25TH CAREC MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

Ulaanbaatar I 29 September 2026

# CAREC Program: 25 Years of Partnership

## Shaping the Future Together



**Mr. Asad Aleem**

Regional Head, Regional Cooperation and Integration

Central and West Asia Department, ADB

# 25 years of connecting regions, expanding opportunities…

# …through technical assistance, strategic framework and coordinated investment projects



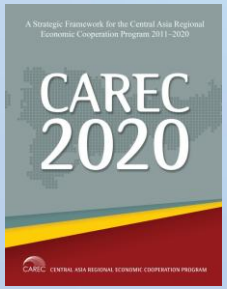
**1996**
TA for regional cooperation approved

**2001**
6 projects ($247 million)



**2002**
First Ministerial Conference

**2007**
Transport and trade facilitation strategies endorsed

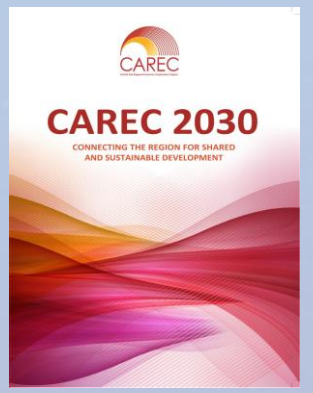



**2011**
**CAREC 2020** strategic framework adopted

**2017**
**CAREC 2030** Strategy adopted




**2019**
Transport and Energy strategies approved




**2024**
Midterm Review of CAREC 2030 Strategy

**2025**
ADB announced $10 billion investment through 2030

**2026**
25th Ministerial Conference

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# Expanding membership, Shared economic growth

**CAREC MEMBERSHIP**

## 5 → 11 countries

Afghanistan* | Azerbaijan | PRC | Georgia | Kazakhstan | Kyrgyz Republic | Mongolia | Pakistan | Tajikistan | Turkmenistan | Uzbekistan

**ADB regular assistance on hold since 15 August 2021.*

**POPULATION TODAY**

## 1.8 billion

*people call the CAREC region home*

**COMBINED GDP TODAY**

## $20.6 trillion

*17.4% of the world's nominal GDP*

| | 2001 | | 2026 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **POVERTY** | 48.8% | → | 3.6% | share of population below $3.00/day (2021 PPP) |
| **INTRAREGIONAL TRADE** | 1.9% | → | 5.1% | share of total trade among CAREC members in 2025 |
| **INTRAREGIONAL FDI** | 0.5% | → | 3.3% | share of inward foreign direct investment in 2024 |

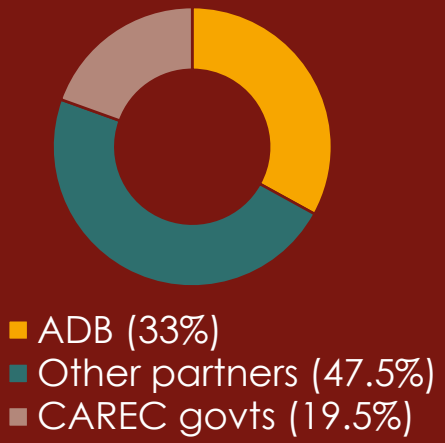
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# Over $60 billion investments since 2001

CUMULATIVE INVESTMENT

## $60.2 billion

in CAREC projects, 2001– 2026*




*Financing by source, 2001– 2026**

**300+** — **Projects**
spanning transport, energy, trade, tourism, agriculture, & human development

**6 corridors** — **Multi-modal regional network**
linking landlocked Central Asia to global markets

### ADB SUPPORT

**$20 billion** — **Investments**
In CAREC projects since 2001

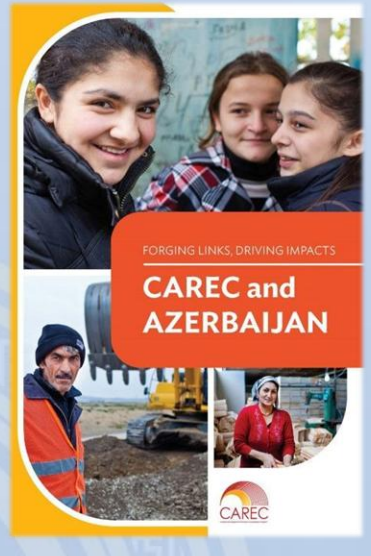
**20,000+ km** — **Connecting transport corridors**
Roads & railways improved by ADB projects, since 2008

