



5th TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING ON CAREC ADVANCED TRANSIT SYSTEM AND INFORMATION COMMON EXCHANGE (CATS/ICE) PILOT PHASE IMPLEMENTATION

12-13 March 2025, Baku, Azerbaijan

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's priority areas and a major concern for landlocked CAREC countries. The KSTA continues its work to assist the CAREC Program to help participating countries – Azerbaijan, Georgia, 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. It allows for the implementation of a comprehensive transit guarantee mechanism where national legislation enables this facility to be introduced.

OBJECTIVES

Building on the outcomes of the 4th Technical Working Group Meeting held on 15-16 April 2024, in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, and parallel testing week, the meeting aims to:

- (i) discuss the outcomes of the CATS/ICE prototype system testing undertaken in 2024;
- (ii) review key CATS/ICE system updates undertaken since September 2024;
- (iii) review the CATS/ICE progress achieved in 2024; and
- (iv) elaborate the next steps in the CATS/ICE pilot phase implementation

PARTICIPANTS

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

MEETING DETAILS

- Date: 12-13 March 2025
- Venue: WCO Regional Office for Capacity Building, Natig Aliyev str, 4-a AZ1025, Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

12 March 2025, Wednesday (09:30 – 17:00, Baku Time, GMT+4)	
09:30 – 10:00	Registration
10:00 – 10:15	Opening Session (15 minutes) Ms. Sunniya Durrani-Jamal , Country Director, ADB Resident Mission in Azerbaijan (5 minutes) Mr. Antonio Lo Parco , Director of the Regional Office for Capacity Building of the WCO Europe Region (5 minutes) Mr. Natig Shirinov , Deputy Chairman of the Azerbaijan State Customs Committee (5 minutes)
10:15 – 10:20	Group Photo Session (5 minutes)
10:20 – 10:40	Coffee and Tea Break (20 minutes)
10:40 – 11:00	Session 1: Introduction of the Agenda and Updates on the Status of Implementation of the CATS/ICE Development Pilot Phase (20 minutes) Speaker: Ms. Zulfia Karimova , Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, Regional Cooperation and Integration Unit, Central and West Asia Department, Asian Development Bank (10 minutes) Open Discussion (10 minutes)
11:00 – 11:30	Session 2: Presentation of the 2024 CATS/ICE Pilot Progress Report and Recommendations (30 minutes) Speaker: Mr. Nigel Moore , Trade Facilitation Specialist, ADB Consultant (20 minutes) Open Discussion (10 minutes)
11:30 – 12:00	Session 3: Discussion of the key system changes identified by countries during the Parallel system test and incorporated into CATS-ICE Prototype Version 2 (30 minutes) <i>Facilitators:</i> Mr. Viboon Chaojirapant , GUUD System Design/ICT Expert and Mr. Nigel Moore , Trade Facilitation Specialist, ADB Consultant
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch at Sumakh Restaurant
13:30 – 14:15	Session 3 (cont.): Discussion of the key system changes identified by countries during the Parallel system test and incorporated into CATS-ICE Prototype Version 2 (45 minutes) <i>Facilitators:</i> Mr. Viboon Chaojirapant , GUUD System Design/ICT Expert and Mr. Nigel Moore , Trade Facilitation Specialist, ADB Consultant

14:15 – 14:45	Session 4: Presentation on the CATS/ICE Prototype Upgrade <i>(30 minutes)</i> Speaker: Mr. Viboon Chaojirapant , GUUD System Design/ICT Expert
14:45 – 15:00	Coffee and Tea Break <i>(15 minutes)</i>
15:00 – 16:15	Session 5: Breakout Sessions - Working Group Discussions <i>(75 minutes)</i> Group 1 – ITC Working Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of action points arising from the 4th TWG Meeting • Master data requirements – HS Codes, etc., • Standing Data Model requirements and input – custom office names and codes, etc., • Discussion of system guidance for CATS-ICE Prototype Version 2 <i>Facilitator:</i> Mr. Viboon Chaojirapant , GUUD System Design/ICT Expert Group 2 – Customs Control Facilitation Working Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of action points arising from the 4th TWG Meeting • Discussion of user guidance for CATS-ICE Prototype Version 2 <i>Facilitator:</i> Mr. Nigel Moore , Trade Facilitation Specialist, ADB Consultant
16:15 – 16:45	Session 5: Breakout Sessions - Working Group Presentations <i>(30 minutes)</i> <i>Working Group facilitators will present a summary of the results of their meeting, including revised terms of reference, agreements reached, and action points.</i> <i>Facilitator:</i> Mr. Nigel Moore , Trade Facilitation Specialist, ADB Consultant
16:45 – 17:00	Wrap up of Day 1 <i>(15 minutes)</i> Speaker: Ms. Zulfia Karimova , Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, ADB
18:00 – 20:00	Welcome Dinner Hosted Azerbaijan State Customs Committee Sedef Restaurant
13 March 2025, Thursday (09:30 – 14:40, Baku Time, GMT+4)	
09:30 – 10:00	Registration
10:00 – 10:30	Session 6: Presentation of the Draft 2025 CATS/ICE Pilot Workplan <i>(30 minutes)</i>

	<p>Speaker: Mr. Nigel Moore, Trade Facilitation Specialist, ADB Consultant (20 minutes)</p> <p>Open Discussion (10 minutes)</p>
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee and Tea Break (30 minutes)
11:00 – 11:50	<p>Session 7: Country Feedback and Intervention (50 minutes)</p> <p>Speakers: (10 minutes each) Azerbaijan State Customs Committee Georgia Revenue Service Uzbekistan State Customs Committee</p> <p><i>Facilitator:</i> Ms. Zulfia Karimova, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, ADB</p> <p>Open Discussion (20 minutes)</p>
11:50 – 12:20	<p>Session 8: Presentation on the Memorandum of Understanding Between Customs and Trade Operator on Participation in the CAREC Advanced Transit System (CATS) (30 minutes)</p> <p>Speaker: Mr. Ying Qian, Trade Facilitation Specialist, ADB</p> <p>Open Discussion (20 minutes)</p>
12:20 – 14:00	Lunch at Sumakh Restaurant
14:00 – 14:30	<p>Session 9: Way Forward and Next Steps (30 minutes)</p> <p>Speaker: Ms. Zulfia Karimova, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, ADB (10 minutes)</p> <p>Open Discussion (20 minutes)</p>
14:30 – 14:40	<p>Closing Session (10 minutes)</p> <p>Azerbaijan State Customs Committee (TBC) (5mins) Ms. Zulfia Karimova, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, ADB (5mins)</p>
14:40 onwards	Open Session: Bilateral Meetings
18:00 – 20:00	<p>Welcome Dinner hosted by the Asian Development Bank Venue: TBC</p>