



Regional Trade Facilitation and Customs Cooperation Program In Support of Joint Transport and Trade Facilitation Strategy

Progress Report - November 2008- May 2009

**Senior Officials' Meeting on
Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation
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ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	–	Asian Development Bank
BCP	–	border crossing point
BDF		Business Development Forum
C21		Customs in the 21 st Century
CAREC	–	Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation
CBM		Coordinated Border Management
CCC	–	Customs Cooperation Committee
CPMM	–	Corridor Performance Measurement and Monitoring
GNC		Globally Networked Customs
ICT	–	information and communication technology
IRU	–	International Road Transport Union
ITF		Integrated Trade Facilitation
JCC	–	Joint Customs Control
MC		Ministerial Conference
MOU		Memorandum of Understanding
NELTI		New Euroasian Land Transport Initiative
NJC	–	National Joint Transport and Trade Facilitation Committee
PRC	–	People's Republic of China
RATTL	–	regional association for transport and trade logistics
RETA		regional technical assistance
RJC	–	CAREC Regional Joint Transport and Trade Facilitation Coordinating Committee
SCC		State Customs Committee
SOM		Senior Officials' Meeting
SW	–	Single window
TA	–	technical assistance
TCD		Time-cost-distance
TF		Trade facilitation
TNA	–	Training Needs Assessment
TSCC		Transport Sector Coordinating Committee
TTFS	–	Joint Transport and Trade Facilitation Strategy
UNECE	–	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNESCAP	–	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
WCO	–	World Customs Organization
XUAR	–	Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region

NOTE

In this report, "\$" refers to US dollars.

Executive Summary

Customs cooperation will continue to be a major focus of the Regional Trade Facilitation work of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Program. The work program in this area in the short to medium terms will emphasize the five priority areas, namely, (i) simplification and harmonization of customs procedures and documentation, (ii) information and communication technology (ICT) customs modernization and data exchange, (iii) risk management and post-entry audit, (iv) joint customs control, and (v) regional transit development. It will also continue to support the strong ties that have been developed among CAREC customs authorities. In the past year, the CAREC countries have actively pursued joint customs control and regional transit development efforts and these initiatives are being actively supported.

Positive results from Joint Customs Control (JCC) arrangements between CAREC countries have encouraged more of these arrangements to be tried out in more border crossing points (BCPs). The Customs Cooperation Committee (CCC) supports innovative and phased-in approaches in introducing JCC while also welcoming pilot projects at locations other than the identified priority corridors. However it is expected that those pilots, if proven successful, should eventually be transplanted to BCPs along the CAREC priority corridors. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is committed to support CAREC CCC members in efforts to develop JCC projects with both technical assistance as well as assistance in seeking funds for investments. Efforts to develop regional transit systems that would be inexpensive and will contribute to facilitation of trade through faster clearance procedures while, at the same, increasing revenue collection at the border is being supported.

Integrated trade facilitation (ITF) relates to a wide range of activities, involves numerous agencies from within and outside the country, and requires the participation of both public and private sectors. The ITF work program will focus on promoting the establishment of national joint transport and trade facilitation committees (NJC) and the Regional Joint Transport and Trade Facilitation Committee (RJC); installing a corridor performance measurement and monitoring (CPMM) system; promoting single window (SW) services; developing a regional capacity building framework to enhance skills and capacity in promoting and implementing trade facilitation strategies; and supporting public-private partnerships for financing of key investments in trade logistics infrastructure and operations.

A stock-taking on the status of NJCs has been undertaken and support will be provided in establishing these committees in countries where these have not been set-up and in strengthening those that have been created. The RJC will be set-up when a majority (5) of the countries have set up their NJCs and have selected their representatives to the RJC. Work has also started in establishing a CPMM system. ADB has signed memoranda of understanding (MOUs) and set up advance payment facilities with 12 partner associations¹ to cover the operational costs of collecting data. These partner associations will submit the data they collected to the CAREC secretariat at ADB for consolidation and analysis. Quarterly reports on CPMM that summarizes results of the data analysis, and in-depth biannual reports will be submitted to CAREC senior officials meetings and the Ministerial Conference

¹ Association of Afghanistan Freight Forwarders Companies; Azerbaijan International Road Carriers Association; Kazakhstan Freight Forwarders Association; Kyrgyz Freight Operators Association ; National Road Transport Association of Mongolia; Mongolia National Chamber of Commerce and Industry; China International Freight Forwarders Association; Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region Logistics Association; Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region Freight Forwarders Association; Association of International Automobile Carriers; Association of International Road Carriers of Uzbekistan; and Business Logistics Development Association of Uzbekistan.

CAREC has been actively promoting the adoption of the SW scheme to streamline transport, freight forwarding, trade logistics, and customs operations while enhancing the competitiveness of the CAREC countries. In order to push forward the work on SW, it will be useful to help CAREC countries agree on a common concept of SW and prepare a roadmap towards adopting the scheme at the national level with a view to developing a regional SW scheme later. Training on how to effectively and efficiently implement SW development programs in the field will be designed and implemented and diagnostic studies on pending issues on SW development in the region will be prepared.

At the request of the CCC a training needs assessment (TNA) was done to ascertain the state of knowledge, skills, and capabilities that are available in the region and to identify gaps that need to be bridged. Core curricula for trade facilitation have been suggested and a more in-depth assessment of the capacities of existing regional facilities will be undertaken. Matching courses with the most appropriate existing training institutions in the region will be done in close consultation with the CAREC participating countries. Assistance will then be provided in pairing such institutions with international training centers that excel in such subject matters. Training for policy makers will continue to be provided on ad hoc/per need basis.

The ITF program will also strengthen work relationships with development partners and coordinate efforts to ensure there will be no overlaps and that activities are synchronized. Work in other areas such as trade logistics development and coordination with development partners involved in trade facilitation are also being pursued through RETAs and individual investments. There is also some adjustment in new RETAs for trade facilitation.

I. Background

1. The trade facilitation program of CAREC is comprised of two components: (i) customs cooperation, which entails concerted customs reform, modernization and cooperation, and (ii) integrated trade facilitation, which promotes efficient regional trade logistics development, focusing on priority trade corridors, single window schemes, enhanced interagency cooperation and public-private partnerships, support for the joint transport and trade facilitation committees, and capacity building.

2. Customs cooperation has been the core trade facilitation program, with the CCC serving as a regional forum to address issues of common interest. CCC work has focused on the five priority areas of (i) simplification and harmonization of customs procedures and documentation, (ii) information and communication technology (ICT) customs modernization and data exchange, (iii) risk management and post-entry audit, (iv) joint customs control, and (v) regional transit development. The CCC has also been successful in creating an environment of trust and cooperation among the customs services of the participating countries, becoming a cohesive body within CAREC.

3. The concept of ITF was introduced at the 6th CCC meeting Manila in 2007. At the 7th CCC Meeting in Issy-Kul, Kyrgyz Republic in September 2008, it was agreed that CCC should keep its focus on regional customs cooperation issues. The ITF mandate envisaged by the joint transport and trade facilitation action plan should be taken up by the respective national joint trade and transport facilitation committees and the CAREC Regional Joint Transport and Trade Facilitation Coordination Committee.

