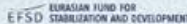
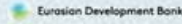




The Eighth CAREC Think Tank Development Forum (CTTDF)
The Climate Challenge: Thinking Beyond Borders for Collective Action



27-28 August 2024 | Almaty, Kazakhstan



Agenda Framework

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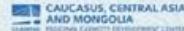
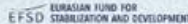
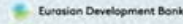
26 August Monday	<p>Arrival of Participants Welcome Dinner @ Altitude (28th floor), Ritz-Carlton Almaty 20:00 – 22:00 Hosted by Caucasus, Central Asia, and Mongolia Regional Capacity Development Center</p>
Day One: 27 August, Tuesday Ballroom (1st floor), Ritz-Carlton 	
8:30 am – 9:00 am	Registration
Session I: Opening Ceremony	
9:00 am – 09:30 am	Welcome Remarks by Mr. Kabir Jurazoda, Director , CAREC Institute (05 minutes)
	Opening Address by Mr. Yang Yingming, Vice President , Asian Development Bank (ADB), Manila, Philippines (5 minutes) (TBC)
	Keynote Address by Minister of National Economy, Kazakhstan (TBC) (07 minutes)
	Group Photo (13 minutes)



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Session II: Context Setting

The first topic will explore the effectiveness of global climate initiatives, such as the Paris Agreement, Global Environment Facility (GEF), and Green Climate Fund (GCF) in mitigating climate change. It will explore the progress, challenges, and impact of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation to climate change.

The second topic will focus on fostering greater cooperation and collaboration among multiple stakeholders. Discussions could center around the role of multilateral platforms, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in facilitating dialogue, negotiations, and implementation of climate agreements, strategies to overcome political barriers, enhance trust and solidarity among countries with differing interests, and how to make these platforms inclusive and responsive to the needs of all stakeholders.

The third topic will explore the choices, strategies, and policy frameworks that are available to developing economies to pursue economic growth without compromising the environment. The topic will also aim to identify synergies between economic development and sustainability goals, such as investing in renewable energy, promoting energy efficiency, and adopting green technologies, and the role of international cooperation, technology transfer, and capacity-building support in facilitating sustainable development pathways for low-income countries with limited fiscal resources.

In this moderated session, the speakers will make presentations (15 minutes each) on their respective topics, and the moderator will lead and facilitate the Discussion (25 minutes) by inviting questions, comments, and participants' feedback.

09:30 am – 10:40 am

Moderator

Lyaziza Sabyrova
 Regional Head, Regional
 Cooperation and
 Integration, Asian
 Development Bank

Assessing the impact of Climate Initiatives: Progress, Pitfalls and Lessons Learned (15 minutes)

Speaker: Johannes F. Linn, **Nonresident Senior Fellow**, Global Economy and Development Program, Brookings Institution, Washington D.C., USA (TBC)

Strengthening Multilateral Cooperation for Inclusive Climate Governance (15 minutes)

Speaker: Hans Holzhaecker, Chief Economist, CAREC Institute

Pathways to Sustainable Development: Achieving High Economic Growth While Minimizing Carbon Footprints (15 minutes)

Speaker: Norbert Funke, **Director** IMF CCAMTAC, Almaty, Kazakhstan

Open Discussion (25 minutes)

10:40 am – 11:00 am

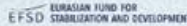
Coffee @ Foyer



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Session III: Asia in the Global Fight Against Climate Change: Capturing Sub-regional Perspectives

Asia's path to simultaneously achieving a high level of economic growth and decarbonization is fraught with multiple risks and enormous challenges. The dilemma of balancing carbon-intensive economic growth and climate change is across the board in high- to low-income nations and emerging economies in Asia. As a manufacturing hub and the largest carbon emitter globally, the region faces the critical task of balancing economic growth with reducing carbon footprints. Despite having per capita energy consumption of one-third of the OECD countries, Asia's energy needs are expanding due to its growing middle-class population. Diverse sub-regions within Asia are at different stages of development with varying degrees of climate-induced vulnerabilities. In the session, perspectives from peer regions – ASEAN, Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS), and CAREC – will be discussed.

