# Asian Development Bank Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Program

Workshop on Impact of Transportation Networks on Trade and Tourism 7-8 June 2011

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## What is CAREC?

### **Development Partnership**

- Launched in 1997 with 8 member countries (AFG, AZE, PRC, KAZ, KGZ, MON, TAJ, and UZB) and 6 multilateral institution partners (ADB, IMF, WB, EBRD, IsDB, and UNDP)
- TKM and PAK joined in 2010.

#### Goal

 Development through cooperation, leading to accelerated economic growth and poverty reduction

### **Action-Oriented and Pragmatic Approach**

- Informal arrangement but a serious commitment by all
- Strong multilateral institution partners collaboration, but ownership by countries
- Based on cléar strategies and action plans
  Covers both hard and soft aspects of investment
- Focuses on transport, energy, and trade facilitation
- Promotes capacity development and networking



# **CAREC Strategies and Action Plans**

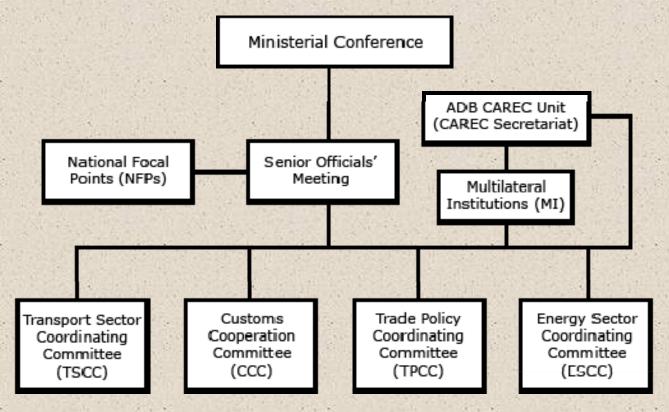
- CAREC Comprehensive Action Plan
  - Endorsed in 2006 at the 5<sup>th</sup> CAREC Ministerial Conference (MC) in PRC
- Transport and Trade Facilitation Strategy and Action Plan
  - Strategy endorsed in 2007 at the 6<sup>th</sup> MC in TAJ & Action Plan in 2008 at 7<sup>th</sup> MC in AZE
- Trade Policy Strategic Action Plan
  - Endorsed in 2008 at 7<sup>th</sup> MC in AZE
- Energy Strategy and Action Plan
  - Strategy endorsed in 2008 at the 7<sup>th</sup> MC in AZE & Action Plan in 2009 at 8<sup>th</sup> MC in MON

# Approved CAREC-related Projects (as of Feb 2011; in US\$ million)

	Funding Source						
Sector	ADB	EBRD	IsDB	WB	Govts	Others	Total
Transport Trade	3,480	615	625	4,039	2,584	741	12,084
Facilitation	48	1 675 To 14	14	107	49	1	219
Energy	1,028	348	247	286	386	448	2,743
Total	4,556	963	886	4,431	3,019	1,189	15,046



# Overall Institutional Framework (OIF)



### **OIF supports:**

- Broad-based dialogue and consensus building
- Identification and prioritization of regional cooperation initiatives
- Mobilization of financial and technical resources



# Overall Institutional Framework (OIF)

### Ministerial Conference (MC)

 Provides overall guidance to the CAREC Program and determines policy and strategic directions and goals.

### Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM)

- Ensure the effective implementation of the policy decisions made by the Ministerial Conference.
- Its main responsibilities include:
  - (i) reviewing and articulating issues that emerge from the operational level and making relevant recommendations to the Ministers
  - (ii) preparing for the Ministerial Conference

### Sector Committees

- Lead the program in four priority areas, Transport, Trade Facilitation,
   Trade Policy and Energy
- These committees feed their outputs to the SOM and the MC.

