



CAREC Senior Officials' Meeting and Related Events
17-19 June 2025 | Chaika Resort, Cholpon-Ata City, Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyz Republic

ADB-CAREC Knowledge Facility on Critical Materials
“Promoting Foreign Investment for Unlocking Critical Minerals Potential and Building Value-Added Supply Chains in the CAREC Region”

17 June 2025, Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyz Republic

Format: Hybrid

Zoom link: <https://adb-org.zoom.us/j/92511942546?pwd=yfkiHQrooYF4mr4JL9WOyX3oC5k3J3.1>

Meeting ID: 925 1194 2546

Passcode: PreSOM*cm1

Context

The CAREC region possesses substantial reserves of critical minerals essential for clean energy technologies, including lithium, cobalt, copper, and chromium. Despite this wealth of resources, these countries lack the technical expertise, infrastructure, regulatory frameworks, and financial resources needed to develop their minerals sector and join value-added supply chains. Foreign investment is crucial for bridging both financial and technical gaps, as developing new critical mineral mines takes up to 16 years and requires a stable, long-term commitment.

The workshop on "Promoting Foreign Investment for Unlocking Critical Minerals Potential and Building Value-Added Supply Chains in the CAREC Region" offers an opportunity for collaborative development of mineral management strategies and identifying ways to mobilize financial resources. As part of the ADB-CAREC Knowledge Facility on Critical Materials, the workshop will facilitate knowledge exchange to expand local processing capacities and promote investment in energy infrastructure upgrading and intraregional value chains, supporting these countries' aspirations to diversify economies, ensure growth, and reduce carbon emissions.

Objectives

- Provide government representatives from the CAREC region with a platform to strengthen their capabilities in critical minerals management, investment policies, and regional collaboration.
- Build resilient, responsible, and sustainable critical minerals supply chains, facilitated by internal, external, and public-private partners, for the clean energy transition in the CAREC region.
- Discuss the role of domestic and international finance in developing critical minerals.
- Establish a knowledge-sharing platform and technology hub to harness the potential of regional critical minerals cooperation.

Event overview

08:30– 09:00	<i>Registration and coffee</i>
09:00– 09:10	<p>Opening Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mr. Iskender Asylkulov, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Economy and Commerce, Kyrgyz Republic – Ms. Lyaziza Sabyrova, Regional Head, Regional Cooperation and Integration, Central and West Asia Department, ADB
09:10– 09:20	<p>Introduction of the day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ms. Altynay Arapova, Economist, Regional Cooperation and Integration, Central and West Asia Department, ADB <p>Group Photo</p>
09:20– 10:15	<p>Session 1: What are critical materials, and what is their role in the global energy transition</p> <p><i>Moderator: Ms. Altynay Arapova</i></p> <p>The session will discuss, among other things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition, indicators of criticality, why countries adopt lists of critical materials. • Supply chains: Mining, extraction, processing, supply, final use, recycling. • Criticality at different stages of the value chain. • Cobalt, copper, lithium, nickel, tin in solar/wind energy technologies. • Critical materials markets, dependencies, demand-supply formation. • Disruptive innovation and the role of new technologies. • Key players in global minerals and metals production and trading. <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – “Exploring pathways from extraction to creating value-added chains in critical materials in the CAREC region”, Mr. Roman Vakulchuk, Head of Climate and Energy Group, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI); Consultant, ADB. – “ADB’s approach in the critical minerals sector”, Mr. Kwang Jo Jeong, Senior Regional Cooperation Specialist, ADB. – “Critical materials: market dynamics and trends”, Mr. Rocky Lee, Consultant, ADB. <p><i>Q&A and Discussion (15 minutes)</i></p>

