



THE SEVENTH CAREC THINK TANK DEVELOPMENT FORUM

16-17 August | Urumqi | XUAR, PRC

Embracing Digital Technology
for Sustainable Economic Development

Agenda Framework

The Seventh CAREC Think Tank Development Forum

Embracing Digital Technology for Sustainable Economic Development

16-17 August 2023 | Hilton Hotel | Urumqi, the PRC

15 August Tuesday	<p>Arrival of Participants Welcome Dinner @ Hongguang Shan Function Room – First Floor 20:00 – 21:30 Hosted by the CAREC Institute</p>
<p>Day One: 16 August, Wednesday Jiangshan Grand Ballroom A – Second Floor </p>	
09:30 -10:00	Registration
<p>Session I: Opening Ceremony</p>	
10:00 – 10:40	<p>Welcome Remarks by Mr. Kabir Jurazoda, Director, CAREC Institute (05 minutes)</p>
<p>Moderator Mr. Khalid Umar Chief, Strategic Planning Division, CAREC Institute</p>	<p>Opening Remarks by Mr. Shixin Chen, Vice President, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Manila, Philippines (5 minutes) (Recorded)</p>
	<p>Opening Address by Mr. Wencai Zhang, Vice President, the Export-Import Bank of China, the PRC (05 minutes)</p>
	<p>Keynote Address by Mr. Zhijun Cheng, Director-General, International Economic and Financial Cooperation Department, Ministry of Finance, the PRC (05 minutes)</p>
	<p>Keynote Address by Mr. Weijun Chen, Executive Vice Governor, Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) (07 minutes), the PRC</p>
	Group Photo (13 minutes)
<p>Session II: Context Setting</p>	
<p>Technology has significantly improved living standards and prosperity. More recently, with its innumerable modern-day manifestations, digital technology has played a crucial role in fostering sustainable economic development by enabling businesses to increase their productivity and efficiency while reducing their environmental footprints. Digital technology has enabled the development of new products and services that address environmental challenges, such as renewable energy, intelligent transportation systems, and sustainable agriculture. Further, the session will take stock of the CAREC region's readiness for digital adoption by reviewing the progress in formulating dedicated digital strategies, developing crucial infrastructure, and creating an investment-friendly business environment.</p>	



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In this moderated session, the speakers will make presentations (**20 minutes each**) on their respective topics, and the moderator will lead and facilitate the Discussion (**20 minutes**) by inviting questions, comments, and participant feedback.

<p>10:40 – 11:40</p> <p>Moderator Mr. Ayumi Konishi Senior Advisor to CEO, Multilateral Cooperation Center for Development Finance (MCDF), Beijing, the PRC</p>	<p>Analyzing the Role of Digital Technology in Spurring Sustainable Economic Growth (20 minutes) Speaker: Mr. Thomas Abell, Director, Digital Technology for Development Division, ADB (Virtually)</p> <p>Digital Strategies, Infrastructure, and Investment – CAREC Region's Readiness for Digital Adoption (20 minutes) Speaker: Mr. Talant Sultanov, Chair and Founder, the Center for Strategic Initiatives, Bishkek, the Kyrgyz Republic</p> <p>Open Discussion (20 minutes)</p>
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11:40 – 11:55 **Coffee @ Foyer of Jiangshan Grand Ballroom A (15 minutes)**

Session III: CTTN Research Grants Program (RGP) Presentations: Country Case Studies

This session will present four case studies, one from Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, and Uzbekistan, on topics how digital technology leverage sustainable development/growth in these countries. This Regional Report is produced under the CAREC Think Tank Network (CTTN) Research Grants Program (RGP) umbrella, aimed at fostering regional knowledge-sharing cooperation among member think tanks.

Each researcher/institution will present the case for **10 minutes**, followed by participants' feedback and open Discussion for **20 minutes**.

