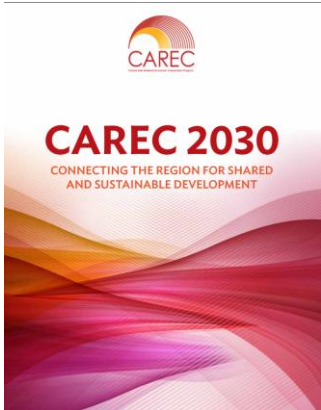




CAREC Development Partners' Retreat

21 November 2025

Overview on CAREC Development Partners



Open and **inclusive platform**: CAREC Program expanded to any DP willing to contribute their expertise to advance regional cooperation in CAREC sectors and cross-cutting themes

Core CAREC DPs



First CAREC Development Partners Forum (virtual, Dec 2020)

- ❑ Regular information exchange on projects and programs aligned with CAREC sectors
- ❑ Increased joint financing for regional projects
- ❑ Expanded non-financial cooperation (knowledge products and regional events)



Current Development Partners' Role in CAREC



Financing and/or
co-financing CAREC-
related projects



Participation in
CAREC high-level
events and working
group meetings



Co-organization of
regional **workshops**
and events



Joint **knowledge**
generation and
dissemination



Technical expertise
(resource persons,
subcontracting in TA
projects)



Information
Exchange and
Coordination

Current Development Partners' Role in CAREC

Cross-Cutting Themes (Digital, Gender, Climate)

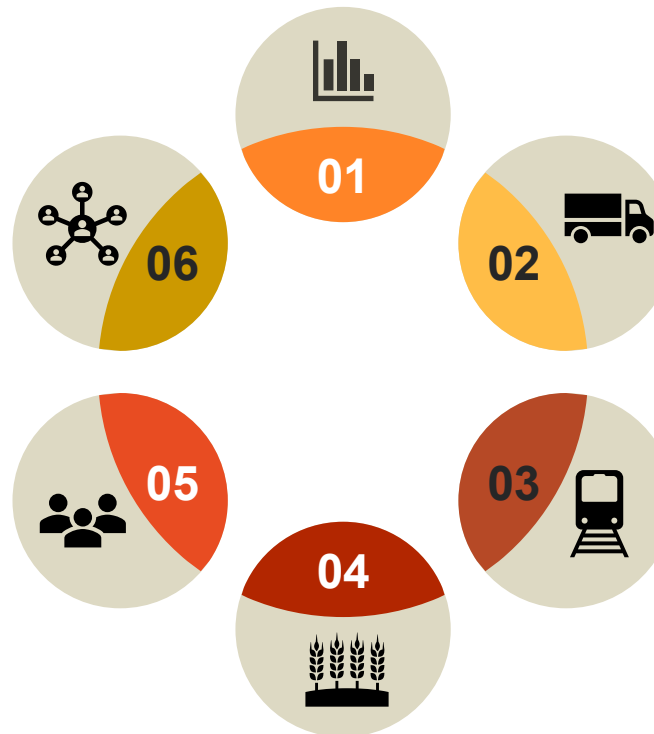
- Project financing (AIIB)
- Technical expertise, joint events and information exchange (ADB, UNDP, EBRD, CAREC Eco, GCF, WB, UNDP, WHO, WMO, IsDB, ITU, FAO)

Human Development

- Project financing (ADB, WB)
- Technical expertise, joint events and information exchange (ADB, ILO, IOM, WHO, US CDC)

Agriculture and Water

- Project financing (ADB, WB)
- Information exchange and coordination (ADB, WB, OECD, GIZ)



Economic and Financial Stability

- Joint events (ADB, IMF, WB)
- Project financing (WB)

Trade, Tourism and Economic Corridors

- Project financing (ADB, EBRD, IsDB, WB)
- Technical expertise, joint events and information exchange (ADB, UNCTAD, WTO, UNESCAP, UNECE, WCO, EU, ITC, OECD, GIZ)

Infrastructure and Economic Connectivity

- Project financing (ADB, AIIB, EBRD, IsDB, WB)
- Information exchange and coordination (ADB, AIIB, WB, OECD, EU, GIZ, EDB, EFSD)

CAREC 2030 Midterm Review - Implementation Action Plan

Core Action Item: Strengthen engagement with Development Partners

Strategic Goal	Operational Actions and Activities	Projects and Initiatives	Timeline
Enhance role and involvement of DPs and the private sector in delivering complex, multi-country projects Develop strategies to overcome potential barriers such as internal procedures, priorities, and resource constraints	6.1 Form multi-DP teams for impact assessment of projects	Framework for CAREC DPs collaboration on pipeline development, cofinancing, sector strategy formulation, project monitoring and evaluation, and project impact assessment	Ongoing
	6.2 Involve CAREC DPs in proposed multi-year project pipeline , regional priorities, and identify complementarities	Revised CAREC Project Monitoring and Evaluation Framework	Q4 2025
	6.3 Promote regular DP engagement	CAREC DPs Retreat	2025/2026
	6.4 Mobilize additional or co-financing with DPs and explore innovative financing options to support critical regional infrastructure projects	Development of the Green Energy Corridor under the Caspian Sea Project and others to be determined	Ongoing

