

Online Policy Dialogue

ACCELERATING TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS DIGITALIZATION IN THE CAREC REGION

16 July 2026
16:00-18:00 (Beijing time, GMT +8)

Biographies of Speakers

SPEAKERS

	Last Name	Shallyyev	First Name	Charymuhammet
	Institution	Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Institute		
	Position	Director		
Short Bio				
Mr. Shallyyev, a distinguished academic leader with expertise in economics and management, brings over three decades of professional experience to the CAREC Institute. His extensive background in both academia and the public sector will be invaluable in advancing the Institute’s mission and strategic objectives. Throughout his career, Mr. Shallyyev has made significant contributions to research, curriculum development, and professional growth, earning recognition for his commitment to academic excellence. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Shallyyev held several prominent positions, including Chair of the Management Department at the Turkmen State Institute of Economics and Management, Manager of the Internship Department at the Specialized Banking School under the Central Bank of Turkmenistan, and Senior Lecturer at Magtymguly Turkmen State University. He also participated in the Civil Servants Training Program, organized by the Royal Institute of Public Administration of the United Kingdom at the Magtymguly Turkmen State University. These roles have allowed him to shape key educational initiatives and foster strong connections between academia and industry. Mr. Shallyyev’s academic journey began with a specialist degree in economics from the Turkmen State Institute of Economics and Management. He further expanded his expertise through international programs at Tokyo International University in Japan, Indiana University’s Kelley School of Business in the United States, and Santiago de Compostela University in Spain. His work in curriculum development, financial management, and research supervision has consistently elevated the institutions with which he has been affiliated.				

He is also the author of several important academic texts, including the two-volume English-Turkmen Economic Dictionary, a two-volume Macroeconomics textbook for university students, and Fundamentals of Economics for secondary school students.

	<i>Last Name</i>	Mogilevskii	<i>First Name</i>	Roman
	<i>Institution</i>	Asian Development Bank (ADB)		
	<i>Position</i>	Senior Economist, Regional Cooperation and Integration Unit, Central and West Asia Department		
Short Bio				
Roman Mogilevskii joined ADB in 2022. He leads ADB’s technical assistance supporting evidence-based policy making in Central and West Asia to address emerging challenges in the region. He also supports ADB’s Country Partnership Strategy development for Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. Before joining ADB, Roman worked for various think tanks and universities in Kyrgyz Republic and other countries of Central Asia. He has extensive experience researching trade policy, public finance, labour market, social policy, and macroeconomics in Central Asia and Eastern Europe. He advised the governments of several countries in the region and worked as a consultant for many international organizations including different development banks and UN agencies. He has a degree of candidate of physical-mathematical sciences from the Institute of Physics of Earth (Academy of Sciences of former USSR) and the Institute of Mechanics and Seismic Resistance of Structures (Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan).				

	Last Name	Akizhanov	First Name	Kuat
	Institution	Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Institute		
	Position	Deputy Director Two		
Short Bio				
Dr. Kuat Akizhanov has experience in public service. Prior to joining the CAREC Institute, he worked as the Head of the Economic Research Department at the Kazakhstan Institute of Strategic Studies under the President of Kazakhstan in 2022-2023 and Director of the State Borrowing Department at the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Kazakhstan in 2010-2015. His public service also includes various positions in the ministries of justice, labour and social protection and at the President of Kazakhstan Administration. Mr. Kuat Akizhanov holds PhD in Political Economy from the University of Bath (UK), an MA in Public Policy and Management from the Institute for Development Policy and Management of the Manchester University (UK) and an LL.M in international law and arbitration from the University of Virginia School of Law (USA). Dr. Akizhanov served as				

an associate professor at the Higher School of Economics of KazGUU in Astana (Kazakhstan), as well as a visiting lecturer at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek (the Kyrgyz Republic) and the Institute for East European Studies of the Freie Universität Berlin (Germany). As a lecturer, he also taught at the University of Birmingham, International Development Department (UK). He has received the Study UK Alumni Award for Social Action in Kazakhstan and has been named a CERGE-EI Foundation Teaching Fellow.

Dr. Akizhanov brings professional experience, knowledge and expertise in the fields of public policy, international development and economic governance.

