



CAREC INSTITUTE ANNUAL REPORT 2017



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ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
ADBI	Asian Development Bank Institute
CAREC	Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation
CI	CAREC Institute
CNA	Country Needs Assessment
GC	Governing Council
IGA	Inter–Governmental Agreement
MC	Ministerial Conference
NFP	National Focal Point
PRC	People’s Republic of China

Message from the Director

I am honored to present 2017 annual report of CAREC Institute (CI) and share an overview of many achievements CI has made during the reporting year. CI has come a long way since its virtual presence to a physical base and is growing to become a leading knowledge center for the region. This has been made possible by improving capacity of CI's human resources who are independently handling and supervising complex researches in the field of infrastructure development and macroeconomic forecasting for CAREC region. At the same time, sincere and sustained efforts have been made to stimulate the institutional development of CI.

In 2017 we at CI have been trying our best to achieve targets by completing capacity building workshops/trainings and research spanning various diverse fields for improving skill set of government officials from member countries. This report outlines some of the key achievements and progress that we have made over the past year. This report also provides an uptake on CI's major future initiatives e.g., formulating medium-term strategy and institutional development, etc.

As we continue into the 2018 operational year, I would like to thank the Governing Council, CI staff and our partners for their ongoing commitment and their dedication for supporting CI activities. I also want to express my hope that these partnerships fostered over the past few years will continue to flourish in the coming years. I would welcome and appreciate feedback on the report which will certainly help CI to improve its operations in the future.

Sincerely,



Sanjaasuren Bayaraa



About CAREC Institute

CAREC Institute (CI) is an intergovernmental organization established for supporting Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Program through Research, Capacity Building and Knowledge Management. The 5th Ministerial Conference of CAREC held in 2006 endorsed the establishment of CI. CI became operational in 2009 and functioned as a virtual institute till 2015. The physical base of CI was inaugurated in March 2015 in Urumqi, Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, PRC.

CI's Mission: "To enhance the quality and effectiveness of the CAREC Program by providing evidence based research, capacity building services and networking with research institutions."

CI's Vision: "Leading Knowledge Center promoting economic cooperation in the CAREC region for shared and sustainable development."

CI has following functions:

- Report on its past and proposed programs to CAREC at each annual meeting of the CAREC Ministerial Conference;
- Align its programs with the strategic goals of CAREC;

- Provide innovative solutions based on the sharing of good practices to enable CAREC and the CI Member Countries to respond to regional challenges and global economic challenges;

- Enhance the capabilities of government officials in CAREC and the CI Member Countries to engage in regional cooperation processes, improve their capacities to plan and implement regional cooperation projects, and build their capacities for informed policy analysis;

- Conduct strategic research by mobilizing world-class intellectual resources to enhance regional cooperation capacity and accelerate economic growth in CAREC region;

- Promote the effectiveness of scientific research in CAREC and among the CI Member Countries through joint or collaborative projects and wide dissemination of research findings and results;

- Develop a network of research institutions in the CAREC region to serve as a resource base for strategic research and knowledge sharing, comprising among others, universities, think tanks, and development institutions.

Intergovernmental Agreement Establishing Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Institute (IGA) was signed on 26th October 2016 and entered into force on 24th August 2017. The effectiveness of IGA was celebrated during the CAREC Institute Inaugural Ceremony held on 7 September 2017 in Urumqi.

As described in the Inter-Governmental Agreement establishing CI, CI is governed and managed by a two tiered structure. Member countries and their representatives for the top tier of governance with the overall strategic and guidance mandate, whilst CI's day to day management is entrusted to a three members Management Team. Following is the brief description of this two tiered structure.

Governing Council

Governing Council (GC) was established by Ministerial Conference which is vested with the mandate and responsibility to guide, oversee and supervise the strategic objectives, organizational structure, and appointment and dismissal of management, guide development and endorsement of CI's rules, regulations and annual budget. GC is composed of the National Focal Points (NFPs) of CAREC member countries duly designated by their respective governments. Appointment of chairs of GC follows the same principal of alphabetically organized rotation amongst the member countries like CAREC MC. GC makes decisions on the basis of consensus, and establishes Advisory Council and committees as it deems necessary.