### CAREC Secretariat - ADB



### Role of NFPs and Sector Focal Points

### National Focal Points (NFPs)

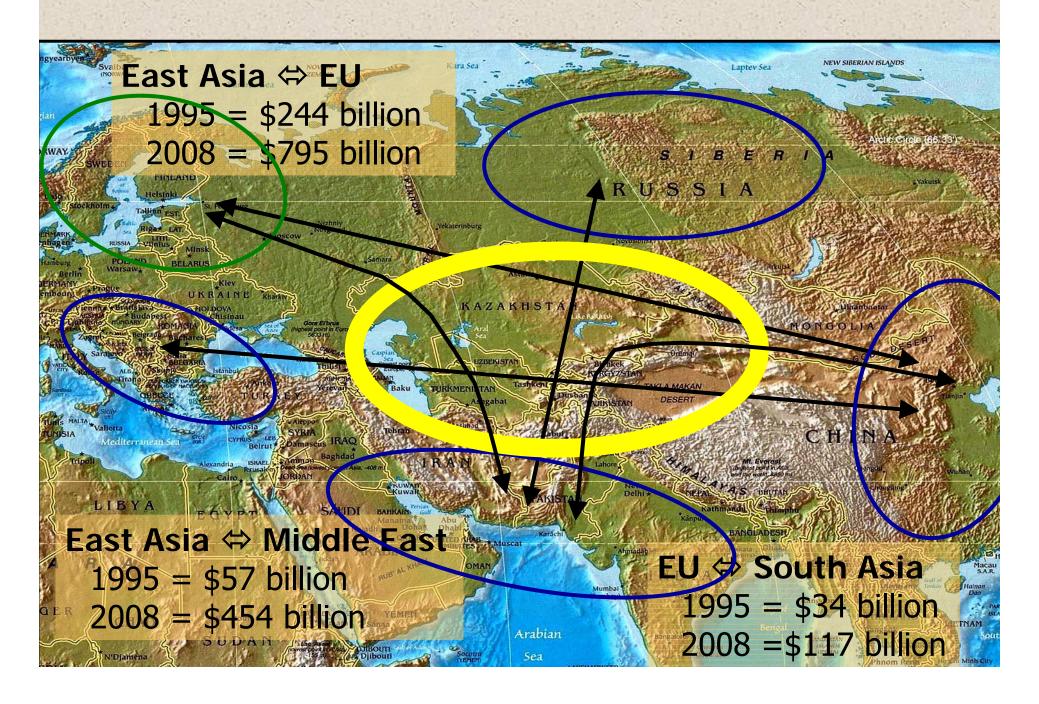
Ensure effective coordination (i) among concerned agencies and other interested parties in matters related to regional economic cooperation; and (ii) between the government and the CAREC secretariat.

#### Sector Focal Points

Act as focal points for the relevant sector works in the CAREC Program in close coordination with the NFPs and other concerned parties in the countries.



