

Regional Trade Facilitation & Customs Cooperation Program (RTFCCP)

Progress and Suggested Work Plan

Report by the Secretariat to the CCC
1-3 December 2004
Baku, Azerbaijan

Regional Context

Leveraging trade for accelerated economic transition

- Collective commitment to WTO accession (i.e., reforms of trade policy according to WTO Rules and Agreements)
- Concerted efforts to reform the Customs Codes and modernize customs services as a key trade facilitation measure

Objectives

Formally launched in 2002:

- Promote concerted customs reforms & modernization
- Address issues of regional concerns

Two-pronged Approach:

- **Country-specific activities with regional orientation**
 - Revision of customs codes
 - Development of unified automated information systems
 - Customs border post infrastructure development
 - Accession to major international conventions (e.g., TIR Convention)
 - Country-specific training and capacity building
- **Regional activities with country ownership**
 - Support regional/bilateral initiatives to address issues of common concerns (e.g., transit and data-sharing)
 - Training and knowledge-sharing (e.g., experience and lessons learned in customs modernization)
 - Organize CCC Meeting and WG Meetings to advance joint initiatives

Progress & Work Plan

Country-specific activities with regional orientation

- Support for revision of Customs Codes (KGZ, TAJ)
- Dissemination of new Customs Code (KGZ, September, 04)
- Automation and Border Infrastructure Dev (KGZ, TAJ), and dialogue ongoing to provide similar financial assistance for MON
- Country assessments & training on risk management & customs intelligence (training assessment for KGZ, KAZ, and UZB; and training organized for UZB on 3-5 Nov. 2004)
- Support for training institutes (KGZ, PRC, TAJ, UZB)

Progress & Work Plan

Country-specific activities with regional orientation:

KGZ/TAJ: Regional Customs Modernization and Infrastructure Development

- Development of Unified Automated Information System (\$5 million each for KGZ and TAJ)
- Customs Border-post Infrastructure Development including provision of inspection and anti-smuggling equipment (\$2.5m for KGZ and \$5.7m for TAJ)
- Training/Capacity Building to help manage the change, design master plan, review human resource policy, and train customs officers (\$.5m grant each for KGZ and TAJ)

Progress & Work Plan

Regional Activities

- **Training, Forums, Working Group and CCC Meetings**
 - Regional Transit Meeting, 21-23 February 04
 - CCC Forum on Trade Facilitation & Customs Modernization, 21-24 April, Beijing
 - Training on Rules of Origin, 9-13 Sept, Bangkok
 - CCC Forum on Public-Private Partnership, 14-16 October, Manila
 - CCC & Working Group Meetings, 1-3 December, Baku

Progress & Work Plan

- Regional Activities

- **Bilateral initiatives:**

- Transit Agreement: KAZ & KGZ on 26 March 04
- Joint-customs control: KGZ & KAZ on 1 July 04
- Data-sharing agreement: KGZ & PRC in Sept 04
- Transit Agreement: KGZ & TAJ expected end of year
- Agreement on Mutual Administrative Assistance: PRC & UZB expected 2005
- Extensive bilateral consultation for customs automation (ongoing among KGZ, TAJ, KAZ)
- Customs cooperation between AZB and KGZ, at 3rd CCC Meeting

Highlights of Proposals by Member Countries

- Annual CCC and Working Group Meetings (to advance the initiatives and work plans endorsed at the 3rd CCC Meeting)
- Consultation forum on joint border control involving all border agencies (KGZ/KAZ), 2005
- Data Sharing platform (KAZ&PRC, KGZ&PRC)
- Regional training on Risk Management & Customs Intelligence (Beijing, April 2005)
- Regional Seminar on Transit Development (Beijing, ?/2005)
- Forums on Trade Facilitation & Customs Modernization (January 2005/Singapore, ?/Korea, and ?/Japan)

In-country activities:

- Needs assessments on customs infrastructure (e.g., Mongolia)
- Diagnostic Study on TIR Accession (PRC), Consulting services is requested by PRC (await PRC's plan and terms of references)
- training on risk management & intelligence (KAZ, KGZ, TAJ, UZB)
- Training/capacity building support for customs automation (KGZ, TAJ)

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Thank you!

RTFCCP Secretariat

December, 2004