Republic of Tajikistan: CAREC Regional Improvement of Border Services

► The Ministerial Conference of Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) held in October 2009 in Ulan-Baatar, Mongolia, approved a plan to expand physical infrastructure at border crossing points (BCPs) along priority CAREC Corridors and establish a network of national single windows (NSW) in the region to develop seamless corridors without excessive intermediary operations to enhance the region's competitiveness and expand trade among CAREC economies and with the rest of the world.

Improvement of Border Services Project was signed on April 24, 2013 between the Asian Development Bank and the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and became effective as of July 8, 2013. Grant number is 0341 - TAJ (SF). The beneficiary of the project is the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Executing and Implementing Agencies

The Ministry of Economic Development and Trade (MEDT) is the Executing Agency (EA), and the Customs Service under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan (CST) will be the Implementing Agency (IA) of the Project. The EA, in close cooperation with other government institutions and the ADB, will guide and support the IA to timely address any issue and complete the project attaching its established goal.

PROJECT GOAL:

The project will support development of the transport corridor and simplification of trade procedures in the CAREC region by reducing physical and institutional bottlenecks in cross-border movement of goods.

The project includes three separate, but closely linked components:

- (i) improvement of the border crossing point (BCP);
- (ii) Establishment of the National Single Window (NSW); and
- (iii) Capacity building in project management and supervision.

• PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINES:

Projects launching – January, 2014 Project completion – June, 2018

PROJECT FINANCING SOURCE:

Grant from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) 0341-TAJ (SF)

• KEY PROJECT FUNDING

ADB's contribution – US\$ 9.202 million TAJ Government's contribution - US\$1.92 million

• **DISBURSEMENTS**

As of August 31, 2016 disbursements amounted to US\$2,622,650

Project's Steering Committee (PSC)

The PSC was established as the supreme advisory body within 45 dates after the Grant Agreement became effective. The PSC will be chaired by the MEDT and will include representatives from the CST, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Justice, the State Agency on Investment and Public Property Management, the Agency on Standardization, Certification and Metrology and the Trade Inspectorate, as well as the Trade and Commerce Chamber.

The following have been achieved under the project:

- The international consultant on project management (MPC) has been hired: the Contract was signed with the International Consulting Firm "Sorbonne Economics" on August 2, 2014.
- Construction of the border crossing point Guliston (Contract №. RIBS-03 dated June 30, 2015). The Contract was signed with "Umed" Ltd.;
- The international consultant for institutional and technical support of the Single Window (Contract №. RIBS-03 dated July 29, 2015). The Contract was signed with the International Consulting Firm "Crown Agents Ltd."
- Procurement of equipment for BCP Guliston (Contract №. RIBS-04 dated April 12, 2016) Contract was signed with XINJIANG DINGLONG TRADE CO., LTD;
- Procurement of furniture for the customs office at BCP Guliston (Contract №. RIBS/SH/FN/07-2016 dated July 8, 2016) Contract was signed with "Jasur-N" Ltd.;
- Procurement of equipment for the customs office at BCP Guliston (Contract №. RIBS/SH/08-2016 dated July 8, 2016) Contract was signed with "Juzi Zimiston" Ltd.;

One of the key project's components is establishment of the Single Window of the Republic of Tajikistan. To develop and improve BCPS by simplifying trade procedures, since August 2015 the international consultancy company "Crown Agents" started its work on institutional and technical support for the Single Window.

Besides, three working groups have been established: the first WG - on training and analysis of administrative procedures of the agencies, which are included into the information system of the Single Window, the second WG - on regulation of legal issues, and the third WG - on development of IT for the above mentioned system.

Thank you for your attention!