



CAREC National Focal Points Strategic Planning Meeting

GREEN AND DIGITAL CAREC

5-7 March 2025, ADB Headquarters, Manila



Opening Session



Opening Remarks

Mr. Yingming Yang

Vice-President (South, Central and West Asia)
Asian Development Bank

Setting the Stage

Mr. Yevgeniy Zhukov

Director General
Central and West Asia Department
Asian Development Bank



Session 1: Overview



Moderator

Mr. Muhammad Ehsan Khan
Director General
East Asia Department, ADB



Presenter

Ms. Lyaziza Sabyrova
Regional Head
Regional Cooperation and Integration
Central and West Asia Department, ADB

Panelists



Mr. Sanzharbek Bolotov
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Economy and Commerce
CAREC NFP for Kyrgyz Republic



Mr. Yevgeniy Zhukov
Director General
CWRD, ADB



Mr. Bruno Carrasco
Director General
Climate Change and Sustainable
Development Department, ADB

Session 2: Pursuing Climate Agenda and Regional Public Goods



Moderator

Mr. Toru Kubo

Senior Director, Climate Change,
Resilience, and Environment
Cluster, CCSD, ADB

Panelists



Mr. Nematullo Khikmatullozoda

Advisor to the President of Tajikistan
on Economic Issues, Executive Office of the
President of the Republic of Tajikistan
and CAREC NFP for Tajikistan



**Ms. Inara Mustafayeva-
Eyyubova**

Head of Department on Cooperation
with International Organizations, Ministry
of Economy of Azerbaijan



Abdulla Khashimov

Advisor,
Minister of Investments,
Industry and Trade

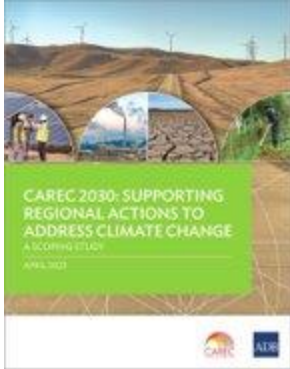


Mr. Giap Minh Bui

Principal Natural Resources and
Agriculture Economist, Agriculture, Food,
Nature, and Rural Development Sector
Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB

CAREC Climate Change

CAREC CC Scoping Study

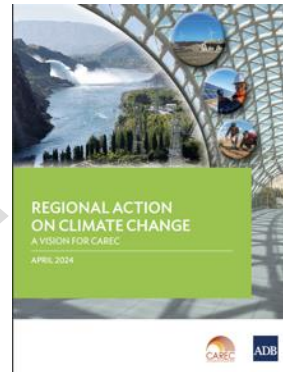


Exposure to climate impacts and recommendations for regional climate action



2021

CAREC CC Vision



Priority areas for climate adaptation and mitigation via regional cooperation



2023

CC Working Group



Met 4 times
(in-person and virtual meetings)

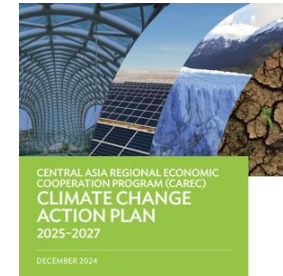
Development of the CCAP via a participatory approach



2024

CC Action Plan

CSPPF



Endorsed by
CAREC Ministers
8 Nov. 2024



Nov 2024

CAREC Climate Change Action Plan 2025-2027



Implementation in 2025



Risk and vulnerability assessment

Costed resilience activities for vulnerable CAREC assets

Water

Infrastructure resilience and water forecasting

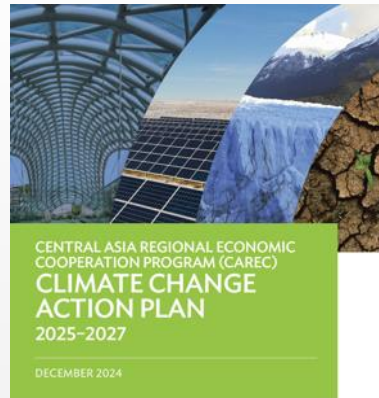


For NFP Guidance

Priorities for 2025 - 2026



Decarbonization of CAREC Transport Corridors and CAREC Transport Strategy Mid-Term Review
Renewable Energy / Regional Energy Trade
Carbon Markets Development



Regional Multi Hazard Early Warning System

Integration of with heat risk and air quality monitoring

Capacity Development Needs

Training and capacity building for the CAREC climate platform



Joint CAREC Climate – Health WGs

For health systems resilience, regional health decarbonization strategy

Climate Change Working Group

Composition, monitoring progress, coordinating countries role



Disaster and Climate Risk Financing

Phase 1: Developing a Disaster Risk Transfer Facility in the CAREC Region (\$2.75 million, Nov 2020–Feb 2024) Completed

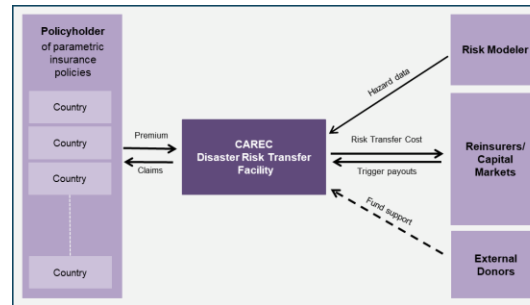
- ❑ **Disaster Risk Profiles for each CAREC country** on flood, earthquake and infectious disease risks
- ❑ **Compound Risk Analysis** on potential joint impacts from disaster events and infectious disease outbreaks



- ❑ **Protection Gap Assessment**, quantifying the difference between estimated losses from earthquake and flood risk and the existing ex-ante financing tools in CAREC countries



- ❑ **Disaster Risk Modeling Interface (DRMI)**, allowing stakeholders to visualize risk profiles, perform high-level adaptation cost-benefit analyses; and quantify risk transfer costs for parametric insurance structures



- ❑ **Road Map to Developing a Regional Risk Transfer Facility for CAREC**, outlining key considerations and next steps regarding the facility's creation and operation
- ❑ **Assessment on the issuance of a pilot Disaster Relief Bond** by ADB for selected CAREC countries

- ❑ **Regional capacity building and engagement workshops** and bilateral consultations



- ❑ **Infectious Disease Risk Report**, identifying three potential risk financing solutions to help build resilience to future outbreaks

Disaster and Climate Risk Financing

Phase 2: Developing a Disaster and Climate Risk Transfer Facility in the CAREC Region (\$3.14 million, Nov 2024–Oct 2028)

Outputs

1. (By 2026) Piloting **disaster relief bond (DRB)** for selected CAREC countries (KGZ and TAJ)
 - probabilistic multi-hazard risk modeling
 - issuance of DRBs
2. (By 2028) Advancing **road map** to developing a CAREC climate and disaster risk transfer facility
 - Steering Committee for the facility
 - key decision points for the creation and operation of the facility
3. (By 2028) Enhancing **capacity** for climate and disaster risk modeling and financing
 - regional and national workshops
 - knowledge products

Actions Needed

1. Support for the implementation of the TA
2. Countries' priorities and needs for capacity building and knowledge support
3. Coordination with donors, development partners and other disaster risk management and financing initiatives in the region

CAREC Water and Agriculture

Agriculture and Food Security

TA 10258: Resilient and Inclusive Agricultural Development and Food Security in the CAREC Member Countries

Updates

- Consulting firm to support TA implementation and activities engaged
- Working Committee on Agricultural Development and Food Security established with country nominations

Planned Activities for 2025

- **Inception Workshop and first meeting** of the Agricultural Development and Food Security Working Committee (May 2025 in Bishkek)
- **Identification of priority areas for action**, through analysis of:
 - i. Alignment of agricultural and food trade policies, and mechanism for information sharing
 - ii. Climate risks, women and youth engagement, and use of digital solutions
- **Country-level consultations** in Q3 2025.

CAREC Water and Agriculture

CAREC Water Pillar

- Working Group as an advisory and consultative body to provide guidance and direction of the Water Pillar, with initial 5 Central Asian countries as members and expanding (Georgia joined in 2023 and Azerbaijan in 2024)
- First meeting for 5 Central Asian countries in June 2024 identified 3 potential regional projects in 2 categories as priority for investment by ADB:
 - Category 1: Climate adaptive infrastructure projects*
 1. Climate change adaptation through improving irrigation efficiency in the Aral Sea Basin
 2. Climate resiliency of Bahri Tojik for improved irrigation and energy supply in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan
 - Category 2: Automated monitoring systems and digital transformation*
 3. Joint automated water metering system in the Aral Sea basin

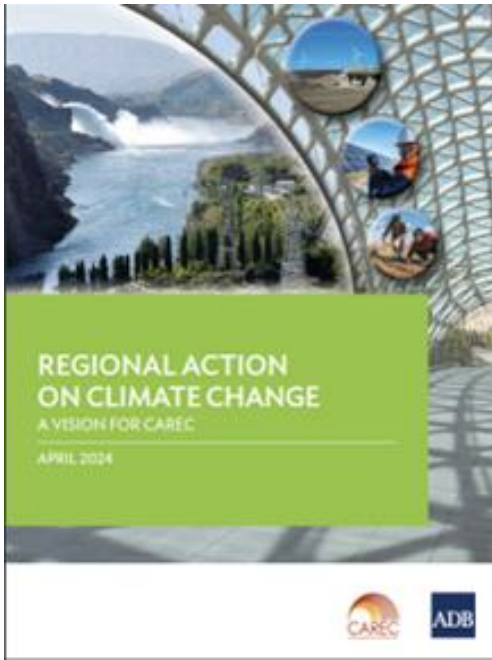
Key Activities and Priorities for 2025

- Prefeasibility studies on priority projects
- Demonstrating the water-energy nexus through climate-energy nexus modeling (proof-of-concept simulation model)

CAREC Climate and Sustainability Project Preparatory Fund (CSPPF): Overview

Eligible Recipients: developing member countries (DMCs) that are **members of the CAREC Program.**

CSPPF Priority Sectors and Thematic Areas:



The CSPPF will support regional projects across **CAREC 2030's operational clusters**, guided by the **seven priority sectors and/or areas under the CAREC Climate Change Vision**: (i) energy, (ii) water, (iii) agriculture, (iv) transport, transit, and trade, (v) climate-smart cities, (vi) climate-related disasters, and (vii) health, education, and social protection.

General Eligibility Criteria:

- 1 Help prepare and structure **sound, bankable regional projects** that support joint initiatives and programs to reduce GHG emissions;
- 2 Tagged as RCI using ADB's RCI Scorecard
- 3 **Aid in meeting climate commitments** and contribute to the implementation of the countries' NDCs

Investment project should be part of any of the following:

- 4 (i) **ADB investment plan**, (ii) **priority projects** identified in relevant **CAREC sector strategy**, (iii) DMCs **investment project pipeline**, (iv) the project pipeline of **CAREC's development partners**

CSPPF: Eligibility Criteria

1. Regional Projects

- A regional project or activity is one that **promotes collaboration between two or more CAREC Countries** and is expected to generate **economic benefits for more than one CAREC Country**.
- A regional project or activity may be a single-country or multi-country project or activity with regional economic benefits, which should promote the **CAREC 2030 Strategy, its sector strategies and/or action plans** and contribute to the objectives of the CAREC Program.
- A regional project or activity is expected to:
 - (i) support relevant national and regional strategies related to CAREC's five operational clusters (which include three crosscutting themes) and sector strategies,
 - (ii) contribute to regional economic benefits, and
 - (iii) provide additional support to CAREC activities.