<p>10:15– 11:20</p>	<p>Session 2: CAREC country presentations on national critical materials strategies, priorities, and needs (part 1)</p> <p><i>Moderator: Mr. Roman Vakulchuk</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Rustam Beishenbai uulu, Head of the Geology Department, Kyrgyz Geological Service, Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision, Kyrgyz Republic (8 min) • Mr. Andrei Lukianov, Partner, Boston Consulting Group, “Kyrgyz Republic Critical Minerals Strategy” (8 min) • Mr. Sherkhan Temir, Head of Department of Non-Ferrous Metallurgy and Rare Metals, Committee of Industry, Ministry of Industry and Construction, Republic of Kazakhstan (8 min) • Mr. Abubakr Pirov, Head, Mining Department, Ministry of Industry and New Technologies and Focal Point on Critical Minerals, Tajikistan (8 min) • Mr. Rahym Valiyev, 1st Category Engineer of the Data and Programming Division, Digital Systems and Information Technologies Service, “Turkmengascommunications” Department, “Turkmengas” State Concern, Turkmenistan (8 min) <p><i>Q&A and Discussion (15 minutes)</i></p>
<p>11:20– 11:40</p>	<p><i>Coffee break (same venue)</i></p>
<p>11:40– 12:30</p>	<p>Session 3: Establishing a Regional Cooperation Framework for Supply Chains in Critical Materials: Cases from Subregional Cooperation Programs</p> <p><i>Moderator: Ms. Altyнай Arapova</i></p> <p>The session will discuss, among other things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlighting success stories: the Lithium Triangle and ASEAN. • Joint investment frameworks with blended finance mechanisms. • Benchmarks and voluntary standards for sustainable mining and tech hub/pool/partnership for sustainable mining/processing technologies. • Creating knowledge solutions, a platform for policy dialogue, research & innovation, and capacity building for a regional CRM facility. • Stockpiling facilities. <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – “Critical materials in ASEAN: Successes, failures and lessons for the CAREC region”, Mr. Roman Vakulchuk – “Governing lithium: Divergent approaches in the Lithium Triangle in Latin America”, Mr. Seungho Lee, Assistant Professor, Department of Spanish and Latin American Studies, Jeonbuk National University (<i>virtual</i>) <p><i>Q&A and Discussion (10 minutes)</i></p>

12:30– 13:30	<i>Lunch (Social coffee)</i>
13:30– 14:30	<p>Session 4: CAREC country presentations on national critical materials strategies, priorities, and needs (part 2)</p> <p><i>Moderator: Mr. Roman Vakulchuk</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Elchin Majidov, Deputy Chair, State Agency for the Use of Mineral Raw Materials Resources, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Azerbaijan (8 min) • Ms. Galina Bitsadze, Head, International Relations and Project Management Unit, National Agency of Mineral Resources, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, Georgia (8 min) • Mr. Khicheengui Jantsan, Director General, State Administration Department, Ministry of Energy, Mongolia (TBC) (8 min) • Mr. Abdul Zaheer, Director, Geology and Minerals, Ministry of Energy of Pakistan (8 min) • Mr. Dilshod Akhunjanov, Head of the Department for Cooperation with IFI, IFGO and Donors, Ministry of Investment, Industry, and Trade, Alternate CAREC NFP for Uzbekistan (8 min) <p><i>Q&A and Discussion (20 minutes)</i></p>
14:30– 15:30	<p>Session 5: Providing Enabling Environment for Foreign Investment – Domestic and International Considerations</p> <p>The session will discuss, among other things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enabling environment for FDI – domestic and international considerations. • Macroeconomic stability and predictability of investment climate, taxation regime and fiscal policy, ESG compliance, quality of infrastructure, human resources. <p><i>Moderator: Mr. Khalid Umar</i>, Regional Cooperation Specialist, Regional Cooperation and Integration, Central and West Asia Department, ADB.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – “Critical mineral policies in mining-rich jurisdictions across the world”, Ms. Adele Rouleau, Senior Environmental Consultant, ESG in CRM, Geosyntec Consultants Ltd, London, UK (<i>virtual</i>) – “Managing mining for sustainable development: UNDP’s approach”; Ms. Uyanga Gankhuyag, Lead, Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development, United Nations Development Program (UNDP) (<i>virtual</i>) <p><i>Q&A and Discussion (20 minutes)</i></p>
15:30– 15:45	<i>Coffee break (same venue)</i>

<p>15:45– 17:00</p>	<p>Session 6: Exploring Pathways from Extraction to Creating Value-added Manufacturing Supply Chains in Critical Minerals</p> <p><i>Moderator: Mr. Roman Vakulchuk</i></p> <p>The session will discuss, among other things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanding the CAREC capabilities beyond mineral exploration to advanced manufacturing and value-added technology development. • Exploring how CAREC countries can mobilize financing, launch joint projects, de-risk investment, and promote domestic value addition. • Coupling inclusive, resilient, diverse, and responsible critical minerals with clean energy technology manufacturing. • Enhancing institutional support (from the donor community), public-private partnerships and private stakeholders' participation. • Pathways for establishing a joint CAREC Geological Survey. <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – “From Rocks to Revenue”, Mr. Vlado Vivoda, Sustainable Minerals Institute, University of Queensland, Australia (<i>virtual</i>) – “IEA Global Critical Minerals Outlook 2025”, Ms. Alexandra Hegarthy, International Energy Agency (IEA), (<i>virtual</i>) – "Advancing critical mineral value chains: challenges and opportunities". Mr. Rocky Lee, Consultant, ADB. <p><i>Q&A and discussion (15 minutes)</i></p>
<p>17:00– 17:15</p>	<p>Wrap up and Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ms. Lyaziza Sabyrova, Regional Head, Regional Cooperation and Integration, Central and West Asia Department, ADB.