April 30, 2024 Volume #58

Newsletter

CAREC Water Policy Dialogue: A Milestone in Transforming Water Governance in Central Asia

The CAREC Institute held the Fourth CAREC Water Policy Dialogue, focusing on "Analyzing the Financial Governance Gap of Water Sector in Central Asia: From Planning to Effective Implementation" on 29 March 2024. The webinar brought together experts, stakeholders, and policymakers to discuss critical issues and propose solutions in water governance to benefit the communities and ecosystems across Central Asia.

In his welcoming speech, Mr. Kabir Jurazoda, Director of the CAREC Institute, emphasized the importance of collaboration and action in addressing the challenges of water governance in Central Asia. "We must work together to bridge the gap between research and action, turning our findings into tangible solutions that will drive positive change in the water governance in Central Asia," said Mr. Kabir Jurazoda, Director, CAREC Institute.

The keynote presentation "Water sector financial governance gap analysis in Central Asia: from planning to practice" was delivered by Dr. Georg Petersen, International Consultant from HYDROC (Germany). During his presentation, he highlighted the pressing issues faced by the Central Asian region, including the necessity for coordinated investment planning and the development of innovative financing solutions for water infrastructure. Dr. Petersen emphasized the importance of understanding the financial needs of the water sector, particularly concerning major infrastructure projects, and the significant differences in water priorities among Central Asian countries. His presentation underscored the imperative need for sustainable financing alternatives, fostering public-private partnerships, and enhancing water governance to effectively address the challenges and leverage the opportunities in the water sector of Central Asia.

Professor Xin Fu from Hohai University presented insights related to water governance, financial management, and ecological aspects of water resources. He highlighted the crucial components of sustainable infrastructure development, financial mechanisms, and regional collaboration to tackle water security challenges in Central Asia.

The dialogue featured insightful discussions led by water sector experts — Dr. Au Shion Yee, Principal Water Resources Specialist at the Asian Development Bank, Mr. Stanislav Chuyev, Senior Analyst from Eurasian Development Bank, Dr. Duan Weili, Professor from Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography of Chinese Academy of Sciences — on the practical implications of the water gap and water financing challenges and opportunities in Central Asia. Participants engaged in exploring best practices for formulating policy recommendations to address the region's pressing water resource management issues. The event highlighted the importance of collaboration and integration across the region to promote sustainable water governance.

The CAREC Institute remains committed to fostering dialogue and collaboration to address the challenges faced in managing water resources in Central Asia. All materials and video recording of the 4th CAREC Water Policy Dialogue are available at <u>the CAREC Institute's E-learning platform</u>.





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CAREC Institute and Pakistan National Focal Point Collaborate to Enhance Knowledge Initiatives



The meeting between the CAREC Institute and Pakistan's National Focal Point.

The CAREC Institute is delighted to announce a successful meeting with Pakistan's National Focal Point, Mr. Saeed Ashraf Siddiqi. The meeting focused on enhancing knowledge initiatives and strengthening collaboration between the two entities.

During the meeting, valuable recommendations were discussed, emphasizing the importance of stakeholder consultations, outcome measurement, and alignment with the CAREC Institute's strategic priorities. The CAREC Institute is committed to incorporating these recommendations into its future plans to ensure impactful and relevant knowledge generation.

Mr. Saeed Ashraf Siddiqi expressed Pakistan's support for the CAREC Institute's efforts and encouraged further engagement with country stakeholders to drive meaningful outcomes. The CAREC Institute values Pakistan's contributions and looks forward to continued collaboration to advance regional connectivity and development.

Chief Economist of the CAREC Institute Delivers Presentation on Green Innovation at ESCAP Expert Group Meeting



Dr. Hans Holzhacker presents at the ESCAP Expert Group Meeting.

Dr. Hans Holzhacker, Chief Economist of the CAREC Institute, participated in the Expert Group Meeting on Harnessing Innovative Technologies to Advance Green Transformation for Sustainable Development in North and Central Asia and gave a speech. The meeting was organized by the Subregional Office for North and Central Asia of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) on March 26-27, 2024, in Almaty, Kazakhstan, bringing together policymakers, experts, and stakeholders to explore the transformative power of innovation in driving sustainable development in the region.