4. The coordinated work programs of customs cooperation and ITF were submitted to the Ministerial Conference held in Baku, Azerbaijan last November 2008. Under these work programs, the customs cooperation activities for 2009-2010 will continue supporting on-going efforts to align national legal instruments with international standards, upgrading facilities and processes for automating customs systems, and introducing risk management measures in customs procedures. More vigorous efforts are planned to expand the pilot testing of JCC arrangements and the adoption of regional transit systems that would facilitate the movement of goods across borders while, at the same time, being appropriate for CAREC conditions. ITF activities, meanwhile, will prioritize the establishment and/or strengthening of NJCs and the possible formation of a RJC before the end of 2009; installation and refining of the CPMM system in the eight CAREC participating countries, development of national road maps towards adopting single window systems, and implementation of a sustainable capacity building program..²

II. Progress Report for the period November 2008 - May 2009

A. Customs Cooperation

5. Customs cooperation will continue to be a major focus of the Regional Trade Facilitation and Customs Cooperation Program of CAREC. The work program in the short to medium terms will emphasize the five CAREC priority areas and continue to support the strong ties that have been developed among CAREC customs authorities. Last year, the CAREC countries have actively pursued joint customs control efforts and these initiatives will be actively supported.

² CAREC Customs and Trade Facilitation Updates and Work Program 2008 can be found in CAREC Website: <http://www.adb.org/documents/events/2008/7th-CAREC-Ministerial-Conference/default.asp>

JCC programs have been started between the PRC and Kazakhstan and the PRC and Mongolia. Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic also launched a pilot Safe Packet transit system to simplify and accelerate the movement of goods across their borders. The 7th CAREC Ministerial Meeting agreed that the CCC will continue to meet on a regular basis and focus on the five customs priority areas. The CCC, for its part, plans to establish more focused task forces for better implementation of initiatives, and better budget planning for financial support and technical assistance. The 8th CCC is scheduled to be held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan in September 2009.

6. It has also been noted that CCC's focus on the five priority areas is well-aligned with the recently-approved World Customs Organization (WCO) roadmap "Customs in the 21st Century" or C21 which highlight ten building blocks, The top two priority building blocks - Globally Networked Customs (GNC) and Coordinated Border Management (CBM) have very strong linkage with the JCC and Integrated Border Management programs of the CCC.

1. Joint Customs Control

7. A Seminar on JCC for CAREC senior customs officials, which was co-sponsored by the General Administration of China Customs and ADB, was held in Guangzhou, PRC last 17-19 February 2009.³ The seminar aimed to further the exchange of views and experiences on JCC techniques and enhance CAREC participants' capacities to design and implement JCC schemes that are appropriate for their respective environments.

8. Two technical presentations were conducted at the seminar by resource persons from the WCO and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). The WCO gave a comprehensive presentation on C21 that emphasizes on 10 building blocks, of which the top two priority building blocks are GNC and CBM. It was noted that the JCC seminar fits well with the strategic directions recommended by WCO with the JCC concept directly relating to GNC and Integrated Border Management relating directly with CBM.

9. The open discussion after the WCO presentation focused on finding success stories on JCC that would serve as good examples for the CAREC countries to emulate. The consensus was that the implementation of JCC has to be in stages and that a compendium of best practices that could be made available to all CAREC members will be helpful.

10. UNESCAP provided a list of practical issues that need to be considered in implementing JCC, one of the more noteworthy ones of which is the need for high level commitment to support JCCs. The need for adequate legislative framework on both sides of the border in order to operationalize any agreement was also emphasized. So was the fact that a primary step toward resolving JCC issues is the recognition of the complexity of JCC and the unique differences in each border crossing. It was proposed that a specific and detailed study be undertaken for each border crossing before implementing JCC as countries work toward adopting a more comprehensive integrated border crossing management scheme.

11. The CAREC members also gave country presentations and updated the participants on the progress of JCCs in their respective jurisdictions. These presentations provided a valuable opportunity for the seminar participants to hear the most current JCC policy issues being discussed at the global and regional levels, and to learn from each other as they shared their

³ Minutes of and presentations made at the JCC Seminar can be found in CAREC website: <http://www.adb.org/Documents/Events/2009/CAREC-Joint-Customs-Control/default.asp>

experiences in pushing forward the JCC process. CCC encourages innovative and phased-in approaches in introducing JCC and also welcomes pilot projects at locations other than the identified priority corridors. However, it is expected that those pilots, if proven successful, should eventually be transplanted to border crossings along the priority corridors.

12. ADB, WCO, UNESCAP and other multilateral organizations are committed to support CAREC CCC members in the development of JCC projects, through technical assistance as well as the provision of assistance in seeking funds for investments. ADB supported WCO's recommendation to establish a repository of case studies of ongoing JCC projects under the CAREC CCC umbrella, to share within and outside of the region their varied experiences in implementing different modalities of JCC, and the continued improvement of JCC schemes in the future

2. Regional Transit Development

13. In 2007, Kazakhstan proposed the use of a "safe packet" system for the movement of goods across border crossing points with neighboring countries the Kyrgyz Republic and Uzbekistan. The system is designed to prevent unreliable declaration and to simplify and accelerate the movement of goods. ADB provided consulting services to review the proposal in late 2007 and early 2008. The consultant viewed the safe packet system as implemented in Kazakhstan as a commendable and inexpensive initiative that will contribute to the facilitation of trade through faster clearance procedures while, at the same, increasing revenue collection at the border.

14. A Protocol between the State Customs Committee (SCC) of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Customs Control Committee of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Putting into Operation the Joint Technology for Using Sealed Safe Packages was signed on 9 September 2008. Subsequently, an MOU between ADB and the Kyrgyz Republic was signed on 30 October 2008, under which ADB provides technical assistance to the SCC of the Kyrgyz Republic in putting into operation the joint technology for using sealed safe packages at the checkpoint Ak-Jol (Kyrgyz Republic) and Kordai (Republic of Kazakhstan). An initial amount of \$25,000 has been released to the SCC through the ADB Kyrgyz resident Mission and 20,000 units of safe packets have been bought and delivered to the Ak-Jol border crossing point. The SCC has also been coordinating with the relevant ministries and departments in drafting legislation and issuance of a government decree that would create a legal and regulatory environment supportive of the effective implementation of the safe packets scheme in Kyrgyzstan. Implementation of the scheme is expected to commence in June or July of this year.

B. Integrated Trade Facilitation

15. The ITF of the TTFS aims to build on inter-agency cooperation and partnership with the private sector, facilitate the development of an efficient regional logistics industry, and establish a regional mechanism to complement the CCC process. The ITF work program will focus on promoting the establishment of NJCs and an RJC; installing of a CPMM system; promotion of SW schemes; development of a regional capacity building framework to enhance skills and capacity to promote and implement trade facilitation strategies; and supporting of public-private partnerships for financing of key investments in trade logistics. The ITF program will also strengthen work relationships with development partners and coordinate efforts to ensure that there will be no overlaps and that activities are synchronized. Work in areas such as trade logistics development and coordination with development partners involved in trade facilitation

are also being pursued through regional technical assistance projects (RETAs) and individual investments. There are also some adjustments in new RETAs for trade facilitation.

