



Newsletter

CAREC Institute Showcases Progress Report at the CAREC Senior Officials' Meeting

On May 30, the CAREC Institute presented a comprehensive progress report on its 2024 work plan at the CAREC Senior Officials' Meeting in Astana, Kazakhstan. The presentation, provided by Mr. Kabir Jurazoda, Director of the Institute, highlighted key accomplishments from the latter part of 2023 and outlined upcoming activities for the remainder of the year.

During the presentation, Mr. Jurazoda shared insights into the Institute's achievements, including the successful completion of joint research projects with various partners. These projects focused on critical areas such as trade and transit infrastructure, fintech cooperation, and digital technology in trade facilitation. Collaborative efforts with institutions like ADB, ADBI, and Islamic Development Bank are also progressing, covering areas like climate finance, renewable energy, digitalization and corporate innovation impact assessments. The Visiting Fellows Program and preparations for the Eighth CAREC Think Tank Development Forum and the Fourth Annual Research Conference are ongoing, showcasing a robust agenda for research and knowledge dissemination.

Furthermore, the Institute's commitment to capacity building was emphasized. In 2023, around 50 percent of capacity building activities were conducted virtually, enhancing accessibility and cost-efficiency. Capacity building activities focused on key sub-areas such as water resources management, climate change, digital economy, e-commerce, fintech, trade facilitation, regional connectivity, transport corridors, road safety, road asset management, tourism, and human development.

The Chief Economist Team at the CAREC Institute consistently publishes the Quarterly Economic Monitor in various languages, offering important analyses of economic trends in the region. Furthermore, they have released reports on subjects like Household Access to Energy in the Fergana Valley Project and several economic briefs. These publications enhance comprehension of economic dynamics in the CAREC region and facilitate informed decision-making based on evidence.

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Participants of the CAREC Senior Officials' Meeting.

The Knowledge Management Division at the CAREC Institute is dedicated to effectively disseminating information and enhancing communication within the organization and with external stakeholders. They release monthly newsletters, produce informational materials like booklets and factsheets, and create infographics to highlight key activities. The CAREC Institute is currently working on developing a knowledge management and communication strategy, a brand guide, and enhancing the website's functionality. They are also conducting surveys and consultations to improve data collection and user engagement.

Additionally, the CAREC Institute organizes events like regional forums to facilitate knowledge sharing and collaboration on important topics such as WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) in Central Asia. Their efforts contribute to the Institute's goal of promoting knowledge exchange and fostering a culture of learning and innovation in the region.

During the meeting, representatives from various countries shared their viewpoints and suggestions regarding the operations of the CAREC Institute. The Turkmenistan delegate voiced their endorsement for the Institute's activities and mentioned that Turkmenistan is in the process of internal deliberations to propose candidates for the position of the next Director of the CAREC Institute.

Expressing gratitude, Ms. Lyaziza Sabyrova, Regional Head of Regional Cooperation and Integration at ADB Central and West Asia Department, thanked the

People's Republic of China for its financial support. She also acknowledged recent improvements in event organization and the development of new products. Emphasizing the Institute's potential, she expressed a desire for CAREC to become akin to the Brookings Institute of Central Asia, highlighting the value of its personnel. Additionally, she reiterated ADB's commitment to supporting the CAREC Institute.

During the meeting, Mr. Kabir Jurazoda engaged in separate discussions with CAREC government officials to delve into the Institute's significant initiatives. He outlined plans to publish working papers covering a spectrum of topics, from climate finance, fostering renewable energy investment ecosystems to the role of economic integration in promoting decent work in the CAREC region. The Institute's steadfast commitment to fostering sustainable economic growth in the CAREC area persists, evident through its continuous endeavors to tackle key regional issues.

The CAREC Senior Officials' Meeting is a significant event where senior officials from CAREC member countries gather to discuss and review the progress of various initiatives within the CAREC framework. These meetings serve as a platform for strategic discussions, decision-making, and coordination of efforts to promote regional cooperation and economic development. The meetings typically involve presentations, discussions, and the sharing of updates on key projects and activities. They play a crucial role in advancing the goals of the CAREC program and strengthening partnerships among member countries.

CAREC Institute Excels in Productive Meetings with ADB



Meeting with Mr. Yingming Yang, ADB Vice President.

