

**MOST IMMEDIATE**

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

\*\*\*\*\*

F. No. 1 (3)/2006-AP-II (Part)


Islamabad the 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2012

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

Subject: - **MINUTES OF 3<sup>RD</sup> MEETING OF AFGHANISTAN PAKISTAN TRANSIT TRADE COORDINATION AUTHORITY (APTTCA).**

The third meeting of Afghanistan Pakistan Transit Trade Coordination Authority (APTTCA) was held on October 11-12, 2012 in Marriot Hotel, Islamabad. The agreed minutes of the meeting are enclosed for information and necessary action, if any, please.

**Encl: As above**

  
( Taj Muhammad )  
Section Officer (AP-II)  
Tel: - 051- 9211812

1. Mr. Najeeb R. Abbasi, Chief (F&C), Federal Board of Revenue
2. Syed Tanvir Ahmed, Collector (MCC) Port Qasim, Karachi, Federal Board of Revenue
3. Mr. Joudat Ayaz, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Communications, Islamabad
4. Mr. Tariq Wazir Khan, Director (ATDC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad
5. Mr. Munir Ahmed Anjum, Chief-Tec, Planning & Development Division, Islamabad
6. Dr. Nawaz Ahmed, Deputy Secretary (Policy), Ministry of Narcotics Control, Islamabad
7. Lt. Col. Muhammad Ishtiaq Ahmed, Joint Director, Anti Narcotics Force, Islamabad
8. Mr. Aftab Akbar, Director General (Operations), Ministry of Railways, Islamabad
9. Mr. Muhammad Kazim, Traffic Manager, KPT, Karachi
10. Mr. Saifullah, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Ports & Shipping, Islamabad
11. Engineer Daroo Khan, Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce & Industries, Karachi.
12. Mr. Moin Ahmed Malik, Agility Logistics, Pakistan International Freight Forwarders Associations (PIFFA), Karachi

**Minutes of the third Meeting of Afghanistan Pakistan Transit Trade Coordination Authority (APTTCA) Held on October 11-12, 2012, at Marriot Hotel, Islamabad**

The third meeting of Afghanistan Pakistan Transit Trade Coordination Authority (APTTCA) was held on October 11-12, 2012 in Islamabad. The meeting was inaugurated jointly by Mr. Fazal Abbas Maken, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Government of Pakistan and H.E. Mozammil Shinwari, Deputy Minister for Commerce & Industries, Afghanistan. The lists of delegations is at **Annex-I**.

**Inaugural Session:**

2. In his inaugural address, the Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce extended a warm welcome to the Afghan delegation and hoped that their stay in Islamabad would be enjoyable and productive. He stated that Pakistan gives utmost importance to its relations with Afghanistan. Afghanistan is a major trading partner of Pakistan and highlighted that trade between the two countries has increased three fold during the last five years. He further stated that Pakistan is very keen to further enhance and deepen our economic and trade relations with Afghanistan. Referring to APTTA, he said that it would be a major step forward to further cement commercial and economic cooperation between the two brotherly countries and expressed his hope that the new transit treaty would usher in an era of peace and stability in the region and prove to be a vehicle for future prosperity and economic development for the brotherly people of these two countries. He also expressed his optimism that all the issues in the smooth implementation of the Agreement would be resolved by both sides amicably. He noted with gratitude the fact that a request made by the Prime Minister of Pakistan during his visit to Kabul, the Afghan Government had agreed to issue six months multiple entry visas to Pakistani businessmen.

3. In his opening remarks, H.E. Mozammil Shinwari, Deputy Ministry for Commerce & Industries, Afghanistan thanked the Government of Pakistan for extending warm hospitality to the Afghan delegation. He stated that both countries enjoy historical trade and economic relations. He expressed his satisfaction that significant progress has been made on the issues of operational nature pertaining to APTTA during the Customs to Customs meetings in September, 2011 and Joint Economic Commission meeting in January, 2012. He referred to the issues of bank guarantee and examination of transit consignments by Customs authorities of Pakistan and hoped that both sides would agree on a simplified mechanism to ensure smooth operations of transit trade. He stated that mutual cooperation between the two countries in the economic fields would be in the benefit of the people of both countries.

**Plenary Session**

4. At the end of the Inaugural Session, the Plenary Session commenced the technical level negotiations. Mr. Fazal Abbas Maken, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce Government of Pakistan and Mr. Mozammil Shinwari, Deputy Minister for Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industries Government of Afghanistan led their respective delegations.

