	NRB and OEA Teams (Speaker: Gopal Singh Negi)	Overview of index compilation in India. Conceptual issues involved in compilation of WPI in India vis-à-vis other countries. Scope, coverage and methodological issues involved in compilation of WPI.
12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.		Lunch

Timing	Required Participants	Topics for Discussions
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	NRB and OEA Teams (Speaker: Anupam Mitra)	Weights for the index, including: source data for weights; and weighting structure (upper- versus lower-level weights).  Maintaining the index's quality, including: replacing missing products; and replacing (rotating) disappearing respondents. Other issues related to index compilation.

### Wednesday, June 28<sup>th</sup>

Timing	Required Participants	Topics for Discussions
10:00 a.m. – 11.00 am	NRB and officials from NSSO (FOD) (Speaker: Ram Anuj Dwivedi; and Ghaneshwar Singh)	Price data collection issues for manufactured products. Interaction with officials from National Sample Survey Office entrusted with collecting prices of manufactured products.
11:00 a.m. – 12.30 pm	NRB and officials from Ministry of Agriculture (Speakers: Battu Lal Meena; Jaishree Kumar; and Suman Devi)	Price data collection issues for agriculture products. Interaction with officials from the Department of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare, which is responsible for the collection of agricultural prices.
12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Lunch	
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	NRB and OEA Teams (Demonstration by OEA team) (Speakers: Gopal Singh Negi and Anupam Mitra)	Demonstration of online portal and Price Monitoring System in the Office of Economic Advisor, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Rafi Marg, Udyog Bhawan**. To be followed by an overview on Producer Price Indexes and Services Price Indexes.

### Thursday, June 29<sup>th</sup>

Timing	Required Participants	Topics for Discussions
10:00 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.	NRB Team (Speaker: Shri MC Singhi)	Interactive session with Shri MC Singhi, Ex-Senior Economic Advisor, Ministry of Finance (Member Working group on revision of WPI).
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	NRB and OEA Teams, and SARTTAC Officials	Summaries and conclusions.
12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch	

## Attachment Participants

NRB Team: Mr. Pitambar Bhandari; Dr. Rajan K. Panta; Medani Prasad Pokhrel; and Sushil Poudel.

OEA Team: Mr. Gopal Singh Negi, Economic Adviser, Mr. Anupam Mitra, Add. Economic Adviser and officers from OEA.

SARTTAC Officials: Mr. Mangal Goswami, Deputy Director; and Brooks Robinson, RSSA

\*--Coffee/Tea will be served at around 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

\*\*Passport / Photo Identity Card will be required for entry to the Udyog Bhawan premises.

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