In this moderated session, the speakers will make presentations (15 minutes each) on their respective topics, and the moderator will lead and facilitate the Discussion (25 minutes) by inviting questions, comments, and participants' feedback.

11:00 am – 12:50 pm

Moderator

Mr. Sergei Ulatov
 Deputy-Managing
 Director
 EFSO

ASEAN's Path to Net Zero: Policy Framework, Supporting Initiatives, and the Pathway (15 minutes)

Speaker: Ms. Marthe M. Hinojales, Senior Economist, Regional Surveillance, ASEAN +3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO), Singapore

Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS): Enhancing Synergies and Subregional Cooperation for Climate Resilient and Net Zero Development (15 minutes)

Speaker: Suriyan Vichitlekarn, Executive Director, Mekong Institute, Thailand

CAREC Region's Climate Vulnerabilities: Policy Options for a Sustainable Future (15 minutes)

Speaker: Iskandar Abdullaev, **IWMI (International Water Management Institute) Country Representative for Pakistan**

Decarbonizing Global Value Chains in CAREC: Impact of the EU's CBAM on CAREC Economies (15 minutes)

Speaker: Altynay Arapova, **Economist**, Regional Cooperation and Integration, Asian Development Bank

Critical Raw Materials (CRMs) in the CAREC Region: Need for a Regional Framework for Sustainable Extraction (15 minutes)

Speaker: Roman Vakulchuk, **Head of Climate and Energy Research Group** Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI), Oslo, Norway

CAREC Climate Change Action Plan: Integrating Climate Change into CAREC Program Themes (15 minutes)

Speaker: Khalid Umar, **Regional Cooperation Specialist**, CWRC, ADB

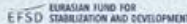
Open Discussion (20 minutes)



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ADB-PRC Regional Knowledge Sharing Initiative

Session IV: CTTN Research Grants Program (RGP) Presentations: From Ideas to Impact: Accelerating Climate Solutions through Innovative Development

The RGP is designed to support CTTN member think tanks to produce policy research on topics of regional significance to add value to the regional body of knowledge, promote and facilitate collaboration among member think tanks to jointly work on regional issues, and provide a regional platform to national think tanks to present their research output at the annual think tank development forum. In this session, RGP Researchers will present preliminary findings of their research studies on topics closely aligned with the Forum's thematic focus.

Each researcher will present their findings for **10 minutes**, followed by participants' feedback and open Discussion for **30 minutes**.

12:50 pm – 2:00 pm

Moderator

Dr. Siddarth Saxena,
 Chairman,
 Cambridge Central Asia
 Forum, UK

1. Innovative Perspectives: Exploring Opportunities in Emissions Trading Systems for CAREC Countries (10 minutes)

Speaker: Giorgi Khishtovani, **Research Director**, PMC Research Center, Georgia **Climate**

2. Change in Kazakhstan: State Policy and Public Awareness (10 minutes)

Speaker: Azimzhan Khitakhunov, **Senior Research Fellow**, Eurasian Research Institute of the Khoja Akhmet Yassawi International Turkish-Kazakh University, Kazakhstan

3. Optimizing Financial Architecture by Overcoming Challenges to Implement Emission Trading Mechanisms in the CAREC Region (10 minutes)

Speaker: Ummara Razi, **Lecturer and Research Associate**, ILMA University, Pakistan

4. Designing Policy Support for Climate-smart Trade in the CAREC Region (10 minutes)

Speaker: Hadiqa Tanveer, **Lecturer**, Bahria Business School, Pakistan

5. Carbon Pricing in Central Asia: Opportunities and Barriers: The Case of the Kyrgyz Republic (10 minutes)

Speaker: Aijan Sharshenova, **Executive Director**, Crossroads Central Asia, Kyrgyz Republic

Open Discussion (20 minutes)

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

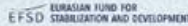
Lunch @ Ballroom



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Session V: Innovative Technologies for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

The rapid technological innovation offers a glimmer of hope for reversing or halting human-caused climate damage. However, technological innovation and the ensuing gains are not evenly distributed, amplifying vulnerabilities in developing economies. The first presentation in the session will discuss frameworks, mechanisms, and challenges for technological transfer. The second presentation of the session will focus on the development and deployment of scalable technologies for climate mitigation and adaptation, particularly in renewable energy, infrastructure, agriculture, and urban planning sectors. Developing a regional ecosystem is critical for surmounting climate challenges. This topic will be covered by the third speaker. The final topic third presentation will discuss the scope, opportunities, and challenges of fostering regional cooperation for developing a technology ecosystem.

