



## Consultation Meeting and Regional Workshop on Shymkent-Tashkent-Khujand Economic Corridor Development

12-14 September 2023  
Ballroom I, Intercontinental Hotel, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

### Background

The Shymkent-Tashkent-Khujand Economic Corridor (STKEC) is a regional cooperation initiative involving Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, and supported by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The initiative aims to foster economic development of the three countries—in particular the cities and regions included in the STKEC—by promoting cross-border economic cooperation and integration among them. The geographic focus of the STKEC development is at present on Shymkent city and Turkestan region of Kazakhstan, Tashkent city and Tashkent region of Uzbekistan and Sughd region (including Khujand city) of Tajikistan.

In October 2018, ADB approved a [\\$0.8 million technical assistance \(TA\)](#) to assess the economic corridor development (ECD) potential in the STKEC region. In 2019-2020, a [road map](#) for STKEC development was formulated in close consultation with key stakeholders, including central and local government officials of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, the business community and development partners. The road map identifies six intertwined thematic focus areas for STKEC development<sup>1</sup>.

In October 2020, ADB mobilized an additional \$1 million in TA resources to help the three countries implement the road map. The TA activities include (i) the conduct of prefeasibility studies on the establishment of an International Center for Industrial Cooperation (ICIC) between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, and a trade and logistics center (TLC) in Sughd oblast of Tajikistan; (ii) supporting the STKEC institutional set-up—the creation and operationalization of the STKEC Steering Committee and the Thematic Working Groups; and (iii) conducting workshops to share knowledge related to ECD.

In November 2021, ADB engaged PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt Ltd (PwC) India and associated firms in Central Asia to conduct prefeasibility studies of the ICIC and TLC. In December 2021-April 2022, the consulting team held consultation workshops and bilateral meetings with multiple stakeholders in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan on the scope and methodologies of the two studies, and information and data needs on the ICIC and TLC studies. In October-November 2022, the consulting team conducted a physical mission to the STKEC countries, to collect missing data and information for the studies, and discuss/validate preliminary concept and design of the ICIC and TLC.

In May 2023, a Knowledge Sharing Program in Promoting Regional Cooperation and Integration for Economic Corridor Development was conducted in Batumi, Georgia. Participants from Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan learned Georgia's experience in RCI and discussed key

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<sup>1</sup> The six thematic focus areas are: (i) improvement of road and railway transport connectivity; (ii) modernization of border crossing points and border management; (iii) development of horticulture value chains; (iv) modernization of sanitary and phytosanitary measures and development of food quality certification services; (v) development of regional tourism; and (vi) development of special economic zones and industrial zones.



areas for reforms, particularly modernizing border crossing points in furthering STKEC development.

### **Objectives**

The Consultation Meeting and Regional Workshop on STKEC Development to be held **on 12-14 September** aim to

- (i) discuss with and seek feedback from key stakeholders in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan on the draft prefeasibility studies of the ICIC and the TLC to finalize the two studies;
- (ii) better understand the needs for infrastructure investment and policy interventions for the development of the ICIC and showcase logistics management in Uzbekistan for Kazakhstan and Tajikistan, including for TLC development in Sugd region of Tajikistan; and
- (iii) discuss with key stakeholders of the three countries and development partners on the next steps for the STKEC including identifying specific areas for joint intervention and possible signing of the memorandum of understanding on STKEC development among the three countries.

### **Target Participants**

The target participants of the workshop include central and local government official of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan and representatives of the business community and development partners.

## AGENDA

Day 1 (Tuesday, 12 September 2023): Consultations with Stakeholders on Draft Prefeasibility Studies of TLC and ICIC	
08:00–09:00	Registration
09:00–09:15	<p><b>Opening Session</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moderator: Ms. Xinglan Hu, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, CWRC, ADB</li> </ul> <p>Welcome Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Abdulla Khasimov, Advisor to Minister, Ministry of Investment, Industry and Trade, Uzbekistan</li> <li>Ms. Lyaziza Sabyrova, Regional Head, RCI Unit, CWRD, ADB (via video recording)</li> </ul>
09:15–09:25	<p>Overview of STKEC Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms. Xinglan Hu, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, CWRC, ADB</li> </ul>
09:25–09:50	<b>Coffee Break/Group Photo</b>
09:50–12:00	<p><b>Session 1: Prefeasibility Study of TLC in Sughd Region of Tajikistan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moderator: Roman Mogilevskii, Senior Economist, CWRC ADB</li> </ul> <p>Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Need for Modern Logistics Center in Sughd Region</b> by Mr. Sharifjon Akhmedov, Head of the Department of Investment and State Property Management of Sughd Oblast (15 mins)</li> <li><b>Highlights of Draft TLC Report</b>, by PwC consulting firm (25 mins)</li> </ul> <p>Discussants (10 min. each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Kabirov Khurshed, Deputy Director, State Institution, Ministry of Transport “Automobile Transport and Logistics Services”, Tajikistan</li> <li>Mr. Kamoliddinzoda Ilyosiddin, Head, Administration of Sughd Free Economic Zone</li> <li>Mr. Mansur Nasimov, Director for Business Development, Golden Dried Fruits Logistics Center, Tashkent region, Uzbekistan</li> </ul> <p>Open discussion</p> <p><b>Summary of Discussion</b></p>
12:00–13:30	<b>Lunch (No’mad Restaurant)</b>

