



SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Third Regional Consultation Workshop for CAREC Transport and Trade Facilitation Strategy

**30–31 January 2008
Tashkent, Uzbekistan**

I. Introduction

1. The Third Regional Consultation Workshop (the Workshop) for CAREC Transport and Trade Facilitation Strategy (CAREC TTFS) was convened on 30-31 January 2008 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Delegations from all eight CAREC countries and representatives of multilateral institutions (MIs) and bilateral institutions (BIs) including the Asian Development Bank (ADB), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), European Commission (EU), EU Transport Corridor Europe–Caucasus–Asia (EU-TRACECA), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia National Secretariat (TRACECA), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), World Bank, and World Customs Organization (WCO) participated. The Workshop agenda and the list of participants are in Appendix 1.

II. CAREC TTFS and Action Plan

2. The Consultant team leader presented the major features and proposed contents of CAREC TTFS report. The delegations of CAREC participating countries and representatives of MIs/BIs provided comprehensive comments and suggestions. A comments matrix is in Appendix 2. The Workshop participants requested the Consultant to incorporate their comments and suggestions in the revised report. The Workshop participants agreed to finalize the CAREC TTFS report, subject to the incorporation of the comments and suggestions.

3. The Consultant team leader also presented a draft Action Plan for implementation of the CAREC TTFS. The Workshop participants provided comments. A comments matrix is in Appendix 3. The Consultant will revise the draft Action Plan based on the comments after the planned visits to all eight CAREC countries scheduled for February-March 2008.

III. Performance Measurement and Management Structures for CAREC Transport and Trade Facilitation

4. UNESCAP, World Bank, and WCO made presentations on (i) their models for performance measurement, and (ii) transport and trade facilitation committees. The Workshop participants appreciated the presentations and requested capacity building assistance from donor agencies in this area. An appropriate performance measurement model will be identified for CAREC TTFS and will be used for the CAREC corridors. Transport and trade facilitation management structures will be further discussed during the Consultant's field visits and will be included in the CAREC TTFS report, taking into account national legislations in CAREC participating countries.

IV. Next Steps

5. The Workshop participants agreed to the following schedule for the finalization of CAREC TTFS report and the preparation of the Action Plan:

- (i) Consultant's field visits to CAREC countries 18 February-15 March 2008

Date		
18-23 February 2008	Afghanistan	Kazakhstan
25 Feb-1 March 2008	Uzbekistan	Azerbaijan ¹
3-8 March 2008	Tajikistan	PRC
10-15 March 2008	Kyrgyz Republic	Mongolia

¹ Dates of visit subject to further confirmation.

- (ii) Submission of the draft Action Plan to ADB By 15 April 2008
- (iii) Report on the preparation status of the Action Plan to Senior Officials' Meeting April/May 2008
- (iv) Submission of the revised drafts of CAREC TTFS report and Action Plan to CAREC countries By 20 May 2008
- (v) Finalization of the CAREC TTFS report and endorsement of the Action Plan at Transport Sector Coordinating Committee Meeting June/July 2008
- (vi) Submission of the Action Plan to Senior Officials' Meeting September 2008
- (vii) Submission of the Action Plan to Ministerial Conference November 2008

6. The country delegations requested the Consultant to provide in advance to the CAREC countries the places to visit and issues to be discussed.

V. Other Business

7. CAREC Unit briefed on its activities related to CAREC Institute. It called for research and capacity building proposals. CAREC participating countries will provide the CAREC Unit with relevant research and capacity building proposals. The Workshop participants urged the staff of CAREC Institute to use the existing capacities of scientific, academic and research institutes.

VI. Concluding Remarks

8. The country delegations reaffirmed their commitment to working together to finalize CAREC TTFS report and the Action Plan according to paragraph 5.

9. The participants expressed their appreciation to the Government of Uzbekistan for hosting the Third Regional Consultation Workshop and for the arrangements extended by ADB.