



*"LEADING KNOWLEDGE CENTER PROMOTING ECONOMIC COOPERATION
IN THE CAREC REGION FOR SHARED AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT"*

Weekly Newsletter

| Issue 2:3/2019 | Economic News | Editor: Chen Long

ABOUT CAREC INSTITUTE

CAREC Institute is an intergovernmental organization contributing to the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Program through knowledge generation and capacity building.

Week: 18 -24 March,2019

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Meeting with Xinjiang Financial Ombudsman Office of MoF

Mr. Bayaraa, Director CAREC Institute welcomed Xinjiang Financial Ombudsman, who visited CI on March 20th, 2019. Director also expressed his thanks to Mr. He, Director General of Xinjiang Financial Ombudsman Office for their strong support for the operations of CI. Both sides agreed to exchange visits in due course and expressed willingness to strengthen further cooperation.

Meeting with International Economics and Finance Institute and sharing research experience for national staff of CI

A delegation of International Economics and Finance Institute (IEFI) visited CI on March 21st, 2019. Director CI and DDI together with relevant unit heads attended the meeting. The meeting discussed the detailed cooperation for this year, sought potential collaboration opportunity for further cooperation and exchanged Institutional development experiences between both institutes. Mr. Zhou Qiangwu, Director general of IEFI also gave a presentation to share research experience with CI national staff. DDI with Head of administration also attended the training and gave their comments.

Birthday party celebrations of CI staff

Birthday of five of CI staff fell in first quarter; hence a collective birthday celebration was organized. Rose, Gary, Dang, Warren and CI's new staff Tim were the birthday girl and boys. All staff attended this joint celebration. CI not only works on economy, it believes in economy in every sense of the word. Happy Birthday guys from Editorial Team of CI Weekly.





AFGHANISTAN (2017)

Area: 652,9 thousand km²

Population: 35.53 million

GDP: US\$20.82 billion

GDP per capita: US\$586

National currency: Afghani (AFN)

Exchange rate (per US\$): 75.4 AFN



US\$0.8 billion; India, Pakistan



fruits and nuts, carpets, wool, cotton, hides and pelts, precious and semi-precious gems, and medical herbs



US\$7.1 billion; China, Iran, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan



machinery and other capital goods, food, textiles, petroleum products

US and China clash over ‘belt and road’ in Afghan resolution

The United States and China clashed Friday over Beijing’s \$1 trillion “belt and road” global infrastructure program after the Security Council unanimously approved a bare bones resolution extending the mandate of the U.N. political mission in Afghanistan for six months. [Read more](#)

Wheat Products Decreased By 16%

Last Year: Official

Figures by the Central Statistic Organization (CSO) show that wheat products of Afghanistan have decreased by 16 percent during the last year due to drought and displacement of farmers. [Read more](#)

The Future of Afghanistan’s Economy: The Hopes for improvement

The recent developments in the transit routes, the planned domestic railway project, the ongoing peace negotiations, and a number of other improvements have escalated hopes for an improvement in Afghanistan’s economy.

Afghanistan, as a landlocked country, is not only at a disadvantage for its geographic location, but the unstable security and political situation, huge trade deficit, and extreme poverty also trouble the economy of Afghanistan in several ways. The country is currently considered the 23rd poorest country in the world and poorest country in Asia. What could the future hold for its economy? [Read more](#)

Afghan Exports on Display at World’s Largest Food Fair

Over 50 Afghan businesses are attending the five-day exhibition in Dubai from February 17 to 21 to meet prospective buyers, with over half of them displaying Afghanistan’s finest fruits, saffron, nuts, spices, vegetables and juices. [Read more](#)



AZERBAIJAN (2017)

Area: 86,6 thousand km²

Population: 9.8 million

GDP: US\$40.8 billion

GDP per capita: US\$4132

National currency: Azerbaijan manat (AZN)

Exchange rate (per US\$): 1.7 AZN



US\$15.2 billion; Italy, Turkey, Israel, Russia, Germany, Georgia



oil and gas roughly 90%, machinery, foodstuffs, cotton



US\$9.0 billion; Russia, Turkey, China, US, Ukraine, Germany



machinery and equipment, foodstuffs, metals, chemicals

Central Bank of Azerbaijan to issue notes of large amount

The Baku Stock Exchange (BSE) will hold an auction on the placement of short-term notes of the Central Bank of Azerbaijan for 300 million manat on March 27, 2019, Trend reports referring to the BSE. [Read more](#)

Implementation of Southern Gas Corridor will ensure long-term and sustainable development of Azerbaijan, President Ilham Aliyev

