

Efficiency through Collaboration

Key Findings from the

*CAREC Institute Foundation Study:
Transport and Trade Facilitation*



Outline

- Overview of findings
- Identifying opportunities
- Options for action

Donor assistance based on four broad approaches

- Regional basis
- Group of countries
- Adjacent countries
- Single country

Bulk of activities have addressed 5 broad issues

- Policy and legislative development
- Infrastructure planning, construction and rehabilitation
- Systems planning and development
- Capacity development
- Information distribution

Balance remains a challenge

- Donor expertise is limited to countries a donor prioritizes
- Uneven distribution of assistance on certain issues
- Multiple donors working on same issue
- Multiplicity of equipment models, communication systems
- Regional initiatives not systematically integrated with country activities
- In some areas, programs are not conspicuous
- Gaps still remain

A number of assumptions influenced selection of opportunities

- Concurrent progress benefits all; staggered progress does not
- Data base of progress available to all - important for individual countries to monitor progress elsewhere
- Regional initiatives can develop agreed criteria to guide country work
- Country's inventory policies and master plans starting point for procurement
- Competition likely to be important contributor to improved efficiency
- Competition likely to keep tariffs low

Opportunities in Transport

- Harmonize policies and regulatory environments
- Prioritize a more limited set of rail/road corridors
- Conduct training audit and institutionalize training
- Establish a data base of project outcomes
- Improve approaches to maintenance of infrastructure

Opportunities in Trade Facilitation

- Situational analysis to support even development
- Regional work dovetailing into country assistance
- Systematize training provision
- Equip private sector peak bodies to engage with government
- Greater collaboration with regional donors
- Bring all agencies into integrated border management

Examples of action: Harmonizing policies and enabling environments

- Examine strengths and weaknesses of work done in policy development
- Establish regional communities of practice
- Develop program to create core group of policy development expertise
- Build on promising work at regional level, especially in respect of agreeing principles
- Develop a system to monitor progress
- Ensure that program extends to cover implementation of enabling environment

Examples of action: Building up a situational analysis

- Produce data to answer the question “where are we?”
- Develop information about the comparative advantages of individual donors
- Analyze what works well, what works less well, and why
- Identify gaps where progress has stalled or lagged
- Build up a more comprehensive monitoring system, starting with key, high priority areas
- Identify critical interrelationships and dependencies

Conclusion

- The data base shows a wide range of assistance across a number of areas
- In transport infrastructure, there is a program to develop road corridors
- Particularly in 'soft' areas, assistance and progress do not appear to be spread evenly across the region
- Expansion of the data base might be warranted to track progress