1. CAREC Corridors Performance Measurement

16. The TTFS and its Action Plan focus on the development of the six CAREC corridors, which will facilitate transport and trade within and through the CAREC region and provide important links among the world's rapidly growing markets around the area. The strategy mandates that performance be measured and monitored periodically to ascertain the current situation along the links and nodes of each CAREC corridor, identify bottlenecks, and determine courses of action to address such bottlenecks. Thus CAREC, with assistance from ADB, is implementing the CAREC Corridors Performance Measurement and Monitoring program (CPMM).

17. Three methods that measure and monitor performance has been considered for CAREC, each focused on a particular corridor component. The Time/Cost Distance (TCD) Methodology will gather time and cost data associated with transit transport processes to identify constraints along a particular route by looking at a detailed breakdown of cost and time involved along every section of the route. Based on the data gathered, further work may be sanctioned using the Time Release study to assess legal and regulatory factors impinging on the efficiency of a route, and/or the Logistics Performance Index to assess logistics services efficiency.

18. The implementation of the CPMM for CAREC was discussed at the Seminar on Trade Logistics Development and Performance Measurement and Monitoring held last 23 April 2008 in Baku,⁴ Republic of Azerbaijan and also during the Trade Logistics Development Workshop held in Tashkent in September 2008.⁵ It was later formally approved at the Seventh Customs Coordination Committee Meeting on 8-9 September, 2008 in Issy Kul and again affirmed at the CAREC Ministerial Conference on 21 November, 2008 in Baku. It was decided that CPMM will be initially carried out in CAREC priority sub-corridors:

19. Since November 2008, ADB trade and transport facilitation experts has been going around the region and consulting with both public and private sector on the methodologies to be used in gathering data for the CPMM. Partner freight forwarders and transport carrier associations which will collect data for the CPMM were identified and Memoranda of Agreement between ADB and these associations were drafted. These memoranda define the roles and responsibilities of both parties and will cover 1 year of CPMM activities, with option to renew for another year.

20. In February 2009, a CPMM Workshop was held in Guangzhou, PRC (i) to discuss in more detail the technical issues in implementing the TCD methodology; (ii) validate the appropriateness of selected CAREC corridors; and (iii) finalize project schedule, partnership arrangements, and data consolidation procedures.⁶

21. It was agreed at the workshop that the number of observations per month would be set at 30 samples for each partner association and that all sub-corridors will be covered including

⁴ Presentations made at the Seminar can be found in CAREC website: <http://www.adb.org/Documents/Events/2008/CAREC-Corridor/default.asp>

⁵ Presentations made at the workshop can be found in CAREC website: <http://www.adb.org/Documents/Events/2008/Trade-Logistics-Final/default.asp>

⁶ Minutes of and presentations made at the Seminar can be found in CAREC website: <http://www.adb.org/Documents/Events/2009/CAREC-Corridor-Performance-Monitoring/default.asp>

rail instead of only road transport. It was also agreed that each partner association will allocate at least half (15 observations) on designated sub-corridors 1b, 2a, 3b, 4b, 5, 6c, as approved by the CAREC Ministerial Conference of 2008, and associations can decide how to split the observations between road and rail transport, depending on the relative importance among corridors and between road and rail transports for certain segments of the corridors.

22. It was also agreed that partner associations will submit the data in TCD template form to the CAREC secretariat at ADB for consolidation and analysis. The CAREC secretariat at ADB will build a database to support data analysis and reporting. Quarterly reports on the CPMM that provides a summary of the results of data analysis, and biennial in-depth reports will be submitted to CAREC senior officials meeting and the Ministerial Conference.

23. ADB has signed MOUs and set up advance payment facilities with 12 partner associations⁷ to provide for the operational costs of each partner association. These payments will be liquidated per actual expenses using ADB's Statement of Expenditure method.

24. Partner associations from 7 jurisdictions submitted a total of 133TCD templates and preliminary results show that all 133 trips passed through CAREC corridors at one point or another. Of the 133 trips, 112 or 84% crossed borders while only 16% stayed within the border. 38 trips or 29% travelled less than 500 kilometers (kms.) from point of origin to final destination, 35% travelled between 500-2,500 kms. and 18% travelled more than 4,500 kms. Twenty five percent (25%) of these trips lasted for less than a day and 41% lasted between 1-4 days, 18 % between 4-6 days and a high of 40% lasted more than 6 days. Preliminary results also showed that approximately 44% reported that they spent less than US\$1000 from point of origin to final destination, 31% spent between US\$1,000 to US\$2,000, 10% spent between US\$2001 and US\$4,000 and 15% spent over US\$4,000. In terms of time spent for various activities the most significant activities are: parking which recorded a minimum of 10 minutes and maximum of 12,960 minutes or 216 hours or 9 days; waiting for wagons with minimum of 40 minutes and maximum of 7,200 minutes or 5 days; customs clearance with minimum of 1 minute and maximum of 4,300 minutes or 3 days; and police inspection which lasted a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 1,145 minutes or 19 hours. The amounts paid for the corridor activities varied from a low of US\$0.50 to a high of US\$ 3,290 for customs clearance; minimum of US\$2 to a maximum of US\$ 910 for fuel; minimum of US\$ 7.40 and maximum of US\$ 353 for repairs or tire replacement; and minimum of US\$ 6 to maximum of US\$333 for permits and documents.

25. Cooperation with other international organizations also involved in monitoring corridor performance will be pursued. The International Road Transport Union (IRU) is implementing the New Euroasian Land Transport Initiative (NELTI) which aims to facilitate the development of road transport between Europe and Asia and help eliminate the barriers in international road transport haulage. It submitted a proposed Memorandum of Understanding for ADB and IRU to jointly monitor road transport performance in the CAREC region and beyond. ADB will monitor CAREC corridors while the IRU will monitor countries bordering CAREC - Georgia, Iran, Russia, Turkmenistan, and Turkey – and thus complete the coverage of monitoring from points of origin to final destinations. The MOU suggests sharing of information on monitoring and related

⁷ Association of Afghanistan Freight Forwarders Companies; Azerbaijan International Road Carriers Association; Kazakhstan Freight Forwarders Association; Kyrgyz Freight Operators Association ; National Road Transport Association of Mongolia; Mongolia National Chamber of Commerce and Industry; China International Freight Forwarders Association; Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region Logistics Association; Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region Freight Forwarders Association; Association of International Automobile Carriers; Association of International Road Carriers of Uzbekistan; and Business Logistics Development Association of Uzbekistan.

research results, joint seminars/trainings on specific themes of interest to both parties and presentation of joint results at the 6th IRU meeting in June 2011.

