

# Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program 23rd Meeting of the Customs Cooperation Committee

15-16 August 2024, Astana, Kazakhstan



## AGENDA

### Objectives

- (1) To review the implementation progress of sub/regional and national projects under the CCC Workplan 2023-2024;
- (2) To discuss and seek feedback from CCC members on ongoing trade facilitation initiatives under the CCC priority areas and the CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda 2030 and its Rolling Strategic Action Plan;
- (3) To develop plans and activities to support key customs cooperation areas, such as integrated risk management, regional transit facilitation, green customs, digitalization, and paperless trade;
- (4) To agree on the CCC work plan 2024-2025 and determine future activities that can be included in the new ADB technical assistance to support and enhance the capacity of customs administrations in the region; and
- (5) To adopt the 23<sup>rd</sup> CCC Summary of Proceedings and CCC Report to the CAREC National Focal Point's Meeting.

### Participants

Focal points to the Customs Cooperation Committee (CCC), Asian Development Bank, Korea Customs Service, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), resource persons, and development partners.

**Chair:** State Revenue Committee of Kazakhstan

**Co-Chair:** Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Day 1 – 15 August (Thursday)	
08:30 – 09:00 (Astana Time)	<b>Registration</b>
09:00 – 09:30	<b>Opening Remarks</b> Mr. <b>Saudabaev Eldos Ermagambetovich</b> , Deputy Chairman, State Revenue Committee of Kazakhstan  <b>Welcome Remarks</b> Mr. <b>Utsav Kumar</b> , County Director, Kazakhstan Resident Mission, Asian Development Bank  <i>Group Photo</i>
09:30 – 10:00	<b>Session 1: Update on the Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (20 minutes)</b>  <i>Entered into force in 2021, the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific aims to accelerate the implementation of digital trade facilitation measures for trade and development. Within CAREC, Azerbaijan, People's Republic of China, Kyrgyz</i>

	<p><i>Republic, Mongolia, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan have acceded to the Framework Agreement. Session 2 will provide the current status of implementation of the Framework Agreement among CAREC countries, including potential capacity building activities to promote cross-border interoperability and improve paperless trading environment at the national level.</i></p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Mr. <b>Tengfei Wang</b>, Economics Affairs Officer, Trade, Investment, and Innovation Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) <i>*virtual</i></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Mr. <b>Dennis C. Pantastico</b>, ADB Consultant</p> <p>Open Discussion (10 minutes)</p>
10:00 – 10:30	<p><b>Session 2: Benefits of an Integrated Risk Management System (20 minutes)</b></p> <p><i>The World Customs Organization diagnostic study (Mercator Program) identified several challenges in many countries on the implementation of Customs Risk Management and the need for a strategic focus in implementing integrated risk management that requires the cooperation of Partner Government Agencies (PGAs). The WCO presentation aims to increase the level of awareness at the senior management level and equip them with better knowledge in designing a more robust risk management process.</i></p> <p><i>Traditionally, customs clearance has been a complex, manual process relying on brokers to navigate endless paperwork. For each shipment, brokers must file forms, classify goods accurately, calculate duties and taxes, submit documents to customs authorities, and more. This paperwork is often full of errors and inaccuracies, flagged by customs inspectors. Delays lead to extra storage fees at ports. Moreover, customs duties are a high cost for companies, especially those importing parts and raw materials. AI addresses these pain points.</i></p> <p><i>Modern technology, with its transformative power, has become a key enabler in managing risks effectively and proactively. It has revolutionized risk management by enabling Customs administration to data-driven risk assessments. This data-driven approach such as advanced analytics, machine learning and artificial intelligence empower organizations to analyze vast amounts of data, identify patterns and gain deep insights in supporting dynamic risk profiles, which enables Customs to make more informed decisions.</i></p> <p><i>Technology enables automation of routine risk management tasks, reducing human error and improving process efficiency. Robotic Process Automation (RPA) and workflow management systems streamline risk management workflows, ensuring consistent and standardized practices.</i></p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Mr. <b>Dennis C. Pantastico</b>, ADB Consultant</p>

