





CAREC Institute Dialogue
On
Sustainable Water Governance and Management in Central Asia in
Times of Growing Climate Uncertainty

Biographies of Speakers (Alphabetical order)

Event | 10 February 2022 Online

	<i>Last Name</i>	Abdullaev	<i>First Name</i>	Iskandar
	<i>Institution</i>	Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Institute		
	<i>Position</i>	Deputy Director		
Short Bio				
<p>Dr. Iskandar Abdullaev holds MSc and PhD degrees from Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agriculture Mechanization Engineers (TIAME), Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Part of his PhD work Dr. Abdullaev conducted at Iowa State University (ISU), Iowa, USA. Dr. Abdullaev have intensive training and education programmes in Israel (1996-1997), USA (1999) and the Netherlands, (2000), Switzerland (2002). Dr. Iskandar Abdullaev has over 25 years of experience in water management, water institutions, environmental activities in Afghanistan and five Central Asian countries. Dr. Iskandar Abdullaev joined Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Institute as Deputy Director in June 2019. From 2013-2019 Dr. Abdullaev worked as an Executive Director of Regional Environmental Center (CAREC) for Central Asia. Prior joining of CAREC in 2009-2013, Dr. Abdullaev worked as Regional advisor for Germany's Berlin Initiative- Transboundary Water Management in Central Asia (Programme) at the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ). During 2007-2009, he worked in position of Senior Researcher at ZEF Centre for Development Research University of Bonn (Germany) and conducted research in Central Asia and Afghanistan. During 2001-2007, Dr. Abdullaev worked as a regional researcher at International Water Management Institute (Headquarters in Sri Lanka). His research focus included Central Asia, Iran, Pakistan, Thailand and Sri-Lanka. Dr. Abdullaev very well linked with research, scientific societies of the region and worldwide. He is member of International Water Resources Association (IWRA), member of editorial boards of few internationally peer reviewed journals.</p>				

	<i>Last Name</i>	Bonvin	<i>First Name</i>	Guy
	<i>Institution</i>	Swiss Development Agency for Development and Cooperation Federal Department of Foreign Affairs		
	<i>Position</i>	Special Envoy for Water in Central Asia Ambassador		


Short Bio

H.E. Dr Guy Bonvin has been appointed as Swiss Special Envoy for Water in Central Asia as of March 1st, 2019. Blue Peace Central Asia, the Swiss water diplomacy initiative, is at the heart of its mandate.

Dr Guy Bonvin was previously head of the Infrastructure Financing Division of the Economic Cooperation and Development of the Swiss State Secretariat of Economic Affairs Department for the past seven years. In this position, he held operational and strategic responsibilities in the areas of urban water and sanitation, renewable energy and energy efficiency, sustainable urban development and mobility.

Dr Bonvin holds a PhD from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne, which he obtained in 1992. He draws on more than two decades of professional experience in sustainable development and management of water and energy resources. This includes four years in the hydropower industry. His tasks included operational management of international business, as well as infrastructure financing, strategy and policy-making.

With his experience in the industrial, diplomatic and humanitarian fields, Dr Bonvin has built a broad vision of the water-energy-food nexus, of its stakeholders, of economic and strategic challenges on the path of sustainable economic development and stability. His assignments included operations in Central and Eastern Europe, Middle East, Caucasus, Central Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

	<i>Last Name</i>	Krasznai	<i>First Name</i>	Márton
	<i>Institution</i>	Center for Central Asia Research, Corvinus University Budapest		
	<i>Position</i>	Scientific Director		


Short Bio

The Center for Central Asia Research of Corvinus University under his direction conducts research on strategic challenges of the region, including water and energy, relations with

Afghanistan, the Central - South Asia trade and energy corridor, as well as the historic evolution of institutions of the five countries.

As Inter-Regional Adviser of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe he was in charge of the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia and the project on institutional and legal strengthening of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea.