During his session, Dr. Holzhacker emphasized the importance of a productivity push, digitalization, and a new wave of green electrification for the CAREC region. Dr. Holzhacker's presentation not only highlighted the potential for innovation and technology to drive sustainable development but also emphasized the crucial role of green transformation in addressing environmental concerns and promoting economic growth in the CAREC region.

The thought-provoking meeting sparked engaging discussions and inspired attendees to explore new avenues for leveraging innovative technologies to create a more sustainable and resilient future for the region. It served as a platform for in-depth discussions on leveraging emerging technologies, digital transformation, and green initiatives to address pressing development challenges in North and Central Asia. With a focus on science, technology, and innovation, participants exchanged insights, shared best practices, and forged collaborations to accelerate the adoption of new innovations for greener and more sustainable economic growth.

The Expert Group Meeting underscored the importance of regional cooperation, public-private partnerships, and policy frameworks to drive innovation and technology adoption for sustainable development. By fostering a collaborative environment and sharing recommendations, the meeting laid the groundwork for advancing green transformation and building a more resilient future for North and Central Asia.

The Third CAREC Climate Policy Dialogue Addressed Climate Inaction, Investment Gaps, and Regional Cooperation

On April 25, the CAREC Institute hosted the Third CAREC Climate Policy Dialogue webinar, focusing on practical implications of climate inaction, investment challenges, and opportunities in Central Asia. The event aimed to explore strategies for tailored policy recommendations to address government needs.

Dr. Kuat Akizhanov commenced the event with an opening statement underscoring the significant vulnerability of Central Asia's economies to the enduring impacts of climate change. Highlighting the expected exacerbation of water scarcity, threats to agricultural productivity, and challenges in hydropower

generation, Dr. Akizhanov underscored the urgent need for a coordinated approach across the water, agriculture, and energy sectors. He referenced the Institute's research reports on the implications of climate inaction and investment gaps in the region, setting the stage for a dialogue focused on addressing these pressing challenges through regional cooperation and data sharing.

During the webinar, key findings of CAREC Institute's recent reports – <u>"Investment Gap</u> Analysis of Central Asia's Water, Agriculture, and <u>Energy Sectors"</u> and <u>"Climate Inaction Report</u> <u>"Implications of Climate Inaction across the Water</u> -Agriculture-Energy Nexus and Potential Benefits of Improved Intersectoral and Regional



Participants of the Third CAREC Climate Policy Dialogue.

<u>Cooperation</u>["] -- were presented, shedding light on the implications of climate inaction and the potential benefits of improved intersectoral and regional cooperation in addressing these challenges. Dr. Abdurasul Kayumov, the key author of these reports, highlighted the importance of promoting climate-smart agricultural practices, improving pasture management, and introducing agroforestry and soil conservation in Central Asia. He emphasized the significant potential for solar and wind resources in the region and the need to harness these opportunities to diversify green energy sources. Dr. Kayumov also stressed the importance of promoting energy conservation, building climate-resilient energy infrastructure, and establishing a regional climate change framework. He called for joint investments in transparent infrastructure and emphasized the crucial role of regional data sharing to efficiently react to climate change impacts. Dr. Kayumov's presentation underscored the necessity of sustainable and mutual beneficial water use policies and highlighted the challenges posed by securitized water-related data in Central Asia.

The climate policy dialogue included a panel discussion with key partners, including Ms. Agnes Surry, Deputy Head of Capacity Building and Training and Senior Economist at the Asian Development Bank Institute, Dr. Iskandar Abdullaev, Visiting Professor at the Centre for International Development and Environmental Research at Justus Liebig University Giessen, and Dr. Roman Vakulchuk, Head of the Climate and Energy Research Group at the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs. The experts discussed the acceleration of climate-related investments in Central Asia, recognizing the region's diversity with varying levels of carbon emissions and vulnerability to climate change. They highlighted the significance of sharing perspectives on addressing climate challenges and emphasized the need for high-level policy dialogues, capacity-building workshops, and data projections to raise awareness of climate exposure in Asia. Additionally, they mentioned organizing a workshop on corporate climate disclosure to promote regulatory frameworks aligned with international standards. The experts emphasized the importance of utilizing research and data for informed decision-making and sustainable actions in response to climate change in Central Asia. They also noted the increasing awareness of climate change among stakeholders as a positive development and stressed the role of organizations like ADB and CAREC Institute in engaging with national governments to advocate for climate change awareness and action. Regional collaboration, education, and information sharing were highlighted as crucial elements for driving sustainable actions and mitigating the impacts of climate change in Central Asia.

