

**KAZISS**

Kazakhstan Institute  
for Strategic Studies under  
the President of the Republic  
of Kazakhstan



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## **Trade Facilitation in Central Asia**

### **International Regional Conference**

## **Benefits of Geolocation: Central Asia as a Global Transit Hub**

14 November 2017

Hilton-Garden Hotel, Astana, Kazakhstan

(with side meetings on 13 and 15 November)

### **1. Background and Rationale**

In the context of expanding international cooperation and deepening integration processes, development of transport potential and creation of international transport corridors is one of the crucial factors for increasing investment attractiveness and ensuring economic growth and development of any state.

Central Asia, landlocked due to its geographical location, has transformed into an important bridge for world trade, a transcontinental link capable of connecting the North-South, West-East, developed and developing countries in the Eurasian region and beyond. The Central Asian states, due to the implementation of mega-regional investment and infrastructure projects as "Investment Plan for Europe" (the Juncker Plan, European Union), the "One Belt and One Road" Initiative (China) and the "Eurasia Initiative" (Republic of Korea), have again moved to the centre of attention. Central Asia has yet again become the lynchpin of the transit corridor system that contributes to an increase in the flow of goods and capital between the world centres of production in Asia and Europe.

At the same time, it is clear that on the way to the formation of the Eurasian transport and logistics space, the states that are part of the transit corridor, acquire not only great opportunities but also face various challenges.

To realise this potential, it is necessary to create favourable conditions that ensure the transit efficiency of goods by increasing the investment attractiveness of local economies, upgrading transport infrastructure systems and creating logistics services. At the same time, a proper institutional framework is needed to ensure sustainability of infrastructure projects and the contribution to economic and social development along the corridors. Additionally, to provide synergies and benefits for all stakeholders, there is a need for a structured approach to coordination and communication among investors, donor countries and financial institutions.

### **2. Objectives and Approach**

The conference brings together decision makers and practitioners from inside and outside the region. The objective is to stress the need for an improved enabling environment to guarantee a competitive transit framework on the Eurasian level. The conference will foster the public-private dialogue on legal and technical issues of further infrastructure development regarding existing and new transit corridors. It serves to complement the ongoing discussion on hard infrastructure investments and provides a platform to address issues of coordination among investors, donors, and beneficiaries.

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### 3. Guiding questions for the conference:

Beyond infrastructure:

- What enabling environment do we need to utilise infrastructure investments for sustainable development?
- How to ensure the harmonisation of the legal and technical framework?

Transit corridors:

- How to ensure sustainability of infrastructure projects?
- How is a long-term maintenance ensured?

Regional investments on a national scale:

- How to avoid a “noodle bowl” of transport corridors, infrastructure plans through harmonisation and coordination?
- How can we ensure that investment in infrastructure is in line with national development plans?

Geopolitical issues:

- What are the geopolitical risks of implementing the mega transit projects?
- How to address the specific issues of landlocked countries along transport corridors?

### 4. Target Group and Cooperation Partners

The Kazakh Institute for Strategic Studies under the President will host the conference jointly organised by GIZ. The event will bring together participants from the private and the public sector. Business associations from the transport and logistics sector as well as from im- and exporters will share their perspective with policy makers from relevant agencies and ministries of the target countries, such as border management and customs agencies, transport ministries. Key inputs from academia and think tanks will provide the backdrop for further in-depth discussion.

Basic information	
<b>Sponsor</b>	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
<b>Organizer</b>	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH: Programmes: “Trade Facilitation in Central Asia”, “Support for Economic Cooperation in Sub-regional Initiatives in Asia” Host country organisation: Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan
<b>Participants</b>	50 participants from the public and private sector, plus further observers from international development and finance institutions.
<b>Facilitation</b>	Moderation and Facilitation will be provided by GIZ and KAZISS
<b>Format</b>	Conference, Expert Input, Panel Sessions and Roundtable Discussion
<b>Language</b>	The official conference language is English, translation for Russian and Chinese will be ensured.





