



CAREC INSTITUTE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

THEME: COVID-19 and Potential for Economic Recovery in CAREC

4-5 March 2021

ANNOTATED AGENDA

In partnership
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ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The CAREC Institute Research Conference takes place on 4-5 March 2021, on the theme "COVID-19 and Potential for Economic Recovery in CAREC" in a virtual mode. Its sub-themes include the following thematic sessions: (i) Digital CAREC and post-COVID-19 economic recovery; (ii) Regional Integration and Macroeconomic Dynamics Beyond COVID-19 Pandemic; (iii) Tourism Sector in Times of High Uncertainty; (iv) Industries and Enterprises for Restart and Recovery

BACKGROUND

There is increasing demand for knowledge support to public policy settings in the CAREC region based on rigorous, outstanding, and competitive research findings to understand the existing developmental processes appropriately and develop new ones backed by baseline understanding of dynamics and nuances of a policy space with its current and future challenges. Being a policy-focused institution with the mandate to generate, service and disseminate research-driven knowledge, the CAREC Institute (CI) aims to close this gap and offer sustainable policy options for better economic development and presenting evidence for policy practice on the five priority clusters of the CAREC 2030 Strategy. Hence, in order to meet the increasing demand for evidence-based knowledge, the CI intends to create a research platform for the regional exchange of research-based solutions to sustainable development issues of the region by launching the **CAREC Institute Research Conference**.

OBJECTIVE & OUTCOMES

The main objective of the conference is to catalyze research and capacity building collaboration for producing cutting-edge research products that will keep CAREC economies in the forefront of sustainable development and economic integration. Conference activities aimed to identify means to revisit and rethink of past, current and future of the CAREC region from intellectual and economic development perspectives and challenges.

Specific objectives are:

- **Publish annually the CI Annual book** with reflections of contemporary economic development and integration dynamics in the CAREC region
- Generate and provide **evidence-driven policy recommendations** to CAREC public policy settings
- Enhance **regional scientific cooperation involving leading researchers**, experts, and policy makers in the CAREC region



The conference will catalyze the sustainable delivery of **research findings and their translation into policy prescriptions** for better economic development and integration in the CAREC region. As an outcome of the conference, the CI book and policy briefs will be produced and shared with public policy settings of CAREC countries.

STRUCTURE

This two-day virtual research conference will bring together researchers and representatives of governments, international organizations, research institutes and think tanks across the CAREC region and beyond.

The first day (4 March 2021) will begin with opening session which includes opening remarks, introductory notes to the conference and keynote speech which charts the ground for the two-day discussion. The second day comprises two thematic sessions, partnership dialogue, panel discussion and closing session of the conference. First two sessions focus on thematic aspects of the conference, while the rest is about partnership building and closing remarks of the conference.



AGENDA OF THE CAREC INSTITUTE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Theme: COVID-19 and Potential for Economic Recovery in CAREC Region
4-5 March 2021

Time	SESSIONS
DAY ONE – 04 March 2021	
OPENING SESSION Chair: Dr Ziqian Liang , Deputy Director One, CAREC Institute	
<p>Purpose: By giving welcoming remarks to participants, this session provides context for the conference and its sessions which is accompanied by a thematic keynote speech.</p> <p>Note to chair: The chair of this session will start off the conference by giving a speaking turns to each distinguished speaker to make welcoming remarks to the audience. At the end of the opening session, the chair logically closes the session by quickly highlighting the importance of the conference and wishing all productive two working days ahead.</p>	
Time (Beijing time) 10.45 – 11.00	Thematic videos to be screened
Time (Beijing time) 11.00 – 11.45	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Opening Remarks (6 mins each). Mr Syed Shakeel Shah, Director, CAREC Institute Dr Tetsushi Sonobe, Dean and CEO, Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) Mr Safdar Parvez, Director, Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination, Central and West Asia Department, Asian Development Bank (ADB)2. Introductory Notes of the CAREC Institute Research Conference and Annual Book (7 mins) Dr Qaisar Abbas, Chief of Research Division, CAREC Institute3. Keynote address (20 mins) Prof Dr Richard Pomfret, Professor of Economics at the University of Adelaide



