

Seventh Customs Cooperation Committee Meeting

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Introduction

- CCC a regional forum to address issues of common interest and has created an environment of trust and cooperation and becomes cohesive body within CAREC
- Customs Core Areas
 - simplification and harmonization of customs procedures and documentation,
 - information and communication technology (ICT) and data exchange,
 - risk management and post-entry audit,
 - joint customs control and one-stop services,
 - regional transit development,
 - other areas of integrated trade facilitation and trade logistics development

Progress in 2007-08

- **Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedure**
 - new Customs Law of Afghanistan streamlined 27 procedures;
 - at the CAREC Customs Training Course sponsored by PRC customs:
 - Management of Special Customs Control Areas in PRC was introduced;
 - Availability of WCO training courses on how to improve CAREC capacities and streamline customs-related processes was introduced.

Progress in 2007-08 (cont.)

- ICT for Customs Modernization and Data Exchange
 - ASYCUDA is installed in Kabul, Afghanistan, and will be expanded to other major customs houses;
 - PRC and Kyrgyz Republic officials and experts met and analyzed causes of discrepancies in trade statistics;
 - Kazakhstan and PRC customs are discussing draft protocols on exchange of information and the use of safe packets.

Progress in 2007-08 (cont.)

- **Risk Management, Post-Entry Audit, Customs Intelligence**
 - risk management module is being integrated with the ASYCUDA in Afghanistan
 - an Anti-Smuggling training was conducted in November 2007 to help customs authorities in the CAREC region establish and update effective anti-smuggling procedures

Progress in 2007-08 (cont.)

- Joint Customs Control and One-Stop Services
 - joint inspection programs between PRC and Kazakhstan, and between PRC and Mongolia.
 - PRC and Kazakhstan to implement program in three phases and pilot joint border inspection initiated in Dulata (PRC) and Kalzhat Dulaty (Kazakhstan) last 15 December 2007.
 - Working groups have been established in PRC and Mongolia for pilot projects
 - PRC exchanged with Mongolia detailed rules and templates for implementation of first stage pilot regarding loading list of inbound/outbound road trucks

Progress in 2007-08 (cont.)

- **Regional Transit Development**

- Focus of regional transit system is on accession to and use of TIR Carnet, PRC has indicated its intention to accede to TIR Convention.
- Problems remain with use of TIR at the national level due to cost considerations
- Several regional arrangements for a simplified transit system have proposed
- Kazakhstan proposed the use of “safe packet” for movement of goods across border crossing points
 - ADB consultant found safe packet is cost efficient
 - and recommended establishment of benchmarks to measure performance

Progress in 2007-08 (cont.)

- **Other Areas (Integrated Trade Facilitation)**

- Agenda of integrated trade facilitation was taken by the CCC in 2004 to cooperate with other government agencies and private sector

- **One Stop Service and Single Window**

- Azerbaijan formulated an action plan with the assistance of EU and UNECE
- Assisted by GTZ, Kyrgyz Republic Government issued an decree for single window development
- Mongolia government issued a resolution for single window with the assistance of USAID,
- Both Kyrgyz and Mongolia strategies envisaged to use the PPP similar to that of Singapore

Progress in 2007-08 (cont.)

- **Trade Logistics Development**
 - Seminars on Trade Logistics Development held in Baku, Azerbaijan on 23 April 2008 and in Tashkent, Uzbekistan on 2- 4 September 2008, to review studies of trade logistics for CAREC countries, and to discuss technical issues such as location of trade logistics hubs and performance measurement
- Trade logistics studies have been completed for all CAREC participating countries

Joint Transport and Trade Facilitation Strategy (TTFS)

- Strategy endorsed in 2007 during Dushanbe Ministerial Meeting, Action Plan and Work Programs are to be submitted to 2008 Ministerial Meeting in Baku
- investments and technical assistance projects for transport and trade are prioritized on CAREC corridors and performance to be measured
- Two joint transport and trade facilitation workshops to review TTFS were organized
- CCC responsible for trade facilitation activities

Corridor Performance Measurements

- A set of performance measurements have been decided to reflect efficiency and effectiveness of CAREC corridors' three dimensions:
 - physical infrastructure (transport, logistics, and customs);
 - customs and other trade/transport regulation and procedures; and
 - trade logistics
- Methodologies being considered:
 - UNESCAP's time-cost-distance methodology;
 - the WCO time release method and
 - simplified trade logistics performance assessments

Trade Facilitation Work Program (to be discussed)

- *Customs cooperation in priority areas remains as the core of the program;*
- *Adopting integrated trade facilitation approach through promotion of one stop and single electronic window services with priority placed on designated CAREC transport/economic corridors;*
- *establishing a regional forum to harmonize and plan for trade logistics development;*
- *Operationalize the performance monitoring system CAREC corridors;*
- *Streamline and enhance institutional arrangement for effective ownership and leadership in trade facilitation*