2. Climate mitigation and adaptation, sustainability

- (i) **Aid in meeting one or more of the climate commitments** aligned with the targets set by the (i) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Paris Agreement; and (ii) the principles outlined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and initiatives that enhance resilience to climate change impacts;
- (ii) **Contribute to the implementation of the countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**, particularly focusing on adaptation and mitigation for the involved countries with unique vulnerabilities to the climate crisis; and
- (iii) **Align with and contribute to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.**



CSPPF: Use of Trust Fund Resources

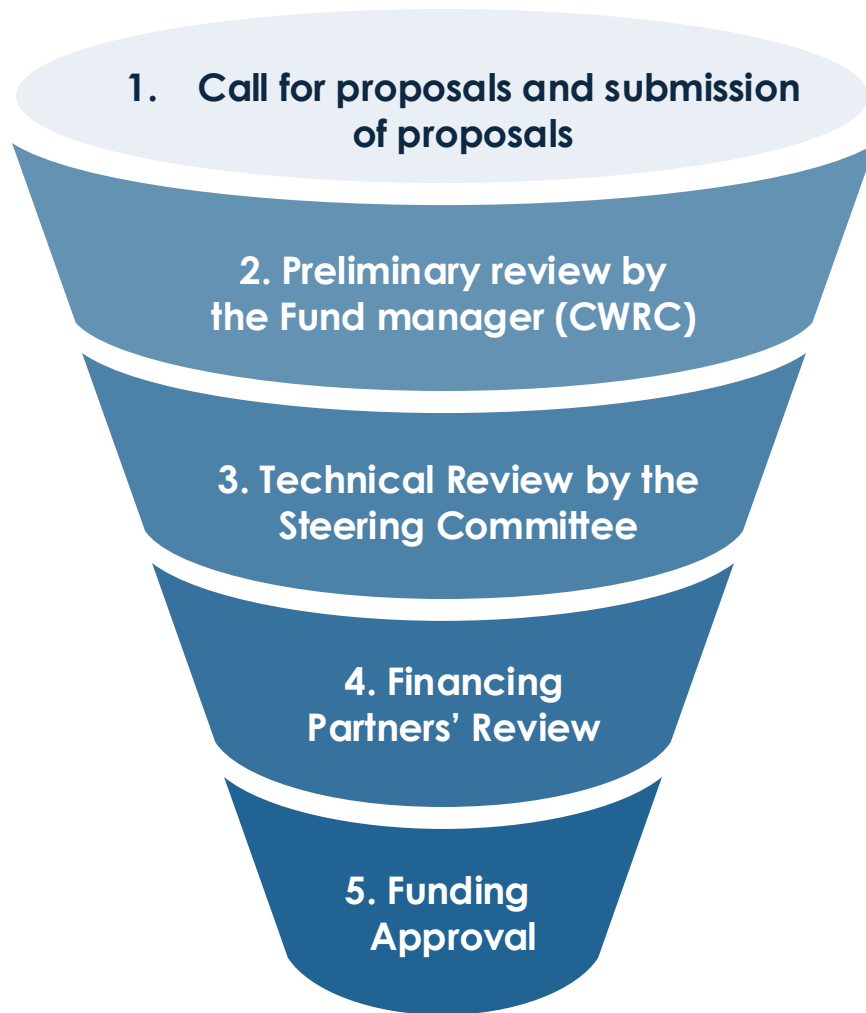
CSPPF resources will be used to support **sovereign and nonsovereign operations** through:

Type	Eligibility Criteria	Maximum Amount
Technical Assistance	Project preparatory activities including technical, financial, legal, and safeguards due diligence, pre-feasibility, feasibility, and other project-related studies	\$800,000
	Upstream knowledge work, such as regional and sectoral climate assessments and scoping studies on emerging and innovative regional approaches to address climate change and sustainability issues, leading to project pipeline development	\$250,000
Investments (Grant Components)	Small-sized grant components of investment projects either as part of new or additional financing to ADB sovereign or nonsovereign projects ¹	\$1 million
	Demonstrates innovative features with climate change components ²	
Direct Charges	Activities directly relevant to the operation of the CSPPF, and not covered under other projects or activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consulting services and related expenses • Service contractors such as translators, assistant researchers, secretaries, etc. • Conferences, forums, workshops, seminars, and surveys, including related expenses • Travel by staff of ADB as resource speakers, government officials, and other stakeholders to events • Facilitation of learning events, such as study tours for government officials 	\$150,000

¹ All fund resources will be provided on a non-reimbursable basis for ADB's clients unless otherwise determined by deal teams.

² For example, air quality monitoring in Almaty and Bishkek under the Almaty-Bishkek Economic Corridor.

CSPPF: Governance



1. Chair of Steering Committee announces a call for project proposals via memorandum to Heads of ADB Operational Departments, CAREC Sector Working Groups, and CAREC NFPs.

2. Fund Manager undertakes preliminary review of proposals for compliance with eligibility criteria and guidelines and submits the preliminary review report to the Steering Committee:

- *If application meets eligibility criteria, moves to next step*
- *If application does not meet eligibility criteria, Fund Manager discusses with Project Proponent for revisions and resubmission or withdrawal*

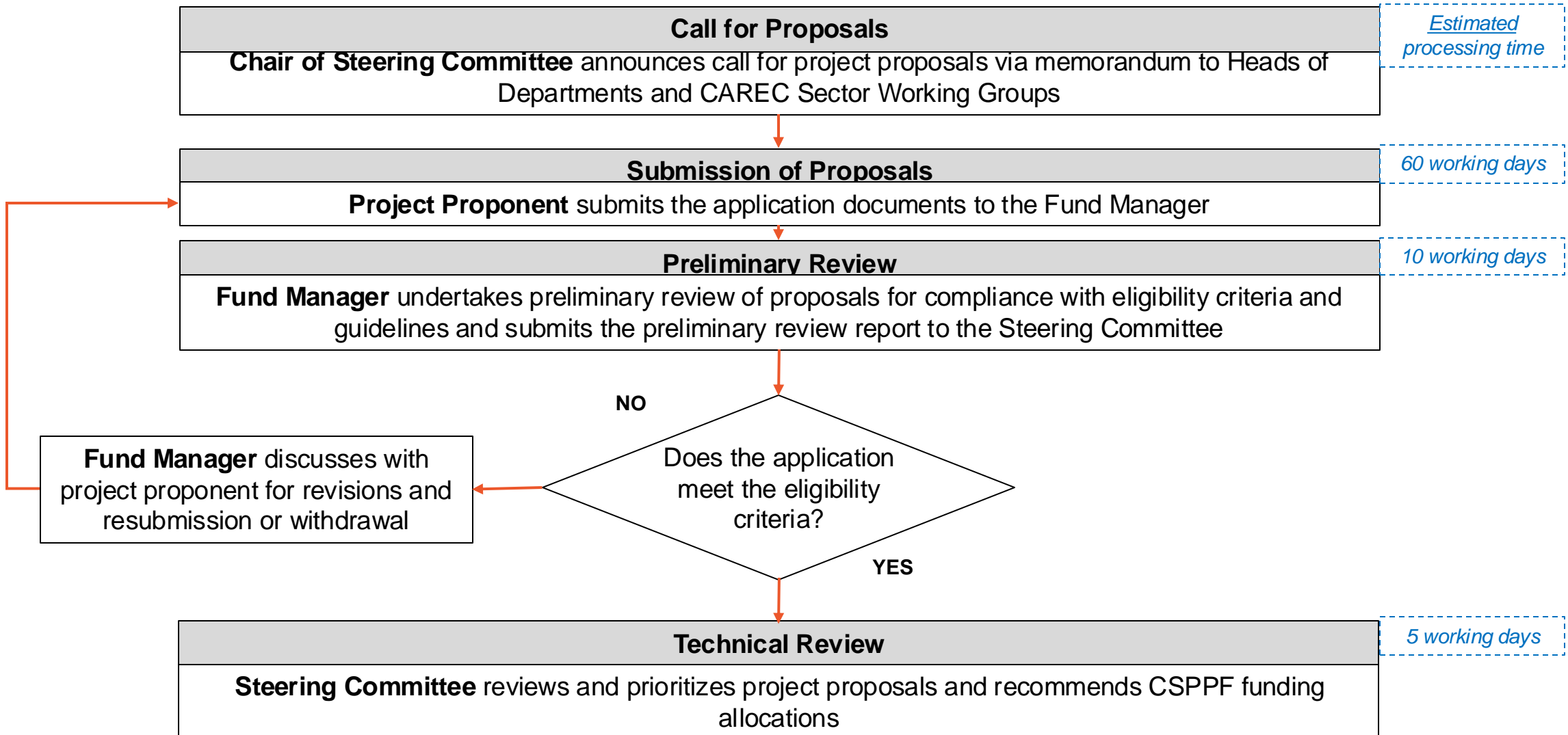
3. Steering Committee reviews and prioritizes project proposals and recommends CSPPF funding allocations:

- *If there are objections from SC members, Project Proponent revises application and may resubmit for next CSPPF batch*
- *If there are comments from SC members, Project Proponent incorporates comments, as needed*

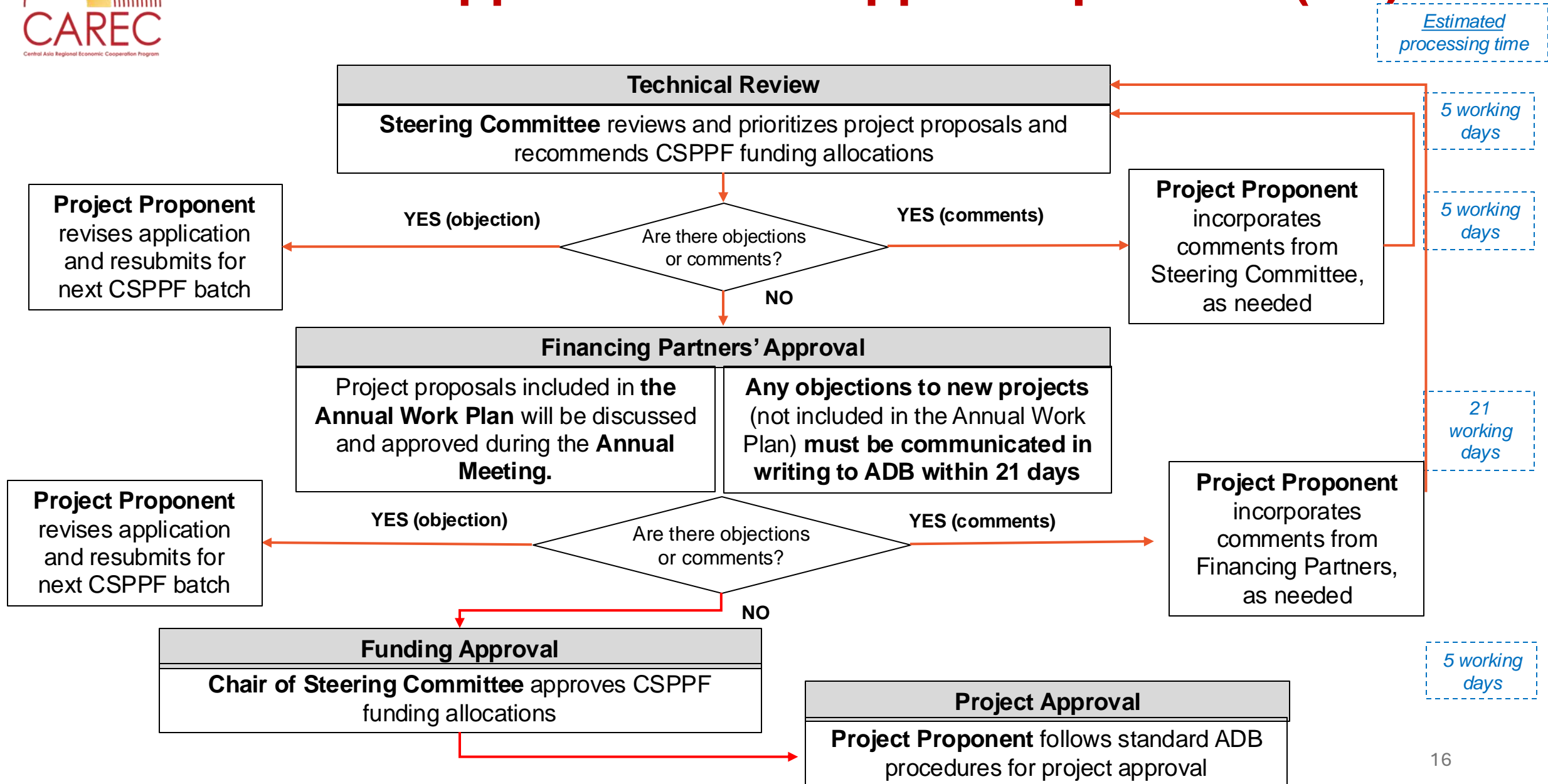
4. Financing Partners approve project proposals included in the Annual Work Plan during the Annual Consultation Meeting