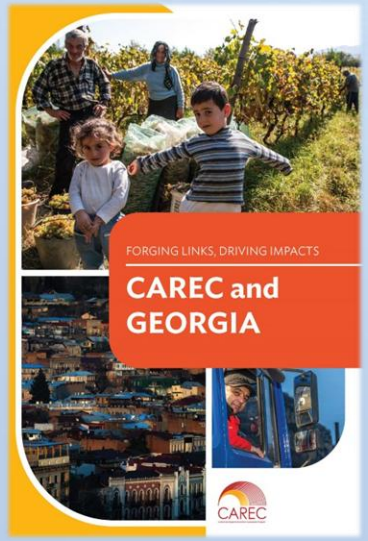
**$300 million+** — **Technical assistance**
since 2001 as the CAREC Secretariat

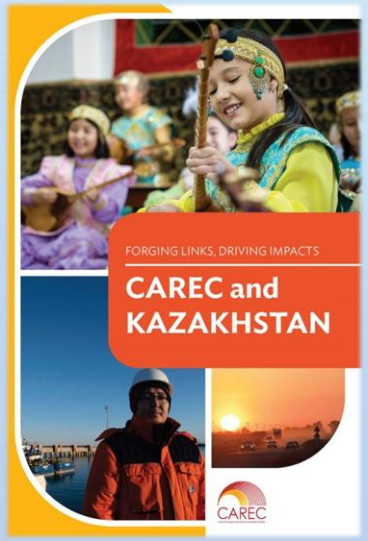
Source: https://projects.carecprogram.org/

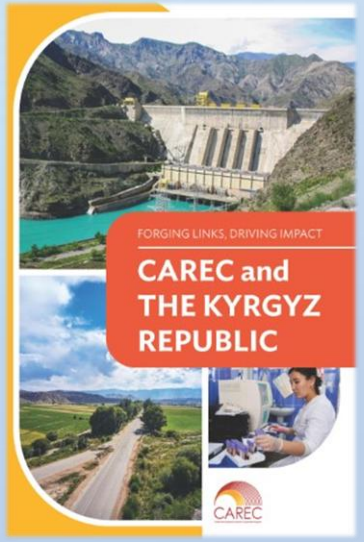
*Note: Figures reflect approvals and commitments reported as of August 2026

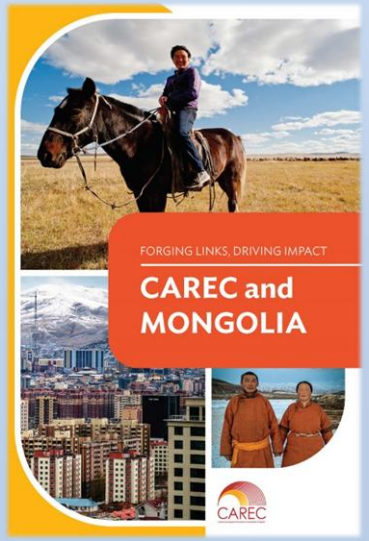
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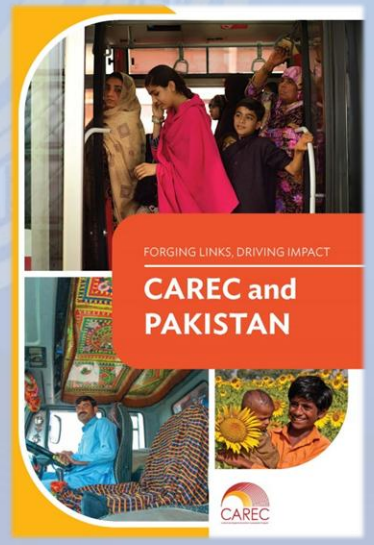