Time (Beijing time) 11.45 – 11.55	Short break (10 mins)
Session one: Digital CAREC and post-COVID-19 economic recovery Chair: Dr Ziyang David Fan, Head of Digital Trade, World Economic Forum	
<p>Purpose: The main purpose of this session is to present and discuss the selected papers pertinent to digitalization in the CAREC region and its impacts on economic recovery in the post-pandemic world.</p> <p>Note to chair: The main task of the chair is to facilitate the session and help others to move through the presentations and discussions as structured in the programme. The chair ensures that each speaker presents their presentation within the allocated time, which is 10 minutes for speakers and 5 minutes for discussants. Both presenters and discussants will be introduced by the chair only by their names and affiliations. Detailed information about the speakers and discussants will be available in the document to be handed out before the conference.</p> <p>Before starting the session, the chair delivers 5 minutes of opening remarks about the topic at stake by providing the latest trends and future potential outlook on them in the post-COVID-19 world both worldwide and the CAREC region. This quick introduction should be accommodated to 5 minutes.</p> <p>Note to speakers: Speakers are expected to present their papers within the allocated time of 10 minutes which highlights the main findings and policy recommendations of the paper.</p> <p>Note to discussants: The role of discussants is to read a paper and provide a 5-min presentation including key takeaways, suggestions for improvements, and suggestions for policy implications. The intervention period should be confined to 5 minutes of time.</p>	
Time (Beijing time) 11.55 – 12.00	Introduction of the topic and opening remarks by chair
12.00 – 12.10	1. <i>Digital Transformation in Central Asia: Challenges and Lessons Learned from the Global Pandemic</i> Mr Farrukh Khakimov , Development Strategy Center, Uzbekistan
12.10 – 12.15	<i>Discussant</i> Dr Naoyuki Yoshino , Professor Emeritus-Keio University of Tokyo, Japan



12.15 – 12.25	<p>2. <i>Improved health conditions and digital transformation: a post-COVID-19 analysis</i></p> <p>Dr Muhammad Zeshan, Consultant, The World Bank, Islamabad, Pakistan</p>
12.25 – 12.30	<p><i>Discussant</i></p> <p>Dr Inez Mikkelsen Lopez, Health Specialist, ADB</p>
12.30 – 12.40	<p>3. E-commerce Taxation in Central Asia: Current State and Opportunity for Reform</p> <p>Mr Nikolai Milogolov, PhD, Head of Laboratory of Tax Policy Research at the Institute of Applied Economic Research of the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPA), Russia</p>
12.40 – 12.45	<p><i>Discussant</i></p> <p>Dr Minsoo Lee, Senior Economist, Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination, Central and West Asia Department, ADB</p>
12.45 – 12.55	<p>4. <i>Adaptability towards Teleworking Arrangements: Evidence from Pakistan</i></p> <p>Dr Umer Khalid, Director Research, Policy Research, Innovation, Development and Education (PRIDE), Pakistan</p>
12.55 – 13.00	<p><i>Discussant</i></p> <p>Mr Daniel Suryadarma, Research Fellow, ADBI</p>
13.00 – 13.10	<p>5. Financial Inclusion in the CAREC Region: Promoting Fintech to Meet Underserved Needs in Trade Finance</p> <p>Dr Minsoo Lee, Senior Economist, Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination, Central and West Asia Department, ADB</p>
13.10 – 13.15	<p><i>Discussant</i></p> <p>Mr Long Q. Trinh, Project Consultant, ADBI</p>
13.15 – 13.45	Q&A session
Time (Beijing time) 13.45 – 14.30	Health break (45 mins)



Session two: Regional Integration and Macroeconomic Dynamics Beyond COVID-19 Pandemic

Chair: Prof. Dr Saeed Akbar, Chair in Accounting and Finance, and Head of Accounting, Finance and Economics Research Centre, University of Bradford, UK

Purpose: The main purpose of this session is to present and discuss the selected papers pertinent to regional integration and macroeconomic dynamics in the CAREC region and their impact on economic recovery in the post-pandemic world.

Note to chair: The main task of the chair is to facilitate the session and help others to move through the presentations and discussions as structured in the programme. The chair ensures that each speaker presents their presentation within the allocated time, which is **10 minutes for speakers** and **5 minutes for discussants**. Both presenters and discussants will be introduced by the chair only by their names and affiliations. Detailed information about speakers and discussants will be available in the document to be handed out before the conference.

Before starting the session, the chair delivers **5 minutes of opening remarks** about the topic at stake by providing the latest trends and future potential outlook on them in the post-COVID-19 world both worldwide and the CAREC region. This quick introduction should be accommodated to 5 minutes.