The delegation from the CAREC Institute, comprised of Mr. Kabir Jurazoda, Director, Dr. Jingjing Huang, Deputy Director One, and Mr. Khalid Umar, Head of Strategic Planning Division, participated in high-level meetings with the ADB Vice President and other prominent stakeholders at the ADB Annual Meeting in Tbilisi, Georgia. These meetings have highlighted the Institute's commitment to fostering regional cooperation and sustainable development in the CAREC region.

During the meeting with the ADB Vice President Mr. Yingming Yang, the CAREC Institute showcased its strategic activities planned for the year, emphasizing research, capacity building, knowledge management, and participation in sector committee meetings. Mr. Yingming Yang acknowledged the Institute's contributions and expressed full support for its growth and development.

Key discussions revolved around strategies to address pressing issues such as climate change, digitalization, and connectivity within the region. Mr. Yingming Yang commended the Institute's past achievements and encouraged further specialization in niche areas to become a leading think tank for the CAREC Secretariat, ADB sectors, and beyond.

Furthermore, the CAREC Institute received positive feedback on its output quality and was encouraged to continue producing flagship events and annual reports to enhance visibility and impact. The importance of recruiting quality staff through transparent and merit-based processes was also emphasized to strengthen the Institute's capabilities.

Moving forward, the CAREC Institute is poised to deepen its collaboration with the ADB and other institutions to drive regional development and promote sustainable practices. The Institute remains dedicated to advancing the goals of the CAREC region and looks forward to continued success in future endeavors.

Regional Forum in Tashkent Drives Innovation and Collaboration in Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Sector

The Regional WASH Forum, held in Tashkent from May 22 to May 23, successfully brought together a diverse group of experts, policymakers, academic researchers, private sector representatives, and stakeholders from across the region to address critical issues in water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). Organized by the CAREC Institute and UNICEF, with the support of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and technical assistance from Vital Strategies, this hybrid forum featured keynote speeches, presentations, panel discussions, and technology showcases, focusing on innovative solutions and best practices to improve access to clean water and sanitation facilities.

Distinguished guests, including government officials from Armenia, China, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, as well as representatives from the CAREC Institute, UNICEF and ADB, inaugurated the forum. During the opening session of the Forum, Dr. Kuat Akizhanov, Deputy Director Two of the CAREC Institute, emphasized the importance of the event, highlighting that the Forum represents a crucial milestone in tackling the challenges faced by the WASH sector in the CAREC region. Dr. Kuat Akizhanov expressed that by fostering collaboration and facilitating dialogue, the Forum aims to not only enhance WASH sector development but also advocate for sustainable solutions that will benefit our shared future. His words underscore the commitment of the participants to work together towards a more resilient and sustainable WASH sector.

Presentations and panel sessions covered a wide range of topics, including WASH and climate financing partnerships and strategy for the CAREC region, climate-resilient WASH challenges and approaches, government and private sector collaboration, and innovation in the WASH sector through market policies and South-South collaboration. International experts from the CAREC Institute, UNICEF, ADB, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, World Health Organization, and Eurasian Development Bank, along with government officials from Armenia, the People's Republic of China, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, and technology providers shared their insights, ongoing projects, and research findings.

Ms. Xin Lei, Chief of the Knowledge Management Division of the CAREC Institute, presented about the collaborative efforts between the Institute and UNICEF on the WASH sector and introduced the Virtual CAREC WASH Center Initiative, which is an online portal designed to serve as a hub for essential resources, empowering stakeholders to strengthen WASH systems efficiently.

Dr. Ilhom Abdulloev, the Senior Specialist for Knowledge and Research Connectivity at the CAREC Institute, presented the study findings funded by UNICEF, which aimed to assess the status of WASH in four CAREC countries: China, Mongolia,

Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. The study sought to identify best practices and solutions in the WASH sector to enhance the resilience of countries with fragile infrastructure and limited capacity to cope with future natural or man-made disasters. Globally, inadequate access to water and sanitation impacts living standards, public health, and the environment. In the CAREC countries, the WASH sector faces challenges related to capacity, funding shortages, and limited private sector involvement. "Additionally, these countries experience a disparity between rural and urban populations, with a predominant focus on drinking water supply rather than sanitation," noted Dr. Ilhom Abdulloev.



Participants of the Regional WASH Forum.