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Unveiling the Digital Transformation of Central Asia: Insights from Special Economic Zones Research

The CAREC Institute published a new research paper on <u>the Role of Special Economic Zones in the Digital</u> <u>Transformation of Central Asia</u> by Azimzhan Khitakhunov, a comprehensive study undertaken under the CAREC Think Tank Network. This paper delves into the vital role that special economic zones

delves into the vital role that special economic zones play in driving the digital transformation of Central Asia, shedding light on innovative strategies and policies implemented by countries in the region.

Azimzhan Khitakhunov's insightful analysis explores the impact of special economic zones on the digital landscape of Central Asia, highlighting the successes and challenges faced by these zones in fostering economic growth and technological advancement. From Kazakhstan's Astana Hub to Uzbekistan's IT-Park, this paper provides a detailed overview of the region's technology hubs and their contributions to the digitalization of Central Asia.

The report is now available for download on the CAREC Institute website, offering a comprehensive guide for policymakers and industry leaders interested in understanding the intersection of economic development and digital innovation in Central Asia.

New Workshop Report Highlights Success and Recommendations for Road Safety and Sustainable Mobility Initiatives

CAREC Institute's recently published <u>Workshop</u> <u>Report on the CAREC Road Safety and Sustainable</u> <u>Mobility Course</u> provides a comprehensive overview of the event's key findings, feedback, and recommendations for enhancing road safety initiatives across different countries.

The report, based on feedback from participants and experts in the field, showcases the positive reception of the workshop, with attendees expressing gratitude for the informative and engaging sessions. Participants highlighted the importance of dynamic presentations, continuous learning opportunities, and collaborative efforts in improving road safety measures.

Key recommendations from the report include suggestions for future initiatives and collaborations in the field of road safety in the CAREC region. The report also emphasizes the need for regular meetings with experts from CAREC countries to exchange experiences and enhance capacity in road safety initiatives.

The publication of the workshop report was made possible through the support of the Asian Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and other Development Partners who provided financial and technical assistance. For more information and to access the workshop materials, please visit <u>CAREC Institute's E-learning</u> platform.



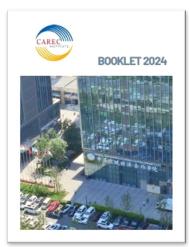
CAREC Institute's Major Publications Catalogue for 2024

The 2024 version of the Major Publications

Catalogue has been published by the CAREC Institute. It includes the most recent publications, such as flagship reports, books, policy and economic briefs, periodicals, and more, spanning various thematic areas. The Institute's staff and research partners consistently generate products to address the knowledge needs of CAREC countries. The catalogue provides links to the digital versions of the latest publications, which can be accessed by clicking on the publication of interest.



CAREC Institute's Booklet for 2024



The 2024 edition of the CAREC Institute booklet has been published, detailing the Institute's history, ongoing activities, knowledge products and services, governance, and key partners. The CAREC Institute is an intergovernmental organization committed to fostering economic cooperation by creating and sharing knowledge and building capacity in the CAREC region. Serving as a prominent regional knowledge center, the CAREC Institute aims to promote a sustainable future and development in the CAREC region and beyond. As the knowledge support arm of the CAREC Program, it actively facilitates practical, results-oriented regional projects and policy initiatives essential for sustainable economic growth and shared prosperity in the region, guided by the overarching vision of "Good Neighbors, Good Partners, and Good Prospects."

CAREC Institute Factsheet–2024

The recently revised CAREC Institute Factsheet offers a brief overview of the Institute's work and achievements. Within this document, you will gain insight into our Institute, its primary knowledge products and activities, and nine key facts.



