

CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda 2030 and Rolling Strategic Action Plan

Progress of Implementation and Next Steps

Dorothea Lazaro

Regional Cooperation Specialist

East Asia Department, Asian Development Bank



CAREC Trade Performance and Outlook

Group / Year	Merchandise exports (% growth)					Merchandise imports (% growth)				
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Developing Asia	-2.4	-0.9	30.5	11.2	8.6	-3.6	-6.8	36.2	12.5	10.4
CAREC-10	5.1	-8.5	30.2	18.1	11.0	4.9	-12.2	26.2	12.5	10.4

Source: ADB, Asian Development Outlook 2022 Update (Sep 2022)

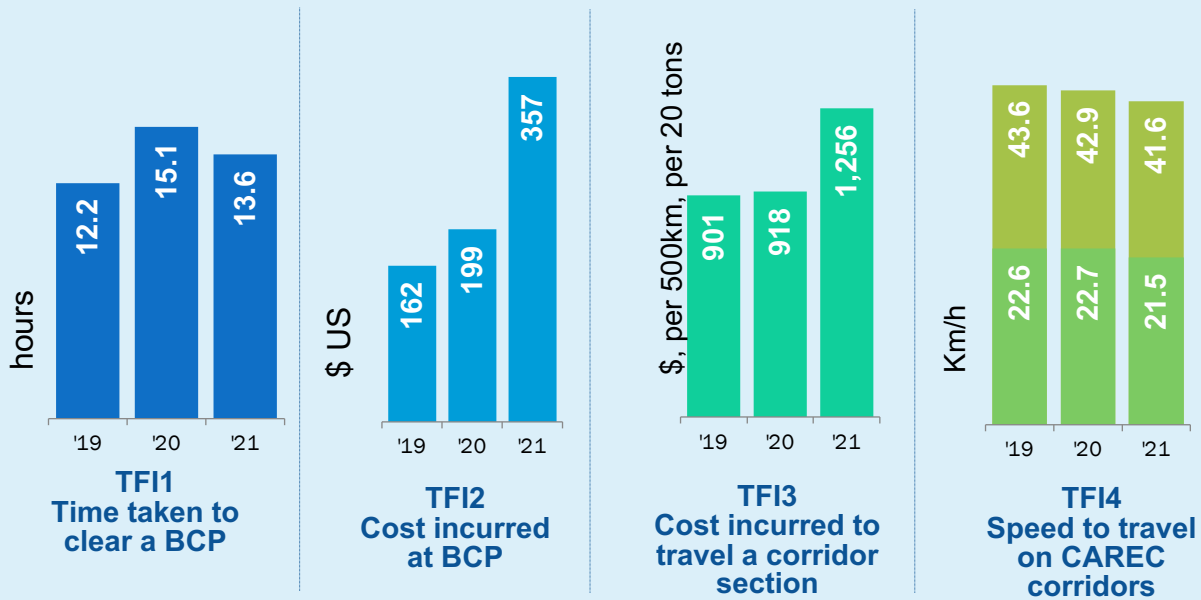
"Trade growth to slow sharply in 2023 as global economy faces strong headwinds."

—WTO Secretariat (Oct 2022)