	<i>Last Name</i>	Virkovski	<i>First Name</i>	Valery
	<i>Institution</i>	International Expert Network on Digitalization of Transport and Logistics Processes		
	<i>Position</i>	Chair of the Board		
Short Bio				
Dr. Valery Virkovski – Chair and founder of the International Expert Network on Digitalization of Transport and Logistics Processes with more than 20 years of practical experience in developing multilateral projects and models of international cooperation for harmonizing digital markets, developing online platforms and systems for paperless trade and e-Logistics, as well as standardization and interoperability of digital services. Since 2016, he has led the development of the concept and principles for the formation of international digital transport corridors as the coordinator of EU4Digital: eTrade/eLogistics expert network in the Eastern Partnership and SPECA countries. In 2024 he developed the Capacity Building Program in the area of digitalization of railway and multimodal cargo transportation for the countries of the North and Central Asia in the framework of UNESCAP regional project and delivered in 2024-2025 the corresponding Master-classes in the leading technical universities of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic and Uzbekistan.				

	<i>Last Name</i>	Babayev	<i>First Name</i>	Tofiq
	<i>Institution</i>	Institute of Control Systems Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan		
	<i>Position</i>	Head of International Relations and Innovation Department		
Short Bio				
Dr. Tofiq Babayev is the Head of the International Relations and Innovations Department of the Institute of Control Systems of the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Director of the Regional Academy of Innovative Technologies.				

Chairman of the Working Group on E-Commerce, member of EU4Digital: expert network on e-commerce/e-logistics in the Eastern Partnership and SPECA countries, international consultant of Digital CAREC projects. HORIZON EUROPE Digital, Industry and Space NCP in Azerbaijan. More than 100 publications in the field of ICT.

	Last Name	Ponomarenko	First Name	Vadim
	Institution	Intergovernmental Commission TRACECA		
	Position	Digital Transport Solutions Development Expert		
Short Bio				
Vadim Ponomarenko holds a degree from the Polytechnic Institute in Automated Systems of Information Processing and Management (Faculty of Technical Cybernetics). He has over 20 years of expertise in ICT strategy, digital transformation, and transport facilitation across Central Asia and the TRACECA region. Currently, Mr. Ponomarenko serves as an Expert in the Development of Digital Transport Solutions at the Permanent Secretariat of the IGC TRACECA. Parallel to this, he is engaged as a National Consultant for GIZ on the digitalization of phytosanitary certification and the implementation of the IPPC ePhyto Hub in Turkmenistan. His extensive experience with international development partners includes serving as the National Digitalization Expert for the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in the "<i>Digital CAREC</i>" study, and contributing to strategic assessments for the World Bank (B-Ready) and UNDP (Digital Readiness Assessment) in Turkmenistan. Earlier in his career, he held senior leadership positions at Huawei, including serving as the Country General Director in Turkmenistan - the first local national appointed to this position in Central Asia. His tenure at Huawei included regional management of technical services and business operations across the CIS, leading multinational teams and high-level engagements with government institutions on large-scale infrastructure projects. Mr. Ponomarenko's core areas of expertise include National e-Logistics Platforms (NELS), Single Window systems, digital transport corridors, electronic document exchange, and cross-border paperless trade based on international standards. He also has extensive experience in leading multinational teams, managing operational budgets, and overseeing the implementation of complex technology and digital transformation initiatives.				

	<i>Last Name</i>	Abbasov	<i>First Name</i>	Vusal
	<i>Institution</i>	Azerbaijan Land Transport Agency		
	<i>Position</i>	Head of State Programs Management Division		
Short Bio				
Vusal Abbasov is a senior program, portfolio, and project management professional with over 20 years of managerial experience across the public and private sectors. He specializes in strategic planning, project implementation, portfolio governance, and business development. Throughout his career, he has led the planning and implementation of complex national programs and strategic projects, and coordinated high-level initiatives involving government institutions, international organizations, and private-sector stakeholders. His experience includes project portfolio management, stakeholder engagement, performance monitoring, and the successful delivery of high-profile national initiatives. In addition to his leadership roles, Vusal has served as a national expert on donor-funded projects, contributing to strategic assessments, policy recommendations, and institutional development initiatives.				

MODERATOR

	<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. 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, Chevening and Open Society scholarships, and his PhD dissertation won Rutgers University's Alfred S. Eichner Prize in Economics and the Monroe Berkowitz Memorial Award.				

