

Highlights of the Inaugural Regional Trade Group (RTG) Meeting and CAREC Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) in June 2018

17th Customs Cooperation Committee (CCC) Meeting

05 September 2018

Ashgabat, Turkmenistan



Contents

2

Inaugural Regional Trade Group (RTG) Meeting

- **CITA 2030 and RSAP**
- **CCC Progress and Next Steps in Five Priority Areas**
- **WTO TFA Implementation**
- **United Nations (UN) Global Survey on Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade Implementation**
- **Modernization of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures for Trade**
- **Private sector role in trade sector development**
- **Draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for RTG**

CAREC Senior Officials' Meeting

- **CITA 2030 and RSAP**
- **Regional Trade Group (RTG) Inaugural Meeting**
- **Customs cooperation**
- **Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures**
- **Results Framework**
- **CAREC Institute**
- **17th Ministerial Conference**
- **Trade Sector Deliverables**

Inaugural Regional Trade Group (RTG) Meeting

25-26 June 2018, Bangkok, Thailand

3

Topic/ Agenda	RTG Discussion	Next Steps/Follow-up Actions Required
CITA 2030 and RSAP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CONFIRMED that CITA/RSAP is relevant, responsive, comprehensive and aligned with national strategies of CAREC members	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• INTEGRATE RSAP into country operational plans (in terms of investments and Knowledge Products)• REVISE CITA/RSAP to include inputs from countries• ESTABLISH monitoring mechanism to report progress

Inaugural Regional Trade Group (RTG) Meeting

25-26 June 2018, Bangkok, Thailand

4

Topic/Agenda	RTG Discussion	Next Steps/Follow-up Action/s Required
CCC Progress and Next Steps in Five Priority Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PROVIDED updates on CCC five priority areas, WTO TFA implementation and list of CCC activities in RSAP 2018-2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DELIBERATE on how CCC and/or work program are aligned with CITA 2030• UPDATE CCC Terms of Reference (TOR), as needed;• ALIGN CCC plan of action for 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 with the RSAP 2018-2020

Inaugural Regional Trade Group (RTG) Meeting

25-26 June 2018, Bangkok, Thailand

5

Topic/Agenda	RTG Discussion	Next Steps/Follow-up Action/s Required
WTO TFA Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PRESENTED ADB's assessment of status of compliance and early implementation by CAREC member countries on WTO TFA• IDENTIFIED challenges and capacity building needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CONDUCT Inter-subregional Forum on Enhanced Implementation of the WTO TFA on 30-31 October 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand to promote cross-learning• ENHANCE implementation of WTO TFA including through capacity building especially on mandatory provisions (Category A)• ESTABLISH/STRENGTHEN National Committee on Trade Facilitation (NCTF)

Inaugural Regional Trade Group (RTG) Meeting

25-26 June 2018, Bangkok, Thailand

6

Topic/Agenda	RTG Discussion	Next Steps/Follow-up Action/s Required
United Nations (UN) Global Survey on Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DISCUSSED the issues and importance of digital trade, paperless transactions and single window initiatives in CAREC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CONSIDER recommendations from AZE and PRC for other members to join UN Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and Pacific

Inaugural Regional Trade Group (RTG) Meeting

25-26 June 2018, Bangkok, Thailand

7

Topic/Agenda	RTG Discussion	Next Steps/Follow-up Action/s Required
Modernization of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures for Trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PRESENTED progress of CAST implementation, and outcomes of related initiatives/projects• DISCUSSED potential establishment of CAREC Food Safety Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SUPPORT CAST and establishment of national & regional SPS working group• INCLUDE support for assessment and modernization of laboratories, training, adoption of e-certification or harmonized certification in RSAP

CAST = CAREC Common Agenda for Modernization of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures for Trade Facilitation

Inaugural Regional Trade Group (RTG) Meeting

25-26 June 2018, Bangkok, Thailand

8

Topic/Agenda	RTG Discussion	Next Steps/Follow-up Action/s Required
Private sector role in trade sector development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PROVIDED background and update of the CAREC Federation of Carrier and Forwarder Associations (CFCFA) work	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clearly DEFINE role of the private sector in CITA 2030 and RSAP and how to reflect that role in the RTG Terms of Reference (TOR)• INCLUDE on-going projects/initiatives in CITA and RSAP

Inaugural Regional Trade Group (RTG) Meeting

25-26 June 2018, Bangkok, Thailand

9

Topic/Agenda	RTG Discussion	Next Steps/Follow-up Action/s Required
Draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for RTG	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DISCUSSED RTG's mandate to discuss and deliberate on the increasingly intertwined issues of trade policy and trade facilitation in a synergistic manner	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• FINALIZE TOR based on comments provided by countries

CAREC Senior Officials' Meeting

27-28 June 2018, Bangkok, Thailand

10

Topic/Agenda	SOM Discussion/Agreement
CITA 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SUPPORTED overall framework of CITA and 3-Year RSAP• REQUESTED to further review full draft CITA 2030, RSAP and its results framework prior to National Focal Point's' Meeting in October 2018 to ensure ample time for internal consultations
Regional Trade Group (RTG) Inaugural Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AGREED that RTG will focus on over-arching trade issues, while Customs Cooperation Committee (CCC) continue focus on customs-related issues• NOTED SOM's instruction on close coordination and cooperation between RTG and CCC

CAREC Senior Officials' Meeting

27-28 June 2018, Bangkok, Thailand

11

Topic/Agenda	SOM Discussion/Agreement
Customs cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• WELCOMED proposal between GEO and AZE on construction of joint border crossing point (BCP) and initiative on SPS pilot project on infrastructural development on railway BCP
Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ENDORSED establishment of regional SPS working group within RTG framework• WELCOMED proposed regional initiative to set up a CAREC Food Safety Network while requesting a concept paper to conduct further in-country discussions

CAREC Senior Officials' Meeting

27-28 June 2018, Bangkok, Thailand

12

Topic/Agenda

SOM Discussion/Agreement

Results Framework

- **WELCOMED** work undertaken in refining results framework to better align with CAREC 2030 strategy and **NOTED** progress made at trade sector
- **AGREED** on phased approach in the construction of overall results framework

CAREC Institute

- **NOTED** that ongoing formulation of CI Strategy 2018-2022 will be closely aligned with operational clusters envisaged in CAREC 2030

17th Ministerial Conference

- **AFFIRMED** that 17th Ministerial Conference with theme of “Trade and Competitiveness in Central Asia” to deliberate regional approaches to advance CITA 2030

Trade Sector Deliverables to 17th CAREC Ministerial Conference

13

1. CITA 2030 and RSAP 2018-2020
2. Establishment of Regional Trade Group (RTG)
3. Inter-subregional Forum on Enhanced Implementation of WTO TFA, 30-31 October 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand
4. CAREC Corridor Performance Measurement and Monitoring (CPMM) 2017 Annual Report
5. Implementation of the CAREC Common Agenda for Modernization of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures for Trade (CAST)

YING QIAN

Director

Public Management, Financial Sector And Regional
Cooperation Division East Asia Department

Asian Development Bank

Email: yqian@adb.org

THANK YOU!