## **CAREC—A Silk Route to Markets**

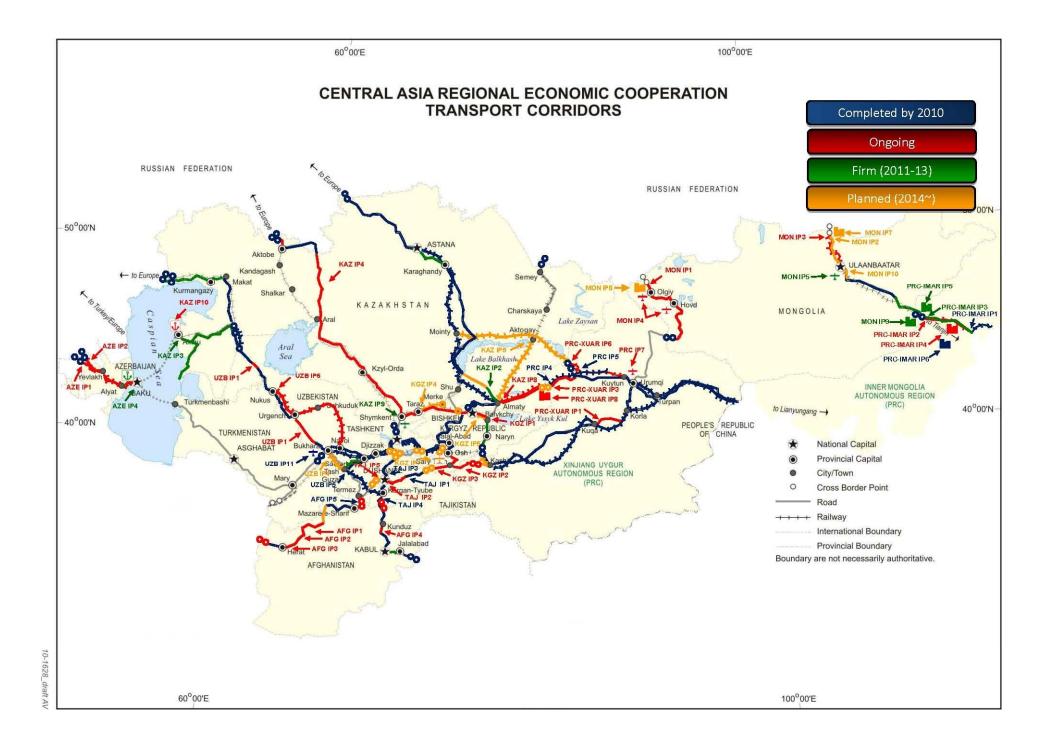


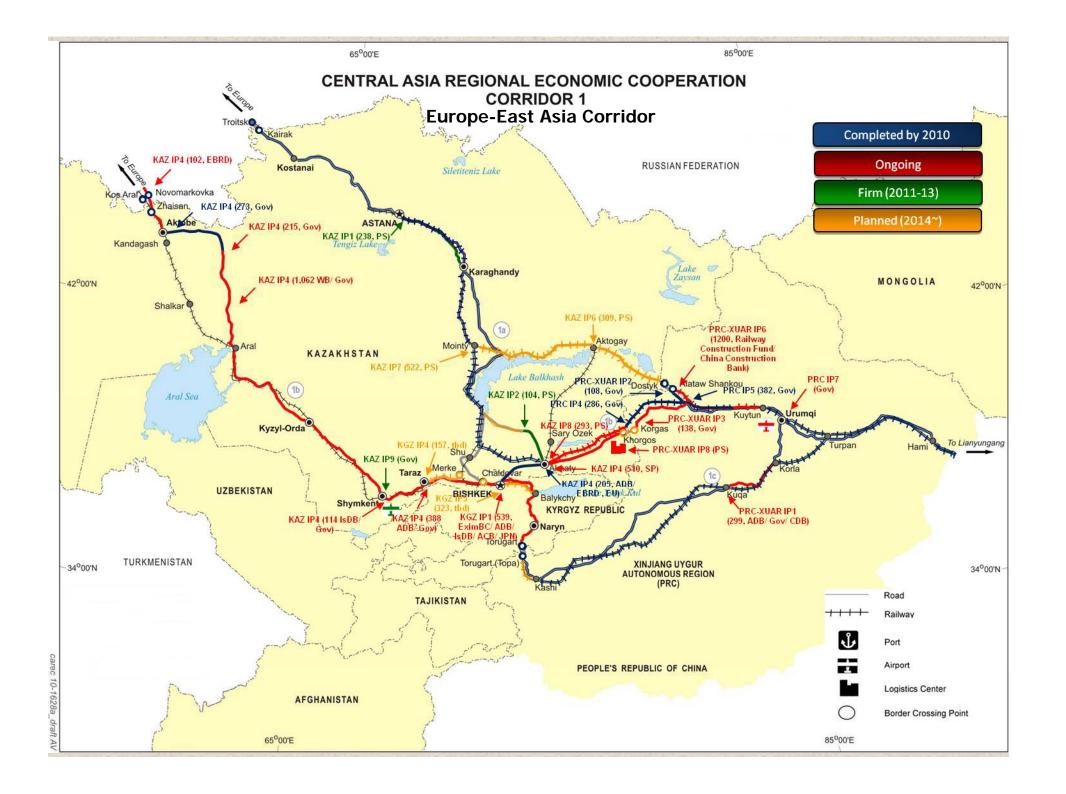
# Transport and Trade Facilitation: Strategic Priorities