- *If project proposal is not included in the Annual Work Plan ("new projects"), any comments or objections must be communicated in writing to ADB within 21 days.*

CSPPF: Application and approval process (1/2)



CSPPF: Application and approval process (2/2)



For NFPs Guidance/Consideration

- **How can we leverage the Climate Change Action Plan and the CAREC Climate and Sustainability Project Preparatory Fund (CSPPF) in developing sound climate-related projects? Please provide your ideas of regional projects or support that we can prioritize in pursuing our Climate Change agenda.**
- **What capacity building needs and priorities could be addressed by the CAREC climate platform and discussed further by the Climate Change Working Group, including under the CAREC Climate Platform?**
- **How can we ensure effective implementation of interventions on agriculture, water and disaster risk financing?**

Fireside Chat



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

Moderator

Ms. Lyaziza Sabyrova

Regional Head
Regional Cooperation and Integration
Central and West Asia Department, ADB



Session 3: Transport Connectivity, Economic Corridors and Trade Facilitation



Moderator
Mr. Hideaki Iwasaki
Director General
Sectors Department 1, ADB

Panelists



Mr. Genadi Arveladze
Deputy Minister, MOESD
CAREC NFP for Georgia



Mr. Sanzhar Bolotov
Deputy Minister, MOEC
CAREC NFP for
Kyrgyz Republic



Ms. Saadat Assanseitova
Director,
Department of International Economic Cooperation,
Ministry of National Economy,
Republic of Kazakhstan



Mr. Hiroaki Yamaguchi
Senior Director
Transport Sector
Office on ADB

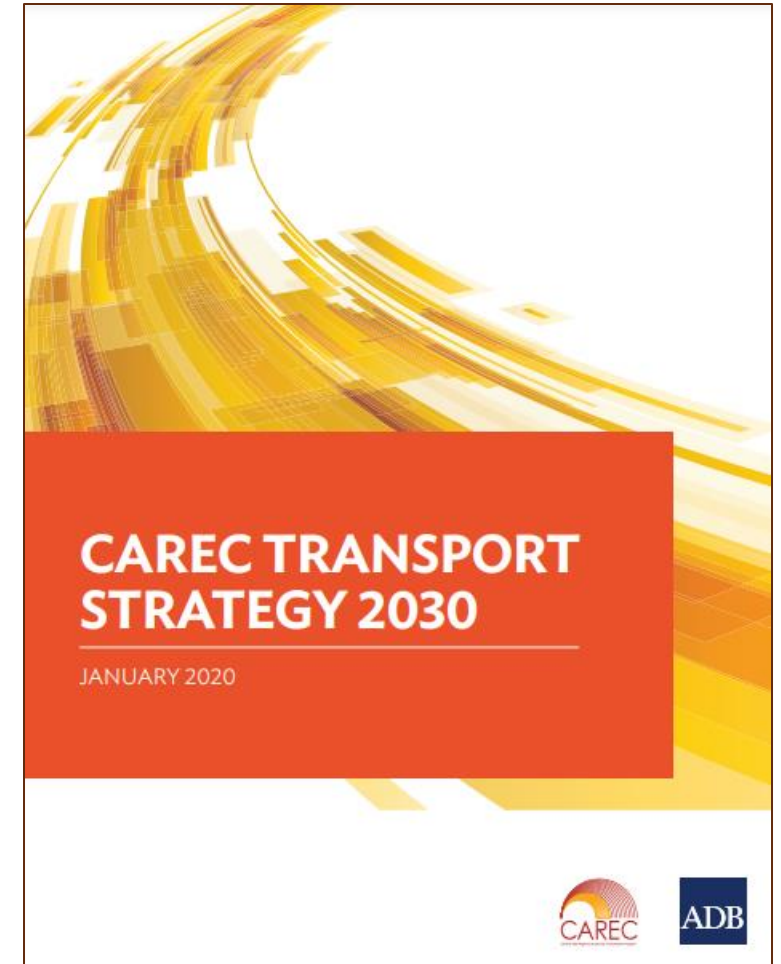
CAREC Transport Strategy (CTS) 2030

Aligned with CAREC mission to “establish a regional cooperation platform to connect people, policies and projects for shared and sustainable development”

Strategic Framework based on **two objectives** of (i) Connectivity and (ii) Sustainability;

Five pillars

- i. Roads and Road Asset Management;
- ii. Road Safety;
- iii. Railways;
- iv. Cross Border and Logistics; and
- v. Aviation.



CTS 2030: Midterm Review Approach

1. Aligned with MTR of CAREC 2030
2. Incorporation of emerging issues and ADB's new priorities
 - Climate change, digital technology
 - Geographic dynamics
 - Utilization of Asian Transport Outlook
 - ADB's NOM and SG-TRA priorities
3. Focus on high-level strategic directions
 - Review of Railway Strategy and Road Safety Strategy
 - CAREC Program Results Framework progress assessment
4. Collaboration with MTR of CITA 2030 and CAREC Digital Strategy
 - Study on Corridor 2 (Middle Corridor) development
5. Enhanced ownership of the member countries
 - Thorough and comprehensive consultation with CAREC member countries and private sector
 - Collaboration with CAREC Institute
 - Consultation with development partners

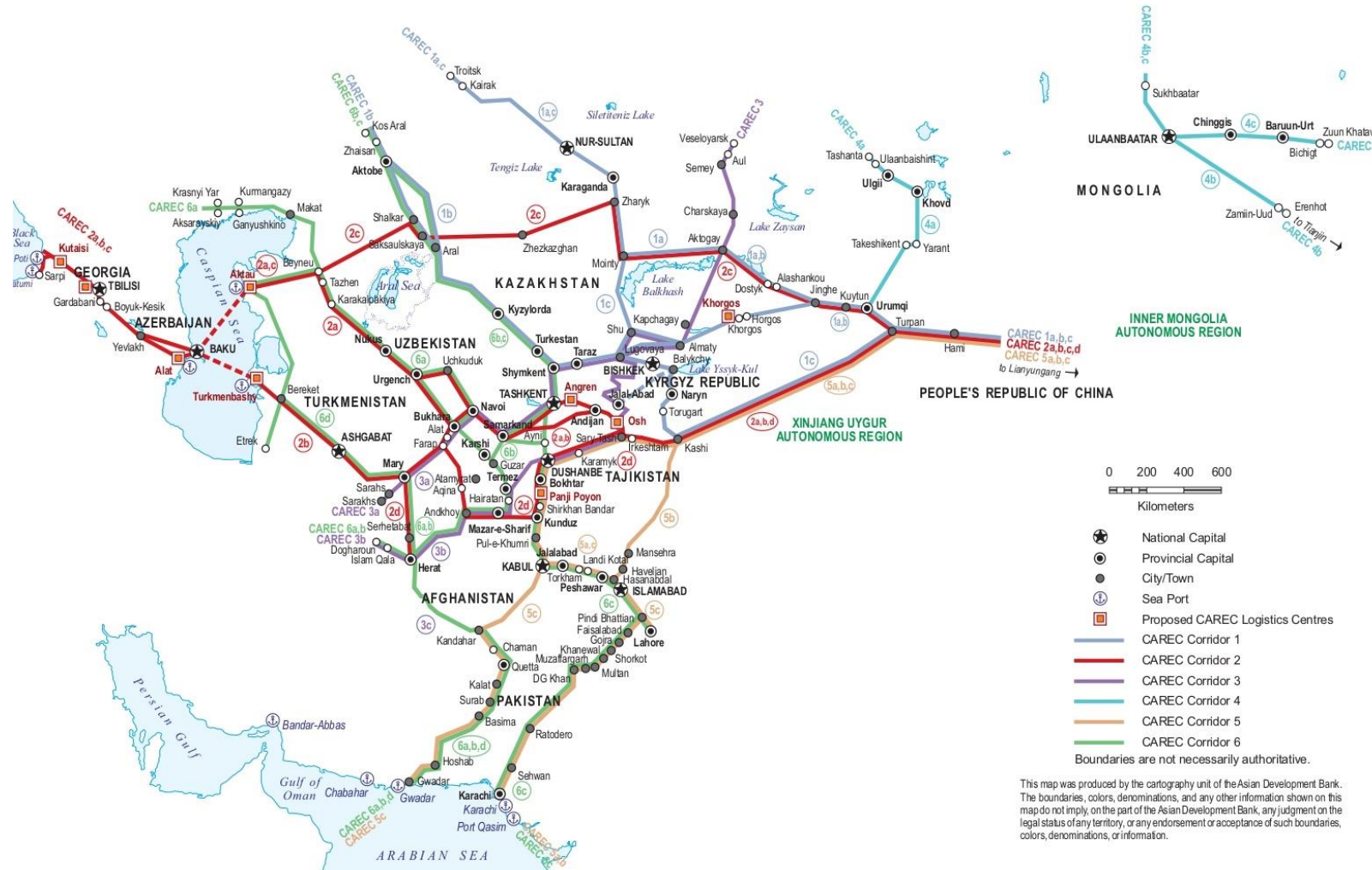
CTS 2030: Milestones and Timeline

Date	Proposed Country Consultations
11–14 February	Mongolia country consultation (completed)
5-7 March	Discussions with the CAREC NFPs
11-13 March	Kazakhstan country consultation
17-20 March	PRC country consultation
31 Mar- 2 Apr	Georgia country consultation
4-8 April	Azerbaijan country consultation
10-11 April	Kyrgyzstan country consultation
24-28 March or after 1 May	Turkmenistan country consultation (virtual)
22-24 April	Uzbekistan country consultation
28-29 April	Tajikistan country consultation
Week of 27 May	Pakistan country consultation

- Q1-Q2 2025: Country consultation with relevant authorities and private sector players through close collaboration with CITA and CAREC Digital Strategy MTR team and CAREC Institute (ongoing)
 - 16-17 June 2025: Presentation of the draft MTR at the TSCC Meeting
 - 21–23 May 2025: ITF 2025 Summit in Leipzig, Germany
 - Side event on CTS MTR on 20 May
 - June/July 2025: Endorsement in the CAREC Senior Officials Meeting (SOM)
 - Q3 2025: Endorsement in the CAREC Ministerial Conference
 - Q4 2025: Final publication