CAREC 2030 Midterm Review - Implementation Action Plan

Other Relevant Action Items

Strategic Goal	Operational Actions and Activities	Projects and Initiatives	Timeline
Ensure long-term planning, project prioritization, and resource allocation	1.2 Establish a multi-year rolling pipeline for regional programs , projects, and technical assistance in each sector	Integration of CAREC proposed regional projects in relevant CAREC Development Partners' Country Programming exercise and Country Partnership Framework	Ongoing (annually)
Promote transparent and open stakeholders' communication	4.1 Engage all country stakeholders from the outset and increase frequency of meetings, feedback mechanisms, and dialogue	CAREC Project Dashboard and online CAREC Calendar to reflect DPs support	2026
Improve transparency to allow for informed program adjustments and evidence-based decision-making processes	7.1 Develop a real-time operational dashboard to track project progress and KPIs	CAREC Project Dashboard (prototype under development) Review and update of CAREC Program Results Framework	Ongoing
Optimize resource allocation, enhance regional collaboration, and address the program's expanding roles and needs	8.3 Develop joint financing modalities with other development partners and stakeholders	Fund mobilization for potential new partners for CSPPF , and explore other possible trust funds to CAREC operations with other DPs	2025–2030

Session 2: DPs' Collaboration on Pipeline Development, Project Monitoring and Evaluation, and Resource Mobilization