Key results of the Forum:

1. **Innovative Solutions:** Experts presented innovative solutions to address rural-urban disparities, deteriorating infrastructure, insufficient financing, and severe regional climatic conditions that impact the quality and safety of WASH services in the region.
2. **Private Sector Engagement:** The Forum emphasized the importance of robust private sector participation in the WASH sector to improve service delivery, promote sustainable solutions, and drive economic growth.
3. **Knowledge Sharing:** Participants engaged in discussions on strategic initiatives, including the proposed Virtual WASH Centre, to align regional needs with knowledge sharing, capacity building, and networking opportunities.
4. **Collaboration and Cooperation:** The Forum served as a platform for promoting regional cooperation, stimulating dialogue, and fostering partnerships to address the challenges faced by the CAREC region in the WASH sector.

The Regional WASH Forum in Tashkent was a resounding success, with participants expressing their commitment to advancing WASH outcomes, enhancing public health, and achieving environmental and socioeconomic sustainability in the CAREC region.

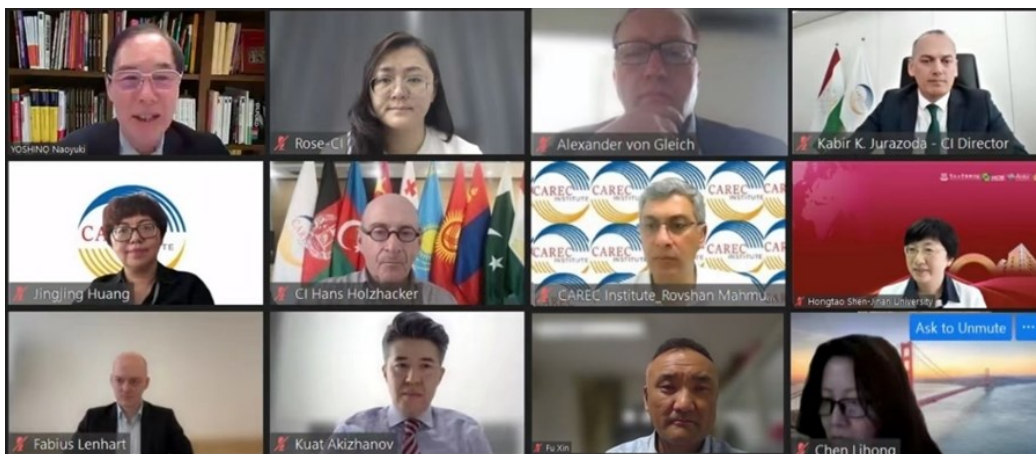
CAREC Chai Webinar Delivers Insights on ESG Compliance and Sustainable Finance in the Region

The CAREC Institute, in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank, successfully organized the 9th CAREC Chai event, titled "Simplify ESG Compliance: Insights, Tools, and Regional Perspectives," on May 23, 2024. The webinar brought together policymakers, investors, and stakeholders from across the CAREC region to deepen understanding, exchange insights, and explore actionable strategies for advancing Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) integration and sustainable finance. The webinar aimed to address the urgent need to balance economic growth with environmental protection and social factors such as human rights, education, gender equality, and welfare in the region.

Ms. Hongtao Shen from the School of Management at Jinan University, Guangzhou, PRC, delivered the second keynote presentation focusing on the "Key Findings from ESG in China: a review of practice and research, and future research avenues." Ms. Shen shared key research findings on ESG implementation in Chinese organizations, highlighting the importance of integrating ESG considerations into business strategies. The presentation aimed to provide insights into the progress, challenges, and future research directions for ESG adoption in China, emphasizing the need for continuous improvement and innovation in this area.

Ms. Lihong Chen from the Ministry of Finance of the PRC presented her Economic Brief, offering insights into the economic aspect of ESG within the CAREC region. Ms. Chen discussed the impact of ESG practices on economic development in the region and emphasized the role of sustainable finance in building resilience and promoting sustainability. The presentation underscored the significance of integrating ESG principles into financial decision-making processes to drive long-term growth, stability, and positive environmental and social outcomes in the CAREC region.

The panel discussion featured international experts such as Mr. Naoyuki Yoshino, Professor Emeritus of Economics at Keio University, Japan, Mr. Fu Xin, Associate Professor at the Business School of Hohai University, China, and Mr. Kuat Akizhanov, Deputy Director Two at the CAREC Institute, centering on ESG investment, green bonds, and SME green policies. The experts shared insights on the challenges faced by member economies in the region, including data access, policy frameworks, and evaluation agencies. The discussion emphasized the importance of collaboration, knowledge sharing, and regional cooperation to build resilient and sustainable economies in the CAREC region. Key stakeholders highlighted the need for international experience, strengthened regional exchange, and the development of sustainable finance mechanisms to support ESG infrastructure and drive green economic growth in the region.



