



Newsletter

CAREC Institute Hosts Successful Quarterly Review Meeting with Key Stakeholders

On July 12, the CAREC Institute successfully held its online quarterly review meeting, presenting recent achievements, addressing challenges, and outlining future strategic plans. Key stakeholders, including representatives from the CAREC Secretariat (Asian Development Bank) and the Ministry of Finance (the People's Republic of China), participated.

CAREC Institute Director Mr. Kabir Jurazoda provided updates on the Rolling Operation Plan for 2024 and 2025, highlighting significant progress across various areas, preparations for the upcoming Advisory Council meeting, efforts towards financial sustainability, and revitalization initiatives. Stakeholders engaged in productive dialogues, focusing on the Institute's revitalization, which outlined a thorough approach to restructuring.

Key areas of emphasis included long-term strategy development, enhancing product quality and country ownership, talent acquisition, robust governance, and financial sustainability. Feedback also underscored several critical areas for the Institute's sustained growth and effectiveness. These include the development of in-house capacities, strategic utilization of consultants, establishing metrics for evaluating the effectiveness of products and activities, financial mobilization, and enhancing coordination among divisions and with external partners. These components are essential for driving the Institute's progress and impact.

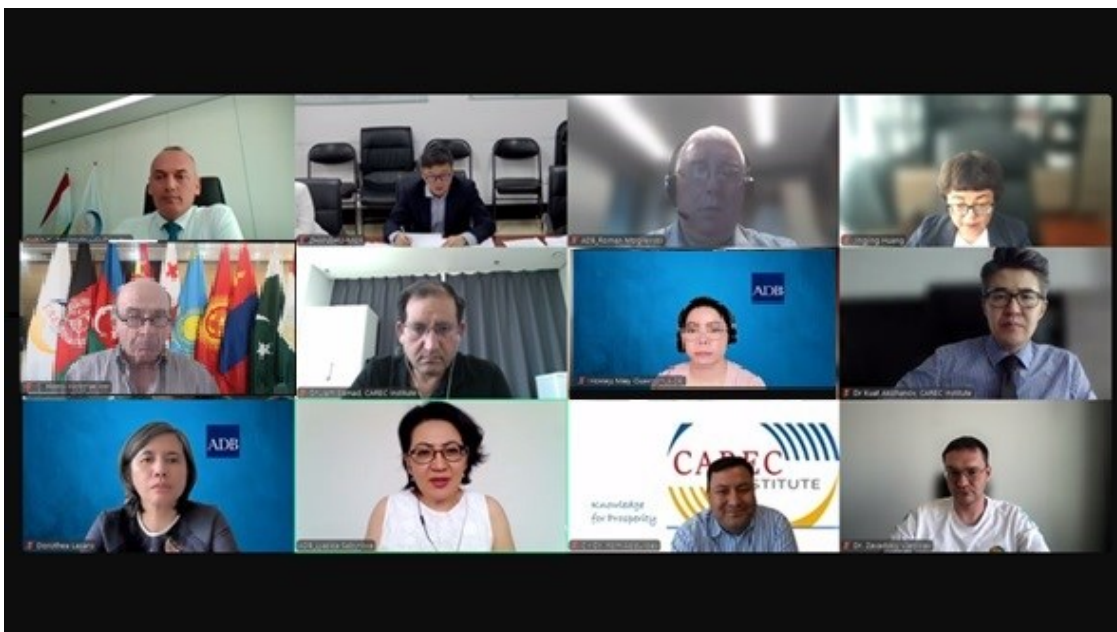
Through these discussions and plans, the Institute's dedication to fostering regional development and cooperation was clearly demonstrated.

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Participants of Quarterly Review Meeting with Key Stakeholders

Director of the CAREC Institute shares Insights at the Eurasian Development Bank's Business Forum in Almaty

On June 27, Mr. Kabir Jurazoda, Director of the CAREC Institute, delivered valuable insights on challenges and solutions concerning international transport corridors and routes within the CAREC region at the Eurasian Development Bank's Business Forum in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

The Forum highlighted interactions among multilateral development banks as crucial for Central Asian countries to achieve their sustainable development goals. It convened representatives from multilateral development banks, international organizations, governments, businesses, research institutions, and academia. During the discussions along with the issues of partnership for sustainable development in the field of water, energy and food, digital technologies and innovations, investment instruments; Islamic finance, also discussed the potential, challenges, and solutions of the Eurasian transport network, stressing the significance of coordinated infrastructure development, investments in transport corridors, and mechanisms to facilitate trade.

During the session on the Eurasian transport network, Mr. Kabir Jurazoda emphasized CAREC regional economic cooperation, trade facilitation, and infrastructure connectivity, focusing on critical priorities outlined in the CAREC Strategy 2030. Discussions underscored the significance of fostering synergy among transport corridors and routes through interconnection and complementarity rather than competition. Key topics addressed included priority transport projects, the regional transport network's role in landlocked countries, and necessary measures to stimulate regional transport infrastructure development.

Mr. Kabir Jurazoda underscored the pivotal elements essential for successful partnerships, leveraging the Institute's extensive experience and expertise. He emphasized the crucial roles of coordinated infrastructure development, investment in transport corridors, and harmonization of customs procedures to mitigate trade barriers and bolster economic integration. His focus on fostering cooperation to optimize transport logistics, lower tariffs, and diversify exports highlighted the importance of collaborative initiatives in cultivating a fluid and thriving economic environment within the region.

The CAREC Institute's participation at the Business Forum exemplified its dedication to advancing trade facilitation mechanisms and infrastructure connectivity in the Eurasian continent, underlining its pivotal role in regional economic cooperation.



