




The CAREC Institute Policy Dialogue Series:

Debt and Financial Sustainability in the EFSD and CAREC Region

Biographies of Speakers

Event | 13 May 2025 Online

	<i>Last Name</i>	Akizhanov	<i>First Name</i>	Kuat
	<i>Institution</i>	Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Institute		
	<i>Position</i>	Deputy Director II		
Short Bio				
<p>Dr. Kuat Akizhanov is Deputy Director Two of the CAREC Institute in Urumqi, PRC. Prior to joining the Institute, he was a head of Economic Research Department at the Institute of Strategic Studies under the President of Kazakhstan and also served as a Director of the Institute of Applied Research of Academy of Public Administration. Dr. Akizhanov has experience in public service and held various positions at the ministries of justice, finance and labour and social protection, the Kazakh President's Administration and as a head of a state insurance company.</p> <p>Dr. Akizhanov holds a PhD in Social and Policy Sciences from the University of Bath, an MA in Public Policy from Manchester University (UK) and an LL.M from the University of Virginia School of Law (USA). Dr. Akizhanov has served as an associate professor at the Higher School of Economics of KazGUU in Astana, as well as a visiting lecturer at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek and the Institute for East European Studies of the Freie Universität Berlin. As a lecturer, he also taught at the University of Birmingham, International Development Department. His academic and research interests include socio-economic inequality, financialization and development economics. His research focuses on neoliberalism in the Eurasian region, developmentalism, financial crises and heterodox economics. He is an author of "Finance Capitalism and Income Inequality in the Contemporary Global Economy. A Comparative Study of the USA, South Korea, Argentina and Sweden" published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2023.</p> <p>Email: deputydirector2.ka@carecinstitute.org</p>				


	<i>Last Name</i>	Ulatov	<i>First Name</i>	Sergei
	<i>Institution</i>	Eurasian Fund for Stabilization and Development (EFSD)		
	<i>Position</i>	Chief Economist and Deputy Managing Director		

Short Bio

Sergei Ulatov is a Chief Economist and Deputy Managing Director of the Eurasian Fund for Stabilization and Development - regional financing mechanism assisting countries in maintaining macroeconomic stability and creating conditions for sustainable development.


Prior to joining EFSD, Mr. Ulatov at the World Bank Group as a country economist for the Russian Federation from 1998-2016.

Mr. Ulatov has 25 years of experience in macroeconomic analysis and applied macroeconomic and microeconomic research, including analysis of monetary and fiscal policy, assessment of budget and balance of payments sustainability. He has also extensive experience in preparing, coordinating and implementing budget support programs in the EFSD member states.

	<i>Last Name</i>	Samad	<i>First Name</i>	Ghulam
	<i>Institution</i>	Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Institute		
	<i>Position</i>	Chief of the Research Division		

Short Bio

Dr. Ghulam Samad is a Chief of Research Division at the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Institute, ADB. Before joining CAREC Institute, Dr. Samad was a Senior Research Economist at the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives. Dr. Samad also served as an Economist at the Planning Commission of Pakistan. Dr. Samad holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Colorado State University, USA. He brings together an experience spanning over 20 years of high-level research and teaching and providing valuable contributions to peer-reviewed national and international journals and several international books on key economic themes. As a consultant, Dr. Samad worked for the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) Canada, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP), and the UN World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).


	<i>Last Name</i>	Faraz	<i>First Name</i>	Naseem
	<i>Institution</i>	Ministry of Finance, Government of Pakistan		
	<i>Position</i>	Deputy Economic Advisor		

Short Bio

Dr. Naseem Faraz is currently working as Deputy Economic Advisor at Ministry of Finance, Government of Pakistan. Previously she has been the Tax Expenditure and Revenue Forecasting Specialist at World Bank and Federal Board of Revenue Pakistan and the Senior Research Economist at Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE). Her research interests are Macroeconomics, Trade and Development. She has also worked as Visiting Fellow at CAREC Institute in 2021. From the CAREC Institute platform, she has produced publications on debt sustainability, trade, and COVID-19 economic implications in the CAREC countries.

She has received prestigious Fulbright PhD scholarship and completed her Ph.D. in Economics from Clark University, Massachusetts USA with dissertation on Finance and Economic Development.