2. Single Window

26. CAREC has been actively promoting the adoption of the SW scheme to streamline transport, freight forwarding, trade logistics and customs operations and enhance the competitiveness of the CAREC countries. A number of workshops have been organized,⁸ not only by ADB but also by various other donors, to introduce concepts and international best practices on SW development to CAREC countries. Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia have introduced legislation and various decrees to enable them to implement SW schemes while other CAREC countries are in various stages of introducing similar legislative reforms to introduce and implement national SW programs.

27. In order to push forward the work on SW, it will be useful to help CAREC countries agree on a common concept of SW and prepare a roadmap towards adopting the scheme at the national level with a view to developing a regional SW scheme later. The ASEAN approach to developing national and regional SW may serve as a practical model for CAREC to explore and consider.

28. CAREC members have also indicated that while they appreciate the introduction of the general principles of SW, training on how to implement SW development programs in the field will also be most useful at this point. For training to be more targeted and effective, it will be necessary to undertake diagnostic studies on pending issues of SW development in the region. Since the Kyrgyz Republic and Mongolia have undertaken considerable efforts to implement SW, it would be opportune to study these two cases, and determine further training needed to help streamline the implementation or adoption of the SW scheme in CAREC participating countries. The case studies will serve as bases for developing both the roadmaps and the SW training program.

3. Capacity Building

29. The CCC at its 7th Meeting recommended that a study be carried out for the CCC with the support of ADB to take stock of available capacity building resources in the region and provide a framework for a coordinated and responsive customs and integrated trade facilitation capacity building program for CAREC. From December 2008 to mid-February 2009, ADB consultants visited most of the CAREC countries and consulted with both public and private sector stakeholders to ascertain the state of knowledge and skills capabilities available in the region and identify gaps that need to be bridged.

30. The preliminary results of the TNA were presented at a workshop in Guangzhou PRC on 20-21 February 2009.⁹ The study showed that despite uneven development stages of member countries, there is a high degree of commonality in the need for training in customs administration and other areas of trade facilitation which can be met by a regional supply of training activities. Some countries need to further develop skills/knowledge already possessed,

⁸ Presentations made at the Seminar for Single Window Developing in July 2008 in Singapore can be found in CAREC website: <http://www.adb.org/Documents/Events/2008/single-window-development/default.asp>

⁹ Minutes of and presentations made at the Seminar can be found in CAREC website: <http://www.adb.org/Documents/events/2009/CAREC-Training-Needs-Assessment/default.asp>

and it may be possible to meet some of the needs using internal resource/expertise – including the private sector. The following were proposed as trade facilitation core curriculum:

- Single Window Strategic Development
- Single Window Process Development
- Risk Management Techniques in a Trade Facilitation Environment
- Post-Customs Control
- Legislative reform and Trade Facilitation
- Regional Logistics development Program
- Customs Procedures for Logistics Practitioners
- Trade Awareness for Border Control Staff
- Training Needs Analysis
- Trainers' Skills

31. Workshop participants expressed the need to adapt training methodologies/content to the region's needs/situation but also acknowledged the need to consider best practices not only from developed countries but especially from neighboring countries in Asia. The need to consider the target audience was also pointed out to determine level of training needed e.g., policy analysis for policy makers and technical training for specialists.

32. Most CAREC countries pointed out that they have existing training facilities and capabilities that cater to customs administration and trade facilitation. They then noted that the focus of assistance should thus be on further developing and strengthening these capabilities, developing curricula that are more responsive to the current needs to be internationally competitive, upgrading the skills of faculties to international standards, and ensuring that these capacities can be sustained.

33. Other government agencies involved in border control and the private sector will have to be involved in the capacity building exercise including in the areas of coordination and cross-agency collaboration. Their participation in the early stages of identifying needs and planning capacity-building strategies will be crucial in ensuring the relevance of the training programs. Study recommendations include:

- Inclusion of the responsibilities for the identification of training and development needs to the tasks of the NJCs and the RJC;
- Creation of as simple Regional Training Database accessible to all CAREC participating countries; and
- Creation of a simple training development structure including the measures to ensure consistency in the identification of needs, appropriateness of content, level and quality of delivery, and skills transfer.

4. Trade Logistics

34. Trade logistics studies have been completed for Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Mongolia, the Xinjiang Uyghur and Inner Mongolia autonomous regions of the PRC, the Kyrgyz Republic; Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The country studies identified constraints to logistics development, and provided recommendations to address such constraints, including strategies to promote the development of the logistics sector, encourage public investments, as well as strengthen public-private partnerships and regional cooperation projects.

35. These studies are being finalized and edited and are expected to be published by mid 2009. A book launch is scheduled in the 3rd quarter of the year.

5. National and Regional Joint Transport and Trade Facilitation Committees

36. The Action Plan of the TTFS proposed that NJCs be established to promote transport development and integrated trade facilitation at the national level through improved interagency collaboration and enhanced partnerships between the public and private sectors. The NJCs will include representatives of government agencies responsible for transport, trade, and border-crossing activities (including ministries of Transport, Trade, Economy, and Customs, as well as agencies involved in quarantine, sanitary and phyto-sanitary standards, product standards, security, and immigration) and private sector groups such as freight forwarders associations and logistics service providers.

37. At the regional level, the program will help set up the RJC, which will consist of representatives from the NJCs. The RJC will serve as the regional forum to discuss and resolve issues of common interest regarding barriers to trade.

38. A matrix summarizing the country profiles of existing trade and/or transport facilitation bodies in CAREC countries has been prepared (please see Appendix 2). The process of confirming the existence/status of the committees identified in the UNESCAP study and identifying contact persons and/or potential partners in setting up/strengthening NJCs/RJCs in each of the CAREC countries has been initiated in close coordination with the CAREC regional coordinators in resident missions.

39. A Workshop on NJC/RJC was held on 26 May 2009 in Ulaan Baatar, Mongolia to discuss with stakeholders various issues regarding the establishment and/or strengthening of NJCs and setting -up the RJC, including future plans for the involvement of the NJCs in major CAREC activities such as the CPMM, single window schemes, and training needs assessment and capacity building programs.

6. Coordination with Development Partners

40. Coordination with development partners in the conduct of trainings and workshops continues to be actively pursued. The WCO and UNESCAP participated in the JCC workshop while the IRU gave a presentation on the NELTI project during the CPMM workshop. The Single Window Training scheduled in mid July will be co-sponsored by IES. A proposed Memorandum of Understanding between ADB and IRU is being reviewed by both parties. The MOU will promote the sharing of information on the results of corridor and road transport monitoring activities, as well as the conduct of joint conferences, round table discussions and trainings/seminars.

7. Regional Association of Transport and Trade Logistics

41. Discussions among the freight forwarders associations, road carriers association and logistics groups on creating a regional association for transport and trade logistics (RATTL) have been initiated and a proposal to formally set up the RATTL has been drafted. The aim of the association would be to strengthen cooperation among business associations, and transport, trade and logistics companies of CAREC member countries through the implementation of joint projects and establishment and development of a regional information system for trade,

transport and warehouse logistics in CAREC member countries. A concept paper specifying the objectives and defining the structure and operating principles of the proposed RATTLL has been circulated among the various associations for their review. Feedback on the proposal has been positive and there are plans to formally establish the regional association during the Business Development Forum in Urumqi to be held at the end of August 2009. The BDF will support private sector participation in regional initiatives, encourage foreign direct investment in priority infrastructure projects, and promote collaboration among private and public sector organizations in CAREC countries.