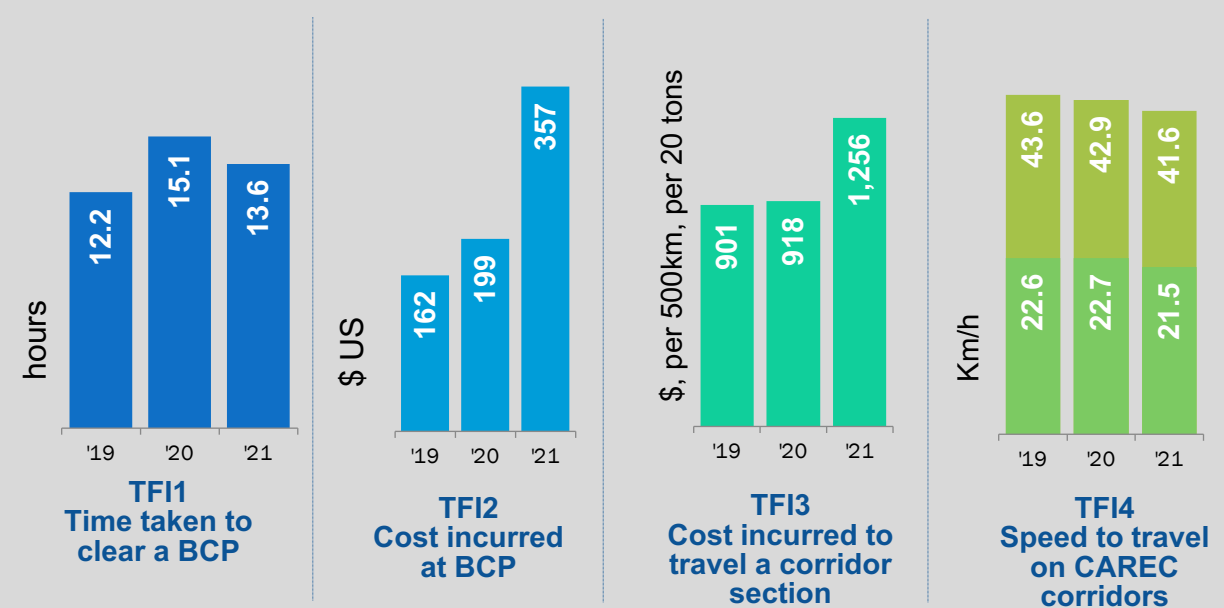


CPMM Trade Facilitation Indicators

ROAD TRANSPORT, 2019-2021



RAIL TRANSPORT, 2019-2021



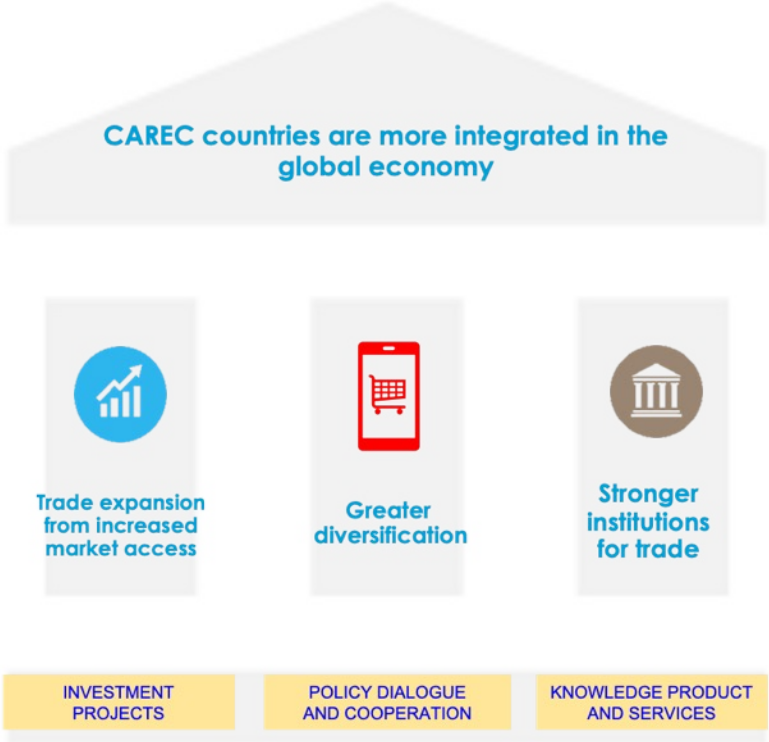
CAREC TRADE SECTOR

5th Meeting of the CAREC Regional Trade Group



CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda 2030

Pillars and Institutional Structure



CAREC = Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation, CFCFA = CAREC Federation of Carrier and Forwarder Associations, NCTF = national committee on trade facilitation, SPS = sanitary and phytosanitary, WCO = World Customs Organization, WTO = World Trade Organization.