Overview of CAREC-Related Project Portfolio

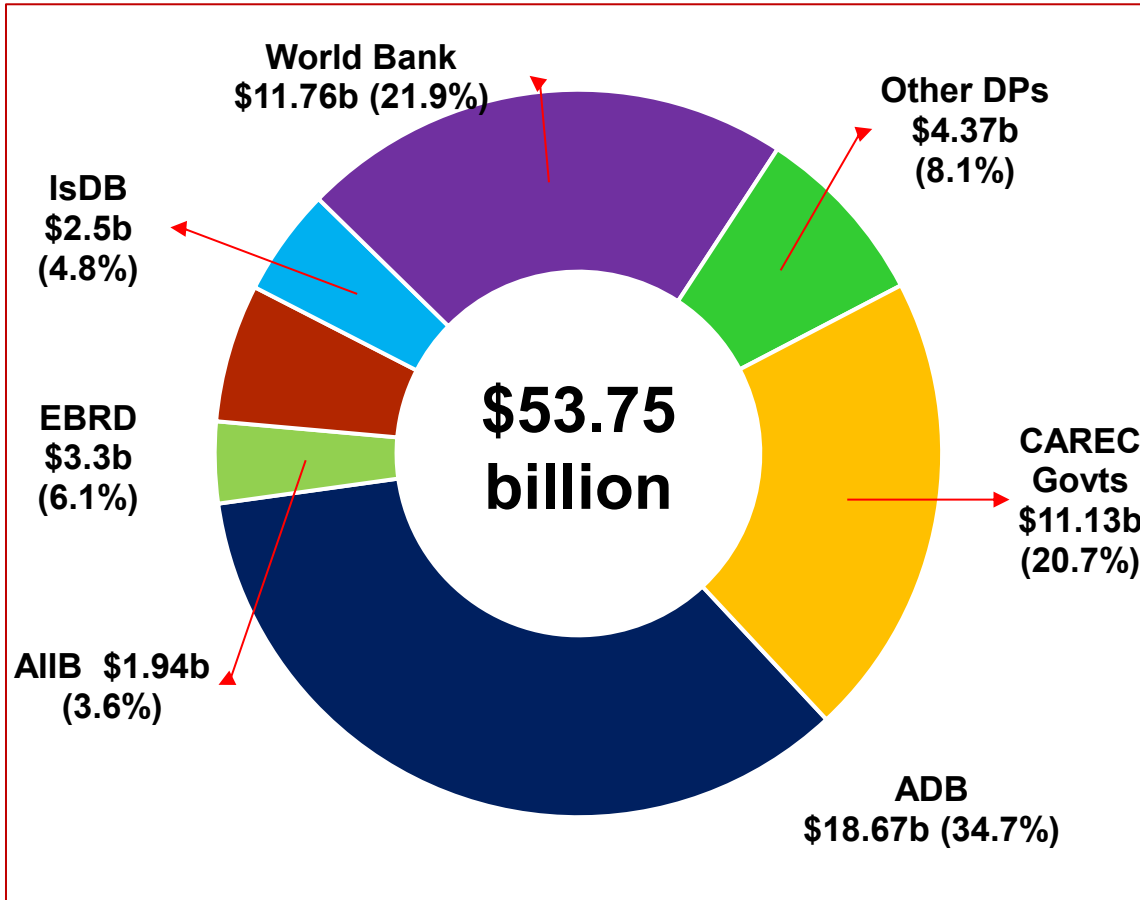


CAREC Project Classification Methodology and Monitoring Process

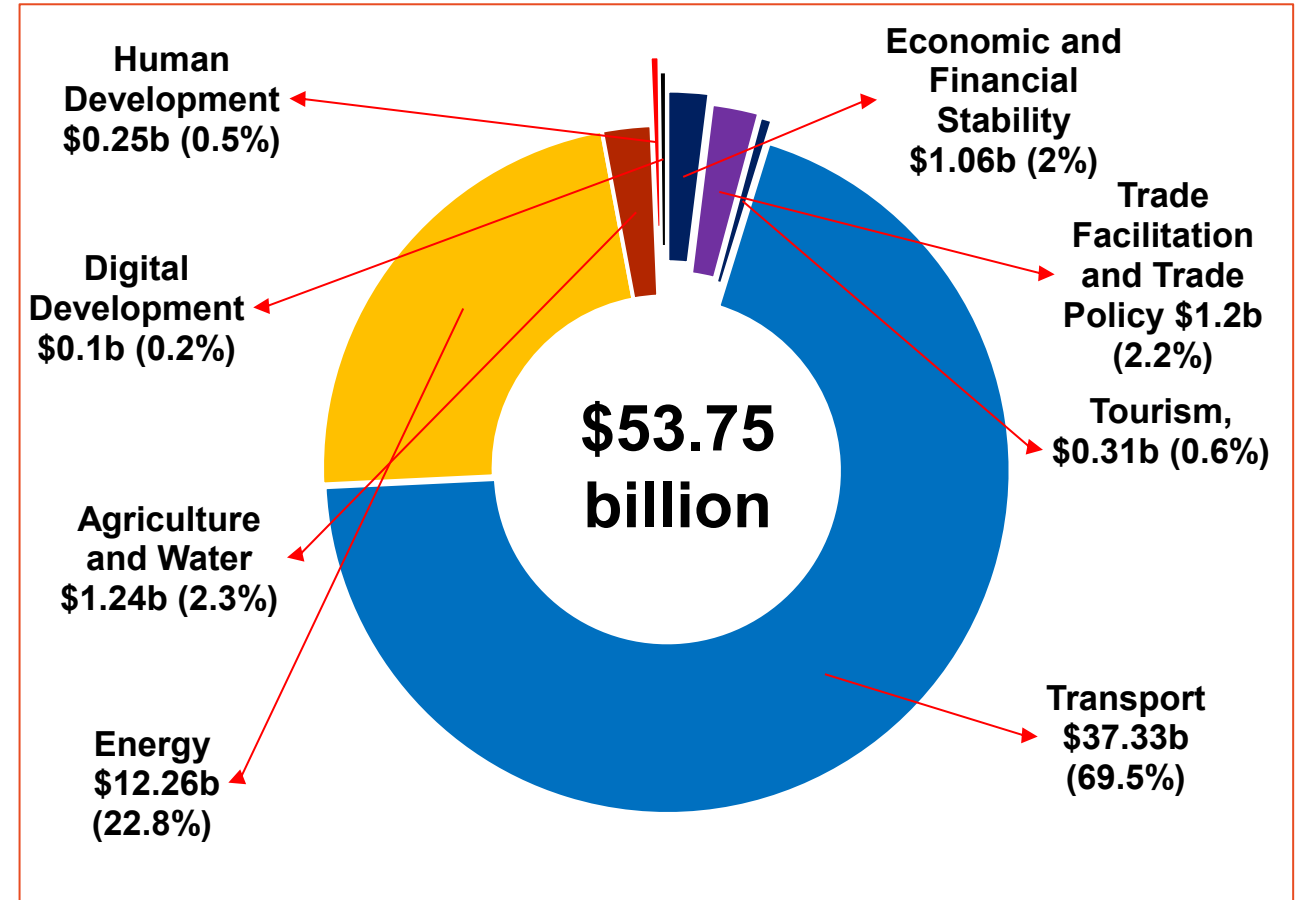


Resource Mobilization and Regional Project Pipeline

Overview of CAREC-Related Project Portfolio



By Funding Source



By Sector



CAREC Project Classification Methodology

What is a CAREC Project? Investment projects and programs (loans or grants) that contribute to regional cooperation and integration (RCI) in the CAREC region, with benefits that extend to two or more CAREC countries (i.e., *2+1 approach*).

To be included in the CAREC portfolio, projects must:

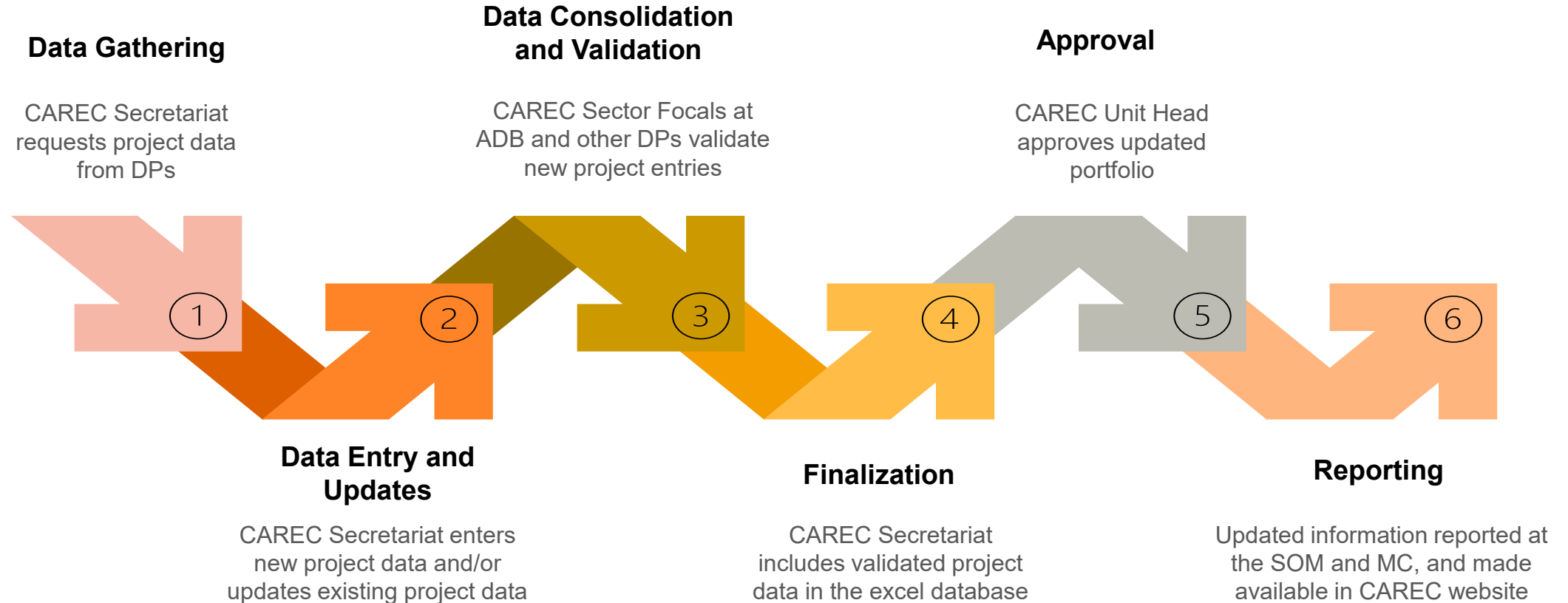
- ❑ be **classified as a regional cooperation project** based on DPs' project classifications
- ❑ support relevant strategies **aligned with CAREC's operational clusters and cross-cutting themes**
- ❑ generate **regional economic benefits** and/or contribute on additional ways to enhancing regional cooperation (e.g., strengthening institutions, systems or policies in support of RCI objectives, etc.)

CAREC Project Classification Methodology

Basis for project counting:

- ❑ Projects should be **committed** (signed)
- ❑ **Single-country projects**: loan or grant should be signed by CAREC country and project should benefit at least two CAREC countries
- ❑ **Multi-country projects**: only loans or grants signed by CAREC countries should be counted (if the project included non-CAREC countries)
- ❑ **Multi-tranche / multi-phased** programs: each tranche counted as one project
- ❑ Project financed by several DPs:
 - **Parallel financing**: each DP should report their own contribution and counted as separate projects
 - **Co-financing**: main financier to report on the project as a whole (counted as one project) and indicate DPs contributions

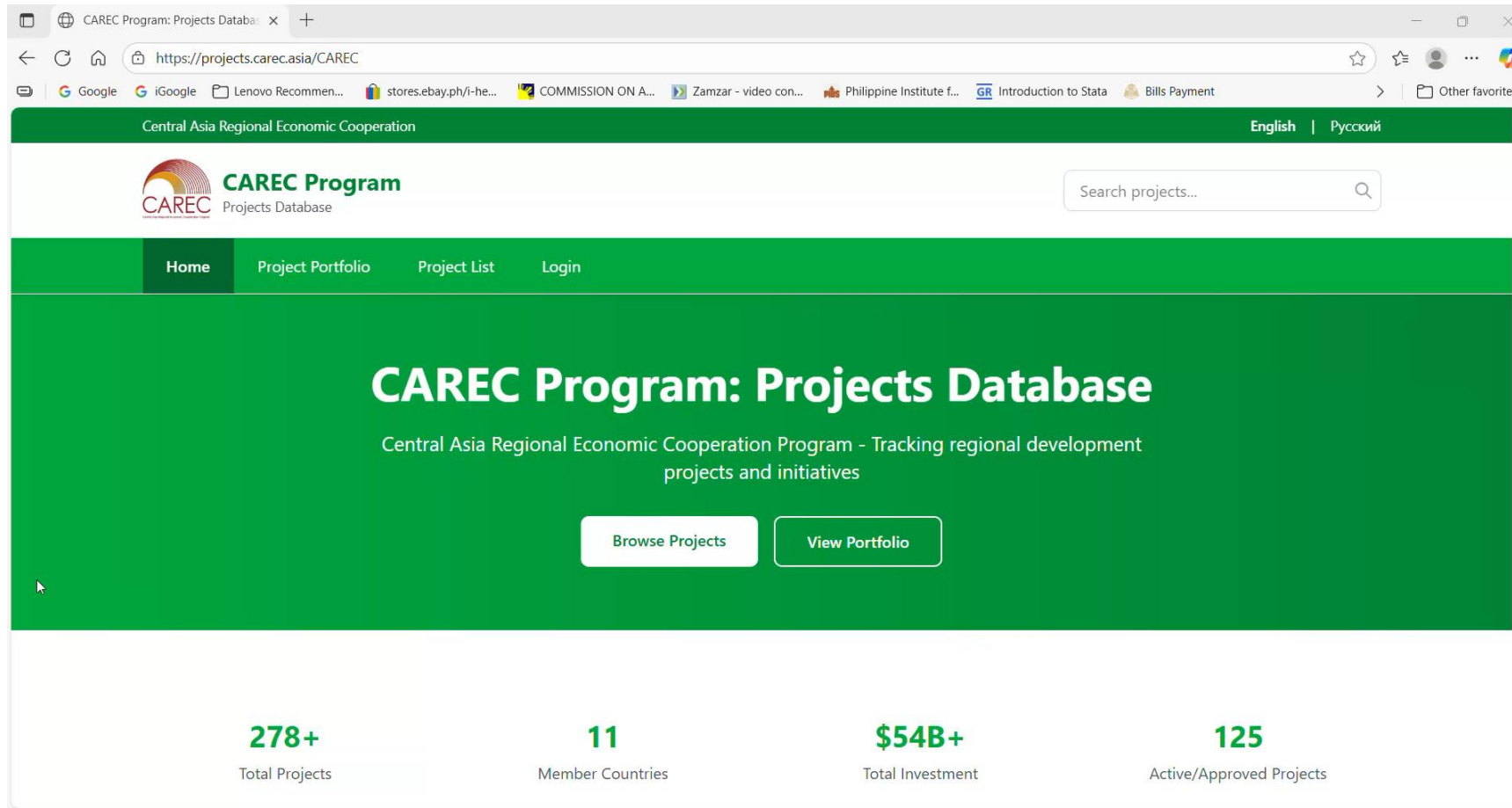
CAREC Portfolio Monitoring and Reporting Process