CI GC Members (as of December 2017)

Afghanistan

Mr. Mohammad Khalid Payenda
Deputy Minister for Finance
Ministry of Finance

Azerbaijan

Mr. Samir Veliyev
Head of Administration
Ministry of Economy

People's Republic of China

Mr. Liu Weihua
Deputy Director General
International Department
Ministry of Finance

Georgia

Mr. Genadi Arveladze
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Economy and Sustainable
Development

Kazakhstan

Mr. Ruslan Dalenov
First Vice Minister
Ministry of National Economy

Kyrgyz Republic

Mr. Almaz Sazbakov
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Economy

Mongolia

Mr. Dorjsembed Batsengee
Director General
Development Financing Department
Ministry of Finance

Pakistan

Mr. Syed Mujtaba Hussain
Joint Secretary
Economic Affairs Division
Ministry of Finance, Revenue, Economic
Affairs, Statistics, and Privatization

Tajikistan

Mr. Nematullo Hikmatullozoda
Minister
Ministry of Economic Development
and Trade

Turkmenistan

Mr. Batyr Bazarov
Minister
Ministry of Economy and
Development

Uzbekistan

Mr. Shavkat Tulyaganov
Head
Information-Analytical
Department on Investments,
Innovation Development,
Coordination of Free Economic
and Small Industrial Zones
Activity, Tourism Cabinet of

Recruitment and
Selection Committee

Azerbaijan (Chair)
Mongolia (Member)
Pakistan (Member)
Uzbekistan (Member)
Kyrgyz Republic (Member)

Budget and Audit
Committee

People's Republic of China (Chair)
Afghanistan (Member)
Kazakhstan (Member)
Tajikistan (Member)
Turkmenistan (Member)

Management Team



Director

Deputy Director 1

Deputy Director 2

Mr. Sanjaasuren Bayaraa

Mr. Liang Ziqian

Mr. Yergali Dosmagambet

Operations and Structure

CAREC Institute’s Strategic Knowledge Framework (SKF) 2012-17 has been the guiding document for organizational structure since its inception in 2015. The SKF has three pillars: 1) Knowledge Generation/Research 2) Knowledge Services/Capacity Building; and 3) Knowledge Management

Knowledge Generation will encompass research and studies on key issues regarding economic cooperation which are of regional, country-wide or sectoral significance or ramifications. These activities are conducted either directly under CI or through partner institutions or individuals.

Knowledge Services will involve knowledge sharing through capacity building interventions such as learning programs and related activities (seminars and workshops).