Note to speakers: Speakers are expected to present their papers within the allocated time of **10 minutes** which highlights the main findings and policy recommendations of the paper.

Note to discussants: The role of discussants is to read a paper and provide a 5-min presentation including key takeaways, suggestions for improvements, and suggestions for policy implications. The intervention period should be confined to 5 minutes of time.

Time (Beijing time) 14.30 – 14.35	Introduction and opening remarks by chair
14.35 – 14.45	1. <i>How Kazakhstan sees ASEAN and its member countries in a post COVID-19 new normal</i> Dr Alessandro Arduino , Principal research fellow MEI, National University of Singapore Dr Paradorn Rangsimaporn , Minister-Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission, Royal Thai Embassy, Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan Ms Inkar Aitkuzhina , Database Specialist, Apple South Asia



14.45 – 14.50	<i>Discussant</i> Dr Dina Azhgaliyeva , Research fellow, ADBI
14.50 – 15.00	2. <i>Pakistan's economic recovery and development in the post-epidemic era (COVID-19) - to explore the prospects of China-Pakistan energy cooperation</i> Lv Zhiping , Xinjiang University of Finance and Economics
15.00 – 15.05	<i>Discussant</i> Dr Ghulam Samad , Senior Research Specialist, CAREC Institute
15.05 – 15.15	3. <i>Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Pakistan & Central Bank Response</i> Mr Muhammad Moaiz Siddiqui , Deputy Director, Financial Stability Department, State Bank of Pakistan
15.15 – 15.20	<i>Discussant</i> Dr Ulrich Volz , Director of the Centre for Sustainable Finance, SOAS, University of London
15.20 – 15.30	4. <i>Debt and Debt Sustainability in the CAREC Region</i> Dr Naseem Faraz , Pakistan Institute of Development Economics
15.30 – 15.35	<i>Discussant</i> Dr John Beirne , Research Fellow, ADBI
15.35 – 16.05	Q&A session
16.05 – 16.15	Recap of the first day by Dr Qaisar Abbas , Chief of Research Division, CAREC Institute



DAY TWO – 5 March 2021

Session three: Tourism Sector in Times of High Uncertainty **Chair: Dr Qaisar Abbas**, Chief of Research Division, CAREC Institute

Purpose: The main purpose of this session is to present and discuss the selected papers pertinent to dynamics of the tourism sector in the CAREC region and its recovery in the post-pandemic world.

Note to chair: The main task of the chair is to facilitate the session and help others to move through the presentations and discussions as structured in the programme. The chair ensures that each speaker presents their presentation within the allocated time, which is **10 minutes for speakers** and **5 minutes for discussants**. Both presenters and discussants will be introduced by the chair only **by their names and affiliations**. Detailed information about speakers and discussants will be available in the document to be handed out before the conference.

Before starting the session, the chair delivers **5 minutes of opening remarks** about the topic at stake by providing the latest trends and future potential outlook on them in the post-COVID-19 world both worldwide and the CAREC region. This quick introduction should be accommodated to 5 minutes.

Note to speakers: Speakers are expected to present their papers within the allocated time of **10 minutes** which highlights the main findings and policy recommendations of the paper.

Note to discussants: The role of discussants is to read a paper and provide a 5-min presentation including key takeaways, suggestions for improvements, and suggestions for policy implications. The intervention period should be confined to 5 minutes of time.

Time (Beijing time) 10.45 – 11.00	Thematic videos to be screened
Time (Beijing time) 11.00 – 11.05	Introduction and opening remarks by chair
11.05 – 11.15	1. <i>COVID-19 Impact on the Sustainable Development of Cities of Central Asia: The Case Study of the Capital City of Afghanistan</i> Dr Madina Junussova , Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Public Policy and Administration, University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan



11.15 – 11.20	<i>Discussant</i> Mr Ayoob Ayoobi , Chief of Capacity Building Division, CAREC Institute
11.20 – 11.30	2. <i>Recovering from the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Tourism Industry in Selected Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Countries</i> Dr Nam Foo , Research Associate, School of Business and Law, Edith Cowan University, Perth / Lecturer, Curtin University, Perth, Western Australia
11.30 – 11.35	<i>Discussant</i> Dr Matthias Helble , Senior Economist, ADB
11.35 – 11.45	3. <i>Network Analysis of Tourism Stocks During COVID-19 Pandemic: An Evidence from CAREC Region</i> Dr Tahir Mumtaz Awan & Mr Mrestyal Khan , Department of Management Sciences, Comsats University, Pakistan
11.45 – 11.50	<i>Discussant</i> Mr Sanjay Saxena , Managing Director, Total Synergy Consulting, India
11.50 – 12.10	Q&A
Time (Beijing time) 12.10 – 12.20	Short break (10 mins)

