

Trade Policy: Recent Developments, Work Plan and Key Issues

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Trade Policy Sector

- Unlike other sectors, focuses on policies, not projects
- TPCC provides a forum for knowledge and experience sharing
- Work based on Trade Policy Strategic Action Plan (TPSAP), endorsed at the 7th MC (November 2008)

Trade Policy Strategic Action Plan

- **Policy actions to:**

Support WTO accession

- Implement capacity building activities

Promote trade openness

- Eliminate quantitative restrictions on trade
- Reduce and simplify trade taxes
- Reduce transit and border trade barriers

Reduce structural impediments to trade

Support WTO Accession

Progress achieved

- Series of experience sharing seminars and analytical notes by WTO member countries (PRC, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia)
- Seminars by the World Bank: recent developments in negotiations on trade in agriculture and services in the context of the WTO

Work ahead

- Will continue experience sharing on WTO negotiation process
- Will work on a two-year program of knowledge sharing events on WTO accession

Promoting Trade Openness

Monitoring implementation

- Countries regularly filling questionnaire developed by the IMF
- On average, CAREC countries have met targets for end-2010; good progress toward targets for end-2011
- Responses to the questionnaire serve as inputs to the CAREC Development Effectiveness Review

Work ahead

- Continued efforts to meet targets for end-2011 and end-2012
- Timely and complete responses from member countries are essential

Institutional Impediments to Trade

Progress

- An assessment of relative position of CAREC countries completed in October 2010 and measures proposed
- Countries submitted individual plans and tentative timeline for implementation

Work ahead

- Implementation of individual plans
- Monitoring

Analysis of New Developments in Trade and Research

- Customs union between Kazakhstan, Russia and Belarus
- Presentations of latest trade-related research by the IMF and World Bank

Work ahead

- Continue presentations and discussions on emerging issues and latest research

Trade Policy: Key Issues

Integrating Pakistan and Turkmenistan

Joining WTO

- Progress and challenges

Promoting trade openness

- Continue to improve the trade liberalization index

Improving institutional environment for trade

- Make procedures for exporting/importing more efficient
- Develop an index of institutional quality