

**Speech by Mr. Wang Donghong at the Seminar on WCO Framework of  
Standards and Customs Data Model  
12-14 July, 2006 Urumqi, People's Republic of China**

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning,

It gives me great pleasure to meet you here in Urumqi to address the opening of this important regional event. On behalf of the General Administration of Customs, People's Republic of China, I would like to extend my warm welcome to our distinguished country delegates and representatives from Asian Development Bank and World Customs Organization. Taking this opportunity, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to ADB for making generous financial contribution to our regional trade facilitation program. I would like to thank the World Customs Organization for joining the Seminar to share their technical knowledge and expertise with us. And let us also thank my colleagues from Urumqi Customs for their warm hospitality and excellent arrangements that have extended to us.

The regional trade facilitation initiative is part of the broad Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Program supported by member countries and major multilateral institutions. Since the launching of trade facilitation program in this region, as in the case of other members, it is with great interest and a strong sense of responsibility that PRC Customs has been dedicated to the current activities of enhancing customs cooperation and facilitating international trade, which I believe, will undoubtedly contribute to the overall development of economic globalization and trade facilitation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the context of economic globalization, the mission of Customs administrations has evolved in response to globalization and the convergence of new trade requirements. The key task facing international Customs community today is to achieve both security and facilitation of international trade supply chain, which call for closer customs cooperation. It needs Customs administrations must make sure to respond to society's legitimate demands for increased protection whilst ensuring they do not needlessly hinder trade. In this regard, we are pleased to note that the World Customs Organization's most recent initiative concerns security and facilitation of the international trade supply chain. That is the WCO Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade, which has set forth the principles and the standards as a minimal threshold adopted by Customs. It is highly recognized that the WCO Framework provides a new and consolidated platform which will ensure better security, expedite the clearance of goods and promote world trade. This Seminar, with its focus on WCO Framework of Standards and Customs Data Model, follows several successful CCC forums held in Shenzhen and Shanghai in 2005, and would be serve as an useful venue for country delegates gaining a greater knowledge of WCO initiative. We hope that the knowledge gained from this seminar can be shared with other customs officers in your respective administrations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Urumqi is the capital of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, China's most western province, and known as the "Shining Pearl On the Ancient Silk Road". Being a land of connecting East with West in history, it was once an important town on the new northern route of the Silk Road, which made important contribution in promoting economic and cultural exchanges with foreign countries. I believe that the city's uniqueness, strong colorful ethnic life styles and local customs will leave deep impression in your mind. I am delighted to see, gathered here today in this beautiful city, the old acquaintance and new faces, will work together in unison to meeting tomorrow's crucial challenges.

To conclude, let me wish you success in your deliberations and pleasant stay in Urumqi and the seminar a complete success.

Thank you very much for you attention.