



## **CENTRAL ASIA REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION**

### **Report of the Ninth Transport Sector Coordination Committee Meeting**

*11-12 October 2010, Manila, Philippines*

#### **Introduction**

1. The Ninth Meeting of the CAREC Transport Sector Coordination Committee (TSCC) was held on 11-12 October 2010 in Manila, Philippines. Delegations from all eight CAREC countries and representatives of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) participated in the meeting. The delegation from Pakistan attended as observer. Mr. Noor Gul Mangal, Deputy Minister (Technical), Ministry of Public Works of Afghanistan (Head of the Afghanistan delegation) chaired the meeting. The meeting agenda and a list of participants are in Appendixes 1 and 2, respectively.

#### **Session 1: Implementation Action Plan of CAREC Transport and Trade Facilitation Strategy**

2. The delegations of all CAREC countries made presentations on the progress in implementing the CAREC Transport and Trade Facilitation Action Plan (TTF-AP) (Appendix 3).

3. The meeting discussed the draft progress report of the TTF-AP implementation prepared by the TSCC secretariat (Appendix 4). The meeting noted that certain data in the draft progress report, particularly regarding the progress in railway development, need to be updated based on the countries' presentations. The meeting agreed to submit the amended progress report to the CAREC Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) on 30 October 2010 for consideration. The meeting also noted the presentation by the CAREC secretariat on the overview of the progress on trade facilitation and corridor performance and monitoring measurement (Appendix 5).

#### **Session 2: Cross-Border Transport Agreement**

4. The delegations of the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan presented the draft Cross-Border Transport Agreement (CBTA). The following points were highlighted:

- The CBTA between the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan, which was initiated by the TSCC as part of TTF-AP, was developed with ADB assistance;
- With the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan being the signatories, the geographical scope of the CBTA currently covers CAREC Corridor 5;
- Negotiations of the CBTA between the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan were substantively concluded. Domestic procedures are being undertaken for signing of the CBTA at the CAREC 9<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference in November 2010 and for ratification thereafter;

- The TSCC secretariat presented the CBTA's key features and next steps for effective implementation of the CBTA (Appendix 6);
- The Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan requested assistance to carry out necessary follow-up activities for effective implementation of the CBTA, including training.

5. The following issues/concerns were raised and clarified during the deliberation on the CBTA:

- Possible discrepancies with other existing agreements such as TRACECA and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO): The CBTA includes a provision concerning the relationship of the Agreement with other international agreements or national laws.
- Circulation of the draft text of the CBTA: The draft text of the CBTA will be shared with other CAREC countries once domestic clearances in the signatory countries are completed.

### Session 3: TSCC Five-Year Investment Plan and Work Plan

6. The meeting considered the proposed TSCC 5-year Investment Plan (2011–2015) prepared by the TSCC secretariat (Appendix 7). The CAREC countries proposed a total of 41 new projects (Table 1):

Table 1. New projects proposed for the TTF-AP

Country	UZB	AZE	TAJ	AFG	MON	KAZ	KGZ	Total
<u>No of proposals</u>	<u>7(6)</u>	<u>7(0)</u>	<u>11(1)</u>	<u>8(1)</u>	<u>2(0)</u>	<u>3(3)</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>41</u>

\* Figures in the parenthesis indicate the number of project proposals of which their concepts were available and submitted to the TSCC secretariat.

7. The TSCC secretariat emphasized that new project proposals should support the TTF-AP, establishing the six priority transport corridors and facilitating cross-border movements of people and goods. For consideration of inclusion in the TTF-AP, the project proposals should have significant regional cooperation implications (e.g., regional connectivity). The meeting reviewed the 29 physical investments' proposals and identified 41 proposals (including the 12 nonphysical investments) for further consideration during the SOM on 30 October 2010. The TSCC secretariat requested the proponent countries to provide project descriptions (including maps) by 20 October 2010 and comments, if any, by 22 October 2010, so that the 5-year Investment Plan can be reviewed during the SOM and presented to the 9<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference for endorsement.

8. The TSCC secretariat presented the proposed TSCC Work Plan for 2010-2012 (Appendix 8). The meeting noted that the target figures in the Work Plan are indicative in nature and could be updated. With regard to the tasks to harmonize and simplify border-crossing procedures, the meeting viewed that there would a need to specify the elements to be focused on in the coming two years and identify the agencies responsible. Considering that transport and trade facilitation measures have been integrated, the meeting agreed to retain harmonizing and simplifying the procedures in the Work Plan.

9. The meeting agreed to submit the revised TSCC 5-Year Investment Plan (2011-2015) and the TSCC Work Plan (2010-2012) to the SOM for consideration and to the Ministerial Conference for endorsement.

#### **Session 4: Other CAREC Activities**

10. The CAREC secretariat briefed the meeting on the outcomes of the SOM on 16-17 April 2010 in Manila, Philippines and the CAREC Business Development Forum in July 2010 in Urumqi, China (Appendixes 9 and 10).

#### **Closing Session**

11. The meeting considered and adopted the Report of the Ninth Meeting of the Transport Sector Coordination Committee.

12. The delegations of the meeting expressed their appreciation to Afghanistan for the excellent chairmanship and ADB for the warm hospitality and arrangement for the meeting.

