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CAREC In-country Workshops: Highlights

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General Messages

- Importance of SCO and EurasEC
- Need to reflect country development plans
- CAREC's valuable contribution to building understanding
- Importance of third party advice and guidance
- Need for financing mechanisms for regional projects (e.g., Western Corridor)

Formulating the Comprehensive Action Plan

- SCO goal: economic union/free trade area
- CAREC goals/objectives: what the Program can do
 - improve the business climate
 - trade expansion
 - increased commitment to regional cooperation
- Need for CAREC to be strategic in its approach
- “Bold strokes” to accelerate momentum (transport corridors)

Institutional Considerations

- Importance of mainstreaming regional cooperation
- Need to provide for strategic direction and integrated approaches
- Importance of research/knowledge base
- Need to strengthen internal capacity in some countries

The Business Perspective

- Need for a business orientation: connecting to markets
- Interest in economic corridors/global value chains
- Importance of business development forums

The Trade Perspective

- Expected outcomes: simplified systems of transit trade
- Priorities: modernization of cargo manifests; expansion of TIR system
- Need for an integrated transport/trade/transit strategy
- Need for greater coordination between trade facilitation and policy
- Interest in border free trade zones

The Transport Perspective

- Expected outcomes: sharp cuts in time/cost of transporting goods
- Importance of multi-modal transport corridors
- Importance of integrating country public investment programs
- Importance of bilateral transport agreements

The Energy Perspective

- Expected outcomes: integrated energy markets
- Country clusters: bilateral agreements
- Need for more extensive “deal-making”
- Interest in energy efficiency initiatives

Broadening the CAREC Program to Include New Sectors

- Maintain focus on priority sectors (transport/trade/energy)
- Interest in new sectors
- Need for caution
- Expand on a project specific basis