She has extensive research experience, she has produced several policy reports, policy viewpoints, research briefs, and bulletins which is widely cited by the stakeholders, academia and media.


	<i>Last Name</i>	Tsukarev	<i>First Name</i>	Taras
	<i>Institution</i>	Eurasian Fund for Stabilization and Development (EFSD)		
	<i>Position</i>	Head of Research Department		

Short Bio

Mr. Taras Tsukarev is the Head of the Research Department at the Eurasian Fund for Stabilization and Development (EFSD). He is responsible for the development of analytical products, as well as the design and implementation of advanced macroeconomic modeling tools to support forecasting and policy analysis across EFSD member states. Under his leadership, the Fund is actively enhancing its Early Warning System to identify emerging threats to macroeconomic stability and is conducting in-depth assessments of sovereign debt sustainability within EFSD countries.

Before joining the EFSD, Mr. Tsukarev held senior roles at the Centre for Integration Studies of the Eurasian Development Bank and the National Bank of the Republic of Belarus, worked in the private sector.

Mr. Tsukarev holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Belarusian State University (2016) and is the author of over 30 publications in the areas of monetary policy, macroeconomic forecasting, financial stability, and Eurasian integration.

	<i>Last Name</i>	Lemba	<i>First Name</i>	Kiryl
	<i>Institution</i>	Eurasian Fund for Stabilization and Development (EFSD)		
	<i>Position</i>	Economist, Research Department		

Short Bio


Mr. Lemba is an Economist in the Research Department of the Eurasian Fund for Stabilization and Development (EFSD), where he specializes in debt sustainability analysis and the enhancement of Early Warning System (EWS) methodologies. His expertise focuses on assessing fiscal vulnerabilities, identifying sovereign risk factors, and developing analytical tools to strengthen crisis prevention in emerging markets.

Before joining the EFSD, Mr. Lemba served as a Chief Specialist at the National Bank of the Republic of Belarus, contributing to macroeconomic forecasting and monetary policy analysis. He also shared his expertise as a Lecturer at the Belarusian State University (BSU), teaching econometrics and quantitative methods in economics.

Mr. Lemba holds a postgraduate degree in Mathematical and Instrumental Methods in Economics from BSU. His research spans sovereign risk assessment, macroeconomic forecasting, and applied econometrics, with published work on:

- The impact of natural hazards on sovereign debt sustainability,
- Machine learning and advanced econometric techniques for short-term macroeconomic forecasting.

An active contributor to regional policy dialogues, Mr. Lemba supports capacity-building initiatives and provides technical assistance to EFSD member states, helping them design resilient economic policies.

	<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


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.

	<i>Last Name</i>	Mukhtar	<i>First Name</i>	Nyda
	<i>Institution</i>	Asian Development Bank (ADB)		
	<i>Position</i>	Public Management Specialist		

Short Bio


Nyda Mukhtar is an economist and public finance specialist working on macroeconomic analysis, public financial management, and development policy. She currently serves as a Public Management Specialist at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in the Public Sector Management and Governance division. In this role, she works on policy-based lending operations on governance and public financial management, including debt management. Prior to joining ADB, Nyda worked at the World Bank, as a Country Economist for Nigeria and Pakistan, focusing on macro-fiscal analysis and development policy operations. Her earlier career includes work with Oxford Policy Management, the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), and the UK Department for International Development (DFID), where she supported reforms in budget planning, revenue mobilization, and fiscal decentralization.

Nyda holds a Master of Arts in Economics from Duke University and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Mathematics from Washington University in St. Louis.

	<i>Last Name</i>	Funke	<i>First Name</i>	Norbert
	<i>Institution</i>	IMF Caucasus, Central Asia, and Mongolia Regional Capacity Development Center (CCAMTAC)		
	<i>Position</i>	Director		

Short Bio

Norbert Funke is the Director of the IMF Caucasus, Central Asia, and Mongolia Regional Capacity Development Center (CCAMTAC), which was launched in February 2021. He brings significant experience in IMF capacity development, surveillance and program work. He was Assistant Director / Division Chief of the IMF Institute for Capacity Development (ICD), where he headed the African Division and later the Asian Division. In 2012–16 he was Director of the Joint Vienna Institute (JVI). Prior to this, he served as mission chief and country economist for several middle- and low-income countries in the African Department, where he also led regional surveillance and worked as a country economist. Before joining the IMF in 2000, Norbert worked at McKinsey & Company, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and at the Kiel Institute for the World Economy. A German national, he holds a doctorate in Economics from the University of Cologne.

