



## **Digital CAREC Virtual Policy Dialogue: Analysis of the Regional Digital Gap**

**Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Institute  
Islamic Development Bank  
Asian Development Bank Institute**

**23 February 2022  
14:50 – 17:00 (Beijing time)**

### **Agenda**

**14:50-15:00** Virtual Connection to the Dialogue and Webinar Rules  
**Gary Huang**, E-Learning Specialist, CAREC Institute

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### **15:00-15:15 Opening Remarks**

**Syed Shakeel Shah**, Director, CAREC Institute

**Saad Paracha**, Unit Head, CAREC, ADB

**Ibrahim Shoukry**, Head, Regional Hub of Almaty, IsDB

**Group Photo**

**Moderator:** **Rovshan Mahmudov**, Senior Capacity Building Specialist, CAREC Institute

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### **Session 1: Analysis of the Regional Digital Gap**

**15:15-15:25** **Tofiq Babayev**, Director of R.I.T.A., Legal and Financial NCP Horizon 2020 in Azerbaijan

**Introduction and Country Profiles of Digital Development in the CAREC Region**

**15:25-15:35** **Asif Razzaq**, Dalian University of Technology, PR of China

**Methodologies and Outcomes of Gap Analysis**

**15:35-15:45** **Qaisar Abbas**, Chief of Research Division, CAREC Institute

**Policy Recommendations and Future Directions**

**15:45-15:55**     **Q&A**

**Moderator:**     **Shaharyar Jawaid**, Senior ICT Specialist, IsDB

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**Session 2:**     **Policy Dialogue and Exchange of Views on Digitalization in the CAREC Region**

**15:55-16:50**     This is an open dialogue session with leading international experts from key implementing partner organizations. Each expert will be given 5-7 minutes to address the following guiding questions and engage in open dialogue with other experts, and participants.

- 1. What is digital transformation and how does it impact the economy, especially in light of the COVID-19 crisis?*
- 2. What are the key challenges of digital transformation and recommendations to policymakers in terms of ways to bridge the digital divide for a post-COVID era?*
- 3. What is the role of development partners on worldwide digitalization, especially in the CAREC region?*

**Distinguished Discussants:**

- **Aimee Hampel-Milagrosa**, Economist, ERCD, ADB
- **Hans Holzhacker**, Chief Economist, CAREC Institute
- **Kadir Basboga**, Senior Regional Integration Economist, IsDB
- **Linda Faustina Arthur**, Senior Capacity Building and Training Specialist, ADBI
- **Naoyuki Yoshino**, Professor Emeritus, Keio University, Tokyo, Japan
- **Paul Lam**, CFA, FRSA, AIIB
- **Soo Hyun Kim**, Economic Affairs Officer, UNESCAP (pre-recorded)
- **Fanil Kadirov**, Deputy Director, International Institute of Central Asia

**Moderator:**     **Iskandar Abdullaev**, Deputy Director, CAREC Institute

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**16:50-17:00**     **Closing Remarks**

**Riad Ragueb**, Acting Director of the RCI Department, IsDB

**Iskandar Abdullaev**, Deputy Director, CAREC Institute