

**Regional Trade Facilitation
&
Customs Cooperation Program
(RTFCC Program)**

Progress and Work Plan

Senior Officials' Meeting
13-14 September 2004
Almaty, Kazakhstan

**RTFCC Program:
Regional Context**

**Leveraging trade for accelerated
economic transition**

- Collective commitment to WTO accession (i.e., reforms of trade policy according to WTO Rules and Agreements)
- Concerted efforts to reform the Customs Codes and modernize customs services as a key trade facilitation measure

RTFCC Program: Objectives

Formally launched in 2002 as part of
CAREC Program:

- Promote concerted customs reforms & modernization
- Address issues of regional concerns

RTFCC Program: Two-pronged Approach:

- Country-specific activities with regional orientation
 - Revision of customs codes
 - Development of unified automated information systems
 - Customs border post infrastructure development
 - Accession to major international conventions
 - country-specific training
- Regional activities with country ownership
 - Support regional/bilateral initiatives to address issues of common concerns (e.g., transit and data-sharing)
 - Share knowledge (e.g., experience and lessons learned in customs modernization)
 - Organize regional training workshops

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Country-specific activities with regional orientation

- Support for revision of Customs Codes (KGZ, TAJ)
- Dissemination of new Customs Code (KGZ, September, 04)
- Automation and Border Infrastructure Dev (KGZ, TAJ), and dialogue ongoing to provide similar financial assistance for MON
- Support for training institutes (KGZ, PRC, TAJ, UZB)
- Country assessments & training on risk management & customs intelligence (Tashkent, Nov. 2004)

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Country-specific activities with regional orientation:

KGZ/TAJ: Regional Customs Modernization and Infrastructure Development

- Development of Unified Automated Information System (\$5 million each for KGZ and TAJ)
- Customs Border-post Infrastructure Development including provision of inspection and anti-smuggling equipment (\$2.5m for KGZ and \$5.7m for TAJ)
- Capacity Building Support for Customs Modernization focusing on review of organizational structure, customs procedures, human resource policy, and training (\$.5m grant each for KGZ and TAJ)

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Regional Activities

- **Training, Forums, Working Group and CCC Meetings**
 - Regional Transit Meeting, 21-23 February 04
 - CCC Forum on Trade Facilitation & Customs Modernization, 21-24 April, Beijing
 - Training on Rules of Origin, 9-13 Sept, Bangkok
 - CCC Forum on Private-Public Partnership, 14-16 October, Manila
 - CCC Working Group Meeting, and Heads of Customs Meeting, Tentatively 1-3 December, Baku
 - Regional Training on Automated Information Systems, co-sponsored with the Government of Singapore, Feb. 2005

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- **Regional Activities**
- **Bilateral initiatives:**
 - Transit Agreement: KAZ & KGZ on 26 March 04
 - Joint-border Processing: KGZ & KAZ on 1 July 04
 - Data-sharing agreement: KGZ & PRC in Sept 04
 - Transit Agreement: KGZ & TAJ expected end of year
 - Cooperation Agreement: PRC & UZB by end of 2004
 - Bilateral consultation for customs automation (ongoing among KGZ, TAJ, KAZ)

RTFCC Program: Initiatives endorsed at the 2nd MC

- **Support for WTO accession:** Training on WTO Rules of Origin provided, training on WTO Valuation planned
- **Development of customs legal frameworks to harmonize Customs Code and procedures:** Financial assistance was provided to KGZ and TAJ for the revision of Customs Code, CCC Forum was held in Beijing to share lessons learned in the revision of Customs Code
- **Promotion of modern customs practices:** Training on risk management will be held in Tashkent in Nov. and Dushanbe in 2005
- **Development of a unified transit system:** supported the transit agreement between KAZ and KGZ signed in March, and between KGZ and TAJ by end of 2004
- **Promotion of transparency and data-sharing through ICT:** Financial assistance will be provided to KGZ and TAJ for automation,
- **Comparative studies of computerized systems:** CCC Forum was held in Beijing to compare different system; the Kazakh system will be published for wider dissemination; several forums are planned for the same purpose (Manila, Singapore and Korea).

Thank you!