



ACCELERATING TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS DIGITALIZATION IN THE CAREC REGION

Online Policy Dialogue

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

I. Background

The Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) region is strategically positioned as a key transit corridor connecting Asia and Europe. However, significant potential remains unrealized due to nonphysical barriers, including outdated customs procedures, reliance on paper-based documentation, and fragmented digital systems. These inefficiencies hinder trade efficiency, increase costs, and limit regional connectivity, despite substantial investments in physical transport infrastructure.

CAREC Institute's recent research "Digital CAREC: National e-Logistics Platforms and Digitalization of Transport Corridors" provides an in-depth analysis of progress and challenges within the Transport and Logistics Sector (TLS) digitalization across five CAREC countries: Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. It strongly emphasizes the urgent need for interoperable National e-Logistics Systems (NELS) and the digitalization of key transport corridors to enhance cross-border trade, reduce transit times, and bolster supply chain resilience.

This research evaluated TLS digitalization levels, identified major needs and opportunities, and developed detailed recommendations for implementing national e-Logistics platforms, including governance and operational models incorporating Public-Private Partnership (PPP) options. Furthermore, the study analyzed the digitalization status of major CAREC transport corridors, proposing core principles and technological approaches for the connectivity and integration of their national segments. The study utilized methodologies for assessing TLS digitalization, analyzing business requirements for NELS, developing project roadmaps, and creating digital passports for corridor segments.

The findings of this project raise critical questions that necessitate a focused policy dialogue around three main topics:

- *The Path Forward for Integrated National e-Logistics Platforms:* How can CAREC countries effectively consolidate fragmented digitalization efforts? The dialogue will explore the design, implementation, and governance of national e-Logistics platforms essential for creating national Single Windows, integrating transport systems, and digitizing business processes.
- *Applying Solutions for Corridor Digitalization:* How can the recommended building blocks and technological solutions be practically applied to digitalize key national segments of transport corridors? The discussion will focus on ensuring interoperability and connectivity between

these segments based on proposed Digital Transport Corridor (DTC) principles.

- *The Case for Regional Coordination on Interoperability:* What are the benefits and mechanisms for CAREC countries to coordinate efforts in developing unified core solutions for interoperable NELS platforms and seamless cross-border data exchange? The dialogue will examine how such collaboration can save time and resources in the long-term implementation of CAREC Transport and Digital Strategies 2030.

In alignment with the CAREC Transport Strategy 2030 and CAREC Digital Strategy 2030, there is a growing consensus that digital transformation is pivotal to unlocking the full potential of CAREC corridors, transitioning from transport corridors to trade corridors, and ultimately fostering economic corridors. This policy dialogue aims to facilitate a shared understanding and foster collaboration to address these critical digitalization challenges and opportunities.

II. Objective

This policy dialogue aims to:

- Facilitate policy discussions among CAREC member countries, development partners, private sector stakeholders, and experts on the implementation of national e-logistics platforms and digital transport corridors.
- Identify actionable steps to accelerate TLS digitalization, enhance interoperability, and foster regional cooperation.
- Develop a shared roadmap for the adoption of common standards, digital infrastructure, and PPP models for sustainable digitalization.

III. Date, Mode, and Target Audience

Date: A half-day policy dialogue is scheduled for 16 July 2026 from 16:00-18:00 Beijing time (GMT +8).

Languages: English and Russian with simultaneous interpretation.

Mode of participation: online. The event will be recorded and uploaded to the CAREC Institute E-Learning platform as guiding digital learning materials—serving as the basis for further cascading knowledge support to member countries and all stakeholders in this area.

Target Audience: The policy dialogue is intended for national policymakers involved in trade and transport policy, while also welcoming experts and a broader interested audience from the CAREC region and beyond to engage with and gain insights from expert presentations and discussions.

Registration: Participants should register for the policy dialogue through the following link.

IV. Agenda

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Online Policy Dialogue

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

- 15:50-16:00** Virtual Connection to the Policy Dialogue and Webinar Rules
Ms. Dildar Zakir, Capacity Building Specialist, the CAREC Institute
- 16:00-16:10** **Opening Remarks**
Mr. Charymhammet Shallyyev, Director, CAREC Institute
Dr. Roman Mogilevskii, Senior Regional Cooperation Economist, Regional Cooperation and Integration Unit, Central and West Asia Department, ADB
- Group Photo**
- Moderator:** **Dr. Ilhom Abdulloev**, Chief of the Capacity Building Division, CAREC Institute
- 16:10-16:30** **Importance of Researching Digital CAREC: National e-Logistics Platforms and Transport Corridors Digitalization**
Dr. Kuat Akizhanov, Deputy Director Two, CAREC Institute
- 16:30-16:50** **Basic Approaches and Principles of Transport Corridors Digitalization in the CAREC Region**
Dr. Valery Virkovski, Chair of DTLP International Expert Network, ADB source person
- 16:50-17:50** **Research main findings and key policy implications for the region**
- Regional Overview**
Kazakhstan Focus
Dr. Tofiq Babayev, Head of International Relations and Innovation Department, Institute of Control Systems Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- Kyrgyz Republic Focus**
Uzbekistan Focus
Dr. Valery Virkovski, Chair of DTLP International Expert Network, ADB source person
- Turkmenistan Focus**
Mr. Vadim Ponomarenko, Digital Transport Solutions Development Expert, Intergovernmental Commission TRACECA
- Azerbaijan Focus**
Mr. Vusal Abbasov, Head of State Programs Management Division, Azerbaijan Land Transport Agency
- Questions and Answers**
- 17:50-18:00** **Closing Remarks**
Dr. Kuat Akizhanov, Deputy Director Two, CAREC Institute

Notes:**Time limits**

Keynote presentations – 20 minutes each.

Presentations of research findings – 15 minutes each.

Questions

Questions will be welcomed during the policy dialogue. After the presentations, there will be a live discussion. Attendees may use 'Q&A' at the bottom of your screen to type their questions. Speakers, please type answers to the questions in 'Q&A' after your presentation.

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Simultaneous Interpretation by Zoom will be available. Please select from the bottom panel which language for interpretation you would like: English, Chinese or Russian.