



Virtual Consultation

On the Proposed CAREC Electronic Exchange and Mutual Recognition of Conformity Certificates

31 July 2024, 15:00-17:00 Manila time (via Zoom)



Meeting ID: 948 6680 9068

Passcode: CAREC731

Rationale

The CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda (CITA) 2030 prioritizes the development of paperless and digital trade to strengthen CAREC linkages with global and regional supply chains and contribute to economic diversification.

Among the key documents for trade is the certification of conformity, which is a written assurance or declaration that a product, process, or service complies with applicable standards or technical regulations. This is issued by a third party, i.e. an independent testing laboratory, inspection or certification body, and is a mandatory document attached for Customs' clearance of traded goods.

Digitalization facilitates this certification process. It reduces the time and cost of applying, assessing, and issuing the certificate, and eases compliance, accuracy, transparency and accountability, in turn raising overall productivity and efficiency. It facilitates collaboration among countries, beginning with the exchange of digitalized conformity certificates.

To achieve the full efficiency potential of digitalized conformity certificates, these must be acceptable to the receiving country. This in turn requires mutual recognition arrangements where the concerned countries agree to recognize each other's conformity assessment results and certificates.

[Korea Trade Network \(KTNET\)](#), the official Korean paperless trade infrastructure provider, in collaboration with ADB, **proposes to develop a prototype and pilot test a model for the electronic exchange of conformity certificates in CAREC.** This exchange may be done between conformity certification agencies in CAREC countries, or through Customs.

A similar example is the recent demonstration of a minimum viable product to digitalize certificates of origin (COOs) using blockchain and distributed ledger technology in Mongolia. An online system was created for importers and producers to efficiently request and check COOs from suppliers, for suppliers to easily enter origin details in the system once for review and issuance by the authorities, and to transfer COOs in the same format.

Objective

The virtual consultation shall present the proposal to CAREC countries in order to ascertain interest and readiness. It shall elicit broad indications of the following from the participants: (a) documents currently being electronically exchanged with other countries, and how such exchange



was established; (b) state of digitalization of the conformity certification process; (c) communication between conformity certification bodies and Customs administrations; (d) existing mutual recognition arrangements that CAREC countries are participating.

Target Participants:

Representatives from the conformity certification body (or its supervising authority) in each country and Customs administration. It is noted that the national quality infrastructure consists of standardization, metrology, accreditation, and conformity assessment services (Table 1).

AGENDA

15:00 – 15:10	Introduction
	Group Photo
15:10 – 15:30	Presentation by KTNET Mr. Sung Young Kang , General Manager of International Business and Cooperation, KTNET <i>Proposed Electronic Exchange of Conformity Certificates in CAREC Countries</i>
15:30 – 16:45	Open Forum/Around the Table
16:45 – 17:00	Wrap Up and Next Steps

Table 1: National Quality Infrastructure Bodies per CAREC Member

	Standardization	Metrology and calibration	Accreditation	Conformity assessment (testing labs, inspection, certification)
AZE	Azerbaijan Institute of Standardization (AZSTAND)	Azerbaijan Institute of Metrology (AzMI)	Azerbaijan Accreditation Center (AZAK)	Testing: public and private (see https://www.accreditation.gov.az/az) Product Certification: 10 public and private (see ITC 2021) Inspection: public and private (see ITC 2021)
PRC	China National Institute of Standardization (CNIS)	National Institute of Metrology (NIM)	China National Accreditation Service for Conformity Assessment (CNAS)	China Quality Certification Center (CQC)



	Standardization	Metrology and calibration	Accreditation	Conformity assessment (testing labs, inspection, certification)
GEO	Georgian National Agency for Standards and Metrology (GEOSTM) – Department of Standards	GEOSTM – National Metrology Institute	Georgian Accreditation Center (GAC)	19 laboratories CAUCASCERT Ltd
KAZ	Kazakhstan Institute of Standardization and Metrology (KazStandard)	same	National Center of Accreditation	
KGZ	Center for Standardization and Metrology (KyrgyzStandard)	same	Kyrgyz Center for Accreditation (KCA)	
MON	Mongolian Agency for Standardization and Metrology (MASM)	same	Mongolian National Authority for Accreditation (MNAS)	AFNOR, etc
PAK	Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA)	National Physical and Standards Laboratory (NPSL)	Pakistan National Accreditation Council (PNAC)	PSQCA Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (PCSIR), others private
TAJ	Agency of Standardization, Metrology, Certification and Trade Inspection (Tajikstandart)	same	National Centre of Accreditation	Tajikstandart
TKM	State Etalon Centre under the Main State Service Turkmenstandartlary	same	same	same
UZB	Uzbek Agency for Standardization, Metrology and Certification (Uzstandart)	Uzbek National Institute of Metrology (UzNIM)	Centre for Accreditation (O'ZAKK)	Uzstandart Uzbekexpertiza JSC, etc.