



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
AND DEVELOPMENT

CAREC Roundtable Series on Emerging Regional Trade, Transportation, and Logistics Landscape:

Supply Chain Connectivity and Resilient Border Operations in the CAREC Region

15 September 2022, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (hybrid)

Draft Concept Note and Agenda

Register at



https://adb-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_N9zjSsw-QE-Euj4btGQj7Q

I. Objectives

The CAREC region, with many landlocked countries and few sea routes, is facing heightened connectivity challenges due to COVID-19 related restrictions and political and security circumstances that are impacting cross-border movement of goods and people. At the same time, these may also open new opportunities for the CAREC region to be part of emerging major interregional transportation system and countries to become transit hubs to global supply chains.

The roundtable series aims to discuss the recent developments, challenges, and issues surrounding the overall trade and transportation landscape in the region with policymakers, representatives of private sector (e.g., logistics companies, exporters, service providers), and other experts from international organizations and research institutions.

Series 1 to be held in Mongolia will focus on: (i) operational issues in border crossing points for goods and passengers in the CAREC countries; (ii) country-specific issues and strategies in connecting with external markets; and (iii) options for regional solutions and cooperation.

II. Background

The impact of border closures has dramatically reduced the economy, particularly the income in the export sector of CAREC countries, and the availability of products that are crucial for supply chain and domestic consumption. Rising transportation costs and continued congestion in the logistics network have contributed to several CAREC countries' inflation rates – with food, meat, solid fuels, and gasoline experiencing huge price increases.

Despite efforts to introduce green lanes and accept digital certification, border crossing for customs clearance requires submission of additional documents and longer processing time compared to pre-COVID period. This resulted to containers congestion and being stuck in ports or warehouses. The price for logistics doubled creating disruptions for raw material imports of small and medium enterprises (SMEs). This also created food supply shortages affecting the food supply chain and services sector like restaurants, catering, and retail services.

III. Expected Outcomes

The roundtable aims to achieve the following outcomes:

- To discuss and proposed options to facilitate border crossing and operations including joint operations, mutual recognition, and risk-based border and customs regulations to strengthen international trade cooperation among Member States
- To discuss issues and prospects for emerging regional trade and transportation landscape within the CAREC region, with focus on key CAREC corridors
- To identify analytical, policy advisory, and technical support and create synergies among collaboration mechanisms and initiatives in the CAREC region in close cooperation with other development partners
- To identify regional cooperation opportunities to help countries cope with the current and future trade disruptions due to border closures and ensure supply chain resilience

IV. Roundtable Agenda

Timeline	Session or Topics of Discussion
08:45 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:15	Opening Remarks Ministry of Economy and Development, Mongolia ADB
09:00 – 09:15	Presentation: Overview of regional issues (border disruptions due to COVID-19 measures, conflicts, supply chain constraints, etc.) and their impact on trade and supply chain in the region and beyond Jong Woo Kang , Principal Economist, Regional Cooperation and Integration Division, Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department, ADB
09:15 – 10:30	Panel Session 1: CAREC countries’ strategies and approaches in response to disruptions caused by the pandemic and geopolitical tensions Azerbaijan (State Customs Committee) Mongolia (Ministry of Economy and Development): Presentation on government’s New Revival Policy and proposals for better connectivity and sustainable supply chains Georgia (Revenue Service)

	<p>Pakistan</p> <p>People's Republic of China (Ministry of Commerce or General Administration of Customs)</p>
10:30 – 10:50	Coffee break and group photo
10:50 – 12:10	<p>Continuation of Panel Session 1</p> <p>Kazakhstan</p> <p>Kyrgyz Republic</p> <p>Tajikistan</p> <p>Turkmenistan</p> <p>Uzbekistan</p>
12:10 – 12:30	Open discussion
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 – 15:30	<p>Panel Session 2: Regional challenges, emerging opportunities, and potential solutions to promote supply chain connectivity and facilitate border operations in the CAREC region</p> <p>The session will highlight prospects for medium- to long-term strategy and trade policy directions to harness options for improved connectivity and cross-border movement of people and goods, mitigate supply chain disruptions in the future, and promote sustainable economic recovery.</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <p>Mr. Noro Rabefaniraka, Senior Transport Specialist, East Asia & Pacific, World Bank (tbc)</p> <p>Ms. Ingrida Gulbe-Otanke, Component 3 Leader (Trade Facilitation), Border Management Programme in Central Asia (BOMCA) (virtual)</p> <p>Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, Executive Director, UN International Think Tank for LLDCs</p> <p>Korea Customs Services (tbc)</p> <p>Mr. Duuren Tumenjargal, CEO, Mongolia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MNCCI)</p> <p>Moderator: Mariam Gabunia, Head, Foreign Trade Policy Department, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development (tbc)</p> <p>Open Forum</p>

15:30 – 15:45	Coffee break
15:45 – 16:45	<p>Panel Session 3: Regional cooperation priorities and options to ensure supply chain sustainability and resilient border operations</p> <p>The session may identify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • opportunities to expand trade routes and transit points through agglomeration of transport and logistics services, infrastructure, and border services in economic zones • potential action plan related to border closures and alternative routes due to geopolitical circumstances • practical discussion on supply/demand of each country, fulfilment of possible import/export between member states • Continued commitment between members states to implement CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda 2030 and CAREC Transport Strategy 2030 <p>CAREC countries are encouraged to identify proposals for actions (including research, regional policy dialogues, or bilateral consultations)</p> <p><i>e.g., MON: (1) MON-PRC adoption of advance information or joint border control with recognition of RFID for trucks travelling across the borders; (2) increase the number of flights between member states and establish the integrated air cargo center in Mongolia; (3) engagement under the economic cooperation zone with the PRC</i></p>
16:45 – 17:00	<p>Wrap up and Closing</p> <p>Wrap up and Next Steps by ADB</p> <p>Closing remarks by Government of Mongolia</p>