



23rd CAREC Ministerial Conference and Related Activities

7–8 November 2024

Astor Hall, St. Regis Hotel Astana

Pre–Ministerial Conference High-Level Events

As of 6 November 2024

Day 1: Bilateral Meetings and Plenary Sessions (7 November 2024, Thursday)

08:00–10:30	Bilateral Meetings (pre-scheduled)
10:30–12:00	Opening Session Opening Remarks by Mr. Yingming Yang, Vice-President (South, Central and West Asia), ADB Plenary Session 1: Decarbonizing and Promoting Regional Energy Security in the CAREC Region <i>Central Asia's untapped potential for hydropower presents a unique opportunity to accelerate the clean energy transition, improve connectivity, and enhance energy and water security in the region. Transformational regional hydropower projects (e.g., Rogun and Kambarata-1) and new proposals (such as the Caspian Undersea Cable Initiative) are critical to meet the growing energy demand in the CAREC region and beyond. Close cooperation among countries and development partners is critical. This session will discuss the role of regional cooperation in promoting cross-border power trade and reliable green energy projects in the CAREC region.</i> Moderator: Mr. Yevgeniy Zhukov, Director General, Central and West Asia Department, ADB Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Daler Juma, Minister, Ministry of Energy and Water Resources, Tajikistan• Mr. Sahib Alakbarov, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Economy, Azerbaijan• Mr. Nurlan Sadykov, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Energy, Kyrgyz Republic• Mr. Abdulla Khashimov, Advisor to the Minister of Investments, Industry and Trade, Uzbekistan• Mr. Hun Kim, Acting Vice President, Investment Solutions, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank• Ms. Indu John-Abraham, Head of Office / Operations Manager, Central Asia, World Bank
12:00–13:00	Lunch Venue: Asakusa and La Riviera Restaurant, Level 1
13:00–14:00	Bilateral Meetings (pre-scheduled)

13:50–15:20	Plenary Session 2: Innovative Solutions to Climate Change Challenges and Role of Artificial Intelligence
	<p><i>Artificial Intelligence (AI) plays a pivotal role in climate mitigation and adaptation measures, leveraging its capability in data analysis, prediction of weather patterns, optimization of resources, and automation of processes. AI-enabled solutions in agriculture, energy, transportation, water resource management, disaster risk management, trade, and public health are critical to enhancing efficiency and reducing emissions. The session will discuss opportunities for cooperation, including through regional framework, cross-border investments, and private sector development, including harnessing the digital startup ecosystem to develop scalable and adaptable AI-driven solutions to climate change challenges.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Kelly Bird, Advisor, East Asia Department, ADB</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Yerlan Nyssanbayev, Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan • Mr. Qichao Song, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Finance, People's Republic of China • Mr. Sanzharbek Bolotov, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Economy and Commerce and CAREC National Focal Point for the Kyrgyz Republic • Ms. Kamola Sabirova, Adviser to Minister of Digital Technology, Uzbekistan • Ms. Katarzyna Wawiernia, Resident Representative, United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Kazakhstan • Ms. Dana Shukirbayeva, Founder of Climate Action Initiative Central Asia NGO and Climate Tech Forest Hero and QALA AI
15:20–15:30	Short Break
15:30–17:00	Plenary Session 3: Developing CAREC Corridor 2 and Beyond
	<p><i>In the current context, there is a need to strengthen transport and transit resilience in CAREC countries, including by developing an institutional framework for multimodal development in the region. The session will share pipeline or ongoing projects (e.g., Container Hub in Kazakhstan's Aktau Port; Corridor 2 Resilience and Modernization Project in Uzbekistan, and modernization projects for TransTurkmenistan and Azerbaijan Railways) that will support the development of CAREC Corridor 2 and other related corridors to maximize the potential for regional cooperation.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Marat Karabayev, Minister of Transport of the Republic of Kazakhstan</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Sahib Alakbarov, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Economy, Azerbaijan • Mr. Genadi Arveladze, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development and CAREC National Focal Point for Georgia • Mr. Bekzhan Rysmendeev, Deputy Minister, Minister of Transport and Communications, Kyrgyz Republic • Mr. Babanyyaz Yalakov, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance and Economy, Turkmenistan • Mr. Peteris Ustubs, Director, Middle East, Asia and the Pacific, European Commission • Ms. Oksana Sorokina, Director General, SevenR Logistics LLP, Kazakhstan

17:00–17:10	ADB book launch: Unlocking Transport Connectivity in Central Asia and the Caucasus <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Byungsik Jung, Deputy Dean, Senior Capacity Building and Training, ADB• Ms. Lyaziza Sabyrova, Regional Head, Regional Cooperation and Integration, Central and West Asia Department, ADB
17:10–18:00	Bilateral Meetings (pre-scheduled)
18:00	Welcome Dinner hosted by the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan Venue: Winter Garden, St. Regis