Mr. Kabir Jurazoda delivered valuable insights the Eurasian Development Bank's Business Forum

CAREC Institute Participates in Green Development Forum of SCO Countries

On July 8, 2024, the CAREC Institute participated in the Green Development Forum of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Countries in Qingdao, the People's Republic of China (the PRC). This prestigious two-day event gathered over 350 guests from the PRC and other SCO countries to discuss green development strategies. The forum featured a main event and three parallel sub-forums, with keynote speeches delivered by senior representatives from environmental authorities, entrepreneurs, experts, scholars, and international organizations, all focusing on promoting green and low-carbon development.

Heads of environmental protection ministries from CAREC member countries, including the PRC, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Tajikistan, shared their countries' experiences and practices in promoting green development. They also discussed their insights and thoughts on enhancing exchanges and cooperation in the field of environmental protection within the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

Dr. Kuat Akizhanov, Deputy Director Two of the CAREC Institute, spoke at the "Technological Innovation for Green and High-Quality Development" sub-forum with a presentation titled "Catching up for Sustainable Development." In his presentation, Dr.

Akizhanov highlighted the severe implications of climate inaction across the Water-Agriculture-Energy Nexus, noting that 70% of regional developmental challenges stem from water scarcity. He revealed that climate inaction costs Central Asia \$76 billion, or 22% of its GDP.

Dr. Akizhanov outlined key policy actions necessary for sustainable development, including modernizing infrastructure, promoting crop diversification, leveraging renewable energy, and establishing a regional climate change cooperation framework. He stressed that embracing disruptive technologies and mitigating social impacts are essential steps towards achieving these goals.

The CAREC Institute remains committed to supporting green and sustainable development initiatives and looks forward to contributing to meaningful knowledge products and services to the CAREC member countries.



Deputy Director Two Dr. Kuat Akizhanov spoke at the Green Development Forum of SCO Countries

CAREC Institute Launches Renewable Energy Investment Ecosystem Project Funded by IsDB

The CAREC Institute (CI) is pleased to announce the commencement of the Renewable Energy Investment Ecosystem Project, funded by the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB). The successful kick-off meeting, held on 15 July, marks the beginning of a pivotal initiative to foster sustainable financing solutions for green investment projects.

Deputy Director Two, Dr. Kuat Akizhanov, highlighted CI's role and commitment to excellence, emphasizing the project's importance: "It is imperative for countries to find ways to fund their green investment projects. Our goal is to assist them in developing a renewable energy investment ecosystem." His remarks underscored the project's relevance in addressing the urgent need for sustainable financing solutions.

Chief of the Research Division, Dr. Ghulam Samad, stressed the significance of maintaining high-quality standards throughout the consultant assignments, especially in data collection. He outlined the overall working methodology and set clear expectations for the consultants to ensure the project's success.

Project Leader, Dr. Asif Razzaq, presented the project's Terms of Reference, detailing its goals and expected outcomes. He emphasized the distinct objectives of exploring various financing modalities for green finance and analyzing capital and financial markets to offer a conducive investment ecosystem.



Participants of Renewable Energy Investment Ecosystem Project Funded by IsDB

CAREC Institute Launches Strategic Containerization Research Project

The CAREC Institute is pleased to announce the launch of a pivotal research project on containerization in the CAREC region, TA6694 REG: Containerization in CAREC Region: Trends, Developments & Recommendation. Officially initiated during a virtual meeting on July 22, 2024, this project is supported by the CAREC Institute and Asian Development Bank (ADB). A consortium of highly qualified and competent international and national consultants from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, the People Republic of China, Singapore and the United Kingdom is tasked to complete the research by November 2024.

This empirical-driven study aims to enhance trade efficiency and reduce transportation costs for CAREC member countries by addressing infrastructure deficiencies and knowledge gaps. The project seeks to optimize containerized transport, boost economic connectivity, and promote regional trade growth. It supports the #CAREC Transport Strategy 2030# by advocating for sustainable and cost-effective logistics solutions, fostering economic integration among CAREC member countries.

Deputy Director Two, Dr. Kuat Akizhanov, opened the meeting with remarks highlighting the project's significance, stating, "Containerization is pivotal in optimizing transport, reducing costs, and enhancing economic connectivity across the CAREC region."

The project focuses on reducing transport and freight costs, gathering empirical data, and formulating practical recommendations. Consultants will provide international and local insights, perform data collection and

analysis, and organize stakeholder meetings to ensure a 360 degrees to address the issues, barriers and recommendations related to containerization.

Senior Economist Dr. Roman Mogilevskii from the ADB emphasized, "Empirical analysis and practical recommendations are essential for overcoming infrastructure barriers and enhancing containerized transport."

Chief of the Research Division, Dr. Ghulam Samad, stressed that quality assurance and evaluation are integral to the project's success, with deliverables undergoing continuous review by CAREC Institute and ADB experts. The discussion underscored the need to align team efforts, incorporate local insights, and address specific national and regional transport development issues related to containerization.

The CAREC Institute anticipates significant economic benefits from this project, reinforcing its commitment to sustainable and efficient trade practices across the region.



Participants of Strategic Containerization Research Project

CAREC Institute Presented at China-SCO International Symposium on Digital Technology

The Senior Research Specialist of the CAREC Institute, Dr. Ghulam Samad presented on “Computational Power, Artificial Intelligence, and Trade Facilitation” during the China-Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) International Symposium on Digital Technology held in Karamay, Xinjiang, PRC.