Session four: Industries and Enterprises for Restart and Recovery

Chair: Dr Dina Azhgaliyeva, Research Fellow, ADBI

Purpose: The main purpose of this session is to present and discuss the selected papers pertinent to different industries and enterprises in the CAREC region and their recovery in the post-pandemic world.

Note to chair: The main task of the chair is to facilitate the session and help others to move through the presentations and discussions as structured in the programme. The chair ensures that each speaker presents their presentation within the allocated time, which is **10 minutes for speakers** and **5 minutes for discussants**. Both presenters and discussants will be introduced by the chair only **by their names and affiliations**. Detailed information about speakers and discussants will be available in the document to be handed out before the conference.



Before starting the session, the chair delivers **5 minutes of opening remarks** about the topic at stake by providing the latest trends and future potential outlook on them in the post-COVID-19 world both worldwide and the CAREC region. This quick introduction should be accommodated to 5 minutes.

Note to speakers: Speakers are expected to present their papers within the allocated time of **10 minutes** which highlights the main findings and policy recommendations of the paper.

Note to discussants: The role of discussants is to read a paper and provide a 5-min presentation including key takeaways, suggestions for improvements, and suggestions for policy implications. The intervention period should be confined to 5 minutes of time.

Time (Beijing time) 12.20 – 12.25	Introduction and opening remarks by chair
12.25 – 12.35	<i>1. Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Small and Medium Enterprises in the CAREC Region</i> Dr Brendan Duprey , Director of the Sustainable Kazakhstan Research Institute (SKRI) at Narxoz University, Kazakhstan Ms Aizhan Salimzhanova , Lecturer, Kazakh-British Technical University, Kazakhstan
12.35 – 12.40	<i>Discussant</i> Dr Ranjeeta Mishra , Project Consultant, ADBI
12.40 – 12.50	<i>2. Analysis of COVID-19 Pandemic's Impacts on Azerbaijan's Oil Industry: Policy Lessons in Hard Times</i> Dr Ulviyye Aydin , Assoc. Prof. Dr. Manisa Celal Bayar University, Department of Political Science and International Relations, Turkey
12.50 – 12.55	<i>Discussant</i> Dr Kamalbek Karymshakov , Economist, Chief Economist Group, CAREC Institute
12.55 – 13.05	<i>3. Impact of psychological distress due to COVID-19 risk on bank employees' performance: Moderating effect of e-banking services</i> Mr Waheed Ali , School of Economics and Finance, Xian Jiaotong University, China
13.05 – 13.10	<i>Discussant</i> Mr Khalid Umar , Chief of Strategic Planning Division, CAREC Institute



13.10 – 13.20	<p>4. <i>Converging Environmental Necessities and Energy Requirements: Producing Renewable Energy and Hydrogen for Economic Revitalization and Growth in the Post-COVID-19 Pandemic</i></p> <p>Dr Hooman Peimani, Affiliated Fellow, International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS) and Energy Programme Asia, Leiden University, the Netherlands</p>
13.20 – 13.25	<p><i>Discussant</i></p> <p>Mr Rovshan Mahmudov, Senior Capacity Building Specialist, CAREC Institute</p>
13.25 – 13.35	<p>5. Impact of COVID-19 on Small and Medium-sized enterprises in Central Asia: Coping Strategies, Government Responses and Policy Options.</p> <p>Dr Falendra Kumar Sudan, Professor of Economics, University of Jammu, Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir, India</p>
13.35 – 13.40	<p><i>Discussant</i></p> <p>Dr Ghulam Samad, Senior Research Specialist, CAREC Institute</p>
13.40 – 14.10	Q&A
Time (Beijing time) 14.10 – 14.50	Health break (40mins)

Special session: Research Partnership Dialogue
Chair: Mr Khalid Umar, Chief Strategic Planning Division, CAREC Institute

Purpose: The main purpose of this session is to present and discuss research and capacity building partnerships currently going on in the CAREC region and exchange on potential partnership perspectives.

