

Regional Trade Facilitation & Customs Cooperation Program (RTFCC Program)

Progress and Work Plan

14-16 October 2004

Manila, Philippines

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RTFCC Program: Regional Context

Leveraging trade for accelerated economic transition

- Collective commitment to WTO accession (i.e., reforms of trade policy according to WTO Rules and Agreements)
- Concerted efforts to reform the Customs Codes and modernize customs services as a key trade facilitation measure

RTFCC Program: Objectives

Formally launched in 2002 as part of
CAREC Program:

- Promote concerted customs reforms & modernization
- Address issues of regional concerns

RTFCC Program: Two-pronged Approach:

- Country-specific activities with regional orientation
 - Revision of customs codes
 - Development of unified automated information systems
 - Customs border post infrastructure development
 - Accession to major international conventions
 - country-specific training
- Regional activities with country ownership
 - Support regional/bilateral initiatives to address issues of common concerns (e.g., transit and data-sharing)
 - Share knowledge (e.g, experience and lessons learned in customs modernization)
 - Organize regional training workshops

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Country-specific activities with regional orientation

- Support for revision of Customs Codes (KGZ, TAJ)
- Publication and Dissemination of new Customs Code (KGZ, September, 04)
- Automation and Border Infrastructure Dev (KGZ, TAJ), and dialogue ongoing to provide similar financial assistance for MON
- Support for training institutes (KGZ, PRC, TAJ, UZB)
- Country assessments & training on risk management & customs intelligence (Tashkent, Nov. 2004)

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Country-specific activities with regional orientation:

KGZ/TAJ: Regional Customs Modernization and Infrastructure Development

- Development of Unified Automated Information System (\$5 million each for KGZ and TAJ)
- Customs Border-post Infrastructure Development including provision of inspection and anti-smuggling equipment (\$2.5m for KGZ and \$5.7m for TAJ)
- Capacity Building Support for Customs Modernization focusing on review of organizational structure, customs procedures, human resource policy, and training (\$.5m grant each for KGZ and TAJ)

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Regional Activities

- **Training, Forums, Working Group and CCC Meetings**
 - Regional Transit Meeting, 21-23 February 04
 - CCC Forum on Trade Facilitation & Customs Modernization, 21-24 April, Beijing
 - Training on Rules of Origin, 9-13 Sept, Bangkok
 - CCC Forum on Private-Public Partnership, 14-16 October, Manila
 - Training on Risk Management requested by Uzbek Customs, 3-5 November, Tashkent
 - 3rd CCC Meeting & Working Group Meeting, 1-3 December, Baku
 - Regional Training on Automated Information Systems, co-sponsored with the Government of Singapore, Feb. 2005

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- Regional Activities
- **Bilateral initiatives:**
 - Transit Agreement: KAZ & KGZ on 26 March 04
 - Joint-border Processing: KGZ & KAZ on 1 July 04
 - Data-sharing agreement: KGZ & PRC in Sept 04
 - Transit Agreement: KGZ & TAJ expected end of year
 - Agreement on Mutual Administrative Assistance: PRC & UZB expected to be signed during the 3rd CCC Meetingb
 - Bilateral consultation for customs automation (ongoing among KGZ, TAJ, KAZ)

RTFCC Program: Initiatives&Proposals for 2005-2006

- Bilateral forum on joint border control involving all border agencies (KGZ/KAZ), 2005
- Transit agreement between KGZ and TAJ by end 2004
- Data platform (KAZ&PRC, KGZ&PRC)
- Regional training on risk management 2005 cofinanced by PRC
- Regional training on TIR convention 2005 cofinanced by PRC
- CCC Forums on customs automation, Feb 05 Singapore, and Korea (2006?)
- Needs assessments on customs infrastructure(UZB)
- Feasibility on TIR Accession (PRC), Consulting services is requested
- In-country training on risk management (KAZ, KGZ, TAJ, UZB)
- 3rd CCC Meeting 2004, Baku; Fourth CCC Meeting 2005, ???
- Bilateral consultation on automation among the member countries

Thank you!