	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms. <b>Zulfia Karimova</b>, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, Central and West Asia Department (CWRD), ADB</p> <p>Open Discussion (10 minutes)</p>
10:30 – 11:00	<b>Morning Coffee/Tea Break</b>
11:00 – 11:50	<p><b>Session 3: Ongoing CAREC Trade Facilitation Initiatives on Customs Development: Border Crossing Points (BCP) Improvements and Corridor Performance Measurement and Monitoring (CPMM)</b></p> <p><i>CAREC customs agencies are vital players in increasing trade, improving competitiveness, and ensuring the smooth flow of goods and people across borders. Major challenges to the efficient rapid transport and transit of goods include inadequate border facilities; nontransparent, complex, and excessive procedures at border-crossing points; and weak coordination of border agencies at national and cross-border levels. CAREC countries should modernize physical border-crossing point infrastructure and older border-control facilities, which cannot accommodate new transport and trading models.</i></p> <p><i>The CAREC trade program pay great attention to border crossing points (BCPs).The Fotehobod (Tajikistan)–Oybek (Uzbekistan) Road BCP is recognized as one of the most important bilateral road BCPs in the CAREC region. This session will highlight the outcomes of a scoping study presenting the recommendations to create a bilateral project and develop a modern synchronized joint road BCP between these borders.</i></p> <p><i>The session will also discuss the progress of the proposed expansion and strengthening of the Corridor Performance Measurement and Monitoring (CPMM) methodology to improve its data collection and validation. Following an ADB report, the presentation will outline the next steps in addressing the CPMM gaps and streamlining its report and findings to effectively promote use of CPMM data and analysis in policy-related decision-making, as well as in independent research.</i></p> <p><i>One vital recommendation will focus on gathering BCP-level information that would greatly benefit from the support of customs and other border agencies in the region.</i></p> <p><b>Presenters:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Border Crossing Point Improvements - Ms. <b>Zulfia Karimova</b>, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, CWRD, ADB (10 minutes)</li> <li>b. Corridor Performance Measurement and Monitoring: Review and Pilot of Revised Methodology – Mr. <b>Max Ee</b>, CPMM Consultant (20 minutes, *virtual presentation)</li> </ol> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms. <b>Zulfia Karimova</b>, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, CWRD, ADB</p>



	Open Discussion (20 minutes)
11:50 – 12:30	<p><b>Session 4: Ongoing CAREC Trade Facilitation Initiatives on Customs Services: Authorized Economic Operators’ Program and Cross Border Paperless Trade to Support Green Initiatives</b></p> <p><i>Green Initiatives has transcended its initial focus on basic environmental measures to become a driving force for global sustainability. This evolution is fuelled by the use of single window system anchored on paperless trade that provides full visibility and interoperability of diverse applications. This paves the way for a future where trade flourishes in harmony with our planet.</i></p> <p><i>The ongoing digitization and codification of the AEO authorization processes in CAREC help conserve resources and many Trade Regulatory Agencies are introducing stricter environmental regulations and incentives guidelines to assist businesses in complying with these requirements. Further, green initiatives can improve employee self-satisfaction by creating a sense of purpose and contribute to a positive work environment.</i></p> <p><i>For trusted partners, digital solutions are encouraged to ensure full visibility and confidence that the company fulfills the compliance requirements. All internal procedures are updated and implemented, including access by Customs for full traceability. This enhances a trusted partner’s reputation in promoting energy efficiency and reducing waste.</i></p> <p><i>Customs administrations are encouraged to develop greener standards that support a whole-of-government approach to mitigating risk and seizing opportunities associated with climate change and environmental stewardship within the trade space.</i></p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Mr. <b>Dennis Pantastico</b>, AEO Expert/ ADB Consultant (20 minutes)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. How to Leverage the AEO Program?</li> <li>b. Outcomes of AEO National Workshop</li> <li>c. Single Window Initiative and Cross Border Paperless Trade to Support Green Initiatives</li> </ol> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms. <b>Tsendsuren Davaa</b>, Acting Head of the Department, Risk Management Department, Mongolian Customs General Administration</p> <p>Open Discussion (20 minutes)</p>
12:30 – 13:30	<b>Lunch Break</b>
13:30 – 14:30	<p><b>Session 5: Ongoing CAREC Trade Facilitation Initiatives on Customs Technology: CAREC Advanced Transit System Pilot Phase Implementation</b></p>



