



**Welcome to CAREC Seminar on Joint
Custom Control
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**Khial Muhammad Sahibi
Afghan Customs Department**



CONTENTS



- Objectives
- Afghan Customs Main Borders
- Current Customs Control Situation
- Factors have key role in Customs Control Membership of World Custom Organization (WCO)
- Joint Customs Control International Standards
- Meeting International Standards
- Challenges in Joint Customs Control
- Recommendations

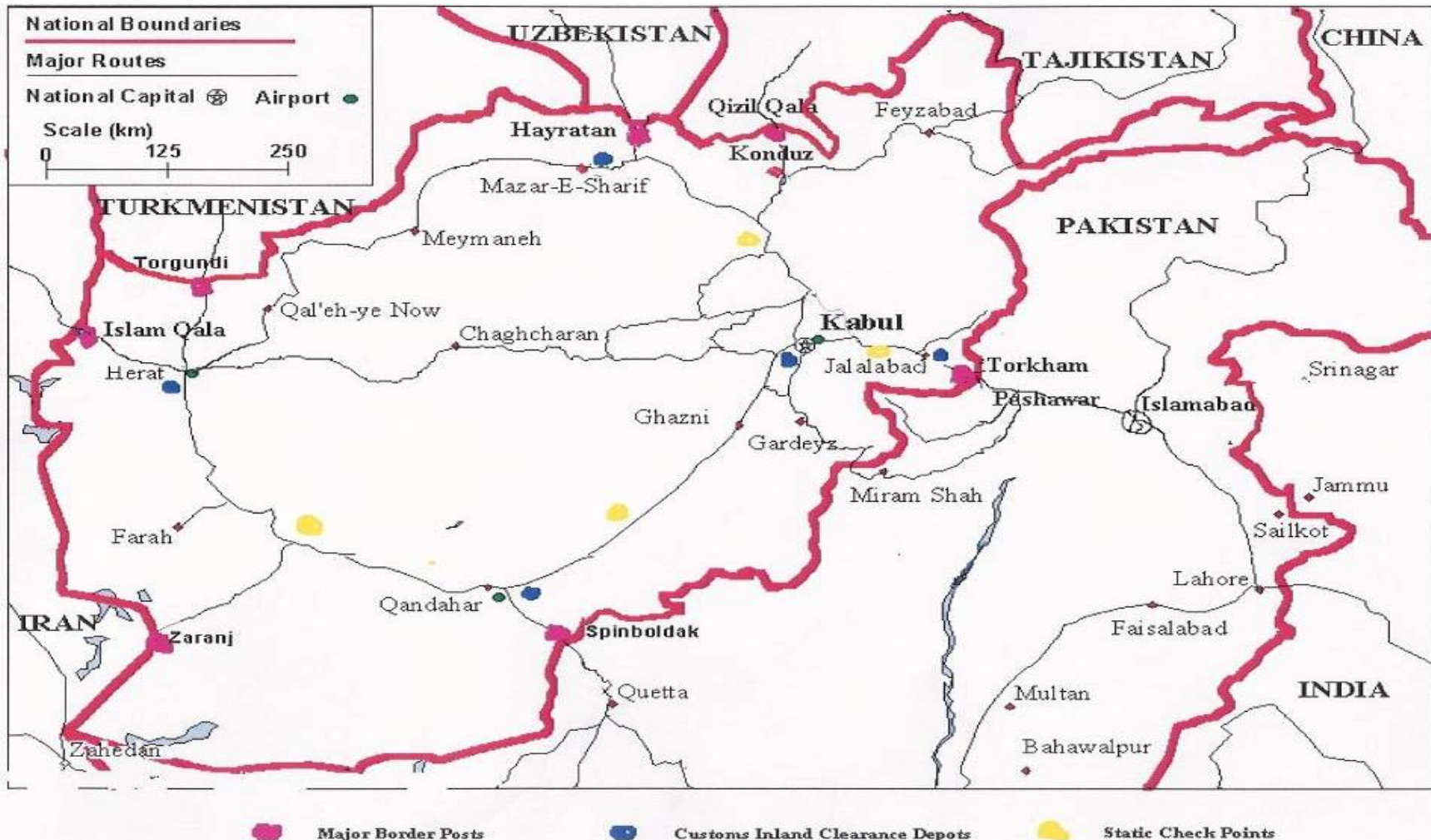


OBJECTIVE OF CUSTOMS CONTROL



- **Eliminating Barriers** (obstacles) to trade and facilitating the cross-border movement of goods between the territories of the contracting and dealing states.
- **Promoting conditions of a fair completion** in the free trade area and ensuring equitable benefits to all contracting and dealing states taking in to account their respective levels and pattern of economic development.
- **Creating effective Mechanism** (system) for the implementation of all relevant agreements.
- **Establishing a framework for further regional cooperation** to expand and enhance the mutual benefits of contracting and dealing states
- **Creating More credible** control mechanism.