Participants of the CAREC Chai Webinar IX.

Mr. Kabir K. Jurazoda, Director of the CAREC Institute, delivered the opening remarks, emphasizing the critical role of ESG in shaping a sustainable and secure future for the region. "In today's rapidly evolving landscape, the integration of Environmental, Social, and Governance principles is not just a choice but a necessity for ensuring the long-term sustainability and prosperity of our region," said Mr. Kabir Jurazoda.

During the first keynote presentation, Mr. Alexander von Gleich and Mr. Fabius Lenhart from Climcycle Software Company introduced Climcycle, a comprehensive ESG software suite. This software is tailored to conduct physical climate risk assessments, CO2 emissions calculations, ESG risk scoring, and stress testing for global stakeholders. Climcycle's objective is to simplify ESG compliance processes and improve sustainability practices within organizations by offering customized solutions for managing environmental, social, and governance responsibilities.

Empowering Digital Economies: Joint CAREC-China Digital Economy Workshop and the Second ASEAN-China Digital Economy Workshop

The CAREC Institute, in partnership with the ADB CAREC Secretariat, ADB-PRC Regional Knowledge Sharing Initiative, and the Center for International Studies on Development and Governance at Zhejiang University, hosted the Joint CAREC-China Digital Economy Workshop & 2nd ASEAN-China Digital Economy Workshop from May 20 to June 1, 2024, at the Zhejiang University in Hangzhou, China.

Bringing together esteemed speakers, policymakers, experts, and participants from the CAREC and ASEAN regions, this workshop was a hub of knowledge exchange, insightful discussions, and networking opportunities. The event focuses on exploring various facets of the digital economy, from innovative technologies to digital governance, and opportunities for inclusive economic growth.

During the workshop's first day, Mr. Kabir Jurazoda, Director of the CAREC Institute extended a warm welcome to the participants, appreciating their active involvement and insightful contributions to the dialogue. The workshop's objectives include igniting discussions, promoting knowledge sharing, and pinpointing areas for improvement within individual economies to leverage the complete advantages of digitalization for societal welfare.

Mr. Rovshan Mahmudov, Senior Capacity Building Specialist at the CAREC Institute, delivered a presentation titled "CAREC Digital Economy Development: Challenges and Policy Recommendations." During his talk, he discussed the digital gaps identified in CAREC countries, highlighting issues such as high internet costs, weak infrastructure, regulatory challenges, and cybersecurity risks. Mr. Mahmudov emphasized the significance of addressing these obstacles to narrow the digital divide and foster digital advancement in these regions. His presentation underscored the necessity for strategic interventions and collaborative initiatives to improve digital access and utilization in these countries.

Workshop attendees were actively engaged in informative sessions focusing on China's digital

economy model, sharing best practices, experiences, and challenges. They delved into detailed conversations about digital infrastructure, literacy, and internet pricing. Additionally, participants had the opportunity to explore hands-on experiences with advanced technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Metaverse, Cloud Computing, and Intelligent Manufacturing. The event has also facilitated networking opportunities for cross-regional collaboration and knowledge sharing.



Participants of the Joint CAREC-China Digital Economy Workshop & 2nd ASEAN-China Digital Economy Workshop

The CAREC Institute is dedicated to enhancing capacity building in the realm of digital economy issues. With a strong commitment to fostering knowledge and expertise in this rapidly evolving field, the Institute strives to equip individuals and organizations with the necessary skills and understanding to navigate the complexities of the digital landscape. Through a range of initiatives, workshops, and training programs, the CAREC Institute aims to empower national policymakers with the tools and insights needed to address challenges, seize opportunities, and drive innovation in the digital economy. By promoting continuous learning and skill development, the Institute plays a pivotal role in building a strong foundation for sustainable digital growth and development across the CAREC region.

Enhanced Partnership Between the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office and the CAREC Institute

On May 6, the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO), led by Director Dr. Kouqing Li, visited the CAREC Institute. Deputy Directors of the CAREC Institute — Dr. Jingjing Huang and Dr. Kuat Akizhanov — warmly welcomed the delegation, paving the way for a collaborative discussion.

