



**Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program
Side Event at the 10th Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum:
Transit Facilitation for CAREC Regional Economic Integration
1 September 2022, Singapore
14:30 – 16:30, (Orchard Room)**

Event site: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/asia-pacific-trade-facilitation-forum-2022>

Registration (for virtual participants): <https://adb-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAtD-yhqzggH9ASK4ZxjP-45AUAdGE7QOCm>

DRAFT AGENDA

Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective transit operations are important to ensure regional integration and economic development. The detailed and technical discussions during this workshop should contribute to the identification of potential improvements in transit regimes.
Date and Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 September 2022, Room and Location (TBC)
14:30-14:40 (10 Minutes)	<p>Session 1: Overview of the Workshop</p> <p>Speaker: Zulfia Karimova, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, Public Management, Financial Sector and Regional Cooperation Division East Asia Department, Asian Development Bank (ADB)</p>
14:40-15:10 (30 Minutes)	<p>Session 2: Regional Transit Flows and Data Capture Mechanism in CAREC</p> <p><i>Presentation on CAREC Corridor Performance Measurement and Monitoring (CPMM) mechanism and challenges being faced along key transit corridors.</i></p> <p>Presenter: Max Ee, CPMM Specialist, ADB Consultant</p> <p>Q & A</p>
15:10-15:50 (40 Minutes)	<p>Session 3: Development of Regional Transit Procedures within CAREC to Facilitate Trade</p> <p><i>3.1 Presentation on how UN standards can support seamless flow of information along corridors in the region.</i></p> <p>Presenter: Mario Apostolov, Regional Adviser, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, UN Economic Cooperation and Trade Division</p> <p><i>3.2 Presentation of main components of CAREC Advanced Transit System (CATS) / Information Common Exchange (ICE) platform, how it differs from the Convention on International Transport of Goods (TIR), including challenges faced in practical implementation.</i></p>



	<p>Presenter: Nigel Moore, Customs Transit Specialist, ADB Consultant</p> <p>Q & A</p>
<p>15:50-16:20 (30 Minutes)</p>	<p>Session 4: Discussion on Differences between National and Regional (CATS) Transit Systems</p> <p><i>Main differences between international transit guiding principles and country, and the reasons behind them.</i></p> <p>Presenter: Nigel Moore, Customs Transit Specialist, ADB Consultant</p> <p>Q & A</p>
<p>16:20-16:00 (10 Minutes)</p>	<p>Session 5: Close of Event</p> <p><i>Outline of the next steps for development of transit procedures in CAREC.</i></p> <p>Speaker: Zulfia Karimova, ADB</p>



Attachment

CAREC Advanced Transit System and Information Common Exchange (CATS/ICE) Project

BRIEFING NOTE

1. The Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Program is developing a prototype CAREC Advanced Transit System (CATS) and Information Common Exchange (ICE). CATS/ICE is designed as a regional **harmonized electronic system** for the control of movement of **goods in transit** through CAREC member states. It aims to help trade flow smoothly and efficiently across the borders and enhance the CAREC region's position in the dynamic global and regional value chains.
2. **CATS/ICE** will support the seamless cross-border passage of goods and reduce trade transaction costs by:
 - i. streamlining and harmonizing existing transit documentation;
 - ii. creating a single electronic messaging system; and
 - iii. providing a modern, risk-based affordable guarantee mechanism that rewards compliant traders.
3. CATS/ICE is characterized by two critical features. First, the ability to **vary the guarantee levels** considering the risk posed by the individual transit operator, and second, the facility to **guarantee multiple transit movements** over a designated period. These are consistent with international best practice being promoted by the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation and the World Customs Organization Transit Guidelines.
4. Therefore, CATS/ICE meets the requirements of **modern customs operations** and addresses the challenges faced by **smaller and medium-sized operators** who are not covered by existing international transit guarantee systems such as the TIR.
5. CATS is also aligned with the European Union common transit procedure supported by the new computerized transit system (**NCTS**), which will help participating countries connect more easily with the EU markets.
6. The implementation of CATS/ICE will strategically support Customs located at the borders to facilitate legitimate trade while protecting the supply chain from security breach by criminal and terrorist organizations. It is an identified a priority activity under the [CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda 2030](#), and its three-year Rolling Strategic Action Plan 2021-2023.
7. On 28 September 2021, the CAREC Customs Cooperation Committee held its 20th Meeting virtually. Azerbaijan and Georgia agreed to sign the agreement bilaterally and open it for accession to other CAREC countries.