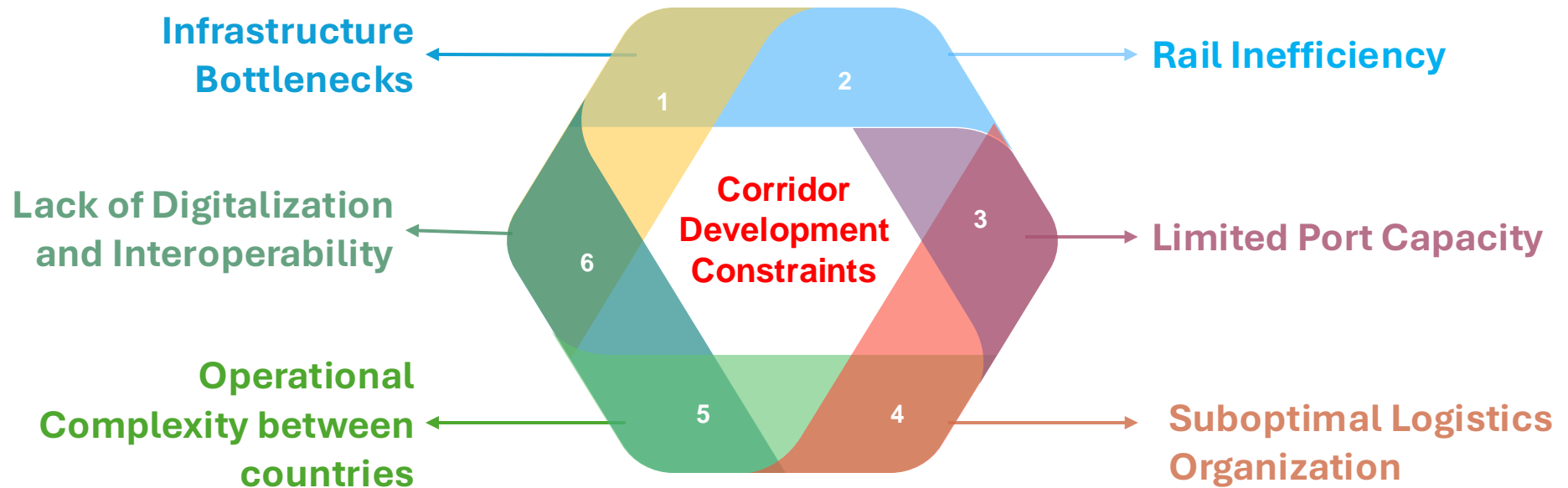
CAREC Transport Corridors

SIX CENTRAL ASIA REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION
TRANSPORT CORRIDORS

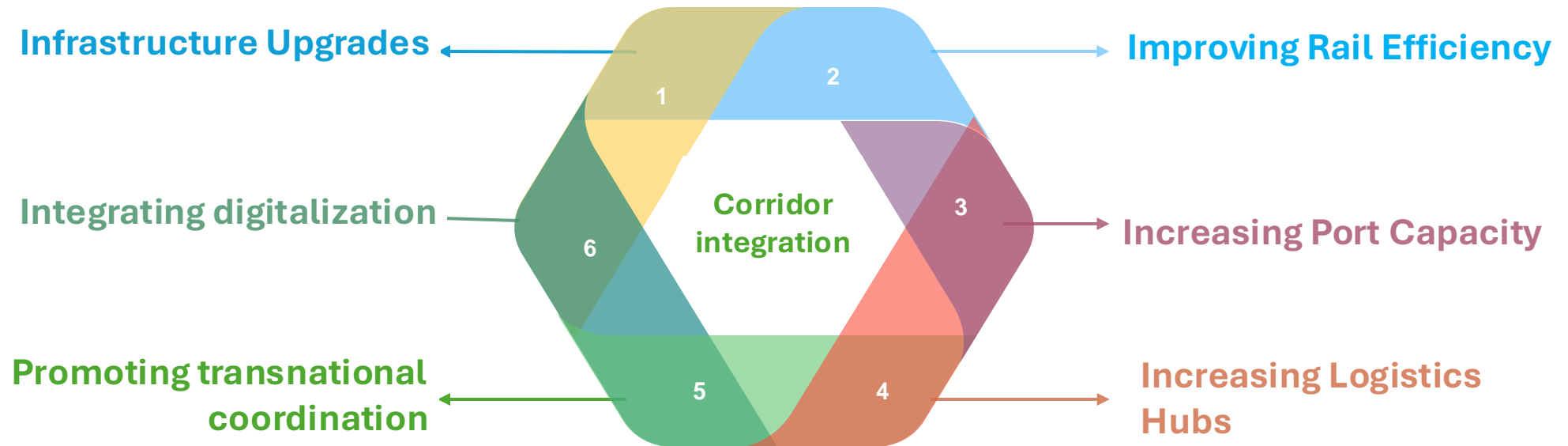


- CAREC Corridor 1: Europe–East Asia
- CAREC Corridor 2: Europe–Mediterranean–East Asia
- CAREC Corridor 3: Russian Federation–Middle East and South Asia
- CAREC Corridor 4: Russian Federation–East Asia
- CAREC Corridor 5: East Asia–Middle East and South Asia
- CAREC Corridor 6: Europe–Middle East and South Asia

CAREC Corridor 2 Strategy Structure: Challenges



CAREC Corridor 2 Strategy Structure: Goal and Objectives



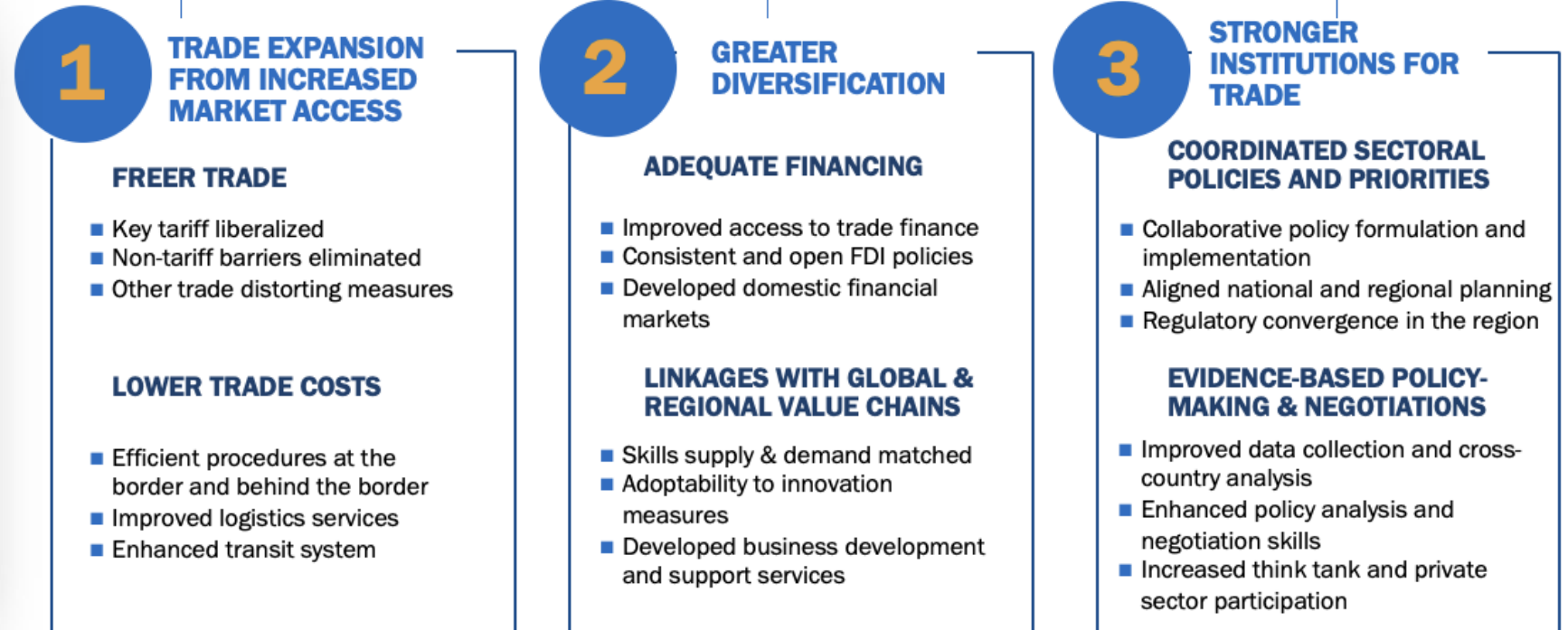
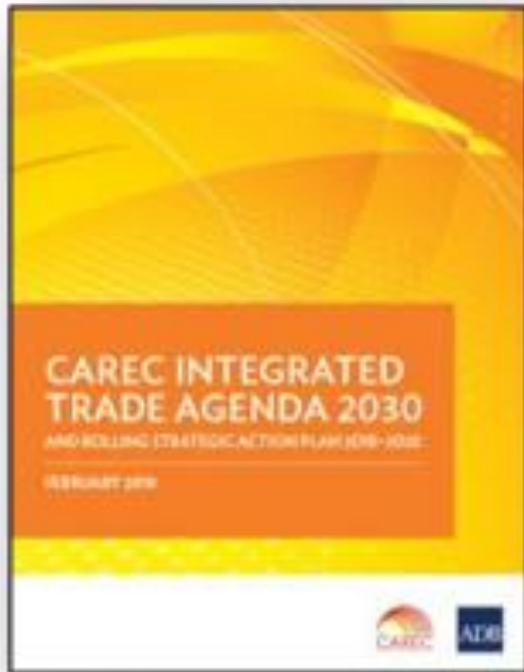
Goal: Competitive and sustainable corridor facilitating socioeconomic development

Economic Corridor Development (ECD)

- **Ongoing:** Almaty–Bishkek (ABEC), Shymkent–Tashkent–Khujand (STKEC)
- **Emerging:** Bishkek–Tashkent (KGZ–UZB), Karakalpakstan (UZB–KAZ), Ferghana (UZB–KGZ–TAJ), Surkhandarya (UZB–TAJ–AFG)
- Governments increasingly see ECD as a solution for their subnational regional development agenda
- Regional cooperation as an essential component of the ECD in CAREC
- ECD requires well-thought out and complimentary government, private sector interventions, DP support

CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda (CITA) 2030

CAREC COUNTRIES ARE MORE INTEGRATED IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY



INVESTMENT PROJECTS

POLICY DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION

KNOWLEDGE PRODUCT AND SERVICES

CITA 2030: Midterm Review Approach

“CAREC will promote the **greening of regional trade** and explore how trade can be part of climate solutions”

“CAREC has a role to play in **decarbonizing value chains** through trade facilitation and sustainable trade practices and green standards.

Trade, services and investment **policies and cooperation** can support developing regional value chains in critical minerals and accelerate **transition** from fossil fuels to clean energy. “



“The Transport Strategy will be implemented in conjunction with the CITA 2030... with the objective of **reducing trade barriers and costs, increasing trade connectivity, and reducing trade turnover times.**”

“Reduce regional trade barriers to increase cross-border trade and expand business opportunities for companies across the region, particularly in **e-commerce**... and e-payments and establishing **digital platforms** within and across CAREC sectors and priority clusters.”

For NFPs Guidance/Consideration

- How has the CAREC Transport Strategy (CTS) 2030 and CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda (CITA) 2030 and transport and economic corridor projects—supported or is supporting your country and regional priorities?
- What are the priorities for CTS and CITA as we move towards 2030 and beyond?
- How can we leverage transport corridors in developing economic corridors and realize economic benefits?
- Please identify the key challenges and opportunities so that CAREC responds better in the evolving global trade landscape.

