



DRAFT as of April 5, 2024

13th Central Asia Trade Forum

TRADE CONNECTIONS: BRIDGING GLOBALLY

Objective: The 13th CATF is set to concentrate on expanding the conventional boundaries of regional trade by delving into the potential, challenges, and innovations that will shape the future of trade in the Central Asia Region. The forum will actively explore new trade markets, identify opportunities within value chains, discuss the digitalization of customs and logistics, and delve into various aspects of trade regulation, including regional trade agreements (RTAs), World Trade Organization (WTO) standards, harmonization, and other relevant standards.

Event Format: In-person (with accessible online streaming)

Location: May 14–15, 2024, Rixos Hotel Almaty, Almaty, Kazakhstan

TENTATIVE AGENDA

Time	Day 1, May 14 (Tuesday)
09.00 – 09.30	Participants' Registration
09.30 – 10.15	<p>Opening and Plenary Session “Navigating Trade Regulations”</p> <p>This session addresses the complexities and nuances of trade regulations in the region. This session will provide a deep dive into the evolving regulatory landscape, offering participants key insights into compliance, risk management, and legal considerations. Regulatory authorities will guide attendees through the intricacies of trade policies, tariffs, and documentation requirements, fostering a comprehensive understanding of the regulatory environment in Central Asia.</p> <p>Moderator: Ruslan Sultanov, Chairman, Economic Research Institute</p> <p>Keynote Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - US Ambassador/USAID Representative TBD - Ministry of Trade and Integration of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Vice-Minister Kairat Torebayev - Ministry of Investment, Industry and Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan - Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of the Republic of Tajikistan - Ministry of Economy and Commerce of the Kyrgyz Republic - Ministry of Trade and Foreign Economic Relations of Turkmenistan
10.15 – 10.30	Coffee-break
10.30 – 12.00	<p>Session 1: Unveiling New Markets [Part 1]</p> <p>This session is dedicated to exploring uncharted business territories. This focused discussion will examine emerging sectors, trade routes, and investment frontiers within Central Asia. Attendees can expect deep insights into market dynamics, regulatory frameworks, and strategic entry points. The session aims to uncover hidden</p>

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	<p>opportunities, offering a roadmap for navigating the complexities of the Central Asian markets. Expert speakers will share their perspectives on cross-border collaborations, unlocking growth potential, and addressing challenges unique to the region.</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TBD <p>Keynote Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gregory Lecomte, Country Manager for Kazakhstan, OECD - Dmitry Mariyasin, Deputy Executive Secretary of UNECE - Nurlan Kulbatyrov, Deputy Director General, QazTrade - Farrukh Sultonov, IFC Country Officer
12.00 – 13.30	<p>Trade Exhibition Opening Ceremony [12.00-12.30]</p> <p>Lunch [12.00-13.30]</p>
13.30 – 14.30	<p>Session 1: Unveiling New Markets [Part 2]</p> <p>This is a continuation of Session 1.</p> <p>This session explores opportunities and strategies for accessing new markets. Through this session, participants will gain practical examples illustrating how traders can leverage their strengths and capitalize on emerging opportunities in diverse industries.</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TBD <p>Keynote Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities at AIFC to accelerate export: legal environment and infrastructure [name TBD] - Understanding Markets and People, IPSOS (Market Research Company) [Mira Belgibayeva, General Manager] - Regulation of Electronic Trade, Digital Kazakhstan Association [Yelena Bychkova, Managing Director] - Product Adaptation and Localization, Jeffrey Grieco, Senior Advisor, TCA
14.30 – 14.45	Coffee-break

Time	Day 1, May 14 (Tuesday)
14.45 – 16.15	<p data-bbox="416 349 927 383">Session 2: Transport and Logistics Optimization</p> <p data-bbox="416 400 1382 719">This session is a pivotal discussion focused on enhancing efficiency and connectivity within the region. This session will delve into strategies for streamlining transport and logistics operations, exploring innovative technologies, and addressing infrastructure challenges. Industry experts and thought leaders will share valuable insights on supply chain optimization, cross-border transportation, and the latest advancements in logistics management. Participants can anticipate a comprehensive exploration of best practices, regulatory considerations, and collaborative solutions aimed at fostering a resilient and agile transport ecosystem in Central Asia. This session will be an essential platform for professionals keen on maximizing the potential of regional connectivity and ensuring seamless trade and commerce across Central Asia.</p> <p data-bbox="416 739 544 768">Moderator:</p> <ul data-bbox="464 788 1166 817" style="list-style-type: none"> - Asset Assavbayev, TRACECA Intergovernmental Commission <p data-bbox="416 837 619 866">Keynote Speakers:</p> <ul data-bbox="464 887 1329 1267" style="list-style-type: none"> - Maksat Kaliakparov, Vice-Minister, Ministry of Transport of RK - Gaidar Abdikerimov, Secretary General, International Association “Trans-Caspian International Transport Route” - Damir Kozhakhmetov, acting General Director (Chairman of the Board) KTZ Express - Mario Escobar, Business Development Manager, APM terminal - Seaport of Constanta, Romania - Rony Saab, Transport and Logistics Expert, EBRD - USAID TCA, Central Asia Trade Map (CATMAP)

Time	Day 2: May 15 (Wednesday)
10.00 – 14.00	<p>B2B and Continuation of Trade Exhibition</p> <p>Participants will have an opportunity to explore the forefront of innovation at the exhibition, where leading companies from Central Asia will showcase their products in the food and textile industries. The pre-matched B2B session will be running on parallel to the exhibition.</p>
10.00 - 12.00	<p>Pakistan-Kazakhstan Trade Opportunities Forum for Women-Owned Businesses (Forum and B2B)</p>
09.00 – 17.00	<p>The regional meeting of the National Trade Facilitation Committees (NTFCs) of Central Asian countries (by invitation)</p> <p>The main goal of the meeting is to ensure effective and sustainable cooperation within the framework of the Regional Platform of National Trade Facilitation Committees of Central Asian countries.</p> <p>The meeting will provide a platform to discuss the national and regional plans for implementation of trade facilitation measures, including presentation of National Roadmaps for the implementation of the WTO TFA in the Central Asian countries and discussion of priority areas within the framework of regional cooperation of NTFCs.</p>