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev has said the implementation of the Southern Gas Corridor will ensure long-term and sustainable development of the country and protect its political and economic interests. The head of state described the Southern Gas Corridor as a historic project, as he addressed a message of congratulation to the people of Azerbaijan on the occasion of Novruz. [Read more](#)

Azerbaijan's Energy Ministry, Saudi ACWA Power sign MoU

Azerbaijan's Deputy Minister of Energy Samir Valiyev and Director of Saudi Arabia's ACWA Power Company Ayad Al Amri have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation on the margins of the 27th meeting of the Joint Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and non-OPEC Joint Technical Commission (JTC) and the Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee (JMMC) in Baku. [Read more](#)

President: Azerbaijan has entered a new stage of reforms

"Azerbaijan has entered a new stage of reforms. They are comprehensive. The economic reforms allow us the opportunity to generate additional revenues, and our budget revenues have increased," said President Ilham Aliyev in his message of congratulation to the people of Azerbaijan on the occasion of Novruz. [Read more](#)



CHINA (2017)

Area: 9,6 million km²

Population: 1.41 billion

GDP: US\$12237.7 billion

GDP per capita: US\$8823

National currency: Yuan Renminbi (CNY)

Exchange rate (per US\$): 6.72 CNY



US\$2216.5 billion; US, Japan, S.Korea



electrical and other machinery, including computers and telecommunications equipment, apparel, furniture, textiles



US\$1.7 billion; S.Korea, Japan, US, Germany, Australia



electrical and machinery, including computer components, oil and mineral fuels; optical and medical equipment, metal ores, motor vehicles; soybeans

Economist optimistic on growth prospect

The tone of economists' speeches has shifted recently from the feelings of anxiety expressed in October and November last year. At that time, they warned that the "faster-than-expected cooling" may hit the Chinese economy. But now, influential economists say the "worst moment" will be passed without a hard landing. [Read more](#)

China preparing relevant rules for foreign investment law

China's Ministry of Commerce (MOF) said Thursday it is working with other authorities in preparing relevant rules to ensure the successful implementation of the foreign investment law.

It is also reviewing and reorganizing current regulations on foreign investment management, MOF spokesperson Gao Feng told a news conference. [Read more](#)

Economists expect upturn in H2

Pressure against a larger backdrop of slower global economic growth, economists are optimistic about growth in the second half of the year.

The Chinese government rolled out a series of policies to boost the vitality of the market and generate stronger dynamism for development, which will result in rebound in the third and fourth quarters, said well-known economists at a forum in Beijing on Thursday. [Read more](#)

China to be the world's biggest 5G market with 460 million user by 2025:report

China will become the world's largest 5G market, with 460 million users of the next-generation superfast network by 2025, China daily reported Thursday, citing a report given by the Global System for Mobile Communications Association (GSMA). [Read more](#)



GEORGIA (2017)

Area: 69,7thousand km²

Population: 3.9million

GDP: US\$15.2 billion

GDP per capita: US\$4078

National currency: Lari (GEL)

Exchange rate (per US\$): 2.7GEL



US\$3.6 billion; Russia, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Armenia, China, Bulgaria, Ukraine, US



vehicles, ferro-alloys, fertilizers, nuts, scrap metal, gold, copper ores



US\$7.4 billion; Turkey, Russia, China, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, Germany



fuels, vehicles, machinery and parts, grain and other foods, pharmaceuticals

Ex-president: No force will succeed in casting shadow on Azerbaijani-Georgian ties

No force will succeed in casting shadow on the friendly ties between Azerbaijan and Georgia, former Georgian president Giorgi Margvelashvili told reporters on the sidelines of the 7th Global Baku Forum, Trend reports.

Commenting on the attempts of some forces to drive a wedge in Azerbaijani-Georgia relations, the ex-president stated that no force can cast a shadow on the friendly relations between the two countries, as they have a solid, centuries-old history and a great potential for further comprehensive development in a number of areas.[Read more](#)

Georgia to increase import of Azerbaijani gas

The two most important strategic segments of the gas market of Georgia - the population and the production of electricity, are fully provided and will be provided by Azerbaijani gas, Georgian Deputy Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development, Natia Turnava said at a briefing on March 12 Trend reports with reference to Sputnik Georgia.[Read more](#)

Ambassador : Georgia ready to cooperate with OIC

Georgia is ready to cooperate closely with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) for the benefit of both sides, Vakhtang Jaoshvili, Ambassador of Georgia to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, said during a meeting with OIC Secretary General Yousef A. Al-Othaimen, Trend reports referring to the OIC.[Read more](#)



KAZAKHSTAN (2017)

