

Opening Remarks

**Ms. Noy Siackhachanh
Director, Governance, Finance, and Trade Division
East and Central Asia Department
Asian Development Bank**

**Seminar on Risk Management and Post-Entry Audit
7-10 June 2005
Shenzhen, People's Republic of China**

Thank you, Vice Minister Sun and Mr. Zhou for the warm welcome and Mr. Wang Donghong for playing an active role in our regional customs cooperation program.

It is my great honor and pleasure to join Mr. Sun and Mr. Zhou in welcoming you to the Seminar on Risk Management and Post-Entry Audit. On behalf of the Asian Development Bank and distinguished delegates, I would like to thank the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China for hosting this event, and for their warm hospitality and excellent arrangements. I would also like to thank the representative of the World Customs Organization (WCO) and resource persons from Australia and Singapore for contributing to the seminar. I am pleased to inform you that WCO will be our partner for the upcoming seminar on Joint Customs Control to be held on 27-29 July in Bangkok, and that Mr. Steve Holloway is exploring the possibility of co-hosting a training seminar in Australia in 2006. Special thanks also go to Mr. Siam Lip representing the CrimsonLogic. As many of you are aware,

CrimsonLog is a major partner of the “Singapore Forum” held in January. We are sure that this cooperative spirit will continue in future CCC activities.

This seminar is a continuation of ADB’s support and PRC Chair’s effort to promote risk management practices among the member countries. The first regional training was also sponsored by the PRC Chair and was held in Urumqi in September 2003. I am sure this seminar will be another opportunity for practical discussions on how the member countries could accelerate the introduction of the risk management systems in light of PRC experience and lessons learned.

In particular, we are pleased to note that Shenzhen Customs will provide a briefing on the processing of goods via land routes and sea ports and on the implementation of the Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement between PRC and Hong Kong. Risk management practices and cooperation with Hong Kong introduced by Shenzhen Customs are crucially relevant to our regional cooperation program and individual member countries’ modernization efforts.

We appreciate the active leadership of Uzbekistan Customs in chairing the Working Group Meeting on information technology in general and the development of a unified information space and electronic information interchange, in particular. These topics are consistent with the agreed Work Plan introduced in the 3rd CCC Meeting in Baku and the Singapore Forum. As the CCC Members

embark on initiatives to promote data-sharing, it is important to closely examine various options for data exchange and take into account various challenges such as differences among member countries in economic development, local capacity, and level of customs modernization. We are hopeful that there will be substantive progress in these areas as well.

It is also noteworthy that this regional seminar is following some of the measures endorsed by the 3rd CCC Meeting in Baku to strengthen institutional arrangements such as: (i) combining regional training events with working group meetings so as to maximize the frequency of working group meetings, and (ii) participation of senior management in major regional training and working group meetings. It is crucial for senior management to learn new techniques and be aware of international best practices in order to spearhead customs reforms and modernization. We hope that the knowledge gained from this seminar can be shared with other customs officers in your respective administrations.

ADB, for our part as the Secretariat for the CCC, hope that this Seminar will enable CCC Members to catalyze their continuing contact and exchange of ideas, leading to mutual dissemination of best practices and concrete proposals. We look forward to your active participation for a fruitful outcome of this Seminar and the Working Group Meeting, to be able to come up with a viable program of action that can be submitted for consideration by the CCC during their Fourth Meeting in Ulaanbaatar on 14-16 September 2005.

On this note, I wish you success in your deliberations.