

The concept for conducting a pre-feasibility study for establishing Joint Trade Zones in the ECO Region

Introduction

A pre-feasibility study is essential to assess the viability of establishing Joint Trade Zones (JTZs) within the ECO region, evaluating economic, legal, infrastructural, and financial factors to ensure informed decision-making.

The objective of the Study

The study is expected to assess the economic potential and demand for JTZs within the ECO region. It also will evaluate the regulatory, legal, and institutional frameworks necessary for JTZ establishment.

Moreover, it is necessary to analyze infrastructural and logistical requirements for optimal site selection and to identify potential investment sources and financial incentives. The study may also determine potential risks and mitigation strategies.

Scope of the Study

The study will assess market demand, trade flow, and industrial potential within the region.

It will evaluate existing trade policies, regulatory frameworks, and harmonization needs.

The study may identify and propose appropriate locations within the selected border point based on logistic and transport convenience and economic feasibility.

The study will review existing infrastructure and identify necessary upgrades for the proposed locations.

It may further analyze funding sources, tax incentives, and financial sustainability, identify potential economic, political, and logistical challenges and propose mitigation strategies.

Methodology

A recruited consultant will gather trade data, industry trends, and investment climate reports. He may also engage with stakeholders, including governments, private sector representatives, and trade associations.

Successful trade zone models from other regions will be studied to learn from best practices. It is expected that economic and financial modelling will be conducted to predict potential outcomes.

Expected Outcomes

The primary outcome of the study would be a comprehensive assessment report on the feasibility of JTZs in the ECO region.

It will also include policy recommendations for regulatory and institutional frameworks. Optimal sites with infrastructural and logistical requirements will be identified and proposed.

The study will propose investment strategies and present financial projections for JTZ establishment. To ensure sustainable implementation, it will also outline risk management strategies.

Conclusion and Next Steps

The pre-feasibility study will provide a structured foundation for the establishment of JTZs in the ECO region. Upon completion, member states will have a clearer understanding of the potential benefits, required investments, and policy adjustments needed for successful implementation.

The next steps will include detailed feasibility studies, pilot projects, and intergovernmental negotiations to advance JTZ development.