




## 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

# Biographies of Speakers (Alphabetical order)

Event | 23 February 2022 Online


	<i>Last Name</i>	<b>Abdullaev</b>	<i>First Name</i>	Iskandar
	<i>Institution</i>	Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Institute		
	<i>Position</i>	Deputy Director		

### Short Bio

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.

	<i>Last Name</i>	<b>Abbas</b>	<i>First Name</i>	Qaisar
	<i>Institution</i>	Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Institute		
	<i>Position</i>	Chief of Research Division		

#### Short Bio

Dr. Abbas acquired the Ph.D. degree in Human Resource Development from the Nankai University Tianjin, the PRC, in May 2000. He performed a post-doctoral research at Cardiff Business School (UK) in September 2007. He also holds M.Sc. and M. Phil. in Economics from Quaid-i-Azam University of Islamabad. He has worked as Dean of the faculty of Business Administration at Comsats University Islamabad (CUI) and Director of CUI Lahore campus. Over the years, he has assumed various responsibilities at CUI, including Provost, Convener of Campus Selection Committee, Convener Board of Studies of Management Sciences, and Convener Board of Faculties of Business Administration and Board Member of Governor CUI in Pakistan.

Dr. Abbas has produced numerous research outputs including 38 publications in national and international journals, nine conference proceedings, and seven conference presentations. Dr. Abbas has also completed two research projects funded by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan and CUI. Five students have completed their Ph.D. works under his supervision. He was instrumental in launching an international research journal "South Asian Journal of Global Business Research" published by Emerald Publications. He has been actively involved in organizing a number of international workshops/seminars/conferences/forums.


	<i>Last Name</i>	<b>Arthur</b>	<i>First Name</i>	Linda Faustina
	<i>Institution</i>	Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI)		
	<i>Position</i>	Senior Capacity Building and Training Specialist		

#### Short Bio

Ms. Arthur's areas of specialization include comparative policy analysis, education policy reform, project evaluation, and portfolio management.

Prior to joining ADBI, she worked in the Asian Development Bank's South Asia, Central and West Asia, and Independent Evaluation departments as well as ADB's country offices in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

She holds a BA and MA from the University of Toronto, and a DPhil from the University of Oxford.

	<i>Last Name</i>	<b>Babayev</b>	<i>First Name</i>	Tofig
	<i>Institution</i>	Regional Innovative Technologies Academy		
	<i>Position</i>	Director		

#### Short Bio

Mr. Tofig Babayev is the Director of the Regional Innovative Technologies Academy (R.I.T.A.); Head of International Relations and Innovation Department at the Institute of Control Systems of Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences; the chief of the eCommerce Working Group of the EU4Digital project in EaP countries. He was the national coordinator of 12 ICT-related EC-funded projects. He was directly involved a national expert and study coordinator in the Study on the Harmonization of the Digital Markets (HDM) in the Eastern Partnership (EaP), topics: eTrade, eLogistics and Digital Transport Corridors” (2017), Study on monitoring the DESI (Digital Economy and Society Index) in the Eastern European partner countries, Expert for Azerbaijan (2018), EU4Digital: supporting digital economy and society in the Eastern Partnership (2020).

Research profile:

<https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=6R4DrtMAAAAJ>


Email: [tbabayev@bk.ru](mailto:tbabayev@bk.ru) [tofig.babayev@gmail.com](mailto:tofig.babayev@gmail.com)

	<i>Last Name</i>	<b>Basboga</b>	<i>First Name</i>	Kadir
	<i>Institution</i>	Islamic Development Bank		
	<i>Position</i>	Senior Regional Integration Economist		

#### Short Bio

Mr. Kadir Basboga is Senior Regional Integration Economist at the Islamic Development Bank. He has over 15 years of experience in international development, regional planning, and local economic development. He holds a master's degree in public administration from


the Cornell Institute for Public Affairs (CIPA), and Ph.D. in regional planning from Cornell University. His Ph.D. research focuses on the planning aspects of cross-border cooperation and regional economic integration by analyzing the European Union example. He previously studied the role of small enterprises and entrepreneurship in regional development. He has published papers in peer-reviewed academic journals.

	<i>Last Name</i>	<b>Hampel-Milagrosa</b>	<i>First Name</i>	Aimee
	<i>Institution</i>	Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department, ADB		
	<i>Position</i>	Economist		

**Short Bio**

Ms. Aimee Hampel-Milagrosa is an Economist at the Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department (ERCD) of the Asian Development Bank. She conducts research on ecosystem and growth of tech startups while leading the economic analysis reviews of urban development, water supply, and tourism investment projects of the Bank. Prior to joining ADB, she was Senior Researcher at the German Development Institute in Bonn specializing on issues related to private sector development, investment climate and economic empowerment of women.

She has worked at the University of Bonn and was visiting fellow at the FAO in Rome and Cornell University in Ithaca. Aimee holds a PhD from Wageningen University in the Netherlands and an M.Sc. (cum laude) from University of Gent (Belgium) and BSc in Agricultural Economics from the University of the Philippines at Los Baños (Philippines).


