

# Trade Policy Coordinating Committee

**Report for the Senior Officials' Meeting**

8<sup>th</sup> CAREC Ministerial Conference

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Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

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# Trade Policy Strategic Action Plan

- Progress in trade liberalization
- Vigorous pursuit of WTO accession
- Capacity-building activities to support intraregional and international trade

# Eleventh TPCC Meeting (Ulaanbaatar, October 13, 2009)

- Monitoring trade liberalization measures
- Discussing training for WTO accession
- Identifying institutional impediments to trade
- Providing guidance on the work program

# Monitoring Trade Liberalization Measures

- A draft questionnaire was discussed
- The questionnaire will collect information on trade liberalization, and reducing impediments to transit & trade in 2009-12
- Questionnaire will be filled once a year
- IMF will monitor progress

# Training on WTO Accession

- The World Bank presented a seminar
- Discussions focused on requirements, benefits & costs of accession
- Follow up actions include sharing experiences between countries and further training on WTO accession

# Institutional Impediments to Trade

- An outline of a study on institutional barriers was discussed
- Delegates will provide inputs to finish the study
- Draft for discussion in the next TPCC meeting

# Future Work Program: Trade Liberalization

By 2010:

- ✓ Reduce number of non-zero tariff bands
- ✓ Reduce impediments to transit trade
- ✓ Eliminate export QRs and half of import QRs
- ✓ Apply VAT and excises on imports uniformly
- ✓ Eliminate miscellaneous charges, fees, taxes
- ✓ Cut maximum tariff by half

# Future Work Program: WTO Accession

- ✓ Advance trade liberalization measures
- ✓ Seminars on global experiences
- ✓ Bilateral workshops between CAREC WTO members and candidate countries



# Future Work Program: Institutional Impediments to Trade

- ✓ The study in preparation will provide a framework to identify impediments
- ✓ The study will recommend ways of addressing them