Area: 2,72million km²

Population: 18.2 million

GDP: US\$159.4 billion

GDP per capita: US\$8837.5

National currency: Tenge (KZT)

Exchange rate (per US\$): 380.0KZT



US\$49.3 billion; Italy, China, Netherlands, Russia, Switzerland, France



oil and oil products, natural gas, ferrous metals, chemicals, machinery, grain, wool, meat, coal



US\$31.9 billion; Russia, China, Germany, US



machinery and equipment, metal products, foodstuffs

Tokayev: Nazarbayev's opinion to be priority in strategic issues

Opinion of the incumbent first president of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, will be a priority in strategic issues, the incoming President of Kazakhstan Kasym-Zhomart Tokayev said during the oath-taking ceremony.

"The authoritative opinion of Elbasy (leader of the nation) will have a special, one might say, priority importance in the development and decision-making of a strategic nature," said Tokayev. [Read more](#)

Kazakhstan airlines gains over \$1.3B for two months

The results of two months of 2019 show that the revenues of air transport enterprises in Kazakhstan rose by 21.2 percent and reached 49.7 billion tenge (\$1.3 billion), Trend reports via Kazakh media. [Read more](#)

Kazakh president signs decree on new appointments

The President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev signed a decree appointing Marat Tajin as secretary of state, Trend reports via Kazinform.

Prior to the recent appointment, Marat Tajin held the post of the First Deputy Head of the Presidential Administration of the Republic of Kazakhstan. [Read more](#)

Another car factory to be built in Kazakhstan

Another car manufacturing plant will be built in Kazakhstan, Kazinform correspondent cities Roman Sklar, Minister of Industry and infrastructure development of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

In the mechanical engineering industry, we plan to increase the manufacture of motor vehicles from 32,000 to 60,000 units. As part of industrial cooperation, the markets of the Eurasian Economic Union are top-priority ones for us. [Read more](#)



KYRGYZ REPUBLIC (2017)

Area: 199,9thousand km²

Population: 6.1 million

GDP: US\$7.6 billion

GDP per capita: US\$1219.8

National currency: Som (KGS)

Exchange rate (per US\$): 69.5KGS



US\$1.8 billion; Switzerland, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Russia, UK



gold, cotton, wool, garments, meat; mercury, uranium, electricity; machinery; shoes



US\$4.2 billion; China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkey, US



oil and gas, machinery and equipment, chemicals, foodstuffs

IMF forecasts of Kyrgyzstan's economy at 3.8% in 2019

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) predicts the growth of Kyrgyzstan's economy in 2019 at the level of 3.8%, head of the IMF mission Christian Josz stated.

The IMF Representative Office in Kyrgyzstan reported that a team from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) led by Christian Josz visited Bishkek from March 6–19 to hold discussions on the 2019 Article IV Consultation with the Kyrgyz Republic. [Read more](#)

Trade turnover of Kyrgyzstan amount to \$457 mln in January

The volume of foreign trade of Kyrgyzstan had amounted to \$ 456.8 million by the beginning of 2019, where exports accounted for 93 million and imports – 363.8 million.

According to preliminary data from the National Statistics Committee, the achieved figure is 8.4% less than in the first month of last year. Export performance in January of this year, as specified in the committee, decreased by 15.4%, and the volume of imports – by 6.4%. [Read more](#)

Kyrgyzstan's foreign trade declines

The volume of foreign trade turnover of Kyrgyzstan in January of this year was formed in the amount of about \$ 457 million. According to preliminary estimates of the National Statistics Committee, this is 8.4% less than in the first month of last year.

Export performance, as specified in the committee, decreased by 15.4%, and the volume of imports – by 6.4%.

“The reduction in export deliveries was due to a decrease in the export of gold by 13.7%, automobile and tractor spare parts — by 4.5 times, cotton fiber — by 3.3 times, and garments by 3.6%,” the specialists told. [Read more](#)



MONGOLIA (2017)

Area: 1,56 million km²

Population: 3.1 million

GDP: US\$11.5 billion

GDP per capita: US\$3735.2

National currency: Tugrik (MNT)

Exchange rate (per US\$): 2660.0MNT



US\$5.8 billion; China, UK



copper, apparel, livestock, animal products, cashmere, wool, hides, fluorspar, other nonferrous metals, coal, crude oil



US\$4.3 billion; China, Russia, Japan, US, S.Korea



machinery and equipment, fuel, cars, food products, industrial consumer goods, chemicals, building materials, cigarettes and tobacco, appliances, soap and detergent