During the meeting, both organizations delved into their operational strategies and roles. The CAREC Institute introduced its knowledge products, such as the Quarterly Economic Monitor, research reports, visiting fellows papers and others, and highlighted its upcoming flagship events: the Eighth CAREC Think Tank Development Forum and the Fourth Research Conference. It also emphasized its extensive CAREC Think Tank Network, which facilitates policy dialogue among members and development partners and provides high-quality knowledge services for regional economic cooperation. Meanwhile, the AMRO presented the ASEAN+3 Regional Economic Outlook for 2024, inspiring detailed discussions on regional economic trends and potential challenges.

A significant outcome of the visit was a mutual agreement to strengthen partnership ties. Both organizations committed to enhancing collaboration by sharing knowledge products, providing training resources, and jointly developing research projects. These efforts aim to boost regional economic resilience and stability.

Founded in 2011 by the ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers, AMRO is dedicated to promoting macroeconomic and financial stability across its 14 member economies. It conducts rigorous macroeconomic surveillance, supports the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization, and offers technical assistance. The AMRO Regional Knowledge Hub plays a crucial role in disseminating vital economic knowledge and promoting regional financial cooperation.

The strengthened partnership between the AMRO and the CAREC Institute is set to enhance the collective impact on the economic resilience and stability of the ASEAN+3 and CAREC regions. This collaboration is anticipated to bring significant benefits to all member countries, fostering sustained economic growth and development.



Meeting between the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office and the CAREC Institute.

Enhancing Cooperation between Xinjiang University and the CAREC Institute

On May 14, a six-number delegation from the CAREC Institute, headed by Director Mr. Kabir Jurazoda, paid a visit to Xinjiang University. They were warmly received by Professor Jingbing Sun, Dean of the School of Economics and Management of Xinjiang University, who expressed a keen interest in establishing collaborative ties with the CAREC Institute.

During the engagement, both parties shared insights into their respective institutional progress and aspirations for the future. The CAREC Institute showcased its latest intellectual contributions, delineated its capacity-building initiatives, and spotlighted forthcoming marquee events, namely the Eighth CAREC Think Tank Development Forum and the Fourth Research Conference. The School of Economics and Management at Xinjiang University outlined its research focal points, which encompass the Belt and Road Initiative, the Xinjiang Pilot Free Trade Zone, and the pursuit of carbon neutrality.

A pivotal outcome of the dialogue was a consensus to fortify research collaboration and to extend invitations to each other's experts for scholarly exchanges, with the aim of bolstering the research acumen of both institutions.

Founded in 2001, the School of Economics and Management at Xinjiang University stands as a significant hub for nurturing talent and advancing scholarly inquiry in the fields of economics and management within the Xinjiang region.



Meeting between Xinjiang University and the CAREC Institute.

CAREC Institute Meets with Sage Publishing to Explore Partnership Opportunities

On May 6, the team from Sage Publishing, headed by Ms. Rosalia da Garcia, Managing Director, visited the CAREC Institute to explore potential collaboration opportunities in publishing journals and books featuring research papers from the CAREC region.

Dr. Kuat Akizhanov, Deputy Director of the CAREC Institute, extended a warm welcome to the delegation members and provided an overview of the Institute's knowledge production and sharing initiatives. He emphasized that research stands as a cornerstone of the CAREC Institute's mission, aimed at identifying the region's most pressing challenges and offering policy recommendations. The Institute's research outputs encompass comprehensive reports, scholarly articles, and economic briefs, all rooted in thorough independent analysis. Additionally, the Institute facilitates research collaboration through initiatives like the Visiting Fellowship Program and Research Grants Program. Annual events such as the Think Tank Development Forum and research conferences further foster dialogue among regional researchers and facilitate the exchange of ideas and insights.

During the presentation, Ms. Rosalia da Garcia outlined the range of services offered by SAGE Publishing, encompassing academic journal and book publishing, reference works, textbooks, and online resources spanning social sciences, humanities, and science, technology, and medicine. Sage Publishing offers high-quality, peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary journal content through platforms like Sage Premier, which provides access to over 950 journal titles and 1 million articles. Additionally, Sage Publishing supports open access publishing through initiatives like Sage Open, Sage Choice, and the Sage Gold OA package. These products aim to disseminate research to a broad audience and contribute to the advancement of knowledge in various fields. She emphasized that partnering with the CAREC Institute would facilitate greater understanding of the CAREC region within the global research community, enabling the sharing of local research and providing local researchers with the opportunity to publish their papers in reputable journals.

