

CAREC Institute Newsletter

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Workshop on WTO TFA Implementation

15-16 January 2019

Baku, Azerbaijan

With participation of delegates from the State Customs and Revenue Services of the CAREC member countries, and with resource persons from the World Trade Organization (WTO), World Customs Organization, UNCTAD, General Administration of China Customs, and the Asian Development Bank, the CAREC Institute organized the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) implementation workshop on 15-16 January 2019 in Baku.

The workshop aimed to accelerate implementation of the WTO TFA provisions with a focus on introducing specific features and provisions of the TFA, harmonization of legislative and regulatory frameworks, formulation of relevant preliminary action plans, and experience-sharing on the vitality of interagency cooperation at the border crossing points.

The workshop built on results of the December 2017 workshop held in Bangkok where CAREC countries indicated the need to prepare action plans to implement immediate commitments (category A) and prioritize their capacity building needs, and October 2018 workshop titled “World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement: Roadmap for CAREC Countries” where member representatives learned

new approaches to overcome the implementation challenges, and participated in knowledge sharing on the implementation of TFA both at the national and regional levels.



WTO TFA workshop participants in Baku, January 2019.

Promoting Economic Diversification

16-17 May 2019

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

The CAREC Institute has partnered with UNIDO and leading academic institutions in the region to deliver a workshop on economic diversification in the CAREC region aimed at deepening the understanding of characteristics of resource dependent economies, importance of industrial development strategies, particularly export oriented industries, to achieve economic diversification, and enhance capacity of the CAREC countries to improve their competitiveness. The workshop was held on 16-17 May 2019 in Ulaanbaatar.

The 17th Ministerial Conference of CAREC, held on 15 November 2018 in Ashgabat, issued a policy advice to member countries to increase export diversification through promotion of conducive environment for the private sector, and identification of measures to advance industrial and investment policy for specific sectors based on best practices in Asian countries.

With this workshop, the CAREC Institute responded to the policy advice by the Ministerial Conference of 2018 to enable economic diversification in member countries.



The CAREC Institute Director Mr. Sanjaasuren speaking at the workshop, May 2019.

Enhancing Quality of Key Economic Indicators

20-25 May 2019

Astana, Kazakhstan

In collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the CAREC Institute held a workshop on enhancing quality of the system of national accounts and key economic indicators on 20-25 May 2019 in Astana. The same workshop is scheduled in Jakarta in June 2019 to expand participation. Both workshops build on results of the “2008 System of National Accounts” training held in September 2018 in Almaty.

This workshop provided detailed, rigorous, hands-on training in the 2008 System of National Accounts (SNA) concepts, definitions, standards and recommendations that have proven to be a challenge for many countries to implement; sources and methods related to quarterly accounts, and GDP benchmarking; compilation and analysis of supply-use tables, input-output tables (IOT), sub-national and inter-country IOTs, and trade-in-value added statistics; solutions to specific conceptual, data and statistical issues related to subject matter areas such as FISIM, gross fixed capital formation (GFCF), household expenditures, housing services, inventories, trade, taxes, subsidies, and government’s collective expenditure.

The workshop aimed to enhance the capacity of the CAREC member country National Statistics Offices (NSO) to develop standard approaches, and support policy dialogue with evidence to embark on informed policy action and track progress towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).



Workshop participants during the hands-on exercise on national accounts, Astana, May 2019.

Meetings with International Financial Institutions and Global Funds

8-13 April 2019

Washington D.C., New York City, USA

The CAREC Institute held a series of meetings with the World Bank (WB), International Monetary Fund (IMF), Global Environmental Facility (GEF), and diplomatic representations to the UN in Washington D.C. and New York City on 8-13 April 2019.

The conversations focused on organization of policy dialogues on CAREC priority topics, provision of resource persons for knowledge service activities, coordination of trainings, and participation in CAREC Institute's Advisory Council.

Agreements were reached to formalize relationships and establish coordination mechanism to respond to future cooperation needs.

