# CAREC Customs Cooperation Committee Technical Assistance Inception Workshop

7-8 APRIL 2014 - BAKU, AZERBAIJAN

### **Inception Workshop**

Regional Technical Assistance funded by the Japanese Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR)

Identifying key Activities; What, How and When

### **Regional Technical Assistance**

Coordinated Border Management for Results

## **Key Issues**

- Growth in international trade and travel created new challenges to organize border management
- Major bottlenecks for cross-border transport and trade in the CAREC region:
  - ➢ Poor Border Crossing Point (BCP) infrastructure
  - Complex, repetitive clearance procedures

### **PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

- Conduct TRS to further analyze causes of delays related to border control and clearance procedures
- Expand JCC pilots A preliminary step toward coordinated border management
- Improve coordination among border control agencies

### **KEY ACTIVITIES 2014**

### Conduct TRS

- > Establish TRS task force
- Launch a TRS project
- > Determination of scope and design of the study
- **≻Training**
- National planning workshop

# Joint Customs Control (JCC)

- ➤ Conduct case studies at JCC pilots identify critical success factors
- Support efforts to move JCC pilots to phase 2 and/or expand to more BCPs
- >Assess feasibility of new JCC pilots

### **Regional Technical Assistance**

Aligning Customs Trade Facilitation
Measures with Best Practices

## **Key Issues**

- Lack of a more focused and coordinated approach to harmonize Customs related measures and procedures with international best practices.
- Accession of the 5 remaining countries to RKC by 2015 → align national legislation of CAREC countries with the RKC.
- Integrating and upgrading risk management systems and techniques.

### **KEY ACTIVITIES 2014** Strengthen Risk **RKC** accession Management Systems >Establish RKC task force ➤ Workshops on the WCO **Risk Management** ► Launch a RKC accession Compendium. project >Review and assess risk ➤Training and/or national management practices. planning workshop **≻**Develop ➤ Situation Analysis: review of recommendations to legislative measures against upgrade risk RKC provisions. management systems. ➤ Gap analysis to identify ➤Introduce the AEO legislative and procedural concept reform. > Drafting an accession action plan.

# Facilitation of Regional Transit Trade

## **Key Issues**

- Lack of regional cooperation
  - Mutual recognition of customs controls and procedures, seals and stamps
  - Inadequate regional guarantee system
- Transport/Transit agreements lack customs transit components
- Weaknesses in Information Systems and Guarantee Management
- Quality of transport services

### **PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

- Identify options for establishing an effective and affordable Customs transit regime for the CAREC corridors (corridor-based transit regime).
- Examine the feasibility of implementing a pilot Customs transit regime.

### **ACTIVITIES**

Research on Transit Flows

- Identification of major transit corridors
- Analysis of volume, origins, destinations and principal international modes for transit operations.
- Assessment of best practices in other international/regional customs guarantee systems.

Single guarantee mechanism

- Consultations between relevant stakeholders; banks, insurance companies, transporters, customs
- Assess feasibility to extend national guarantees across borders
- Review and assess the potential for a corridor-based Customs transit regime
- Develop an implementation plan to pilot test regional Customs transit (along 1 CAREC corridor)

### **ACTIVITIES**

Streamline legal & regulatory framework

- Legislative evaluation of the compatibility between national transit legislations
- Prepare a set of draft requirements for a regional transit regime

ICT Support Systems

- Review current use of ICT in transit operations
- Develop system requirements and operational scope of an ICT system to support a regional transit regime