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.

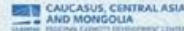
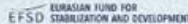
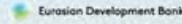
<p>3:00 pm – 4:10 pm</p> <p>Moderator Hans Holzhaecker, Chief Economist, CAREC Institute</p>	<p>Technological Disparity: Bridging the Gap Between Advanced and Developing Economies (12 minutes) Speaker: Dr. Xianchun Tan, professor of Institutes of Science and Development, vice-director of the Center for Carbon Neutrality Strategy, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CASISD)</p> <p>Scalable Solutions I: Greening Economic Corridors, Production, and Trade (12 minutes) Speaker: Mr. Kumar Utsav, Country Director, ADB Kazakhstan Resident Mission</p> <p>Scalable Solutions II: Green Hydrogen: Opportunities, Challenges, and Policy (12 minutes) Speaker: Ms. Dina Azhgaliyeva, ADBI</p> <p>Developing Innovation Ecosystem: Impact of the Made in China 2025 Industrial Strategy on Green Innovation (12 minutes) Speaker: Dr. Asif Razzaq, Senior Researcher, CAREC Institute</p> <p>Open Discussion (22 minutes)</p>
<p>4:10 pm – 4:30 pm</p>	<p>Coffee @ Foyer</p>



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Session VI: Local Solutions for Climate Resilience

Active involvement of sub-national governments, local communities, and NGOs is paramount in crafting effective policy responses to address the existential threat of climate change. Emphasizing localized solutions that leverage innovative technologies sets a precedent worth replicating and scaling up. During this session, member think tanks of the CTTN will showcase country-specific examples of small yet intelligent solutions aiding communities in their climate change adaptation endeavors. This South-South learning session aims to foster increased regional cooperation in discovering sustainable solutions.

In this session, six country cases (10 minutes each) will be presented. The moderator will lead and facilitate the Discussion (30 minutes) by inviting participants' comments, feedback, and questions.

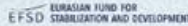
<p>4:30 pm – 6:00 pm</p> <p>Moderator: TBC (AIIB or Craig)</p>	<p>Azerbaijan Case Study (10 minutes) Presenter: Vusala Jafarova, Chief Advisor at the Strategic Planning Division, Center for Analysis of Economic Reforms and Communication (CAERC), Azerbaijan</p> <p>China Case Study (10 minutes) Presenter: Li Cangshu, Associate Research Fellow and Coordinator of the “Dual Carbon” Project, Center for International Knowledge on Development, China</p> <p>Mongolia Case Study (10 minutes) Presenter: Tuvshintugs Batdelger, Director, Economic Research Institute, Mongolia</p> <p>Tajikistan Case Study (10 minutes) Presenter: Jahongir Dehkonov, Director of PO "Fund for Poverty Reduction</p> <p>Turkmenistan Case Study (10 minutes) Presenter: Mr. Jumamuhmet Geldiyev, Senior Specialist, Division for Financial Analysis of Agro-Industrial Complex, Department for Development and Financing of Economic Sectors</p> <p>Uzbekistan Case Study (10 minutes) Presenter: Ezoz Ozodov, Manager of the Innovation Cluster for Sustainable Development, "TIIAME" National Research University, Uzbekistan</p> <p>Open Discussion (30 minutes)</p>
<p>7:00 pm – 8:30 pm</p>	<p>Dinner @ Ballroom</p>



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Day Two: 28 August, Wednesday | Ballroom (1st floor), Ritz-Carlton |

9:00 am – 9:30 am

Registration

Session VII: Fixing Climate Finance

The provision of adequate financing is the principal enabler for effective climate action. The global drive towards decarbonization demands ever-increasing volumes of investment spanning considerable timeframes. However, the stark disparity between global multilateral commitments and disbursements poses a significant challenge, dissuading developing nations from eliminating carbon subsidies to create fiscal space for transitioning towards greener economies. Particularly in the CAREC region, where countries embarked on their decarbonization journey with comparatively lower income levels, this strains their already limited resources. Navigating this challenge necessitates an-all- stakeholders-approach for the development of strategies and mechanisms to empower developing countries to mobilize sufficient financing for alleviating the climate challenge.