As the Director of the Conflict Prevention Center of the OSCE he dealt with conflicts in the former Yugoslavia and the former Soviet space. During his 20 year career in the Hungarian foreign service he was Chairman of the Permanent council of the OSCE, Ambassador to the OSCE and Director-General for Security Policy and European Cooperation. As a fluent Mandarin speaker he was posted in Beijing, China and worked in the Asia Department of the MFA. He graduated from the Moscow Institute of International Relations.

	<i>Last Name</i>	Maass	<i>First Name</i>	Malte
	<i>Institution</i>	Asian Development Bank		
	<i>Position</i>	Climate Change Specialist		


Short Bio

Mr. Malte Maass is a Climate Change Specialist at the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Central and West Asia Department where he is working on mainstreaming climate change aspects in strategies and operations. He also worked on ADB's NDC support facility, NDC Advance which supports member countries with the translation of their climate commitments into investment opportunities.


Before joining ADB Malte worked for the German development cooperation (GIZ) as a policy advisor for climate change in different projects in Myanmar and Germany. Prior to this he worked with NGOs and foundations in Botswana as well as for a renewable energy provider in Germany. He holds a master's degree in Environment and Development from the London School of Economics.

	<i>Last Name</i>	Nikolayenko	<i>First Name</i>	Alexandr
	<i>Institution</i>	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH		
	<i>Position</i>	Senior Regional Adviser		

Short Bio
<p>He has more than 20 years of experience in the development and implementation of international projects in the field of environmental management and water resources in Central Asia. In recent years, he has been a regional adviser to the GIZ Program "Transboundary Water Resources Management", and since 2020 the Program "Green Central Asia".</p>

	<i>Last Name</i>	Paracha	<i>First Name</i>	Saad
	<i>Institution</i>	Asian Development Bank		
	<i>Position</i>	Head, CAREC Unit		

Short Bio
<p>Mr. Saad Paracha supports regional cooperation initiatives and project cofinancing as part of Asian Development Bank's operations in Central and West Asia Department covering Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. He is working as Unit Head, Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) program since February 2020.</p> <p>Mr. Paracha has been working for ADB in various capacities since 2008. He worked for the Office of Cofinancing managing relationships with several bilateral and multilateral agencies supporting projects throughout Asia. In his previous roles, he has prepared and managed multi-million-dollar projects in various sectors and supported country strategy and programming work. He has remained part of ADB's regional cooperation initiatives and possesses good understanding of issues and opportunities in transport, energy, and trade sectors in Asia.</p> <p>Prior to joining ADB, he worked for five years with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) managing a portfolio of around \$100 million focusing on governance and economic growth. He started his career with the Government of Pakistan where he held various positions in the Ministries of Finance, Economic Affairs, and Industries with a focus on policies and strategies relating to development finance and aid programming.</p> <p>Saad Paracha, a national of Pakistan, has been selected as Chevening Fellow by UK's Foreign & Commonwealth Office, International Policy Fellow by the Open Society Foundations in Hungary and Democracy and Development Fellow by the Stanford University, USA. He holds M.A. in Public Administration from Pakistan and Post-graduate Diploma in Development Studies from Japan.</p>

	<i>Last Name</i>	Pohl	<i>First Name</i>	Benjamin
	<i>Institution</i>	adelphi		
	<i>Position</i>	Head of Programme Climate Diplomacy & Security		

Short Bio

Dr. Benjamin Pohl is Head of Programme Climate Diplomacy and Security at adelphi. He works on better understanding and communicating what global environmental changes mean for foreign, security and development policy, and on addressing the resulting challenges. His work focuses on fragile contexts and transboundary water management challenges in regions such as Central Asia, the Sahel and the Horn of Africa. Prior to joining adelphi in 2013, he worked at the German Foreign Office and the universities of Leiden and Aberdeen.