Brief Introduction of Afghanistan & Neighbors





AFGHAN CUSTOMS MAIN BORDERS



- Joint custom control as body of actions which usually apply on **common borders** to ensure compliance conformity with the laws and regulations to achieve the main objectives. Our borders:
- Turkham and SpinBuldak borders with Pakistan **2430 km.**
- Islam Qlala and Nimroz Borders with Iran **936 km.**
- Turghandi Border with Turkmenistan **744 km.**
- Shirkhan border with Tajikistan **1206 km.**
- Hairatan Border with Uzbekistan **137 km.**



CURRENT CUSTOMS CONTROL SITUATION



- Custom duties collection and centralization of all revenue system throughout the country.
- Protection of our national economy with collection custom duties as customs duties have a key role in enhancement of Afghan revenue.
- Social Protection with prohibiting non qualified and forbidden goods.



FACTORS HAVE KEY ROLE IN CUSTOMS CONTROL



- WCO requirements
- Afghan Customs and other relevant laws
- Custom procedures we have made more than 20 procedures and still in progress
- Five years Strategic plan finalized in 2007 (2007-2012) which facilitates way to achieve the prescribed objectives



Membership of World Custom Organization (WCO)



- Afghanistan Customs Department has achieved the membership of World Customs Organization (WCO).
- ACD is also member of other regional organizations such as SAARC, CAREC and ECO To maintain further coordination among custom and trade organizations which may approach toward joint customs control system too.



Joint Customs Control International Standards



- Comparable, harmonized and mutual recognition of customs rules and regulations.
- Reduction of customs regulations which is more important to the countries with common borders.
- Cooperation needed among neighboring Customs authorities.
- Enhances customs and trade integration combination
and incorporation : Less procedures, removing redundant processes



Challenges in Joint Customs Control



- RKC standards partly some of it not whole specify how these may be addressed.
- ***Operational challenge to joint customs control:*** how adjoining customs authorities operate in terms of specific functions (e.g. joint inspection (examination), documents check, valuation, origin determination, operating hours, etc.)



Institutional challenge to joint customs



- ***Control:*** formulation and implementation of **joint national Supervision** arrangement, indicating individual, joint coordination responsibilities and **formal reporting systems**



Information and technology (IT) challenge



- ***to joint customs control:*** developing or executing IT applications on both sides of the border that reflect compatible (well-matched) systems in information *and* technology:



Recommendations (Ways to Address Challenges)



- 1. Cooperation is critical to joint customs control between authorities of the common borders:
- cooperation does not require joint operations **but** recognition and awareness of respective operations are necessary
- key to cooperation: mutual respect
And trust through formal and informal mechanisms



Recommendations

(Ways to Address Challenges)

- 2. Lead in coordination of national agencies (other government agencies) to reduce transactions costs of traders, and promote wide services:
 - transport sector “traffic rights” for cargo vehicles to enter each other’s territories subject to reciprocity and mutually agreed rules
 - “single window” environment for other agencies essential for cargo movement



Recommendations (Ways to Address Challenges)



- 3. Detailed functions of customs officers under joint customs controls arrangements in formal memorandum or agreement
- supplement joint agreements with office orders indicating operational actions
- in joint undertaking specify reporting arrangements, common operating hours



Recommendations (Ways to Address Challenges)

- 4. Develop comparable information systems between customs authorities cooperating to exchange information
- the means of information could be informal or formal (WCO Data Model for electronic environment)
- the system for even informal information must be compatible (well-suited) (e.g. SMS)



Recommendations (Ways to Address Challenges)

- 5. Technologies employed by customs in both sides of the border should be explored

for possible joint operation in case of hardware, and compatibility in case of software (system communications with independent security applications)

Thanks