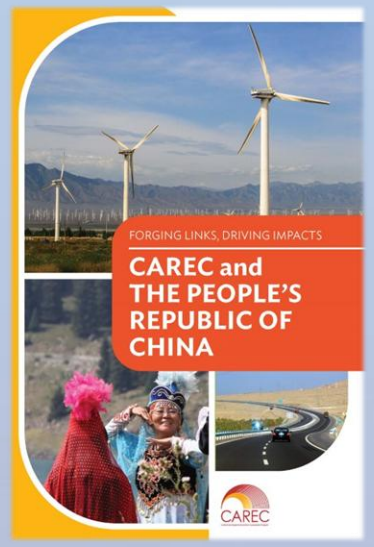



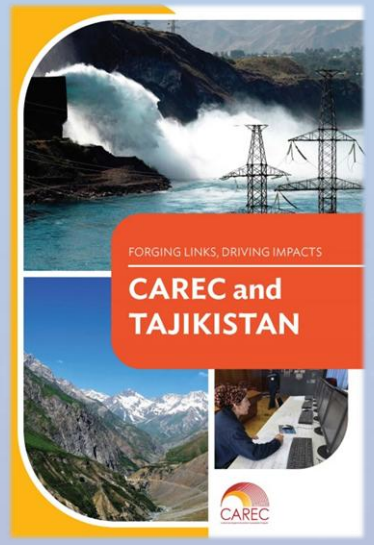



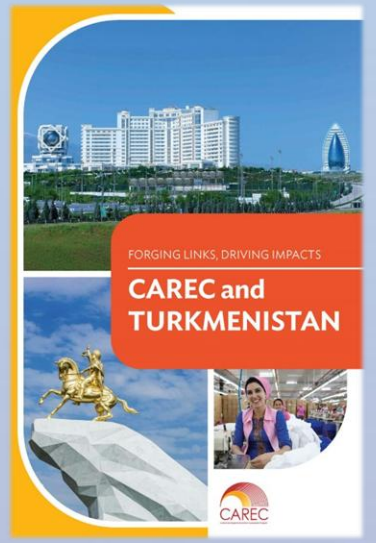



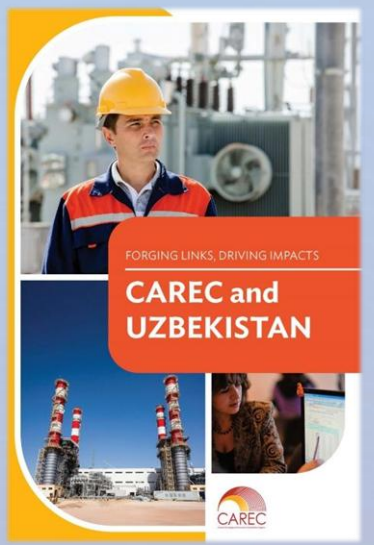

# Translating regional cooperation into tangible results that connect economies and improve lives




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# Reaffirming priorities for CAREC 2030, Reinforcing regional cooperation

# CAREC 2030: 5 clusters, 3 cross-cutting themes

## Economic & Financial Stability

**$2.0 billion (7 projects)**

Strengthening macroeconomic stability and deepening investment and financial-market integration

## Trade, Tourism and Economic Corridors

**$2.3 billion (22 projects)**

Advancing regional economic integration, boosting tourism competitiveness and cross-border trade facilitation

## Infrastructure & Economic Connectivity

**$53.8 billion (251 projects)**

Deepening economic connectivity and building sustainable, resilient regional infrastructure

## Agriculture & Water

**$1.7 billion (17 projects)**

Expanding agricultural trade and strengthening transboundary water resource management

## Human Development

**$0.3 billion (9 projects)**

Accelerating regional cooperation in education and health systems

## Cross-cutting Themes

**Gender mainstreaming**

**Climate Change mitigation and adaptation**

**ICT/Digital connectivity**

**Note: Figures reflect approvals and commitments reported as of August 2026*

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PROGRESS SINCE THE 24TH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

# Key achievements of 2026

TRADE POLICY

## CARTIF negotiations, WTO accession

CAREC Trade and Investment Facilitation Partnership negotiations underway -- Framework Agreement and low-divergence protocols

WTO accession for AZE, TKM and UZB

DIGITAL TRADE

## Pilot initiatives advanced

CAREC Advance Transit System/ Information Customs Exchange expanded to six members

Electronic exchange of e-conformity certificates project launched

BORDER INFRASTRUCTURE

## BUILD Facility approved

Border Upgrades for Integration, Logistics, and Development (BUILD) Facility approved by ADB ($400 million, Aug 2026). Pan-Asian Transport Model being developed.