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Building a More Integrated and Resilient CAREC Region

AGENDA

Day 2: Ministerial Conference and Minister's Retreat (8 November 2024, Friday)

Conference Co-Chairs:

Mr. Nurlan Baibazarov
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister of National Economy
Republic of Kazakhstan

Mr. Yingming Yang
Vice-President
(South, Central and West Asia)
Asian Development Bank

08:00–08:30	Registration and Security Check
08:55	CAREC Ministerial Conference (MC) 2024 Video Presentation
09:00–09:15	Inaugural Session
09:00–09:05	Welcome Address Mr. Olzhas Bektenov Prime Minister Republic of Kazakhstan
09:05–09:10	Keynote Address Mr. Masatsugu Asakawa President Asian Development Bank (ADB)
09:10–09:15	Introductory Remarks Mr. Nurlan Baibazarov Deputy Prime Minister Minister of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan
09:15–09:25	Signing Ceremonies for the CAREC Climate and Sustainability Project Preparatory Fund (CSPPF) ADB with the People's Republic of China's Ministry of Finance ADB with the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Economy and Finance
09:25–09:45	Group Photo and Coffee Break
09:45–12:00	Session 1: CAREC Climate Change Action Plan, CAREC Session at COP29, and CAREC 2030 Midterm Review Moderator: Mr. Nurlan Baibazarov, Deputy Prime Minister - Minister of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan

09:45–10:00	<p>Presentation 1: CAREC Climate Change Action Plan and CAREC Session at COP29</p> <p>Mr. Yevgeniy Zhukov, Director General, Central and West Asia Department, ADB Mr. Sahib Alakbarov, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Economy, Azerbaijan</p>
10:00–10:10	<p>Presentation 2: CAREC 2030 Midterm Review and Recommendations</p> <p>Ms. Lyaziza Sabyrova, Regional Head, Regional Cooperation and Integration, Central and West Asia Department, ADB</p>
10:10–12:00	<p>Country Statements</p> <p>All CAREC Ministers / Heads of Delegations</p>
12:00–13:00	Lunch (Venue: Asakusa and La Riviera Restaurant, Level 1)
13:15–14:30	Session 2: Regional Outlook and the Way Forward
	<p>Moderator: Mr. Yingming Yang, Vice-President (South, Central and West Asia), ADB</p>
13:15–13:25	<p>Presentation 3: CAREC Regional Economic Outlook</p> <p>Mr. Norbert Funke, Director, Caucasus, Central Asia, and Mongolia Regional Capacity Development Center (CCAMTAC), IMF</p>
13:25–14:30	Development Partners Interventions (Sessions 1 and 2) and Reaction from CAREC Ministers (Session 2)
14:30–14:40	Signing Ceremony
	<p>(i) Memorandum of Partnership between ADB and the Governments of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan on the Caspian Sea Green Energy Corridor Project</p> <p>(ii) Memorandum of Understanding between ADB and Ministry of Investment, Industry, and Trade of Uzbekistan</p>
14:40–15:00	Concluding Session
	<p>Moderator: Mr. Nurlan Baibazarov, Deputy Prime Minister - Minister of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan</p>
14:40–14:50	Adoption of the Joint Ministerial Statement
14:50–14:55	<p>Statement by the 2025 CAREC Country Chair</p> <p>Mr. Sanzharbek Bolotov, Deputy Minister of Economy and Commerce and CAREC National Focal Point for the Kyrgyz Republic</p>
14:55–15:00	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <p>Mr. Nurlan Baibazarov, Deputy Prime Minister - Minister of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan</p>
15:00–15:30	Coffee Break

15:30–17:00	CAREC Ministers' Retreat (By Invitation Only)
	Venue: Tulpar, Level 1
15:30–15:35	Setting the scene by Mr. Yingming Yang, Vice-President (South, Central and West Asia), ADB
15:35–17:00	Moderator: Mr. Yevgeniy Zhukov, Director General, Central and West Asia Department, ADB
	The Retreat will involve a strategic informal exchange of views between ADB Vice President and CAREC Ministers on issues, challenges, and prospects of the CAREC Program for the next 10 years, including (i) the proposed CAREC flagship initiatives or regional project pipeline development; (ii) mobilization of financing; and (iii) preparations for the 25th year of CAREC Program in 2026.
19:00	Dinner Reception (invitation extended to all MC participants)
	ADB–Republic of Kazakhstan 30th Partnership Anniversary Venue: Astor Hall, St. Regis