



Job Title: Senior Research Specialist
CAREC Institute
Terms of Reference

The Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Institute (CAREC Institute, CI) is looking for a ***Senior Research Specialist on Energy-Water***, an international professional staff position in the Research Division. **This is an internationally recruited professional staff position, open to qualified candidates from across the globe.**

CI is an intergovernmental organization dedicated to promoting economic cooperation and integration in the CAREC region and along the Silk Road through knowledge generation and sharing. It is headquartered in Urumqi, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, the People's Republic of China (PRC).

CI is jointly shared, owned, and governed by eleven member countries: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, the PRC, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. It is also the knowledge support arm of the CAREC Program. The CAREC Institute acts as a knowledge connector among the five CAREC clusters (Economic and Financial Stability, Trade, Tourism, and Economic Corridors, Infrastructure and Connectivity, Agriculture and Water, and Human Development) to ensure coherence in the design and implementation of policies, programs, and projects to promote regional economic cooperation and integration.

Functions and Responsibilities:

- Lead and conduct policy-oriented research on energy, water and energy-water nexus issues.
- Produce at least two policy research papers or knowledge products annually, aligned with the Institute's strategic objectives and member countries' needs.
- Support and facilitate evidence-based policy dialogue on energy, water and integrated energy and water issues, offering innovative solutions and policy options for sustainable development.
- Engage with government agencies, development partners, academia, and other stakeholders to mobilize research funding, foster partnerships, and promote collaborative initiatives in the Energy-Water domain.

- Develop research proposals, concept notes, and project designs using appropriate methodologies and analytical tools to implement projects and secure external financial resources.
- Contribute to the Institute's capacity building, outreach, and dissemination efforts by organizing and participating in forums, workshops, seminars, and training programs related to energy and water policy integration.
- Serve as a member of the Publication Board, or in another designated role, supporting the peer review process and ensuring the quality and relevance of research outputs.
- Perform other duties as assigned by the Chief of Research Division and management to support the Institute's overall mandate and operations.

Qualifications and Selection Criteria:

- PhD in energy economics, water resources or related fields. Graduated with PhD through part-time, non-residency, or accelerated formats will not be considered unless fully justified and supported by a strong publication record and academic rigor.
- Minimum of 5 years of relevant professional experience in policy research, project design, or program implementation in the energy and/or water sector, preferably within international organizations or multilateral development institutions.
- Proven experience working on integrated energy and water policy issues, including cross-sectoral analysis, regulatory frameworks, and sustainable infrastructure development
- Strong publication record in peer-reviewed journals, policy reports, or knowledge products related to the energy-water interface.
- Demonstrated expertise in the CAREC region and its specific energy-water challenges is highly desirable.
- Excellent interpersonal, cross-cultural, and collaborative skills, with a proven ability to work in diverse teams.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills in English.

Application Requirements:

- Applicants must submit at least two relevant research papers or reports in which the applicant is the main author, as supporting documents to demonstrate their qualifications and research expertise.

Immediate Reporting Relationships:

- Senior Research Specialist – Energy-Water reports to Chief of the Research Division.

Other Information:

- This is a 3-year fixed term appointment, with the possibility of extension based on performance and institutional requirements.
- CAREC Institute offers an internationally competitive compensation package.