



INSURER AND GUARANTOR LIAISON GROUP MEETING: CATS AND ICE PILOT IMPLEMENTATION

9 September 2025, Tashkent, Uzbekistan



BACKGROUND

Regional transit development remains a core priority for the CAREC region, especially for its landlocked countries. Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Uzbekistan are leading the rollout of the CAREC Advanced Transit System (CATS) and Information Common Exchange (ICE)—a harmonized electronic platform for managing goods in transit across CAREC. The system enables secure, streamlined data exchange and supports a regional transit guarantee mechanism where permitted by national legislation. These reforms will strengthen trade facilitation and deepen CAREC's integration into regional and global supply chains.

CATS/ICE is modeled on the European Union's New Computerized Transit System (NCTS), which Georgia has already joined and with which Azerbaijan is closely familiar. Turkey, a key trading partner for all CAREC members, is also a long-standing NCTS member. A similar system, the ASEAN Customs Transit System (ACTS), has been implemented in Southeast Asia. CATS/ICE is designed to interconnect seamlessly with both NCTS and ACTS, helping realize the vision of a Euro–Asia continental trade bridge in the future.

A defining feature of CATS/ICE is its risk-based, cost-efficient guarantee mechanism, which incentivizes compliant traders by allowing varied guarantee levels tailored to operator risk profiles and supporting multiple transit movements over a set period of time. This approach aligns with global best practices promoted under the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and WCO Transit Guidelines. In this context, the effective operation of insurers and guarantors, and their coordination with customs authorities, will be essential to maximize the benefits of the system.

After several years of dedicated work by ADB and the customs authorities of the three participating countries, the CATS/ICE system is now nearing real-world deployment. The final round of testing will involve traders, insurers, and guarantors, allowing them to use the prototype system, familiarize themselves with its functionality, and provide feedback. To support this process, an Insurer and Guarantor Liaison Group meeting is planned in Tashkent on 9 September. The meeting will introduce the key features of CATS/ICE, outline the next phase of testing for insurers and guarantors, and provide a platform for stakeholders from the three countries to connect and establish business relationships.

OBJECTIVES

- **Introduce CATS/ICE and its Regional Significance:** Present the purpose, design, and benefits of the CAREC CATS/ICE system and highlight the role of Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Uzbekistan as pioneers in regional transit digitalization.
- **Showcase International Linkages:** Demonstrate how CATS/ICE is modeled on the EU's NCTS and designed for interoperability with ACTS in Southeast Asia and emphasize the system's role in building a seamless Euro–Asia trade corridor, and business opportunities to be brought to the region.
- **Explain the Risk-Based Guarantee Mechanism:** Clarify how the system incentivizes compliant traders through flexible and cost-efficient guarantees and highlight alignment with WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and WCO Transit Guidelines.
- **Engage Insurers and Guarantors in System Testing:** Familiarize stakeholders with the prototype system and its functionality, outline the next round of testing and define roles for insurers and guarantors; and gather feedback on practical, legal, and operational aspects of the guarantee mechanism.
- **Strengthen Partnerships and Market Readiness:** Provide a platform for insurers and guarantors from the three countries to connect and establish business relationships, promote collaboration with customs

authorities to ensure effective operation of the guarantee chain; and lay the groundwork for a sustainable and integrated market for CATS/ICE guarantees.

PARTICIPANTS

- Representatives of insurance and guarantee companies, as well as other financial institutions providing similar services, from Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Uzbekistan
- Representatives of industry associations or chambers representing the insurance and guarantee sector
- (Optional) Representatives of insurance regulators and non-banking financial supervisory authorities from the three countries
- Asian Development Bank staff and consultants

AGENDA

9 September 2025, Tuesday	
14:00 – 14:15 (Tashkent time)	Registration
14:15 – 14:30 (15 mins)	Opening Session Speaker: Ms. Zulfia Karimova , Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, Regional Cooperation and Integration Unit, Central and West Asia Department, Asian Development Bank (15 minutes)
14:30 – 15:30 (60 mins)	Session 1: Overview of CATS/ICE: Development History and Key Features Speaker: Mr. Ying Qian , Trade Facilitation Specialist, ADB Consultant (30 minutes) Open Discussion (30 minutes)
15:30 – 16:00 (30 mins)	Group Photo Session and Coffee/Tea Break
16:00 – 17:00 (60 mins)	Session 2: System Interface: Access to CATS/ICE by Insurers and Guarantors (60 minutes) Speaker: Mr. Viboon Chaojirapant , GUUD System Design/ICT Expert (30 minutes) Open Discussion (30 minutes)
17:00 – 18:00 (60 mins)	Session 3: Next Testing Phase: Engagement of Insurers and Guarantors Speakers: Mr. Aivaras Pigaga , Customs and Transit Facilitation Specialist, ADB Consultant (30 minutes) Open Discussion (30 minutes)
18:30 – 18:45 (15 mins)	Closing Session Ms. Zulfia Karimova , Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, ADB