CAREC Portfolio Monitoring and Reporting Process

Current Status and Limitations	Proposals / Points for Discussion
Projects stored in an excel database and updated twice a year (Jan and Jul)	- Need for a more dynamic and interactive portfolio management system to allow for more timely updates (proposed CAREC Project Dashboard) Timing for portfolio monitoring to be agreed by DPs
CAREC member countries are not an active part of the project monitoring process	Dedicated session/s to be held at working group meetings and/or SOM / NFPs' meeting to discuss and validate CAREC-related projects
Ongoing and completed projects are not part of the monitoring projects	- CAREC Secretariat to share list of ongoing and completed projects with DPs for validation. - Ongoing projects to be included in the regular portfolio monitoring process starting in 2026
CAREC Implementation Progress report does not fully capture DPs' projects	CAREC Secretariat to share draft progress implementation report with DPs in advance for inputs.
Link to the CAREC Program not always clear on project documents	Awareness-raising activities across DPs to help strengthen alignment with and contribution to CAREC strategies and goals in project appraisal documents
DPs' project reporting focused on five Central Asian countries vs. all CAREC countries due to different departmental organization	More than one focal per DP (if different departments covering CAREC region) or main focal to coordinate internally

CAREC Project Dashboard



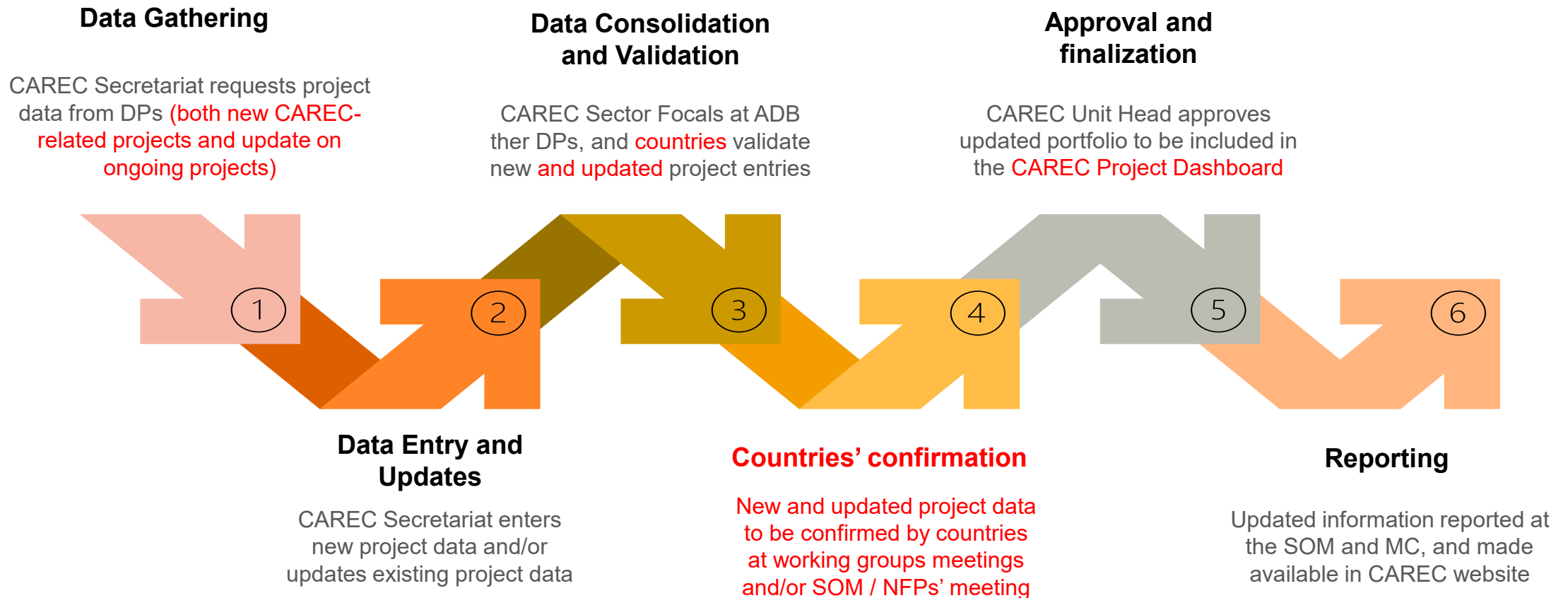
The screenshot shows the CAREC Program: Projects Database website. The browser address bar displays <https://projects.carec.asia/CAREC>. The website header includes the CAREC logo and the text "CAREC Program Projects Database". A search bar with the placeholder "Search projects..." is located in the top right. The main navigation menu includes "Home", "Project Portfolio", "Project List", and "Login". The main content area features a large green banner with the text "CAREC Program: Projects Database" and "Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program - Tracking regional development projects and initiatives". Below the banner are two buttons: "Browse Projects" and "View Portfolio". At the bottom, there are four statistics: "278+ Total Projects", "11 Member Countries", "\$54B+ Total Investment", and "125 Active/Approved Projects".