The Symposium aimed to foster cooperation and development in digital technology among SCO member countries. With a focus on areas like cloud computing and big data, the event will bring together political figures, experts, scholars, and entrepreneurs to explore digital applications in industries such as water conservancy, transportation, agriculture, and animal husbandry. Nearly 1,000 participants have attended the Symposium, engaging in discussions and networking opportunities to promote common development and progress in the digital industry.

During his presentation, Dr. Ghulam Samad emphasized Xinjiang’s pivotal role as a nexus for the CAREC corridors, linking the region to Europe, the Mediterranean, the Russian Federation, South Asia, and the Middle East. He underscored Xinjiang’s significance in promoting regional cooperation and advancing digital trade policies. Samad’s insights illuminated opportunities to optimize existing trade routes for greater economic prosperity and connectivity. He also highlighted the potential of Artificial Intelligence to streamline cross-border trade in Xinjiang by reducing delays at key border crossings such as Takehikent, Khorgos, Alashankou, and Torugart, and minimizing associated costs. By establishing a centralized repository for trade data and international information, AI can expedite access to crucial data and enhance compliance and security through anomaly detection based on HS codes. Additionally, AI can improve traceability of transportation and products, ensuring efficiency and transparency in cross-border trade operations.

He further suggested improving cooperation with neighboring regions to ensure smooth interoperability of national platforms and information exchange systems along digitalized transport corridors through Xinjiang, while advancing expertise and capacity-building in modern digital technologies such as Internet of Things, blockchain, artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and mobile applications.



Participants of China-SCO International Symposium on Digital Technology

Energy Security in South Asia: A Pathway to Sustainability and Regional Cooperation

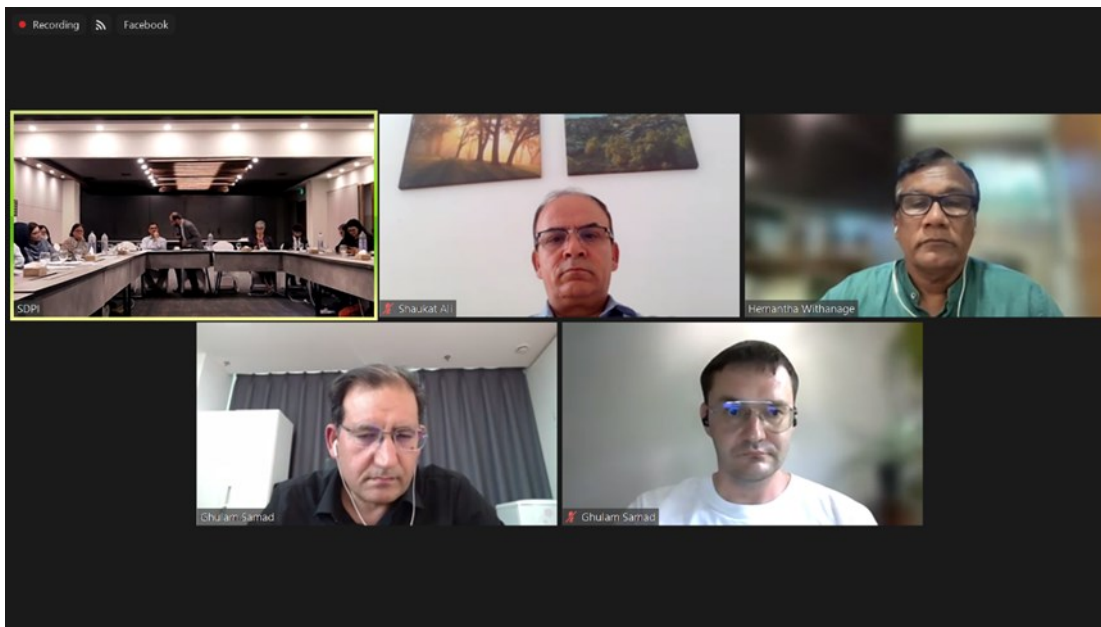
Amid an ongoing economic crisis, South Asian nations are addressing critical energy challenges related to access, affordability, and reliability. A recent study by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF), and the Sustainable Development Policy Institute of Pakistan (SDPI), titled “Energy Security in South Asia: A Case of Transitioning to Sustainable Sources,” emphasizes the importance of adopting sustainable and eco-friendly energy solutions, calling for essential regional cooperation.

On July 29, 2024, a key conference was held to discuss the study’s findings and future measures. Dr. Ghulam Samad, Chief of the CAREC Institute Research Division, and Dr. Vladislav Zavadskiy, Senior Specialist of the CAREC Institute, Research Division, participated in a panel discussion on “Energy Security in South Asia.”

The conference highlighted the CASA-1000 project, a \$1.2 billion initiative to enhance cross border energy trade between Central Asia and Pakistan through renewable hydropower, aimed at mitigating energy shortages, increasing electrical systems stability and promoting sustainable practices. Dr. Ghulam praised the CASA-1000 project as a “beacon of hope” for

regional energy cooperation, with the potential to transmit 1,300 MW of electricity and strengthen economic ties between Central and South Asia. The initiative is expected to provide continuous revenue streams for Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, reduce power deficits in Pakistan and Afghanistan, and lessen reliance on expensive, environmentally harmful fossil fuels.

The event underscored the need for strategic actions, private sector engagement, and sustained political support to fully realize the CASA-1000’s potential. The discussions concluded with a call for deeper regional cooperation to drive sustainable growth and stability in South Asia.



