



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
AND DEVELOPMENT



Mongolia: National workshop on potential CAREC-wide trade agreement

16 May 2024

14:30-16:30 (Ulaanbaatar/Manila time)

Concept Note and Agenda

Background:

CAREC countries have the potential to speed up economic development through regional trade and investment facilitation by addressing the main challenges, including poor market access and limited economic diversification.

CAREC has been pursuing trade facilitation agenda for many years already. In 2018 CAREC MC endorsed a long-term strategy document related to trade - “CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda (CITA) 2030” – which aimed at supporting CAREC countries in global economic integration and established the Regional Trade Group (RTG), a lead consultative and coordinating body with full operational authority over CAREC work on trade as embodied in CITA 2030.

Since 2020, ADB has assisted CAREC countries to pursue the agenda of further trade integration with the help of the regional TA on strengthening knowledge and capacities for the design and implementation of trade agreements involving CAREC countries. Under the project various research, consultative and capacity building activities were implemented.

Despite the varying political and trade-economic integration processes in the region, CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda 2030 includes interest expressed from the countries to explore potential regional trade agreement among CAREC DMCs.

Objectives of the event, expected results:

The National Workshops are aimed at building national consensus in CAREC countries, the governments of which have expressed the strongest interest to prepare and pursue negotiations towards an eventual CAREC-wide trade agreement. The major objective of this Workshop is to raise awareness among a broad range of interested stakeholders, of the potential of the CAREC region and the benefits that a CAREC-wide trade agreement could offer. The Workshop is intended to launch a broad-based and inclusive public discussion on the topic and target a wide range of stakeholders at the national level.

The Workshop will be facilitated by the project team, but the primary objective is to have the participation and contribution from the research team and an official at a senior level from the Government of Mongolia. This approach will ensure in-depth discussion based on the research report and high-level engagement from national stakeholders.

Expected number of participants: 25-30 participants

Participants and speakers:

Mid- and senior-level public officials responsible for trade policy, business chambers and associations, relevant civil society organizations.

The Capacity building team will moderate the Session 1 with the research team presenting results of the research report and recommendations. The DMC senior-level official will present the national trade policy and approach towards the potential CAREC wide trade agreement at the Session 2. The ADB representative will open the event and lead the wrap-up session.

Coverage of the event: National

Working language: English

Zoom Link for the event:

<https://adb-org.zoom.us/j/95354975961?pwd=VzJoOGRvVDZLc1p3S1pITStpd2YrUT09>

Meeting ID: 953 5497 5961

Passcode: wkr73eN8

Programme of activities

Date: 16 May 2024

Time: 14:00 – 16:30 Ulaanbaatar/Manila time

Time	Session
14:00 - 14:30	Signing up; video/audio connection checks
	Moderator: Zulfia Karimova , Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, ADB
14:30 - 14:45	Opening Remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Zulfia Karimova, ADB ▪ Tuguldur Batjargal, Head, Freezone division, Trade and Economic Cooperation Policy department, Ministry of Economy and Development
14:45 - 14:50	GROUP PHOTO
14:50 - 15:50	<p>Session 1: Key Recommendations/Results of the Research Report</p> <p>Moderator: Simon Lacey, Capacity Building Project Team, PMCG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Design and Implementation of a Trade Agreement involving Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Countries” [20 mins] <p>Presenter: Richard Pomfret (pre-recorded video presentation)</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Scenario Analysis for a CAREC Regional Trade Agreement [20 mins] <p>Presenter: David Roland Holst</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Q&A Session with participants [20 mins]
15:50 - 16:15	<p>Session 2: Response from Mongolia</p> <p>Moderator: Mikheil Janelidze, Capacity Building Project Team, PMCG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Current trade policy and regional trade agreements priorities of Mongolia [15 mins] <p>Speaker: Tuguldur Batjargal, Ministry of Economy and Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Q&A Session with participants [10 mins]
16:15 - 16:30	<p>Wrap-up and Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Zulfia Karimova, ADB