An underdeveloped capital market and the near absence of a carbon credit market in the CAREC region amplify the challenge. Creating a conducive policy environment and implementing business-friendly regulations could incentivize private sector engagement in climate action for bridging the enormous financing gap.

The speakers will deliver presentations on session topics **(20 minutes each)**. The moderator will lead and facilitate the Discussion **(30 minutes)** by inviting participants' comments, feedback, and questions.

9:30 am – 11:00 am

Moderator

Akiko Terada-Hagiwara,
Principal Country
Specialist, ADB

Bridging Sustainable Financing Gap: Role of Development Partners, Governments, Regulators and Private Finance Entities (15 minutes)

Speaker: Subathirai Sivakumaran, **Chief of Section**, Financing for Development Section, Macroeconomic Policy and Financing for Development Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Thailand

Financial Solutions to Close the Investment Gap in the Drinking Water and Sanitation Infrastructure of Central Asia (20 minutes)

Speaker I: Arman Ahunbaev, **Head of the Centre for Infrastructure and Industrial Research**, Eurasian Development Bank (EDB), Kazakhstan

Scaling up private climate finance: drivers, impediments, and solutions

Speaker: Shu (Grace) Tian, Senior Economist, Economic Research and Development Impact Department, ADB (15 minutes)

Financial Innovation: Startups and Financing Green Technologies in the CAREC Region (15 minutes)

Speaker: Ms. Xiaojing Fei, Co-host of Impact Hub Asia-Pacific

Open Discussion (25 minutes)

11:00 am – 11:20 am

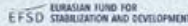
Coffee @ Foyer



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Session VIII: CAREC Think Tank Voices

Think tanks operate in complex political and business contexts with profound financial sustainability and growth implications. This panel discussion would delve into the specific challenges that think tanks face within political and business contexts, including navigating regulatory hurdles, managing stakeholder interests, and preserving independence while engaging with political and corporate entities. Moreover, the panel would explore various strategies that think tanks employ to achieve financial sustainability and innovative approaches to foster institutional growth.

The panel comprising CAREC think tank representatives would share their insights and experiences relevant to the topic **(40 minutes)**. CTTN secretariat will present the progress report **(10 minutes)** and receive CTTN member feedback to improve the network **(20 minutes)**.

<p>11:20 am – 12:30 pm</p> <p>Moderator Kuat Akizhanov Deputy Director II CAREC Institute</p>	<p>Panel Discussion on Navigating Political and Business Landscape: Achieving Financial Sustainability and Fostering Institutional Growth</p> <p>Panelist I: Suat Beylur, Director, Eurasian Research Institute, Kazakhstan</p> <p>Panelist II: Abid Suleri, Executive Director/Advisory Council Committee Member of COP29, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Pakistan</p> <p>Panelist III: Mr. Shahin Sadiqov, Director, Economic Scientific Research Institute, Azerbaijan</p> <p>Panelist IV: Mariam Lobjanidze, Acting Lead Economist, ISET Policy Institute, Georgia</p> <p>Panelist V: Dr. Indira Satarkulova, Acting Director, OSCE Academy in Bishkek</p> <p>Open Discussion</p>
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CTTN Progress and Initiatives by the Secretariat

<p>12:30 pm – 1:00 pm</p> <p>Moderator (From CI or Khalid)</p>	<p>CTTN Progress Report (10 minutes) Speaker: Dilraba Adil, Planning Specialist, CAREC Institute</p> <p>Suggestions and Feedback on CTTN (20 minutes)</p>
<p>1:00 pm – 1:10 pm</p>	<p>Closing Reflections and Acknowledgements by Dr. Jingjing Huang, Deputy Director, CAREC Institute</p>
<p>1:10 pm – 2:30 pm</p>	<p>Lunch @ Ballroom</p>