Participants of the Energy Security in South Asia: A Case of Transitioning to Sustainable Sources Workshop

City-to-City Learning Forum Advances Urban Disaster Resilience through Global Collaboration

The City-to-City Learning Forum on Developing Urban Disaster Resilience, held from July 29 to 31, 2024, in Nanning, the People's Republic of China (PRC), brought together over 70 experts and policymakers from the Asia and Pacific region and Europe, including CAREC member countries such as the PRC, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Mongolia, and Pakistan. The event was co-hosted by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the ADB-PRC Regional Knowledge Sharing Initiative (RKSI), the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), and the Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030) initiative.

The forum focused on the urgent need for proactive knowledge exchange and the sharing of best practices to enhance urban resilience against the increasing threats posed by climate-induced disasters. Such collaboration is crucial for developing effective disaster risk reduction strategies and promoting sustainable urban development.

During the final group discussion, Ms. Xin Lei, Chief of Knowledge Management at the CAREC Institute, emphasized the critical importance of international cooperation and knowledge sharing in disaster risk management. She introduced the upcoming launch of the virtual CAREC WASH Center, an innovative online portal designed for the exchange of knowledge, capacity building, and networking in water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). These focus areas are vital for effective post-disaster recovery and risk management. By facilitating the exchange of expertise and innovative solutions, the center can play a critical role in strengthening local and regional capacities for WASH-related disaster risk management, in alignment with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

This forum marks a significant advancement in global efforts to create more resilient urban environments, with continued support and leadership from the ADB, UNDRR, and MCR2030.



Group Photo with City-to-City Learning Forum on Developing Urban Disaster Resilience

CI Senior Research Specialist, Dr. Asif Razzaq Delivers Expert Training on Research and Publishing at Zhejiang University of Technology

Dr. Asif Razzaq, a senior research specialist from CAREC Institute, visited Zhejiang College of Zhejiang University of Technology to deliver a specialized training session for faculty and students. The visit focused on enhancing research literacy and publishing skills, particularly on writing and publishing research and policy papers.

The session was inaugurated by Vice President Wang Linxiang, who opened the forum on teacher training on research literacy enhancement. Dr. Razzaq's presentation provided an in-depth exploration of the research process, emerging research topics—especially in Central Asia—and guidance on writing motivation and various sections of research and policy papers. Drawing from his own extensive experience, Dr. Razzaq showcased high-quality published papers to illustrate key concepts and best practices.

Dr. Razzaq also guided attendees on how to produce highly cited research, sharing insights from his personal journey to becoming a globally recognized researcher, ranking in the top 2% of highly cited researchers. He highlighted his achievements as a highly cited Chinese researcher by Shanghai Ranking, Scopus, and Elsevier in 2023, providing valuable strategies and tips for enhancing research visibility and impact.

In addition to the training, Dr. Razzaq shared information about upcoming events and programs at the CAREC Institute, including the Visiting Fellow Program, the CTTN Grant Program, and the annual research conference. He encouraged the university's faculty and students to participate in these opportunities, submit their policy papers, and engage with the institute's initiatives to further their research endeavors.

The session received positive feedback from attendees, who found Dr. Razzaq's insights and examples highly valuable in advancing their understanding of research and publishing.



Group Photo with Zhejiang University of Technology

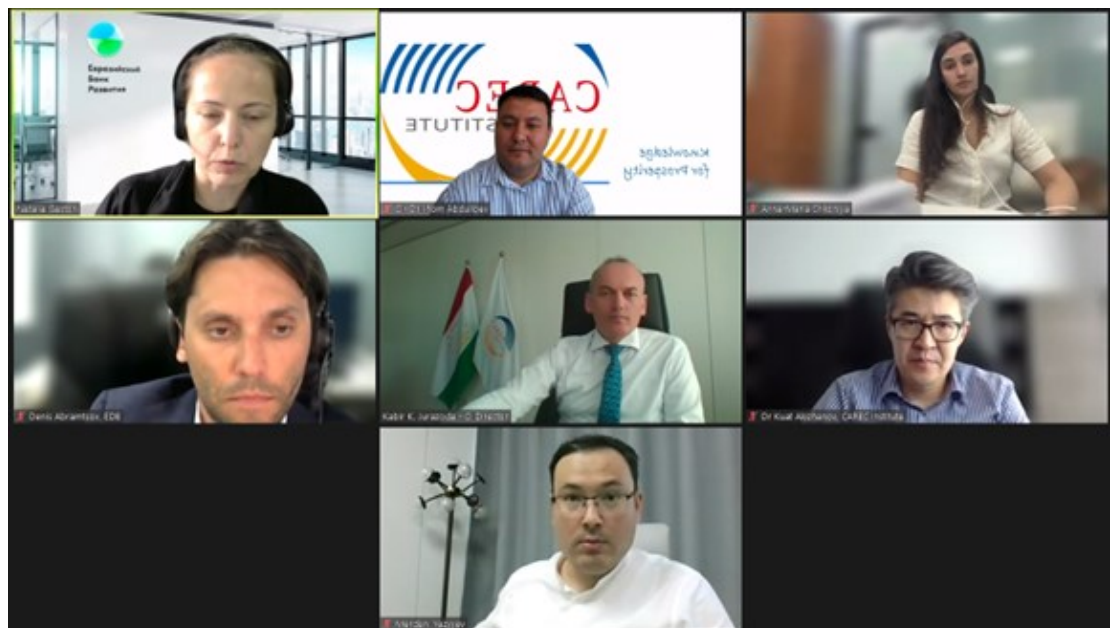
CAREC Institute Held Partnership Talks with the Eurasian Development Bank