Session 4: Energy Connectivity



Moderator

Mr. Yevgeniy Zhukov

Director General, CWRD, ADB

Panelists



Mr. Babanyaz Yalakov

Deputy Minister, MOEF
CAREC NFP for Turkmenistan



**Ms. Inara Mustafayeva-
Eyyubova**

Head of Department on Cooperation
with International Organizations, Ministry
of Economy of Azerbaijan



Abdulla Khashimov

Advisor,
Minister of Investments,
Industry and Trade



**Mr. Priyantha D.C.
Wijayatunga**

Senior Director
Energy Sector Office

CAREC Energy Sector Updates

ESCC Work in 2023-2024

Activity	Status
33rd ESCC Meeting , 16 May 2023. <i>Virtual</i>	Attended by energy officials from 10 CAREC countries. Rystad Energy presented the Global Energy Outlook as a follow up to the CAREC Energy Outlook, energy officials endorsed the ESCC Work Program 2023-2025
6th Energy Investment Forum , 28-29 Nov 2023. <i>Tbilisi, Georgia</i>	Hosted over 170 participants, dedicated presentations on energy sector developments in each CAREC country, 27 individual sessions and a matchmaking forum on 2 nd day.
34th ESCC Meeting , 4 April 2024. <i>Virtual</i>	Attended by energy officials from 10 CAREC countries. Recap of 6 th EIF, need more private sector participation, and preparations for energy mission to Norway and Denmark
Energy Mission to Norway and Denmark , 17-21 June 2024. <i>Oslo, Norway and Copenhagen, Denmark.</i>	19 energy officials from 10 CAREC countries (including CDC Energia officials) met with industry experts, policymakers and technology leaders to learn about interconnected electricity networks, renewable power integration and sustainable heating solutions. The mission showcased innovative solutions for integrating energy systems and efficient power trading.

Caspian Green Energy Corridor: overview and current status

*Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan signed an MOU in May 2024 on the **Caspian Green Energy Corridor Project***

In May 2024, representatives of **three governments signed an MOU** in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, to explore opportunities to merge their energy systems and connect them by a high-voltage cable under the Caspian Sea.

ADB was requested to support

In June 2024, during the meeting with the President of ADB, **President of Azerbaijan Mr. Aliyev requested ADB to support this project.**

MOU signed at the Ministerial Meeting in Astana on the Action Plan under the Small-Scale TA

On October 10, 2024, **ADB has approved a Small-Scale TA** to support this project and signed an MOU at the Ministerial Meeting on its implementation.


Three countries signed Shareholders Agreements

On December 27, 2024, three transmission operators signed Shareholders Agreement to establish a joint venture (JV).

In January 2025, three countries requested ADB and AIIB to co-finance the Feasibility study of the project

1. ADB and AIIB are working on co-financing the Feasibility Study

ADB's Ongoing Work in CRM



ADB Approach Paper
for Critical Minerals and Clean Energy Technologies

ADB's Approach Paper in critical minerals



ADB's RETAs to support Critical Minerals development

Study on Critical Minerals and Clean Energy Technology (CET) Supply Chain (led by CWRD, ADB)

- Assessment of reserves, challenges, and opportunities for regional cooperation in CET value chain

TA on Capital Markets (minor change is ongoing)

- Regional Workshop on attracting FDI in critical minerals value chain development in the CAREC region (Q2 2025, Bishkek, KGZ)

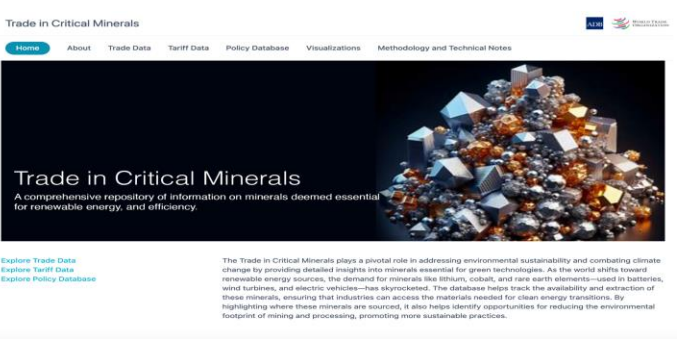
TA on Advance Sustainable Clean Energy Network for Development (led by CCSD, ADB)

- Preparation of **strategic guidance on upstream and midstream engagement** in critical minerals and CET supply chains
- Regional advisory group to discuss strategic issues, craft policy recommendations, and identify **potential regional and national projects**
- Technical help to produce a list of potential regional projects
- Capacity building support for the preparation of project concepts**

Potential Regional Projects as an outcome of ongoing studies

- Regional Economic Corridor Development
- Regional harmonized standards in governance, decarbonization of mining industry
- CET Manufacturing Regional Value Chain development roadmap
- Knowledge product on the promotion of domestic value addition in critical minerals and CET supply chains in CAREC
- Capacity development for policymakers in CAREC to develop upstream and midstream engagement
- Ensuring compatibility with global environmental regulations and ESG principles, which will give access to innovative financial instruments

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Trade in Critical Minerals

A comprehensive repository of information on minerals deemed essential for renewable energy, and efficiency.

ADB x WTO Trade in Critical Minerals Database

ADB's Ongoing Work in Critical Minerals

Study on Critical Minerals and Clean Energy Technology (CET) Supply Chain (led by CWRD, ADB)

- Assessment of reserves; challenges, and opportunities for regional cooperation in CET value chain
- **Workshop in KGZ on attracting FDI in Clean Energy Technologies (Q3 2025, TBC)**

TA on Advance Sustainable Clean Energy Network for Development (led by CCSD, ADB)

- Preparation of **strategic guidance on upstream and midstream engagement** in critical minerals and CET supply chains
- Regional advisory group to discuss strategic issues, craft policy recommendations, and identify **potential regional and national projects**
- Technical help to produce a list of potential regional projects
- **Capacity building support for the preparation of project concepts**

Potential Regional Projects as an outcome of ongoing studies



Regional Economic Corridor Development



Regional harmonized standards in governance, decarbonization of mining industry



CET Manufacturing Regional Value Chain development roadmap



Knowledge product on the promotion of domestic value addition in critical minerals and CET supply chains in CAREC



Capacity development for policymakers in CAREC to develop upstream and midstream engagement



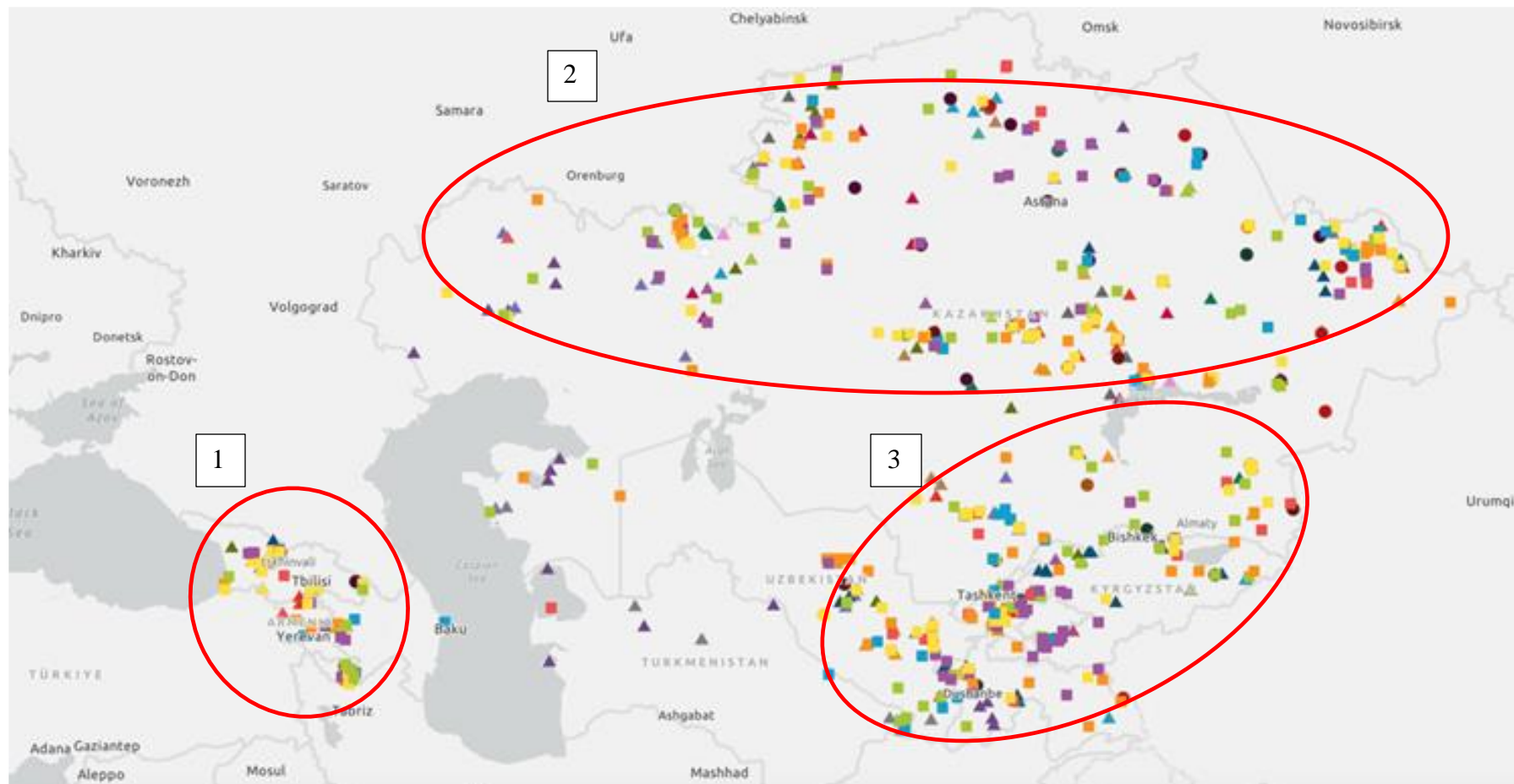
Ensuring compatibility with global environmental regulations and ESG principles, which will give access to innovative financial instruments

Geological potential of critical materials in the CAREC region

Critical material	Azerbaijan	Georgia	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Mongolia	Pakistan	Tajikistan	Turkmenistan	Uzbekistan
Copper (Cu)									
Silver (Ag)									
Zinc (Zn)									
Aluminium/bauxite (Al)									
Iron ore (Fe)									
Lead (Pb)									
Tin (Sn)									
Lithium (Li)									
Cadmium (Cd)									
Selenium (refined) (Se)									
Tellurium (Te)									
Manganese (Mn)									
Molybdenum (Mo)									
Chromium (Cr)									
Titanium (Ti)									
Silicon (Si)									
Germanium (Ge)									
Gallium (Ga)									
Indium (In)									
Cobalt (Co)									
Nickel (Ni)									
Graphite (C)									

Sources: Mammadli et al. (2024); US Geological Survey (2019); Moore (2023); Mining Insight Magazine (2024); Vakulchuk and Overland (2021); Catalogue of Minerals (2023, 2024); Shah (2018); Minexforum (2024); Prometall (2024); Press Smart (2023). Note: green colour indicates mineable reserves; grey indicates no reserves available or further geological exploration is required.

Mineral Belts in the CAREC region present new opportunities for these countries to attract investors



Note: 1 – The Caucasus Mineral Belt;

2 – The Northern Kazakh-Mongolian Belt;

3 – The Central Asian Belt.

Source: ESRI (2024).

The map is used for illustrative purposes only. Not authorized by ADB.

For NFPs Guidance/Consideration

- What are the main obstacles you've encountered in implementing your national energy transition plans? How are you addressing the skills gap in the renewable energy sector?
- What support do you need from international partners to accelerate the energy transition?
- What are your suggested priorities when we review the CAREC Energy Strategy MTR? What are potential renewable energy projects between CAREC countries to promote regional energy security and sustainability?