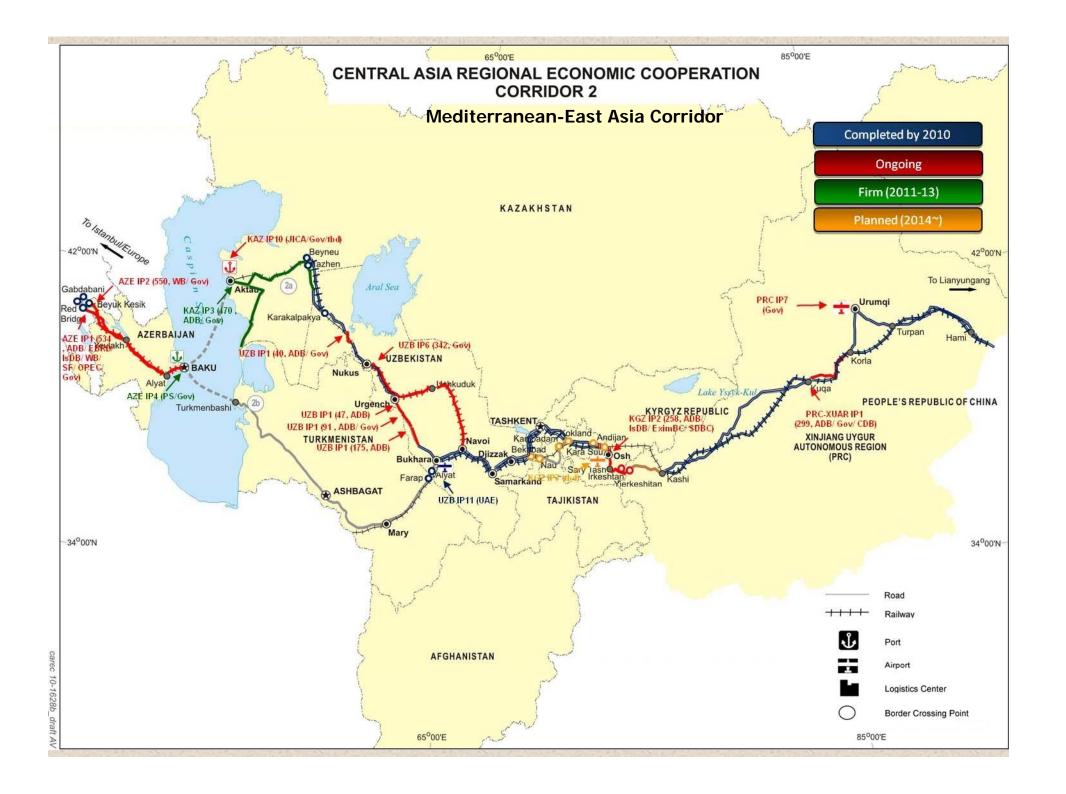
Upgrade the 6 transport corridors

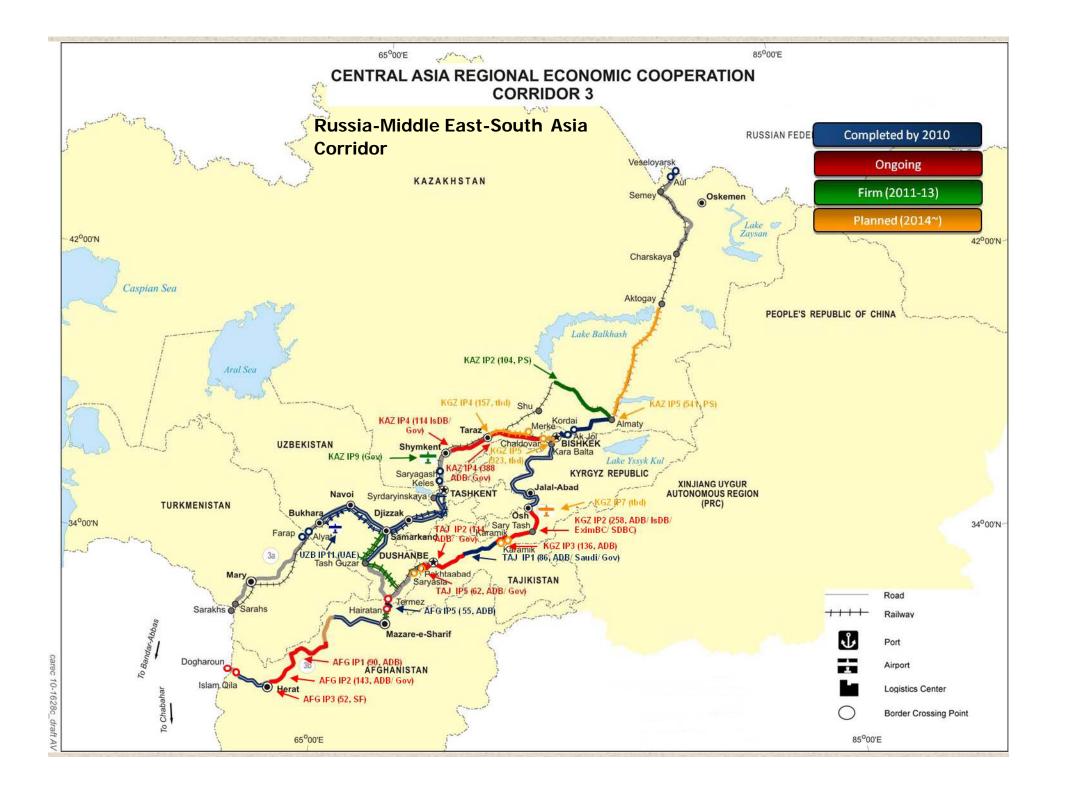
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Corridor 1 (Europe – East Asia Corridor)
Corridor 2 (Mediterranean – East Asia)
Corridor 3 (Russian Federation – Middle East and South Asia)
Corridor 4 (Russian Federation – East Asia)