On July 18, representatives from the CAREC Institute, including Director Mr. Kabir Jurazoda, Deputy Director Dr. Kuat Akizhanov, Chief of Capacity Building Division Dr. Ilhom Abdulloev, and Senior Specialist Mr. Merdan Yazyeev, held an online meeting with counterparts from the Eurasian Development Bank. The discussion aimed to organize and discuss various issues. Present from the Eurasian Development Bank were Ms. Natalia Gaston, Head of the Strategy and Business Initiatives Department, Mr. Denis Abramtsov, Head of Strategic Initiatives in the Department of Strategy and Business Initiatives, and Ms. Anna-Maria Chkonia, Head of Technical Assistance in the Department of Strategy and Business Initiatives. The meeting occurred following Mr. Kabir Jurazoda's participation in the Annual Meeting of the Eurasian Development Bank, aiming to yield specific outcomes.

Mr. Kabir Jurazoda provided comprehensive details about the CAREC Institute's ongoing initiatives, highlighting its regional development strategies and collaborative efforts with member states. He emphasized the institute's commitment to enhancing capacity building across various sectors, including infrastructure, energy, and trade facilitation. Mr. Jurazoda also discussed recent achievements in fostering economic integration and sustainable development within the CAREC region, underscoring the importance of partnerships with organizations like the Eurasian Development Bank to achieve mutual goals effectively.

Dr. Kuat Akizhanov presented the CAREC Institute's current research projects, emphasizing its collaborative efforts with international financial institutions. He highlighted ongoing studies aimed at addressing regional economic challenges and fostering sustainable development within the CAREC region. Dr. Akizhanov discussed strategic research partnerships aimed at enhancing policy frameworks in areas such as infrastructure development, energy security, and trade facilitation. He underscored the institute's commitment to leveraging these partnerships to drive impactful outcomes and support the region's socio-economic advancement.

The parties extensively discussed the potential use of the CAREC Institute's School for Policymakers to enhance regional expertise in evaluating project impacts and associated methodologies as a future theme of the school. In their deliberations, they explored both qualitative and quantitative metrics for assessing the effects of projects facilitated by multilateral development banks. The discussions emphasized the importance of comprehensive evaluation frameworks to measure the outcomes of such projects effectively. The conversation specifically highlighted the CAREC Corridor Performance Measurement and Monitoring (CPMM) project as a pivotal case study. Participants exchanged views on the project's milestones, its alignment with regional development goals, and its potential to enhance transport infrastructure across Central Asia. They underscored the importance of robust assessment frameworks to gauge tangible socio-economic benefits and ensure sustainable development outcomes.



CAREC Institute held partnership talks with the Eurasian Development Bank

Karamay Advanced Science and Technology Joint Institute Explores Collaboration with CAREC Institute

On July 3, a delegation from the Karamay Advanced Science and Technology Joint Institute, led by Mr. Yan Lijun, visited the CAREC Institute to explore potential cooperation. They were warmly received by the CAREC Institute's Director, Mr. Kabir Jurazoda.

Both organizations introduced their institutions and discussed synergies. Mr. Jurazoda highlighted CAREC Institute's roles and contributions, including significant presentations at key forums and exhibitions in Karamay. The visiting delegation outlined their focus on regional energy transformation, emphasizing innovation in key technologies, pilot testing, business incubation, and industrial demonstration. Their strategic directions include climate change, clean and efficient oil and gas, energy and food security, and the Eurasian Golden Hub.

Dr. Kuat Akizhanov, Deputy Director Two of CAREC Institute, led further discussions on collaboration in climate change, energy technology, and regional cooperation. Topics included joint research initiatives, visiting fellowships, and summer schools.

Dr. Akizhanov expressed optimism about the collaboration, noting the promising opportunities for joint research and workshops. Mr. Yan Lijun shared his enthusiasm, emphasizing the strong foundation laid for future joint endeavors.

Both institutions pledged to continue investigating collaborative opportunities, signifying the beginning of a productive partnership.

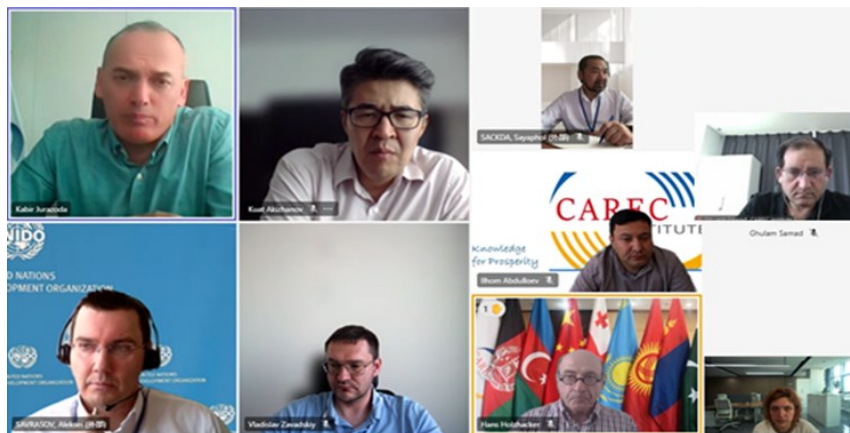


Group Photo with Karamay Advanced Science and Technology

CAREC Institute and UNIDO Strengthen Collaborative Efforts

The CAREC Institute (CI) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) convened a productive brainstorming session on July 15, 2024, aimed at enhancing collaborative efforts. Key participants included CI Director Kabir Jurazoda and UNIDO's Industrial Development Officer Aleksei Savrasov, along with senior officials from both organizations. The meeting focused on reviewing past cooperation, exploring future collaboration areas, and charting a new path for mutual support and development.