Session 5: Digital Connectivity



Moderator
Ms. Stephanie KC Hung
Director General
Information Technology
Department, ADB

Panelists



Mr. Miran Mohiyuddin Soomro
Joint Secretary
Economic Affairs Division, Ministry of
Economic Affairs, Pakistan and
CAREC NFP for Pakistan



Mr. Junjie Su, Division Head,
Department of International
Economic and Financial
Cooperation, Ministry of
Finance of the PRC



Mr. Antonio Zaballos
Director
Digital Sector Office, ADB

CAREC Digital Strategy 2030

VISION: A COMMON CAREC DIGITAL SPACE
MISSION: A DATA-DRIVEN DIGITAL ECONOMY



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- Promote investment into **broadband infrastructure**
- **Harmonize** digital and data legislature
- Reduce **barriers** to cross-border **trade**
- Develop **digital skills** and competencies
- Strengthen CAREC's **innovation ecosystem**
- Empower **digital transformation** at the sectoral level

THE DIGITAL PILLARS

- **Leadership**, Governance, and Investment
- Digital Policy **Enablers** and Safeguards
- Digital **Infrastructure**, Resilience, and Platforms
- Digital **Skills** and Competencies
- Innovation, **Entrepreneurship**, and ICT Competitiveness

“Integrating ICT across the spectrum of CAREC operations will be a cross-cutting priority.”

2025 CAREC Digital Activities

Midterm Review of CAREC Digital Strategy 2030

Green and Digital CAREC

- Piloting scalable and adaptable tech solutions for climate mitigation and adaptation measures (aligned with CAREC Climate Change Action Plan Activities 2025-2027)
- CAREC Digital/AI Conference or CAREC Technology Forum (Bishkek)

Scoping for Potential Investments

- PAK: Pakistan-Central Asia Digital Corridor
- KGZ: Development of Digital Infrastructure for Providing Internet Services or Enhancing the Fiber Optic Connectivity in CAREC

E- Government and Cross-Border Digital Services including Digital Trade and E-Commerce Facilitation Platform

- CAREC Business Forum (Kyrgyz Republic)
- 2025 Global Digital Trade Expo (Hangzhou)



Survey: CAREC Technology Forum 2025

Organizer: CAREC Secretariat and ADB-Korea Climate Technology Hub

Which climate-related technologies would you like to learn more about?

- Renewable energy systems (e.g., solar, wind, geothermal)
- Energy efficiency innovations
- Water management and flood prevention technologies
- Climate-smart agriculture solutions
- Disaster risk management and early warning systems
- Circular economy technologies
- Green construction and infrastructure
- Nature-based solutions
- Artificial intelligence applications for climate action

Are there specific crosscutting topics you would like addressed?

- Financing mechanisms for climate technologies
- Private sector engagement
- Public-private partnerships (PPP)
- Regional collaboration and partnerships
- Regional regulatory alignment
- Gender and social inclusion in technology adoption
- Capacity building for implementation
- Monitoring and evaluation of climate technology impact
- Other (please specify)



CAREC Partnership for Climate, Innovation, and Trade

Objective

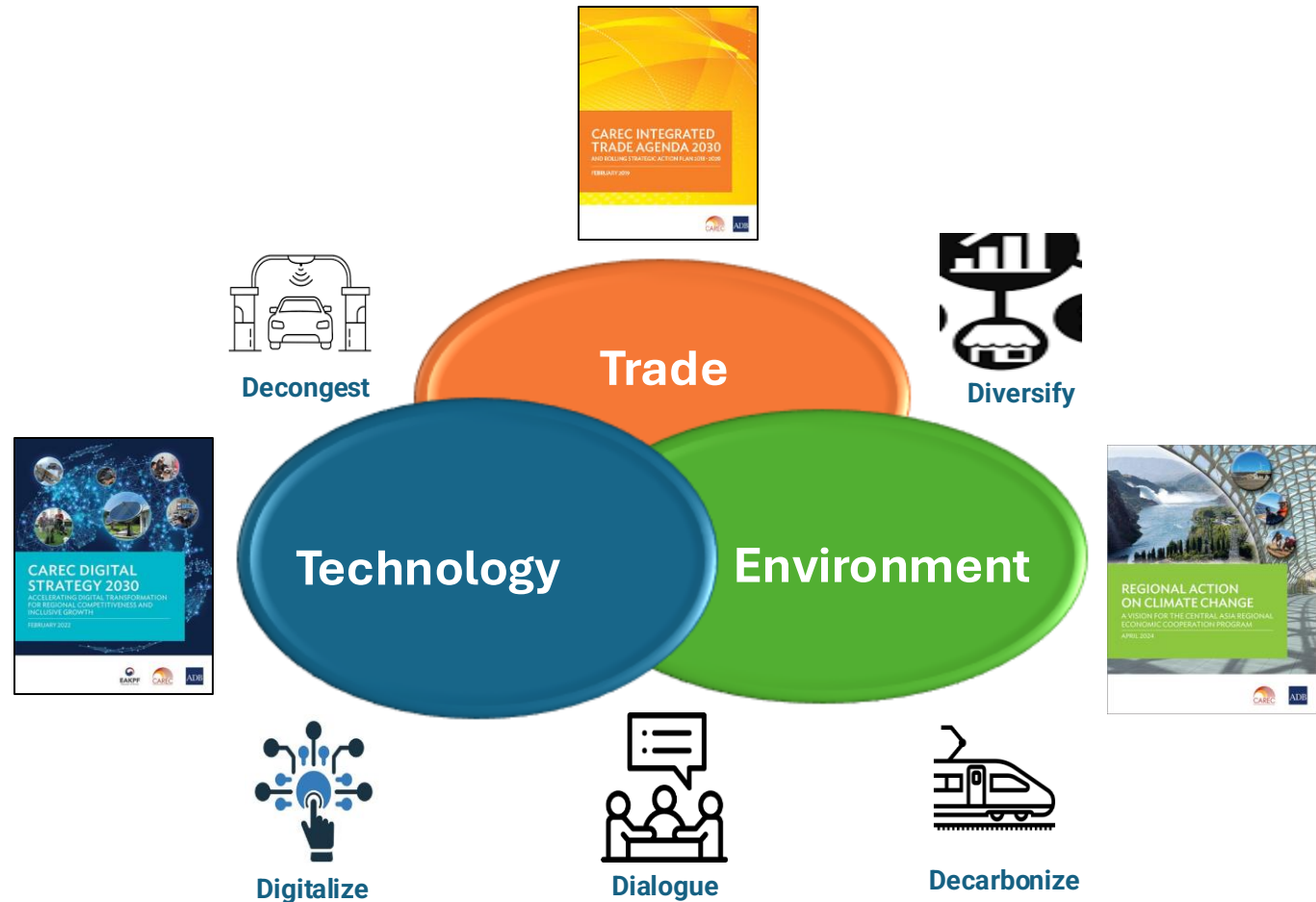
Pursue **regional actions** and **innovative solutions** in addressing climate change and trade issues and achieving SDGs

Declaration signed by CAREC countries in Baku at COP29 in Nov 2024

Non-binding and voluntary with intent to use best endeavor to **deepen cooperation** to achieve climate objectives

Call for regional and global partners to **continue collaboration**

Activities include **to explore feasibility of a regional funds of funds**, accelerate digital/paperless trade initiatives, pilot use of emerging technologies (robotics, AI, machine learning, blockchain, and internet of things)



Harnessing Startup Ecosystem Development



CAREC
Startup Database



CAREC Innovation
Network (CIN)



University
Innovation
Exchange Program



CAREC Startup
Bootcamp



CAREC Innovation
Decoded



University Open
Innovation
Challenge



CAREC Business
Angel Network



Ecosystem Health
Check

Preparing Concept for **Regional Fund of Funds**

Pooling capital from governments, institutional investors, and/or private donors to strengthen regional venture ecosystems

Fostering regional startup ecosystem development by providing ecosystem-building activities (accelerators, training programs, and market access support)

Exploring possible business models

For NFPs Guidance/Consideration

- What are the areas we can prioritize to facilitate cross-border cooperation in digital economy?
- How can CAREC collaborate more effectively to bridge the digital divide?
- How can we prepare or take advantage of emerging technologies such as artificial technology, blockchain, internet of things, robotics, to pursue the regional agenda?
- What role can multilateral development banks like the ADB play in fostering regional cooperation and integration through digital connectivity projects?

Session 6: New CAREC Sectors/ Clusters

**Moderator****Ms. Ayako Inagaki**

Senior Director

Human and Social Development Sectors Department 3, ADB

Panelists**Ms. Erdenetuya Darichuluun**

Head of Economic Cooperation Division, Department of Economic Cooperation and Integrated Trade Policy, Ministry of Economy and Development, Mongolia

**Mr. Mohd Sani Mohd Ismail**

Director

Finance Sector Office, Sectors Department, ADB (virtual)

**Mr. Aziz Haydarov**

Unit Head,

Project Administration, Human and Social Development Sector Office, Sectors Department, ADB

Economic and Financial Stability

Cluster Objectives: CAREC Strategy 2030 envisages the EFS cluster to be built on the three pillars as below.

1. Macroeconomic policy coordination and countercyclical policy responses;
2. Banking and capital market regulators to exchange data and knowledge and harmonize practices; and
3. Attracting private sector investments, including cross-border ones among the member countries

Economic and Financial Stability

Cluster Progress (Pre-Covid):

- Since 2019, the CAREC Secretariat collaborated with IMF, WB and other development partners and member governments for organizing the following high-level dialogues/forums:
- High-level Forum on ***Balancing Infrastructure Investment with Debt Sustainability*** (Nur-Sultan, 2019)
- CAREC High-level Virtual Panel on ***Countercyclical Fiscal Measures for Recovery*** (Manila, 2020)
- CAREC High-Level Virtual Policy Dialogue on ***COVID-19 Pandemic – Financial Stability; Implications and Regional Cooperation*** (Manila, 2020)
- Inaugural Capital Markets Regulators' Forum (CMRF) was held in Islamabad in 2019 but was discontinued due to COVID-19.

Economic and Financial Stability

Cluster Progress (Since 2023)

- In 2023 (Feb-Jun), the ADB, the IMF, and the WB jointly organized two high-level forums in Tbilisi, Georgia - examined ***policies and measures on domestic revenue mobilization, and the role of sustainable finance in mobilizing resources for climate change.***
- **Second Capital Markets Regulators' Forum (CMRF)** in Oct/Nov 2023, Almaty
 - Discussed the role of capital markets in climate finance and Asian Bond Market Initiative (ABMI)
 - Renamed the forum as Capital Markets Development Forum (CMDf)
 - Presented CAREC Capital Markets Landscape Study and CMDf Roadmap

Plans for 2025

- Issuance of Sovereign and Private Sector Green/Climate Bonds (14-15 May, MON)
- Promoting FDI for Clean Energy Technology in the CAREC Region (16 July, KGZ)
- Regional Conference on Green Taxonomy (15 July, KGZ)
- Developing Carbon Credit Markets in CAREC Countries (14-15 October, KAZ)
- A policy brief on green finance in the CAREC region

Economic and Financial Stability

CMDF Roadmap

Continue organizing the forum (annually or biennially) focusing on one or all of the following workstreams?

- Creating regional guarantee and investment mechanism, similar to ASEAN+3
- Supporting the development of CAREC Digital Payment System
- Promoting Green Taxonomy and Green Bonds Markets
- Operationalize CAREC Capital Markets Information Portal

Alternatively

Divert bulk resources towards supporting capacities in 1-2 crucial areas such as green finance, carbon markets development or any other area?