ADB has mobilized around $700 million for the multisector operations in Corridor 2.

DIGITAL

## CAREC Digital Corridor Feasibility Study

Moving from fragmented ICT investment to scalable regional digital infrastructure

Harnessing innovation ecosystem

CAPITAL MARKETS

## Capital Markets Development Forum

Institutionalized regional dialogue and cooperation among capital market regulators and policymakers

Cooperation between CMDF and the ASEAN Capital Markets Forum

CLIMATE

## Climate and Disaster Risk Financing

Climate & Sustainability Project Preparation Fund: $5M (PRC, Korea)

Disaster-risk insurance piloted for 1M+ people in 2 countries (TAJ, KGZ)

Carbon Market Readiness Plan

Glaciers to Farms (G2F) ($3.5 billion)

ENERGY and CRITICAL MINERALS

## Caspian Green Energy Corridor

Feasibility study underway

## Critical Minerals-to-Manufacturing Value Chain

Grant and Catalytic Finance windows moving CAREC and other countries toward higher-value processing.

TOURISM

## Regional tourism

LOI between ADB and UN Tourism for joint initiatives supporting regional tourism

CAREC Tourism Work Plan and Investment Pipeline under preparation

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# Shaping the future: 2030 and beyond

2026 — *Accelerate delivery* — 2030 — *Scale up through major regional initiatives* — 2050

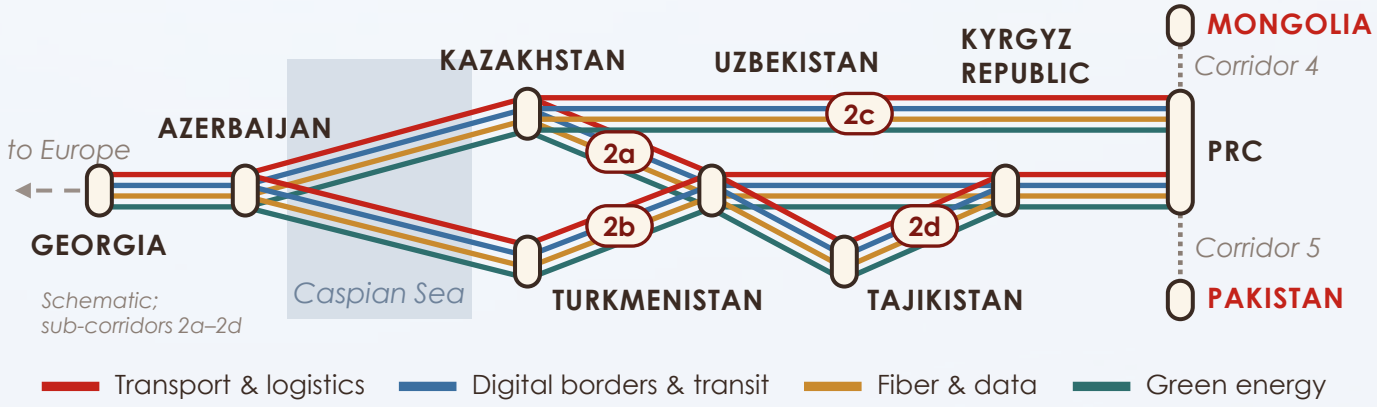
## ACCELERATE CAREC 2030

**$10B+** ADB's scaled-up support for CAREC through 2030

1. **Fewer, bigger regional projects**
   Prioritize transformational projects via a rolling multi-year regional pipeline
2. **Transport corridors → economic corridors**
   **$7.5B** indicative for 46 multisector projects
3. **Faster trade, digital transformation**
   BUILD Facility
   CARTIF Partnership Agreement
4. **Private sector participation**
   Catalyzing $3 billion private sector financing through 2030

   Public-private partnership, programmatic SME financing and venture capital support

## Developing Next Generation Economic Corridors: CAREC Corridor 2




**Pan-Asia Power Grid**
**$50B by 2035**

Central Asian Power System integration advancing renewables

Caspian Green Energy Corridor

**Asia-Pacific Digital Highway**
**$20B by 2035**

CAREC Digital Corridor ($610M)

**Critical minerals to Manufacturing**
**Regional Facility**

Grants & catalytic finance: from extraction to processing

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