	<i>Last Name</i>	Knight	<i>First Name</i>	David
	<i>Institution</i>	World Bank		
	<i>Position</i>	Lead Country Economist and Program Leader for Prosperity in Central Asia		


Short Bio

David Knight is the Lead Country Economist and Program Leader for Prosperity in Central Asia, based in Tashkent. Prior to that David was a Lead Economist and Program Leader for the Russian Federation, and previously held positions with the World Bank in Turkey, Timor-Leste and Sydney, Australia. David has led research on a range of topics related to macroeconomics, poverty reduction, fiscal management and trade and has publications in a range of areas such as public financial management, aid effectiveness, balance of payments issues, and global value chains.

Prior to joining the Bank, David was a graduate economist and economic advisor in the UK government, holding portfolios in HM Revenue and Customs on international taxation, property tax, environmental taxation and Computable General Equilibrium modelling and in HM Treasury, where he was part of the Performance and Reform Unit (formerly known as the Prime Minister’s Delivery Unit). He also worked in the Sierra Leonean Ministry of


Finance and Economic Development as an economist and Overseas Development Institute fellow.

David holds an undergraduate degree in economics from LSE and a master's degree in economics from the University of Melbourne. He is a British-Australian dual national.

	<i>Last Name</i>	Pradelli	<i>First Name</i>	Juan
	<i>Institution</i>	Multilateral Cooperation Center for Development Finance (MCDF)		
	<i>Position</i>	Consultant		


Short Bio

Dr. Juan Pradelli is a global expert in macroeconomic analysis, fiscal policy, government debt management, and public financial management. He is a former Senior Economist at the World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank. He has extensive experience working as a subject matter expert (SME) for International Financial Institutions (IFIs), Government Agencies, and global private consulting firms. He serves as an independent advisor to Ministries of Finance and Economy in several countries, and coordinates the Asian Development Bank's Debt Analytics project. He regularly delivers technical assistance and advisory services in his field of expertise. He holds postgraduate studies from Universities in Argentina, United Kingdom, and Italy. Juan publishes regularly and recently edited a book on Debt Sustainability in Asia.

	<i>Last Name</i>	Feng	<i>First Name</i>	Beilin
	<i>Institution</i>	Chinese Academy of Fiscal Sciences		
	<i>Position</i>	Vice-Director of Research Center for Finance		

Short Bio

Beilin Feng is a senior researcher at the Chinese Academy of Fiscal Sciences, where he serves as the vice-director of the Research Center for Finance. His research areas include monetary policy, financial stability, government debt management and fiscal sustainability. He holds a Ph.D. in International Economics (with a focus on International Finance), an M.A. in Educational Economics from Beijing Normal University, and a B.A from Lanzhou University.

	<i>Last Name</i>	Malik	<i>First Name</i>	Hamza
	<i>Institution</i>	Macroeconomic Policy and Financing for Development Division, UNESCAP		
	<i>Position</i>	Director		

Short Bio

Hamza Malik leads ESCAP's research that analyzes economic conditions and emerging development challenges in Asia-Pacific countries and evaluates policy options and financing strategies that can support them in their pursuit of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He is a member of ESCAP's editorial board and supervises the publication of its annual flagship report – the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific – and an analytical report, once in two years, on selected Financing for Development issues. He is a member of several UN task teams that support its global work related to debt and climate finance.

Before joining ESCAP in 2014, Hamza Malik worked as the Director of Monetary Policy Department at the central bank of Pakistan. He was a member of the Bank's internal Monetary Policy Committee and the Government of Pakistan teams that participated in negotiations with the International Monetary Fund between 2007 and 2014 and that successfully issued sovereign bonds in international capital markets in 2013.

In 2013, Hamza Malik spent three months at the Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford as a Charles Wallace research fellow and conducted independent research on the political economy of monetary institutions. He graduated from McMaster University Canada with a PhD in economics in 2002, and a specialization in monetary economics and international finance.