



Virtual Regional Workshop on Implementing the Road Map for Shymkent-Tashkent-Khujand Economic Corridor Development

15:00pm-17:00pm (Manila time), 20 April 2021

I. Introduction

With the support of the governments of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has completed activities under a technical assistance (TA) that assessed economic corridor development potential among Shymkent, Tashkent, and Khujand, and their surrounding oblasts.¹ The road map for Shymkent-Tashkent-Khujand Economic Corridor (STKEC) development was formulated and a report that assesses the trade potential along the proposed STKEC was prepared. The road map for STKEC development includes six intertwined thematic focus areas, possible future projects and suggested institutional set-up for the STKEC development.

ADB has mobilized additional \$1 million in TA resources to help Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan implement the road map and advance work in the identified thematic areas, including two prefeasibility studies on the establishment of (i) an International Center for Trade and Economic Cooperation “Central Asia” (ICTEC) between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, and (ii) a trade and logistics center in Sugd oblast of Tajikistan. The two prefeasibility studies aim to boost trade among Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan, and in the broader Central Asian region, through improvement of cross-border economic cooperation, development of border areas and trade and logistics services, contributing to the STKEC development. Other activities include supporting the STKEC institutional set-up—the creation and operationalization of the STKEC Steering Committee and the Thematic Working Groups, and conducting workshops to share knowledge related to economic corridor development (ECD).

II. Objectives of the Workshop

A regional workshop on implementing the road map for STKEC development will be conducted on 20 April 2021. Because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the workshop will be held online.

The workshop will have the following objectives:

- (i) Disseminate the road map for STKEC development to stakeholders in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan, and
- (ii) Consult on planned activities to implement the road map, including the establishment of the STKEC Steering Committee in tandem with the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on the STKEC development among Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan

¹ TA 9630-REG: Assessing Economic Corridor Development Potential Among Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan.



AGENDA

Co-chairs: Mr. Abdurahmon Abdurahmonzoda, Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade, Tajikistan
 Mr. Safdar Parvez, Director, Regional Cooperation and Operations
 Coordination Division, Central and West Asia Department (CWRC), ADB

Facilitator: Ms. Xinglan Hu, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, CWRC, ADB

14:30–15:00	Signing up; video/audio connection checks
15:00–15:10	<p>Welcome Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Safdar Parvez, Director, CWRC, ADB • Mr. Abdurahmon Abdurahmonzoda, Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade, Tajikistan <p>Overview of the Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Saad Paracha, CAREC Unit Head, CWRC, ADB
15:10–16:00	<p>Session 1: Roadmap of Shymkent–Tashkent–Khujand Economic Corridor (STKEC) Development</p> <p><i>This session will present an overview of the road map for STKEC development. The presentation will highlight opportunities for strengthening cross-border economic cooperation among the Kazakh, Uzbek and Tajik parts of the STKEC region.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Xinglan Hu, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, CWRC, ADB</p> <p>Presentation (20 mins.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Bahodir Ganiev, ADB consultant <p>Feedback from the countries (focal agency of the STKEC) (20 mins.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Kairat Torebayev, Vice Minister of Trade and Integration, Kazakhstan (5-7 mins.) • Mr. Shukhrat Vafaev, Deputy Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade, and CAREC National Focal Point for Uzbekistan (5-7 mins.) • Mr. Abdullo Ziyoyon, Head of Main Department of Trade Policy and Consumer Market, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, Tajikistan (5-7 mins.) <p>Open discussion (10 mins.)</p>
16:00–16:50	<p>Session 2: Proposed Activities to Implement the Road Map for STKEC Development</p> <p><i>This session will present the proposed activities to implement the road map that the TA will continue support: (i) prefeasibility studies on the establishment of (a) an International Center for Trade and Economic Cooperation (ICTEC) on the border between Turkestan and Tashkent oblasts and (b) a trade and</i></p>



	<p><i>logistics center in Sugd oblast; (ii) training workshops for knowledge sharing on best practices in ECD; and (iii) operationalization of the STKEC institutional set-up.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Oleg Sumukhin, Senior Transport Specialist, CWTC, ADB</p> <p>Presentations (15 mins.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Xinglan Hu, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, CWRC, ADB – Next steps of implementation of TA activities • Ms. Tatiana Rey-Bellet, Director on TIR and Transit, International Road Transport Union – Facilitating cross-border transport for improved trade through TIR digitalization <p>Feedbacks from countries (central government agency, oblast and/or city administration) (20 mins.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Gulzhan Arginbayeva, Freelance Adviser to the Minister of Trade and Integration, Project Manager of ICTEC (5-7 mins.) • Mr. Abdulla Khashimov, Head of Department, Sector Focal Point for Transport, Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade, Uzbekistan (5-7 mins.) • Mr. Anvar Yakubi, Deputy Chairman of Sughd Oblast Administration, Tajikistan (5-7 mins.) <p>Open discussion (15 mins.)</p>
16:50–17:00	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Abdurahmon Abdurahmonzoda, Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade, Tajikistan • Mr. Safdar Parvez, Director, CWRC, ADB