CAREC Institute and Ministry of Finance of the PRC Commit to Enhanced Cooperation and Strategic Development

On April 8, during a visit by the CAREC Institute's delegation to the Ministry of Finance (MoF) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), Acting Director General Ms. Li Hongxia warmly received Director Kabir Jurazoda and Deputy Director Two Dr. Kuat Akizhanov. Ms. Li Hongxia stressed the importance of implementing agreements made during the side event at the 2023 Georgia CAREC Ministerial Conference between the Vice Minister and Director Kabir Jurazoda to enhance cooperation.

PRC National Focal Point Mr. Lu Jin reassured Director Kabir Jurazoda of MoF's unwavering support to enhance Institute's capacity and regional influence. Director Kabir Jurazoda expressed gratitude for MoF's continued support and outlined Institute's ongoing and future initiatives.

Mr. Lu Jin outlined Institute's key advancement expectations, highlighting the adoption of demanddriven approaches tailored to member countries' needs, the introduction of an annual flagship report, the streamlining of organizational structures, improvements in financial sustainability, recruitment of skilled personnel, ongoing enhancement of research outputs, and the implementation of a comprehensive performance management system, among other internal improvements.

Both parties committed to taking decisive actions to boost Institute's operational effectiveness and expand its strategic influence in the region.

CAREC Institute Presented at the 21st Transport Sector **Coordinating Committee Meeting**

The Chief Economist of the CAREC Institute, Dr. Hans He presented CAREC Institute's research activities in Holzhacker, presented at the 21st Transport Sector Coordinating Committee Meeting in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on the CAREC Institute's activities related to transport corridors in the CAREC region.



21st Transport Sector Coordinating Committee Meeting 22-23 April 2024 • Almaty, Kazakhstan

the area of transport connectivity with a focus on the CAREC Corridors Performance, Measurement and Monitoring, Restoration and Development of Air Transport between China and Six Selected CAREC Countries, and intended new research on containerization, as well Institute's capacity building activities on Road Asset Management and Road Safety.

Dr. Holzhacker's participation underscores the commitment of the CAREC Institute to fostering knowledge-sharing and collaboration among stakeholders in the transport sector. The CAREC transport corridors play a substantial role for promoting economic growth, trade facilitation, and regional connectivity and a deeper understanding of the economic benefits and challenges associated with transport development initiatives in the CAREC region and the topic is one of the core areas of the CAREC Institutes research and capacity building activities.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

The Eighth World Cross-border E-commerce Conference and Commodity Exhibition

The CAREC Institute, in collaboration with the China-ASEAN Center and China Association of Trade in Services (CATIS), will be hosting the 8th World Crossborder E-commerce Conference and Commodity Exhibition in Langfang, the People's Republic of China (PRC) from 16 to 17 June 2024.

This annual event, organized by CATIS in collaboration with multiple co-organizers, serves as a platform for promoting international trade and sharing knowledge in the e-commerce sector. The 8th Conference and Exhibition, taking place alongside the Langfang International Economic and Trade Fair, will focus on the theme "Digital and Green: New Drivers of Global Economic Growth." The event will bring together government officials, academics, and private sector representatives for academic exchanges and business cooperation.

During the conference, the CAREC Institute will host a special session on 'Cross-border E-commerce Talent Training and Education in Central Asia', which will bring together government officials and experts from this region to discuss the integration of industry and education, as well as the cooperative relationship between sectors and schools in the construction of cross-border e-commerce, digital trade, and other professional fields.

Joint CAREC-PRC and Second ASEAN-PRC Digital Economy Workshop: Empowering Digital Future

The CAREC Institute, in collaboration with ADB CAREC Secretariat, ADB-PRC Regional Knowledge Sharing Initiative and Center for International Studies on Development and Governance of the Zhejiang University, will host **the Joint CAREC-PRC and Second ASEAN-PRC Digital Economy Workshop: Empowering Digital Future from 20 May to 2 June 2024 in Hangzhou, the PRC.**

This workshop directly aligns with vision and mission of <u>the CAREC Digital Strategy 2030</u>. It aims to equip member countries with the knowledge and tools necessary to harness the digital economy's full potential for inclusive economic growth, social wellbeing, and enhanced regional competitiveness. The workshop helps participants learn about the current status and experiences of China's digital economy development, encompassing digital trade, digital governance, digital finance, intelligent manufacturing, industrial Internet, and related fields. It will improve leadership and governance in the digital economy and highlight the importance of digital skills and competencies.

