

Welcome Remarks

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Distinguished Country Delegates,
Resource Persons,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to join Mr. Wang Donghong, Deputy Director General, Department of International Cooperation of the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (PRC), and Mr. Wang Zhixiong, Director General of Urumqi Customs, in welcoming you to this Seminar on WCO's Framework of Standards and Customs Data Model. We are delighted to see once again a high level of participation from the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program (CAREC) member countries.

On behalf of the Asian Development Bank and member countries represented in this seminar, I would like to thank the General Administration of PRC Customs for co-hosting this seminar and extending strong support to CAREC's Trade Facilitation Program. This is the sixth regional event co-hosted by PRC Customs since the First Customs Cooperation Committee Meeting that was held here in Urumqi in August 2002.

I would also like to thank the WCO for their continued support for the capacity building efforts of CAREC's Trade Facilitation Program.

This seminar aims to present a comprehensive overview of WCO's Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade. The seminar will also provide information on the structure and implementation of WCO's Customs Data Model. The Framework of Standards highlights the importance of improving Customs-to-Customs as well Customs-to-Business communication to enhance the security and facilitation of the international supply chain. The use of WCO Customs Data Model in turn enhances the inter-operability of the customs systems and standardizes data sets used in such communication.

During this seminar, we will also have an opportunity to discuss the program for the 5th Customs Cooperation Committee (CCC) which will be held in Kazakhstan in September of this year. Your valuable inputs will be essential in preparing for the upcoming CCC Meeting, which will guide the Trade Facilitation Program's priorities and future direction.

Ladies and gentlemen, with this note, I look forward to your active participation and wish you success in your deliberations.