

# **Trade Policy Coordinating Committee Progress Report and Action Plan**

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# Outline

- **Background**
- **Key developments in the last six months**
- **Work plan for 2010-11**



# Background

- Trade Policy Strategic Action Plan (TPSAP) endorsed in November 2008
  1. WTO accession
    - Support through training
  2. Trade liberalization
    - Eliminate remaining quantitative restrictions
    - Reduce and simplify trade taxes, transit and border trade barriers
  3. Capacity building to improve institutional environment
- Time frame for implementation: objective of WTO membership for all countries by end-2013



# Training on WTO Accession

- Sharing of information between WTO member and non-member countries
  - Seminar on WTO accession experience conducted by Chinese officials
  - Note provided by Mongolian delegation
- Seminar on recent developments in multilateral agricultural trade negotiations
  - Conducted by World Bank
- IMF and ADB are formulating a joint two-year training program on WTO accession for CAREC countries



# Monitoring Trade Liberalization

- Initial analysis of progress on TPCC action plan
  - Data collected using a questionnaire-based tool shows some progress on trade liberalization
  - Delegates will send updated information by end-April
- A set of trade policy indicators for the CAREC Results Framework
  - 10 indicators on trade liberalization endorsed now
  - Additional indicators could be included after the first year of Results Framework implementation



# Institutional Impediments to Trade in CAREC Countries

- Initial draft of paper was discussed at the 12<sup>th</sup> TPCC meeting
  - Review of recent studies on institutional impediments to trade
  - Relative position of CAREC countries
  - Proposals for a working agenda
  - Delegates will provide inputs on short-term and long-term priorities by end-June
- Final report to be completed at the 13<sup>th</sup> TPCC meeting



# Work Plan for 2010-11

- Launch the new series of WTO knowledge sharing program after careful preparation
  - Time, location, and participants to be defined after confirmation of partners and resources
- Continuous monitoring of TPSAP implementation
  - Analyze and present the results of TPSAP monitoring questionnaire
  - Timely provision of data is crucial
- Finalize the paper on institutional impediments to trade