A new policy research report will be produced based on the workshop discussions, exploring key takeaways from China's digital economy model, including its strengths and challenges. The report will also take notes on participants' questions and concerns about digital economy development in their perspective countries and how a new series of capacity building workshops could contribute to strengthening universal digital literacy for CAREC participants. Based on these insights and workshop discussions, the report will propose policy recommendations for policymakers in areas like promoting investment in digital infrastructure, harmonizing digital legislation, and developing digital skills.

We warmly welcome experts and professionals engaged in digital development from CAREC and ASEAN member states, including representatives from government, industry, and academia with professional backgrounds in digital economy, digital management, and e-governance, to participate in this workshop.

All workshop materials, including presentations, will be available on the <u>CAREC Institute's E-Learning</u> <u>Platform</u> for continuous access and knowledge sharing.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

CAREC Regional WASH Forum: Shaping the Future of Sustainable Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene in Central Asia

The CAREC Regional Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Forum will convene from May 21-24, 2024, in a hybrid format, both in-person in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, and online, bringing together key stakeholders, policymakers, and experts from China, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Armenia, representatives from regional offices, international development partners such as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, Asian Development Bank, and World Health Organization to address critical challenges and opportunities in the WASH sector across Central Asia.

Organized by UNICEF, the CAREC Institute with support from Asian Development Bank and Vital Strategies, the forum aims to foster strategic initiatives, policy formation, and collaboration efforts to enhance sustainable WASH services in the Central Asian region. Anticipated outcomes include the development of a strategic plan for the CAREC WASH Virtual Center, discussion of results from private sector mapping in Tajikistan, and facilitation of technology collaboration among CAREC countries. Key sessions on the agenda include panel discussions on climate-resilient WASH challenges, WASH technology innovations, fostering innovation in the WASH sector through market policies and collaboration, and WASH and Innovative Finance. The forum will also provide a platform for project consultations and meetings between UNICEF and the CAREC Institute.

With a focus on knowledge sharing, capacity building, and cross-regional cooperation, the CAREC Regional WASH Forum is poised to shape the future of sustainable water, sanitation, and hygiene in Central Asia.

To attend this event, please, register HERE.



JOB ADVERTISEMENTS:

The Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Institute is an intergovernmental organization dedicated to promoting economic cooperation in Central Asia and along the Silk Road through knowledge generation and sharing. The Institute is headquartered in Urumqi, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, the People's Republic of China (PRC).

The 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 Program which is a proactive facilitator of practical, results-based regional projects, and policy initiatives critical to sustainable economic growth and shared prosperity in the region, guided by the overarching vision of "Good Neighbors, Good Partners, and Good Prospects."



The Institute acts as a knowledge connector among the five CAREC clusters (Economic and Financial Stability, Trade, Tourism, and Economic Corridors, Infrastructure and

Connectivity, Agriculture and Water, Human Development) to ensure coherence in design and implementation of policies, programs, and projects to promote regional economic cooperation and integration. Cl's main operational activities include research, capacity building, knowledge management, and networking and forging partnerships.

Chief of the Research Division

The CAREC Institute invites applications for the position of **Chief of the Research Division.** Applicants should be nationals of the CAREC member countries and meet the qualifications and requirements stated in the Terms and Reference (TOR).

Application Procedures

- Applications should be emailed to Jia Ni (<u>hr@carecinstitute.org</u>) by 7:00 p.m., 13 May 2024 (Monday), Beijing time. CAREC Institute is an equal-opportunity employer, and women are encouraged to apply. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.
- Candidates are required to certify that all information provided on any employment application form, resume, or CV is complete, true, and accurate to the best of their knowledge. Candidates should understand that information may be verified, and any misrepresentation of facts may be considered the cause for dismissal regardless of when it is discovered by the CAREC Institute.

For more details, please, read the following document: TORs-Chief of the Research Division

Chief of the Capacity Building Division

The CAREC Institute invites applications for the position of the **Chief of the Capacity Building Division.** Applicants should be nationals of the CAREC member countries and meet the qualifications and requirements stated in the Terms and Reference (TOR).

