



## Regional: Aligning Customs Trade Facilitation Measures with Best Practices in Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation

Project Name	Aligning Customs Trade Facilitation Measures with Best Practices in Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation
Project Number	47081-001
Country	Regional
Project Status	Active
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Technical Assistance
Source of Funding / Amount	<p><b>TA 8585-REG: Aligning Customs Trade Facilitation Measures with Best Practices in Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation</b></p> <p>Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction <span style="float: right;">US\$ 1.25 million</span></p>
Strategic Agendas	Inclusive economic growth Regional integration
Drivers of Change	Governance and capacity development Partnerships
Sector / Subsector	<b>Industry and trade</b> - Trade and services
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	
Description	The proposed TA will promote a harmonized approach to customs reforms in participating CAREC countries by applying international best practices. The TA will support accession to and improve compliance with the RKC. Risk management systems will be strengthened and options will be explored for data exchange and information sharing between and among CAREC customs administrations.
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	
Impact	Enhanced trade facilitation regimes that facilitate international trade flows

### Project Outcome

Description of Outcome	Simplified and harmonized clearance procedures based on best practice
Progress Toward Outcome	<p>A Customs Cooperation Committee inception workshop has been held from 7-9 April 2014. As a result of the workshop a country specific action plan for TA implementation has been formulated. Progress has been made in all related outputs with various activities being implemented. The project has been extended to end on 30 September 2017</p> <p>A Customs Risk Management Expert has been recruited to help CAREC countries upgrade customs risk management strategies through adoption of Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) program and assist in the design of the risk management component of the regional transit pilot scheme.</p> <p>An RKC Awareness and Self-Assessment Tools workshop was held in TKM with 31 participants from various government agencies to assist the government better understand benefits of RKC accession and accession processes. WCO experts conducted the workshop. A briefing session on the trade facilitation sector objectives and planned activities in March 2017 was also provided.</p>

### Implementation Progress

Description of Project Outputs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Action plans to align customs regulations with the RKC developed</li> <li>2. Proposals for the modernization of risk management systems developed</li> <li>3. Framework for a CAREC customs information exchange mechanisms developed</li> </ol>
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Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues)

13th Customs Cooperation Committee Meeting, 22-23 September 2014, Issyk Kul, Kyrgyz Republic\_

- At the 13th CCC meeting, CCC members agreed to continue working to address the 5 customs priority areas including the implementation of the ADB supported RETAs.

Uzbekistan Risk Management Assessment Mission, 29 Sept \_to 3 October 2014, Tashkent, Uzbekistan\_

- Training on the basic concepts of customs risk management is provided for the 1st 3 days. An assessment of the existing risk management system is done thru interviews and actual observation of procedures for the last 2 days. A WCO report was submitted to ADB.

Turkmenistan Consultation Workshop, 1-2 September 2014, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

- Turkmenistan joined CAREC only in 2010 and has not been actively involved in most CAREC activities. A special consultation workshop was held for top officials to familiarize them with CAREC principles and objectives and in particular with the 3 JFPR RETAs and how TKM can benefit from such participation.

Kazakhstan Risk Management Assessment Mission, 14-17 October 2014, Astana, Kazakhstan

- Training on the basic concepts of customs risk management is provided for the 1st 3 days. An assessment of the existing risk management system is done thru interviews and actual observation of procedures for the last 2 days. A WCO report was submitted after the mission to ADB.

Azerbaijan Authorized Economic Operators Workshop, 21-23 October 2014, Baku, Azerbaijan

- WCO accredited AEO experts conducted a workshop on the implementation of the AEO program. The workshop identified further steps to be taken to fully implement the AEO program in AZE including the needed changes in legislation.

Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC): Sharing of Accession Experiences for CAREC Countries, 17-22 November 2014, Shanghai, PRC

- The workshop helped participants better understand the requirements to comply with and accede to the RKC, and trained them how to use WCO self-assessments tools to guide them during the accession process. WCO mission report was submitted to ADB.

Uzbekistan RKC Situation/Gap Analysis Workshop, 24-27 February 2015, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

- WCO Experts assisted Uzbekistan Customs review and assess compliance of Uzbekistan laws and regulations with RKC provisions, identify the gaps and formulate plan of action towards accession.

Tajikistan Risk Management Assessment Mission, 14-17 April 2015, Dushanbe, Tajikistan\_

- ADB with technical assistance of WCO, will provide assistance to Tajikistan in assessing the adequacy of customs risk management system that is in place.

-WCO accredited AEO experts conducted a workshop on the implementation of the AEO program in Mongolia from 25-27 May 2015. The workshop identified further steps to be taken to fully implement the AEO program.

-Workshop in KAZ to share international experiences on AEO, to revise and improve their AEO program was implemented from 1-9 July 2015.

An international consultant has been engaged for the development of a framework for CAREC customs information exchange mechanism. An assessment of the readiness and maturity of existing country-level customs information systems concluded that a simple information exchange pilot can be conducted between Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Mongolia customs and a complex pilot can be conducted between Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan. Both pilots will explore the use of pre-arrival and/or cargo manifest and/or transport documents. The proposed pilots were discussed and endorsed by the CAREC Customs Cooperation Committee meeting held in September 2016.

Geographical Location

## Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects

Environmental Aspects

Involuntary Resettlement

Indigenous Peoples

### Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation

During Project Design      The design and components of the project were discussed in the framework of the CAREC Customs Cooperation Committee (CCC). Comments and suggestions from CCC members were incorporated into the TA formulation.

During Project Implementation      CCC members agreed to work towards prompt implementation of the TA.

## Business Opportunities

Consulting Services      The TA will require 20 person-months (international) and 56 person-months (national) of intermittent consulting services. Consultants and resource persons will be specialists in the areas of customs reforms, customs law, trade facilitation, and ICT. In view of the TA's varied activities, consultants and resource persons will be selected and engaged on an individual basis in accordance with ADB's Guidelines on the Use of Consultants (2013, as amended from time to time). Proceeds of the TA will be disbursed in accordance with the Technical Assistance Disbursement Handbook (2010, as amended from time to time).

## Responsible Staff

Responsible ADB Officer

Zhang, Yuebin

Responsible ADB Department	East Asia Department
Responsible ADB Division	Public Mgt, Financial Sector and Regional Coop Division, EARD
Executing Agencies	<i>Asian Development Bank 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City 1550, Philippines</i>

## Timetable

Concept Clearance	08 Mar 2013
Fact Finding	08 May 2013 to 10 May 2013
MRM	-
Approval	16 Dec 2013
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	23 Mar 2017

## TA 8585-REG

Milestones					
Approval	Signing Date	Effectivity Date	Closing		
			Original	Revised	Actual
16 Dec 2013	-	16 Dec 2013	31 Jan 2016	30 Sep 2017	-

Financing Plan/TA Utilization						Cumulative Disbursements		
ADB	Cofinancing	Counterpart				Total	Date	Amount
		Gov	Beneficiaries	Project Sponsor	Others			
0.00	1,250,000.00	100,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,350,000.00	16 Dec 2013	794,966.03

Project Page	<a href="https://www.adb.org/projects/47081-001/main">https://www.adb.org/projects/47081-001/main</a>
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