<p>11:55 – 12:55</p> <p>Moderator Mr. Roman Mogilevskii Senior Economist, CWRC, ADB, Manila, Philippines</p>	<p>Leveraging Digital Technology for Green, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth (10 minutes each)</p> <p>Kazakhstan Case Study Speaker: Ms. Albina Muratbekova, Senior Research Fellow, Eurasian Research Institute (ERI)</p> <p>Kyrgyz Republic Case Study Speaker: Dr. Burulcha Sulaimanova, Researcher, OSCE Academy</p>
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	<p>Pakistan Case Study Speaker: Mr. Asif Javed, Senior Research Associate, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI)</p> <p>Uzbekistan Case Study Speaker: Mr. Farrukh Khakimov, Head of Department on Foreign Policy and Security, Development Strategy Center (DSC)</p> <p>Open Discussion (20 minutes)</p>
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Session IV: Bridging Digital Divide and Boosting Digital Skills

The rapid pace of technological advancements has brought about new opportunities and challenges for the labor market. While technological adoption has increased productivity and efficiency, it has also widened the already wide-ranging digital divide among countries, regions, gender, income, and age groups, putting additional pressure on governments to design programs for bridging the digital gap, reskilling, and upskilling the workforce, particularly women workers. The implications for the labor market are significant, as many jobs are at risk of automation, and workers will need to acquire new skills to remain relevant in the job market.

The speakers will deliver presentations (**15 minutes each**) on session topics, followed by a moderated discussion (**25 minutes**), capturing comments and feedback, and inviting questions from the participants.

<p>12:55 – 14:00</p> <p>Moderator Mr. Artem Levenkov Head of Socioeconomic Analysis and IFIs, Eurasian Fund for Stabilization and Development (EFSD), Moscow, Russia</p>	<p>Technological Adoption, Inequalities, and Implications for Labor Market (15 minutes) Speaker: Dr. Xiaojun Feng, Associate Professor of Sociology, China Agricultural University, Beijing China</p> <p>Reskilling and Upskilling Women for Bridging Digital Divide in the CAREC Region (15 minutes) Speaker: Ms. Ana Pashalishvili, Programme Specialist, Women’s Entrepreneurship Acceleration, Europe & Central Asia Regional Office, UN Women, Istanbul, Türkiye (Virtually)</p> <p>Bridging the Quality of Education through Digital Technologies using the Flipped Classroom Approach (15 minutes) Speaker: Mr. Syed Hassan Alsagoff, Manager, Science, Technology & Innovation Cooperation & Capacity Development Dept, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), Jeddah, Saudi Arabia</p>
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	Open Discussion (20 minutes)
14:00 – 15:00	Lunch @ U Café – First Floor (01 hour)
Session V: RKSII South-South Learning Seminar: Digital Governance and Commerce	
<p>As businesses adopt digital marketing platforms for selling their products and services, the need for brick-and-mortar spaces diminishes. As more and more companies shift their operations online, it is crucial to establish a robust governance structure to ensure that online transactions are secure, fair, and transparent and that essential regulatory frameworks and policies are in place to protect consumers, build trust in digital commerce, prevent fraud, and promote healthy competition in the online marketplace. China's success story, led by Alibaba, offers numerous policy lessons for CAREC countries to emulate for promoting E-commerce. Moreover, two success stories from Mongolia and Pakistan on digital trade facilitation and optimizing digital governance reinforce the significance of south-south learning.</p> <p>In this session, two speakers will deliver presentations (15 minutes each) focusing on the role of government and the private sector in promoting E-commerce in China, followed by a presentation (15 minutes each) on Pakistan and Mongolia sharing their success stories.</p> <p>The moderator will lead and facilitate the Discussion (20 minutes) by inviting participants' comments, feedback, and questions.</p>	
<p>15:00- 16:20</p> <p>Moderator Mr. Hsiao Chink (Benzhe) Tang Head, ADB-PRC Regional Knowledge Sharing Initiative (RKSII), Asian Development Bank</p>	<p>China's E-commerce Success Story: Role of Government and Policy Implications for the CAREC Countries (15 minutes) Speaker: Dr. Sherry Tao Kong, Associate Professor, Peking University, Beijing, China</p> <p>Role of Private Sector in E-commerce: Learning from Alibaba's Success Story (15 minutes) Speaker: Mr. Remon Moes, Senior Manager Public Affairs, Alibaba</p> <p>TradeTech for Trade Facilitation and Regional Integration: Pakistan Single Window (PSW) Initiative (15 minutes) Speaker: Mr. Syed Shakeel Shah, Additional Secretary to the Prime Minister, Government of Pakistan</p> <p>Building Digital Nation through Optimization of Public Services in Mongolia (15 minutes)</p>



