



## **Integrating CAREC Region: Policy Research for Regional Integration**

### **CTTN RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAM at CAREC INSTITUTE**

#### **Call for Papers**

#### **INTRODUCTION and RATIONALE**

CAREC Institute (CI) is scaling up its activities to respond to multitudes of challenges that confront the CAREC region by focusing on producing relevant and targeted knowledge products. To this end, CI has designed a Research Grants Program that will support research projects focusing on regional cooperation and integration among CAREC Program's eleven-member countries<sup>1</sup>. The CAREC Institute (CI) Research Grants Program is designed to actively support scholars and researchers from members of CAREC Think Tanks Network (CTTN) through research grants that will add to the body of knowledge on regional cooperation in CAREC region and strengthen the CTTN. Though the overarching theme is Integrating CAREC Region, scholars from member Think Tanks are also encouraged to undertake comparative analysis between (sub) regions within Asia (e.g., ASEAN and CAREC, GMS and CAREC etc.), to draw lessons for promoting, and deepening regional integration among CAREC's member countries.

This Research Grants Program for CTTN is titled as **Integrating CAREC Region: Policy Research for Regional Integration**. This research grants program will provide funding to support research topics with a clear policy focus on the selected theme.

#### **PROPOSED RESEARCH THEME**

The general theme of the Research grants program is **Integrating CAREC Region: Policy Research for Regional Integration**. While research topics are drawn from the five clusters of the CAREC 2030 and CI 2022 strategies, preference will be given to proposals supportive of and closely linked with the theme of **Economic Corridors Development (ECD)** in the CAREC region. Over the long term, economic corridors are viewed as drivers of promoting economic diversification,

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<sup>1</sup> CAREC Program comprises of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, China, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan

innovation, job creation and spatial transformation. Applicants will need to submit research proposals within the framework of developing economic corridors.

Research proposals should broadly aim at identifying: (i) economic profiles of potential economic corridors in the CAREC region, (ii) bottlenecks and the necessary regulatory and policy framework, (iii) relevant sectors and their growth potential along the economic corridors, (iv) public-private cooperation mechanism for financing projects, and (v) human and physical infrastructure requirements for developing economic corridors.

The topics mentioned above are indicative and researchers are encouraged to draw topics from the five operational clusters of CAREC 2030 which support the development of the economic corridors. **Further, proposals comparing (sub) regions and deriving lessons from Asian success stories of developing economic corridors are especially welcome.**

#### **ELIGIBILITY:**

Researchers belonging to CTTN member think tanks located within the CAREC region are eligible to apply. Emphasis is placed on policy suggestions and recommendations that address issues and challenges to regional integration in the CAREC region. A group of think tanks (not more than 3) can apply for the research grant, provided that the think tanks come from three different countries. This will ensure that the proposed topics are regional rather than national in scope. **Proposals submitted by an individual think tank that cover only a single country analysis will be rejected.** There is a preference for at least two, preferably three think tanks submitting a joint proposal covering at least two, preferably three countries as the units of analysis.

#### **DURATION of the GRANT**

The research grant is for 6 months from the date of grant approval.

#### **NUMBER and AMOUNT of the GRANT:**

CI will finance a total of 5 research grants each year. The amount of each grant will be a maximum of \$10,000.

#### **DELIVERABLES**

Following two deliverables are expected:

1. A Research based Policy Paper (not exceeding 10,000 words, excluding references) suggesting policies on the senior government level

2. A short Policy Brief summarizing the findings of the Research Paper (not exceeding 2,000 words)

#### **EXPENDITURES ALLOWED by the GRANT:**

1. Researchers' Fee
2. Purchase of research materials: subscriptions, purchases of electronic materials, etc;
3. Fieldwork expenditures to include transport costs including local transport costs, per diem, interview expenditures, and the like;
4. Contingency of 5% (maximum \$500) for other unexpected costs encountered in the course of research.

#### **GRANT TIMELINES**

Timelines for research grant are shown in the schedule below:

Call for Papers	15 January
Deadline for Proposals	28 February
Decision Announced	06 March
Submission of First draft	22 May
Submission of Final Paper	17 July

#### **RESEARCH DISSEMINATION**

CI and the participating think tank (think tank awarded the research grant) will own copy rights of research deliverables. Both the institutions will be entitled to publish research deliverables on their respective websites and/or the institutions' journals bearing logos of both the institutions. Use of CI's logo is subject to the approval of the final paper by CI, consistent with its quality standards.

#### **GRANT APPLICATION**

Applications for research grants at the CAREC Institute should be emailed to Mr. Khalid Umar, Chief, Strategic Planning Division at [khalidu@carecinstitute.org](mailto:khalidu@carecinstitute.org) with the subject "***CTTN Research Grants Program***".

The following documents are required of all applicants:

1. Application form (see Annex 1)
2. Budget form (see Annex 2)
3. CV and a list of publications (in English)

4. Detailed research proposal: definition of the research goals, details of the research methods, the stages of research, timetable, and the contribution which the study is expected to make, in English (up to 3 pages)
5. Sample of Writing (printed research papers, policy briefs and co-eds and etc.)
6. Certificate of Institutional Establishment/legal entity

**Annex 1**

**APPLICATION FORM**

All applicants are required to fill in the application form in two parts; 1) description of research and workplan/timelines; 2) budget form. Completed forms should not exceed five (5) pages.

<b>TITLE of RESEARCH PROPOSAL</b>	
<b>Principal Researcher (PR):</b> (name/designation/organization/tel/email)	<b>Co-Principal Researcher (Co-PR) if any:</b> (name/designation/organization/tel/email)
<b>Date of Application:</b>	
<b>Abstract: (maximum 300 words)</b>	
<b>Objectives of the Study:</b> (list the objectives, contribution to policy, and an assessment of the possible benefits to regional integration)	
<b>Relevance to Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation:</b>	

<b>Schedule of Deliverables</b> (With expected date of completion):

**Annex 2**  
**Details of the requested budget**

Item of expenditure	Amount (US\$)
Researcher (s)' Fee	
Purchase of research materials: subscriptions, purchases of electronic materials, etc, please specify.	
Fieldwork expenditures to include transport costs including local transport costs, per diem, interview expenditures, and the like	
Other (please specify)	
<b>Total amount requested (maximum)</b>	