III. Further Activities Envisaged Prior to the Ministerial Meeting

42. The 8th annual CCC meeting is scheduled to be held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan in September 2009. Discussions during this meeting will focus on the progress made in the five priority areas of customs cooperation, as well as on future plans.

43. The second NJC workshop is scheduled to coincide with the Ministerial Conference scheduled in October 2009 in Ulan Baatar, Mongolia and possibly the first RJC meeting if a majority of the countries have nominated their representatives to the RJC by then. The workshop will discuss the status of the NJCs and their roles in the implementation of CPMM and Single Window activities in their respective jurisdictions, as well as the refinement of the terms of reference for the committees in light of the experience gained since the last workshop. Country specific studies for Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, which still have to formally set-up joint committees for transport and trade, will also be undertaken to help strategize on how to establish or revive their respective NJCs.

44. CPMM activities are expected to go full swing in the 3rd quarter of 2009. A Training Manual is being prepared and training will be conducted to ensure that all partner associations have a common understanding of the objectives of the project, to standardize data collection and synchronize data submission. Data aggregation techniques will be refined as feedback from the field is gathered. It is expected that a more substantial and in-depth report may be submitted for the next SOM and MC in October.

45. To push forward initiatives on the SW scheme, consultants have been fielded to review efforts made to install this scheme in Azerbaijan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, and Uzbekistan, assess progress made, develop case studies for the Kyrgyz Republic and Mongolia, and assist CAREC countries prepare road maps towards designing and implementing SW schemes.

46. Based on the review and assessment of SW activities, a training session will be held in mid July in Singapore as part of the technical assistance being provided to enhance the capacities of CAREC countries in implementing SW programs in the field.

47. Based on the findings and recommendations of the recently-finalized TNA for Trade Facilitation, groups of subject matters that can be developed and offered on a regular basis will be identified and referred to the CAREC Institute. Matching courses with the most appropriate existing training institutions in the region will be done in close consultation with the CAREC participating countries and assistance will also be provided in pairing such institutions with international training centers that excel in such subject matters. Training for policy makers will continue to be provided on ad hoc/per need basis.

48. Recommendations of the TNA study also included the setting up of a simple Regional Training Database that will be accessible to all CAREC member countries and the creation of an informal training development structure that would ensure consistency in identification of further training needs, appropriateness of content, level and quality of delivery and skills transfer.

49 The Business Development Forum in Urumqi will include a panel discussion on trade facilitation that will convey two key messages: (i) effective trade facilitation is a necessary condition for strong private sector led growth of the economy in the region; and (ii) CAREC TF work allows private sector to actively participate in policy making and regional cooperation activities. During the forum, the creation of a regional association of transport and trade logistics (RATTTL) will be formally launched.

50. The TTFS action plan proposed 17 small RETAs on promoting trade facilitation in CAREC. These proposals have been consolidated into 6 bigger projects to be designed and implemented in the next three years. Recently, the concept paper on "Working with the Private Sector on Trade Facilitation" has been approved and a TA proposal is now being developed. The proposed TA will institutionalize the NJCs/RJC as CAREC cooperation mechanisms, deepen inter-agency collaboration and enhance private public sector partnerships by enabling the NJCs and RJC to implement core activities identified in the national and regional action plans. The table below summarizes the merged proposed TAs.

TA Nos. in TTFS	Title	Proposed Amount	Processing Year
TA 3 & TA 39	Facility and Process Improvements at BCPs	\$2.5 million	2010
TA4 &TA5	Strengthening Capabilities of National Certification Agencies	\$6.1 million	2011
TA7 & TA10	Integrated Trade Facilitation Capacity Building Program	\$2.0 million	2011
TA6, TA29 & TA31	Development of Logistics Centers and Information Hub	\$ 4.1 million	2010
TAs 8, 11, 15, 26, 27 & 33	Working with the Private Sector in Trade Facilitation	\$2.5 million	2009
TA9 & TA12	Simplified Transit Procedures and Strengthened Guarantee Systems in CAREC	\$500,000	2009

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE
– Joint Transport and Trade Facilitation Coordination Committees

A. Background

1. Recognizing the need to expand intra- and inter-regional trade to spur investments and economic growth in Central Asia, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has been actively supporting a regional and concerted approach to transport sector development and trade facilitation in the region. Initially, development efforts in these areas were spearheaded by two separate and distinct committees implementing distinct strategies – the Customs Cooperation Committee (CCC) and the Transport Sector Coordinating Committee (TSCC). The CCC has had significant achievements in bilateral and country-specific customs modernization initiatives and has been successful in creating an environment of trust and cooperation among the customs services of the participating countries. In the meantime, the TSCC has supported the policy of CAREC countries to provide safe, dependable, effective, efficient, and fully integrated transport operations and infrastructure. At the September 2007 Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) in Manila, it was agreed that the two strategies be integrated. The new Joint Transport and Trade Facilitation Strategy (TTFS) and the corresponding Action Plan were endorsed by the CAREC Ministerial Conference held in November 2007 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

2. The key elements of the new TTFS strategy are the coordinated improvements of transport infrastructure and logistics, and of trade facilitation, including harmonized cross-border regulations, procedures, and standards along the six priority corridors that have been identified based on a common set of criteria. The implementation of this joint strategy requires the involvement of a range of national agencies, both public and private, that are involved in the trade and transport sectors. The Action Plan of the TTFS proposes that national joint transport and trade facilitation coordinating committees (the national joint committee, or NJC) be formally established, consisting of representatives of national-level trade facilitation coordination mechanisms. At the regional level, the overall leadership for the TTFS could be provided by the CAREC Regional Joint Transport and Trade Facilitation Coordination Committee (RJC), which will be comprised of representatives from the NJCs. The CCC and TSCC, which have been providing significant leadership in their respective areas, shall actively coordinate with the RJC.

National Joint Transport and Trade Facilitation Coordinating Committee (NJC)

Objectives:

3. The main objective of the NJC is to promote transport development and integrated trade facilitation efforts at the national level through deepened inter-agency collaboration and enhanced partnerships between the public and private sectors to address broader issues of transport and trade facilitation. The NJC shall also actively encourage the involvement of other sector committees to foster inter-committee collaboration and cooperation within the region.

Participation:

4. The NJC will include representatives of all government agencies in charge of transport, trade, and border-crossing activities (e.g., Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Economy, customs authority, and agencies charged with the imposition of quarantine, sanitary

and phyto-sanitary, product quality standards, as well as security, and immigration rules and regulations) and relevant private sector groups such as freight forwarders associations and logistics service providers.

