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Customs Cooperation Committee for customs modernization and reform

Summary of the Report

«Development of a Unified Automated Information System of the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan»

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One of the main directions for development of customs authorities of the Republic of Uzbekistan and for increasing their operations efficiency is the creation of a **Unified Automated Information System (UAIS)** of the SCC of the RUz. Creation and introduction of UAIS is carried out phase by phase starting from 2002 and in accordance with the approved Concept.

The UAIS being created is designed to give customs authorities an opportunity:

- To check the integrity and timeliness of payments and lawfulness of making them for imported goods;
- To assess export opportunities and import needs of the republic, and of the extent to which the foreign trade is close to international prices;
- To ensure full and timely collection of customs payments;
- To control the volumes and terms of export hard currency revenues return to the country and the justification of payments for imported goods;
- To take weighted managerial decisions with regard to development and strengthening of the republic's export potential and progressive increase of import substituting productions;
- To have a realistic picture of every region's contribution to republic's export;
- To detect various violations in making export-import operations;
- To create the data bank on violations and infringers of customs legislation;
- To organize control over the delivery of goods transported on the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan to addressees;
- To provide full, reliable and quick information for the purposes of organizing the combat against smuggling of weapons, drugs, antiques and pieces of art, and strategic materials;
- To provide customs authorities with reliable updated information for efficient customs control purposes;
- To quickly provide public authorities of the republic with summary data of customs statistics on foreign trade in the country;
- To carry out quick projection of revenues to the budget from import duties and excise tax;

- To receive updated data on lost cargo and conduct investigation activities.

In the result of project implementation there will be an information system with unified multiple-user data base the access to which will be provided to all customs authorities of all levels for the purposes of keying in, actualization and analysis of data, i.e. the idea of a unified information space will be gradually implemented on practice.

UAIS is created on the basis of use of modern web-technologies, which will allow to not only expedite, simplify and reduce the price of the process for development and introduction of the UAIS, but to standardize the requirements to software, data exchange formats and user interface.

One of the advantages of the UAIS is the availability of a unified multi-user data base which allows to quickly consolidate the data of comparative foreign trade statistics with counter-agent countries, the data on infringer and debtor firms, the data on customs-bank currency control and law enforcement. Based on the operational analysis of all these data – to carry out an on-line management of the system of projected risks and random cargo examinations.

Other advantage of the UAIS is that not only the customs officers, brokers, information systems of ministries and agencies, but also special control devices: x-ray machines, different scanners and analyzers, digital photo and video cameras and etc, could serve as sources of information.

The designed system is build with consideration to progressive technologies, including electronic declaration, and prior notification through data exchange with foreign customs authorities.

For the purpose to check design decisions in the UAIS, the **UAIS pilot project** on the example of Tashkent region was launched and the following issues were worked out:

- Creation of the centralized data base with application of the modern universal data base management system (DBMS) DB2 and industrial servers IBM AS/400;
- Testing and application of the server remote administration mechanism (SRAM) from one point by the DB administrator of the SCC Central Office;
- Development of software with use of web-technologies;
- Adjustment of a technology for centralized information processing and user remote access to information resources of UAIS;
- Testing the flow capacity of the data transfer network of SCC;
- Determining additional needs of the SCC central office and customs posts in computer hardware and telecommunication equipment for the purposes of UAIS introduction;
- Checking of the proposed principles for limitation of access to information resources of UAIS;
- Adjustment of the informational and technological conjunction, and of the informational interaction of the operated local tasks with UAIS;

- Clarification of the requirements to functionality of UAIS software and others.

Starting December 2003 the experimental operation was commenced on the basis of Tashkent region departments of SCC of the RUz, under which the server equipment is being familiarized with, automated data exchange between the servers and remote access of users from posts to the centralized data base is being worked through, the developed software is being checked, and comments and proposals by users on developing the UAIS software are being summarized and analyzed.

Up to now one of the UAIS subsystems was implemented. Pursuant to Government decision the **“Unified electronic information system of foreign trade operations”** (UEIS FO) was developed and commissioned from October 1, 2003. The interagency system UEIS FO has practically created a common information space for state management bodies being responsible for controlling the execution of foreign trade operations. The system was implemented with application of web-technologies and allows users, territorially located throughout the whole republic, to ensure record keeping, storage and control over execution of foreign currency contracts in an on-line mode. As a server platform the UEIS FO is using the IBM AS/400 server. According to an agreed protocol there is an exchange with external information systems of the ministries and agencies that are implemented with application of data base management systems such as Oracle, Clipper and others.