



Rethinking Development Strategies: Green, Innovative, and Inclusive Development for the CAREC region

Call for Papers
& Announcing the Fourth CAREC Institute Annual Research Conference
Co-organizing with China & Central Asia Studies Center, KIMEP University, Almaty,
Kazakhstan

The CAREC Institute ¹(CI) is pleased to announce the call for papers and the fourth CAREC Institute Annual Research Conference, which is scheduled for **29-30 August 2024 in Almaty, Kazakhstan**. The selected papers will be presented at the fourth CAREC Institute Annual Research Conference. The conference aims to provide a platform for conducting high-quality research on the given topic and an opportunity for research networking.

Potential authors are invited to submit original articles, case-studies, and reviews pertinent to the topics elaborated below. The submissions will be commissioned by the Publication Board and External Review Board of the CI, comprising independent reviewers with solid research and professional experience on the topics. Upon acceptance, **the selected manuscripts will be presented in the conference and published as conference proceedings or book.**

1. Background

In today's world, with increasing environmental and climatic challenges, rapid technological transformations, severe geopolitical tensions, and deep socio-economic change adding to persistent social inequalities, traditional approaches to development are being re-examined. A shift towards green, innovative, and inclusive development strategies is imperative to navigate these complexities and ensure sustainable progress. The CAREC region is a dynamic region with diverse economies.

Science and technological advancement are essential components of CAREC development strategies; however, challenges to technological advancement in CAREC include the digital divide, varying levels of technological infrastructure, thick and less harmonized regulations, and challenges in regulating transformative technologies like artificial intelligence ². Collaborative efforts, investment in education, and policies that foster innovation are crucial for overcoming these challenges and ensuring widespread and inclusive technological

¹ The Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperatio (CAREC) Institute is jointly shared, owned, and governed by eleven member countries: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, the PRC, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. It is a knowledge support arm of the CAREC region.

² Daron Acemoglu and Todd Lensman, 2023. Regulating Transformative Technologies.
<https://www.nber.org/papers/w31461>

progress in the region. Bridging technological gaps requires effective governance, increased investment, and sustainable practices to address environmental and social disruptions.

Income inequality, unemployment, aging populations, and disparities in infrastructure development severely hinder inclusive economic growth prospects in CAREC economies, eventually impacting human development and social outcomes. Additionally, external factors like global trade tensions, economic slowdowns in major economies, and the impact of natural disasters can also affect regional economic development outlook. Addressing these challenges requires policy measures (social safety nets and structural reforms³), innovation, and cross-border cooperation to foster sustainable and inclusive economic development for the marginalized and most vulnerable.

Coordinated efforts among research-oriented organizations, academia, international organizations, multilateral development banks (MDBs), and national policy-oriented organizations can contribute to overcoming these challenges and suggest comprehensive developmental strategies for the CAREC region. The exchange of views and ideas and learning from each other are crucial ingredients for successfully utilizing the CAREC region's green, innovative, and inclusive opportunities. The CI's annual research conference provides a platform to exchange views and ideas, and learn developmental practices and strategies from each other.

2. Theme

The theme of the fourth conference is “**Rethinking Development Strategies: Green, Innovative, and Inclusive Development for the CAREC Region.**”

Green Development: Green development strategies entail prioritizing sustainability and inclusivity across all facets of economic, social, and environmental planning. This primarily involves transitioning towards renewable energy sources and implementing eco-friendly practices in industries (agriculture, manufacturing and services). By investing in green infrastructure and technologies, countries can initiate sustainable businesses and trade practices to stimulate sustainable economic growth while preserving the planet's ecological balance⁴.

Innovative Development: Innovative developmental strategies embrace a culture of creativity, investing in research and development, and leveraging emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, robotization and blockchain. By embracing **digital transformation** and fostering innovative ecosystems, countries can enhance factors of production

³ Nikoloz Giginshvili et al, 2023. International Monetary Fund (IMF) Publications.
<https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/Departmental-Papers-Policy-Papers/Issues/2023/05/26/Paving-the-Way-to-More-Resilient-Inclusive-and-Greener-Economies-in-the-Caucasus-and-532116>

⁴ Nicholas Stern and Joseph E Stiglitz 2023. Climate Change and Growth.
<https://academic.oup.com/icc/article/32/2/277/7043810#400297484>

efficiencies⁵, improve trade facilitation, create new markets, and address pressing social challenges. Therefore, inclusive innovative strategies ensure that the benefits of innovation are accessible to all segments of the society.

Inclusive Development: Inclusive development requires addressing social disparities and ensuring that growth benefits all segments of society, particularly marginalized segments of the society. This involves implementing policies, for example, job creation, skills development, and entrepreneurship support to the marginalized segment, including women, that promote social equity and social protection.

Potential sub-themes on Energy, Digitalization, and Inclusivity:

- Sustainable (governance) pathways to energy transition in the CAREC region.
- Green Energy: Potential and Strategies of the CAREC region.
- Green Financing: Barriers and Solutions
- Cross-border carbon trading, adjustment and mechanism
- Renewable energy: Challenges and Opportunities
- Electric Vehicles and Sustainable Transportation in the CAREC region
- AI for Climate Resilience
- AI for development: Legal and Regulatory Harmonization
- Fiscal policies and climate action
- Digital Age: Modernizing Transport and Logistics
- Digital Trade: Infrastructure, Regulations and Governance
- Green Trade: Greening/decarbonizing Supply Chain
- Digital Connectivity: Infrastructure and Regulations Landscape
- Climate Change: Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies
- Economic Corridors Development: Innovative Strategies
- Energy Corridors: Strategic Significance
- Path to Innovative Technologies: Regulations Perspective
- Socio-economic inequality: Escaping from the Poverty and “middle income” trap.
- Re/industrialization: Catching up with the Fourth Industrial Revolution

The papers on critiquing the old development paradigms and proposing new development strategies in the CAREC region are welcomed.

3. Submission procedure

The CAREC Institutes invites the submission of papers relevant to the above listed thematic areas. Authors should submit abstracts of no more than 200 words by **April 22nd 2024** to emmat@carecinstitute.org. Notifications of the acceptance of the abstracts will be sent on

⁵ Daron Acemoglu et al, 2023. Advanced Technology Adoption: Selection or Causal Effect?
<https://blueprintcdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Blueprint-Discussion-Paper-2023.11-Acemoglu-et-al.pdf>

May 10th 2024. First drafts of full manuscripts of 8,000 words maximum, excluding annexes, should be submitted to the same email address **by 24th June 2024**.

All submissions are required to include the following information on a separate cover page:

- Title of the paper
- Name(s) of author(s) in intended order of authorship, their organizational affiliation(s), position(s), and e-mail address(es)
- Lead author's telephone number
- Manuscript words count

The language of manuscript submissions and conference presentations is English. All submissions will be thoroughly reviewed by CI's Publication Board and External Review Board members based on the following criteria:

- Significance/contribution to the field
- Relevance to conference theme
- Aims and purposes
- Theoretical foundation
- Methodology
- Results and policy recommendations
- Conclusion

4. Timelines

Timelines for the research conference are shown in the schedule below:

Call for Papers	11 March
Submission of Abstract	22 April
Submission of First draft	24 June
Presentation at Research Confernece	29-30 August (tentatively)
Submission of Final draft	30 September

5. Programme

The programme of the conference will be shared with participants once finalized.

6. Contact

For any question concerning the announcement and content or any other request relevant to the conference, please contact Ms Emma Tong emmat@carecinstitute.org

7. Formatting, Structure, Style, and Referencing Guidelines for the Paper (see link for publication gudelines)