Statistic	Value
Total Projects	278+
Member Countries	11
Total Investment	\$54B+
Active/Approved Projects	125

- **Prototype Stage** (data for crosschecking)
- List of CAREC projects sorted by country, sector, development partner, status, financing type.
- Reporting on funding by country, sector, status and source
- Monitoring on gender, digital and climate change themes

CAREC Portfolio Monitoring and Reporting Process

Proposed enhanced process



Resource Mobilization and Regional Project Pipeline

Current Status and Limitations	Proposals / Points for Discussion
DPs provide parallel financing and co-financing for CAREC-related investment projects, although collaboration on project preparatory work is limited.	- Explore opportunities for increased co-financing of potential CAREC projects - Leverage existing DPs' thematic funds for preparation of regional projects (e.g., CAREC Sustainability Project Preparatory Fund)
There is no mechanism to identify and discuss regional investment opportunities across CAREC sectors and themes	- Indicative regional project pipeline from DPs as starting point for coordination - CAREC countries and DPs to identify potential regional investment opportunities through sector working group meetings - Regular meetings of CAREC DPs (once or twice per year) to update the consolidated regional project pipeline

Indicative CAREC Regional Project Pipeline

Name of Project	Countries	Timeline	Responsible DP	Sector
CAREC Corridor 2 Development Investment Projects - AZE: Railways Digital Transformation Project - AZE: Railway Signaling, Electrification, Signaling and Telecommunication Project - GEO: Batumi-Sarpi Road Project - GEO: Tbilisi Bypass Project - KGZ: Transport Development Project - TKM: Trans-Turkmenistan Railway Modernization Project - UZB: CAREC Road Corridor 2 Resilience and Modernization Project - UZB: CAREC Corridors 2 and 6 Road Modernization and Safety Project and Program	AZE, GEO, KGZ, TKM, UZB	2025-2028	ADB	Transport
Aktobe - Ulgaisyn Road	KAZ	2025	EBRD	Transport
Aktau port modernization	KAZ	2025	EBRD	Transport
Transforming Rail and Connectivity (concept stage)	KAZ	2025	AIIB, World Bank	Transport
Kazakhstan Transport Resilience and Connectivity Enhancement Project (Jezkazgan-Karagandy Section)	KAZ	2025–2027	AIIB, World Bank	Transport
Uzbekistan Bukhara Road Network Improvement Project (Phase 1)	UZB	2025–2027	AIIB	Transport
Azerbaijan Baku Port Expansion	AZE	2025–2027	AIIB, World Bank	Transport
ABEC Almaty–Issyk-Kul Alternative Road Project	KAZ, KGZ	2026	ADB	Transport
ABEC Electric Bus Project	KAZ, KGZ	2026	ADB	Transport
Shalkar-Beyneu road	KAZ	2026	EBRD	Transport
CAREC Corridors 3 and 6 Construction and Operation of Turkistan Oblast Highway (Saryagash Bypass) Project	KAZ	2026	ADB	Transport
CAREC Corridors 1 and 3 Construction of Shymkent Bypass Project	KAZ	2027	ADB	Transport
ABEC Regional Improvement of Border Services (RIBS)	KAZ, KGZ	2025	ADB	Trade, transport
Fostering Sustainable Trade and Regional Value Chains for economic collaboration and market integration in Central Asia	KAZ, KGZ, TAJ, UZB	2026	UNDP	Trade
Rogun Hydropower Project	TAJ	2025	ADB, AIIB, World Bank, IsDB	Energy
Regional Electricity Market Interconnectivity and Trade	KAZ, KGZ, TAJ, UZB	2025	World Bank	Energy
Empowering Cities: Harnessing Reactive Power for Energy Savings and Improved Livelihoods	KAZ, KGZ, UZB	2025	UNDP	Energy

