



**The Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Institute**

## **CAREC Institute Chai Talk: “Global trade tensions and potentials for intra-regional trade in the CAREC.**

**Webinar**

**Tentative 9<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

**14:50 – 16:30 (Beijing time)**

### **Background:**

In February 2025, the introduction of significant tariffs on majority of US imports is intensifying global trade challenges. These tariffs are disrupting supply chains worldwide and altering international investment flows, resulting in decreased trade and causing trade diversion in many countries. Further restrictions risk not only worsening bilateral trade tensions but also reshaping global trade dynamics, undermining economic stability, and putting strain on international relations.

As of 2024, China continues to be a dominant force and key player in the global economy and CAREC region. While China's economic growth reflects structural changes, including advancements in technology and major infrastructure projects like the Belt and Road Initiative. Current economic trends in China include moderate growth, a focus on economic stability, a shift toward green development, expansion in consumption and services. Additionally, China plays a crucial role in supplying rare earth elements and leading innovations in green technology, significantly influencing global markets.

Trade tensions are pulling toward Central Asia, elevating the region's strategic importance for trade diversification - a shift that presents both opportunities and risks. The tariffs could instead create opportunities for the EU to diversify its raw material supply chains while boosting regional economic cooperation. Furthermore, it could encourage more other regional cooperation, as seen in the 2025 Khujand border agreement between Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.<sup>1</sup>

### **Modality of the event:**

The CAREC Institute Chai Talk event provides a platform for experts from the region and partner organizations to gather and openly discuss trending topics while enjoying a cup of tea or coffee. In line with this, the CAREC Institute will host a Chai Talk event on July 9 2025 at 15:00 Beijing time, focusing on Global trade tensions and potentials for intra-regional trade in the CAREC. The online event will feature experts, who will share their views, insights and knowledge toward regional trade tendency and

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<sup>1</sup> Impact of US Tariffs on Central Asia, Central Asia Diplomacy and Security Economy and Business, Marina Gruzher | 22 April 2025

evolving role of the CAREC region in global supply chains, including both emerging challenges and opportunities."

Directing questions:

1. What is the current state of intra-regional trade in CAREC region?
2. How might the U.S. new trade policies affect the economies of CAREC region countries in the short to medium term? Are there potential opportunities for CAREC countries to reshape their trade and investment patterns?

**Please, register here**

## **Agenda**

**Tentative 9 July 2025 (Beijing time)**

<b>14:50-15:00</b>	<b>Virtual Connection to the Webinar and Speakers' Group Photo</b> Sukhdelger Sosorbaram, Senior Capacity Building Specialist, CAREC Institute
<b>15:00-15:10</b>	<b>Opening Remark</b> Kuat Akizhanov, Deputy Director, The CAREC Institute
<b>15:10-15:15</b>	<b>Introduction of the Speakers by the Moderator</b> Sukhdelger Sosorbaram, Senior Capacity Building Specialist, CAREC Institute
<b>15:15-16:15</b>	<b>Speakers</b> Dr. Elvira Kurmanalieva, Senior Economist, The CAREC Institute TBC Roman Mogilevskii, Senior Economist, Regional Cooperation and Integration Unit, Central and West Asia Department (CWRC), Asian Development Bank (ADB) Marina Wang - Representative from PRC Richard Pomfret, Professor at Adelaide University Australia and John Hopkins University Italy.
<b>16:15-16:25</b>	<b>Q&amp;A and Discussion:</b> moderator will pick up questions from the audience and engage in discussion with panelists
<b>16:25-16:30</b>	<b>Concluding Remarks</b>

**Notes:**

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