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	<p>Speaker: Ms. Enkhtulga Ganbat, Specialist of Cross-Sector Coordination, Ministry of Digital Development and Communication, Mongolia</p> <p>Open Discussion (20 minutes)</p>
16:20 – 16:40	Coffee @ Foyer of Jiangshan Grand Ballroom A (20 minutes)
<p>Session VI: Financial Inclusion and Digital Finance</p> <p>Financial inclusion refers to the provision of affordable and accessible financial services to people who are traditionally excluded from the formal financial system. Digital finance, on the other hand, refers to using technology to provide financial services. Digital finance has the potential to significantly increase financial inclusion by reducing the cost and increasing the accessibility of financial services. Mobile money, for example, allows people to conduct financial transactions using their mobile phones without needing a bank account. This has been particularly beneficial in developing countries, where many people lack access to traditional banking services. Overall, digital finance has the potential to transform the financial landscape and improve the lives of millions of people. CAREC member states (Excl. the PRC) are lagging when it comes to providing services and infrastructure critical to increasing financial inclusion, for example, access to the Internet, transport linkages, and government facilitation. On the other hand, China has taken giant leaps in harnessing technology to deepen financial inclusion, presenting numerous policy lessons to CAREC countries.</p> <p>The session will deliberate on the state of financial inclusion and fintech in the CAREC Region (20 minutes) and China’s mobile payment market experience (20 minutes), followed by an open discussion (25 minutes).</p>	
<p>16:40 – 17:45</p> <p>Moderator Dr. Yixin Yao, Senior Research Fellow, Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), Tokyo, Japan</p>	<p>Financial Inclusion and Fintech in the CAREC Region (20 minutes) Speaker: Mr. Khalid Umar, Chief, Strategic Planning Division (SPD), CAREC Institute</p> <p>Innovation and Inclusion – Experience from China’s Mobile Payment Market (20 minutes) Speaker: Ms. Jieru Ba, Senior Researcher, Tencent Research Institute, Beijing, China</p> <p>Open Discussion (25 minutes)</p>
17:45 – 18:00	First Day Recap by Dr. Ghulam Samad, Senior Research Specialist , CAREC Institute
19:30 – 21:00	Reception @ Jiangshan Grand Ballroom B- Second Floor, hosted by Xinjiang Government



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Day Two: 17 August, Thursday | Jiangshan Grand Ballroom A – Second Floor |

09:30 – 10:00

Registration

Session VII: A Booming CAREC Startup Ecosystem under CAREC Digital Strategy 2030

The CAREC 2030 Digital Strategy reveals a blueprint of how digital tools and applications empower the economy and the quality of life in the CAREC region. Among the five pillars, Digital innovation, entrepreneurship, and ICT competitiveness lays the foundation for a startup ecosystem community capable of applying digital technologies and tools to make a change. An outlook of the CAREC 2030 Digital Strategy will provide a background of the methodology and framework of the digital transformation expected by 2030 in the CAREC region, specifically, the type of startup ecosystem needed to upgrade the digital economy effectively. A series of initiatives have been carried out to build an interactive and collaborative startup ecosystem with all the innovation stakeholders.

The session will provide an overview of CAREC Digital Strategy 2030 (**30 minutes**), discuss various initiatives undertaken under the strategy (**20 minutes**), and provide an update on CAREC Startup Ecosystem progress (**20 minutes**), followed by open discussion and questions/answers (**30 minutes**).