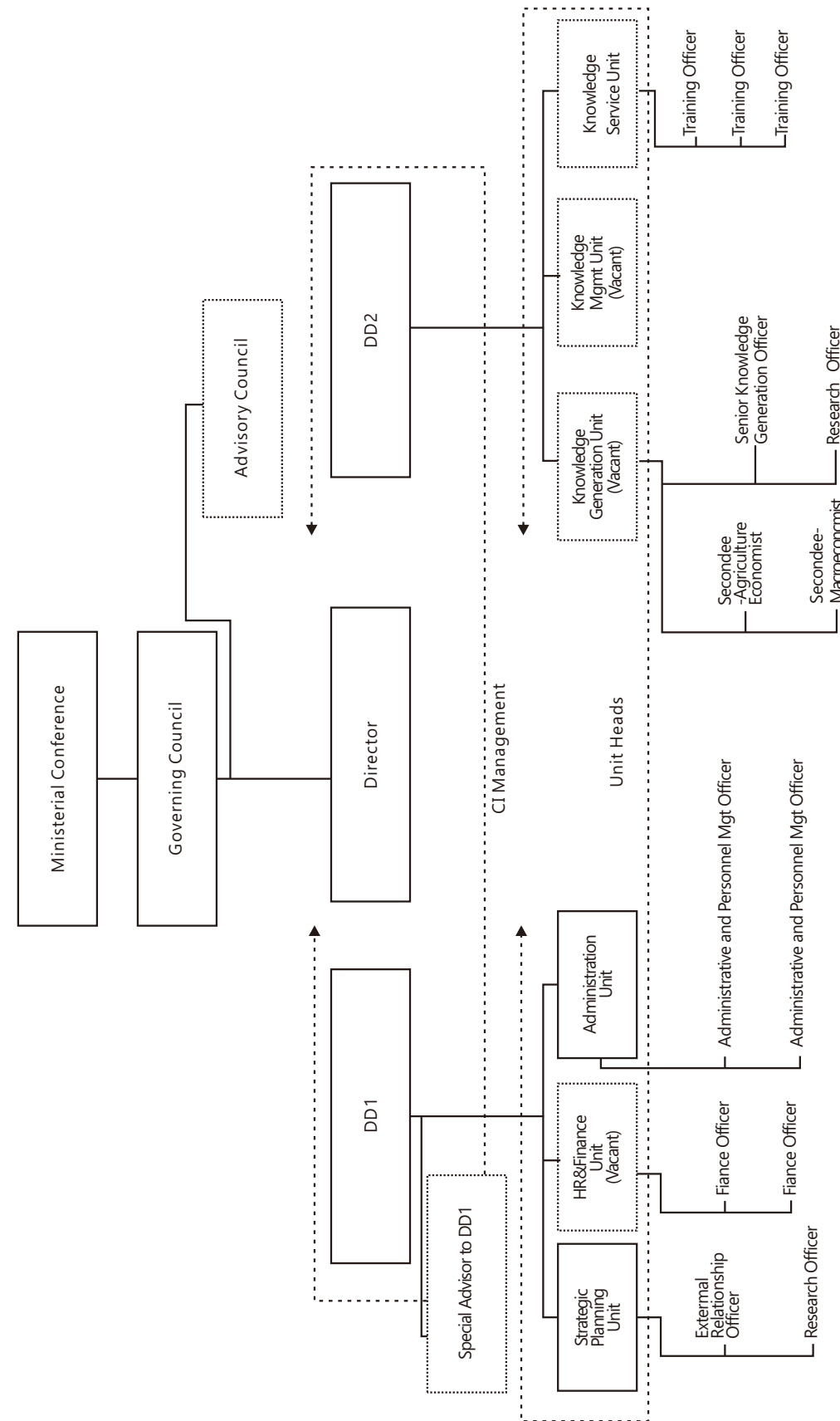
Knowledge Management will include organizing and processing existing knowledge/information and transforming it into knowledge products for wide dissemination using appropriate means, including portals and CAREC website¹.

These three work streams have so far driven CI’s operations. As CI evolves to become a leading international organization in the region, this structure will undergo requisite changes. CI’s current organizational structure is given below:



¹ Agreed during CAREC Senior Official’s Meeting, 6-7 June 2012, Hohhot, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, PRC

CAREC Institute Structure—as of December 2017



CI staff–Recruitment

Since the beginning of its operations in 2015, CAREC Institute (CI) has embarked upon recruitment of its staff in a phased manner. Because of these concerted efforts, during 2016 and 2017, 6 international staff (excluding CI management) and 10 national staff were recruited. In addition, the secondment program approved by the Governing Council has been under implementation, and 2 secondees are already on board. In order to become fully operational and to meet its strategic objectives, CI's Governing Council has approved 2018 recruitment plan. This will entail recruitment of 6 international staff and 5 national staff. Moreover, 9 more secondees, will also be inducted to fill the HR gap. At current optimum staffing level of 30 (management, international and national staff), complemented by 12 secondees, CI is expected to be well placed to perform its tasks per work plan targets in an effective and efficient manner.

Internal Management System

Good governance structure, clear rules and procedures, transparent decision-making, effective management and administration, and strong and capable staff—these principals lie at the core of a solid and sound institution. A comprehensive set of rules has been approved and implemented covering, administration, finance, HR and operational functions. CI has continued to focus on establishing and strengthening its institutional foundation in 2017, and good progress has been made in all areas. CI has continued to contribute to staff capacity building as well as conduct on-job trainings. The latter has proved to be effective particularly in project planning, organization and execution, as well as IT skills.