ADB approves USD 40 million in loan for 41MW renewable energy system

The Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Board of Directors has approved a USD 40 million loan to develop a 41 megawatt (MW) distributed renewable energy system, a first-of-its-kind in Mongolia using a variety of renewable energy technologies to supply power and heating in the remote and less-developed western regions of the country. The project will also be co-financed by a USD 14.6 million grant from the Strategic Climate Fund under the Scaling Up Renewable Energy Program in Low-Income Countries, one of the Climate Investment Funds designed to support scaled-up deployment of renewable energy solutions to increase energy access and economic opportunities, and a USD 6 million grant from the Japan Fund for the Joint Crediting Mechanism, which supports the adaptation of advanced low-carbon technologies in ADB-supported projects. "A clean, reliable, and sustainable energy sector is needed to boost economic growth in western Mongolia while addressing the need to reduce carbon and air pollutant emissions," said ADB Principal Energy Specialist for East Asia Mr. Shigeru Yamamura. "The 41 MW renewable energy system that the project will finance will not only make the energy sector less carbon intensive, but also help the country's efforts in meeting its commitment under the Paris climate agreement to reduce carbon emissions by 14 percent by 2030." [Read more](#)

BoM expects MNT exchange rate to remain stable

Loan grants may intensify in the upcoming months as the Bank of Mongolia (BoM) estimates a potential MNT 2 trillion worth credit source in the banking system through central bank's securities, informs Gan-Ochir Doojav, Director General of Research and Statistics Department of BoM. Mr. Gan-Ochir remarked that the source of credit will mostly be directed at businesses. Statistics show that business loans have activated in the last 2-3 months, while consumer loans declined. The trend is expected to continue for the upcoming months. Business loan, one of the pillars of economic diversification, grew 15.7 percent year over year in the first half. In July, the monetary policy committee of the BoM decided to set the limit of debt-to-income of consumer loans at 70 percent of household income, which take effect on September 1. As a reminder, Mongolia's benchmark interest rate reached 9-year low following the BoM's decision to cut interest rate to 10 percent last March. [Read more](#)



PAKISTAN (2017)

Area: 796,1 thousand km²

Population: 197.0 million

GDP: US\$305.0 billion

GDP per capita: US\$1547.9

National currency: Pakistan Rupee (PKR)

Exchange rate (per US\$): 139.0 PKR

	US\$23.2 billion; US, UK, China, Germany, Afghanistan, UAE, Spain
	textiles (garments, bed linen, cotton cloth, yarn), rice, leather goods, sporting goods, chemicals, manufactures, surgical instruments, carpets and rugs
	US\$53.1 billion; China, UAE, US, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia
	petroleum, petroleum products, machinery, plastics, transportation equipment, edible oils, paper and paperboard, iron and steel, tea

Transport services' export earn over \$ 425 in 7 months

The exports of various transport services earned \$425.639 million for the country during the first seven months of the current fiscal year (2018-19).

The transport services, which contributed in negative growth included air transport services, exports of which declined by 31.81 percent, from \$523.610 million last year to \$357.030 million during the current year. [Read more](#)

Pakistan receives \$2.2 bln from China

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has received US 2.2 billion from China, said a message received from the bank on Monday.

“The SBP has received RMB 15 billion values, equivalent to \$2.2 billion as proceeds of the loan obtained by government of Pakistan from China,” the message added. [Read more](#)

Financial minister reviews financial requirements for tribal districts

Minister for Finance Asad Umar chaired a meeting to review the financial requirements of the tribal districts (erstwhile Federally Administrated Tribal Areas). The meeting was attended by Minister for Planning, Development and Reform, Makhdum Khusro Bakhtyar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Shah Farman; Chief Minister, Mahmood Khan, Finance Minister KP, Taimur Saleem Jhagra, and Adviser to Prime Minister on Establishment, Mohammad Shehzad Arbab. [Read more](#)



TAJIKISTAN (2017)

Area: 142,6thousand km²

Population: 8.9 million

GDP: US\$7.2 billion

GDP per capita: US\$801.0

National currency: Somoni (TJS)

Exchange rate (per US\$): 9.42TJS

	US\$0.9 billion; Turkey, China, Russia, Switzerland, Algeria, Iran
	aluminum, electricity, cotton, fruits, vegetable oil, textiles
	US\$2.4 billion; Russia, Kazakhstan, China, Iran
	petroleum products, aluminum oxide, machinery and equipment, foodstuffs

Dushanbe to host international exhibition Tajikistan 2019 this march

An international exhibition Tajikistan 2019 will be held in Dushanbe at the end of March, during Navruz celebrations.

Domestic and foreign companies will exhibit their products, reported the Tajik Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which is organizing the exhibition with the support of the government of Tajikistan.[Read more](#)

Direct flights will connect Tajikistan and Georgia

The Tajik and Georgian aviation authorities reached an agreement to establish direct flights between the cities of the two countries.

