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# Regional Trade Facilitation and Customs Cooperation Program - Status Report

26 March 2007

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# Outline

- Progress Report
  - A. Customs Automation
  - B. Risk Management and Post-Entry Audit
  - C. Joint Customs Control and One-Stop Services
  - D. Regional Transit Development
  - E. Bilateral Initiatives for Harmonization of Customs Procedures and Documentation
  - F. Bilateral Initiatives for Data Exchanges
  - G. Other Areas
- New Emphasis in Future Program
  - Integrating various areas of trade facilitation (quarantine, immigration, etc) and trade logistics
  - Enhancing cooperation with the Trade Policy Committee

# Customs Automation

- Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan drafting customs automation masterplans
  - software applications (united automated information system),
  - communication infrastructure, and
  - training and change management
- needs assessment for customs modernization in Mongolia completed
  - ADB approved the investment project aimed at modernizing Mongolia's customs administration. The project, to be implemented during March 2007 to February 2010 ,
- Regional seminars
  - on customs automation in Beijing in late-May 2007
  - two more training programs in Shanghai for mid-level customs officials during the second half of 2007.

# Risk Management and Post-Entry Audit

- Seminar on Implementation Challenges in Joint Customs Control, Risk Management and Post Entry Audit held in February 2007 in Bangkok in cooperation with the WCO and Royal Thai Customs;
- A Working Group meeting, chaired by Uzbekistan, was convened during the seminar to discuss ongoing initiatives in risk management and post-entry audit.

# Joint Customs Control and One-Stop Services

- Progress
  - Kazakhstan and PRC will establish a joint working group during the first quarter of 2007
  - Mongolia and PRC have already established working group
  - Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan are currently pilot testing JCC at the Aktilek-Karasu border.
- Implementation Challenges
  - cooperation between border authorities,
  - a lead coordinating agency at the national level, and
  - detailing the functions of customs officers under JCC in a formal memorandum of agreement.

# Regional Transit Development

- TIR seminar in October 2006 in Mongolia. TIR is system to ensure
  - fewer delays in goods transit,
  - protection of customs revenues,
  - reduction of physical inspection of goods, and
  - efficient customs control and documentation.
- locally issued TIR carnets are expected to increase significantly upon
  - accession of the PRC to the TIR Convention
  - completion of the Central North-South Corridor Road financed by ADB that links Russia and the PRC's Tianjin port through Ulaanbaatar

# Harmonization of Customs Procedures

- the program is supporting
  - harmonization of cargo manifest, and
  - mutual recognition of customs inspections and seals/stamps
- PRC and Kazakhstan, as well as PRC and Mongolia, will pilot-test the initiative under their existing cooperation framework.
- Simplification and harmonization are also being achieved
  - revision of customs codes,
  - introduction of risk management practices,
  - JCC, and
  - business process reengineering in relation to customs automation.

# Bilateral Initiatives for Data Exchanges

- Preliminary Discussions on
  - the establishment of an electronic platform for data exchange,
  - drafting of an agreement to provide the legal basis for the initiative.
  - the Kyrgyz Republic and Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan and Kazakhstan, have initiated bilateral discussion on pilot-testing the initiative.
- CCC requested ADB assistance to provide a consultant in this area.

# Trade Logistics

- A conference on trade logistics development in Mongolia and Inner Mongolia of the PRC was held in November 2006 in Erenhot, Inner Mongolia
- A preliminary joint action plan will be developed and submitted to the two Governments for review
  - finalization of transport agreements;
  - improving transport networks and corridors;
  - expansion of dry ports and inland depots;
  - cold chain development and collaboration;
  - promoting inter-modalism;
  - building logistics and transport information systems
  - efficient data exchange and integration;
  - logistics human resources development;
  - development of special economic zones..

# Trade Facilitation and Trade Policy

- Integrating various areas of trade facilitation (quarantine, immigration, etc) and trade logistics into CCC and make it a true TFC
  - Cooperation in quarantine as part of combating avian flu etc,
  - Enhance agriculture product standards for exports
  - Private sector participation in promoting trade logistics development
- Enhancing cooperation with the Trade Policy Committee
  - Close liaison with members of the Trade Policy Committee
  - Coordinate policy reform agenda

**Thank You**

**Questions and Comments:  
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