**Agenda of the Meeting:**

5. The agenda of the meeting was adopted with mutual consent. Agenda is at **Annex-II**.

**Agenda Item No. 1**

**Review of the decisions of the 2<sup>nd</sup> APTTCA meeting: -**

a) Rules of Business framed by Afghanistan for APITCA:

6. The Afghan side had shared draft Rules of Business for APTTCA with Pakistan. The Pakistan side informed that the draft Rules are being examined in consultation with relevant

M/1

1



12-10-2012

Ministries and response would be conveyed to Afghan side on completion of consultative process.

b) Temporary Admission Document:

7. Recalling the decisions of the Customs to Customs meeting held on September 29, 2011 in Islamabad regarding validity period of Temporary Admission Document, both sides approved the extension of period from 15 to 30 days in case of Type A of Temporary Admission Document. Both sides agreed to move their respective competent forums for approval of amendment in the relevant provisions of APTTA 2010.

c) Transit Routes to be notified by Afghanistan:

8. The Afghan side informed that the Ministry of Commerce & Industries has issued a notification to all concerned authorities of the Government of Afghanistan regarding the transit routes agreed upon in APTTA.

d) Issue of Bank Guarantee:

9. The Afghan side informed that banks in Pakistan and Afghanistan are not willing to provide bank guarantees for vehicles and in the absence of bank guarantees, Afghan trucks are not allowed beyond Peshawar and Chaman due to the issue of bank guarantee. On the other hand Pakistani trucks can go to any destination inside Afghanistan. The Afghan side proposed that instead of bank guarantee, the option of issuing bilateral Carnet de Passage, as proposed by the Customs to Customs meeting, may be considered by both sides to resolve the issue. However, the Afghan side requested Pakistan that till such an arrangement was finalized, their trucks carrying fresh / dry fruit may be allowed up to Wagha.

10. Pakistan side responded that the basic purpose of this guarantee was to ensure the safe journey of transport vehicles back to their respective countries. The Afghan side informed that they would submit a proposal on the mechanism for issuance of bilateral *Carnet de Passage* for consideration by Pakistan side. Pakistan welcomed the Afghan proposal. Once the Afghan proposal is received, the matter would be examined by the Government of Pakistan and response would be conveyed to the Afghan side. However, it was proposed that the mechanism of cash guarantee may also be considered by both sides.

11. Pakistan acceded to the Afghan request to allow their trucks carrying fresh / dry fruit up to Wagha, subject to the production of letter of guarantee, in each case, by the Ministry of Transport & Civil Aviation, Government of Afghanistan to the effect that the vehicles would return to Afghanistan within the stipulated time.

e) Release of Insurance Guarantee:

12. The Afghan side was of the view that T-1 Form (IZHAR LEEK) should be accepted as GD by Pakistan Customs for release of insurance guarantee. Pakistan side was of different view. However, after detailed deliberations, it was agreed that the insurance guarantee submitted by Afghan importers will be released on the receipt of copy of T-1 issued and attested by Afghan customs, bearing cross reference of GD filed in Pakistan, along with a Certificate issued by Afghan Customs to the effect that the consignment, mentioned in the relevant T-1 Form, has crossed the Customs check post / station Samarkhel (Jalalabad) in case of transit through Torkham and Spin Boldak in case of transit through Chaman. These documents will be forwarded to the respective Customs stations of Torkham and Chaman, on the Pakistani side for onward dispatch to office of departure in Karachi. In case of goods transiting through Afghanistan and destined for Pakistan, the copy of GD issued by Pakistan Customs at Torkham or Chaman will be the document for the release of insurance guarantee. Both sides agreed on the

need to adhere to the timelines stipulated in APTTA for the release of insurance guarantees, in letter and spirit. This mechanism will also be adopted for release of stuck up insurance guarantees.

13. Pakistan side raised the issue of Afghan Customs documents being issued in Dari / Pashto languages, it was requested by Pakistan side that English should also be incorporated as language for such forms. The Afghan side assured that they will examine the issue and will get back as early as possible.

f) Partial Shipment

14. The Afghan side requested Pakistan to allow the facility of partial shipment for transit consignments. The Pakistan side agreed to allow this facility by 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2012 when the new software would be put in place by the Customs authorities of Pakistan.

g) Progress on EDI:

15. Pakistan informed that the customs authorities of Pakistan have almost completed work on installation of the EDI and the pilot project would be implemented by December, 2012. The Afghan side informed that work was being done on the project in two different phases. It was agreed that FBR will send the test message to Afghanistan customs, which will be confirmed by Afghanistan. This will be the launching of first phase of EDI through secured e-mail.