	<i>Last Name</i>	<b>Holzacker</b>	<i>First Name</i>	Hans
	<i>Institution</i>	Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Institute		
	<i>Position</i>	Chief Economist		

**Short Bio**

For two years before joining the CAREC Institute, Hans was Lead Economist for Central Asia with the EBRD, based in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Hans has 30 years of experience as an Economist focusing on transition economies. He was Chief Economist at Golomt Bank in Mongolia and of ATFBank in Kazakhstan. He was also teaching at the Turan and Narxoz universities in Almaty. Earlier, he was a Vienna-based Senior Economist focused on Russia and Ukraine for Bank Austria, a member of UniCredit group, and was also in charge of CEE

country rating. Hans was Senior Economist covering the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Ukraine at the Institute of International Finance in Washington, DC, during 1999-2001, Head of Country Risk/Research at GiroCredit Research, Investmentbank Austria during 1993-99, and Central European Economist at Nomura Research Institute during 1989-93.

Dr. Hans holds a Ph.D. in Sociology and a MA in Economics from the University of Vienna. He completed a postgraduate scholarship in the Economics Department of the Institute for Advanced Studies in Vienna.

	<i>Last Name</i>	<b>Jawaid</b>	<i>First Name</i>	Shaharyar
	<i>Institution</i>	Islamic Development Bank		
	<i>Position</i>	Senior ICT Specialist		

#### Short Bio

Mr. Shaharyar Jawaid is a Global Technology for Development Expert and has over 13 years of professional experience and learning in International Development, IT/Telco industry, Investment Advisory, International Public Speaking and successfully leading, developing, and managing programs in over 20 countries across 5 continents.


Mr. Jawaid started his professional career at Vodafone Group Services in Newbury, UK at Vodafone HQ in 2008 where he served as a Data Analyst. He has also served at the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), Jeddah, KSA at various positions with the current being Senior ICT Specialist. He has been responsible for managing numerous infrastructure projects relating to telecommunication systems, fibre optic cables, submarine cables, e-government applications along with electricity transmission & distribution systems in various member countries of the Bank.

Mr. Jawaid has tertiary qualifications in Computer Engineering, postgraduate in Telecommunications (QMUL, UK) and certified Project Manager (PRINCE2 Practitioner). He has also attended various executive development programs at the Australian Graduate School of Management (AGSM), London Business School (UK), and Directors Training Program at LUMS (Pakistan).

	<i>Last Name</i>	<b>Kadirov</b>	<i>First Name</i>	Fanil
	<i>Institution</i>	The International Institute for Central Asia		
	<i>Position</i>	Deputy Director		

#### Short Bio

Mr. Fanil Kadirov has 30 years of work experience in economics, trade, investment, development issues at the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations of the Republic of Uzbekistan. He has worked at the secretariat of the Integration Committee of the Eurasian Economic Community, Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Institute for Strategic and Interregional Studies under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. He is currently the Deputy Director of the International Institute for Central Asia (IICA). Mr. Kadirov has extensive work in economic and humanitarian research issues in Central Asia.


	<i>Last Name</i>	<b>Kim</b>	<i>First Name</i>	Soo Hyun
	<i>Institution</i>	United Nations ESCAP		
	<i>Position</i>	Economic Affairs Officer		

#### Short Bio

Ms. Soo Hyun Kim is Economic Affairs Officer, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, United Nations ESCAP. She is currently managing capacity building projects on cross-border paperless trade and trade facilitation in the age of pandemics; and supporting the implementation of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific. Previously she worked in the Investment and Enterprise Development Section with research focus on foreign direct investment (FDI) and investment regimes and their impact on sustainable development.

She also worked to promote public-private sector dialogue by organizing the Asia-Pacific Business Forum (APBF) and supporting the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESBN). Prior to this, she worked at the United Nations Secretariat in New York; local government (United Kingdom); and higher education institution (United Kingdom). She holds master's degrees in business administration (specialisation in financial management) from TiasNimbas Business School (Netherlands) and library and information science from Loughborough University (United Kingdom). Email: [kim51@un.org](mailto:kim51@un.org)




	<i>Last Name</i>	<b>Lam</b>	<i>First Name</i>	Paul
	<i>Institution</i>	Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank		
	<i>Position</i>	CFA, FRSA		

#### Short Bio

Paul Lam, CFA, FRSA, joined AIIB in 2018, first as Young Professional, Investment Officer and then Strategy Officer. He has developed and is responsible for executing the Digital Infrastructure Strategy and thematic priority of Technology-enabled Infrastructure, which guides AIIB's engagements and investments in technology and its applications in infrastructure sectors ("Infra-tech"). Paul is responsible for AIIB's Infra-tech initiatives, which build conducive ecosystems, create insights, interconnect stakeholders, and finance development and applications of Infra-tech.

He has various investment and corporate venturing experiences in technology, digital infrastructure, and capital markets. Paul has worked with UBS AG, International Finance Corporation, and CDC plc before AIIB.

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


#### Short Bio

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.

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. 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. 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.

