



Virtual Regional Workshop

Assessing Economic Corridor Development Potential Among Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan

16:00pm-18:30pm (Manila time), 28 August 2020

I. Introduction

In October 2018, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) launched a technical assistance (TA) to support the Governments of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan in exploring cross-border economic corridor development (ECD) among the three countries, and harness the potential of regional cooperation and integration to promote growth, create jobs, and improve the quality of life of their citizens. The TA was undertaken to assess the ECD potential among Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan, with focus on Shymkent–Tashkent–Khujand cities and surrounding Turkestan–Tashkent–Sughd oblasts—referred to as STKEC.¹

Based on intensive work undertaken in 2019—inception workshops and multi-stakeholder consultations in May and field research in July-August in the three countries—broad consensus has emerged among stakeholders that efforts to develop the STKEC should focus on six intertwined thematic areas. These include (i) improvement of road and railway transport connectivity; (ii) modernization of border crossing points and border management; (iii) development of horticulture value chains; (iv) modernization of sanitary and phytosanitary measures and development of food quality certification services; (v) development of regional tourism; and (vi) development of special economic zones and industrial zones. Following the first regional workshop held in December 2019 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan which discussed the vision of the STKEC, a roadmap for the STKEC has been prepared which includes proposed thematic focus areas, analysis of trade potential, assessment of existing issues in focus areas, plans and projects to address these issues, expected results, and suggested institutional set-up.

II. Objectives of the Second Regional Workshop

The second regional workshop of the STKEC will be held virtually on 28 August 2020 in light of the travel restrictions resulting from the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The workshop will have the following objectives:

- (i) Present the draft roadmap of the STKEC to and seek feedback from the three countries;
- (ii) Propose next steps for the STKEC development, with continued support from ADB; and
- (iii) Discuss and agree on key steps and timeline for the institutional set-up of the STKEC.

¹ ADB. 2018. *Technical Assistance for Assessing Economic Corridor Development Potential Among Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan*. Manila.



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AGENDA

Co-chairs: Mr. Kairat Torebayev, Vice Minister of Trade and Integration, Kazakhstan
Mr. Safdar Parvez, Director, Regional Cooperation and Operations
Coordination Division, Central and West Asia Department (CWRC), ADB

Facilitator: Ms. Xinglan Hu, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, CWRC, ADB

15:30–16:00	Signing up; video/audio connection checks
16:00–16:10	<p>Welcome Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Safdar Parvez, Director, Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination Division, Central and West Asia Department (CWRC), ADB Mr. Kairat Torebayev, Vice Minister of Trade and Integration, Kazakhstan <p>Overview of the Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Saad Paracha, CAREC Unit Head, CWRC, ADB
16:10–17:20	<p>Session 1: Roadmap of Shymkent–Tashkent–Khujand Economic Corridor (STKEC) Development</p> <p><i>This session will present the draft roadmap of STKEC development: geographic focus and trade potential, thematic focus areas and existing issues in focus areas and plans and projects to address these issues, expected results, and institutional set-up.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Xinglan Hu, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, CWRC, ADB</p> <p>Presentation (30 mins.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Bahodir Ganiev and Mr. Roman Mogilevskii, ADB consultants <p>Feedback from the countries (focal agency of the STKEC) (30 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Aibek Sattibayev, Deputy Akim, Akimat of Shymkent City, Kazakhstan (10 mins.) Mr. Abdulla Khashimov, Head of Department on Transport Corridors and Logistics Development, Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade, Uzbekistan (10 mins.) Mr. Zuhrudin Kenjaev, Head of the Main Department of Trade Policy



	<p>and Consumer Market, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, Tajikistan (10 mins.)</p> <p>Open discussion (10 mins.)</p>
17:20–18:00	<p>Session 2: Proposed Next Steps of STKEC Development</p> <p><i>This session will present proposed activities to support the STKEC development based on recommendations from the roadmap of the STKEC: support for further studies on selected thematic focus areas; promote knowledge sharing and crossing learning of best practices of economic corridor development; and facilitate the functioning of the STKEC institutional set-up</i></p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Kristian Rosbach, Economist (Regional Cooperation), CWRC, ADB</p> <p>Presentation (10 mins.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Xinglan Hu, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, CWRC, ADB <p>Feedbacks from countries (oblast and/or city administration) (20 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Gulzhan Arginbayeva, Advisor to the First Vice Minister of National Economy, Project Manager for the Creation of ICTEC "Central Asia", Kazakhstan (5-7 mins.) • Mr Alisher Sharipov, Chief Specialist, International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Transport Uzbekistan (5-7 mins.) • Mr. Anvar Yakubi, Deputy Chairman of Sughd Oblast Administration, Tajikistan (5-7 mins.) <p>Open discussion (10 mins.)</p>
18:00–18:20	<p>Session 3: Preparation for the STKEC institutional set-up</p> <p><i>This session will discuss and agree on key steps and timeline of the institutional set-up of the STKEC: (i) establishment of the Steering Committee for the STKEC; and (ii) signing of a memorandum of understanding among Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Gulmira Akhberdieva - Head, Tourism Department, Akimat of Turkestan oblast, Kazakhstan</p> <p>Feedback from the three countries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Nurlan Shokbarbayev, Director, Investment Policy Department, Ministry of National Economy, Kazakhstan (5 mins.) • Mr. Nurbek Radjabov, Deputy Head of the Investment Department, Tashkent Oblast Administration, Uzbekistan (5 mins.) • Mr. Sharifjon Akhmedov, Head of Department for Investment and



	<p>State Property Management, Sughd Oblast Administration, Tajikistan (5 mins.)</p> <p>Summary of agreements (5 mins)</p>
18:20–18:30	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Kairat Torebayev, Vice Minister of Trade and Integration, Kazakhstan• Mr. Safdar Parvez, Director, Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination Division, Central and West Asia Department (CWRC), ADB