**Agenda Item No. 4:**

**Disposal of Un-cleared Afghan Transit Containers:**

16. The Afghan side was informed that the cargo / containers of transit consignments imported under the 1965 Agreement have been lying un-cleared at Karachi Ports and creating serious port congestion. The issue was also discussed in the 8<sup>th</sup> JEC meeting held in January, 2012 in Islamabad wherein the Pakistan side agreed to provide relevant information in this regard to Afghanistan. Pakistan side proposed that these consignments may be cleared at the earliest. In any case, APTTA provides the mechanism to auction the un-cleared consignments. A list containing the details of these consignments prepared by the Ministry of Ports & Shipping was shared with the Afghan side for their consideration and early response.

17. The Afghan side informed that they will work on this issue and would respond for early disposal of un-cleared transit containers.

**Agenda Item No. 5**

**Issuance of Additional Copy of Afghan Customs Clearance Document (ACCD) to Pakistani exporters:**

18. The Afghan side was informed that Pakistani exporters were facing problems for claiming duty drawback / refunds for export to Afghanistan as only one original copy of ACCD is issued to the exporters by Afghan Customs. The Afghan side was requested to issue one attested copy of ACCD to Pakistani exporters expeditiously. The Afghan side agreed to address the issue by providing copies to Pakistani exporters.

**Agenda Item No. 6**

**Any other item:**

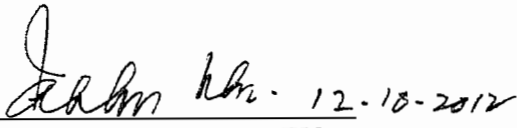
19. Under this agenda item, both sides deliberated on the following issues:-

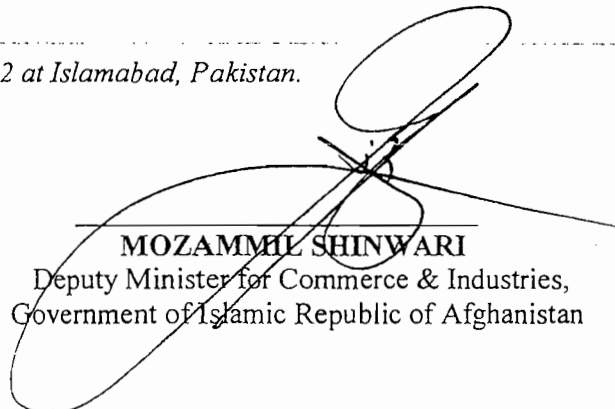
M-T

J  
tm

- i) The Pakistan side apprised the Afghan side on the proposal of the Republic of Turkey to include Taftan as designated entry point in APTTA for transportation of export cargo by Gul Train. The Afghan side informed that they will respond in the matter after consultation with their relevant stakeholders.
- ii) The Afghan side pointed out that the Chinese mining company working in Afghanistan has imported certain vehicles especially for mining activities in Afghanistan. A request in this regard has already been forwarded to Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan for consideration. The Afghan side was assured that on receiving a copy of the correspondence, the matter would be considered for resolution on priority.
- iii) The Afghan side also sought assistance to waive the amount of US\$ 3 million incurred on account of demurrage paid by Afghan importer on a consignment of wheat donated by India to Afghanistan. The amount paid is being demanded from the Government of Afghanistan. Pakistan side assured to look into the matter once a formal request was received from Afghanistan.
- iv) Pakistan side highlighted that the Transit Rules by Afghan side are yet to be finalized and shared with Pakistan Customs authorities. The Afghan side assured that the Rules will be finalized and shared with Pakistan within one month.
- v) The Afghan side was requested to nominate their officers for the Border Committees to oversee the undue charges and other issues at the Border as agreed in the 8<sup>th</sup> JEC. The Afghan side responded that they would expedite conveying their nominations to Ministry of Commerce of Pakistan.
- vi) It was pointed out by the Afghan side that the importers face difficulties while transiting their imported vehicles in containers, through Pakistan. On the proposal of Afghan side, Pakistan side agreed that henceforth transit in Roll-on and Roll-off car carriers will be allowed.
- vii) The Afghan side raised the issue of security of transit cargo en-route Pakistan and cited some incidents of loss of goods. The Pakistan side assured that the matter would be taken up with the concerned authorities of Federal and Provincial Governments of Pakistan to enhance the security of transit cargo.
- viii) The Afghan side pointed out that difficulties were being faced by Afghan importers in clearance of their transit consignments in Karachi. Pakistan side agreed to constitute a Committee comprising Customs officials, Afghan Commercial attaché at Karachi, and two representatives of Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce & Industries (one each from Afghanistan and Pakistan) for resolving operational issues. They will meet as and when the need arises.
- ix) The Afghan side pointed out that certain items were not being allowed for transit through Pakistan, despite the operationalization of APTTA 2010. The Pakistan side promised to examine this matter.

