

Azerbaijan Republic

Azerbaijan Customs highly values this Forum and would like to extend its gratitude to China Customs and ADB for organizing this event. We think that a seminar of TIR transit system is actual for all the participants.

Already for a while and with ADB support customs services of Central Asia, Azerbaijan, Mongolia and China have been conducting a number of meetings and activities, where they discuss very important issues aimed at encouraging and growth of international trade, increased trade turnover among our countries and simplification of transit operations as well. Well applied transit system is critical to address these issues.

TIR transit system, being a global system, has the advantage of addressing all these issues, i.e. application of this system meets the requirements of both customs, and transport operators and economic agents.

After acquiring national independence and sovereignty Azerbaijan has become a member of many conventions. Given our location on the Great Silk Road our country pays a great deal of attention to transit, and especially to application of a simplified transit system. One of such systems in the TIR transit system, and from 1996 we are a member of Customs Convention on International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets.

Currently many exported, imported and transit goods are moved under cover of TIR Carnets, creating favorable conditions for transport operators, and also increasing the reliability of transportations under this system.

As you know, during Administrative Committee sessions all Convention members actively work on further improvements to Convention requirements, common understanding the provisions and application of procedures and information technologies. Our customs, like all other competent authorities, is involved in these processes and participates in all sessions of the Administrative Committee. We think that now is the very important time, and that with joint efforts all parties will be able to contribute to these concerns.

One of the important directions in applying this system is the capacity building for all participants at national level. That's why we have organized and held a number of seminars for customs officers. Also there were regional seminars with participation from many customs and transport organizations of neighboring countries.

One of the key issues is trustful mutual relations and cooperation between a competent authority and national guaranteeing association, since exactly these authorities are main parties in the application of the Convention, and such close cooperation has been established among these authorities in Azerbaijan.

The evidence of increased issuance of TIR Carnets and also permissions to transport operators for international transport under cover of TIR Carnets shows that our transport operators are interested as users of this system. We think that this is also reflects the willingness of operators to improve their fleet.

Indeed application of TIR Carnets in international road transport regulates transportation procedures from exit to transit and delivery to destination point and utilization of same unified forms of customs clearance by all customs. On its turn this creates conditions for cooperation among customs of different countries.

Finally we would like to note that while attaching great attention to global transit trade, our country will continue to take steps on all possible application of TIR. We think that transit system is the only system now that is capable of addressing many issues emerging in international transport, and has the advantage of facilitating increased trade among countries.

We would like to once more thank the organizers of this seminar and to say that we are confident about application of the results of this meeting in future operations.