Regional Trade Group (RTG) is the lead consultative and coordinating body for CAREC trade work as embodied in CITA 2030 and the Rolling Strategic Action Plan



Pillar 1: Trade expansion from increased market access



Country achievements

On track implementation of *WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement*

Good progress in *WTO accession* of remaining 3 CAREC members

Completion of *WTO Trade Policy Reviews* for 6 countries

4 CAREC becoming parties to the *UN Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia-Pacific*

2 countries acceding to WCO Revised Kyoto Convention in 2021

CITA interventions

Ex-ante study for Azerbaijan (Mar 2022), launch of Turkmenistan's accession work program (Jul 2022)

Enhancing capacities in SPS measures in Azerbaijan, Georgia, Mongolia, Pakistan, Uzbekistan (2021–2022), joint seminar on good regulatory practices with WTO STDF (May 2022)

Supporting Single Window initiatives in Azerbaijan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Pakistan and Tajikistan (2021–2022)

High-level dialogues in trade facilitation (APTFF 2022 in Singapore (Sep 2022), in Mongolia (Sep 2022); ROK (May 2022)

Pillar 2: Greater diversification



Country achievements

Joint Coordinating Council for cross-border zone for PRC and Mongolia

3 contracting CAREC members to the UN Convention on the Use of Electronic Communications in International Contracts

Reforms or initiatives to promote e-commerce development (e.g., PRC's e-commerce pilot zones)

Establishment of Global Alliance for Trade in Services in Apr 2022

CITA interventions

Ongoing investments for PRC and MON to develop Erenhot and Zamyn-Uud free zones; forum on sustainable economic zones (Sep 2022)

Phase 2 of e-commerce report focusing on infrastructure development (Mar 2022); Webinars and trainings on e-commerce including TVET (Mar to Jul 2022); Forum on digital commerce for agriculture development (Sep 2022); Digitalization of trade documents in STKEC Region (May 2022)

Report on service sector development (Dec 2021) and statistics on trade in services and e-commerce (2022)

Feasibility of CAREC-wide FTA (Aug 2022)



Accelerating Digital Trade



Enabling investments in data and ICT infrastructure

Mongolia: Development of online portal for verification of Certificate of Origin (2022)

Georgia: Scoping for use of artificial intelligence in import procedures (2022)



Mutual trust through harmonization and regional cooperation

Pilot project on adoption of UN Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records (PRC and Georgia (2022–2023))



Knowledge cooperation platform

Launch of Digital Trade Forum on 8 November 2022



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Pillar 3: Stronger institutions for trade

Focus areas

Capacity to negotiate FTAs and implement trade agreements

Promoting transparency through national trade portals

Knowledge-sharing and visibility

Coordination and engagement

Evidence-based policy research

CITA interventions

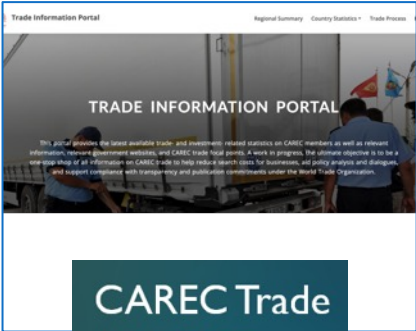
FTA lessons and best practices workshop (Apr 2022) and capacity needs assessment

Regular update of the CAREC Trade Information Portal and link with national sites

Launch of CAREC Trade Insights and News (quarterly newsletter); various blogs and features

20th year since establishment of Customs Cooperation Committee, webinar on Digital and Green Customs; Reactivation of national SPS working groups

CAREC Corridor Performance Measurement and Monitoring (CPMM)



CPMM: Promoting evidence-based policymaking



Stop-by-stop freight shipping data collected by the ADB, while allowing to estimate granular changes in transport costs and times at the individual road level, suggest substantial transport connectivity changes over the last decade.

Atsushi Iimi, World Bank



CPMM TFIs are the only measure that show bilateral time and cost for trade facilitation in CAREC which highlights a huge potential for policy and research applications.

Kijin Kim, Asian Development Bank



CPMM briefs are important advocacy tools for engaging with national governments in the CAREC region to improve cross-border trade and mobility, and ultimately the well-being of people in the region.

Ilhom Abdulloev, CAREC Institute



New RSAP proposals/interventions

AZERBAIJAN

- assessment of sustainable development of agriculture in CAREC countries
- model-based evaluation of the effectiveness of state regulation in the field of agriculture in CAREC countries
- integration of CAREC countries into global value chains for agricultural products
- increasing the knowledge and skills of researchers working in the field of agricultural economics in CAREC countries.

MONGOLIA

- Resilient and Integrated Border Services for Safe and Fast Trade Project (2023)
- TA to support Mongolia's sustainable integration in the global economy and digital transformation (2022)

AZERBAIJAN/GEORGIA

- Scoping study for joint BCP (2022-2023)
- Launch of CATS/ICE prototype

