



TRADE POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE: SECTOR UPDATE

**Senior Officials' Meeting
on Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation
28-29 August 2006
Urumqi, XUAR, People's Republic of China**

1. After the fourth meeting of the Trade Policy Coordinating Committee (TPCC), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) continued outreach seminars in member countries designed to summarize the analytical work done for the TPCC to date and the implications of this work for the various countries in CAREC. Such seminars were held in Beijing in April, and are scheduled to take place in Kabul, Tashkent, Dushanbe and Baku in September 2006, and in Ulaanbaatar in October 2006.
2. Since the last SOM in April 2006, there was no meeting of the TPCC. During its next meeting scheduled to take place in Tashkent on 25 September, the TPCC will: (i) continue to monitor the implementation of the recommendations related to barriers to transit trade endorsed by the Fourth Ministerial Conference based on reports by country delegations; (ii) undertake further work on barriers to border trade, including formulation of recommendations to address these issues, based on a paper by the Kazakh delegation with support from the ADB; and (iii) initiate discussions on trade taxes in the region and the related issues that need to be addressed based on a paper by the IMF.
3. Following the next TPCC meeting in Tashkent in September, a detailed trade policy sector update will be prepared for the CAREC 5th Ministerial Conference in Urumqi in October. The contents of this update will be reflected in the Joint Ministerial Statement to be issued.

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