14:00–15:00	<p><b>Session 2: Prefeasibility Study of ICIC between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderator: Bahodir Ganiev, Economic Corridor Development Specialist, ADB consultant</li> </ul> <p>Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Establishment of ICIC: Rationale, Progress to Date, and Next Steps</b>, Ministry of Trade and Integration, Kazakhstan (TBC) (15 mins)</li> <li>• <b>Highlights of Draft ICIC Report</b>, by PwC consulting firm (25 mins)</li> </ul> <p>Discussants (10 min. each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Gulzhan Arginbayeva, Advisor to the Minister of Trade and Integration - Deputy Prime Minister, Kazakhstan</li> <li>• Mr. Shavkat Tulyaganov, Head, Department for the Transboundary Development of Special Economic and Trade Zones, Ministry of Investment, Industry and Trade, Uzbekistan</li> </ul>
15:00–15:20	<p><b>Coffee Break</b></p>
15:20–16:50	<p><b>Session 2: Prefeasibility Study of ICIC between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan (continued)</b></p> <p>Discussants (10 min. each):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Nurbol Sattarov, Deputy Akim of Maktaaral Region, Akimat of Turkestan Oblast, Kazakhstan</li> <li>• Mr. Umidjon Akhrorov, Leading Specialist, Department of Investment Attraction and Cooperation with International Organizations, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Uzbekistan</li> <li>• Mr. Bakhodir Botirov, Deputy Governor on Investments, Syrdarya Region</li> <li>• Mr. Sobir Kalonov Head of Secretariat, First Deputy Governor, Syrdarya Region</li> </ul> <p>Open discussion</p> <p>Summary of Discussion<sup>2</sup></p>
16:50–17:00	<p><b>Concluding Remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Xinglan Hu, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, CWRC, ADB</li> </ul>
18:30-20:00	<p><b>Welcome Dinner hosted by ADB</b></p>

<sup>2</sup> The official from Syrdarya region may be asked to give presentation on **Economic Potential of Syrdarya Region in STKEC Initiative** at end of Day 1 if discussion on Day 1 end early.

Day 2 (Wednesday, 13 September 2023): Visits to ICIC Site and Gold Dried Fruits Logistics Center	
07:30-7:45	Assembly at the hotel lobby
07:45	Departure
Day 3 (Thursday, 14 September 2023): Regional Workshop on Next Steps in STKEC Development	
09:00-0910	<b>Session 3: Prospects for STKEC Development</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moderator: Ms. Zulfia Karimova, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, CWRC, ADB</li> </ul>
09:10–09:50	<b>Presentation (10 mins each)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Economic Potential of Syrdarya Region in STKEC Initiative</b>, by Mr. Anvar Ubaydullayev, Deputy head of the department of investments<sup>3</sup></li> <li><b>Transit Trade Facilitation in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan</b>, by Bahodir Ganiev, ADB consultant.</li> <li><b>Almaty-Bishkek Economic Corridor Development: Progress to Date and Lessons for STKEC Development</b>, by Mr. Kylychbek Djakypov, ADB consultant</li> <li><b>Trade Potential along STKEC</b>, by Mr. Roman Mogilevskii, Senior Economist, CWRC, ADB</li> </ul>
09:50-10:10	<b>Open Discussion</b>
10:10-10:15	<b>Summary of Discussion</b>
10:15–10:35	<b>Coffee Break</b>
10:35–12:00	<b>Session 4: Modernization of Border Crossing Points for Trade and Tourism Facilitation in STKEC Region</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moderator: Mr. Bahodir Ganiev, ADB Consultant</li> </ul> Presentations (10 mins each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Construction of Modern Border Crossing Point on Azerbaijan-Georgia Border</b>, by Mr. Radomir Djuric, ADB consultant</li> <li><b>Modernization of Border Crossing Points in STKEC Region by Uzbekistan</b>, by Mr. Sanjar Sobirov inspector of the Department of Control and proceeding organization, State Customs Committee, Uzbekistan</li> </ul>

<sup>3</sup> This presentation may happen in Day 1 if time allows.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Initial Findings on Joint Border Crossing Point Assessment of Oybek-Fotehobod</b>, by Ms. Zulfia Karimova, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, ADB</li><li>• <b>Management at Fotehobod Border Crossing Point</b>, by Mr. Parviz Kamoletdinov, USAID TCA Regional Trade Advisor</li></ul> <p><b>Open Discussion</b></p> <p><b>Summary of Discussion</b></p>
12:00-13:30	<b>Lunch (No'mad Restaurant)</b>
14:00-15:30	<p><b>Session 5: Establishing Institutional Framework STKEC Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Moderator: Ms. Xinglan Hu, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, CWRC, ADB</li></ul> <p>Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Proposed Institutional Setup for STKEC Development</b>, by Mr. Bahodir Ganiev, ADB Consultant</li></ul> <p><b>Discussion on Next Steps in STKEC Development, and MOU on STKEC Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Kazakhstan</li><li>• Uzbekistan</li><li>• Tajikistan</li></ul> <p><b>Concluding Remarks</b>, Representatives of Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and ADB</p>
15:30	<b>Departure</b>