Attracting Best Human Resources

It was observed by CI Management that attracting highly qualified and experienced candidates for the various advertised positions was a considerable challenge, primarily because CI's existing staff compensation and benefits (C&B) package, which was approved by the Governing Council (GC) in its second meeting held in June 2015, was considerably low vis-à-vis the C&B packages offered by comparable organizations. In order to conduct a thorough analysis of the situation, CI did an in-house review of its existing C&B

package and its salary grading structure, based on consultations with relevant international organizations which have branches /regional offices or their headquarters in China. The result of the internal analysis concluded by CI clearly indicated that its existing C&B package structure was considerably lower than the market range. In the 5th GC meeting held in December 2016, the National Focal Point of the People's



Republic of China stated in his opening remarks that after about two years' operation, CI should review its current C&B package and submit a proposal on how to suitably revise CI's C&B package for the GC's consideration. His remarks were supported by other GC members in the meeting. Specific suggestions discussed at the 5th GC meeting included devising of a mechanism for annual salary adjustments to ensure a reasonable annual salary increase; and creation of a scheme for staff pension. Accordingly, a comprehensive compensation and benefit package was prepared and submitted to 7th GC meeting which was approved after due considerations and deliberations.

Budget and Finance

The budgeting process at CI is based on principles of economy, efficiency and transparency. Despite the challenges experienced in its formative phase, CI is committed to ensure that these principles are followed judiciously to ensure optimum utilization of scarce resources. So far, CI's funds are mainly drawn from the technical assistance (TA) of ADB and the Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC). Since the Inter-Government Agreement (IGA) of CI has become effective on 24 August 2017 and with the completion of registration at Ministry of Foreign Affairs PRC, CI will establish its own bank account. Thereafter, CI's financial resources will be dependent on voluntary contributions from member countries as stipulated in Article 15 of IGA and donations from other

organizations. In addition, CI is planning to actively seek co-financing from various partner organizations, local/state governments, and other on-going sector and/or regional TAs of the ADB. In the current year the finance unit has provided support to operational units to complete annual work plan, besides assisting administration and strategic planning unit for organizing Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) Celebration, CI's flagship Annual Think Tanks Development Forum and Governing Council meetings. Finance unit is also working on the requirements necessary for opening separate account and preparing financial regulations. Finance unit has worked in tandem with operational units to prepare 2018 budget and get it approved from the Governing Council.

Year in Review

Consultation Meeting with ADB

CI Director and Deputy Director 1 visited the ADB HQ in Manila from 14 to 16 February 2017. The Mission met Vice-President Operations, PRC's Executive Director, Director Generals of Central and West Asia and East Asia Regional Departments respectively, and Directors of Strategic Planning,

East Asia Agriculture and Natural Resources, Strategy Division, and Central and West Asia Regional Cooperation Departments, and all other sector divisions. The Mission also had fruitful discussions with ADB's Economic Research Department. Areas of mutual cooperation were discussed



with all key ADB stakeholders and CI was assured of full cooperation, support and assistance by ADB's Management and its Senior Staff. Particularly cooperation with ADB in implementing CI's 2017 work programme as well as prospects for conducting joint activities with ADB relevant divisions were discussed in detail. These agreed avenues of cooperation will entail funding from ADB's various on-going TAs and

RETAs and ADB will also provide technical assistance through its highly qualified and experienced pool of human resources.

CI will have access to funding available from a dedicated TA (TA 8301) for the next 2.5 years. Modalities for requesting TA funds for CI's operations were also discussed and firmed up. The Mission also had initial discussion on CI's Inter Governmental Agreement (IGA) effectiveness celebrations which were scheduled on 5 September 2017.

6th Governing Council Meeting

The 6th meeting of CAREC Institute's (CI) Governing Council was held on 21-22 June in Tbilisi, Georgia. Georgia, as new member of CAREC program, participated in the



meeting. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Gulru Kayumova, Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade, Republic of Tajikistan. Mr. Kubat Umurzakov, Director of CI, co-chaired the meeting.

The meeting endorsed the following documents:

- Summary of proceedings of the 5th GC meeting;
- CI 2017 budget;
- Procedures for evaluation of management;
- Endorsement of new director, Mr. Sanjaasuren Bayaraa;
- External communication policy.

