



3rd TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING: CATS AND ICE PILOT PHASE IMPLEMENTATION

5-6 February 2024, Tbilisi, Georgia



3RD TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING: CAREC ADVANCED TRANSIT SYSTEM AND INFORMATION COMMON EXCHANGE (CATS/ICE) PILOT PHASE IMPLEMENTATION

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AGENDA

BACKGROUND

The knowledge and support technical assistance (KSTA) 9824 is supporting the implementation of the CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda (CITA) 2030 by enhancing the capacity of customs agencies and the CAREC Customs Cooperation Committee (CCC) to better respond to the rapidly evolving trade environment in CAREC countries and increasing private sector demand for better services. The development of regional transit trade is one of the CCC priority areas and a major concern for the landlocked CAREC countries. The KSTA continues its work to assist the CAREC Program to help participating countries – Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan–finalize and operationalize the testing period of the CAREC Advanced Transit System (CATS) and Information Common Exchange (ICE).

CATS/ICE is a regional harmonized electronic system for controlling the movement of goods in transit through CAREC member states. It aims to help trade flow smoothly and efficiently across borders and enhance the CAREC region's position in the dynamic global and regional supply chains. The CAREC CATS/ICE architecture provides a single exchange of transit data and allows for implementing a comprehensive transit guarantee mechanism where national legislation enables this facility to be introduced.

OBJECTIVES

Recognizing the need to create favorable conditions for the development of foreign trade and aiming to simplify transit procedures to accelerate the movement of goods across their state borders, participating countries Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Uzbekistan signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in October 2023 to test the software, identify issues, and to find solutions for implementing the CATS and ICE.

The representatives of CATS / ICE working groups will meet with the following objectives:

- (i) Agree on the test phase work plan
- (ii) Finalize the CATS/ICE operational guides
- (iii) Discuss the scenarios to be used for the testing phase of the CATS/ICE prototype and evaluation and reporting requirements
- (iv) Provide recommendations and resolutions to ensure compliance and smooth implementation of the testing activities

- (v) Discuss the requirement per national laws and regulations and ongoing reforms in related areas for future CATS/ICE implementation

PARTICIPANTS

- Members of the three working groups (from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan) namely, (i) Legal and Regulatory, (ii) Information and Communication Technology (ICT), and iii) Customs Control Facilitation
- Asian Development Bank staff and consultants
- International consultants for CATS/ICE

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

5 February (Monday)	
09:30 – 10:00 (Tbilisi time)	Registration
10:00 – 10:20	<p>Opening Session (20 minutes)</p> <p>Ms. Lesley Lahm, Country Director for Georgia, Asian Development Bank</p> <p>Mr. Samson Uridia, Head of Department for International Relations, Revenue Service, Ministry of Finance of Georgia</p>
10:20 – 11:00	<p>Session 1: Status of Implementation of CATS/ICE Development Pilot Phase (40 minutes)</p> <p><i>ADB will present status updates on the implementation of CATS and ICE Pilot Phase following the 2nd Technical Working Group Meeting held on 18 December 2023 and the test phase work plan</i></p> <p>Speaker: Ms. Zulfia Karimova, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, Regional Cooperation and Integration Unit, Central and West Asia Department, Asian Development Bank (20 minutes)</p> <p>Open Discussion (20 minutes)</p>
11:00 – 11:30	Group Photo Session and Coffee/Tea Break
11:30 – 12:30	<p>Session 2: Updates on CATS/ICE Transit Declaration Data Fields and User Guides (60 minutes)</p> <p><i>ADB will present updates on the development of CATS/ICE transit Declaration data fields and the draft CATS/ICE User Guides and seek comments from the participating countries.</i></p> <p>Speakers:</p>

