

## **CAREC INSTITUTE**

### **Visiting Fellows Program**

The Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC)<sup>1</sup> Institute (CI), based in Urumqi, Xinjiang Autonomous Region, PRC, is pleased to announce an open call for applications under the Visiting Fellows Program (VFP) who are citizens of ADB member countries<sup>2</sup> and are affiliated with universities, research institutes, and think tanks in ADB member countries. Ideally, visiting fellows should have completed their post-graduate degrees (PhDs) at the time of application.

VFP is supported by ADB. The fellowships are intended for scholars at all levels to pursue research on a topic relevant to the CAREC 2030 operational clusters priorities<sup>3</sup>. A multi-country analysis approach will be given preference. Strong preference will be given to policy proposals that address cross-border issues in the CAREC region that are considered strategically important to the region's essential policy challenges. In the wake of poly crisis globally, research proposals are invited in the following thematic areas:

1. New Phase of Digital Market Development
2. Climate Adaptation and Resilient Infrastructure Mechanisms
3. Tourism Development and Policy Initiatives
4. New Energy Dynamics, Food Security, and Water Resource Management
5. Economic Policy Response to External Shocks and Productivity Growth

Sub-themes are added in the appendix for further clarification.

Visiting Fellows are encouraged to combine topics and themes and develop innovative approaches toward regional integration and cooperation. There is a preference for proposals that engage with broader issues that impact the region and address these issues within a multidisciplinary framework. A comparative inter-regional analytical approach that draws on similar experiences within the Asia-wide region is especially welcome.

### **Fellowship Term**

The duration of the fellowship is for **three (3) months**; however, up to one month will be spend in CAREC Institute, Headquarter, Urumqi, China to enrich and strengthen the scholars and institutions connections. The term may be extended in consultation with CI's management in exceptional cases. As part of dissemination and enriching the connection, the fellows will present their work at CI's CAREC Chai, Research Conference, and Xinjiang Research Institutes and Universities.

### **Expected Output**

The expected output of the VFP will be a CI's working paper and policy briefs for CI and DevAsia, short stories for CI's podcast, etc. The papers on the selected topics should be of high quality. The papers will be reviewed and approved by the Publication Board of the CI. All papers will go through a plagiarism check per CI's Plagiarism Policy. If deemed necessary, the papers can also be sent to CI External Review Board members to solicit further comments and suggestions.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.carecprogram.org>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.adb.org/who-we-are/about>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.carecinstitute.org/background/>

Before the end of their engagement with CI, fellows are required to present their papers in a public event/s organized by CI. The 2025 public events, physical (CI's conference) and virtual, will be conducted where these papers can be presented. The presentation recording will be uploaded to the CAREC Institute E-Learning Platform.

### **Fellowship Support**

All fellows will receive a fixed honorarium of USD 10,000 for the duration of the fellowship; no other forms of remuneration will be provided by CI. However, **40% of** the allocated honorarium will be disbursed in advance for the fellowship staying in Urumqi, China. The remaining will be paid after successful completion of the deliverables. No additional expenses will be covered by the CAREC Institute or ADB.

### **Fellowship Arrangement**

The selected fellows will spend up to a month in CI headquarters in Urumqi. The fellows will be attached to the designated task managers/advisors depending on fellows proposed research relevance until the fellowship is completed. CI will provide visa invitation letters, helping hotel accommodation, and office arrangement support. Fellows are required to comply with the Chinese law and to follow CI's regulations on office and information security during the period they stay at CI headquarters. All fellows are required to have health insurance for sickness and accidents and other health emergencies.

### **Application Process**

The application process involves specific intake dates and submission deadlines. A selection committee comprised of experts will advise on the proposals. Reviewers will consider the applicant's background, experience, track record, the paper's contribution to regional integration, and the likelihood of completing the proposed research project. CAREC Institute adheres to the principles of equal ownership, regionality, fairness and balance in the representation of the countries.

For the fellowship program 2025, five fellows will be selected.

All draft proposals not less than 2000 words should be submitted online to the following address: **([racheall@carecinstitute.org](mailto:racheall@carecinstitute.org)) by 5 pm. Manila/Beijing time on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025.** Upon receipt of the application, the applicant will receive an acknowledgment and an expected date of the application's outcome.

The applicant must submit the attached application form (Annex I) and an updated CV (max. two pages).