7th Governing Council Meeting



The seventh meeting of the Governing Council (GC) of CAREC Institute (CI) was held on 7th December 2017 at Xiamen National Accounting Institute (XNAI), Xiamen, PRC. Mr. Muhammetgeldi Atayev, representative of the Turkmenistan chaired the meeting. Sanjaasuren Bayaraa, CI's new Director, co-chaired the meeting.

Second CAREC Think Tanks Development Forum



CI, in collaboration with PRC-ADB Regional Knowledge Sharing Initiative (RKSI), organized Second CAREC Think Tanks Development Forum on 6-7 September 2017 in Urumqi, Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, People’s Republic of China with the participation of representatives of 25 think tanks, development partners, government officials and diplomats from CAREC member countries. A total of 88 representatives participated in the forum. Resource persons for the forum agenda came from several countries including the USA, Japan, South Korea, Austria, among others. Inspired by a theme of Exploring Knowledge Solutions for Regional Cooperation and Integration the forum focused on and discussed pertinent topics at some length which are essential for promoting regional cooperation and integration.

Partnerships and Alliances

Following cooperation documents were signed in 2017:

NO.	Name	Time
1	Joint Declaration between Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Institute and The United Nations Industrial Development Organization	7 June 2017
2	Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Institute and Xinjiang University of Finance & Economics Memorandum of Cooperation	28 June 2017
3	Cooperation Arrangement between Asian Development Bank Asian Development Bank Institute and Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Institute	7 September 2017
4	Strategic Cooperation Agreement between Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Institute and Chinese Academy of Fiscal Sciences	4 December 2017
5	Strategic Cooperation Agreement Between Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Institute and Xiamen National Accounting Institute	6 December 2017

CAREC Institute Inaugural Ceremony

CAREC Institute Inaugural Ceremony was held on 7 September 2017 at Kunlun Hotel, Urumqi, Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, PRC. More than 200 people participated in the event including ministers and government officials from CAREC countries. The Ceremony was jointly organized by CI, Ministry of Finance of Peoples Republic of China and Asian Development Bank (ADB) with the support of Xinjiang Government. The purpose of IGA was to establish CI as a legal entity. At the beginning of the event, Mr. Shi Yaobin, Vice Minister of Finance PRC made the opening remarks. Speeches were delivered by Mr. Xiao Jie, Minister of Finance PRC, Mr. Shokrat Zakir, Governor of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, Mr. Takehiko Nakao, President of Asian Development Bank (ADB), Mr. Sanjaasuren Bayaraa, Director of CAREC Institute, ministers from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan delivered speeches in the Ceremony.



IGA Signing Status

During the past two years, nine member countries have signed the IGA. They are respectively Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, PRC, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. Seven member countries have completed the process of ratification. They are respectively Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, PRC, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. Currently, the signing of IGA by Kazakhstan and Georgia is still being processed .

ADB President’s Visit to CI

President of ADB, Mr. Nakao accompanied by high officials from ADB visited CI on 7th September 2017. The Vice-Governor of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and local government officials accompanied the visit. CI Director, Deputy Directors and colleagues welcomed the president and accompanied officials in a befitting manner. CI director and Deputy Director One introduced the development history and operational activities of CI. The president of ADB praised the achievements of CI and expressed that ADB would continue to provide assistance for the future development of CI.



Research Overview

In its two years of operation, CI initiated research on key regional cooperation and development issues covering topics which were: i) CAREC Regional Integration Index ii) Infrastructure Needs Assessment iii) Agriculture Development in the CAREC region iv) Macroeconomic Monitoring and Forecasting. CI’s research portfolio for this initial period is focusing on two operational clusters of CAREC 2030, namely: ‘Trade, Tourism and Economic Corridors’ Cluster; and, ‘Infrastructure and Economic Connectivity Cluster’. It will also selectively focus on sub-thematic constituent sectors of other clusters.

Research Partnerships of CI: In 2017, CI has partnered with Asian Development Bank, Asian Development Bank Institute, Chinese Academy of Fiscal Sciences (CAFS) and Xinjiang University for Finance & Economics for conducting collaborative research. As a result of this cooperation, concluded Research Projects of CI are a) Infrastructure Needs Assessment b) Macroeconomic Forecasting in the reporting year. Rests of the Research projects initiated are ongoing.