Indicative CAREC Regional Project Pipeline

Name of Project	Countries	Timeline	Responsible DP	Sector
Kambarata-1 Hydropower Plant Project, Phase 1	KGZ	2026	ADB, World Bank	Energy
Advancing Green Investment and Resilient Economic Growth Program (Subprogram 1)	KGZ	2025	ADB	EFS, Climate Change
Risk Layered Disaster Relief Finance Sector Development Program	KGZ, TAJ	2025	ADB	EFS, DRM
Strengthening Disaster Resilience in Central Asia	KAZ, KGZ, TAJ, TKM, UZB	2025	UNDP	DRM
One Health for Pandemic Prevention, Food Systems Resilience, and Ecosystem Health in Central Asia	KGZ, TAJ	2025	World Bank	Health
Improving Nursing Quality and Capacity Project	TKM	2025	ADB	Health
Integrated Regional Health Security and Primary Healthcare Services Project	TAJ	2026	ADB	Health
Climate-resilient health systems in Europe and Central Asia	KGZ, UZB	2026	UNDP	Health, climate change
Modernization of Vocational Education for a Green Economy	UZB	2026	ADB	Education
CAREC Water Infrastructure, Sustainability and Ecosystem Restoration	TAJ	2025	ADB	Water
Water Efficiency and Conservation - National Irrigation and Energy Efficiency Improvement Project (Phase 1)	UZB	2025	World Bank	Water, Energy
Integrated River Basin Management	KGZ	2027	ADB	Water
Climate-Resilient Water Resources Sector Development Program (scoping)	TAJ	2027	ADB	Water
Blueing the Caspian Sea: Building Capacities for Pollution Management and Biodiversity Conservation	AZE, KAZ, TKM	2025	World Bank, Green Climate Fund	Climate change
Enhancing community resilience to droughts, sand and dust storms in the Aral Sea region	KAZ, UZB	2026	UNDP	Climate change
Multi-Country Programme CHANGE – Challenging Harmful Attitudes and Norms for Gender Equality	KAZ, KGZ, TAJ, TKM, UZB	2026	UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women	Gender

Flagship CAREC Initiatives



Border Upgrades for Integration, Logistics and Development (BUILD) Facility

Goal: Strategic financing facility for border crossing points (BCPs) improvements addressing infrastructure and soft-side needs and promote joint BCPs

Status and Next Steps: Processing and approval of the facility and first projects in Q1-Q3 2026



CAREC Digital Corridor

Goal: Promote cross-border digital connectivity, including through development of long-distance fiber optic infrastructure linking CAREC countries to global internet backbones.

Status and Next Steps: Scoping Study completed and moving to Feasibility Study phase to identify existing fiber optic networks and missing links and investment needs and models (including PPP opportunities)

Flagship CAREC Initiatives



Caspian Green Energy Corridor

Goal: Regional energy infrastructure project aiming to transport renewable energy electricity from Central Asia to Europe via Caspian sea interconnecting power grids of AZE, KAZ and UZB.

Status and Next Steps: MOU signed with AZE, KAZ, UZB. **ADB & AIIB** cofinancing Feasibility Studies (FS). After FS confirmation, mobilization of financing for construction.



Northeast Asia Power System Interconnection (NAPSI)

Goal: Regional energy initiative aimed at integrating power systems across Mongolia, the PRC and the Republic of Korea, and enabling cross-border renewable energy trade to support decarbonization and energy security.

Status and Next Steps: ADB supported feasibility studies during 2019-2023 and will support Phase 2 of the project. NAPSI to be presented at the CAREC Energy Investment Forum in Ulaanbaatar in 2026.

Open Discussion

- ❑ Alignment of CAREC Project Classification with DPs' methodologies
- ❑ Revised portfolio monitoring process
 - DPs' and countries' roles
 - Timing
 - Institutional arrangements to ensure projects from all CAREC countries are reflected
- ❑ Regional investment opportunities and financing resources
 - Mechanism to further develop regional pipeline of CAREC-related projects
 - DPs' funds to support preparatory work of regional projects
 - Concrete initiatives for collaboration

Session 3: Institutional and Knowledge Coordination



Information Sharing and Coordination



Joint Knowledge Generation



CAREC 25th Anniversary

Information Sharing and Coordination

Current Status and Limitations	Proposals / Points for Discussion
DPs attend CAREC events (MC, SOM) and working group meetings mainly as participants rather than having a more active role.	More proactive engagement of DPs in CAREC sectors and themes (e.g., leading concrete CAREC-related initiatives, co-chairing working group meetings, etc.)
There is no regular mechanism for exchange of information among CAREC DPs (currently on an ad-hoc basis).	CAREC DP's meetings to be held once or twice per year.
Limited coordination and collaboration on regional workshops and events resulting in duplication of events and lower countries' participation.	- Include DPs regional events in CAREC calendar - Explore opportunities to optimize resources through co-organization of regional workshops

Information Sharing and Coordination

Home / Events: CAREC Events Calendar

15 Upcoming CAREC Events in 2025-26

Event date or venue marked as TBC cannot be added to your calendar.

