



2nd Meeting of the CAREC Regional Trade Group

26 June 2019

Ballroom I, Hyatt Regency Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Agenda

Co-Chairs:

Mr. **Khurshid Rakhmanov**, Deputy Head, Department of Tariff and Non-Tariff Regulation Measures, Ministry of Investments and Foreign Trade (MIFT), Uzbekistan

Ms. **M. Teresa Kho**, Deputy Director General, East Asia Department (EARD), Asian Development Bank (ADB)

08:30–09:00	Registration
09:00–09:10	<p>Welcome and Opening Remarks</p> <p>Mr. Khurshid Rakhmanov, Deputy Head, Department of Tariff and Non-Tariff Regulation Measures, Ministry of Investments and Foreign Trade (MIFT), Uzbekistan</p> <p>Ms. M. Teresa Kho, Deputy Director General, East Asia Department (EARD), Asian Development Bank (ADB)</p>
09:10–09:20	<p>Overview and Adoption of the Agenda</p> <p>Chair: Mr. Khurshid Rakhmanov, Uzbekistan</p> <p>Presenter: Mr. Ying Qian, Director, Public Management, Financial Sector and Regional Cooperation Division, EARD, ADB</p>
09:20–09:35	<p>Session 1: CAREC Trade Sector Report – <i>Implementation of CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda (CITA) 2030 and Rolling Strategic Action Plan (RSAP) 2018–2020</i></p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Ying Qian, ADB</p> <p><i>A brief presentation on the progress of trade work under the CAREC program since the inaugural meeting of the CAREC Regional Trade Group (RTG) in June 2018 and the Ministerial endorsement of CITA 2030 and RSAP 2018-2020 in November 2018.</i></p>

	<p>Presenter: Ms. Dorothea Lazaro, Regional Cooperation Specialist, EARD, ADB</p> <p>Q&A</p>
09:35–10:05	Group Photo and Coffee/Tea Break
10:05–11:00	<p>Session 2: RSAP 2019–2021</p> <p><i>The objective of the session is to discuss and build pipeline projects for the CITA's RSAP 2019-2021. Pursuant to its terms of reference, the RTG will update the RSAP on an annual basis to maintain its relevance and responsiveness to the changing global and regional trading paradigm, and emerging challenges and opportunities in the CAREC region.</i></p> <p><i>Discussions will focus on key issues and initiatives in each of the three pillars of CITA 2030:</i></p> <p>Pillar 1: Trade Expansion from Increased Market Access</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Ying Qian, ADB</p> <p><i>Pillar 1 aims to enhance market access through the adoption of more open trade policies and deepening of customs cooperation and integrated trade facilitation. The session will focus on initiatives to implement the Common Agenda for Modernization of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) Measures for Trade (CAST), such as the workplan of the SPS Regional Working Group including proposals for regional programs for plant and animal health and food safety network. CAREC member countries' progress on accession to and implementation of World Trade Organization (WTO) agreements such as on Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) and SPS Agreement will also be discussed.</i></p> <p>Presenters/Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Melvin Spreij, Head, Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), Agriculture and Commodities Division, WTO • Mr. Giap Minh Bui, Principal Natural Resources and Agriculture Economist, Central and West Asia Department (CWRD), ADB • Mr. Khurshid Rakhmanov, MIFT, Uzbekistan • Mr. Farrukh Zakirov, Specialist, Department on Coordination of WTO Accession, MIFT, Uzbekistan • Mr. Jovan N. Jekic, Senior WTO/Trade Adviser, USAID Trade, Competitiveness and Jobs Activities in Central Asia (CTJ) <p>Q&A</p>
11:00–12:30	<p>Session 2: RSAP 2019–2021 (con't)</p> <p>Pillar 2: Greater Diversification</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Dorothea Lazaro, ADB</p>