CI Director Kabir Jurazoda warmly welcomed the UNIDO participants, underscoring the historical partnership and referencing the Joint Declaration signed in June 2017. Mr. Savrasov highlighted the importance of renewing discussions and engaging more UNIDO divisions to expand collaboration. Discussions emphasized capacity building, research, industrial policy, and workshops. CI Deputy Director Two, Dr. Kuat Akizhanov stressed the need for focused research and capacity-building activities in industrialization for the CAREC region. Mr. Sayaphol Sackda, Program Manager from the Division of Innovative Finance, proposed organizing joint workshops to present UNIDO's Industrial Development Report 2024. Specific proposals included CI's capacity-building projects, joint development of training modules, an online workshop on hydrogen energy, and invitations to the Institute's flagship events.



CAREC Institute and UNIDO Strengthen Collaborative efforts

The meeting concluded with agreed actions involving the exchange of strategic plans and needs assessments and the extension of collaborative efforts. Both organizations expressed enthusiasm for the potential collaboration and committed to following up with concrete proposals.

CAREC Institute's Quarterly Economic Monitor No.13

The CAREC Institute's [Quarterly Economic Monitor #13](#) highlights robust real GDP growth in early 2024 across the CAREC region, exceeding 2023 rates in most countries. Consumption growth, indicated by solid retail sales, and GDP growth were driven by manufacturing and services, particularly trade and information technology.

While services are more affected by crises, their long-term growth outpaces overall GDP, similar to global trends. Mining remains highly volatile, requiring more research and attention from authorities.

Despite stable commodity prices, exports slowed in early 2024. This may necessitate accelerated trade facilitation, investment attraction measures, and stronger policies

to diversify exports and upgrade technologies. Attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) could support these efforts if policies ensure FDI contributes to technology transfer and enhances local production potential.



CAREC Institute Unveils Comprehensive Study on Energy Governance in Central Asia

The CAREC Institute (CI) has released a pivotal [research report](#) authored by Mirza Sadaqat Huda, the lead researcher at the Climate Change in Southeast Asia Programme, ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute. Over the last decade, the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Program has significantly advanced regional integration through the development of transnational infrastructures. Key projects, such as the transfer of gas and electricity from Central to South Asia, are crucial for achieving low-carbon energy in the CAREC region and supporting global efforts to limit warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

This study reviews the governance challenges of these transnational projects and offers policy recommendations. It highlights the Turkmenistan–Afghanistan–Pakistan–India (TAPI) Gas Pipeline and the Central Asia South Asia Electricity Transmission and Trade Project (CASA 1000). While these projects offer economic and environmental benefits, they also pose social, environmental, and political challenges.

The paper calls for greater engagement among CAREC policymakers to address these governance issues, ensuring sustainable development and regional stability.

New Study Reveals Sustainable Path for Green Hydrogen Production in Water-Stressed Central Asia

Researchers from the CAREC Institute and Riga Technical University in Latvia have unveiled a sustainable strategy for green hydrogen production in Central Asia, aimed at addressing the region's impending water deficit by 2030. The study, titled "Upcoming Water Deficit in Central Asia Rural Regions and Perspectives of Green Hydrogen Production," is led by Dr. Vladislav Zavadskiy and Dr. Gita Revalde. It delves into the crucial balance between water scarcity and the global push for green hydrogen.

Key Findings: 1. By 2028-2029, rural areas in southern Central Asia, including Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic, will face chronic water shortages due to climate change. 2. Central Asia's renewable energy resources offer a prime opportunity for green hydrogen production, potentially positioning the region as a key player in the hydrogen market without worsening local water shortages. 3. The study's model shows that hydrogen projects can proceed with minimal impact on agricultural water use. The largest project, 'Hyrasia One' in Kazakhstan, is near the Caspian Sea, utilizing its abundant saltwater resources.

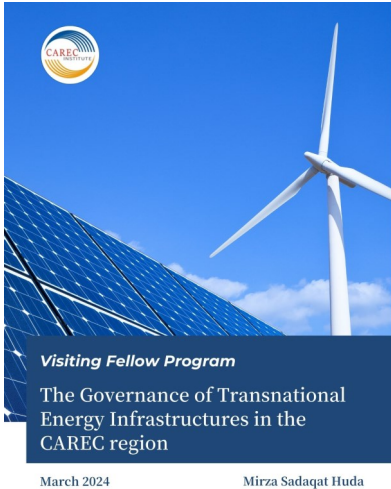
Impact on Energy and Water Management: The research underscores that leveraging renewable energy can enable sustainable green hydrogen production in Central Asia, balancing the region's water and energy needs.

Quotes from the Researchers: "Hydrogen projects can significantly enhance Central Asia's energy landscape without depleting essential water resources," said Dr. Vladislav Zavadskiy. "Our study provides a pathway for integrating hydrogen production with renewable energy."

Dr. Gita Revalde added, "This research highlights the importance of a balanced approach to energy and water management in climate-vulnerable areas."

This study is published in the proceedings of the 23rd International Scientific Conference 'Engineering for Rural Development,' held in Jelgava, Latvia, and in the Journal of Engineering for Rural Development. The full text is available online at <https://www.iitf.lbtu.lv/conference/proceedings2024/Papers/TF183.pdf>.