Context:

This session focuses on following issues/activities: (i) presentation of concrete joint projects between CAREC Institute and partners, (ii) discussion of format, potential and perspectives on research and capacity building partnerships with CAREC countries and (iii) potential resource mobilization models for research for CI and partners.

The session involved CAREC Institute's partners from CAREC region and outside. The leading partners such as PIDE, WEF, UNICEF will be presenting new or on-going projects



to highlight the partnership mode, planned activities and outputs. The main expected outputs from this session are following:

1. Present on-going, planned, or future potential joint research activities, outputs, and partnership formats
2. Describe CAREC Institute's approach on research partnership approach under wider umbrella of CTTN partnership
3. Formulate potential sources and approaches on resource mobilization for supporting CI and partners research activities
4. Propose format, thematic areas, frequency, and modes of joint research with partners and CAREC Institute for coming 1-2 years

Time (Beijing time) 14.50 – 15.50	<p><i>Opening and setting the stage by chair (5 mins)</i></p> <p>1. Digital CAREC (8 mins) Dr Matthew Stephenson, Policy and Community Lead for International Trade and Investment, World Economic Forum</p> <p>2. WASH project (8 mins) Mr Dang Haipeng, Chief of Knowledge Management Division, CAREC Institute</p> <p>3. ADBI/CAREC Institute Joint Book on Infrastructure Development in Central Asia (8 mins) Dr Dina Azhgaliyeva, Research Fellow, ADBI</p> <p>4. PIDE/CI partnership on Debt and Financial Sustainability in the CAREC region (8 mins) Dr Durre Nayab, Head of Research, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics</p> <p>5. CAREC Institute's Partnership Matrix presentation (8 mins) Mr Shakhboz Akhmedov, Senior Research Fellow, Knowledge and Research Networking, CAREC Institute (8 mins)</p>
Time (Beijing time) 15.50 – 16.00	Short break (10 mins)

PANEL DISCUSSION & CLOSING SESSION

Chair: Dr Iskandar Abdullaev, Deputy Director Two, CAREC Institute



Theme: Outlook for Research in the CAREC Region in a Post-COVID-19 period

Purpose: The main purpose of this panel discussion is to outline long-term research outlook by identifying priority research areas for the future in the CAREC region to promote impactful regional policy implementation grounded in research.

Context

COVID-19 have affected all aspects of the life and development. The CAREC Institute acts as a knowledge connector among the five CAREC themes – economic and financial stability; trade, tourism, and economic corridors; infrastructure and economic connectivity; agriculture and water; human development – to ensure coherence in design and implementation of policies, programs, and projects to promote regional economic cooperation and integration. Immediate focus of the most countries in the region will be economic recovery and development. Therefore, CAREC countries are expecting the evidence -based, policy relevant and innovative ways to tackle them.

Panelists will be invited to discuss and focus on following aspects:

1. **Report** the conference main findings, results, and outcomes, including the session reports, based on observations if any;
2. **Explore** ideas on research niches, intervention and focus areas of research for post COVID-19 period;
3. **Debate** on format and research approaches for CAREC Institute;

The discussion will be moderated through the following **guiding questions** to the panellists:

1. What do you regard as the 5 most pressing research questions for the CAREC region in the Post-COVID-19 period where the participants of the conference could contribute?
2. What ways can you see for the participants of the conference to help CAREC region think-tanks and academia to make their research more visible?
3. Currently the CAREC Institute is mainly engaged in ADB TA based research activities. Should the Institute stick to this area or diversify. What areas and types of research you could think of that CI could or should carry out?



<p>Time (Beijing time) 16.00 – 17.00</p>	<p>PANEL DISCUSSION: Outlook for Research in the CAREC Region in a Post-COVID-19 period</p> <p>Ms Lyaziza Sabyrova, Principal Regional Economist, ADB Dr Peter Morgan, Vice-Chair for Research, ADBI Dr Hans Holzacker, Chief Economist, CAREC Institute Dr Vaqar Ahmed, Joint Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Pakistan</p>
<p>Time (Beijing time) 17.00 – 17.30</p>	<p>CLOSING SESSION</p> <p>1. Report of the conference and future perspectives Dr Qaisar Abbas, Chief of Research Division, CAREC Institute</p> <p>2. Closing Remarks Mr Syed Shakeel Shah, Director, CAREC Institute</p>