Corridor 5 (East Asia – Middle East and South Asia)
Corridor 6 (Europe – Middle East and South Asia)
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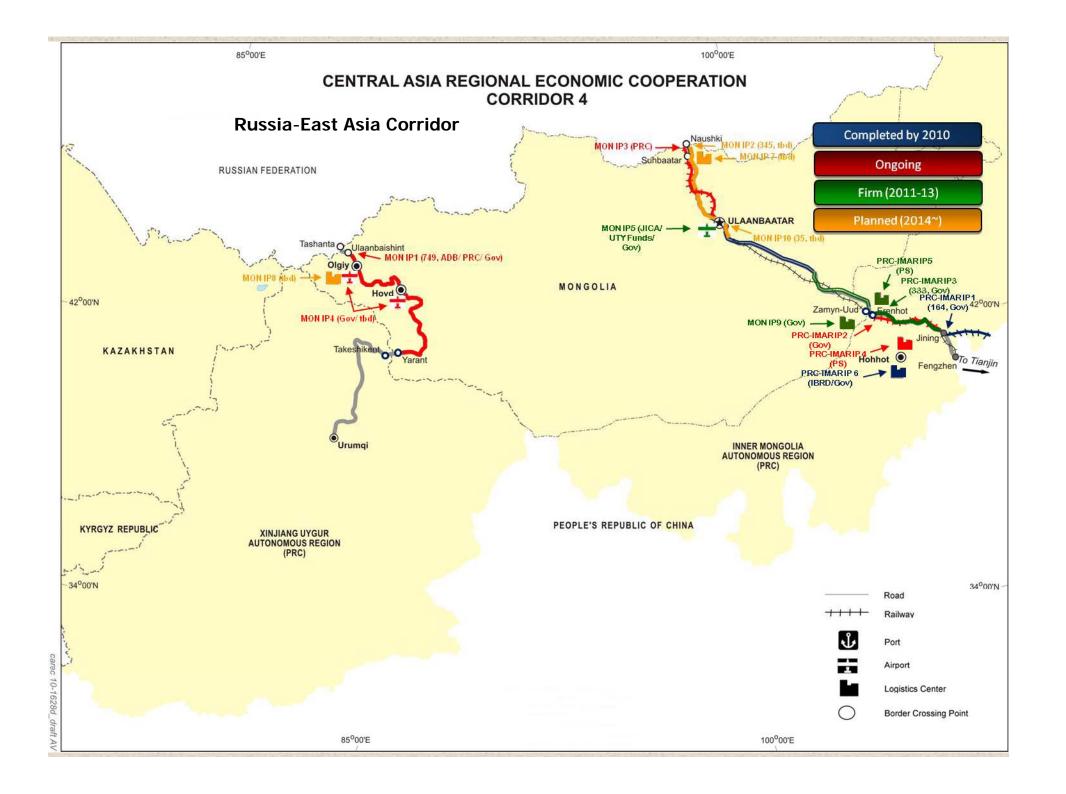
- Develop safe, people-friendly transport systems
- Ensure efficient movement of goods and people
- simplify and harmonize regulations that govern cross- border trade

