

**CENTRAL ASIA REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION (CAREC) PROGRAM
SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION
4TH TRANSPORT SECTOR COORDINATING COMMITTEE (TSCC) MEETING
12-13 October 2005, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The 4th Meeting of the Transport Sector Coordinating Committee (TSCC) of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Program was convened on 12-13 October 2005 in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic. Delegations from all seven CAREC member countries participated in the Meeting. Representatives of multilateral institutions (MIs) including the Asian Development Bank (ADB), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the World Bank also attended. The Meeting was co-chaired by the Kyrgyz Republic and ADB.

2. The TSCC members reaffirmed their commitment to regional transport cooperation, and agreed to continue working together to achieve the goals and strategic directions of the Regional Transport Sector Roadmap.

II. PROGRESS IN REGIONAL TRANSPORT COOPERATION

3. The TSCC members reviewed the progress since the 3rd TSCC Meeting in Bishkek in March 2005. Regional investments and technical assistance projects approved, or in the pipeline for 2005 and 2006 are listed in Appendix 1. The MIs lending products for 2005 – 2006 amount to \$1015.8 million, with \$657.8 million in 2005 and \$358.0 million in 2006. The MIs non-lending products for 2005 – 2006 amount to \$6.8 million, with \$2.2 million in 2005 and \$4.6 million in 2006.

III. TSCC 2006 WORK PROGRAM AND IMPLEMENTATION ACTION PLAN

4. The TSCC Secretariat presented the drafts of the TSCC 2006 Work Program and the Action Plan for implementing the Regional Transport Sector Roadmap. The TSCC members provided comments and endorsed the TSCC 2006 Work Program and the Action Plan for implementing the Regional Transport Sector Roadmap. It was agreed to present these two documents to the Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) on 14 October 2005 (Refer to Appendix 2).

5. The TSCC Secretariat presented for consideration the draft criteria for the classification of investment projects and studies as regional cooperation in CAREC countries. The TSCC members provided their comments and agreed to report the endorsed criteria to the SOM (Refer to Appendix 3).

IV. HARMONIZATION AND SIMPLIFICATION OF CROSS-BORDER TRANSPORT PROCEDURES AND DOCUMENTATION AND HARMONIZATION OF TRANSPORT REGULATIONS (PHASE I)

6. The ADB representative made a presentation on the study for the harmonization and simplification of cross-border transport procedures and transport regulations (Phase I) in the road and railways sub-sectors in CAREC member countries. The TSCC members proposed the

inclusion of a detailed time schedule and responsibilities in the action plan. They made a note of the study and requested the Secretariat to incorporate the comments and present the final draft of the action plan to the next TSCC meeting.

V. INITIATIVES FOR REGIONAL TRANSPORT COOPERATION

7. The ADB representative made a presentation on the proposed regional technical assistance for the facilitation of transport cooperation among CAREC member countries (Phase I). The TSCC members made comments and approved the revised technical assistance proposal for further processing.

8. The WB representative briefed the TSCC meeting on the study of the potential for liberalization of the aviation sector in Central Asia. The TSCC members made a note of the results of the study and made a commitment to convey results to their aviation authorities. The WB is requested to develop the final draft report taking into account the comments made in the meeting and the comments to be made by the aviation authorities in CAREC member countries concerned for presentation at the next TSCC meeting. The TSCC members are asked to provide their comments to the WB in one month.

9. The ADB representative briefed the TSCC meeting on the progress of the negotiation process of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) members on the intergovernmental agreement on Facilitation of International Road Transport.

10. The Tajikistan Ministry of Transport representative briefed the TSCC meeting on the status of the preparation of draft founding documents for the establishment of the transport consortium of the Central Asia Cooperation Organization (CACO). The delegates made a note of such documents.

VI. NEXT STEPS

11. The TSCC members made a decision to submit a report to the SOM the following results:

- Approved regional investment projects and technical assistance and planned for 2005 and 2006. (Refer to Appendix 1).
- TSCC 2006 Work Program and the Action Plan for implementing the Regional Transport Sector Roadmap. (Refer to Appendix 2).
- ADB study for the harmonization and simplification of cross-border transport procedures and transport regulations (Phase I) in the road and railways sub-sectors in CAREC member countries.
- The criteria for classification of investment projects and studies as regional cooperation in CAREC member countries. (Refer to Appendix 3)
- ADB's proposal of regional technical assistance for facilitation of transport cooperation in CAREC member countries (Phase I).

- Information on the progress of the WB study of the potential for liberalization of the aviation sector in Central Asia.

VII. CONCLUDING REMARKS

12. The TSCC members noted that there has been certain progress achieved in coordinating regional transport cooperation issues among the CAREC member countries.

13. The TSCC members expressed their appreciation to the Government of Kyrgyz Republic and ADB for hosting the 4th TSCC Meeting and for the good arrangements.

14. It was agreed that the 5th TSCC Meeting would be held in the first half of 2006 at a location to be determined later.