



## CAREC Senior Officials' Meeting and Related Events

Destination Central Asia: Advancing Regional Tourism Cooperation Among  
CAREC's Five Central Asian Countries

17 June 2025 | Venue: Social Coffeeshop, Chaika Resort, Cholpon-Ata, Issyk-Kul

**Knowledge sharing and tourism sightseeing program starts from 9:00 to 13:00**

Time	Event
09:00-9:30	Gathering of participants and departure for the excursion program
9:30-11:00	Visit to the Historical and Cultural Petroglyph Complex and the cultural center "Rukh Ordo" in Cholpon-Ata. Group photo in front of the landmarks
11:00-11:30	Transfer of participants to the lunch venue
11:30-12:30	Lunch at the ethnic restaurant "Kazan"
12:30-13:00	Departure and arrival at workshop venue

<b>13:30 – 14:00</b>	<b>Registration and Welcome Coffee</b>
<b>14:00 – 14:10</b>	<b>Opening Session</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome Remarks by the Ministry of Economy and Commerce of the Kyrgyz Republic by Sanzhar Bolotov, Deputy Minister</li> <li>• Introduction by Ms. Lyaziza Sabyrova, Regional Head, Regional Cooperation and Integration, Central and West Asia Department (CWRC, CWRD), ADB</li> </ul> <p>Moderator: Ms. Zulfia Karimova, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, Regional Cooperation and Integration, ADB</p>
<b>14:10 – 14:50</b>	<b>Presentation on CAREC Tourism Strategy 2030 — Progress, Gaps, and Next Steps</b>
	<p><b>ADB presentation (10 mins)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The presentation will take stock of the achievements <b>of CAREC Tourism Strategy 2030</b> achievements and challenges. The session will (re)introduce the <a href="#">VisitSilkRoad</a> portal, the continuing challenges affecting cross-border movement of people and tourism including but not limited to visa, transport connectivity, climate change, untapped potential digitalization, and others. It will explore targeted interventions: investment financing, digitalization, visa facilitation, and branding.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Kyrgyz Republic Presentation (10 mins)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The presentation will outline the key outcomes of the Forum Tourism 2030: Central Asia as a Single Tourism Space on 3 May 2025 in Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyz Republic by Erdenet Kasymov, Director of the Department of Tourism under the Ministry of Economy</li> </ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A (20 mins)</b></p>
<b>14:50 – 15:30</b>	<b>Session 1: Visa Liberalization for Seamless Travel among 5 Central Asian Countries</b>
	<p><b>ADB Presentation (10 mins)</b> by Brendan Sobie, ADB Consultant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Highlights Study on Visa Liberalization and Facilitation</li> </ul> <p><b>Reactions from the CAREC countries (4-5 mins each)</b></p>
<b>15:30 – 16:10</b>	<b>Session 2: Piloting Cross-Border Tourism Development Initiative— Experience and Potential Projects</b>
	<p><b>ADB presentation (10 mins)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conceptualizing and master planning of tourism and other services development projects in cross-border areas</li> </ul> <p><b>Joint Kyrgyz–Uzbek presentation (10 mins)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential cross-border tourism development hotspot and investment projects by Mr. Elbek Nabiev, Chief Specialist of the Department of International Relations and Ratings, Committee on Tourism under the Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change and Mr. Talant Isakov, FSD of tourism of the KR.</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion (20 mins)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussion topics: Opportunities and Bottlenecks in Cross-Border Routes [e.g., promoting better and faster service for international tourists at the border crossings which are important for multi-country Silk Road itineraries, Eco-Tourism Circuits]</li> <li>Tourism Investment Pipeline: Regional Opportunities and Financing modalities, e.g. PPP financing, and others.</li> </ul>
<b>16:10 – 16:30</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>16:30 – 17:10</b>	<b>Session 3: Promoting CAREC Region as a Single Tourism Destination</b>
	<p><b>ADB presentation (10 mins)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation will look into enhancing cross-border and inter-/intra-CAREC travel for tourists; promoting green and tourist-friendly infrastructure through low-carbon transport solutions; digital smart solutions to promote regional tourism; and building institutional capacity and fostering regional cooperation.</li> </ul> <p><b>Presentation on Almaty-Bishkek Economic Corridor (ABEC) (10 mins)</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comprehensive approach – ABEC Tourism Masterplan, ABEC Accommodations Classification System (ACS), future initiatives and investments.</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion (20 mins)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion topics: air-connectivity between Silk Road countries; smart energy-efficient accommodations, and eco-certifications for tourism businesses; joint marketing and branding focusing on promoting CAREC region as a single destination.</li> </ul>
<b>17:10 – 17:30</b>	<b>Closing Session</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summary of Key Takeaways, draft Resolution for the future regional tourism cooperation amongst the CAREC countries</li> <li>• Next Steps: Timeline for Action Items and Follow-ups</li> </ul>