

Presentation on Pakistan Customs initiatives in Covid-19 environment and CAREC Regional Integration Projects

By

Muhammad Saeed Jadoon Khan
Chief (Facilitation & Compliance)

Trade related measures implemented or adopted in response to Covid-19

- In wake of Covid-19, extended time limit of filing the Goods Declaration from 10 days to 25 days. This measure was adopted in order to save the fine/penalties.
- to assist the traders, directed the port authorities to not charge demurrage and detention charges from the traders.

Trade related measures implemented or adopted in response to Covid-19

- Ministry of Commerce banned the export of Tyek Suits, Disposable Gowns, Disposable gloves, Face Shields, Surgical Masks, N-95 Masks, Bio hazard bags, Goggles, Shoe Cover and Hand Sanitizers
- Ministry of Commerce vide Officer Memorandum banned the on export of anti-malarial drugs
- FBR exempted the listed Covid-19 related items from Customs Duty, Sales Tax and Income Tax for an initial period of three months. On the lapse of the prescribed period, all the listed items were again exempted
-
- Restriction on export of N95 masks and surgical masks has been lifted

Border Procedures:

- Flight operations were suspended in month of March. National carrier i.e. operator special flights for the stranded passengers.
- International flight operations started to resume in June, 2020. Currently, some airlines are still not operating owing to the restrictions imposed at their hub stations.
- The country was put under a nation-wide lockdown form April 1 and extended twice until 9 May. Upon its end, the lockdown was eased in phases

(INTEGRATED TRANSIT TRADE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM – ITTMS)

Background:

- **Scope:** Development of Torkham, Chaman, and Wagah Border Crossing Points
- **Purpose:** Trade Facilitation and developing Pakistan into a transit trade corridor between Central Asian Republics and Eastern Countries
- ITTMS Project conceived in 2015, loan signed in 2016 with ADB.
- Torkham awarded in December 2018, Chaman awarded in August 2019

Key Progress Made :

- Torkham land acquisition issues resolved after hectic negotiations, which was pending since 2018
- Buzgaar rights compensation paid at Chaman, due to which the project had suffered a delay of approx. 1 year

Key Challenges Since Inception:

- Land acquisition delayed much more than anticipated

Pakistan National Single Window

- Pakistan intends to increase its international ranking of ease of doing business through compiling to WTO TFA Category-C commitments
- Pakistan National Single window is a platform that allows parties involved in trade and transport to lodge standardized info and docs using single-entry point to fulfil all import, export and transit related regulatory reqs.
- PSW includes Port community syst, RMS, e-payment, and back end automation of key regulatory authorities besides re-alignment of WeBOC.
- Tentative Implementation Plan:
 - **1st Phase Lite: Dec 2020**
 - **2nd Phase Core: Dec 2021**
 - **3rd Phase Advanced: Dec 2022 and onwards**