




The CAREC Institute Knowledge Sharing Series:

Economic Monitoring Insights for the CAREC Region

Biographies of Speakers


Event | 21 May 2025 Online

	<i>Last Name</i>	Abdulloev	<i>First Name</i>	Ilhom
	<i>Institution</i>	Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Institute		
	<i>Position</i>	Chief of the Capacity Building Division		
Short Bio				
<p>Dr. Ilhom Abdulloev is the Chief of the Capacity Building Division of the CAREC Institute. He is also a research fellow at the European Institute for the Study of Labor and the Global Labor Organization, and the corresponding member of Engineering Academy of Tajikistan. Dr. Ilhom Abdulloev is the Co-founder of the Irshad Consulting company in Tajikistan. He has consulted for the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the International Labor Organization, and the Japan International Cooperation Agency conducting research on jobs, migration, remittances, and household finances in Tajikistan. He worked as the Executive Director of the Branch office of the International Organization of the Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation in Tajikistan. Dr. Abdulloev graduated from the Tajik National University, attended advanced courses on International Trade in the Northeastern University of China, and earned an MLitt from the University of Saint Andrews (UK) and a PhD in economics from Rutgers University (USA). His graduate studies were supported by UNESCO Great Wall Scholarship, Open Society scholarships and his PhD dissertation won Rutgers University's Alfred S. Eichner Prize in Economics and the Monroe Berkowitz Memorial Award.</p>				

	<i>Last Name</i>	Holzacker	<i>First Name</i>	Hans
	<i>Institution</i>	Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Institute		
	<i>Position</i>	Former Chief Economist		


Short Bio

Hans Holzacker served as Chief Economist at the CAREC Institute in Urumqi, China, between January 2020 and July 2024. He works now as a consultant on Central Asia. Before joining the CAREC Institute, he was for two years Lead Economist for Central Asia with the EBRD, in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Hans was Chief Economist at Golomt Bank in Mongolia and ATFBank in Kazakhstan. He was also teaching at the Turan and Narxoz universities in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Earlier, he was a Vienna-based economist at several banks, focusing mostly on countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. He was also Senior Economist at the Institute of International Finance in Washington D.C. Hans holds a Ph.D. in Sociology and a MA in Economics from the University of Vienna. He completed a postgraduate scholarship at the Economics Department of the Institute for Advanced Studies in Vienna.

	<i>Last Name</i>	Kurmanalieva	<i>First Name</i>	Elvira
	<i>Institution</i>	CAREC Institute		
	<i>Position</i>	Senior Economist, Chief Economist Team		

Short Bio

Elvira brings over 20 years of expertise in macroeconomic and public policy research, with a focus on fiscal and monetary policy, public finance, as well as international trade. Currently, she concentrates on intra-regional trade, macroeconomic policy, and public policy in the CAREC region. Before joining the CAREC Institute, Elvira held key positions in macroeconomic research, policy dialogue, and institutional leadership at prominent organizations, including Eurasian Development Bank (as Head of Country Research), National Bank of the Kyrgyz Republic, and Asian Development Bank Institute. Her deep regional expertise spans Central and East Asia, Russia, and the CIS, supported by a strong publication record in peer-reviewed journals. Elvira holds a Master's in Public Policy from Saitama University (Japan) and a Ph.D. in International Economics from the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (Japan). She has also taught at institutions such as: OSCE Academy, American University in Central Asia (Kyrgyzstan), and International Christian University (Japan).

	<i>Last Name</i>	Wang	<i>First Name</i>	Marina (Rui)
	<i>Institution</i>	CAREC Institute		
	<i>Position</i>	Senior Research Specialist, Chief Economist Team		

Short Bio

Ph.D. in Economics | Trade Policy Expert & Certified Lawyer

A seasoned trade policy expert with 23 years of experience in macroeconomic governance and international trade systems. Core competencies include strategic tariff negotiations, WTO Trade in Goods rules implementation, and multilateral trade agreement architecture. Demonstrates expertise in designing compliant trade frameworks and advising governments on complex trade policy matters.

Current Position: Senior Research Specialist, Chief Economist Team, CAREC Institute (2023-present)

Key Government Experience: Director, Tariff Policy Department, Ministry of Finance, China (2016-2023)

- Led China's tariff policy formulation for major regional trade agreements (RTAs) including RCEP, China-ASEAN FTA, DEPA and CPTPP accession
- Supervised bilateral and multilateral preferential tariff schemes

International Diplomatic Service: Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of China to UN Food and Agriculture Agencies, Rome (2013-2016)

- Managed China's engagement with IFAD
- Coordinated policy positions among three UN agencies (FAO/WFP/IFAD)

Core Research Areas:

- Carbon border adjustment mechanisms (CBAM) and macroeconomic impacts
- Evolution of WTO trade rules and differential implementation
- Comparative analysis of regional trade agreements

Academic Credentials:


- Ph.D. in Economics | Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
- Dual Postgraduate:
 - MSc in Finance & Management | Cranfield University, UK
 - MA in International Law | Dalian Maritime University, China
- Bachelor of Accounting | Heilongjiang University, China

China Bar Certificate (1999)

Selected Publications:

- "Trade Facilitation in Central Asia: WTO Compliance Challenges" (CAREC Institute, 2023)

- "Deepening China-Central Asia Economic Cooperation Strategy" (Chinese Finance Journal, 2024)
- "Carbon Tariffs: Macroeconomic Impacts and Policy Responses" (Journal of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, 2025)

	<i>Last Name</i>	Lu	<i>First Name</i>	Tim (Shiliang)
	<i>Institution</i>	CAREC Institute		
	<i>Position</i>	Research Specialist, Chief Economist Team		
Short Bio				
<p>Mr. Lu is a research specialist in the Chief Economist Team of the CAREC Institute for five years. His research interests include macroeconomics, energy transition, and green transport of the Central Asia region. He is the author of several economic briefs, including the recent ones "The PRC's OFDI to the CAREC region –prospects in green energy", "Promoting Electric Vehicle (EV) Deployment in the CAREC Region", etc. He also co-authored fourteen issues of "CAREC Quarterly Economic Monitor" series and one update of "CAREC Regional Integration Index (CRII)" report with Chief Economist of the CAREC Institute. He holds a master's degree in international business in the University of Leeds, UK and a bachelor's degree in business English in Xinjiang University, the PRC.</p>				