20. Done and signed on the 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2012 at Islamabad, Pakistan.

  
FAZAL ABBAS MAKEN  
Additional Secretary,  
(for Secretary), Ministry of Commerce,  
Government of Islamic Republic of Pakistan

  
MOZAMMEL SHINWARI  
Deputy Minister for Commerce & Industries,  
Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

LIST OF AFGHAN DELEGATION

1. H.E. Mozamil Shinwari, **(Head of Delegation)**  
Deputy Minister of Commerce & Industries, Ministry of Commerce & Industries,
2. Mr. Rahim Momand,  
Director General of International Trade Department, Ministry of Commerce & Industries
3. Syed Yahya Akhlaqee,  
Director of Transit and Trade Facilitation Department, Ministry of Commerce & Industries
4. Mr. Mohammad Omar Momand,  
Director Plan and Policy of Custom, Ministry of Finance
5. Mr. Haleem Sadery,  
Director (Transit), Afghanistan Custom Department
6. Mr. Ahmad Shah Asad,  
Communication Manager, Ministry of Transport, Afghanistan
7. Mr. Malyar Jabarkhail,  
Manager of ASYCUDA, Afghan Custom Department, Ministry of Finance
8. Mr. Aziz Omar,  
Deputy DG, Economic Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
9. Mr. Ahmadullah Habibi,  
Member of First Political Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
10. Mr. Ahmad Khalid Yousofi,  
Advisor to Ministry of Commerce & Industries

---

11. Sayed Ghulam Sarwar,  
Transit Officer, Ministry of Commerce & Industries
12. Mr. Atiqullah Momanzada,  
Afghan National Trader

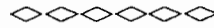
---

13. Mr. Hamid Gulzar,  
President of Habib Gulzar Limited

---

14. Mr. Izharulhaq Ahady,  
First Secretary, Embassy of Afghanistan, Islamabad
15. Mr. Kabeer Majeed  
Head of Protocol, Embassy of Afghanistan, Islamabad

18. ✓ Mr. Moin Ahmed Malik, Agility Logistics, Pakistan International Freight Forwarders Associations (PIFFA), Karachi
19. Haji Faith Khan,  
President, Federation of International Road Transport Companies of Pakistan, Balochistan
20. ✓ Engineer Daroo Khan, Vice President, FPCCI, Balochistan
21. A. Q Khaleel, Director Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce & Industries



## LIST OF PAKISTAN DELEGATION

1. Mr. Munir Ahmed Qureshi, ( Co-Chair of APTTCA )  
Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Islamabad
2. Mr. Fazal Abbas Maken,  
Additional, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Islamabad
3. Mr. Waqar Ahmad Shah  
Senior Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Islamabad
4. Mr. Taj Muhammad Khan,  
Section Officer, Ministry of Commerce, Islamabad
5. Mr. Joudat Ayaz, ✓  
Joint Secretary, Ministry of Communications, Islamabad
6. Mr. Aftab Akbar, ✓  
Director General (Operations), Ministry of Railways, Islamabad
7. Mr. Shoaib Dogar,  
Director, Ministry of Communications, Islamabad
8. Mr. Tariq Wazir Khan,  
Director (ATDC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad
9. Mr. Najeeb R. Abbasi,  
Chief (F&C), Federal Board of Revenue
10. Syed Tanvir Ahmed  
Collector (MCC) Port Qasim, Karachi, Federal Board of Revenue ✓
11. Dr. Saeed Jadoon,  
Additional Collector Customs, Peshawar, Federal Board of Revenue ✓
12. Mr. Muhammad Irfan Wahid,  
Secretary (L&P), Federal Board of Revenue, Islamabad
13. Mr. Muhammad Kazim,  
Traffic Manager, Karachi Port Trust, Karachi ✓
14. Dr. Nawaz Ahmed,  
Deputy Secretary (Policy), Ministry of Narcotics Control, Islamabad ✓
15. Lt. Col. Muhammad Ishtiaq Ahmed,  
Joint Director, Anti Narcotics Force, Islamabad
16. Major Muhammad Ayub Khan,  
Deputy Director (Enforcement), Anti Narcotics Force, Rawalpindi
17. Mr. Adil Rashid,  
Director (Cargo Operations), Port Qasim Authority, Karachi



3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of Afghanistan Pakistan Transit Trade Coordination  
Authority (APTTCA) on October 11-12, 2012, at Marriot Hotel,  
Islamabad.

**AGENDA**

1. Review of the Decisions of the 2<sup>nd</sup> APTTCA meeting
2. Issue of loose cargo
3. Delay in documentation by Afghan customs for release of insurance guarantee
4. Disposal of un-cleared Afghan transit containers
5. Issuance of additional copy of Afghan Customs Clearance Document (ACCD) to Pakistani exporters by Afghan Customs
6. Any other matter
7. Signing of the agreed Minutes

\*\*\*\*\*