Health Sector

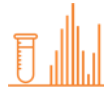
- **Main Working Group on Health and two Sub-Working Groups established:**
 - CAREC Working Group on Health (WGH)
 - Procurement and Supply Chain Management Sub Working Group (SCM&P SWG), and Human Resources for Health Sub Working Group (HRH SWG)
- **Completed Initiatives:**
 - MC endorsed **Health Strategy** and WGH endorsed **Regional Investment Framework (RIF)** on Health 2022-2027, a living operational document guiding the implementation of the Health Strategy and supporting the identification of investment opportunities across countries and development partners.
 - Two onsite **WGH meetings with knowledge sharing** on digital health and climate change and health (Oct 2022 and Nov 2023). One onsite meeting of the SCM&P SWG (June 2024)
 - Series of capacity development **webinars** on regional health security and cooperation
 - Development and launch of **CAREC Health Website** (December 2024)
 - One **Regional Health Security project** in KGZ approved; one proposed Regional Health Security project in Tajikistan under preparation

CAREC Health Strategy and Regional Investment Framework for Health, 2022-2027



Pillar 1

- Development of a network of Centers for (Global) Public Health Excellence; improve public health education
-



Pillar 2

- Start development of regional health security dashboard (CARINFONET, WHO)
-



Pillar 3

- Finalize regional risk management guidance and feasibility report on pooled procurement
 - Develop plan and reinforce knowledge exchange to build regional collaboration with interested national regulatory authorities
-



Pillar 4

- Start health needs and service availability assessment; develop a joint strategy on reducing health risks among most vulnerable populations in selected border areas; pilot cross-border data sharing
 - **Climate and Health:** Low-carbon and climate resilient health facilities: 1) Regional decarbonization strategy; 2) Minimum requirements for health facility readiness (low carbon and climate resilient)
-



Digital Health

- Development of Report on Evaluation of Digital Health Apps and potential for establishing a regional mechanism

Health Sector Plans

Key Event for 2025

- **6th CAREC WGH Meeting** in Bishkek (7-9 April), to review progress in implementing the CAREC Health Strategy and RIF 2022-2027, and endorse CAREC Work Program deliverables for the year, including on climate and health outputs
- **For NFP Support and Guidance:**
 - Support to create regional health investments in health and non-health operations to scale up regional health cooperation
 - Review and endorsement of climate change and health deliverable at CAREC Ministerial Conference and regular monitoring

Education/Skills Development

CAREC Working Group on Skills Development:

- CAREC Working Group (WG) on Skills development established
- Its first meeting was conducted on 29 February-01 March 2024 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- Its virtual meeting was conducted on 26 September 2024
- Second annual meeting is planned for April 3-5, 2025 (Baku).

Completed activities:

- ✓ The MOU and Action plan for 2025-2026 drafted and validated by the participating CAREC countries
- ✓ 9 regional agricultural universities nominated to be supported by Wageningen University (Netherlands) under the CAREC Agriculture Universities' Accelerator Program.
- ✓ Study visit to Guanxi, PRC (9-13 December 2024) for WG members to learn from PRC's experience in mainstreaming climate change and partnership with the private sector in TVET.

Education/Skills Development Plans for 2025-2026



Output 1

- ✓ Signing of **the Memorandum of Understanding** "On strengthening regional cooperation"
- ✓ Support of **the CAREC working group on Skills Development**
- ✓ Quarterly meetings (its Second Annual meeting scheduled for 3-5 April, Azerbaijan, Baku)



Output 2

- ✓ Selection of **the International Agricultural Research University** (Wageningen University)
- ✓ Launch of **Green Accelerator Program for CAREC Agricultural Universities**
- ✓ Technical expertise for strengthening Agriculture University education in the CAREC region
- ✓ **Capacity building workshops** for i) academic and non-degree programs, ii) research, iii) demonstration projects, iv) faculty and student
- ✓ Technical support to regional countries in coping with **climate change and just transition challenges and development of joint bilateral projects**



Output 3

- ✓ Capacity of governments, education institutions, and the private sector on green skills, climate change, just transition (**by the ITCILO**)
- ✓ Needs assessment to develop **tailor-made training materials** on mainstreaming green skills into TVET/ HE policies
- ✓ **A cohort consisting of 3 people from each member country** (from among Research institutes, Government, academia, think tanks in TVET/HE, Private sector working with regional agricultural universities)
- ✓ **Print and digital publications** of policy briefs and papers on mainstreaming green skills

Education/Skills Development

Key Event for 2025

2nd CAREC Working Group on Skills Development Meeting (Baku, 3-5 April 2025):

- Review progress in improved green skills development in the CAREC region; equip government counterparts with the mechanisms to integrate green and just transition aspects into the skills development.
- Adopt Action Plan for 2025-26 and relevant capacity building activities.
- Sign the Memorandum of Understanding between CAREC countries on Green Skills Development.

For NFP Support:

- Facilitate internal governmental processes to authorize the country's education representatives [Vice-Minister's level] to sign the MOU on CAREC Green Skills Development; and active engagement of participating Agriculture Universities under the Accelerator Program for CAREC Agricultural Universities

For NFPs Guidance/Consideration

- What potential topics can we focus on in future Capital Markets Development Forum (CMDF)?
- Are the proposed capacity-building activities aligned with the priorities and gaps among CAREC countries?
- How do we scale up health and health-related operations and strengthen regional cooperation in health to minimize the threats and risks of future pandemic?
- How can regional cooperation strengthen skills development and transfer, and foster regional public goods to drive a more sustainable, green, and digital economy in the CAREC region?

Session 7: Designing and Implementing Regional Projects—Successes & Pitfalls



Moderator
Ms. Lyaziza Sabyrova
Regional Head, RCI
CWRC, ADB

Panelists



Ms. Ananya Basu
Director, Operations
Planning and
Coordination Division,
Strategy, Policy, and
Partnerships Department,
ADB



Mr. Yuebin Zhang
Principal Regional
Cooperation
Specialist and
OIC, CCRC, ADB



Mr. Baurzhan Konysbayev
Principal Counsel
Office of the General
Counsel, ADB



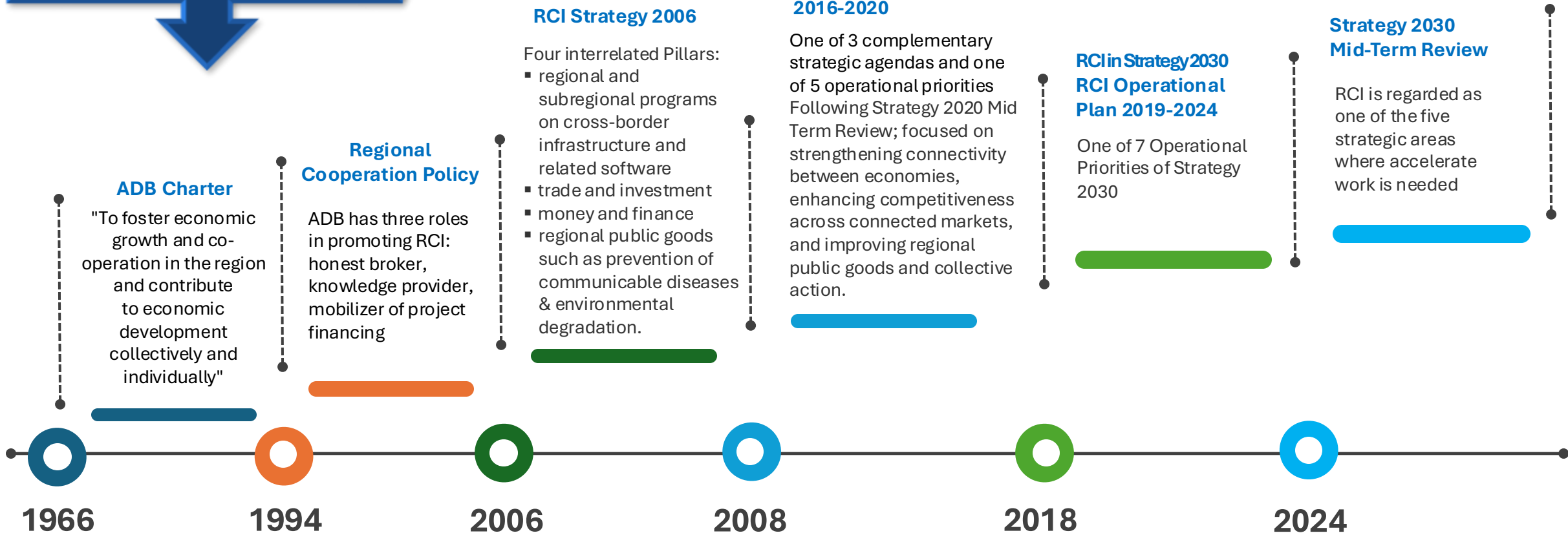
Mr. Serik Zharkinbayev
Energy Specialist
Energy Sector
Office, ADB



Mr. Jiwan Acharya
Principal Energy Specialist
Energy Sector
Office, ADB

RCI and ADB Strategy 2030

RCI is a Charter Mandate



Operational Priority 7

Regional Cooperation and Integration

Strategic Operational Priorities

Operational Approaches

Subpillars

1









Greater and higher quality connectivity between economies

2

Global and regional trade and investment opportunities expanded

3

Regional public goods increased and diversified

-  **Multimodal transport infrastructure connectivity**
-  **Renewable energy and sustainable transport**
-  **'Soft' infrastructure for implementation of trade and investment agreements**
-  **Economic Corridors**
-  **Regional financial cooperation**
-  **Regional climate change mitigation and adaptation**
-  **Environment and sustainable tourism**
-  **Regional education and health services**

- More technologically advanced and multimodal cross-border transport, and more ICT-based cross-border infrastructure
- More 'soft' infrastructure for increasing the efficiency/productivity of existing and new cross-border connectivity
- The stock of cross-border infrastructure that reduces GHG emissions, or air and water pollution, waste and land degradation, increased
- Subregional and/or intersubregional DMC coordination mechanisms on infrastructure connectivity established and functioning.

- DMCs' implementation of global and regional trade and investment agreements strengthened
- Policies, infrastructure and business investments to develop existing and/or new cross-border economic corridors improved
- Regional cooperation among financial intermediaries strengthened, and risks to regional financial stability reduced
- Subregional and/or intersubregional DMC coordination mechanisms on trade, finance, and multisector economic corridor established and functioning

- Regional capacity to mitigate and/or adapt to climate change strengthened
- Environmental protection and sustainable management of shared natural resources expanded
- Regional education and health services expanded and improved
- Subregional and/or intersubregional DMC coordination mechanisms on regional public goods established and functioning

OP7 Definition of RCI Innovation

- Nascent sectors/subsectors
- New geographical countries and areas
- Intersubregional RCI
- Nonsovereign/PPP

Manage Project Information

Project Tasks

Overview

Team Members

Milestone Events

Financing

Cofinancing

Classification

DMF

Safeguards Categorization

OP Indicators

Procurement

Baseline Projections

PDS

Project Missions

Financial Management

Co

The planned project approval date has elapsed. Please proceed to the product details page and do the necessary action for this flag to be cleared.

Project Classification - RCI Scorecard

[Cancel](#) [Revert](#) [Save](#)

[Project Classification](#) | [Climate Change](#) | [ICT and Digital Technology](#) | **[RCI Scorecard](#)** | [Ocean Health](#)

RCI Scorecard

Status :

*Does the project/program/TA include an RCI component? Yes No

TIP: RCI Projects or TAs must receive an "A" or "B" rating to all questions to be classified as RCI. If there is no OP7 indicator this must be an action point for the draft TA or draft RRP.

