

Barry J. Hitchcock
Country Director, ADB's Mongolia Resident Mission
Introduction Remarks
At the Consultation Meeting on the Proposed Trade Logistics Study

Good Morning Mr. Demberel, Chairman of Mongolia National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, distinguished representatives from the public and private sectors, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to join Mr. Demberel to chair the consultation meeting on the proposed trade logistics study. I am very pleased that this consultation meeting has drawn such a big crowd with broad-based participation from both the private and public sectors.

Indeed, broad-based participation and public-private partnership are two key factors for an integrated and effective trade facilitation program, and Mongolia needs such an trade facilitation program to overcome the land-locked economic conditions and leverage transit trade for job generation and poverty reduction, and successful economic transition.

Mongolia has made significant effort in moving toward an integrated approach in trade facilitation and a “one-stop” and “single electronic window” services for the business community. Key trade-related agencies such as Customs are embarking on extensive reforms and modernization efforts and spearheading a number of trade facilitation initiatives under the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program sponsored by ADB and other multilateral institutions.

We hope the trade logistics study will further cement these trade facilitation initiatives by the private and public sectors, and integrate “cross-border trade facilitation initiatives” with “behind-the-border transport facilitation initiatives” through promotion of third party logistics services and logistics facility development such as warehousing, free trade zones, and trade promotion centers.

- I would like to thank Mr. Demberel for sponsoring this trade logistics study in partnership with key trade-related public agencies such as the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Customs, and Ministry of Road, Transport and Tourism;
- I congratulate you for the successful launching of a national trade facilitation committee—a key trade facilitation initiative endorsed by the Ministerial Conference for the CAREC Program;
- Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank the Government of Korea and our partner, Korea IT Promotion Agency (KIPA) to join ADB to support Mongolia's trade facilitation and logistics development initiatives.

I wish you success in your deliberation.