

SECOND CUSTOMS COOPERATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Joint Statement of Customs Cooperation Committee Tashkent October 9-10, 2003

State Customs Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) co-hosted the Second Customs Cooperation Committee (CCC) Meeting from 9-10 October 2003 in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan. The CCC was created in January 2002 and has been provided the mandate of promoting cooperation among the customs administration of the East and Central Asian economies. CCC will strive to promote trade facilitation and customs modernization as a part of the Regional Economic Cooperation Program being promoted by ADB since 1997. CCC is a group of heads of Customs Organizations including Azerbaijan, the People's Republic of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. ADB acts as the Secretariat to the CCC. All member countries except Turkmenistan were present at the second CCC meeting.

CCC participants recognized that considerable progress had been made and re-confirmed the significance of and need for developing customs cooperation at a regional level in order to better facilitate the flow of imports, exports and transits.

The second CCC Meeting discussed and agreed unanimously on a Common Action Plan Update and Proposed Work Plan for 2003 – 2004. CCC participants have agreed that each country would appoint a national focal point for more effective coordination of the upcoming CCC activities. The third CCC meeting will be hosted by Azerbaijan in 2004.

ADB plans to provide the second phase of regional technical assistance program to continuously support the implementation of the Common Action Plan for 2005-2006.