CAREC Institute Visits the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

19 April 2019
Beijing, the PRC

CAREC Institute visited the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) headquarters in Beijing on 19 April 2019 and had a partnership dialogue with Secretary-General Vladimir Norov.

Out of eleven CAREC member countries, Kazakhstan, the People's Republic of China, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Pakistan are full members of the SCO, Afghanistan and Mongolia are observing members and Azerbaijan is a dialogue partner. These entities share traditions, culture, and long history. Building on shared values, there are strong integration prospects.

The CAREC Institute and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization discussed their roles and activities, regional development issues and potential in the Central Asia, and exchanged views on potential partnership in areas of knowledge exchange and capacity building focusing on economic development.

The two institutions agreed to continue the dialogue, exchange participants for knowledge sharing events, and look for initiatives to develop joint activities in priority areas.

Boao Forum for Asia - Infrastructure Finance

26-29 March 2019
Hainan province, the PRC

The CAREC Institute attended the Boao Forum for Asia on 26-29 March 2019 in Hainan province, the PRC and co-authored a joint publication: Asian Financial Development Report on Infrastructure Finance which can be downloaded from [here](#).

The theme of the forum was common destiny, joint action, and common development. The CAREC Deputy Director spoke at the forum stressing unique challenges and opportunities in the Central Asia and highlighting the contribution that the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) can make to the infrastructure connectivity.

The publication on the infrastructure finance was the first joint project of the Boao Forum for Asia with the CAREC Institute, the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO), and the Asian Financial Cooperation Association (AFCA). Download [here](#).



The CAREC Institute Deputy Director Mr. Liang speaking at the Boao Forum for Asia.

The 18th CAREC Transport Sector Coordinating Committee Meeting

25-26 April 2019

Tashkent, Uzbekistan

The CAREC Institute representatives attended the 18th CAREC Transport Sector Coordinating Committee (CTSCC) meeting on 25-26 April 2019 in Tashkent. They met with the CAREC member country and development partner representatives, participated in presentation discussions, and commented on the draft CAREC Transport Strategy 2030. In particular, they proposed a paragraph within the draft strategy to highlight the strategic role of the CAREC Institute in the CAREC Program's Transport Sector.

Such events present an opportunity for the CAREC Institute to showcase its strategic relevance and importance as the lead knowledge support arm of the CAREC Program. Since 2012, the CAREC Institute has been engaged in knowledge services for the CAREC member countries, the first training delivered in Beijing on implementation of performance-based infrastructure maintenance contracts, next one in 2017 on road safety strategy implementation challenges and opportunities, followed by trainings in public-private partnership (PPP) mechanism for infrastructure financing and road safety engineering. The next training on the road asset management is scheduled for July 2019 in Tashkent.

By the end of the 18th CTSCC meeting, it was agreed that all parties would provide their final comments on the draft strategy by 10 May 2019. The CAREC Institute's input has been sent accordingly. The strategy will be presented at the next CAREC Governing Council meeting for the final endorsement.

The CAREC Institute representatives benefited by networking with other delegates and learned more about the CAREC country transport development projects. There was an opportunity to discuss a number of Asian Development Bank (ADB)-CAREC Institute planned joint activities under the road safety and road asset management workshops with the technical staff of the ADB Transport Sector Division.

Having presence in such knowledge-sharing events connects to the core of the CAREC Institute as the CAREC Program's tailor-made knowledge arm.



The CAREC Institute Senior Knowledge Services Officer participating in the committee session.

CAREC Institute Attends the 52nd ADB Annual Meeting

1-4 May 2019

Nadi, Fiji

The CAREC Institute attended the 52nd Asian Development Bank (ADB) annual meeting on 1-4 May 2019 in Nadi, Fiji, and held partnership dialogues and high-level meetings with the ADB, ADB Institute (ADBI), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), New Development Bank (NDB), ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO), Ministers, ADB Governors, and senior government officials from CAREC countries.

The CAREC Institute attended seminars and policy dialogues on macroeconomic policy, financial stability, connectivity, sustainable infrastructure, infrastructure financing, sustainable tourism, energy and development effectiveness, to feed new ideas and approaches into the relevant knowledge products.

