

**MINUTES OF THE CAREC CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON
REGIONAL TRANSPORT AND TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE
15 OCTOBER 2009, ULAANBAATAR**

1. The CAREC Transport and Trade Facilitation Strategy was endorsed by the CAREC Ministerial Conference held in November 2007 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan with the Implementation Action Plan (the Action Plan) endorsed the following year.
2. The Action Plan proposes that National Joint Transport and Trade Facilitation Committees (NJC) be established in all CAREC member countries. It also proposes that, with support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), a CAREC Regional Joint Transport and Trade Facilitation Committee (RJC) will be established to manage the implementation of the Action Plan in coordination with the NJCs.
3. ADB started its work on establishing the RJC soon after the endorsement of the Action Plan. A review of existing NJCs in the CAREC region was done during April and May 2009. The major findings and approach proposed for addressing NJC issues and plans for RJC were discussed at the National and Regional Joint Transport and Trade Facilitation Committee Workshop on 26 May 2009 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The participants at the workshop supported establishing the RJC.
4. A CAREC Consultative Meeting on Regional Joint Transport and Trade Facilitation Committee was convened on 15 October 2009 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia to further discuss the major matters related to establishing the RJC. A presentation was made on the preparatory work for establishing the RJC, including:
 - proposed RJC goal, outcomes and results framework, terms of reference and organizational structure;
 - RJC's regional leadership role in coordinating implementation of the TTFS and Action Plan; and
 - RJC's role as a regional forum to raise, discuss, and resolve regional transport and trade facilitation issues including CAREC corridor management.
5. The participants were briefed on the need for developing suitable indicators for the results framework. A draft statement establishing the RJC (covering proposed goals, outcomes and results framework, terms of reference and organizational structure) was discussed by the participants.
6. The participants affirmed the need for establishing the RJC and noted the need to clearly define and demarcate the areas of responsibilities among the Transport Sector Coordinating Committee, Customs Cooperation Committee, Trade Policy Coordination Committee, and private sector groups such as the CAREC Federation of Carrier and Forwarder Associations.
7. The participants will review the draft statement, hold internal consultations, provide comments to the CAREC Secretariat, and nominate representatives to the RJC, by 15 December 2009. Based on the outcomes of the further consultation with the CAREC countries, the first RJC Meeting will be convened in the first quarter of 2010 to endorse the statement and work program for 2010 for submission to the Senior Officials' Meeting and the Ministerial Conference.