(DOI: 10.22616/ERDev.2024.23.TF183)



Snapshot of Sovereign Financing in Eurasia (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan) in 2023

The CAREC Institute published the latest CTTN blog authored by Mr. Artem Levenkov, Head of Socioeconomic Analysis and IFIs at the Eurasian Fund for Stabilization and Development. The blog highlights that to achieve sustainable and inclusive long-term growth, structural and institutional reforms are essential. Countries in the Eurasian region benefit significantly from International Financial Institutions (IFIs) through concessional loans and grants. The Eurasian Fund for Stabilization and Development (EFSD) has developed a regional database (SFD) that tracks sovereign financing, including loans and grants, from 2008 to 2023 across 11 countries. In 2023, total IFI-approved financing was USD 6.2 billion, a 25% decrease from 2022, mainly due to reduced investment funding. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and World Bank (WB) are the leading financiers, with Uzbekistan receiving the largest share. Key projects focus on infrastructure, economic policy, and education improvements. Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) significantly contribute to achieving Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in infrastructure and clean energy sectors.

For more details, visit [CAREC Institute](#).

A New Economic Brief “Trade Facilitation Progress in Central Asia: from a WTO TFA Perspective”



Economic Brief

Trade Facilitation Progress in Central Asia:
From a WTO TFA perspective

The new economic brief, authored by Ms. Marina Wang, Senior Economic Specialist at the CAREC Institute, offers a preliminary perspective on the latest progress in implementing the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) among five Central Asian countries, including both WTO and non-WTO members.

This brief examines current challenges, such as supply chain disruptions and geoeconomic difficulties faced during the implementation of the TFA. It also identifies opportunities for enhancing cooperation among WTO and non-WTO members. Additionally, the brief highlights policy recommendations aimed at strengthening the implementation of the WTO TFA. It provides insights into navigating the complexities of the regional economic landscape, driving forward the vision of a more integrated and prosperous CAREC region.

By
Marina Wang

July 2024

The economic brief is available in both [English](#) and [Chinese](#).

Job Advertisement:

New Job Opportunities at the CAREC Institute

The CAREC Institute is currently seeking qualified candidates for several key positions.

Director: The Director serves as the head of the Institute, reporting directly to the Governing Council. This position is open to nationals of Turkmenistan who meet the qualifications outlined in the Terms of Reference. **Applications must be submitted through the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan's website by 5:00 p.m. (UTC+5) on August 5, 2024.** For more details, please visit the link provided below. <https://fineconomic.gov.tm/habar/merkezi-aziya-sebitleyin-ykdysady-hyzmatdaslyk-carec-institutynyn-direktory-wezipesinin-bos-orny-barada-bildirir>

Senior Economist: This role is open to nationals of CAREC member countries. Candidates must meet the qualifications and requirements detailed in the [Terms of Reference](#).

Senior Knowledge Management and Communication Specialist: Applicants from CAREC member countries are invited to apply, provided they meet the criteria specified in the [Terms of Reference](#).

Interested candidates for the Senior Economist and Senior Knowledge Management and Communication Specialist positions **should email their applications to Jia Ni (hr@carecinstitute.org) by 7:00 p.m., August 16, 2024 (Friday), Beijing time.** The CAREC Institute is committed to a fair, merit-based selection process and encourages applications from women. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Applicants must ensure that all information provided in their applications is complete and accurate. Any discrepancies or falsehoods discovered during the hiring process may result in dismissal, regardless of when they are uncovered.



Event Announcement

CAREC Institute Announces Upcoming CTTN Dialogue on Trade Diversification

The CAREC Institute (CI) is pleased to announce an upcoming CAREC Think Tank Network (CTTN) dialogue titled **“Trade Diversification in the CAREC Region: Opportunities and Challenges.”** This virtual event, set for **August 9, 2024, from 16:00-18:00 Beijing/Manila time (UTC+8)**, will focus on enhancing economic resilience in response to global crises such as the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the ongoing energy crisis.

Despite these challenges, Central Asia is expected to achieve economic growth of 4.8% in 2024, stimulated by trade liberalization, regional integration, and infrastructure development. However, the region’s dependence on a limited range of export commodities makes it vulnerable to external shocks. This dialogue aims to explore how the CAREC region can capitalize on its strategic location and recent infrastructure developments to diversify its trade portfolio.

The event will feature insights from regional think tanks, addressing:

- Analysis of trade flows in the CAREC region
- Identification of opportunities and challenges in trade diversification
- Exploration of innovative approaches to export diversification

We invite you to join us for this insightful discussion by registering via the link: <https://carecinstitute-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/>



The banner features a blue and teal background with a wavy, abstract pattern. The CAREC Institute logo is in the top right corner. The main title is in large, bold, white letters. Below it, the subtitle is in smaller white letters. The date and time are highlighted in orange and dark blue boxes. A QR code is in the bottom right corner.

**CAREC Think Tank
Network (CTTN) Dialogue**

TRADE DIVERSIFICATION IN THE CAREC REGION:
OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

August 9 2024 16:00-18:00 Beijing/Manila
(UTC+8)





The 8th CAREC Think Tank Development Forum

The Eighth CAREC Think Tank Development Forum (CTTDF) will be held on August 27-28, 2024, in Almaty, Kazakhstan. This forum aims to address regional climate challenges by fostering collaborations for policy recommendations and joint research. The theme, “The Climate Challenge: Thinking Beyond Borders for Collective Action,” focuses on global climate governance, balancing economic growth with carbon reduction, and innovative climate finance solutions.

Participants will engage in meaningful policy discourse to identify solutions for a climate-resilient region, explore joint research opportunities, and facilitate innovative climate studies beyond mainstream agendas.

