







Advancing Transit in CAREC Countries: From Concept to Pilot Implementation

15:15 – 16:35 (UTC+7), 10 June 2026, MR-G, UNCC, Bangkok and Online

Panelists

	<p>Ms. Zulfia Karimova Title: Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, Regional Cooperation and Integration, Central and West Asia Department, Asian Development Bank Email: zkarimova@adb.org</p> <p>Zulfia Karimova is a Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist at the Asian Development Bank. A senior international development professional, she provides strategic leadership on multi-country regional cooperation programs, such as Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program (CAREC) with a focus on advancing CAREC trade facilitation—including trade policy, trade and transit facilitation, customs modernization, and cross-border connectivity. She leads high-level government engagement and oversees cross-sectoral portfolios in trade, investment, capacity development, and co-financing across Asia.</p>
	<p>Mr. Aivaras Pigaga Title: Customs and Transit Facilitation Specialist Email: apigaga@gmail.com</p> <p>Aivaras Pigaga is a senior customs, transit, and trade facilitation expert with over 20 years of experience implementing complex regional and national customs systems. Over the years, he has contributed significantly to the New Computerized Transit System (NCTS) implementation in a number of EU member states and Common Transit Convention (CTC) accession countries.</p> <p>He led the implementation of ASEAN Customs Transit System (ACTS) from concept to pilot and then to full rollout and live operations in seven ASEAN member states. At the moment he is leading ACTS 2.0 implementation, which constitutes extension to the remaining ASEAN member states, modes of transport other than road, and multimodal transport. Since 2025, he is also leading the implementation of CAREC Advanced Transit System (CATS) pilot implementation and rollout to live operations planned in 2027.</p> <p>His work combines project leadership, legal, operational, and technical implementation, change management, capacity building, and stakeholder outreach and coordination across Customs administrations, other relevant government agencies, regional institutions, and private sector.</p>

	<p>Mr. Fuad Aslanov</p> <p>Title: Head of the General Department for Digital Management of the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan</p> <p>Email: fuad.aslanov@customs.gov.az</p> <p>Fuad Aslanov is Head of the General Department for Digital Management at the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan. A seasoned ICT and digital transformation leader, he brings over two decades of experience spanning software development, IT management, and executive leadership across banking, retail, and public administration.</p> <p>He holds a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science from the Azerbaijan State Oil Academy and dual Master's degrees in Business Administration — from the Azerbaijan State University of Economics and the University of Chicago.</p> <p>His career includes senior roles at PASHA Bank, Veyselöglü Group, eManat (Modern Group), and the State Tax Service of Azerbaijan. He has led large-scale projects in payment systems, ERP, mobile payments, and data warehousing.</p>
	<p>Ms. Gultamze Balanchivadze</p> <p>Title: Chief Analyst, Customs Transit Division of the Customs Department of the Revenue Service, Ministry of Finance of Georgia</p> <p>Email: g.balanchivadze@rs.ge</p> <p>Gultamze Balanchivadze is Chief Analyst at the Customs Transit Division of the Revenue Service of Georgia. She has been with the Revenue Service since 2009, building over 15 years of experience across multiple functions and steadily advancing her professional expertise in customs and revenue administration.</p> <p>She holds a university degree spanning Information Technology and Foreign Languages, a combination that has equipped her to navigate both the technical and international dimensions of her work.</p> <p>Gultamze is committed to continuous learning and personal development, with a keen interest in psychology and self-development practices. She believes that professional excellence and inner well-being are deeply interconnected, and she brings this balanced perspective to her work and leadership.</p>

	<p>Mr. Ramazon Kubayev</p> <p>Title: Senior officer of International Cooperation Department, State Customs Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan</p> <p>Email: romakubaev111@gmail.com</p> <p>Ramazon Kubayev is a Senior Officer in the Grant Acquisition and Law Division of the International Cooperation Department at the Customs Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan, where he contributes to the development of international partnerships and legal frameworks in customs administration.</p> <p>A native of the Navoi region, Ramazon completed his secondary and vocational education in Xatirchi district before pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Customs at the Customs Institute of the Customs Committee, graduating in 2023.</p> <p>His professional career spans frontline customs operations across multiple key checkpoints, including Tashkent International Airport and the "G'ishtko'prik" and "Yallama" border posts, where he served as an Inspector of Customs Clearance and Control. This broad field experience across major air and land border posts has grounded his current work in international cooperation with a strong operational foundation.</p>
	<p>Mr. Aji Bhaskara</p> <p>Title: Senior Officer, Trade Facilitation Division, The ASEAN Secretariat</p> <p>Email: aji.bhaskara@asean.org</p> <p>Aji Bhaskara is a Senior Officer at the ASEAN Secretariat, where he supports trade facilitation and customs initiatives across ASEAN. He oversees the ASEAN Customs Transit System and contributes to work on ASEAN Plus One Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), including customs procedures and trade facilitation, digital trade, and supply chain connectivity. He also supports ASEAN's customs modernization efforts.</p> <p>With more than 17 years of experience in project management and service delivery, Aji has worked extensively on regional integration, digital trade facilitation, and cross-border logistics. His work focuses on translating regional commitments into practical solutions that promote seamless, efficient, and connected trade across ASEAN.</p>