	<p>Mr. Nigel Moore, Trade Facilitation Specialist, ADB Consultant (15 minutes) Mr. Viboon Chaojirapant and Mr. Jarrett Goh, GUUD System Design/ICT Experts (15 minutes)</p> <p>Open Discussion (30 minutes)</p>
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:30	<p>Session 3: Presentation on the scenarios to be used for the testing phase of the CATS/ICE prototype and pilot evaluation and reporting requirements (90 minutes)</p> <p>Speakers: Mr. Nigel Moore, Trade Facilitation Specialist, ADB Consultant (30 minutes) Mr. Ying Qian, Trade Facilitation Specialist, ADB Consultant (30 minutes)</p> <p>Open Discussion (30 minutes)</p>
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee/Tea Break
15:45 – 16:20	<p>Session 4: Update on ICE Access and Technical Helpdesk (35 minutes)</p> <p>Speakers: Mr. Viboon Chaojirapant and Mr. Jarrett Goh, GUUD System Design/ICT Experts (20 minutes)</p> <p>Open Discussion (15 minutes)</p>
16:20 – 16:30	<p>Wrap up of Day 1 (10 minutes)</p> <p>Speaker: Ms. Zulfia Karimova, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, Regional Cooperation and Integration Unit, Central and West Asia Department, Asian Development Bank</p>
18:00 – 20:00	Welcome Dinner Hosted by the Government of Georgia
6 February (Tuesday)	
09:30 – 10:00 (Tbilisi time)	Registration
10:00 – 11:30	<p>Session 5: Breakout Sessions: Working Group Discussions (90 minutes)</p> <p>Group 1 – Legal and Regulatory Working Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working Group communication and reporting procedures

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues involved for preparation of the multi-country agreement for CATS/ICE implementation • Assessment of legal and regulatory compliance requirement and reforms and capacity building needs for the implementation of CATS/ICE after the pilot phase <p><i>Facilitator: Mr. Ying Qian</i>, Trade Facilitation Specialist, ADB Consultant</p> <p>Group 2 – IT Working Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working Group communication and reporting procedures • Master data requirements – HS Codes, etc., • Standing Data Model requirements and input – custom office names and codes, etc., • CATS/ICE transit declaration data fields and draft CATS/ICE user guides <p><i>Facilitator: Mr. Viboon Chaojirapant</i> and <i>Mr. Jarrett Goh</i>, GUUD System Design/ICT Experts</p> <p>Group 3 – Customs Control Facilitation Working Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working Group communication and reporting procedures • Utilization of CATS for risk management purposes, including customs control data provided by other customs administrations • Guarantee Mechanism • CATS/ICE transit declaration data fields and draft CATS/ICE user guides <p><i>Facilitator: Mr. Nigel Moore</i>, Trade Facilitation Specialist, ADB Consultant</p>
11:30 – 11:45	Coffee/Tea Break
11:45 – 12:15	<p>Session 6: Working Group Presentations (30 minutes)</p> <p><i>Working Group facilitators will present summary of the results of their meeting, including revised terms of reference, agreements reached, and next steps.</i></p> <p><i>Facilitator: Mr. Ying Qian</i>, Trade Facilitation Specialist, ADB Consultant</p>
12:15 –12:45	<p>Session 7: CATS/ICE Agreement: Approval Process and Timeline (30 minutes)</p> <p><i>Each country is requested to present their approval process, procedures, and prerequisites in signing an multilateral agreement, based on their national legislation and practices.</i></p> <p>Speakers (5 minutes each):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Azerbaijan Customs Representative • Georgia Customs Representative • Turkmenistan Customs Representative

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uzbekistan Customs Representative <p><i>Facilitator: Mr. Ying Qian, Trade Facilitation Specialist, ADB Consultant</i></p> <p>Open Discussion (10 minutes)</p>
12:45 –13:00	<p>Closing Session</p> <p>Georgia Revenue Service ADB</p>
13:00 – 14:30	<p>Lunch</p>
14:30 – 15:30	<p>Part 1 - Session 8: Experience Sharing – Georgia’s Accession to the Common Transit Convention (CTC) of the European Union (EU) and implementation of the New Computerized Transit System (NCTS) (60 minutes)</p> <p><i>Georgia has been implementing a comprehensive EU TA on Supporting the accession of Georgia to the CTC and launching of the NCTS. The experiences learned in areas of IT development, customs control, and legal and regulatory reforms will prove to be extremely valuable for CATS/ICE pilot which is modelled after CTC/NCTS.</i></p> <p>Presentations by Georgia Revenue Service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience in Preparing for Accession to CTC and Simplification of Formalities in Trade in Goods (Single Administrative Document / SAD) Convention IT System Transformation Customs Control Issues and Reforms Legal and regulatory reforms
15:30 – 15:45	<p>Coffee/Tea Break</p>
15:45 – 17:00	<p>Part 2 - Session 8: Experience Sharing – Georgia’s Accession to the Common Transit Convention (CTC) of the European Union (EU) and implementation of the New Computerized Transit System (NCTS) (75 minutes)</p> <p>Open discussion</p>