	<p><i>Regional transit development remains one of the priority areas of the CAREC Customs Cooperation Committee. On October 3, 2024, three participating countries signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in Baku to implement pilot testing activities of the CAREC Advanced Transit System and Information Common Exchange (CATS/ICE) that will simplify transit documentation and procedures and promote intra-regional trade among these CAREC countries. Under the MOU, three working groups - Legal and Regulatory, Information and Communication Technology, and Customs Control Facilitation met periodically to review the legal and regulatory framework of each country to implement the system and discuss the prototype design and implementation procedures.</i></p> <p><b>Presenters/Speakers:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Updates on the CAREC Advanced Transit System and Information Common Exchange’s (CATS/ICE) Pilot Phase Implementation, Future Plans and Activities - Mr. <b>Nigel Moore</b>, Transit Facilitation Specialist, ADB Consultant (<i>15 minutes</i>)</li> <li>b. Demonstration of the CATS/ICE Prototype System - Mr. <b>Viboon Chaojirapant</b>/ Mr. <b>Jarrett Goh</b>, ADB Consultants (<i>15 minutes, *virtual presentation</i>)</li> <li>c. Interventions from CATS/ICE Participating Countries – Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan (<i>2-3 minutes each</i>)</li> </ol> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Mr. <b>Samson Uridia</b>, Head of the Department for International Relations, Georgia Revenue Service, Ministry of Finance</p> <p>Open Discussion (<i>20 minutes</i>)</p>
14:30 – 15:30	<p><b>Session 6: Around the Table (Part 1)</b></p> <p><i>Country delegations are requested to provide concise updates on ongoing national projects based on CCC priority areas, since the last CCC meeting (maximum of 10 minutes/country):</i></p> <p><b>Presenters:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. <b>Ali Raza Hanjra</b>, Project Director, Federal Board of Revenue – <i>Infrastructure Development for Enhanced Cross-Border Trade Facilitation</i></li> <li>• Ms. <b>Gunash Hajiyeva</b>, Senior Inspector of Risks Identification Division, Customs Risks Department, State Customs Committee – <i>Transit System and Enhancing the Authorized Economic Operator’s Program</i></li> <li>• Mr. <b>Kai Xue</b>, Principal Staff Member Third Class, Department of General Operation, General Administration of Customs of the People’s Republic of China – <i>Building Smart Customs to Advance Higher Level Security and Facilitation of International Trade</i></li> <li>• Mr. <b>Samson Uridia</b>, Head of the Department for International Relations, Georgia Revenue Service, Ministry of Finance – <i>Simplifying Customs Transit Procedures with the New Computerized Transit System (NCTS)</i></li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Uatkanov Nariman Nurlanovich</b>, Deputy Head, Transit Division, Control Department, State Revenue Committee – <i>Standardization and Digitization of Cargo Transit Procedures</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms. <b>Zulfia Karimova</b>, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, CWRD, ADB</p> <p>Open Discussion (10 minutes)</p>
15:30 – 16:00	<b>Afternoon Coffee/Tea Break</b>
16:00 – 17:00	<p><b>Session 6: Around the Table (Part 2)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Ruslan Tynaliyev</b>, Head of Customs Policy Department, Ministry of Economy and Commerce – <i>Customs Infrastructure Modernization i.e. Regional Improvement of Border Services</i></li> <li>• <b>Ms. Tsendsuren Davaa</b>, Acting Head of the Department, Risk Management Department, Mongolian Customs General Administration – <i>Border Agency Cooperation and Improving Customs Capacities</i></li> <li>• <b>Mr. Azim Tursunzoda</b>, First Deputy Head, Customs Service of Tajikistan – <i>Implementing the Single Window System</i></li> <li>• <b>Mr. Agoyly Nyyazov</b>, Head of Customs Control Department, the State Customs Service – <i>Modernizing Customs Administration (i.e. ASYCUDA)</i></li> <li>• <b>Mr. Rovshankhon Akramov</b>, Head of International Cooperation Department, Customs Service – <i>Customs Reforms including Integrated Risk Management</i></li> </ul> <p>Moderator: Ms. <b>Zulfia Karimova</b>, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, CWRD, ADB</p> <p>Open Discussion (10 minutes)</p>
18:00 – 20:00	<b>Welcome Cocktails</b>

