

## **Expert Group Meeting on Modernizing the General Agency for Specialized Inspection (GASI) of Mongolia towards an Efficient Trading Environment in North-East Asia**

**4-5 July 2012, Ulaan Baatar, Mongolia**

### **Background**

Mongolia is the only landlocked country in the sub-region of East and North East Asia.<sup>1</sup> Since entering the WTO, international trade in Mongolia has grown steadily and is playing a central role in promoting economic growth and industrial reform<sup>2</sup>. Despite the importance of trade for national competitiveness, however, the quality of transport and logistics of Mongolia is unsatisfactory. The World Bank's 'Doing Business' report shows that the world ranking of Mongolia in terms of 'ease of trading across borders' fell between 2009 and 2011, from 155th to 159th<sup>3</sup>. The Logistics Performance Index of the World Bank also puts Mongolia's performance below the average for CAREC<sup>4</sup>.

In 2011, ESCAP Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia carried out a project entitled "Subregional Trade and Transit Cooperation in Mongolian Trade Corridors" with the aim to improve the efficiency of major Mongolian trade corridors linking Mongolia to China and the Russian Federation. One of the project outputs was a study on the current trade and transit procedures and legislative requirements at- and behind- the border to identify and address impediments to trade. The study highlighted that a significant portion of import/export time was taken by the inspection and quarantine process at the Mongolian border due to the lack of capacity of the General Agency for Specialized Inspection (GASI). The study results were subsequently discussed at the High-Level Stakeholder Workshop held on 7 October 2011. Participants attending the workshop, including the Chairman of GASI, recommended to strengthen subregional cooperation on modernizing GASI, as a way forward, to improve overall efficiency at the border.

Modernizing GASI will not only streamline trade procedures, resulting in significant reductions in both the time and cost for traders, but will also indirectly promote industries in Mongolia by enhancing the quality of products and services.

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<sup>1</sup> East and North East Asia includes China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea and Russian Federation.

<sup>2</sup> Trade to GDP ratio of Mongolia is 116.7 in between 2008~2010, WTO

<sup>3</sup> Doing Business Data, The World Bank

<sup>4</sup> Mongolia's LPI is 2.25 lowest next to Afghanistan among CAREC members, The Logistics Performance Index 2010, The World Bank

## Goals

The Expert Group Meeting will assess the current status of GASI in the area of quarantine and inspection services, identify good practices, procedures and processes from the subregion, and discuss how they can be applied in Mongolia.

The objectives of the meeting are:

- To analyze the current status of GASI especially with regard to the capacity of officers, equipments and facilities as well as utilization of ICT measures
- To examine policies and regulations in relation to administrative procedures of quarantine and inspection of goods for trade;
- To identify gaps and challenges in modernizing GASI to conform to international quarantine and inspection standards and practices; and
- To develop measures for addressing the challenges identified, including capacity building programmes, upgrading equipment and facilities at the lab and border offices and reforming policies and regulations.

## Tentative Programme

### Day 1: Wednesday 4 July 2012

08:30 – 09:00	<b>Registration</b>
09:00 – 10:00	<b>Opening Session</b> Opening remarks by Andrea Goldstein, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, UNESCAP Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia Opening remarks by Chairman of Mongolia's General Agency for Specialized Inspection (GASI) Overview of programme goals and introduction of participants by Sangwon Lim, Economic Affairs Officer, UNESCAP Overview of GASI – brief history of the agency, organizational structure and GASI's Masterplan
10:00-10:15	Coffee break
10:15 – 12:00	<b>Session 1: Plant inspection processes and procedures</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Current practices and procedures of GASI</li> <li>- Experiences from China, Japan, Republic of Korea and Russian Federation</li> </ul>
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch break
13:30 – 15:00	<b>Session 2: Animal inspection processes and procedures</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Current practices and procedures of GASI</li> <li>- Experiences from China, Japan, Republic of Korea and Russian Federation</li> </ul>
15:00 – 15:15	Coffee break
15:15 – 16:30	<b>Session 3: Improving transparency and predictability of quarantine and inspection services through the use of ICT</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Current practices of GASI related to communicating with businesses and the general public as well as intra and inter-agency coordination and communication through the use of ICT</li> <li>- Experiences from China, Japan, Republic of Korea and Russian Federation</li> </ul>
16:30- 18:00	<b>Session 4: Legal and regulatory framework governing the inspection and quarantine process</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Current state of inspection and quarantine related legal and regulatory framework in Mongolia</li> <li>- Experiences from China, Japan, Republic of Korea and Russian Federation</li> </ul>

### Day 2: Thursday 5 July 2012

09:00 – 12:00	<b>Study visit to GASI</b>
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch

14:00 – 16:00	<b>Facilitated group discussions</b> Challenges and opportunities for modernizing GASI in the areas of (i) Plant inspection; (ii) Animal inspection; (iii) legal and regulatory framework; and (iv) improving transparency and predictability of quarantine and inspection services through the use of ICT  *Groups will also assess human resources capacity, ICT readiness and equipment needs in their respective areas
16:00 – 16:20	<b>Coffee Break</b>
16:20 – 17:30	<b>The way forward</b> Action items for the way forward Closing remarks

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

[https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5\\_7564](https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_7564)