10:00 – 11:40

Moderator

Mr. Roman Mogilevskii
Senior Economist, CWRC, ADB, Manila,
Philippines

CAREC Digital Strategy Pillars: Strengthening Digital Foundations (30 minutes)

Speaker: Mr. Naveed Zafar Durrani, **Senior Consultant**, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Singapore

An Overview of Initiatives under the CAREC Program: Startup Map, CIN, University Startup Challenge, and CAREC Innovation Decoded (20 minutes)

Speaker: Ms. Shuqi Su, **ADB Consultant**, China

The Development of the CAREC Startup Ecosystem and its Impact on the Broader Digital Economy (20 minutes)

Speaker: Mr. Eli David, **CEO, StartupBlink, Israel/ADB Consultant (Online)**

Open Discussion (30 minutes)

11:40 – 12:00

Coffee @ Foyer of Jiangshan Grand Ballroom A (20 minutes)

Session VIII: CAREC Think Tank Voices

Unabating Geoeconomic uncertainties present unpredictable economic risks and challenges that arise from geopolitical factors such as political instability, trade disputes, and sanctions. The interplay of these factors can lead to changes in currency exchange rates, commodity prices, and investment flows, among other things. Countries and businesses must



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navigate these uncertainties to maintain stability and competitiveness in the global economy. Think tanks are important institutions that can help countries navigate the uncertainties of the global economy and geopolitical landscape. Through research, analysis, and dialogue, think tanks can provide policymakers and stakeholders with the information and recommendations they need to develop effective policies that promote economic growth, stability, and prosperity.

The panel comprising CAREC think tanks will discuss the role of think tanks amidst economic and political uncertainties **(40 minutes)**. CTTN secretariat will present the progress report **(10 minutes)**, display CTTN Blog design, features, and expectations **(15 minutes)**, and receive CTTN member feedback to improve the network **(30 minutes)**.

<p>12:00 – 13:00</p> <p>Moderator Mr. Norbert Funke Director, CCAMTAC IMF, Almaty, Kazakhstan</p>	<p>Panel Discussion on the Role of Think Tanks amid Geoeconomic Uncertainties (40 minutes)</p> <p>Panelist I: Dr. Zhang Jin, Vice President, Center for International Knowledge on Development (CKID), Beijing, China</p> <p>Panelist II: Mr. Zeeshan Salahuddin, Director, Center for Regional and Global Connectivity, Tabadlab, Islamabad, Pakistan</p> <p>Panelist III: Dr. Tuvshintugs Batdelger, Director, Economic Research Institute (ERI), Mongolia</p> <p>Panelist IV: Mr. Mahir Humbatov, Chairman of the Board, Economic Scientific Research Institute (ESRI), Baku, Azerbaijan</p> <p>Open Discussion (20 minutes)</p>
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CTTN Progress and Initiatives by the Secretariat

<p>13:00 – 13:50</p> <p>Moderator Mr. Khalid Umar Chief, Strategic Planning Division/ Coordinator CTTN, CAREC Institute</p>	<p>CTTN Progress Report (10 minutes) Speaker: Mr. Batsaikhan Zagdragchaa, Senior Strategic Planning Specialist, CAREC Institute</p> <p>CTTN Blog Launch (15 minutes) Speaker: Mr. Dzhovid Khuseinov, Networking and Partnerships Specialist, CAREC Institute</p> <p>Suggestions and Feedback on CTTN (25 minutes)</p>
<p>13:50 – 14:00</p>	<p>Closing Reflections and Acknowledgements by Dr. Jingjing Huang, Deputy Director, CAREC Institute</p>
<p>14:00 – 15:00</p>	<p>Lunch @ U Café – First Floor</p>
<p>15:30 – 17:30</p>	<p>Networking and Visit to Euro-Asia Commodity and Trade Expo</p>

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To help us improve on what we do, kindly complete this 2-minute [survey](#). Thank you very much.

Post-Event Survey for the 7th
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Forum