Infrastructure Needs of CAREC: Research findings on Infrastructure Needs of CAREC member countries have been completed and are being published under the title; “Infrastructure and Growth; A policy Primer. The research on Macroeconomic Monitoring and Forecasting for the CAREC region 2017” has also been completed and it is also undergoing publication process. Lastly during the reporting year, significant conceptual designing has been done on CAREC Regional Integration Index, which was shared during Second Think Tank Development Forum held in Urumqi.

CAREC Regional Integration INDEX 2017 (CRII)²



Countries that get a high score in regional integration appear to have integrated value chains and higher trade competitiveness. Photo credit: ADB.

² This is a summary of initial research finding presented at the Second CAREC Think Tank Development Forum (link is external), which can be accessed @ <https://development.asia/summary/one-way-measure-regional-integration>

CRII is an index that measures the degree of regional integration in Central Asia will help identify policy gaps and measures to enhance economic cooperation.

CRII is designed to measure the depth and breadth of regional economic cooperation among the 11 member countries. It will compare the intra-CAREC state of integration vis-a-vis

regional and the global integration index rankings. It will help identify policy gaps and provide policy recommendations to enhance regional integration.

CRII is a dynamic index that will constantly track initiatives and efforts of member countries in the six dimensions of integration.

Macroeconomic Monitoring and Forecasting for CAREC Member Countries



The “Macroeconomic monitoring and forecasting” (MM&F) research study provides an analysis of current state of economies; short-term challenges and prospects of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) member countries in terms of economic growth. The CAREC Institute launched the MMF study to establish a solid basis for macroeconomic monitoring and producing short-term forecasting. This research also provides theoretical foundation, model, methodology and econometric codes enabling and equipping researchers and policy makers to experiment and customize their new models commensurate with peculiar domestic economic conditions.

A Policy Primer: Infrastructure and Growth

This research study is an effort to provide evidence-based policy analysis on infrastructure and growth. Policy makers especially from developing Central Asia Regional Economic Regional Cooperation (CAREC) member countries face competing policy choices and tradeoffs. The study comprises of two sections. Section 1 on

Infrastructure Investments in CAREC Region 2016-2030: An Economic Assessment’ which provides analysis of economic impact of infrastructure investment across Central Asia.

The full benefits of infrastructure, including economy wide market access, logistical efficiency, and productivity, far exceed direct investment costs and benefits. The study reinforces nexus between infrastructure investments and growth with a caveat that the promise of inclusive growth can only be fulfilled by committed public and private institutions-what authors refers to domestic margins. Furthermore, leveraging multilateral strategies like the CAREC Regional Investment Program (CRIP) 2016-2030 are intended to make Central Asian regional growth and integration opportunities more sustained and inclusive.

Capacity Building

Learning from experiences of 2016, CI developed its 2017 capacity building program in close coordination with ADB Sector Divisions work. CI also used its remotely administered Country Needs Assessment (CNA) performance for feeding into the CB program design for 2017. CAREC 2030 was also used as defining the framework of CI’s CB programming. Using this triangulation process a connected program in mainly three economic clusters of CAREC 2030 was developed in 2017. This translated in to holding of 11 CB workshops in 2017. Following is a brief description of each of these workshops.

Time Release Study to Enhance Trade Facilitation

The first workshop was held early in the year on 27-28 April in Almaty Kazakhstan. The workshop was part of an ongoing initiative of ADB and has been a recurring theme in CB portfolio of CI. The focus is on performance measurement of CAREC economic corridors using Time Release data collection technique. The delays and other obstacles caused in trade are monitored and measured for different goods across CAREC countries borders. The TRS workshop is part of the broader agenda of Trade facilitation component of CAREC Program.



CAREC Horticulture Value Chains Workshop

This workshop was conducted jointly with ADB and ADBI in Tashkent Uzbekistan from 23-25 May. Global experts on Horticultural Value Chains discussed various value points involved in HVCs globally and in the region. Phytosanitary issues, horticultural production in CAREC member countries and other related problems and bottlenecks were discussed. This workshop culminated with a field visit to a horticultural processing facility near Tashkent. Participants experienced firsthand the processing of value addition to the products aimed for export.



