



Jointly Organized by:

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

**CAREC Chai 3: “Understanding the Drivers of Poverty in Afghanistan”.**

Webinar


7 June 2022

14:50 – 16:30 (Beijing time)

**Biographies of Speakers**

**Opening Remark**

	<i>Last Name</i>	Sabyrova	<i>First Name</i>	Lyaziza
	<i>Institution</i>	Asian Development Bank		
	<i>Position</i>	Director, Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination Division (CWRC)		
<b>Short Bio</b>				
<p>Mrs. Lyaziza Sabyrova is a Director, Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination Division (CWRC), ADB. After obtaining her PhD degree in Economics from Indiana University (Bloomington, IN, USA), she joined ADB in 2000, and worked on infrastructure projects in the People’s Republic of China, as well as in the Central Asian and South Caucasus countries. She was also posted in ADB’s Resident Mission in the Kyrgyz Republic and led the preparation of the Joint Country Support Strategy for the Kyrgyz Republic from the ADB side (together with DFID, the Swiss Development Agency, the World Bank, and UN Agencies). From 2008–2011, she was on a special leave from the ADB, during which she co-founded an independent economic think tank in Kazakhstan, the RAKURS Center for Economic Analysis. She led the work on ADB’s Country Partnership Strategies for several Central Asian and South Caucasus countries. She was also involved in the Department’s Knowledge Management and analytical work.</p>				

	<i>Last Name</i>	<b>Shah</b>	<i>First Name</i>	<b>Syed Shakeel</b>
	<i>Institution</i>	The 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. Mr. Shah is a career civil servant under the Pakistan’s Customs Service with extensive experience in public policy, international trade, and regional cooperation, spanning over two decades. He played a leading role in a collaborative engagement with the World Bank in developing the reform vision and a plan for Pakistan Customs through a Technical Assistance funded by the Trust Fund for Accelerated Growth in Revenue.

Being a focal person for the World Bank’s Ease of Doing Business report, he has led reforms in Pakistani Customs to enhance efficiency and reduce cost and time of border compliance. In another governmental capacity, he has contributed to negotiations regarding Free and Preferential Trade Agreements with Turkey, Thailand, and the PRC. Mr. Shah coordinated complex assignments across the government, private sector, and development partners as the Head of Economic Affairs Wing in the Prime Minister’s Office, including activities pertaining to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, Prime Minister’s Delivery Unit and the Youth Development Program. He also served as a Community Welfare Attaché at the Consulate General of Pakistan in Barcelona (Spain).

Mr. Shah holds MA in International Trade Law and Economics from the World Trade Institute, Bern (Switzerland), and MSc in International Relations from Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad (Pakistan).

## Moderator

	<i>Last Name</i>	<b>Ayoobi</b>	<i>First Name</i>	<b>Eisa Khan Ayoob</b>
	<i>Institution</i>	The Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Institute		
	<i>Position</i>	Chief of Capacity Building Division		

**Short Bio**


Ayoob Ayoobi is a former Fulbright Scholar and Oxbridge Fellow at Stanford and Georgetown University, respectively. He holds a PhD in Government and Public Policy, an LLM in

International Human Rights/Economics Laws and a combined BA degree in Economics and International Relations.


Dr. Ayoobi brings nearly two decades of experience in andragogy and capacity building with stints in civil society, private sector, and government. He is the author of several legal textbooks pertaining to constitutional law, human rights, and criminal law of Afghanistan, some of which are adopted as integral part of the country’s higher education – national law school curricula. He has developed various capacity development and life and work skills programs and trained academics, leading civil society activists and senior government officials, including members of parliaments and chief judges.

Previously, Dr. Ayoobi was the Regional Cooperation Advisor for Afghanistan (through European Union) with the core responsibility of providing advice on strategic affairs of regional cooperation for Afghanistan and its foreign relations with immediate and far neighbors based on a set of confidence building measures (CBMs).

## Speakers (Alphabetical order)


	<i>Last Name</i>	<b>Al-Dardari</b>	<i>First Name</i>	<b>Abdallah</b>
	<i>Institution</i>	United Nations Development Program		
	<i>Position</i>	Resident Representative in Kabul, Afghanistan		
<b>Short Bio</b>				
<p>Mr. Al Dardari is a well-established change leader and reformer, who is focused on economic development and conflict related political economy in MENA and Asia. He is currently based in Kabul as the Resident Representative of UNDP Afghanistan, a position he has held since May 2019. Before joining UNDP Afghanistan, he served as Senior Advisor on Reconstruction at the World Bank MENA Vice Presidency, leading a large analytical program to design and pilot a new approach to reconstruction in MENA conflict countries. Prior to joining the World Bank, Al Dardari served as Deputy Executive Secretary and Chief Economist of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) based in Beirut, Lebanon. There he focused his work the political economy of the Arab Spring and the imperatives of peaceful and durable post conflict social contract in the region.</p> <p>In his home country Syria, Al Dardari was dubbed ‘The Reform Engineer’ during his more than seven-year tenure as Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs and Chair of the State Planning Commission. He led the transformational 10th Five Year Development Plan and the Economic Reform Program 2005-2010. Al Dardari resigned from his post at the start of the Syrian conflict in March 2011.</p> <p>Al Dardari studied economics and international relations at Richmond College, the University of Southern California, and at the London School of Economics. Currently he is a Post-Doctoral research fellow at IUAV Architecture University in Venice, Italy, working on the political economy</p>				