	<p><i>Pillar 2 aims to create an enabling environment for greater economic diversification by supporting reforms to enhance policy and regulatory environment, ensuring adequate financing, and linking CAREC countries with regional and global value chains. The session will discuss proposals and initiatives on trade in services, temporary movement of people, investment facilitation, cross-border economic zones and economic corridors, trade finance, e-commerce and digital trade.</i></p> <p>Presenters/Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Patrick Low, former Chief Economist, WTO and Trade in Services Expert (ADB Consultant) • Mr. Tigran Poghosyan, Resident Representative in the Kyrgyz Republic, International Monetary Fund • Mr. Luca Castellani, Secretary, United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Working Group IV (electronic commerce) <p>Q&A</p>
12:30–13:30	LUNCH
13:30–14:15	<p>Session 2: RSAP 2019–2021 (con’t)</p> <p>Pillar 3: Stronger Institutions for Trade</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Rosalind McKenzie, Senior Regional Cooperation Specialist, EARD, ADB</p> <p><i>Pillar 3 aims to promote better coordination of sectoral policies and priorities, evidence-based policymaking, and enhanced capacity of government agencies. The session will discuss proposals such as support for national committees on trade facilitation, cross-regional sharing of experience, and evidence-based policy making (such as through trade portal, CAREC corridor performance and measurement, and linkage between policy and research work) and private sector or business engagements.</i></p> <p>Presenters/Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Iskandar Abdullaev, Deputy Director, CAREC Institute • Mr. Sardar Ahmad Nawaz Sukhera, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Pakistan • Ms. Loreli de Dios, Trade Economist/Consultant (ADB) <p>Q&A</p>
14:15–15:30	<p>Session 3: Around the Table</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Ying Qian, ADB</p> <p><i>The session will go around the table to deliberate on the interventions for the CITA 2030 Rolling Strategic Action Plan (RSAP) 2019-2021. Each delegation</i></p>

	<i>may provide suggestions, comments, and proposals for new investment projects, policy dialogue and knowledge products and services.</i>
15:30–15:45	Coffee/ Tea Break
15:45–16:00	<p>Moderator: Mr. Ying Qian, ADB</p> <p>Session 4: Enhanced Coordination with the CAREC Customs Cooperation Committee (CCC)</p> <p><i>Pursuant to their TORs, the RTG and CCC will closely coordinate and cooperate with each other, report progress, and make recommendations to the CAREC Ministerial Conference through the Senior Officials' Meeting and National Focal Points' Meeting. The session will share the outcomes of the 18th CCC and related meetings in June 2019.</i></p> <p>Presenter: Mr. Daniyar Maksumov, Head, IT Department, State Customs Committee of Uzbekistan</p> <p>Q&A</p>
16:00–16:15	<p>Session 5: CITA 2030 Results Framework</p> <p><i>The CITA 2030 Results Framework provides baseline indicators at Outcome and Output levels and states that 2030 targets will be defined by RTG in 2019. The session will seek countries concurrence on the proposed targets and data sources as may be required.</i></p> <p>Presenter: Ms. Loreli de Dios, Trade Economist/Consultant (ADB)</p>
16:15–16:30	<p>Session 6: CAREC 2030 – Progress in Trade, Tourism, and Economic Corridors Cluster</p> <p>Presenter: Mr. Guoliang Wu, Head, CAREC Secretariat, ADB</p> <p><i>The session will provide an update of the initiatives under the CAREC cluster and identify potential linkages and areas for cluster-level cooperation. The session may further discuss trade sector proposal for flagship activity or knowledge product in preparation for CAREC 20th anniversary.</i></p>
16:30–16:50	<p>Session 7: Key Outcomes of the Second Meeting of the RTG</p> <p>Co-chairs: Uzbekistan and ADB</p> <p><i>The session will consider and endorse the following for reporting to the 18th CAREC Ministerial Conference through Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) and National Focal Points (NFP):</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CAREC Trade Sector Report 2018-2019 2. CITA 2030's Rolling Strategic Action Plan 2019-2021

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. <i>Methodology for estimating 2030 targets of the CITA Results Indicators</i> 4. <i>Knowledge products on trade sector</i> 5. <i>Establishment of the CAREC SPS Regional Working Group and national working groups in all CAREC countries</i> 6. <i>Progress of SPS-related initiatives and project proposals, including regional pest surveillance, program for prevention and control of transboundary animal diseases, and CAREC food safety network</i>
16:50–17:00	<p>Closing Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Khurshid Rakhmanov, Uzbekistan • Ms. M. Teresa Kho, ADB