Scope of Work

The major areas of work for the NJC include:

- (i) Coordination of the various activities of all agencies involved in transport sector development and trade facilitation in order to develop and implement an integrated national transport and trade facilitation action plan in accordance with the approved Joint TTFS Action Plan;
- (ii) Provision of advice to national governments on accession to international conventions related to trade and transport; and
- (iii) Coordination with international and multi-lateral organizations to mobilize resources and promote investments and funding for the various programs identified in the action plan.

Detailed Tasks

The NJC is expected to:

- (i) Hold consultations, workshops and policy dialogues to:
 - Review and assess all on-going and proposed programs, projects and activities related to transport and trade facilitation in the identified priority corridors;
 - Define the roles and delineate the responsibilities of the various public and private sector agencies involved; and
 - Develop a national integrated transport and trade facilitation action plan with measurable outputs and timelines;
- (ii) Monitor the implementation of the action plan and take necessary measures to address identified constraints and issues;
- (iii) Supervise and review the conduct of studies that support the effective and efficient implementation of the action plan including the conduct of surveys to establish benchmarks (e.g., corridor performance measurement and monitoring), identify inefficiencies, and provide bases for policy and implementation decisions;
- (iv) Supervise the design of, and conduct, capacity building programs (training, seminars, knowledge sharing, and workshops) to strengthen implementation capabilities of involved agencies;
- (v) Coordinate national positions in negotiations on agreements on trade facilitation/transport;
- (vi) Identify, propose, and implement the required changes in trade or transport policies and international treaties;
- (vii) Promote the application of ICT to trade/transport facilitation;
- (viii) Promote the adoption of best practices in transport and trade facilitation;
- (ix) Disseminate information to industry on changes to border control rules, regulations, procedures, and documentation;
- (x) Serve as the national focal point for international programs/assistance;
- (xi) Submit a report to the Regional Joint Transport and Trade Facilitation Coordination Committee on the status of the national action plan; and
- (xii) Periodically update the action plan.

Regional Joint Transport and Trade Facilitation Coordination Committee (RJC)

Objectives

5. The main objective of the CAREC Joint Regional Transport and Trade Facilitation Coordination Committee (RJC) is to provide regional leadership in the implementation of the joint transport and trade facilitation strategy/action plan. The RJC will serve as a regional forum to raise, discuss, and resolve issues relating to barriers to trade and development that are of common interest to its members.

Participation

6. The RJC will be comprised of representatives of NJCs and regional groupings such as unions or federations of national freight forwards or transport groups.

Scope of Work

The main areas of work for the RJ are:

- (i) Coordination with the other sector committees such as the CCC, TSCC, and the trade policy committee and with regional cooperation mechanisms such as Shanghai Cooperation Organization, European Asian Economic Cooperation and others in the implementation of the TTFS and its Action Plan;
- (ii) Promotion of the participation and involvement of allied development partners, multilateral development agencies, and the private sector, and the fostering of inter-committee collaboration and coordination within CAREC;
- (iii) Promotion of the organization of additional regional groupings, such as the Regional Association of Transport and Trade Logistics (RATTL), in areas of integrated transport and trade facilitation in support of the development of an efficient regional trade logistics industry;
- (iv) Provision of support to the implementation of national transport and trade facilitation strategies and action plans; and
- (v) In close cooperation with the CAREC Customs Cooperation Committee and the Transport Cooperation Committee: (a) the promotion of the establishment of a regional forum to harmonize and plan logistics development; (b) provision of support to national level trade logistics assessments; and (c) facilitation of the financing of key investments, including public-private partners.

Country Profiles of National Trade and/or Transport Facilitation Mechanisms in CAREC countries

Country/ Region	Trade	Transport	Joint Transport and Trade	Coordinating Body	Purpose/ Main Function	Committee Composition	Activities/ Work plan	Contact Persons
Central Asia								
Azerbaijan			√	National Trade and Transport Facilitation Committee of Azerbaijan (AZERPRO)	Primary objective is to identify and devise solutions to border crossing problems, as well as to follow up the implementation of these solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee is headed by the Secretary of the National TRACECA Commission) • The committee is composed of 22 members from <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nine (9) government agencies (National TRACECA Commission; Ministries of Transport, Foreign Affairs, Economic Development, Health, agriculture, Customs, Border Control, Special Unit); - business sector (associations of road carriers, freight forwarders) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly meetings have been held with the participation of senior experts on transport, economics, customs, border control, agriculture, and health and the directors of the projects entitled "Harmonization of Border Crossing Rules" and "Common Legal Framework for Transit Shipments". Meetings cover a wide-range of issues related to customs and border control (including the international Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures and its updates) and the harmonization of border crossing rules with Georgia. • Following the meetings, proposals were formulated on customs and border rules for road transit at a railway border crossing for consideration and approval of the concerned ministries. . 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Musa Pahanov Vice Minister Ministry of Transport (MOT) Tel. No. +99412 4985087 Fax No. +99412 4986127 2. Mr. Faig Alakbarov Head of Division Finance and Credit Division, MOT Tel. No. +99412 4339942 Fax No. +99412 4316022 3. Mr. Mirgasim Abasov Sub-Division Head Foreign Investment sub-Division, Finance and Credit Division, MOT 4. Mr. Aydin Aliyev Chairman State Customs Committee Tel. No. +99412 4388080 Fax No. +99412 4981836 external@customs.gov.az 5. Mr. Dilavar Farzaliyev Head of Division External Relations Division, State Customs Committee Tel./Fax No. +99412 4934067 E-mail: external@customs.gov.az 6. Ms. Samir Veliyev Head of Administration Ministry of Economic Development (MED) Tel. No. +99412 4924110 Fax. No. +99412 4925895 E-mail: s.veliyev@economy.gov.az 7. Mr. Ruslan Rustamli Head of Division Aid Coordination Division, Department of foreign Investments and Aid Coordination, MED Tel. No. +99412 4924110 Fax. No. +99412 4925895

Appendix 2

Country/ Region	Trade	Transport	Joint Transport and Trade	Coordinating Body	Purpose/ Main Function	Committee Composition	Activities/ Work plan	Contact Persons
Kazakhstan		√		Interministry Commission for Transport	The primary focus of this body is on policy issues associated with cross-border transport.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The commission is led by the Ministry of Transport and Communications. The commission has representation from other government agencies. 	The committee has organized four meetings to discuss important issues on cross-border transport	<p>r.rustamli@economy.gov.az</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Dulat K. Kutebekov Vice Minister Ministry of Transport and Communications (MOTC) Tel. No. +7 7172 242097 Fax No. +7 7172 241419 E-mail: abisheva@mtc.gov.kz Ms. Saltanat Rahimbekova Director Department for Strategic Planning and International Cooperation, MOTC Tel. No. +7 7172 242097 Fax No. +7 7172 241419 E-mail: str@mtc.gov.kz Mr. Ruslan Kulov Head Division for Strategic Planning, Department for Strategic Planning and International Cooperation, MOTC Tel. No. +7 7172 240792 E-mail: Kulov_r@mtc.gov.kz Mr. Kozy-Korpesh Karbusov Chairman Customs Control Committee (CCC), Ministry of Finance (MOF) Tel. No. +7 7172 794539 Fax No. +7 7172 794545 E-mail: irafikova@q0100.customs.kz Mr. Dauren Tulemissov Deputy Head Division for Organization of Customs Control, CCC, MOF Tel. No. +7 7172 794539 Fax No. +7 7172 794545 E-mail: irafikova@q0100.customs.kz Ms. Zhanar Aitzhan Vice Minister Ministry of Industry and Trade Tel. No. +7 7172 299005 Fax. No. +7 7172 241405 E-mail: m_tazhikenova@ctpd.kz