of urban reconstruction in conflict countries. Al Dardari boasts a wide collection of published studies, lectures and research in Arabic, Syrian and global publications on development, investment, trade and the environment.

	<i>Last Name</i>	<b>Andrysiak</b>	<i>First Name</i>	<b>Artur</b>
	<i>Institution</i>	Asian Development Bank		
	<i>Position</i>	Deputy Country Director, Afghanistan Resident Mission, Central and West Asia Department		

**Short Bio**


Mr. Artur leads and advises the Pacific Department on implementing ADB's differentiated approach to engaging with fragile and conflict-affected situations (FCAS), and acts as the anchor point in ADB for FCAS operational issues in the Pacific. Artur has also worked in the Strategy, Policy and Review Department and Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department of ADB. He has over 19 years of professional experience. Prior to joining ADB 7 years ago, Artur worked with the United Nations, both in Geneva and Bangkok. Artur holds a master's degree in Management and Accounting from the Australian National University; and a Bachelor's degree in Economics and Finance from the Edith Cowan University in Australia.


	<i>Last Name</i>	<b>Joya</b>	<i>First Name</i>	<b>Omar</b>
	<i>Institution</i>	Biruni Institute		
	<i>Position</i>	Executive Director		


**Short Bio**

Mr. Omar Joya is a founding member and Executive Director of Biruni Institute, an economic policy think tank focused on Afghanistan. He is a former World Bank Country Economist (2013-2018) and has worked with various public and academic institutions in Kabul for more than a decade.

Omar Joya holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Bordeaux, France, and has published in peer-reviewed journals, including the European Economic Review. He is also currently a Researcher at the Bordeaux School of Economics.

	<i>Last Name</i>	<b>Holzacker</b>	<i>First Name</i>	<b>Hans</b>
	<i>Institution</i>	Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Institute		
	<i>Position</i>	Chief Economist		
<b>Short Bio</b>				
<p>Before joining the CAREC Institute, Mr. Hans was for two years 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. Hans was chief economist at Golomt Bank in Mongolia and of ATFBank in Kazakhstan. He was also teaching at the Turan the 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 from 1999-2001, Head of Country Risk/Research at Giro Credit Research, Investment bank Austria, from 1993-99, and Central European Economist at the Nomura Research Institute from 1989-93. 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.</p>				

	<i>Last Name</i>	<b>Shome</b>	<i>First Name</i>	<b>Saurabh</b>
	<i>Institution</i>	The Comparative Policy Design (ComPolDe) Consulting Company		
	<i>Position</i>	Founder		
<b>Short Bio</b>				
<p>Mr. Saurabh Shome is founder of Comparative Policy Design (ComPolDe), a consulting company that partners with Governments and Businesses to better design and understand policies for fostering broad-based growth and development. Saurabh worked as a macro-fiscal economist with the World Bank for over a decade serving in Washington DC, New Delhi and Kabul. Prior to joining the World Bank, he was an executive with JP Morgan Chase. He holds a dual master's degree in Economics and International Relations from Johns Hopkins University, USA.</p>				

	Last Name	<b>Zulu</b>	First Name	<b>Leonard</b>
	Institution	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)		
	Position	International human rights and refugee law specialist		
<b>Short Bio</b>				
<p>Leonard Zulu is an international human rights and refugee law specialist who has worked for UNHCR Headquarters and Field Operations for over two decades. Prior to his appointment in Afghanistan, Mr. Zulu was UNHCR Representative to South Africa covering nine countries in the region including Botswana, Comoros, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Namibia. He has held other senior positions with UNHCR including Deputy-Director for the Southern Africa Region, Head of Legal and Policy Unit for the African Bureau, in Geneva, Switzerland, Senior Legal Officer at UNHCR Representation for the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland and as a Senior Protection Coordinator for UNHCR in the Dadaab Refugee Camps in Kenya. Mr. Zulu has also worked in emergencies in Kosovo and Eritrea.</p> <p>Before joining UNHCR, Mr. Zulu worked as a lawyer at Honey and Blankenberg Legal Practitioners in his native Zimbabwe and has been a member of the Zimbabwe Bar Association since 1997. He has a Bachelor of Law Degree from the University of Zimbabwe and a master's in international law from Lund University, Sweden.</p>				