Forum on Sustainable Tourism Development

1 May 2019

Nadi, Fiji

The CAREC Institute attended the forum on sustainable tourism development concerning the CAREC region on 1 May 2019 in Nadi where participants suggested identifying concrete regional investment projects and initiatives to unlock the untapped tourism potential of the region.

It was shared during the forum that tourism accounts for more than 10% of the world's GDP, 7% of the world's exports, and generates about 10% of jobs globally. Being recognized as a core driver of socio-economic development and given its strong linkage with other sectors, tourism is becoming increasingly important on the agendas of developing countries.

The forum further deliberated that tourist arrivals in the CAREC region, with the exception of Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, and the PRC, reached almost 20 million in 2018. This represents an annual growth of about 4.5% over the past five years. Of this, more than half are intra-regional tourism flows. In the PRC, tourist arrivals reached 63.65 million in 2018. Prospects for the next decade look promising, with tourist arrivals in the eight CAREC countries forecasted to reach 31.7 million by 2028.

The forum concluded that coordinated efforts are required to build on these opportunities, namely: improving connectivity within the region and with other countries including issue of visa regimes, developing high quality tourism infrastructure and services, enabling business environment to support SME participation in regional tourism value chains, investing in tourism education programs to create an adequate supply of qualified workforce, coordinated and integrated destination planning and management among all entities involved.

Climate Change Findings

In 2018, the CAREC Institute has undertaken a joint study with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) on review of trends, challenges, and opportunities for agricultural development in the CAREC member countries. The study found that the climate change might impact significantly CAREC region's water resources, agricultural productivity, farm incomes, and poverty, particularly as it relates to melting of glaciers due to rising temperature, shortage of rainwater and irrigated farmland, and natural disasters provoked by the climate change, which allegedly might pose threats to public safety. [Contact us](#) for more.

CAREC Institute Hosts Delegation from Mongolia

16 January, 30 May, 2019

Urumqi, the PRC

The CAREC Institute hosted the Mongolian Government delegation led by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia on 16 January 2019 at its Headquarters in Urumqi, the PRC. The delegation included Economic and Foreign Policy Advisors to the President of Mongolia and the representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Institute Director underlined the CAREC Institute's mission and highlighted Mongolia's role and participation in the Institute's activities. The Deputy Minister appreciated the support and reiterated the government's readiness to cooperate in strengthening the Institute as a regional knowledge center.

During her visit, the Deputy Minister met the Deputy Chairman of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of the PRC.

Another Mongolian delegation visited the CAREC Institute headquarters in Urumqi on 30 May 2019 consisting of diplomats, journalists, researchers, and other prominent delegates. The delegation held high-level meetings in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and delivered presentations about the current state of Mongolia's socio-cultural and economic development, China-Mongolia-Russia economic corridor, prospects for Mongolia-Inner Mongolia and Mongolia-Xinjiang trade and economic relations, including transit trade from Mongolia to Central Asia via Xinjiang, and regional cooperation in the field of atomic energy.



Mr. Bayarkhuu, Mongolian Diplomat, Professor and Researcher delivering a presentation in Urumqi, May 2019.

Partnership with New Think Tanks

16 May 2019

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

The CAREC Institute signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding with the Brussels-based European Institute for Asian Studies (EIAS) and the Ulaanbaatar-based International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries (ITTLDLDC) on 16 May 2019 in Ulaanbaatar.

Under the cooperation framework, the parties will develop research and capacity building projects, knowledge exchange and sharing of the best practices among the CAREC member countries in areas of regional cooperation, trade facilitation, transport and connectivity, economic diversification, regional value chains, and financial technologies.

Many CAREC member countries do not have direct access to the sea and are remotely positioned from major markets. They have certain obstacles in terms of access to markets, infrastructure limitations, and productivity constraints. This partnership will help in mapping common challenges experienced by the landlocked CAREC member countries, and formulating the relevant policy dialogue.

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