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**13<sup>th</sup> 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><b>Opening and Plenary Session “Navigating Trade Regulations”</b></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> <p>Zeinah Salahi, Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator of USAID’s Asia Bureau in Washington, D.C.</p> <p>Kairat Torebayev, Vice-Minister, Ministry of Trade and Integration of the Republic of Kazakhstan</p> <p>Ministry of Investment, Industry and Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan</p> <p>Rukhshona Nasriddinzoda, Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade of the Republic of Tajikistan</p> <p>Nazarbek Malaev, Vice-Minister, Ministry of Economy and Commerce of the Kyrgyz Republic</p>

Time	Day 1, May 14 (Tuesday)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Myrat Myradov, Head of Department for Legal Regulation and Coordination of Foreign Economic Relations, Ministry of Trade and Foreign Economic Relations of Turkmenistan</li> </ul>
10.15 – 10.30	Coffee-break
10.30 – 12.00	<p><b>Session 1: Unveiling New Markets [Part 1]</b></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 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"> <li>- Kati Suominen, Senior E-Commerce Advisor, USAID FGI</li> </ul> <p>Keynote Speakers:</p> <p>Gregory Lecomte, Head of Central Asia Unit, OECD Global Relations and Co-operation Directorate</p> <p>Mikheil Janelidze, Trade Sector Lead/Senior Consultant, USAID TCA</p> <p>Nurlan Kulbatyrov, Deputy Director General, QazTrade</p> <p>Zafar Khashimov, Country Manager for Kazakhstan and Kyrgyz Republic, IFC</p> <p>Jeffrey Grieco, Senior Advisor, USAID TCA</p> <p>Ekrem Cunedioğlu, Program Director, Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey</p>
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><b>Session 1: Unveiling New Markets [Part 2]</b></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"> <li>- Kati Suominen, Senior E-Commerce Advisor, USAID FGI</li> </ul> <p>Keynote Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dauren Ibraimov, Head of Almaty office, AIFC, Opportunities at AIFC to accelerate export: legal environment and infrastructure</li> </ul>

Time	Day 1, May 14 (Tuesday)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mira Belgibayeva, General Manager, IPSOS, Understanding Markets and People [TBD]</li> <li>- Yelena Bychkova, Managing Director, Digital Kazakhstan Association, Regulation of Electronic Trade</li> <li>- Jeffrey Grieco, Senior Advisor, USAID TCA, Product Adaptation and Localization</li> </ul>
14.30 – 14.45	Coffee-break
14.45 – 16.15	<p><b>Session 2: Transport and Logistics Optimization</b></p> <p>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>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Asset Assavbayev, TRACECA Intergovernmental Commission</li> </ul> <p>Keynote Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maksat Kaliakparov, Vice-Minister, Ministry of Transport of RK</li> <li>- Rony Saab, Transport and Logistics Expert, EBRD</li> <li>- Gaidar Abdikerimov, Secretary General, International Association “Trans-Caspian International Transport Route”</li> <li>- Batumi International Container Terminal, name TBD</li> <li>- Kanat Kobessov, CEO, Nurzhol Company</li> <li>- Dmitriy Chubenko, Association of International Road Carriers of Uzbekistan (AIRCUZ)</li> <li>- Abdulvakhid Abdukhalikov, General Director, TransTurkiston Company</li> <li>- Yerlan Absatov, KazLogistics, Central Asia Trade Map (CATMAP)</li> </ul>

Time	Day 2, May 15 (Wednesday)
10.00 – 14.00	<p><b>B2B and Continuation of Trade Exhibition</b></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 in parallel to the exhibition.</p>
10.00 - 12.00	<p><b>Pakistan-Kazakhstan Trade Opportunities Forum for Women-Owned Businesses</b> (Forum and B2B)</p>
09.00 – 17.00	<p><b>The regional meeting of the National Trade Facilitation Committees (NTFCs) of Central Asian countries (by invitation)</b></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>