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### Agenda / Draft

14 November 2017	
08:30 – 09:00	<b>Registration</b>
09:00 – 09:15	<b>Opening and Welcome Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moderator: Rainer Goertz, Chief Advisor of the GIZ Programme "Trade Facilitation in Central Asia", GIZ Kazakhstan</li> <li>Shaukenova Zarema, Director of the Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan (KAZISS)</li> <li>NN, Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan</li> <li>Rolf Mafael, Ambassador of Germany to Kazakhstan (tbc)</li> <li>Torsten Brezina, GIZ, Coordinator of Regional Projects Central Asia</li> </ul>
09:15 – 10:00	<b>Panel Session: Favourable Environment for the Transit of Goods</b> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Rainer Goertz, Torsten Brezina, GIZ, Coordinator Regional Projects Central Asia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Transit Routes – Road and Rail in Central Asia</b> NN, ADB / CAREC</li> <li><b>Enabling Environment (Logistics and Administrative Procedures)</b> NN, DHL Germany</li> <li><b>Relevance of Infrastructure compared to Enabling Environment</b> David Oberhuber, Director of the GIZ Programme "Trade Facilitation in Central Asia"</li> <li><b>Transit corridors in geopolitical realities.</b> Martin Both, Business Director for Transportation &amp; Traffic, Dornier Consulting International GmbH</li> </ul>
10:30 – 10:45	<b>Coffee Break</b>
10:45–12:30	<div> <div> <b>Session 1*: Transit of Goods - Benefits and Risks for Central Asian Transit Countries (Geopolitical)</b> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Rainer Goertz, Chief Advisor of the GIZ Programme "Trade Facilitation in Central Asia", GIZ Kazakhstan</p> <p><b>Key Note Speech</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Perspective of Central Asia connecting the Eastern and the Western, the Northern and the Southern Perspective</b></li> </ul> <p>Sanat Kushkumbayev, Deputy Director, Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan</p> </div> <div> <b>Session 2*: How to Develop the Transit Potential? (practical Implementation)</b> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Khushnidjon Rasulov, Regional Coordinator of the GIZ Programme "Trade Facilitation in Central Asia", GIZ Kyrgyzstan</p> <p><b>Inputs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Service and Control (Border Management),</b> Jonathon Hornbrook, Experience of Latin Amerika (El-Salvador-Guatemala)</li> <li><b>Latvia transit experience: between EU and Russia</b> Gennadijs Maskovs, Integrated Expert of the GIZ Programme</li> </ul> </div> </div>



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## Trade Facilitation in Central Asia

	<b>Inputs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>View of China</b> Yang Zhangwei, Director, Ministry of Commerce (tbc)</li> <li>• <b>View of Europe</b> Mr. Traian Laurentiu Hristea, Head of the European Union Delegation to Kazakhstan (tbc)</li> <li>• <b>View of Russia</b> Yelena Kuzmina, Head, Economic Development Department of the post-Soviet states Sector, Institute of Economy of the Russian Academy of Sciences (tbc)</li> <li>• <b>View of Iran</b> Mokhammad Marandi, Professor, Dean of the Faculty of World Studies of Tehran University (tbc)</li> <li>• <b>View of Mongolia</b> Damba Ganbat, Director, Institute of Strategic Studies under the National Security Council of Mongolia, Ulanbator (tbc)</li> <li>• <b>Case Study from European Transit Region</b> NN</li> </ul>	<p>“Trade Facilitation in Central Asia”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ghana transit experience</b> Use of electronic monitoring systems in transit</li> <li>• <b>Crossing border time in CAREC countries</b> ADB</li> <li>• <b>Standardization of transit documents</b> ADB</li> <li>• <b>Political Support (Bilateral Transit Agreements vs Multilateral Agreements)</b> Larisa Kislyakova, Union of professional consultants of Tajikistan, Head</li> <li>• <b>Linking of Global Supply Chains</b> NN</li> <li>• <b>Tajikistan-Russia transit example, lorry truck</b> NN</li> </ul>
12:30 – 14:00	<b>Joint Lunch</b>	
14:00 – 15:45	<b>Round table 1*: Transit of Goods - Benefits and Risks for Central Asian Transit Countries</b>  <b>Moderator:</b> Meirat Omarov, Head of the External Policy and International Safety Department, Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan  <b>Session: discussion, outcomes and recommendations</b>	<b>Round table 2*: How to Develop the Transit Potential?</b>  <b>Moderator:</b> Khushnidjon Rasulov, Regional Coordinator of the GIZ Programme “Trade Facilitation in Central Asia”, GIZ Kyrgyzstan  <b>Session: (discussion, outcomes and recommendations)</b>
15:45 – 16:00	<b>Coffee break</b>	
16:00 – 16:30	<b>Potential Action Promoting Interregional Transit via Central Asia</b> Conclusion: Sanat Kushkumbayev, Deputy Director, Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conclusion, David Oberhuber, Director of the GIZ Programme “Trade Facilitation in Central Asia”</li> </ul>	
16:00 – 16:30	<b>Concluding Remarks and Next Steps</b> Moderator	



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## Trade Facilitation in Central Asia

Special meetings (draft)		
13 November 2017		
15 November 2017		
	<b>Special Roundtable Corridors 1:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Iran – Turkmenistan – Kazakhstan – Russian Federation/China</li></ul>	<b>Special Meeting Customs Brokers</b> Regional coordination to facilitate trade
	<b>Special Roundtable Corridors 2:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>EU – Russia – Kazakhstan – China</li></ul>	<b>Special meeting insurance companies</b> Insurance in a foreign trade
	<b>Linking sub-regional corridors into transcontinental corridors (optional)</b>	<b>Special Meeting Transit procedures:</b> transit guarantee mechanisms CA customs cooperation on alternative guarantees, WGS