The memorandum of understanding on air traffic was signed last Wednesday in Tbilisi during a two-day visit of representatives of the Tajik Civil Aviation Agency to Georgia, reported the Georgian Civil Aviation Agency (GCAA).[Read more](#)

Tajikistan had the highest economic growth among the CIS countries in Jan

The industrial production in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) increased by 1.3%, according to CIS Statistical Committee, which compared trends for the month of January in 2018 and 2019.

In January 2019, consumer prices in the CIS countries increased by 1% and prices for manufactured goods rose by 2.4%. The largest growth of consumer prices was observed in Armenia (1.7%), Uzbekistan (1.5%) and Moldova (1.3%), and the smallest growth in Azerbaijan (0.2%), Kyrgyzstan (0.4%) and Kazakhstan (0.5%).[Read more](#)



TURKMENISTAN (2017)

Area: 488,1 thousand km²

Population: 5.8 million

GDP: US\$42.4 billion

GDP per capita: US\$7355.8

National currency: Turkmenistan manat (TMT)

Exchange rate (per US\$): 3.5TMT

	US\$7.8 billion; China, Turkey
	gas, crude oil, petrochemicals, textiles, cotton fiber
	US\$10.2 billion; Turkey, Algeria, Germany, China, Russia, US
	machinery and equipment, chemicals, foodstuffs

Cotton-sowing campaign starts in Turkmenistan

Cotton-sowing campaign started in the country. Cotton growers in Ahal, Balkan, Lebap and Mary Velayats launched the campaign on March 23, cotton growers in Dashoguz Velayat – on March 27.

For the first time, the agricultural producers in the private sector, who received the plots of land from the special agricultural land fund, are sowing cotton on 25.567 hectares. [Read more](#)

Two export-oriented enterprises built in mary velayat

Built by Nahal and Kerwen Gurluşyk Economic Associations in the city of Mary, a modern 6-hectare greenhouse has a projected annual production capacity of 1,200 tons.

Tooled with the latest specialized equipment, the large area is home to high-yielding varieties of tomato. [Read more](#)

Profile review introduces achievements of Turkmen entrepreneurs

Exhibition timed to the 11th anniversary of the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of Turkmenistan, which unites more than 22,000 representatives of private business who make big contribution to social and economic reforms, has been opened in the Trade and Industrial Chamber.

Members of the Government and National Parliament, representative of diplomatic corps accredited in Turkmenistan, ministries and departments, public and mass media took part in the opening ceremony.

The participants have listened to the greeting message of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov where it was highlighted that optimum legal, economic, financial and social conditions have been made in our country for constructive development of small and medium business and private initiatives. [Read more](#)



UZBEKISTAN (2017)

Area: 448,9 thousand km²

Population: 31.9 million

GDP: US\$48.72 billion

GDP per capita: US\$1504.2

National currency: Uzbekistan Sum (UZS)

Exchange rate (per US\$): 8280.0Sum



US\$14.0 billion; China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkey, Afghanistan



machinery, automobiles, energy products, cotton, gold, mineral fertilizers, ferrous and nonferrous metals, textiles, foodstuffs



US\$13.0 billion; China, Russia, S.Korea, Kazakhstan, Turkey, Germany



machinery and equipment, chemicals, foodstuffs, ferrous and nonferrous metals

Foreign trade turnover increases

In January – February 2019, Uzbekistan had trade relations with more than 140 countries. In particular, the foreign trade turnover of the country in January–February 2019 amounted to 6 392.8 million US dollars. It increased by 1,293. 3 million US dollars, or 25.4% more than the corresponding period of the last year. Of this number, exports reached 3,036.8 million US dollars, (growth rate of 20.4 percent) and imports 3,356.0 million US dollars (growth rate – 30.3%). The foreign trade balance was minus 319.2 million US dollars. [Read more](#)

Uzbekistan-China: Cooperation in business and education

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan hosted a meeting of representatives of Uzbekistan – China business circles and educational institutions. [Read more](#)

Foreign economic activity to be simplified

The Ministry of Justice, jointly with the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan, has studied legislation and law enforcement practice in passing permits issuance procedures, control procedures at foreign customs and border posts in foreign economic activity. Unnecessary bureaucratic procedures and requirements were identified. [Read more](#)

Central Asia: New prospects for economic development

Representatives of governments of Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan discussed issues of further development of economic cooperation between the countries of the region, increasing the volume of mutual trade and tourism attractiveness at this major forum, organized for the first time on the initiative of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev. [Read more](#)