Unlocking Finance for SMEs and Making it Work in Central Asia

CI's third workshop was again a continuity of its previous work on Small and Medium Enterprises (SME). CI had conducted a workshop on SME in 2016 and during the discussion in that workshop it transpired that SME financing was one of the key areas which needed further exploration. Hence the second workshop of the series was scheduled and held in Tbilisi Georgia from 26-27 June. The participants learned about various innovative sources for financing SME enterprises, like Pension and Municipal funds especially for startup financing of new firms. Experts also informed the participants about the working of financial markets vis-à-vis SMEs.

Regional Knowledge Sharing — Exploring Avenues of Cooperation for Cross Border Trade Logistics and Facilitation

The fourth workshop of CI focused on trade facilitation with the perspective of logistics. It was jointly organized by CAREC Freight Forwarders and Carriers Association (CFFCA) and CI with support of ADB on 16-17 August in Tashkent. The workshop focused on private sector's role in cross border trade. CAREC Freight Forwarders and Carriers Association played the leading discussants role and described issues faced by trucking companies at entry and exit points. It was agreed that further harmonization was required to smoothen out the rough edges hampering the trade flows in goods and services.



Road safety Strategy Implementation — Challenges and Opportunities Workshop



This workshop was jointly organized by CI and ADB on 30-31 August in Dushanbe. The focus was on engineering aspects of road safety. The experts rolled out the draft manual developed by ADB on road safety. Engineering solutions to remove black spots and pedestrian safety issues were discussed threadbare and recommendations were drawn up through a participatory approach. Experts and participants engaged in healthy and meaningful discussions on aspects of road safety in various countries.

Exploring Avenues of Economic Growth:Role of SEZs

This special event was held as a part of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, PRC’s 70 year celebrations. It was held on 26-27 September in Hohhot Inner Mongolia, PRC. The forum was dovetailed with an Expo of goods produced and exported by Inner Mongolia. The focus of experts and participants discussion was on the role of Special Economic Zones as economic growth model for middle income countries. PRC’s models of SEZs were discussed in detail with comparative analysis of success of SEZs across the world. The forum concluded with a visit to a nearby SEZ on animal products.

Sharing Best Practices for Reforms on Trade and Trade Facilitation

This workshop was held in Bangkok Thailand from 12 to 13 December. The focus of the workshop was to build capacity of participants on implementation of various aspects of WTO regime. The participants learned about TRIPS and TRIMS and held a healthy discourse with experts from UNCTAD and ADB.

Infrastructure Financing — PPP

This workshop was also a continuity of the previous work of CI on PPP for digging out viable and diverse financing sources for fulfilling the huge gap in infrastructure financing needs. The workshop was held in Shanghai 18-19 December with cooperation of Shanghai National Accounting Institute and ADB. Different experts from the field of infrastructure financing and PPP shared best practices in various areas of project planning, risk allocation and policy measures leading to resource mobilization from private sector.



E-commerce:Sharing the Best Practices

E-Commerce is the new horizon of consumption and trade. PRC is one of the leading countries in e-commerce and has developed a robust e-commerce sector, from trade to



retail. CI realizing the emerging potential of E-Commerce for member countries conducted a workshop on E-Commerce in Shanghai PRC on 20-21 December. Experts and participants discussed various aspects of e-commerce in their respective countries and saw firsthand how e-commerce was being developed and regulated in PRC.

Special Economic Zones — Country Specific Workshop for Pakistan

On the request of CAREC member country Pakistan, CI organized a workshop on SEZs on 20-22 December in Islamabad Pakistan. The focus of the workshop was on development of SEZs along the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. International and National Experts deliberated on various success and failures of SEZs in regional and national contexts. Case studies of Shenzhen and other SEZs in China and Malaysia were presented. The workshop concluded that indigenous models of optimal incentive structure were necessary to make SEZs a viable model for economic growth.