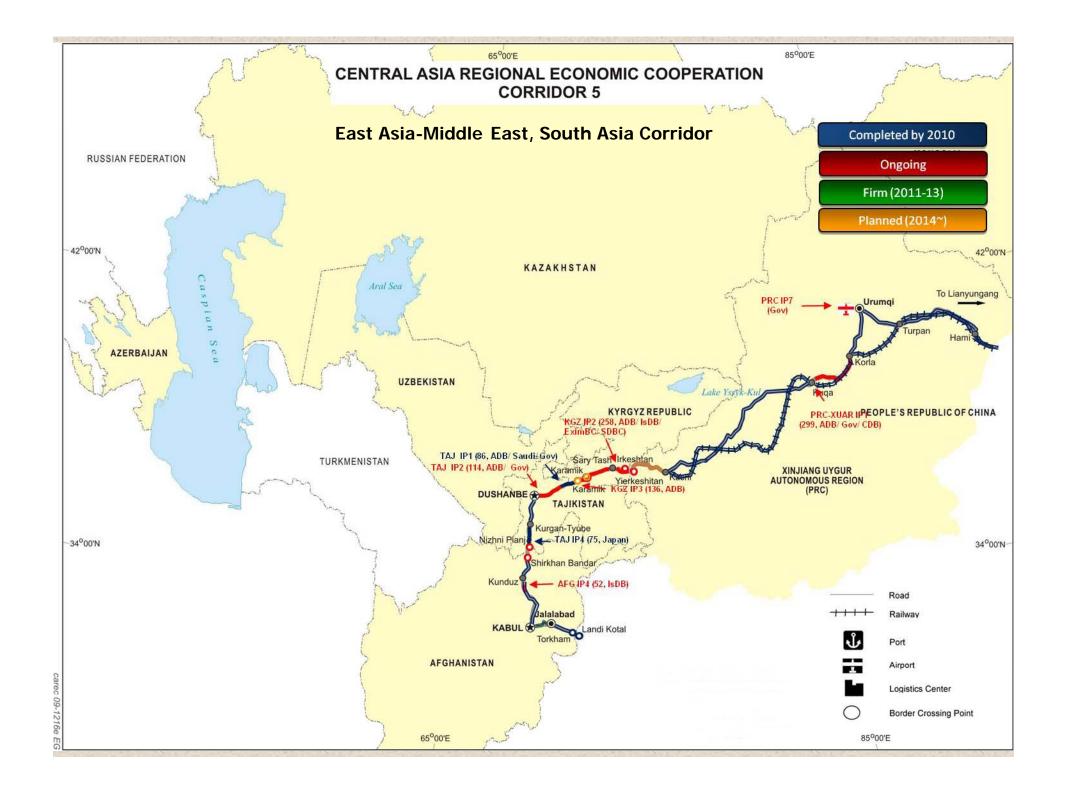


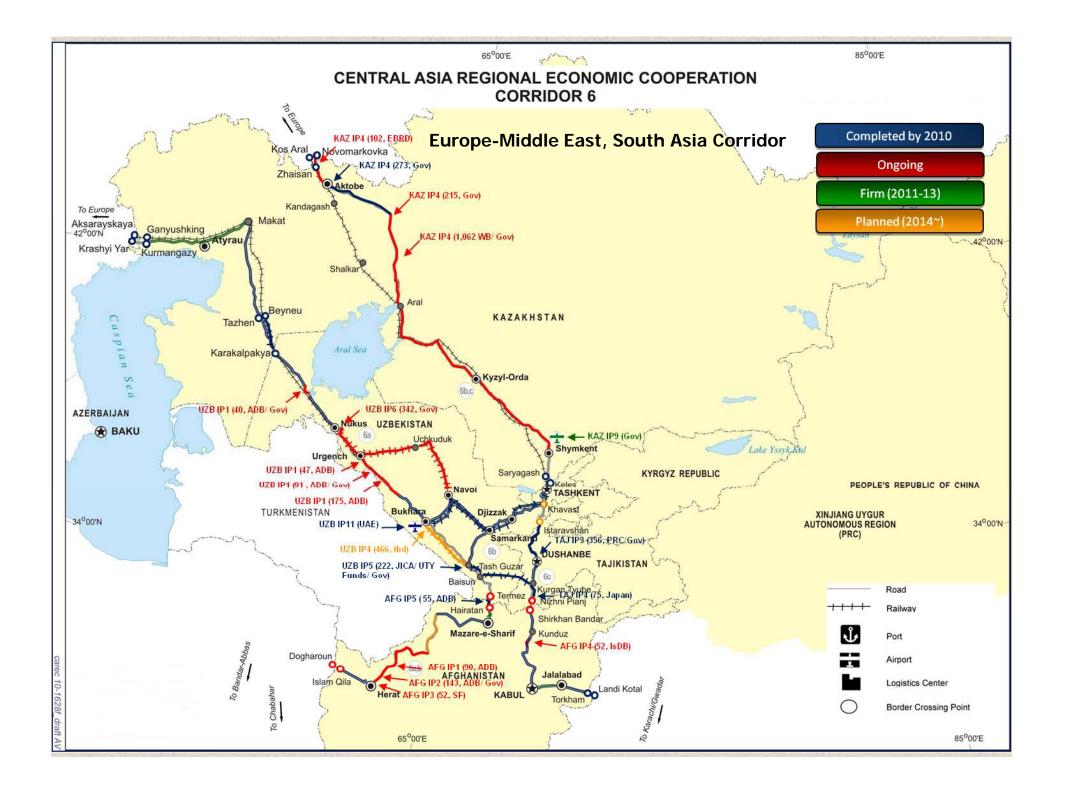












# **Key Achievements in TTF**

## • Improved the corridor network

- Embarked on 65 projects worth over USD10 billion
- -32% of road and rail corridors completed (as of 10/2010)

### Promoted customs cooperation and transit

- Capacity building and investments on customs reforms
- Customs modernization, adoption of risk management and post-entry audit, and joint customs control started
- Safe packet systems in KAZ and KGZ in place
- Cross-border transport agreement signed by KGZ and TAJ for CAREC Corridor 5

### Carried out integrated trade facilitation

- Regional association of freight forwarders established
- Corridor performance being monitored and measured
- Single window systems being adopted

# **Cross-Border Transport Agreement**

## Key elements

- Enables and makes easy international road transport along CAREC corridor
  - Allows entry of vehicles registered in the other country
  - Mutually recognizes driving licenses, transport operators' license, and third-party motor vehicle liability insurance
  - Exempts goods, vehicles and containers in transit from customs formalities
- Harmonizes design and construction standards of roads, bridges, road signs and signals, and road safety and border crossing infrastructure and equipment
- Facilitates border crossing formalities
  - Promotes one-stop, single-window clearance; advance exchange of information; risk management/post-entry audit
  - Synchronizes border crossing point operating hours
  - Harmonizes cross-border trade documents



