

The development of information and communication technologies and information exchange.

The main directions for the General Action Plan, which was approved on 9 October 2003 are to consolidate information, data exchange, and the development of information and communication technologies (ICT).

Since then, the IT infrastructure of the Uzbekistan SCC (SCC) has been mostly modernized; this work is continuing and will eventually cover the entire information space for customs institutions.

In particular, the technical calculation of the Unified Automatic Information System (UAIS) has been provided, expert systems in relevant institutions have been established, and the general executor for implementing the project has been chosen, under an international. The choice of the general executor was done under Special Order No. 450 of the Cabinet Ministry of Uzbekistan, which was signed on 28 September 2004. This special order establishes the financing and timetable for project implementation.

As CCC participants were informed during the Beijing conference in April 2004, one example of the measures implemented in creating UAIS is the Unified Electronic Information System for Foreign Trade Operations. This system has provided an opportunity to integrate the information resources of the SCC, the Ministry of Finance, the State Revenue Committee, the Agency for International Relations, the Central Bank, and relevant commercial banks.

In accordance with the order, every member of the UAIS is tasked with the responsibility of formulating the structure of informational resources, managing these, and receiving the results of data analysis.

In frames of this project we solved the technical, technological, informational, organizational procurement of the system.

In addition, we have completed work on establishing data exchange between the Customs Committee and the computer system of CIS railways, which has been summarized by the ADB consultant on TRASECA. The ADB consultant has emphasized: "...Undoubtedly, the CIS railways have achieved much greater progress in comparison with other organizations, working with them in implementing technological processes of border passing (customs, border and sanitation-veterinarian services) in a view of data analysis and automatic data exchange".

In accordance with consultant's recommendations, the data replication technology between SCC and Uzbekistan Railway Company has been implemented. This has enabled us to achieve the oversight of 300,000 wagon shipment during the last five months.

We are continuing to pay close attention to completing the data systems exchange for car transport. In cooperation with the Safe TIR specialists, we

have the automatic data exchange system between the Uzbekistan GCA and the Association of International Car Transporters (AICT). Currently, the information between GCA RU and AICT is being delivered through the Internet.

It is clear, therefore, that the automatization of customs technologies should be implemented through the use of modern project solutions, which requires maximizing the effective use of limited resources, as well as drawing on the experiences of other countries.

The role of the SCC in delivering these tasks is hardly to be overestimated.

In this connection, I would like to point out the importance of the Forum on the Public-Private Partnership on Customs Modernization, which was held in Manila on 14-16 October 2004. The conference was dedicated to the dissemination of experience on modernization and automatization. As was pointed out during the forum, the creation of the Philippine customs service provided the opportunity to:

1. decrease the time needed to prepare declarations—from 30 days to no more than 10 days and even as fast as 1 hour—thanks to preliminary collection of electronic declaration and automatization of the analysis process;
2. similarly, thanks to a risk management system, the volume physically inspected shipments fell by up to 50%, without any decrease in customs control quality (*the risk management system covers about 20 selection rules and declaration classification, and administration of this system is done by the **Risk management committee** under the main office of Philippines Customs Bureau*).

Meanwhile, however, the Philippine customs service's information system continues to face the challenges of outdated technology, complexity, and the high cost of implementing modernization.

The lessons from this experience have allowed us to identify our own course of customs service automatization.

Finally I would like to note, that for organization of effective information interrelationship among automatic systems of different countries the following problems are relevant for the Uzbekistan SCC:

- to formulate the relevant regulations and legislation based on bilateral and multilateral agreements with interested sides, preparing the unique requests on content and structure of information for data exchange with custom services of other countries;
- to create and manage the corresponding manuals of normative-abstraction information (NAI);

- to prepare and implement program procurement for special tasks (for instance system of satellite following up of shipments, etc).

These tasks cannot be delivered without adequate financing and organizing the special coordinating organ.

Based on these considerations, the Uzbekistan SCC presented for many times on meetings with relevant offers. Although from the beginning of CCC activity, Uzbekistan has presented itself as a full member, with involvement in coordinating the **data consolidation/information exchange and development of information-communication technologies**, in practice our recommendations have remained outside the attention of the CCC secretariat and not incorporated in the documents.

For example, our recommendations on the creation of the special working group for development of ICT and information exchange were presented for discussion during the April 2003 session in Almaty. However, this recommendation has not been acted upon and was only included in the **“Supplementary document for discussion in working groups”** of the Baku conference (p. 26) under name Expert group on ICT.

In addition, during the Issik-Kul sessions of the ICT Working groups, there had been prepared the special format exchanged data, which been approved later as "...first step on providing the data standartization for information exchange among the country-members of seminar".

As the developing the progress of Issik-Kul sessions during the Beijing meeting in April 2004, the Uzbekistan delegation offered to the CCC Secretariat the project of organizing data exchange by Web-technology. Moreover, bear in mind the importance of data exchange for organization shipment controlling there has been presented the "Satellite following up of shipments", that allows in on-line regimen to informationally trace the shipments on whole territory of the countries-members of CCC. But these offers were not been included to the agenda either in Beijing or later. The issues were limited by the discussions with PRC, but the answer is not received yet.

The same question is included to **“Supplementary document for discussion in working groups”** in Baku conference (p25) as **“has not attained real progress”**

Nevertheless, we welcome and support the inclusion of the above mentioned questions to the list of materials subject to discussions in working groups.