CAREC Institute and Kazakhstan's "Public Opinion Research Institute" Discussed Their Research Partnership in a Recent Meeting

On May 22, the "Public Opinion Research Institute" from Kazakhstan visited the CAREC Institute to showcase their sociological research projects in Central Asia. The Research Institute's delegates deliberated on forming a partnership with the CAREC Institute to explore research cooperation aimed at addressing complex research challenges, incorporating sociological surveys and interdisciplinary strategies.

The Research Institute's team participated in CAREC Institute's sociological research on public attitudes towards COVID-19 vaccination in CAREC countries and the survey-based assessment on household access to energy in the Fergana Valley in collaboration with Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) and with the support of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Other notable research projects by the "Public Opinion Research Institute" encompass topics like Educational Migration from the Republic of Kazakhstan to the People's Republic of China, the "Turkbarometer" – a Survey in Turkic-Speaking Countries, Youth in Central Asia, Sociological Expeditions for the Study of Kazakhs Living Abroad, Illegal Migration of Kazakhstanis to South Korea, coverage of CAREC countries for the

World Values Survey, and more. The Research Institute also organizes training sessions, research seminars, expert meetings, scientific and practical internships, and various other activities to further their research and knowledge-sharing initiatives.

The meeting served as a platform not only to unveil research findings but also to foster discussions and promote knowledge exchange among experts, researchers, and stakeholders. The collaborative effort between the CAREC Institute, the "Public Opinion Research Institute" and ADBI exemplified a strong dedication to tackling crucial challenges in the region through research cooperation. By bringing together diverse perspectives and expertise, the collaboration aims to drive impactful solutions and advancements in the field of sociological and economic research and beyond.

During this event, the importance of making decisions based on evidence and the pivotal role of research was highlighted, underscoring the CAREC Institute's commitment to facilitating informed decision-making and fostering discussions on socioeconomic development strategies within and among the CAREC countries.



Meeting between "Public Opinion Research Institute" and the CAREC Institute.

CAREC Institute Showcases Its Expertise at the 11th Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum

CAREC Institute's Senior Research Specialist Dr. Ghulam Samad recently shared institute's research findings at the prestigious 11th Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. The forum, organized by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), brought together over 200 participants from 40 countries to discuss digitalization and sustainable supply chains in the region.

In the session titled "Advancing Digitalization for the Future – Institutional Initiatives and Support," Dr. Ghulam Samad discussed the CAREC Institute's research efforts in trade facilitation, highlighting the

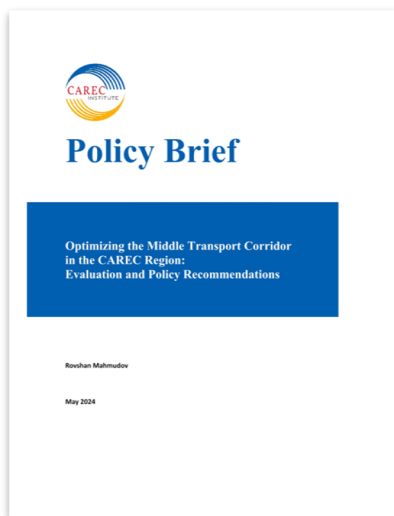
significance of digital trade facilitation and the future trajectory of regional trade policies. He actively participated in discussions regarding the CAREC Monitoring and Management methodology, underscoring the importance of data-driven analysis in guiding trade facilitation approaches.

The CAREC Institute's engagement at the Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum demonstrates its dedication to enhancing trade facilitation standards in the region and promoting cooperation among essential partners. Through its significant input, the Institute has reinforced its standing as a premier knowledge hub in the realm of trade facilitation within the CAREC region.

Unlocking Trade Potential: Policy Brief on Optimizing the Middle Transport Corridor in the CAREC Region

The CAREC Institute has issued the new [Policy Brief on Optimizing the Middle Transport Corridor in the CAREC Region](#). Authored by Mr. Rovshan Mahmudov, this brief offers valuable insights, evaluation, and policy recommendations to enhance trade and connectivity in the CAREC region.

This comprehensive policy brief delves into the opportunities and challenges presented by the Middle Corridor (also CAREC Corridor 2), highlighting the importance of regional infrastructure, political relations, and technological advancements in shaping the future of international trade and transportation.

