



3rd Meeting of the CAREC Regional Trade Group (RTG)

Theme: Achieving Greater Diversification and Economic Recovery through Enhanced Services Trade and e-Commerce

10 September 2020, Thursday
1400-1650H (Manila time)

Provisional Agenda as of 9 September 2020

Objectives

The 3rd RTG Meeting will:

- (i) review the progress of implementation of CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda (CITA 2030) and Rolling Strategic Action Plan (RSAP) 2019-2021;
- (ii) deliberate on the trade issues arising from the ongoing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and realignment of trade sector priorities, including interventions for next RSAP;
- (iii) discuss proposals for services sector and e-commerce development based on the outcomes of the studies and the webinars on (a) *Facilitating Diversification and Economic Recovery through the Services Sector* and (b) *E-commerce and Paperless Trade* held on 2 and 3 September 2020;
- (iv) agree on trade sector deliverables for reporting to the 19th Ministerial Conference through the Senior Officials Meeting.

Participation

Appointed Representatives of the Countries (ARCs) to the RTG, senior trade officials, experts and development partners.

Chair: Abdul Karim Malikyar, Acting Minister, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Afghanistan

Co-Chair: James Patrick Lynch, Director General, East Asia Department, Asian Development Bank (ADB)

10 September 2020

1330 – 1400 (Manila time)	Setting up and logging in the zoom meeting
1400 – 1410	Welcome and Opening Remarks Abdul Karim Malikyar , Acting Minister, Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MOIC), Afghanistan James Patrick Lynch , Director General, East Asia Department (EARD), ADB

1410 – 1420	<p>Introduction of the Agenda and Roll Call of Country Delegation Chair: Abdul Karim Malikyar, Acting Minister, MOIC, Afghanistan</p> <p><i>The Chair will introduce the agenda and invite each country to briefly introduce their delegation and provide additional agenda item, if any, to the meeting.</i></p> <p>Group Photo: all heads of delegation will be requested to turn on their cameras or start their videos in the zoom meeting.</p>
1420 – 1440	<p>Session 1: Managing Trade Recovery in the time of the Pandemic</p> <p>James Villafuerte, Senior Economist, Regional Cooperation and Integration Division, Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department, ADB</p> <p><i>The presentation will focus on impact of COVID-19 in the global and regional economies – with focus on trade issues and CAREC – and some proposals to support economic recovery and resilience.</i></p> <p><i>Moderator: Maika Oshikawa, Director, Accessions Division, World Trade Organization</i></p>
1440 – 1445	<p>Session 2: CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda (CITA) 2030 and Rolling Strategic Action Plan (RSAP) 2019–2021 – Progress of Implementation</p> <p>Dorothea Lazaro, Regional Cooperation Specialist, Public Management, Financial Sector, & Regional Cooperation Division (EAPF), East Asia Department, ADB</p> <p><i>The CAREC Secretariat will make a brief presentation on the progress of CITA 2030 implementation based on the (i) CAREC trade sector report and work plan circulated to CAREC countries on 10 August 2020, (ii) responses to CAREC survey on trade measures and assistance required, (iii) trade portal and results framework for CITA 2030 and CAREC-wide results-framework; and (iv) outcomes of webinars on 2 and 3 September 2020.</i></p> <p><i>Country interventions or questions will be in Session 3.</i></p>
1445 – 1620	<p>Session 3: Around the Table</p> <p><i>Each head of country delegation will be requested to provide brief (5 minutes) intervention, presentations or updates from June 2019 to August 2020 in terms of:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>(i) relevant trade legislations or reforms or international agreements or organizations (e.g., WTO accession);</i> <i>(ii) ongoing projects, activities and interventions on trade, especially those mentioned under CITA/RSAP;</i> <i>(iii) COVID-19 responses and priorities in the short- to medium-term; and</i> <i>(iv) proposals for CAREC trade interventions for RSAP 2020-2022, including to promote services trade and e-commerce development in the CAREC region.</i>

	<p>Countries: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, People’s Republic of China, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan</p> <p><i>Moderator: Abdul Karim Malikyar, Acting Minister, MOIC, Afghanistan</i></p>
1620 – 1640	<p>Session 4: Development Partners interventions</p> <p><i>ADB, CAREC Institute, and World Trade Organization will make brief interventions with respect to country and regional initiatives on trade and some responses to the proposals of CAREC countries.</i></p> <p>Maika Oshikawa, Director, Accessions Division, World Trade Organization</p> <p>Zulfia Karimova, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, Public Management, Financial Sector, & Regional Cooperation Division (EAPF), EARD, ADB</p> <p>Minsoo Lee, Senior Economist, Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination Division, CWRD, ADB</p> <p>Tumurpurev Dulambazar, Research Specialist, Research Division, CAREC Institute</p> <p>Saad Abdullah Paracha, CAREC Unit Head, Central and West Asia Department (CWRD), ADB</p> <p><i>Moderator: Dorothea Lazaro, Regional Cooperation Specialist, EAPF, EARD, ADB</i></p>
1640 – 1645	<p>Session 5: Deliverables and Preparations for the Ministerial Conference</p> <p>Saad Abdullah Paracha, CAREC Unit Head, CWRD, ADB</p> <p><i>The CAREC Secretariat will brief the RTG on upcoming CAREC Senior Officials Meeting and Ministerial Conference, including the CAREC wide results framework where RTG inputs have been requested.</i></p> <p><i>Moderator: Abdul Karim Malikyar, Acting Minister, MOIC, Afghanistan</i></p>
1645 – 1650	<p>Closing Session</p> <p>Abdul Karim Malikyar, Acting Minister, MOIC, Afghanistan</p> <p>Emma Fan, Director, Public Management, Financial Sector, and Regional Cooperation Division, East Asia Department, ADB</p>