	<i>Last Name</i>	<b>Ragueb</b>	<i>First Name</i>	Riad
	<i>Institution</i>	Regional Cooperation and Integration Department, Islamic Development Bank		
	<i>Position</i>	Acting Director		

Short Bio

Mr. Riad Ragueb is the Acting Director of the Regional Cooperation and Integration Department at the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), headquartered in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He currently oversees various Regional Integration and South-South Cooperation programs, including Reverse Linkage which is a technical cooperation mechanism introduced by the Bank to facilitate South-South and Triangular Cooperation and knowledge exchange amongst IsDB member countries. He joined IsDB as a Young Professional in 2000, and served in different positions, including Operations Officer in the Office of the Vice President (Operations); Senior Operations Officer in the Technical Cooperation Office; and Manager of Science & Technology and Technical Cooperation Division. Prior to joining the Bank, he worked as a Program Officer at the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in his home country, Djibouti, for almost three years. He holds a Master's Degree in Development Economics from Paris Sorbonne University.

	<i>Last Name</i>	<b>Razzaq</b>	<i>First Name</i>	Asif
	<i>Institution</i>	Dalian University of Technology, PRC		
	<i>Position</i>	PhD researcher in Economics		


Short Bio



Mr. Asif Razzaq is a PhD researcher in Economics at Dalian University of Technology, PR. China. He possesses about ten years of banking and research experience and has been involved mainly in the area of SME trade/commercial financing and empirical research on technology innovation, technology gap, FDI, tourism, and sustainable development. Besides, he is serving as a research fellow at ILMA University, Pakistan. He is also working as an international consultant with CAREC Institute. He published more than 35 research papers in reputed SSCI/SCI/ABS journals with 170+ impact factor. His publications on “Technology, FDI, Covid-19” declared as high cited research globally by Web of Science. His profile can be viewed from the below link:


<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=mtLnNzcAAAAJ&hl=nl&oi=ao>

Email: [asifrazzaq@mail.dlut.edu.cn](mailto:asifrazzaq@mail.dlut.edu.cn) & [asifrazzaq@yahoo.com](mailto:asifrazzaq@yahoo.com)

	<i>Last Name</i>	<b>Shah</b>	<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>	<b>Shoukry</b>	<i>First Name</i>	Ibrahim Ali
	<i>Institution</i>	Islamic Development Bank		
	<i>Position</i>	Head of Regional Hub Almaty		

### Short Bio


Mr. Ibrahim Shoukry is the Head for the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Regional Hub Kazakhstan overseeing the IsDB intervention in the region including public and private sector with over \$2.4 billion of active portfolio. This is his second field assignment after serving in Indonesia for 5 years covering southeast Asia region

Formerly he was director at the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD), the private sector financing arm of the Islamic Development Bank Group leading the Financial Institutions Development in the organization and managing a \$400 million portfolio diversified in equity investments in banks and Leasing finance companies in addition to Lines of Financing provided to support SMEs in ICD's member countries.

Prior to this, he was leading the direct financing and investment operations for over 3 years during which he concluded over \$300 million worth of project finance, corporate finance and investments in the real sector in ICD member countries.

Mr. Shoukry holds MBA in Banking and Finance from Maastricht School of Management, holds a certificate in Company Direction from the Institute of Directors, a current and former board member in a number of companies in different sectors and has over 28 years of experience in the banking, financing, and advisory related services.

Prior to joining the Islamic Development Bank Group, he worked at KPMG Egypt as a senior manager heading the corporate finance and advisory functions for the country's top blue-chips in different sectors.

	<i>Last Name</i>	<b>Yoshino</b>	<i>First Name</i>	Naoyuki
	<i>Institution</i>	Keio University		
	<i>Position</i>	Professor Emeritus		

### Short Bio

Dr. Naoyuki Yoshino is Professor Emeritus at Keio University (Economics), Tokyo, Japan and until March 2020 was Dean/CEO of the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI). He obtained his PhD from Johns Hopkins University under supervision of Sir Alan Walters who was an economic advisor to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of UK. He received honorary doctorates from University of Goteborg (Sweden) and Martin Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg (Germany). Dr. Yoshino has been a visiting scholar at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (United States) and a visiting professor at various universities including the University of New South Wales (Australia), Fondation Nationale des Sciences Politiques (France), and University of Gothenburg (Sweden). He has also been an assistant professor at the State University of New York at Buffalo and an economics professor at Keio University (1990-2014). Dr. Yoshino's professional career includes membership in numerous government committees. He was appointed as Chair of the Financial Planning

Standards Board in 2007. He has served as Chairperson of the Japanese Ministry of Finance's Council on Foreign Exchange as well as its Fiscal System Council (Fiscal Investment and Loan Program Section). Additionally, he has been a Board Member of the Deposit Insurance Corporation of Japan and President of the Financial System Council of the Government of Japan. He was named Director of the Japan Financial Services Agency's (FSA) Financial Research Center (FSA Institute) in 2020 and is currently an Adjunct Professor at GRIPS and visiting Lecturer at University of Tokyo.

Email: [yoshino@econ.keio.ac.jp](mailto:yoshino@econ.keio.ac.jp)