Country/ Region	Trade	Transport	Joint Transport and Trade	Coordinating Body	Purpose/ Main Function	Committee Composition	Activities/ Work plan	Contact Persons
Kyrgyz Republic	√	√		Trade Facilitation coordinated directly by Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Tourism	The body has the following functions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor and regulate the conduct of international trade in general; • Monitor and regulate the implementation of specific bilateral and multilateral agreements relating to international trade; • Coordinate activities of other ministries or agencies involved in trade regulation; • Promote common economic policy and improvements in the investment climate; • Develop the industrial sector; and • Develop foreign economic activities, in consideration of the fact that the Kyrgyz Republic is a member of the WTO.. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee is led by the Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Tourism 	The Ministry is involved in the following activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of external economic and trade policy; • Development of programs for the economic integration of the Kyrgyz Republic with other CIS countries; • Formulation of suggestions for the harmonization of external trade activities in accordance with WTO rules and commitments to other regional partners; and • Signing of international trade agreements and supervision of the implementation of these agreements. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Sanjar Mukanbetov Deputy Minister/ CAREC National Focal Point in KGZ Ministry of Economic Development and Trade Tel: +996 312 620576 Fax: +996 312661837 E-mail: smukanbetov@mert.kg 2. Mr. Kubanychbek Mamamev Permanent Secretary/ CAREC Sector Focal point in TSCC Ministry of Transport and Communications Tel: +996 312314145 Fax: +996 312 313143 3. Mr. Kubanychbek Kulmatov First Deputy Chairman/ CAREC National Sector Focal Point in CCC State Customs Committee Tel: +996 312512107 Fax: +996 312512463 E-mail: kulmatov@customs.gov.kg 4. Mr. Zamir Moldoshev Chairman Border (Frontier) Services of the Kyrgyz Republic Tel: 996312 549585 5. Mr. Temirbek Shabdanaliev Chairman Association of the Freight (Carrier) Operators Tel: +996 772 380909 E-mail: ktat@jet.kg 7. Ms. Ludmila Kasyanova Chairman Association of Freight Operators Tel: +996 312 246265 Fax: +996 312651575 E-mail: fofa@elcat.kg 8. Mr. Boris Perfiliev Chairman
				Transport Facilitation Working Group (WG) on the Implementatio n of the Almaty Programme Multi-agency Committee	The main objective of the WG is to develop a national action plan to implement the Almaty Programme of Action ¹⁰ .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The WG is chaired by the Minister of Transport and Communications. • The WG has, as its members, the representatives of the ministries of foreign affairs, industry, trade and tourism, and frontier control; as well as the State Customs Committee; and the departments for road management and transport, and border services. 		

Country/ Region	Trade	Transport	Joint Transport and Trade	Coordinating Body	Purpose/ Main Function	Committee Composition	Activities/ Work plan	Contact Persons
Tajikistan		√		Interministry Commission for Transport	The primary focus of this commission are policy issues associated with cross-border transport.	The commission is led by the Ministry of Transport and Communications (MOTC). It has representation from other government agencies.	One meeting has been held since the committee was established in 2002.	<p>Chamber of commerce and Industry</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Buriev Nematjon Sr. Advisor on Economic Policy to the President of Tajikistan/CAREC National Focal Point Exec Office of the President (EOP)- Economics Unit. Tel./Fax No. +992 37 2211836 E-mail: nburiev@nm.ru Khudoyor Khudoyorov Deputy Minister, MOTC Tel./Fax No. +992 37 2212127 Mr. Zuhurov Deputy Minister, MOTC Tel./Fax No. +992 37 2211267 Tohirov Abdurahim Transport Specialist EOP-Transport Dept Tel:/fax No. +992 37 2235114 Zavkiewa Robiyamo Transport Specialist EOP-Transport Dept Tel:/fax No. +992 37 2235114 Nizom Khakimov Director Project Implementations Unit. Road Infrastructure Tel:/Fax No. +992 37 2234161 E-mail: piur@tojikiston.com
East Asia								
China		√		China National Transport Facilitation Committee	<p>The main objectives of the committee are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance transport facilitation by coordinating relevant ministries; Supervise and regulate the implementation of conventions and 	<p>The committee is chaired by the Minister of Communications'</p> <p>Its members are drawn from the following government agencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Foreign Affairs, State Development and 		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Li Guangling DDG, Dept of International Cooperation, Ministry of Transport (MOT) Tel: +86-10 6529 2204 Fax:+86-10 6529 2248 E-mail Ligl@mot.gov.cn Mr. Ren Weimin Director Dept of International Cooperation, MOT

¹⁰ The Almaty Programme of Action resulted from the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries, Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation which was held in Almaty on 28 and 29 August 2003. Its purpose was to identify specific actions to be taken by transit countries, by donor countries and institutions, and by the landlocked countries themselves to reduce the excessive trade transaction costs faced by the latter countries and to improve their competitiveness in the global trading environment.

Country/ Region	Trade	Transport	Joint Transport and Trade	Coordinating Body	Purpose/ Main Function	Committee Composition	Activities/ Work plan	Contact Persons
					<p>agreements;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize the studies on relevant international conventions; • Promote cooperation between China and neighboring countries; and • Improve the laws and regulations on international road transport. Coordination mechanisms have been established at some border-crossings to increase operational efficiency. 	<p>Reform Commission, Ministry of Finance (MOF), Ministry of Communications, Customs General Administration, Ministry of Public Security (immigration and traffic police), and General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine.</p>		<p>Tel: +86-10 6529 2231 Fax: +86-10 6529 2248 E-mail: wuren@mof.gov.cn</p> <p>3. Mr. Wu Jinkang DDG (CAREC NFP) International Dept, MOF Fax: +86-10-6855 1119 E-mail: jk.wu@mof.gov.cn</p> <p>4. Mr. Li Dongxiang Director, International Dept, MOF Tel: +86-10-6855 170/20 Fax: +86-10-6855 1119 E-mail: lidongxiang@mof.gov.cn</p> <p>5. Mr. An Bo Deputy Director International Dept, MOF Tel: +86-10-6855 1169 Fax: +86-10-6855 1119 E-mail: anbo@mof.gov.cn</p> <p>6. Mr. Wang Donghong DDG, Dept of International Cooperation (DIC) General Administration of Customs (GAC) Tel: +86-10-6519 5327 Fax: +86-10- 6519 5307 E-mail: wangdh@mail.customs.gov.cn</p> <p>7. Mr. Tang Weihong Director-DIC GAC Tel: +86-10-6519 5468 Fax: +86-10- 6519 5307 E-mail: tangweihong@mail.customs.gov.cn</p> <p>8. Ms. Xu Xiaojing Section Chief-DIC GAC Tel: +86-10-6519 5525 Fax: +86-10- 6519 5307 E-mail: xu_xj@mail.customs.gov.cn</p> <p>9. Mr. Zhang Kening Commercial Counselor Dept of International Trade and Economic Affairs Ministry of Commerce</p>