## **Future Directions of TTF**

- Accelerate infrastructure investment
- Improve border infrastructure and facilities
  - Hard and soft aspects of border crossing points improvement
- Promote Cross Border Transport Agreement
  - Accession by other CAREC Countries
  - Follow-up activities for effective implementation
- Develop capacities
  - Establishment of efficient management systems and associated capacity building
  - framework to rationalize sustainable skills development



# **Trade Policy Strategic Action Plan**

### Strategic goals

- More open economies
- WTO membership for all countries
- Capacity development and knowledge transfer of trade and trade policy issues

## Operational strategy

- Broad-based reduction in trade barriers, increased transparency, and simplification of trade regulations
- Provide practical assistance to non-WTO members to build capacity and transfer knowledge
- Capacity building and knowledge transfer activities



## **CAREC Institute**

### Mission

 Enhance the quality of regional cooperation by generating world-class knowledge resources in the priority areas of transport and trade facilitation, energy and trade policy.

### Main outputs

- Professional development and training
- Research program
- Outreach program
- CAREC Program Results Framework

### Financing

- ADB's TA



# **Lessons Learned**

- Coordination among multiministries and multi-agencies involved
- Formal (protocol-oriented) versus informal (delivery-oriented)
- Multilateral versus bilateral
- Allocation development benefits and investment costs among countries involved

CAREC