CI Calendar of Events 2017

	Name	Type of activity	Date	Venue	Partners
1	TRS to enhance trade facilitation	Workshop	27-28 April	Almaty	CI, ADB
2	Agriculture cooperation: horticulture value chain development	Workshop	23-25 May	Tashkent	CI, ADB, ADBI
3	6th Meeting of Governing Council	Event	21-22 June	Tbilisi	CI, ADB
4	Unlocking Finance for SMEs and Making it Work in Central Asia	Workshop	26-27 June	Tbilisi	CI, ADB, ADBI, Georgia
5	Regional Knowledge Sharing – Exploring Avenues of Cooperation for Cross Border Trade Logistics and Facilitation	Forum/ Workshop	16-17 August	Tashkent	CI, ADB
6	Road safety strategy implementation: challenges and opportunities	Workshop	30-31 August	Dushanbe	CI, ADB
7	IGA celebration	Event	7 September	Urumqi	CI, ADB
8	Second CAREC Think Tank Forum	Forum	7-8 September	Urumqi	CI, ADB, Xinjiang
9	Inner Mongolia-Avenues of Economic Growth	Forum	26-27 September	Hohhot	CI, ADB, Inner Mongolia
10	7th Meeting of Governing Council	Event	7-8 December	Xiamen	CI, ADB
11	Infrastructure financing: PPP	Workshop	18-19 December	Shanghai	CI, ADB, SNAI
12	Sharing the best experiences in reforms on trade and trade facilitation	Workshop	12-13 December	Thailand	CI, ADB, SNAI
13	E-commerce: Sharing the best practices	Workshop	20-21 December	Shanghai	CI, ADB
14	Special Economic Zones: Sharing the best practices	Country Workshop	20-22 December	Islamabad	CI, ADB, PAK

List of Researches

Title	Type of activity	Date of completion	Partners
CAREC Regional Integration Index	Research	August 2017-ongoing	CI, ADB
New Initiatives in Agricultural Cooperation: Comprehensive Review of Trends, Challenges, and Opportunities for Agricultural Development in the CAREC Member Countries	Research	September 2017-ongoing	CI, ADB

List of Important Documents Related to CI

Year	Document	Brief Description
2006	5 th MC on CAREC	Endorsed Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP) and formation of CI.
2006	CAP	Knowledge/capacity building pillar was identified as one of the four action pillars of the CAREC Program. Steps will be taken towards the formation of CI to coordinate research, training and dialogue activities.
2007	6 th MC on CAREC	Endorsed CI Prospectus (CIP). Identified two purposes of CI: i) capacity building; ii) providing solutions to regional challenges on the basis of research and policy analysis.
2007	CIP	Laid down CI concept, envisaged CI's initial stage as a virtual institute.
2008	7 th MC on CAREC	Endorsed CI Work Plan (CIWP) 2009-2011
2008	CIWP 2009-2011	Defined CI guiding principles, focus areas (training, research, outreach) and activities to be conducted in 2009-2011
2010	9 th MC on CAREC	Endorsed CI Performance Assessment Review (CIPAR).
2010	CIPAR	Suggested the enhancement of the CAREC Secretariat functions as administrator and coordinator of CI.
2011	10 th MC on CAREC	Endorsed CAREC 2020 and approved CI's interim action plan for 2012.
2011	CAREC 2020	Defined CI as one of operational priorities of the CAREC Program.
2012	Strategic Knowledge Framework (SKF)	Submitted to the Senior Officials Meeting. Defines three components of knowledge framework and articulates guiding principles.
2012	CI Assessment	Submitted to the 11th MC on CAREC. Includes an assessment of CI for implementing the SKF, and recommendations on the physical versus virtual modality.
2012	11 th MC on CAREC	Made decision on establishment of CI's physical base. Adopted Wuhan Action Plan
2012	Wuhan Action Plan	Contains CI Work Plan 2013-2017
2013	12 th MC on CAREC	Made decision to host the physical base of CI in Urumqi, Xinjiang Autonomous Region, PRC
2014	13 th MC on CAREC	Agreed on the guiding principles, purposes, governance structure, organization, and management of CI. Established CI Governing Council, comprising of the CAREC NFPs. Called CI to prepare medium-term work program.
2016	Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA)	IGA is an international agreement establishing CI as an intergovernmental organization.