## Important Dates

Period	Actions
10 <sup>th</sup> April, 2025	Opening of the call for VFP
30th April, 2025	Abstract submission
10 <sup>th</sup> May, 2025	Selection of the fellows
30th June – 30th July 2025	Visit to the headquarters of the CAREC Institute
Until 30 <sup>th</sup> August 2025	Revision and submission of the final research report, policy brief, and DevAsia summaries

## CAREC Institute Visiting Fellowship Program Application

Full Name (same as in your passport)	Family Name	Given Names
Place of Birth:	Date of Birth:	Gender: M___ Female ___
Citizenship (nation from which passport is obtained)		
Email and Telephone number		
Home Address		
Office Address		
Availability for Travel (tentative)	MM / YY _____	
Educational Background:  Name of Institution Location of Institution Degree Awarded Date of Degree Awarded  Name of Institution Location of Institution Degree Awarded Date of Degree Awarded  Name of Institution Location of Institution Degree Awarded Date of Degree Awarded		
Current Institutional Affiliation		
Address and contact details of Institution		

Position and Rank	
Relevant Past Affiliations/Professional Associations	
Other Fellowships held in the past: Please specify name of fellowship, location, duration, and completed outputs	
Specify any previous research, program, or collaboration with the CAREC Institute.	
REFERENCES (cite 2) including name, title, institutional affiliation, and contact details	
LIST OF PUBLICATIONS: List the five most recent plus other publications that you think demonstrate your research ability and interest in regional cooperation.	
<b>Proposed Research at CAREC Institute</b>	
<p><b>TITLE of RESEARCH STUDY:</b> _____</p> <p>ABSTRACT (not more than 250 words)</p> <p><b>Initial Draft:</b> An initial structured description of the research project, including a brief introduction with objectives, a literature review, an analytical framework (data definition, sources, and methodology), and expected findings. The description should be no less than 2,000 words.</p> <p>Since we are expecting a call for papers on five thematic areas, fellows are encouraged to review relevant data beforehand for analytical purposes. For example, the Industry 5.0 application pillars require industrial application data, which should be clearly specified in the proposal.</p> <p>Researchers are requested to ensure the feasibility of their proposals. Additionally, it will be advantageous if a researcher proposes key thematic areas based on their own country's dynamics and the relevance of the topic</p> <p>Specify the CAREC 2030 cluster (s) to which the proposed research aims to contribute and identify policy and knowledge gaps the research seeks to address. Clearly indicate the value-addition of the proposed research, i.e., how it it add to the existing body of knowledge relating to the proposed topic. (not more than 300 words)</p>	

## PRELIMINARY BIBLIOGRAPHY

## OTHER INFORMATION RELEVANT TO YOUR APPLICATION

### Appendix

#### 1. New Phase of Digital Market Development

- Trends and Analysis of E-commerce: Livestreaming Sales and Digital Consumer Behavior
- Regulatory Frameworks for Cross-Border Digital Trade: A Comparative Study
- Evaluating the Rise of AI-Driven Marketplaces and Smart Contracts
- Analyzing the Growth and Challenges of Open Banking and Open Finance in the Digital Economy
- Digital Financial Services and Inclusive Growth: A Market Analysis
- Mapping Growth, Challenges, and Potential of Freelancing Markets

#### 2. Climate Adaptation and Resilient Infrastructure Mechanisms

- Critical Analysis of Financing Models for Climate-Resilient Infrastructure
- Evaluating Nature-Based Solutions and Urban Adaptation Strategies
- Analyzing Sustainable Energy and Water Management in Infrastructure Projects
- Assessing the Role of Digital Technologies in Climate Resilience and Adaptation

#### 3. Tourism Development and Policy Initiatives

- Analysis of Tourism Growth and Development Measures Across the CAREC Region
- Examining Green Tourism Promotion and Sustainable Cultural Exchange
- Assessing the Role of Digitalization and AI in Tourism Marketing
- Studying Resilient Tourism Strategies Amid Global Uncertainties
- Public-Private Partnerships in Sustainable Tourism Development: An Empirical Review

#### 4. New Energy Dynamics, Food Security, and Water Resource Management

- Exploring Renewable Energy Transitions and Regional Energy Cooperation
- Examining Food Security Challenges and Agricultural Innovation in the CAREC Region
- Integrated Water Resource Management in Climate-Stressed Zones
- Energy-Water-Agri-Food Nexus: Policy Integration for Sustainable Resource Management
- Role of Technology and Innovation in Enhancing Resource Efficiency

#### 5. Economic Policy Response to External Shocks and Productivity Growth

- Assessing Trade and Connectivity in a Volatile Global Landscape
- Greening Fiscal Management and Policy Adjustments for Economic Resilience
- Regional Collaboration for Economic Stability: Policy and Case Study Insights
- Green Productivity Growth: Integrating Sustainability in Economic and Industrial Policies