

Moving Forward on Transport Facilitation in the CAREC Region

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Background

- There is a need to remove nonphysical barriers to inter-state and transit transport
- 1st step: Hold consultation workshops on transport facilitation arrangements
- A roundtable seminar on moving forward on transport facilitation was held in Beijing in July 2012

Why transport facilitation?

- Nonphysical barriers persist
- There are many transport facilitation arrangements involving CAREC countries
- Significant progress has been made on improving road sections of CAREC corridors
- Transport facilitation is a priority under CAREC 2020

Key Lessons Learned from Roundtable Seminar

- Transport and trade facilitation (TTF) has been effective in other regions
- TTF is a long-term process
- Pilot implementation allows immediate start and can help build confidence
- Early involvement of the private sector is recommended
- A viable approach for CAREC would be to pursue corridor-specific agreements
- Implementation should focus on highly critical provisions

Recommended Approach (1)

- Adopt a pragmatic, corridor-based, and results-driven approach
 - enhance existing agreements
 - forge new simple corridor-based agreements
- Take the following preparatory steps:
 - identify countries to participate
 - conduct detailed analyses, and identify key issues
 - if applicable, amend existing agreements
 - develop a sound business case for transport facilitation
- Strengthen national transport and trade facilitation bodies

Recommended Approach (2)

- CAREC governments to strengthen national transport and trade facilitation bodies:
 - conduct systematic and sustainable capacity building
 - carry out regular dialogue with neighboring countries
 - actively engage the private sector
- National transport and trade facilitation bodies should:
 - formulate and implement focused action plans
 - involve the private sector
 - regularly monitor results of transport facilitation arrangements

Guide Questions

- What are your views on the proposed approach and preparatory steps? Any suggestions/comments?
- Would your country be willing to become a candidate to pilot the proposed approach, and, if so, for which CAREC corridor?
- If your country wishes to adopt the proposed approach, would you wish to implement an existing agreement or pilot a new agreement? What will be the relevant national transport and trade facilitation body to oversee corridor-based transport facilitation?