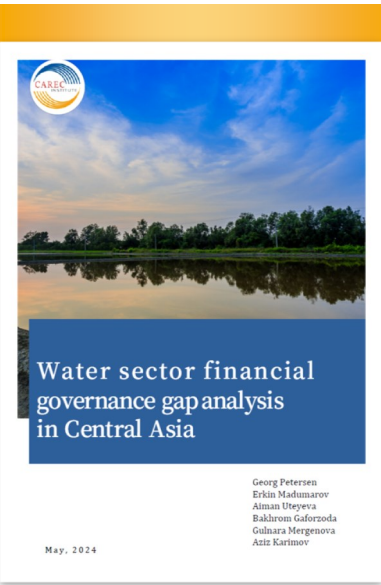


New Blog Article on Tourism Potential of Azerbaijan

The new [CTTN blog article](#) explores Azerbaijan's tourism potential and the new phase of cooperation with CAREC countries. It delves into the notable rise in tourist numbers, the influence of infrastructure enhancements, and the strategic reforms propelling sector growth. From pandemic challenges to optimistic post-recovery trends, this

article provides an in-depth examination of Azerbaijan's pivotal role in the tourism sector. Discover the statistics, trends, and initiatives shaping the future of tourism in Azerbaijan and its collaborations with neighboring CAREC countries.

For more details, please visit our [CTTN blog](#).



New Publication Reveals Insights into Water Sector Financial Governance in Central Asia

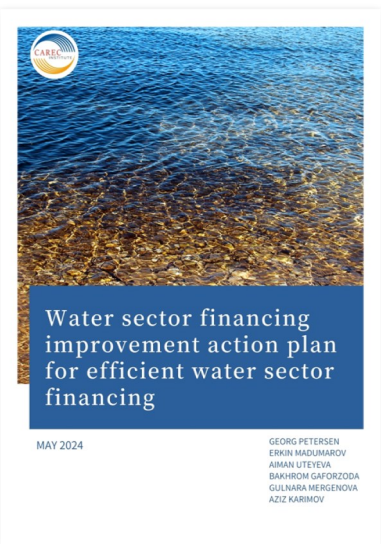
The CAREC Institute released a comprehensive publication titled [“Water sector financial governance gap analysis in Central Asia.”](#) The report, authored by Georg Petersen, Erkin Madumarov, Aiman Uteyeva, Bakhrom Gaforzoda, Gulnara Mergenova, and Aziz Karimov, delves into the regulatory landscape governing water tariffs, environmental regulations, and water resource management in Central Asian countries. It highlights the roles of key state committees and ministries in overseeing and regulating various aspects of the water sector.

The research was funded through the technical and financial assistance from the Asian Development Bank under “TA-6694 REG: Water sector financial governance gap analysis in Central Asia: from planning to practice.”

Furthermore, the publication addresses the lack of comprehensive regulatory frameworks for water utilities, emphasizing the importance of clear laws and regulations to govern the rights, obligations, and responsibilities of both private and public water

companies. It also discusses the challenges hindering private engagement in the water sector, such as regulatory hurdles and unclear ownership structures.

The report provides valuable recommendations for improving financial governance in the water sector, including the need for coordinated investment planning, enhanced fee collection mechanisms, and the development of policy initiatives to promote partnerships and agreements within the sector.



Water Sector Financing Improvement Action Plan for Efficient Water Sector Financing

The CAREC Institute issued a report titled [“Water Sector Financing Improvement Action Plan for Efficient Water Sector Financing.”](#) Authored by a team of esteemed experts including Georg Petersen, Erkin Madumarov, Aiman Uteyeva, Bakhrom Gaforzoda, Gulnara Mergenova, and Aziz Karimov, this comprehensive document delves into the critical financial needs of the water sector in Central Asia.

The report highlights major water infrastructure priorities of the CAREC member states, offering valuable insights into developing a water financing gap report for regional and national water infrastructure projects. By systematizing current water sector financing schemes from the CAREC region and international best practices, the authors provide a roadmap for sustainable, equitable, and efficient funding for water infrastructure and services.

The research was funded through the technical and financial assistance from the Asian Development Bank under “TA-6694 REG: Water sector financial governance gap analysis in Central Asia: from planning to practice.”

