

**WELCOME REMARKS BY
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FOR
6TH SEACEN-CCBS/BOE ADVANCED COURSE ON
MACROECONOMIC AND MONETARY POLICY MANAGEMENT
“EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF A CENTRAL BANK’S MONETARY AND
FINANCIAL STABILITY REMITS”
*Kathmandu, Nepal, 27 October – 1 November 2013***

Dr. Yuba Raj Khatiwada
Governor
Nepal Rastra Bank

Ms. Gill Hammond
Director
Centre for Central Banking Studies
Bank of England

Distinguished Resource Speakers and Guests

Senior officials of Nepal Rastra Bank

Course Participants

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Good morning and welcome to the **6th SEACEN-CCBS/BOE Advanced Course on Macroeconomic and Monetary Policy Management, held in Pokhara, Nepal.**

First of all, let me extend my deep appreciation to Nepal Rastra Bank for hosting this event, especially Governor Dr. Yuba Raj Khatiwada for taking time away from his busy schedule to officiate this Opening Ceremony and deliver the opening address. The SEACEN Centre has been liaising closely with the Nepal Rastra Bank in recent months to prepare for this Course. We are indeed very grateful to the Secretariat team headed by Mr. Pradip Raj Panday, Executive Director for the tremendous efforts put in to ensure the success of this Course and for their warm hospitality.

The experience in financial crises and the recovery process serve as a reminder, that despite the advancement in economic management and application of sophisticated quantitative tools, we are far from mastering the art and science of central banking. Central banks are still facing with many new challenges in understanding key macroeconomic relationships such as the macro-financial linkages. Policy practices in both advanced and developing countries led to implementation of several new and unconventional measures that leads to a better and deeper understanding of the economy in the process. At the international level, the crisis provided the needed impetus to critically re-examine the role and rules of the international financial architecture, with a view to enhancing the global financial stability.

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is with this perspective that The SEACEN Centre, in its role as a learning hub for central banks in the Asia-Pacific region, views these challenging tasks and the opportunity to bring these rich lessons to the training room. It challenges us to evaluate our learning solutions and the design of our training courses to ensure that what we offer, continue to be relevant and of practical values to our member.

For this learning event we are indeed fortunate to have a strategic partner in the Centre for Central Banking Studies, working with us in designing and developing the Course in this direction.

While the Course will continue to focus on issues relating to monetary policy formulation and operations, the theme of this learning programme will be on interconnectedness between monetary and financial stability. This is in line with the increasing recognition that monetary policy cannot be formulated in isolation. It has to consider the implications for financial stability.

The highlight of the Course is a case study aims at providing participants with the opportunity to mimic real-life experience in having to coordinate monetary policy and financial stability goals.

I believe that this case study, which is developed and conducted by the CCBS, will achieve its key objective of learning to make policy decisions under a very challenging economic and financing stability environment.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Our timely response to the changing circumstances through course design and pedagogic materials is but one part of the SEACEN determined efforts to achieve our vision to become a premier regional learning hub for central banks in the Asia-Pacific region. Our aim to offer high-quality learning solutions is achieved by providing customised and impactful learning solutions with faster delivery. To address the capability of our members who play critical roles in sustaining economic growth and financial stability, the Centre collaborates with international and regional strategic partners, such as the CCBS, BIS, just to name a few out of a total of 26 collaborators. These efforts are complemented by careful selection of faculty of speakers who are experts in different sectors of the economic and financial system, including our member central banks, international financial institutions and market practitioners. With these strategic measures, the Centre aims to provide our course participants with exposure to international best practice in central banking knowledge at a cost effective manner.

To provide the best learning experiences, the Centre has been pro-active in selecting a suitable learning strategy based on adult-learning principles and best practices among international and regional learning providers. Consequently, we adopt a blended learning approach, which combines lectures to country sharing, group exercise, case study, role-play and simulation. With these strategies, our learning programmes have shifted to learner centric where the participants will be actively engaged in the learning process.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our efforts to enhance the quality of our learning solutions would have been in vain if not for the commitment and wholehearted cooperation of our strategic partners, resource persons, and member central banks. For this particular course, I wish to record our deep appreciation to our strategic partner, Centre for Central Banking Studies (CCBS), Bank of England, Ms. Gill Hammond and her team – Dr. Ole Rummel and Mr. Garreth Rule – for the excellent inputs in the course design, development of course materials including the case study, and for shouldering a bulk of the lecturing sessions. We have been extremely pleased with this fruitful partnership and hope that it will continue to flourish in years to come.

I also wish to thank all the other distinguished resource persons for taking time from their busy schedules to share their expertise and experience with participants. If I may mention their names by order of appearance – Governor Dr. Yuba Raj Khatiwada, Governor, Ms. Tok Yoke Wang from The Toronto Centre, Dr. Milan Zavadjil, former representative from International Monetary Fund, Dr. Saovanee Chantapong from Bank of Thailand, Mr. Min Bahadur Shrestha from Nepal Rastra Bank, Ms. Francisca Hastuti from Bank Indonesia and YOU participants who will sharing your long and wide experience in central banking, particularly in economics and financial stability. Your active participation will make the learning more rewarding and impactful.

Last but not least, I wish to put on record our profound gratitude to our member banks and invitee central banks for nominating well-qualified and suitable participants to the Course. Based on the participants' profile, I believe that the next five days will be a highly intensive time of learning. The stage is set for you to take maximum advantage of this unique learning opportunity, but it is up to you participants to make it a reality.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to say a few words about The SEACEN Centre. As approved by the Board of Governors in February 2011, our vision is “To be the Regional Learning Hub for Central Banks in the Asia-Pacific Region“. As a Learning Hub, SEACEN aspires to drive central bank excellence in learning for the region, by being a platform for collaboration for members to synergise efforts in central bank learning among themselves, and across SEACEN's network base. The vision would be achieved through SEACEN's mission in building capacity in central banking and fostering networking and collaboration. With strong commitments from our stakeholders as seen in this Course, we are confident that our vision will become a reality.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Coming back to the Course, I am pleased to inform you that 24 participants from 12 institutions are participating in this Course. I am confident that the participants will find it both fruitful and rewarding and above all, interaction among them and with resource speakers will provide an opportunity to learn from one another and strengthen the bond of friendship and cooperation

In closing, I wish to once again express our appreciation to Nepal Rastra Bank for hosting this Course, to Governor Dr. Yuba Raj Khatiwada for taking time to deliver the opening address; to CCBS, Bank of England for the valuable collaboration, to all resource persons for their valuable contributions; to officials of Nepal Rastra Bank and Course participants for their support for this learning event.

I wish you a productive and rewarding learning experience. 'Dhanyabaad' (Thank you).