Integrating CAREC Region: Policy Research for Regional Integration

CTTN RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAM

Call for Papers

INTRODUCTION and RATIONALE

The 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, the CI has designed a Research Grants Program (RGP) that will support research projects focusing on regional cooperation and integration among CAREC Program's eleven-member countries[1]. The RGP is designed to actively support scholars and researchers from CAREC Think Tanks Network (CTTN) members through research grants that will add to the body of knowledge on regional cooperation in the CAREC region and strengthen the CTTN. Though the overarching theme is *Integrating CAREC Region*, scholars from member Think Tanks and universities are also encouraged to undertake a 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 RGP for CTTN is titled as ***Integrating CAREC Region: Policy Research for Regional Integration.*** This RGP will provide funding to support research topics with a clear policy focus on the selected theme.

PROPOSED RESEARCH THEME

The general theme of the RGP 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, innovation, job

---

[1] CAREC Program comprises of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Pakistan, China, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan

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

Research proposals are broadly expected to aim at identifying (i) economic profiles of potential economic corridors in the CAREC region; (ii) bottlenecks and the necessary regulatory and policy framework for multi-country economic cooperation; (iii) development challenges along the economic corridors; (iv) economic corridors and growth economics; (v) key sectors and their growth potential along the economic corridors; (iv) public-private cooperation mechanism for financing projects; (v) human and physical infrastructure requirements for developing economic corridors; and (vi) impact of COVID-19 on Investment Climate and Corridor Development in the Region. The topics mentioned above are indicative, and researchers are encouraged to draw topics from the five operational clusters of CAREC Strategy 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

CTTN member think tanks and universities 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.

DURATION of the GRANT

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

NUMBER and AMOUNT of the GRANT

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

DELIVERABLES

The following two deliverables are expected:

1. A Professionally edited, Research-based Policy Paper (not exceeding 10,000 words, excluding references) suggesting policies on the senior government level.
2. An input in forms of the policy brief, article, blog entry to the CI's and its partners' knowledge platforms (CTTN blog, E-Learning Platform, Development Asia etc.)

GRANT TIMELINES

Timelines for the research grant are shown in the schedule below:

| Call for Papers | 05 February |
| Deadline for Proposals | 15 March |

Decision Announced	31 March
Submission of the First draft	30 June
Submission of Final Paper	31 July

RESEARCH DISSEMINATION

The CI and the participating think tanks and universities will own copyrights of research deliverables. Both the institutions will be entitled to publish research deliverables on their respective websites and/or the institutions' journals bearing both institutions' logos. The use of CI's logo is subject to the final paper's approval by the CI Publication Board, consistent with its quality standards.

GRANT APPLICATION

Applications for research grants should be emailed to Mr. Khalid Umar, Chief, Strategic Planning Division at 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. CV and a list of publications (in English);

3. 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);

4. Sample of Writing (printed research papers, policy briefs and op-eds and etc.); and

5. Certificate of Institutional Establishment/legal entity.

APPLICATION FORM

All applicants are required to fill in the application form - description of research and workplan/timelines.

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