This report is a vital resource for policymakers, water sector professionals, and stakeholders interested in enhancing financial governance and sustainability in the water sector. It offers actionable recommendations to address the financial governance gap and optimize resource allocation in Central Asia.

NEW EVENT: Advancing Road Safety and Sustainable Mobility with CAREC—Phase 3

The CAREC Institute, in strategic alliance with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), and the Asia Pacific Road Safety Observatory (APRSO), has adeptly executed a five-day intensive workshop (Phase 2) titled “CAREC Road Safety and Sustainable Mobility.” This pivotal session, held from February 26 to March 1, 2024, in Bishkek, marked the first engagement for participants from Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

The CAREC Road Safety Capacity Building Program is a three aligned phases, meticulously designed to submerge participants in a diverse array of activities aimed at bolstering technical proficiency, leadership acumen, and collaborative efficacy. The initiative is committed to the advancement of empirically substantiated road safety interventions.

Phase 3 heralds the continuation of a dynamic online community of practice, providing a structured forum for participants to pursue sustained capacity building within the realm of road safety.

Program Details:

Phase 1 – Online Capacity Building (December 2023 – February 2024, online): This initial phase presents a custom-tailored virtual engagement, guiding participants through a methodical series of online training endeavors to cultivate technical knowledge and proficiency in international road safety best practices.

Phase 2 – CAREC Road Safety and Sustainable Mobility Course (26 February - 1 March 2024, in-person).

Phase 3 – Ongoing online community of practice (25 June 2024 and 30 July 2024).



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CAREC Road Safety and Sustainable Mobility Course – Phase 3

Title: How Can the Road Safety Engineering Profession Improve Road Safety in CAREC

Date & Time: 18:00-19:30 pm, 25 June 2024, Beijing time



Speaker: Phillip Jordan
International Road Safety Engineer

Phillip Jordan, an expert in road safety engineering and audits, has an extensive career both in Victoria, Australia, and as an international consultant in 46 countries. His work includes collaborating with major financial institutions and conducting projects in Asia, the Pacific, and the Middle East.

Key accomplishments:

- Led road safety projects in every CAREC country.
- Authored ten national and one regional road safety audit manuals, plus 20 engineering manuals in five languages.
- Delivered numerous workshops worldwide and adapted to online formats during the pandemic, reaching 1000 participants across 35 countries.

Title: Risk Factors for Road Safety: Evidence-based Initiatives to Save Lives

Date & Time: 18:00-19:30 pm, 30 July 2024, Beijing time



Speaker: Dave Cliff
Chief Executive Officer, Global Road Safety Partnership

Dave Cliff became CEO of the Global Road Safety Partnership in April 2017, focusing on reducing road trauma in low-and middle-income countries. Prior to this, he served as Assistant Commissioner of Road Policing in New Zealand and held significant positions in NZ policing. Dave, with a 34-year policing career, has received honors including Officer of the NZ Order of Merit and Member of the Order of St John for his contributions to various policing areas including emergency management and road safety.

NEW EVENT: 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 Cross-border E-commerce Conference and Commodity Exhibition in Langfang, the People's Republic of China 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.

ADVERTISEMENT: Call for Consulting Services of International and National Consultants

The CAREC Institute is looking for talented individuals to fill roles as International and National Consultants for the research project "Containerization in CAREC region: Trends, Developments and Recommendations."

The primary objectives of this study will be:

- Assess the current status of the transport and logistics sector, in particular the level of containerization in cross-border trade.
- Identify the barriers and bottlenecks that impede adoption of containerization, which can be attributed to issues in regulation, operation or market economics.
- Analyze the time and cost performance of containerized shipment, viz-a-viz other methods of transportation, to determine the situations where containerization makes economic sense.
- Recommend possible policy and incentive measures for CAREC countries to promote and adopt containerization.

Applications are accepted until 03-Jun-2024 11:59 PM Manila local time through the ADB Consultant Management System:

International Consultants

1. [Team Leader \(International Transport and Logistics Specialist\).](#)
2. [Seaports and Maritime Specialist.](#)
3. [Transport/Trade Economist.](#)

National Consultants

1. [National Consultant for Kazakhstan.](#)
2. [National Consultant for Azerbaijan.](#)
3. [National Consultant for Georgia.](#)
4. [National Consultant for Pakistan.](#)
5. [National Consultant for PRC.](#)
6. [National Consultant for Mongolia.](#)

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 corridors; 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.