

CAREC

Customs Cooperation Committee

**Inaugural Regional Trade Group Meeting
Bangkok, Thailand
25-26 June 2018**



CAREC Customs Cooperation Committee (CCC)

- **Composed of heads of customs authorities of 11 CAREC countries**
- **First meeting in Urumqi, PRC in 2002**
- **Main objective is to promote cooperation among CAREC customs agencies through concerted customs reforms and modernization**
- **Serves as a regional forum to address issues of common interest**
- **A cohesive body within CAREC successfully creating environment of trust and cooperation in custom services of participating countries**

CCC Priority Areas

- 1. Simplification and harmonization of customs procedures and documentation**
- 2. Joint customs control**
- 3. Risk management and post-entry audit**
- 4. Regional transit development**
- 5. Information and communication technology (ICT) for customs modernization and data exchange**

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Simplification and harmonization of customs procedures

- **All countries have revised their customs laws to conform with international best practice**
- **5+1 countries have acceded to Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC), accession action plans prepared for 3 countries**
 - *RKC Awareness and Self Assessment Tools workshop conducted for TKM (2017)*
 - *Gap Analysis for KGZ (2017)*

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Joint Customs Control (JCC)

- **Unified cargo manifest introduced at Zamyn Uud (MON)-Erlan (PRC) border in 2009; electronic manifest planned in 2018**
- **7 technical working group meetings conducted**
- **Proposals/interests for other CAREC countries (AZE-GEO, PRC-KAZ)**

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Risk Management

- **Customs Risk Management systems assessment workshops conducted for 3 countries (KAZ, TAJ, UZB)**
- **Authorized economic operators (AEO) programs introduced in AZE, KAZ and MON**

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Regional Transit

CAREC Advanced Transit System (CATS) Pilot

- **The aim of the CATS is to simplify transit procedures and enhance trade facilitation amongst CAREC countries**
- **Pilot countries: AZE, GEO, KAZ**
- **Main Features:**
 - *single electronic transit document*
 - *risk-based comprehensive guarantee mechanism to cover multiple transit movements over a specified period of time.*
- **Trilateral agreement for finalization**
- **Roundtable discussion among insurance companies in April 2018**
- **Interest from other CAREC countries to participate**

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ICT for Customs Modernization

Information Common Exchange (ICE)

- Real-time electronic exchange of information among and between CAREC customs authorities
- Message specification will be based on WCO DM XML Data Model v3.5; will be one of the first region-wide use of the WCO Data Model in the world.
- Pilot for transit documents to be conducted in tandem with CATS in AZE, GEO, KAZ

National Single Window Projects

- Support to UZB roadmap on Customs ICT (2018)
- NSWs being developed in all RIBS projects

Regional Improvement of Border Services (RIBS)

- **Aims to improve physical infrastructure at BCPs along priority CAREC corridors and establish a network of national single windows (NSWs) to address the main bottlenecks at the border**
- **4 RIBS projects currently on-going –KGZ, TAJ, MON, PAK**
- **Scoping for more RIBS – UZB, AZE–GEO Joint BCP**

New Developments

WTO TFA Implementation

- TFA entry into force in Feb 2017
- 8 CAREC countries are WTO members:
 - *AFG, PRC, GEO, KAZ, KGZ, MON, PAK, TAJ*
- CAREC countries vary in alignment with the TFA
 - *Most national legislations already aligned with TFA regardless of WTO membership*
- National Committee on Trade Facilitation (NCTF) or similar mechanism in place
- ADB assessment and capacity-building (regional workshop in Dec 2017) undertaken to support TFA implementation

New Developments

CCC and CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda 2030

- **The CAREC 2030 strategy (endorsed in Oct 2017) called for:**
 - *creation of Regional Trade Group to discuss/deliberate on increasingly intertwined issues of trade policy and trade facilitation in a synergistic manner*
 - *development of CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda (CITA) and Rolling Strategic Action Plan*
- **CCC will continue to carry out customs cooperation functions related to trade facilitation**

CCC Activities in RSAP

16th CCC Meeting

RSAP 2018-2021

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|---|---|
| 1. Piloting of a CAREC Advanced Transit System (CATS) | Piloting of CATS (AZE, GEO, KAZ) by 2018 and piloting of ICE for the single transit document to support the implementation of CATS |
| 2. Piloting of Information Common Exchange (ICE) | |
| 3. Support for the implementation of TFA | Implementation of WTO TFA focusing on common areas designated by CAREC members under Category A and establishment/strengthening of NCTFs |
| 4. More investment and technical assistance projects for trade facilitation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• RIBS | Improvement of border services (TKM and UZB) and new BCP between AZE and GEO
MON RIBS additional financing |
| 5. Formulation of new Trade Facilitation Strategy | Now part of CITA 2030 |
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Next Steps

- 1. Review and identify CCC priority areas in light of CITA 2030**
- 2. Implement CCC activities included in RSAP 2018-2020**
- 3. Define role and responsibilities of CCC in relation to RTG**

CAREC

**Customs Cooperation
Committee**

Thank you!