Day One:

The first day includes an opening ceremony followed by sessions on global climate initiatives, multilateral cooperation, and sustainable development, with regional perspectives from ASEAN, the Greater Mekong Subregion, and CAREC. Research presentations will highlight climate-smart policies and financial mechanisms. Afternoon sessions will focus on technologies for climate mitigation and adaptation, as well as local climate resilience solutions.

Day Two:

The second day will concentrate on fixing climate finance, discussing multilateral financial systems, carbon subsidies, and regional carbon markets. The day will culminate in a panel on think tank sustainability and growth, followed by updates on CTTN progress and initiatives, and concluding with closing remarks.

Join Us:

Join us along with 120 participants from CAREC think tanks, universities, governments, development partners, the private sector, and the media. Key speakers will include representatives from international organizations, high-level government officials, esteemed scholars from universities, and experts from leading think tanks.

Organizers and Sponsors:

The forum is organized by the CAREC Institute, co-organized by the Eurasian Development Bank, the Eurasian Fund for Stabilization and Development, the Caucasus, Central Asia and Mongolia Regional Capacity Development Center, the Eurasian Research Institute, and the Cambridge Central Asia Forum. It is sponsored by the Asian Development Bank, the People’s Republic of China Poverty Reduction and Regional Cooperation Fund, and the ADB-PRC Regional Knowledge Sharing Initiative (RKSII). These organizations play a crucial role in supporting the event and contributing to its diverse discussions.

For more information, please visit [The CAREC Institute CTTN Forum](#)

CAREC Institute Announces 4th Annual Research Conference on Green, Innovative, and Inclusive Development

The CAREC Institute (CI) is pleased to announce its 4th Annual Research Conference, themed “Rethinking Development Strategies: Green, Innovative, and Inclusive Development for the CAREC Region.” Scheduled for August 29-30, 2024, in Almaty, Kazakhstan, this conference is co-organized by the College of Social Sciences and the China & Central Asia Studies Center at KIMEP University, along with the ADB-PRC Regional Knowledge Sharing Initiative (RKSI), and supported by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Day One:

The conference will commence with an inaugural session, followed by six thematic parallel sessions. These sessions will feature multiple presentations on various aspects of green, innovative, and inclusive development. A panel discussion will then explore development strategies centered around these themes.

Day Two:

The second day will highlight the launch of CI’s flagship products, offering key policy recommendations for CAREC member countries. Additionally, the China and Central Asia Studies Center at KIMEP University will deliver a lecture. The event will conclude with a closing session, summarizing the insights and outlining future directions.

Objectives:

The primary objective of the conference is to connect research and policymaking, fostering regional development by systematically documenting policy-oriented research and creating narratives specific to the CAREC region. The event will showcase research findings, discuss their policy implications, and culminate in the publication of selected research in CI’s Annual Book and relevant journals.

By addressing regional developmental challenges, proposing innovative policy recommendations, and enhancing regional research cooperation, the conference aims to improve policy relevance and impact across the CAREC region. Comprehensive materials, including session details, speaker biographies, and presentation summaries, will be provided to all participants.

For more information, please visit to the [CAREC website](#)



CAREC Institute and ADB to Conduct Advanced Road Assets Management Workshops in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan

The CAREC Institute, in partnership with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), is proud to announce the organization of specialized workshops on Road Asset Management (RAM). These events will be held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan from September 3-6, 2024, and in Astana, Kazakhstan from September 9-12, 2024. These comprehensive workshops are meticulously crafted based on the CAREC Institute's 2021 RAM maturity assessment and action plan.



Designed to impart practical and actionable training, these workshops target a diverse group of RAM professionals, including senior officials, industry experts, road authorities, consultants, and academics.

Objectives of the Hybrid Workshops:

Conduct in-depth country reviews on RAM implementation and elevate participants' expertise in asset data collection, management, and maintenance.

Introduce innovative approaches to mitigate road-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and formulate tailored GHG reduction plans for each country.

Enhance member countries' capabilities by bridging capacity gaps in RAM, fostering cooperation among experts, policymakers, and key stakeholders.

Develop a core group of skilled asset managers within Kazakhstan and the broader CAREC region, fostering mutual support in RAM initiatives.

Promote effective and sustainable regional development under the CAREC Program by amplifying knowledge and capacity among member countries.

These upcoming workshops build on the success of earlier sessions held in Azerbaijan and Georgia in September 2022, and in the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan in June 2023, which received exceptional feedback from participants.

For further information and updates, please contact: Ms. Dildar Zakir (dildarz@carecinstitute.org)

Your Input Matters: Participate in the CAREC Institute's Survey Today!

The CAREC Institute is embarking on the development of its inaugural communication strategy. The Knowledge Management Division is leading the charge by launching this survey to effectively engage key stakeholders and address their expectations and needs.

The primary aim of this survey is to identify the most suitable communication channels by understanding the media consumption habits and preferences of the CAREC Institute's target audiences. As a valued stakeholder with prior collaborative experience with the Institute, your insights are crucial to this endeavor. We invite you to complete this questionnaire, which is designed to take no more than 15 minutes of your time.

Rest assured, your responses will remain confidential and will be utilized solely to shape and refine the CAREC Institute's communication strategy. Your participation is greatly appreciated and will significantly contribute to the success of this initiative.

Thank you for your time and input!



**WE VALUE YOUR FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE
OUR KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES!
PLEASE, SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS AND
SUGGESTIONS WITH US!**

Press on or scan this QR code:



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.