	<i>Last Name</i>	Shah	<i>First Name</i>	Syed Shakeel
	<i>Institution</i>	Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Institute		
	<i>Position</i>	Director		

Short Bio

Mr. SYED SHAKEEL SHAH is the CAREC Institute Director. Prior to this, he was the Chief Reforms, Automation and Preferential Trade – Pakistan Customs – Federal Board of Revenue, Government of Pakistan. He has also served as the Joint Secretary, Economic Affairs, Prime Minister’s Office, Government of Pakistan. He has decades of experience working in the civil service system of the Government of Pakistan. He holds two master’s degrees: 1) in Advanced Studies in International Trade Law and Economics (MILE) from World Trade Institute – Bern – Switzerland, and 2) in International Relations from Quaid-e-Azam University – Islamabad -Pakistan. His areas of expertise include WTO law (Dispute Resolution, SPS, TRIPS/ TRIMS Agreements, Doha Round), Micro and Macroeconomics, Trade (International, Regional and Preferential), Economic Corridors, Customs laws, Reforms and Automation including Single Windows for Trade, Ease of doing business in Trading Across Border indicator, and Trade Facilitation Agreement of WTO.

	<i>Last Name</i>	Strikeleva	<i>First Name</i>	Ekaterina
	<i>Institution</i>	USAID Regional Water and Vulnerable Environment Activity		
	<i>Position</i>	Chief of Party		

Short Bio

Mrs. Ekaterina Strikeleva, Master of Physical Geography, Chief of Party at USAID Regional Water and Vulnerable Environment Activity. She has over 18 years of experience in management and implementation of environmental and water programs in Central Asian region.

From 2010 to 2020 worked at the Central Asian Regional Environmental Centre (CAREC) as a manager of the Water Initiatives Support Program. She managed a project portfolio of over 10 regional projects for a wide variety of donors including USAID, EU, Norway, GIZ, UNECE. The regional projects were focused on integrated water resources management, basin planning, ecosystem services, nexus approach for water, food and energy, sustainable water management and stakeholders' engagement in Central Asia, water quality and WASH.

She developed several regional and national reports, handbooks on basin planning and basin councils for the Central Asian region and Afghanistan and different training modules.

From 2021 she started working at the TertaTech ARD as a Capacity building and Educational Lead for the USAID Regional Water and Vulnerable Environment Activity and from December 2021 as a Chief of Party of the Activity.

	<i>Last Name</i>	Yoshida	<i>First Name</i>	Kazuhiro
	<i>Institution</i>	Asian Development Bank		
	<i>Position</i>	Senior Water Resources Specialist		

Short Bio

Mr. Kazuhiro Yoshida is the Senior Water Resources Specialist of the Asian Development Bank. He joined the Bank in 2020. He is the focal person of water pillar of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Program and the officer of water resources and irrigation projects in Tajikistan, Kyrgyz Republic and Pakistan. He worked at the World Bank for 8 years, leading regional assistance program on irrigation modernization in Central Asia and water resources and irrigation projects in Uzbekistan and India as major ones, after

working at JICA for 16 years, including the head of the section in the local office in Afghanistan where he coordinated the agriculture and rural development portfolio. He holds the master's degrees in Agricultural Engineering from Kyoto University, Japan, and Rural Development from Sussex University, UK.

	<i>Last Name</i>	Ziganshina	<i>First Name</i>	Dinara
	<i>Institution</i>	SIC ICWC in Central Asia		
	<i>Position</i>	Acting Director		

Short Bio

Dinara Ziganshina is Acting director at the Scientific Information Centre of Interstate Commission for Water Coordination (SIC ICWC) in Central Asia, a regional organisation that contributes to fostering transboundary water cooperation in the region through data, information and knowledge development and dissemination. In addition to her position at SIC ICWC, she also an Associate Professor at the Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers and a vice chair of the Implementation Committee under the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.

Dr. Ziganshina has about 20 years' experience working as a legal and policy expert in water resources management at national and transboundary levels and managing and coordinating regional projects in multi-stakeholder environments.