



**CAREC Regional Workshop**  
**Promoting Cooperation in Higher Education and Skills Development in CAREC Countries**

27–28 March 2019  
Orion Hotel, Karkyra Ballroom, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

AGENDA

**Day 1: Wednesday 27 March 2019**

08:30–09:00 Registration

09:00–09:10 **Welcome Remarks**

Mr. Taalaibek Cholponkulov, Director, Primary Vocational Education Agency, Ministry of Education, Kyrgyz Republic

09:10–09:20 **Opening Remarks**

Mr. Steven Lewis-Workman, Officer-in-Charge, Kyrgyz Republic Resident Mission, ADB

09:20–09:30 **Introduction of Human Development in CAREC Agenda**

Ms. Rie Hiraoka, Director, Social Sector Division, Central and West Asia Department, ADB

09:30–10:50 **Session 1: A Regional Approach to Education and Skills Development for CAREC**

Moderator: Mr. Taalaibek Cholponkulov, Director, Primary Vocational Education Agency, Ministry of Education, Kyrgyz Republic

- *“Scoping Study on Enhancing Regional Cooperation in Education and Skills under CAREC”* – Mr. Robert Wihtol, Education Specialist, ADB Consultant (15-20 min.)

*Open discussion* (60 min.)

10:50–11:20 Coffee/Tea break and group photo

11:20–12:20 **Session 2: Enhancing Regional Labor Markets and Skills Development**

Moderator: Dr. Shamsh Kassim-Lakha, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, University of Central Asia and AKDN Representative, Kyrgyz Republic

- *“Collaboration in Education and Skills Development to Improve Students’ Employability and Transition to World of Work”* – Mr. Jouko Sarvi, Lead Education Specialist, Social Sector Division, Central and West Asia Department, ADB (15 min.)

*Open discussion* (15 min.)

- *“Reforming TVET and Developing Technical and Skilled Talents in the New Era in China”* – Ms. Liu Yufeng, Research Professor and Director of the Division of International Cooperation and Comparative Education Research, Central Institute for Vocational and Technical Education, Ministry of Education, People’s Republic of China (15 min.)

*Open discussion* (15 min.)

12:20–14:00 Lunch



14:00–14:30 **Session 2 (continued)**

- *“The European Training Foundation experience with regional cooperation in VET, skills development and labour mobility”* – Ms. Christine Hemschemeier, Senior Specialist in VET Policies and Systems and European Training Foundation Country Coordinator for Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan (15 min.)

*Open discussion* (15 min.)

14:30–15:00 Coffee/Tea break

15:00–16:30 **Session 2 (continued)**

Moderator: Mr. Robert Wihtol, Education Specialist, ADB Consultant

Panel discussion on *“Intra-regional migration and labor movement: challenges and opportunities”* (45 min.)

- Panelists:
- Mr. Kamaldin Toktosartov, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Labor and Social Development, Kyrgyz Republic
  - Mr. Muhammad Masood Ahmad, Director General from National Education and Technical Training Commission, Pakistan
  - Ms. Banu Narbekova, Deputy Director of the Department of Higher and Postgraduate Education, Ministry of Education and Science, Kazakhstan
  - Mr. Bolotbek Orovov, National Coordinator for the Kyrgyz Republic, International Labor Organization
  - Mr. Dejan Keserovic, Coordinator for Central Asia and Chief of Mission for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, International Organization for Migration

*Q&A* (45 min.)

**Day 2: Thursday 28 March 2019**

09:00–10:15 **Session 3: Higher Education Challenges in the CAREC Region**

Moderator: Mr. Jouko Sarvi, Lead Education Specialist, Social Sector Division, Central and West Asia Department, ADB

- Presentation by Mr. Sohail Naqvi, Rector, University of Central Asia (15 min.)

Panel discussion on *“Challenges to Academic Mobility between CAREC Countries and Beyond”* (30 min.)

- Panelists:
- Mr. Mirwais Nahzat, Chief Operating Officer, Kardan University, Afghanistan
  - Mr. Abduvakhob Umarov, Dean of the Faculty of Economics, National University of Uzbekistan
  - Dr. Chinbat Undram, Vice President for Finance and Planning, National University of Mongolia
  - Mr. Dovlet Gurbansahedov, Head of Tertiary and Secondary Professional Education Division, Ministry of Education, Turkmenistan
  - Ms. Kailin Guo, Graduate Student, School of Education, Peking University

*Q&A* (30 min.)

10:15–10:45 Coffee/Tea break



10:45–12:00 **Session 4: Harmonizing Higher Education Quality and Standards**

*“The Bologna Process Approach to Harmonization of Higher Education Standards”* – Mr. Reijo Aholainen, Senior Ministerial Adviser, Ministry of Education and Culture, Finland (15 min.)

Panel Discussion on *“Lessons learnt from accession to the Bologna Process and challenges in acceding”* (30 min.)

Moderator: Mr. Reijo Aholainen

- Panelists:
- Mr. Kudaiberdy Kojobekov, Deputy Minister of Education and Science, Kyrgyz Republic
  - Mr. Shahin Bayramov, Deputy Director of Research and Higher Education Department, Ministry of Education of Azerbaijan
  - Ms. Nino Khitarishvili, Coordinator for VET Quality Assurance Systems Development, National Centre for Educational Quality Enhancement, Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia
  - Mr. Tavakal Malikov, Head of Department for the Social Sector Development, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, Tajikistan

Q&A (30 min.)

12:00–13:00 **Session 5: Wrap-up and next steps**

Mr. Robert Wihtol, Education Specialist, ADB Consultant

Mr. Jouko Sarvi, Lead Education Specialist, Social Sector Division, Central and West Asia Department, ADB

13:00–13:15 **Closing remarks**

Ms. Rie Hiraoka, Director, Social Sector Division, Central and West Asia Department, ADB

Mr. Kudaiberdy Kojobekov, Deputy Minister of Education and Science, Kyrgyz Republic

13:15–14:30 Lunch