<b>Day 2 – 16 August 2024 (Friday)</b>	
08:30 – 09:00	<b>Registration</b>
09:00 – 10:00	<p><b>Session 7: CCC Progress and Workplan 2024-2025; Proposed ADB Regional Technical Assistance (40 minutes)</b></p> <p><i>Following the last CCC Meeting, ADB will present the key activities and progress of the CCC and the proposed workplan for 2024-2025. The session would also like to seek comments from member countries on the proposed ADB technical assistance to enhance the capacity of the CAREC customs agencies.</i></p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Ms. <b>Zulfia Karimova</b>, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, CWRD, ADB</p>

	Open Discussion (20 minutes)
10:00- 10:40	<p><b>Session 8: Activities in Partnership with Korea Customs Service (20 minutes)</b></p> <p><i>Under the Memorandum of Understanding Joint Action Plan 2022-2026 with Korea Customs Service (KCS), this session will present the planned activities in partnership with KCS, including the regional workshop scheduled in November 2024.</i></p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Mr. <b>Tae-Hoon Hwang</b>, Deputy Director, External Relations Division, Korea Customs Service</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms. <b>Zulfia Karimova</b>, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, CWRD, ADB</p> <p>Open Discussion (20 minutes)</p>
10:40 – 11:10	<b>Morning Coffee/Tea Break</b>
11:10 – 12:10	<p><b>Session 9: Customs Challenges and Opportunities: Insights from Development Partners</b></p> <p><b>Presenters (maximum of 15 minutes each):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. <b>Kuat B. Akizhanov</b>, Deputy Director 2, CAREC Institute <i>*virtual</i></li> <li>• Mr. <b>Tengfei Wang</b>, Economics Affairs Officer, Trade, Investment, and Innovation Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) <i>*virtual</i></li> <li>• Mr. <b>Constantin Ciuta</b>, Senior Customs Adviser, ASYCUDA Programme, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) <i>*virtual</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms. <b>Zulfia Karimova</b>, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, CWRD, ADB</p> <p>Open Discussion (15 minutes)</p>
12:10 – 12:30	<p><b>Session 10: Adoption of the 23rd CCC Statement and CCC Report to CAREC National Focal Points' Meeting</b></p> <p><i>The session will deliberate and adopt the 23rd CCC Statement and agree on the CCC Report to the CAREC National Focal Point's Meeting.</i></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms. <b>Zulfia Karimova</b>, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, CWRD, ADB</p>
12:30 – 13:00	<p><b>Closing Session</b></p> <p>Mr. <b>Saudabaev Eldos Ermagambetovich</b>, Deputy Chairman, State Revenue Committee of Kazakhstan</p>

	Ms. <b>Zulfia Karimova</b> , Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, CWRD, ADB
13:00 -14:30	<b>Lunch</b>