



ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION TRADE FACILITATION INITIATIVES



By: Waqar Ahmad Shah,
Director Trade and Investment, ECO


Map with Area of ECO Region



ECO - *An Overview*

- ◆ HISTORIC BACKGROUND
 - ◆ OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS
 - ◆ ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE
 - ◆ POLICY / DECISIONS MAKING ORGANS
 - ◆ GLOBAL / REGIONAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT
 - ◆ MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS
 - ◆ REGIONAL / INTERNATIONAL INTEGRATION
- 
- A stylized, layered mountain range graphic in shades of teal and blue, located in the bottom right corner of the slide.


REGIONAL COOPERATION IN TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- ◆ TRADE AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY
 - ◆ MAJOR INITIATIVES
 - ◆ INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS
 - ◆ ONGOING PROJECTS
 - ◆ PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES
 - ◆ PROPOSED PLANS
- 
- A stylized, layered mountain range graphic in shades of teal and blue, located in the bottom right corner of the slide.

ECO TRADE FACILITATION INITIATIVES

- ◆ ECO TRADE AGREEMENT (ECOTA)
- ◆ ECO TRANSIT TRANSPORT FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT (TTFA)
- ◆ ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATIONS OF ECO SMUGGLING AND CUSTOMS OFFENCES DATA BANK
- ◆ AGREEMENT ON MUTUAL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE IN CUSTOMS MATTERS
- ◆ AGREEMENT ON SIMPLIFICATION OF VISA PROCEDURES FOR THE BUSINESSMEN AND TRANSIT DRIVERS OF ECO MEMBER STATES
- ◆ AGREEMENT ON PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF INVESTMENT


UPCOMING INITIATIVES

- AGREEMENT ON AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION
 - AGREEMENT ON PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION AND MONEY LAUNDERING
 - AGREEMENT ON TRADE FACILITATION
 - AGREEMENT ON JOINT TRADE PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES
 - AGREEMENT ON MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF STANDARDS
- 
- A stylized, layered mountain range graphic in shades of teal and blue, located in the bottom right corner of the slide.

NTBs IN THE ECO REGION

- ◆ Restricted Trade Regimes
 - ◆ Inefficient and insufficient telecommunications, transportation, banking & insurance systems
 - ◆ Time consuming, non transparent & discriminatory customs procedures
 - ◆ Shortage of customs facilities
 - ◆ High and discriminatory transit fees
 - ◆ Unreliable and insecure transit routes
 - ◆ Difficult visa procedures
 - ◆ Quantitative restrictions on imports
 - ◆ Licensing for certain imports
 - ◆ Currency convertibility/exchange rate uncertainties
 - ◆ Restrictions on financial/banking services
- 
- A stylized, dark teal mountain range graphic is located in the bottom right corner of the slide, partially overlapping the text area.

ECO TRADE AGREEMENT (ECOTA)

- Benefits for the Region
 - Salient Features of ECOTA
 - Annexes to the Agreement
 - Trade Liberalization Programme
 - Plan of Action
 - Decisions of the ECOTA Cooperation Council
 - PTA Leading to FTA
- 
- A stylized, layered mountain range graphic in shades of teal and blue, located in the bottom right corner of the slide.

ECO Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA)

Objectives

- Harmonization and modernization of transit transport
- Facilitation of movement of goods and passengers
- Ensuring the safety of goods and passengers and avoiding unnecessary delays during the transit traffic
- Cooperation and coordination of the efforts to avoid the incidence of customs frauds and tax evasion
- Harmonizing necessary administrative affairs relating to transit traffic




Annexes to the TTFA

-  **ANNEX-I** **Prescribed road, rail and inland waterway transit routes**
-  **ANNEX-II** **Minimum technical characteristics of transit roads**
-  **ANNEX-III** **Minimum technical characteristics of railway transit transport**
-  **ANNEX-IV** **Technical requirements of road vehicles**
-  **ANNEX-V** **Motor Vehicles Third Party Insurance**
-  **ANNEX-VI** **Rules of Carriage by Road Transport**
-  **ANNEX-VII** **Customs Control**
-  **ANNEX-VIII** **Terms of reference of the TTCC**



AGREEMENT ON ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATIONS OF ECO SMUGGLING AND CUSTOMS OFFENCES DATA BANK

OVERALL OBJECTIVE:

- ◆ ESTABLISH STRONG COOPERATION AND COORDINATION TO ACHIEVE BEST POSSIBLE RESULTS IN COMBATING ILLICIT TRAFFICKING AND CUSTOMS FRAUD
 - ◆ CREATE FACILITIES FOR SMOOTH FLOW OF GOODS AND PASSENGER TRAFFIC
 - ◆ INITIATE MEASURES TO COMBAT SMUGGLING OF COMMERCIAL GOODS, NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES AND CUSTOMS FRAUDS
 - ◆ SHARE INFORMATION ON CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT ISSUES
- 
- A stylized, layered mountain range graphic in shades of teal and blue, located in the bottom right corner of the slide.

HARMONIZATION OF CUSTOMS LEGISLATION

- ◆ TRANSLATION OF CUSTOMS CODES AND TARIFF NOMENCLATURES OF THE MEMBER STATES INTO ENGLISH AND THEIR PUBLICATION ON CUSTOMS WEB SITES
- ◆ HARMONIZATION OF THE TRANSIT LEGISLATIONS OF ECO MEMBERS
- ◆ TRADE FACILITATION WITHIN WTO FRAMEWORK


AGREEMENT ON MUTUAL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE IN CUSTOMS MATTERS

- ◆ Motivated by commitment to promote regional cooperation
- ◆ Common desire to promote ECOTA
- ◆ Need for cooperation in application and enforcement of customs legislation
- ◆ Importance of proper enforcement of customs administrations of prohibitions – restrictions and measures to control specific goods
- ◆ Customs offences regarded as prejudicial to security of regional economic, commercial, fiscal, social, public health and cultural interest
- ◆ Concern over illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors (constitute danger to public health and security)
- ◆ Effective actions against customs offences by ensuring transparent legal provisions
- ◆ Exchange of data on customs facilitation

SCOPE

- ◆ Assistance for application of the Agreement
- ◆ Help in information exchange for prevention, investigation or combating customs offences
- ◆ **EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON:**
 - ❖ New enforcement techniques
 - ❖ New trends, means or methods of committing customs offences
 - ❖ Goods, transport and storage methods
 - ❖ Persons or accomplices/suspects of customs offences
 - ❖ Other data on risk assessment, control and facilitation purpose

ECO Programme on Trade Facilitation

- ◆ JWG to prepare Draft of ECO TFA
 - ◆ Recommendations of the UNDP Consultant Report
 - ◆ Study on ECO Transit Trade Procedures
 - ◆ EGM on Electronic Documentation
 - ◆ Workshop on Trade Facilitation
 - ◆ Joint activities on e-commerce
 - ◆ Training courses
- 
- A stylized, layered mountain range graphic in shades of teal and blue, located in the bottom right corner of the slide.

Why ECO Needs Trade Facilitation Measures

- ◆ Economic growth/sustainable economic development
 - ◆ Serve long-term needs of the region
 - ◆ Encourage integration of the region with the global economic system
 - ◆ Enhance capacities and strengthen institutions
 - ◆ Elimination of NTB's by increasing transparency
 - ◆ Activating private sector
- 
- A stylized, layered mountain range graphic in shades of teal and blue, located in the bottom right corner of the slide.