Event pages will become accessible when they are completed with pre-event materials.

Indicative for planning purposes only. Final dates and venues are confirmed once formal invites have been circulated.

Export Excel PDF

Search...

Select a month... Select a sector... Select an event type... Select a venue...

Nov 2025	📅 Certifying Digital Health Applications 📍 Virtual 🏥 Health 👤 Webinar
Nov 2025	📅 CAREC Institute: 2nd Digital Economy Workshop: Sharing Policy Cases 📍 Xiamen, PRC 🏢 CAREC Institute 👤 Meeting 🏠 On-Site
18 Nov 2025 — 19 Nov 2025	📅 CAREC Business Forum 📍 Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic 🏢 Regional Dialogue 👤 Forum 🏠 On-Site
Nov 2025	📅 CAREC Institute: CAREC Chai: Strengthening E-Health Systems 📍 Virtual 🏢 CAREC Institute 👤 Talk
20 Nov 2025	📅 24th CAREC Ministerial Conference 📍 Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic 🏢 Regional Dialogue 👤 Conference 🏠 On-Site

Home / Events: Event Submissions

CAREC Events Calendar: Submit an Event

Event Title *

Enter the event title.

Event Description

Please add, if any pre-event blurb is available for the event. Paste Links in brackets in front of the hyperlinked text. For CI events, please add the link to the event page on CI website, if available.

Event Start Date *

dd/mm/yyyy

Start Date is Day 1 of event, not the date published * For TBC events, SET START DATE AS LAST DAY OF THE MONTH for proper sorting.

Event End Date *

dd/mm/yyyy

For one-day events, set End Date equal to Start Date. For TBC events, SET END DATE AS LAST DAY OF THE MONTH for proper sorting.

Event Sector *

Agriculture

Event Type *

Meeting

Event Medium *

On-Site

Event Confirmation *

☐ Yes

☐ No

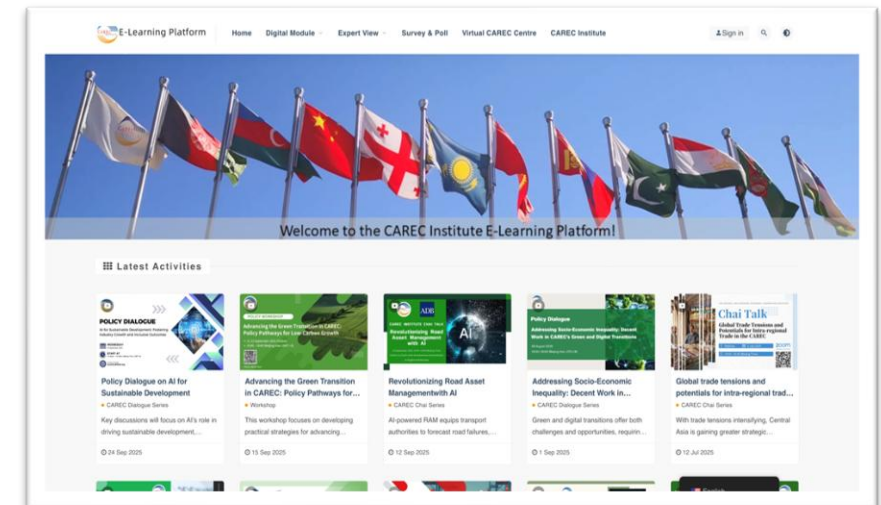
Is the Event Day certain? Select "NO" for upcoming events if only the month and year are certain. The day specified in the Start and End dates will not be displayed.

Joint Knowledge Generation

Current Status and Limitations	Proposals / Points for Discussion
Several regional knowledge products by DPs on similar topics	Identify concrete opportunities for joint upstream knowledge work in CAREC sectors and themes to optimize resources
Limited DPs' engagement with the CAREC Institute	- CI to coordinate with DPs' focals through CAREC Secretariat for identification of knowledge work opportunities - CI e-learning platform to be used for DPs' training programs.



Joint upstream work (ADB, WB, IMF, WTO) to support **WTO Accession and Post-Accession** in AZE, UZB and TKM



CAREC 25th Anniversary

CAREC Session at ADB Annual Meeting (May 2026, Samarkand)

- Potential session featuring CAREC at other DPs' annual meetings and events

High-level CAREC Meeting in Mongolia (Sept 2026, Ulaanbaatar)

- Signing of the "Ulaanbaatar Declaration" renewing commitment to CAREC

CAREC Energy Investment/Business Forum in Ulaanbaatar

- Cooperation with Chambers of Commerce and other Development Partners

Awareness and Communications Products featuring CAREC Projects

- Impact Stories, videos, press tour, etc. featuring DPs' CAREC projects



Open Discussion

- ❑ Sectors or themes for greater involvement of DPs
- ❑ Collaboration on regional workshops and events
- ❑ Concrete joint knowledge initiatives, including DPs-CI collaboration
- ❑ Ideas to showcase CAREC DPs' collaboration at 25th Anniversary