



**A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO THE FRONTIER COOPERATION AND DATA
EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE CUSTOMS OF KAZAKHSTAN REPUBLIC AND THE
PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA***

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Respected Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen:

I am very honored and glad to attend this seminar on Trade Facilitation and Customs Modernization held here in the Republic of Kyrgyzstan. I would like to take this precious opportunity to give you a brief introduction to the frontier cooperation and data exchange between the customs of Kazakhstan and the customs of China.

As you know, the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Kazakhstan share the 1700-kilometre long border. Along this border, we have set up 7 land ports, and 5 of them are being used for the importation and exportation between the two countries. In recent years, the foreign trade activities between the two countries have become more and more frequent as the all-round bilateral cooperations are expanding step by step. In 2002, the bilateral trade between China and Kazakhstan amounted to 1.95 billion USD, and in the first half of 2003, the bilateral trade between the two sides reached a record amount of 1.25 billion USD. The largest sino-kazakhstan railway port—the port of alashankou —has become the second largest railway port in China

with its approximate annual transportation amounting to 6 million tons. The gradual and steady increase in sino-kazakhstan bilateral trade has now laid a solid foundation for coopreations between the customs authorities of the two countries.

The Customs of the P.R.C and Customs of the Republic of Kazakhstan signed the Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Aid on 26th, Sept. 1997. This made a basic framework and laid a good foundation for the further cooperation between the bilateral customs. From the year of 2000 on, we continued to sign some other agreements on cooperation in the field of customs clearance and other customs-related affairs under the framework of the above-mentioned agreement. All this resulted in the further cooperation between the bilateral customs at all levels. According to the statistics, the customs of Urumqi has conducted bilateral visits with the customs of Kazakhstan for nearly 40 times since 1999. What's more, we solved the problems regarding the customs clearance and provided help for each other in smuggling cases' investigation through the routine cross-border talks and meetings at some memorable festivals. We deepened the friendship and understanding between the customs of China and the customs of Kazakhstan by such cross-border activities. It is good for both of us not only to improve the efficacy of customs

clearance, but also to better the environment of customs clearance. It is also very helpful for the cross border anti smuggling operations.

We both emphasized very much the work of data exchange on customs clearance business and we have achieved a lot in this aspect. In Dec. 2000, the General Administration of Customs of the P.R.C and the Customs Control Agency of Kazakhstan signed an agreement on foreign trade customs statistics and information cooperation, and we exchanged the foreign trade statistics periodically according to this agreement. It is vital for both of us to strengthen the cooperation in the field of foreign trade statistics, and it is also important for us to strike against the smuggling crimes and corruption.

Except the data exchange for bilateral trade at the central customs level, from the first of May on, the Horgos customs of China provided customs related statistics for the Horgos customs of Kazakhstan 2 times every month, according to the content set by the central customs delegates from both of the countries on 18th March 2003, and so far we have provided such statistics 4 times for each other.

What's more, in 2000, the General Administration of Customs of China and the Customs Control Agency of Kazakhstan signed a

cooperative agreement on mutual recognition of customs documents and marks so as to provide facilitation for the bilateral trade and the transportation tools. According to this agreement, we recognize all each other's commercial documents both for the goods in transit and the directly-imported goods, such as the railway and highway transportation bills with customs stamps. So far, we have provided the related customs marks and signatures by customs officials for each other, and we are now considering the standardization of customs documents and the language to be used to speed up the trade facilitation.

There are still some problems in our cooperations. For instance, the fraudulent price declaration for the imported or exported goods by some illegal businessmen will affect the authenticity of the price information. We need to solve such problems in our future cooperations.

The sino-kazakhstan customs' cooperation is of great significance for regional trade facilitation and further cooperation. It is also of great importance for the prevention of fraudulent price declaration and anti smuggling activities. The government of the P. R. C and the government of Kazakhstan encourage and emphasize our cooperation in customs field. I am very sure that our two countries will share a bright

future in customs cooperation with the stress of the two governments, with the support of ADB, and with the endeavour of all customs staff in our two countries. We will improve the regional economic and trade development, and we will ensure the regional safety by such close cooperations.

That is all for my presentation. Thank you all for listening.