

Seminar on Customs Automation  
23-25 May, 2007 Beijing, P.R.China

## **Welcome Address**

**Mr. SUN Songpu**  
Vice Minister, PRC Customs

Distinguished Guests, Dear Colleagues,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Good Morning!

Firstly, on behalf of the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China, please allow me to extend my warmest welcome to you, the distinguished guests from member administrations of Customs Cooperation Committee, Asian Development Bank, the World Customs Organization and other agencies. Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to ADB for co-hosting this important event together with China Customs.

Since the launching of Trade Facilitation Program of Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation, Customs cooperation within the region has been playing an important role in promoting regional trade and economic development and also witnessed many substantial achievements. During the 5 years, in the five CCC heads meetings and several working group meetings, ICT (Information Communication Technology) as one of the 7 priority areas, has pushed forward the cooperation among CAREC Customs Administrations to a higher level, especially in the fields of information exchange and joint border control.

In the past five years, China Customs has been dedicating more and more resources to the cooperation among the CCC member administrations as well as Trade Facilitation Program. In particular, China Customs has co-sponsored with ADB for CCC member administrations five Seminars since 2003, which are the Seminar on Risk Management in Urumqi in 2003, Seminar on Customs Reforms and Modernization in Beijing in 2004, the Seminar on Risk Management and Post Entry Audit in Shenzhen and the Seminar on TIR System in Shanghai in the same year of 2005, and the Seminar on WCO Framework of Standards and Customs Data Model in Urumqi last year. These Seminars covered the topics from the Revised Kyoto Convention and risk management and post-entry audit techniques, to the Customs Transit System in most European countries and the WCO's latest focus on trade security and facilitation. Now General Administration of China Customs is actively

conducting the feasible study of the joint border control between China and Mongolia, the information exchange between China and Kazakstan. Moreover, these events definitely helped the CCC member administrations deepen cooperation, enhance mutual understanding and expedite respective process of reform and modernization. I convinced that the Cooperation among the Customs administrations of CAREC will have a bright future.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Coupled with the development of information communication technology, the world Customs family has recognized that, the application of ICT in Customs routines can provide the most possible solution to facilitating international trade while maintaining security. Automation in Customs' operation not only means replacing the manual processing of documents by computer-assisted treatment of electronically-transmitted information, but also results in increased transparency in the assessment of duties and taxes, substantial reduction in Customs clearance time and predictability, all leading to direct and indirect savings for both government and traders. To some extent, automation becomes a catalyst for Customs modernization. China Customs has deeply engrained the strategy of "building a smart Customs with science & Technology" in its day-to-day work and has basically established E-Customs, E-Port and E-General Administration application systems. These systems are providing strong technical support for networked Customs clearance operations, smart control, digitized management and sound administrative decisions. Now, the efforts of China Customs to build an IT-based Customs have yielded obvious results. The detailed information will be introduced by my colleagues. At the same time, we will make arrangement for all delegates to pay a visit to China E-port Data Center and Information Center at the last day of this seminar.

Today, we are gathering here to exchange views and share experience on Customs automation. I am fully convinced that this seminar will provide a platform for fruitful discussion and productive information sharing. China Customs is also willing to introduce and share with you its unique experience in automation process. In addition, more potential cooperative topics among CCC member administrations are expected through in-depth discussions and collective contribution.

I sincerely wish this Seminar a complete success and wish all of you a pleasant stay in Beijing.

Thank you.