Country/ Region	Trade	Transport	Joint Transport and Trade	Coordinating Body	Purpose/ Main Function	Committee Composition	Activities/ Work plan	Contact Persons
								Fax. No. +86 10 65197980 10. Ms. Wang Weina First Secretary Department of International Trade and Economic Affairs, Ministry of Commerce Tel: +86-10-6519 7201 Fax: +86 10 65197980 E-mail: wangweina@mofcom.gov.cn
Mongolia	√	√	√	Trade Facilitation: Trade Facilitation Committee (MONPRO)	The main purpose of the committee is to facilitate foreign trade transaction by streamlining rules and regulations and simplifying and optimizing procedures.	Established by the MON Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), MONPRO is a sub-committee of the Public Private Partnership Consultative Committee. It has equal representation from both the public and private sectors, including key government authorities, NGOs, sector associations and individual enterprises.	<u>Main activities of the committee are</u> ¹¹ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis and optimization of the national rules, procedures, practices and documentary requirements related to foreign trade and international freight forwarding services; • Submission of proposals and recommendations on developing a set of optimal rules and regulations on trade to the Public Private Partnership Consultative Committee; • Standardization of documents, forms and instructions indicated in foreign trade rules and regulations; • Work on introducing electronic trade documents; • Considering of laws and regulations related to foreign trade and international transportation before submitting proposals to make additions and changes; • Cooperation with the other trade facilitation committees, gain experience and implement joint projects and programs; • Organization of bilateral meetings on foreign trade rules and regulations with 	1. Mr. Demberel (Chairman) Chairman & CEO, MCCI Tel: +976 99112509 (mobile) E-mail: demberel@mongolchamber.mn 2. Ms. Unurjargal, (Secretary) Head, Barcode & Logistics Bureau, MCCI Tel: +976 99076062 (mobile) E-mail: unurjargal@mongolchamber.mn

¹¹ UNESCAP. *Trade Facilitation in Selected Landlocked Countries in Asia*. Available at http://www.unescap.org/tid/publication/tipub2437_mong.pdf

Country/ Region	Trade	Transport	Joint Transport and Trade	Coordinating Body	Purpose/ Main Function	Committee Composition	Activities/ Work plan	Contact Persons
							<p>neighbor countries;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization of trainings on rules and regulations related to customs, export, import and transportation; and • Development and maintenance of relations with other international organizations with the same goals. 	
				<u>Transport Facilitation</u> National Transit Facilitation Committee (NTFC)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee is under the direction of the Ministry of Roads, Transport and Tourism. • It has about 10 members, drawn from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The ministries of Roads, Transport and Tourism; Rail Transport; Industry and Trade, and Mongolian Customs Service, Chamber of Commerce and Industry and some freight forwarder organizations 		
				<u>Trade and Transport Facilitation</u> National Committee for Trade and Transport Facilitation (NCTTF)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is chaired by the Minister of Roads, Transport and Tourism • It consists of representatives from <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - five ministries (Ministries of Roads, Transport and Tourism; Industry and Trade; Foreign Affairs; Finance; Justice; and Home Affairs), - six government agencies/ authorities (Civil Aviation Authority; Railway Authority; State Professional Inspection Agency; General Customs Office; Border Protection Agency; Information and Communication Technology Agency) - business sector 	<p><u>The committee's work plan on transport facilitation involves the</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of a WG to develop Annexes to "Intergovernmental Agreement on Transit Transportation between China, Mongolia and the Russian Federation", and provision of instruction to ensure cooperation and harmonization of activities with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other negotiating Parties; • Organization of a meeting of the Transport WG under the auspices of the Inter-Governmental Commission between Mongolia and the Russian Federation in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia; • Studying of possibilities of additional transit routes and 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Battulga (Chairman) Minister for Road, Transport and Urban Development website: www.mncttf.gov.mn 2. Mr. Togosbold (Secretary) Senior Officer, Ministry of Road, Transport and Urban Development Tel: +976 11 323974 E-mail: mncttf_2007@yahoo.com

Country/ Region	Trade	Transport	Joint Transport and Trade	Coordinating Body	Purpose/ Main Function	Committee Composition	Activities/ Work plan	Contact Persons
						(Transport Service Centre; Ulaanbaatar Railway JVC; Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Road Supervision and Research Center; National Road Transporters Association of Mongolia).	<p>ports besides Tianjin, China, and Nahodka, the Russian Federation;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission of proposals on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - signing of the “Intergovernmental Agreement on Transit Transportation between China, Mongolia and the Russian Federation” - obtaining permission for Mongolian vehicles to access to the territory and seaport of China; - Intergovernmental Agreement on Trans-Asian Railway Network to the Parliament for approval; - accession to Annexes B-3 and C to the Convention on Temporary Admission, 1990; - Mongolia's participation in the International Convention on the Harmonization of the Frontier Control, 1982 to the Parliament for approval; - Revision of the road transport agreement between China and Mongolia; • Studying of the possibilities of shared use of electronic equipment to measure truck and vehicle capacity, and to make decision as to its possible utilization, and to settle related problems of other ports; • Development of policy to increase shipment or transit shipment volume by Mongolian railways and road transport, and to attract more shipments, and study on other possible routes, comparison, operation 	

Country/ Region	Trade	Transport	Joint Transport and Trade	Coordinating Body	Purpose/ Main Function	Committee Composition	Activities/ Work plan	Contact Persons
							<p>adjustments;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint organization of a national seminar on regional intermodal transport planning with UNESCAP; • Provision of assistance in the study for application of the UNESCAP Time/Cost-Distance Model; • Regulation of coal transportation and decision-making on solid pavement of road; • Development of standards for freight terminal and submission for approval and implementation; • Development of additional specialized standard for transportation and monitoring of implementation of the approved standards; • Promotion of domestic freight "door to door service"; and • Reporting on implementation status of conventions and future planning. <p><u>The committee's work plan on Trade Facilitation involves:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a strategy for establishment of the national electronic single window; • Development of a proposed national program on transport and trade logistics development and submission of the proposed program for approval by the Government; • Organization of a trade ministerial conference of landlocked countries in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia; • Submission of a proposal on measures to implement the International Convention on the Harmonization of the 	

Country/ Region	Trade	Transport	Joint Transport and Trade	Coordinating Body	Purpose/ Main Function	Committee Composition	Activities/ Work plan	Contact Persons
							Frontier Control to the Government; • Submission of cooperation proposal to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in the field of trade facilitation; • Reporting on implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action; • Maintenance and expansion of cooperation with UNECE; and • Installation of X-ray equipment in Zamyn Uud and Altanbulag border points for wagon and container control.	