

Session 2: Trade Policy and the Updated Trade Policy Strategic Action Plan (TPSAP)

CAREC Senior Officials' Meeting
Astana, Kazakhstan
23 October 2013

Trade Policy: Implementation Progress

- Highlights from the 19th TPCC meeting:
 - Updated TPSAP presentation
 - Updated TPSAP roundtable discussion
 - TPCC approval of the updated TPSAP
 - WTO accession and capacity-building activities

- Key issues for consideration by the SOM:
 - Endorsement of the updated TPSAP

Framework of the Updated TPSAP

- Follows the mandate of the SOM in Almaty in June 2013
- Builds on the themes of the first TPSAP:
 - WTO accession for all;
 - Pre-WTO accession trade liberalization;
 - Capacity Building.
- Adds:
 - Reducing the use of SPS and TBTs as non-tariff barriers, while preserving their legitimate regulatory function of protecting health and safety.
 - Expansion of trade in services.

Draft TPSAP reflects multiple revisions

- The updated TPSAP has been revised to reflect the comments received in multiple stages:
 - Written comments on the first draft of the TPSAP sent in late August
 - Comments from the National Focal Points at the meetings in Bangkok in late September.
 - Written comments received on the post NFP draft TPSAP.

Conclusion

- The TPSAP builds on and includes the agenda of the first TPSAP.
- It expands the agenda into crucial areas for the integration of CAREC countries into the world trading environment, namely reducing the trade impeding impact of SPS and TBT measures and expanding trade in services.
- The new areas are more complex and difficult to address than the old command and control trade barriers that could be addressed simply by policy changes.
- But the evidence indicates that this is where the large gains can be achieved in 21st century economies.