Application Procedures

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For more details, please, read the following document: TORs - Chief of the Capacity Building Division

CAREC Institute Announces Call for Applications for Visiting Fellow Program — Extension

The CAREC Institute is thrilled to announce the opening of applications for its prestigious Visiting Fellow Program (VFP). This program, supported and financed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), provides scholars from ADB member countries with the opportunity to conduct research on critical issues in the CAREC region.

The VFP is designed for scholars at all levels who have completed their post-graduate degrees and are affiliated with universities, research institutes, and think tanks in ADB member countries. Fellows will have the chance to delve into topics such as green finance, fintech, migration, socio-economic inequalities, and more, contributing to regional integration and cooperation.

Selected fellows will spend up to a month at the CAREC Institute headquarters in Urumqi, receiving support for visa arrangements, accommodation, and office space. The program culminates in the publication of working papers, policy briefs, and other outputs that contribute to the body of knowledge on regional cooperation.

Opportunities available for researchers through the VFP include:

- Conduct research on key issues in the CAREC region
- Collaborate with experts and scholars from diverse backgrounds
- Publish your work in working papers, policy briefs, and more
- Receive an honorarium of USD 10,000 for the duration of the fellowship

For formatting, structure, style, and referencing guidelines for the paper please see the following document.

A draft proposal not less than 2000 words, the VFP application form and an updated CV (max. two pages) should be submitted online to the following address: emmat@carecinstitute.org by 5 pm Manila/Beijing time on May 10, 2024. Upon receipt of the application, the applicant will receive an acknowledgment and an expected date of the application's outcome. <u>Click for more details</u>.

Call for Applications for CAREC Institute's Visiting Fellow Program

OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE FOR RESEARCHERS THROUGH THE PROGRAM INCLUDE:

- Conduct research on key issues in the CAREC region
- Collaborate with experts and scholars from diverse backgrounds
- Publish your work in working papers, policy briefs, and more
- Receive an honorarium of USD 10,000 for the duration of the fellowship

Application deadline

5 pm Manila time, May 10, 2024



CAREC Institute Announces Call for Papers for Fourth Annual Research Conference in Almaty—Extension

The CAREC Institute is thrilled to invite researchers, academics, and experts to participate in its Fourth Annual Research Conference, scheduled for August 29-30, 2024, in Almaty, Kazakhstan. This prestigious event, co-organized with China & Central Asia Studies Center of KIMEP University, will serve as a platform for in-depth discussions and presentations on the theme "Rethinking Development Strategies: Green, Innovative, and Inclusive Development for the CAREC Region."

Researchers are encouraged to submit original articles, case studies, and reviews focusing on green energy, digitalization, sustainable transportation, Artificial Intelligence for climate resilience, and more. The conference aims to foster collaboration, knowledge sharing, and innovative solutions to address the complex challenges facing the dynamic CAREC region.

Key Dates:

- Abstract Submission Deadline was extended: May 13, 2024
- Full Manuscript Submission Deadline: June 24, 2024

Selected papers will be presented at the conference and published in the CAREC Institute's Fourth Annual Book. Authors will have the opportunity to network with leading experts, policymakers, and industry professionals, gaining valuable insights and feedback on their research.

For formatting, structure, style, and referencing guidelines for the paper, please see <u>the</u> <u>following document</u>.

For submission guidelines and more information, please contact Ms. Emma Tong at emmat@carecinstitute.org.

Join us in shaping the future of sustainable development in the CAREC region. Together, let's drive positive change and innovation for a greener, more inclusive future.

Fore more details see the following document: Call for Papers for 4th RC.



About CAREC Institute

The Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Institute is an intergovernmental organization dedicated to promoting the economic cooperation in the Central Asia and along the Silk Road through knowledge generation and sharing. The CAREC Institute is jointly shared, owned, and governed by eleven member countries.

The Institute acts as a knowledge connector among the five CAREC themes-economic and financial stability; trade, tourism, and economic cornidors; infrastructure and economic connectivity; agriculture and water; human development-to ensure coherence in design and implementation of policies, programs, and projects to promote regional economic cooperation and integration.



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