



CAREC PILOT PROJECT ON ELECTRONIC EXCHANGE AND MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF CONFORMITY CERTIFICATES:

INTRODUCTORY SESSION

21 April 2026 | 14:00–16:00 Manila time | [Virtual](#)

CONCEPT NOTE AND AGENDA

Background

The acceptance of electronic trade documents has yet to be fully realized in most member countries of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Program, although many have adopted digital strategies but have not made full use of model rules, principles, and standards for digital trade. Cross-border data flows, which underpin digital trade and other business activities while being a business activity, require a governance framework that takes privacy, interoperability, consumer protection, and cybersecurity into account. Infrastructure gaps exist across the connectivity value chain, i.e., at the first mile for international links, middle-mile for distribution, and last-mile for access. Cross-border payment acceptance is a major challenge, due to varying digital payments policies and payment system incompatibility that limits e-transactions. Hard and soft infrastructure gaps must be addressed through increased knowledge, pilot projects, and enhanced capacities.

In this context, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), in partnership with the Korea Trade Network (KTNET), the official national paperless trade infrastructure provider for the Republic of Korea (ROK), is implementing a pilot project to develop a prototype and test a model for the electronic exchange of conformity certificates and establish a framework for mutual recognition of conformity certificates. By establishing a mutually acceptable system, the pilot project seeks to reduce processing time, enhance mutual trust, and strengthen cooperation in the use of digital solutions in trade. The pilot project will be implemented in five CAREC member countries: Azerbaijan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, and Uzbekistan signed a memorandum of understanding with ADB and KTNET in November 2025, while Tajikistan formally expressed their interest to participate in February 2026.

ADB and KTNET will convene a virtual preparatory meeting on 21 April 2026 to provide an overview of the pilot project and discuss preliminary information requirements. This will help prepare the participants ahead of the official kickoff meeting to be held on 1–2 June 2026 at the Korea International Trade Association (KITA) Office, Trade Tower (TBC) in Seoul, ROK.

The pilot project is being implemented under the Technical Assistance on Implementing the CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda 2030 (Phase 2): Accelerating Digital Trade (Subproject 3).

Participants:

Focals for CAREC participating countries, KTNET project team, ADB staff and consultants.

Virtual Meeting link:

<https://adb-org.zoom.us/j/95809018458?pwd=JNqjsH0ISacc7WZuW6vphLbn476KkY.1>

**CAREC Pilot Project on
Electronic Exchange and Mutual Recognition of Conformity Certificates:**

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Time	Session
13:30–14:00	<i>Signing up, checking of video and audio connection</i>
14:00–14:05	<i>Roll Call of Country Representatives and Group photo</i>
14:05–14:10	<p>Overview of Project Rationale and Context</p> <p>Dorothea Lazaro, Senior Regional Cooperation Specialist, ADB</p>
14:10–14:40	<p>Introduction of Pilot Project</p> <p>This session will provide a brief introduction of the pilot project’s objectives, scope, methodology, and implementation arrangements, and identify focal points from participating countries.</p> <p>Adolfo Kang, Project Team Leader, KTNET</p>
14:40–15:00	Q&A
15:00–15:30	<p>Discussion of Diagnostics Questionnaire</p> <p>This session will discuss the diagnostics questionnaire, which will be filled out by participants and submitted ahead of the pilot project’s kickoff meeting in June 2026. The questionnaire is designed to provide a preliminary assessment of the current baseline of informatization status, business processes, institutional readiness, and policy alignment among the participating countries.</p> <p>Adolfo Kang, Project Team Leader, KTNET</p>
15:30–15:50	Q&A
15:50–16:00	<p>Next Steps and Closing Remarks</p> <p>Dorothea Lazaro, Senior Regional Cooperation Specialist, ADB</p>