Refer to the [guidance note](#) for more details.

The RCI Scorecard can be prepared as early as the concept stage.

Questions	Ratings * i	Justification *	Rating (RCI-TG)	RCI-TG Validation
Does the project align with national and regional strategies on RCI and has the government demonstrated commitment/readiness? Click the information icon for examples. i	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>		
Is the project expected to contribute to (or in the case of KSTA support) regional economic benefits? Click the information icon for examples (list is not exhaustive). i	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>		
Does the project provide additional support to regional cooperation and integration and/or objectives of OP7? Click the information icon for examples. i	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>		

RCI Scorecard = basis of RCI-tagging

OP7: Fostering Regional Cooperation and Integration (select at least one pillar)

- Pillar 1: Greater and higher quality connectivity between economies
- Pillar 2: Global and regional trade and investment opportunities expanded
- Pillar 3: Regional public goods increased and diversified

M&E: Does the DMF or linked document include an indicator relevant to OP7? (untick this if the response is No)

(If "No", this is an action point for addressing in the RPP/TA Paper)

OP7 Indicator	DMF Performance Indicator	Delete
No results found.		
Add Another Row		

ACTION POINTS: (To be filled out by SDCC RCI Scorecard Validator)

- Include regional effects in the economic analysis in RRP
- Include relevant OP7 indicators in the draft RRP or TA paper
- Others

Prepared by: Reviewed by:



From the People of Japan

For NFPs Guidance/Consideration

- How can we scale up RCI operations and develop new generation RCI or RPG projects?
- How can we address the challenges of designing and implementing RCI projects?
- How can ADB help enhance appreciation and support to RCI or RPG projects among country stakeholders, including policymakers, project executing or implementing agencies?

Session 8: Engagement with the Private Sector and CAREC Institute



Moderator
Mr. Kuat Akizhanov
Deputy Director 2
CAREC Institute

Panelists



Mr. Steven Beck
Director
Trade and Supply
Chain Division,
Private Sector Operations
Department (tbc)



Mr. Enrico Pinali
Regional Head
Private Sector
Development,
CWRD, ADB



Mr. Charymuhammet Shallyyev
Director
CAREC Institute

- In November 2024, CI Governing Council approved “Revitalizing the CAREC Institute” Concept Note
- Need to implement governance and HR reforms
- Focus on few flagship activities which might include the New Development Forum in Urumqi, high-profile research and capacity building initiatives in topics relevant for CAREC (e.g., transport and trade, climate-water-energy-agriculture nexus, digitalization, any emerging topics)
- CI is drafting the **CI Strategy 2026–2030** and developing the Concept Note’s implementation plan (10 March)
- ADB is preparing a new TA to support CI activities in 2025–2027

For NFPs Guidance/Consideration

- How do we harness business and private sector engagement under the CAREC program? How do we leverage existing ADB private sector operations and initiatives to promote regional cooperation and benefit small businesses and SMEs in CAREC countries?
- How do we enhance CAREC Institute's role as a strategic partner for knowledge-driven development? What could be CAREC Institute's key focus areas and flagship activities?

Session 9: Role of Resident Missions and Country Management Teams



Moderator
Mr. Bobur Alimov
Advisor
EARD, ADB

Panelists



Mr. Yevgeniy Zhukov
Director General
CWRD, ADB



Ms. Emma Fan
Country Director
ADB Resident Mission in
Pakistan (virtual)



Mr. Zheng Wu
Country Director
ADB Resident Mission in
Kyrgyz Republic (virtual)



David J. Hill
Country Director
Afghanistan



Sunniya Durrani-Jamal
Country Director
Azerbaijan



Safdar Parvez,
Country Director
PRC



Lesley Bearman Lahm
Country Director
Georgia

ADB Country Directors



Utsav Kumar
Country Director
Kazakhstan



Zheng Wu
Country Director
Kyrgyz Republic



Shannon Christine Cowlin
Country Director
Mongolia



Emma Fan
Country Director
Pakistan



Ko Sakamoto
Country Director
Tajikistan



Artur Andrysiak
Country Director
Turkmenistan



Kanokpan Lao-Araya
Country Director
Uzbekistan

For NFPs Guidance/Consideration

- How can we leverage ADB country teams to develop regional projects and deepen dialogue and engagement with national stakeholders?
- How can the CAREC Program activities complement national investment projects, and support more integrated planning and coordination between countries in support of RCI operations?

Session 10: Program Effectiveness and Institutional Strengthening



Moderator

Ms. Lyaziza Sabyrova
Regional Head, RCI
CWRC, ADB



Key CAREC Events in 2025

Date	CAREC Meetings/ Key Events	Venue
Key Meetings/Events		
5-7 March	CAREC NFP Strategic Planning Meeting	Manila, PHI
6 May	CAREC High-level Session at ADB Annual Meeting: Trans-Caspian Connectivity: Unlocking Green Transport and Energy Corridors	Milan, ITA
May/July	Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) and Development Partners Forum	Issyk Kul, KGZ
August	National Focal Points' Meeting: Pre MC preparations	Virtual
September	24th CAREC Ministerial Conference and Business Forum	Bishkek, KGZ
Sector Committee or Working Group Meetings (1st half of 2025)		
3-4 April	CAREC Skills Development Working Group Meeting	Baku, AZE
7-9 April	4th Meeting of CAREC Climate Change Working Group	Bishkek, KGZ
7-9 April	6th Meeting of the CAREC Working Group on Health	Bishkek, KGZ
1 May	3rd CAREC Digital Strategy Steering Committee Meeting	TBC
21-23 May	CAREC Transport Ministers Meeting	Leipzig, GER
21-23 May	1 st CAREC Working Group on Agricultural Development and Food Security	Bishkek, KGZ
10-12 June	9th CAREC Railway Working Group Meeting	Bishkek, KGZ
30 June	5th Meeting of CAREC Climate Change Working Group	Bishkek, KGZ
June	CAREC Transport Sector Coordinating Committee Meeting	TBC
	7th Meeting of the CAREC Regional Trade Group	TBC



CAREC Events Calendar

https://www.carecprogram.org/?page_id=25145

Dynamic CAREC Calendar

- Real time updating of events in website
- Search and download function
- Event filtering based on month, sector, event type or location
- Exporting events in excel/pdf files
- Adding event directly to your outlook or google calendar

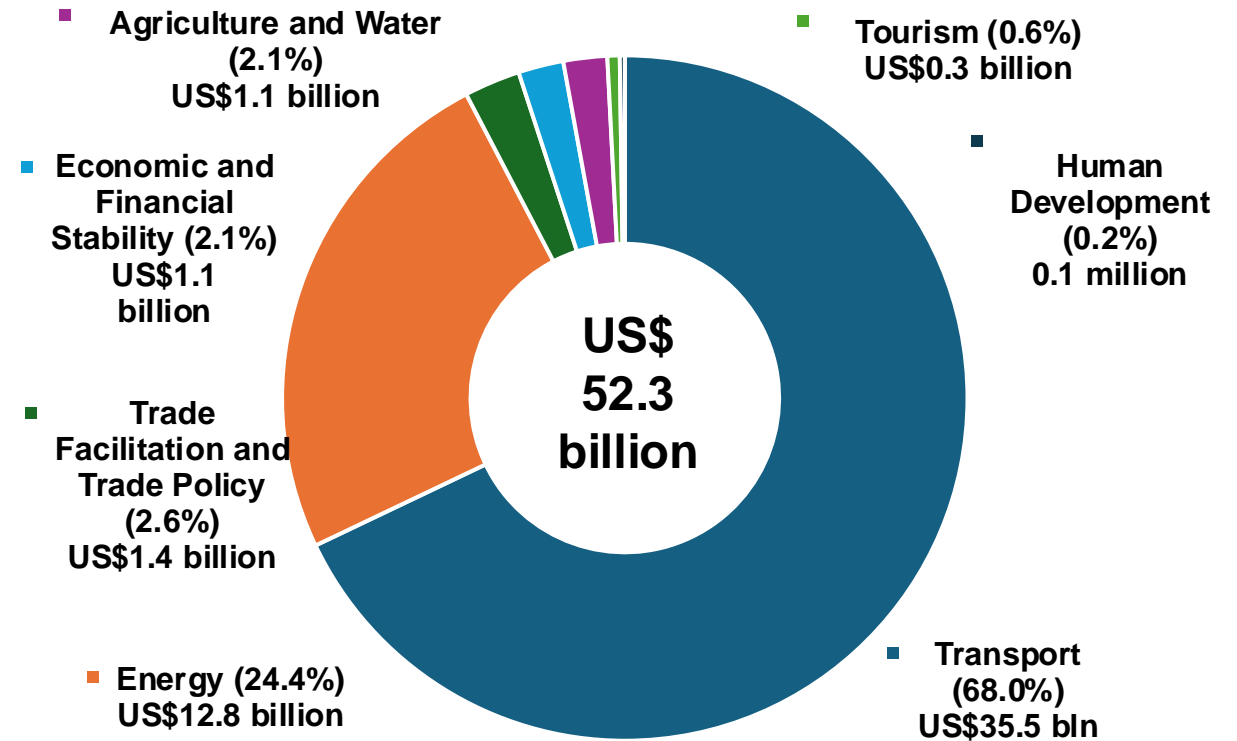
The screenshot shows the CAREC Events Calendar website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the CAREC logo, a search icon, and buttons for 'Directory' and 'Contact Us'. Below the navigation bar, the main heading reads '59 Upcoming CAREC Events in 2025'. There are three lines of orange text providing information: 'Event date or venue marked as TBC cannot be added to the your calendar.', 'Event pages will become accessible when they are completed with pre-event materials.', and 'Indicative for planning purposes only. Final dates and venues are confirmed once formal invites have been circulated.' Below this, there are 'Export' buttons for 'Excel' and 'PDF', each with a green checkmark. A search bar is present with a green checkmark. Below the search bar are four filter dropdown menus: 'Select a month...', 'Select a sector...', 'Select an event type...', and 'Select a venue...', each with a green checkmark. The main content area displays two event cards. The first card is for '25 Feb 2025' and features the title 'WEOP Guest Speakers' Series: "Women in Renewable Energy: Challenges, Opportunities, and Global Initiatives" with a green checkmark, a calendar icon, and a 'G+' button. The second card is for 'Feb 2025' and features the title 'CAREC Institute: CAREC Chai: Sustainable/Green Public Procurement' with a calendar icon and a 'G+' button.



CAREC Investment Portfolio

- **\$52.3* billion** CAREC cumulative investment projects (2001–2024)
- **124*** ongoing projects, mostly in transport, energy, and trade sectors, diversifying into new areas
- Over **\$18.4* billion** financed by ADB, **\$23.9* billion** by other development partners, and **\$10 billion** from CAREC governments
- **42** active CAREC TAs including TRTAs supported by ADB (\$59 million)

CAREC Investment Projects By sector, 2001–2024*



***Preliminary figures, for updating with development partners**



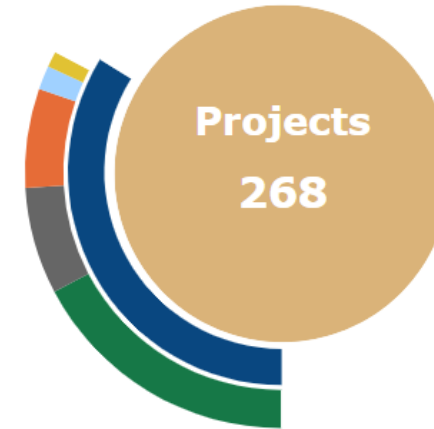
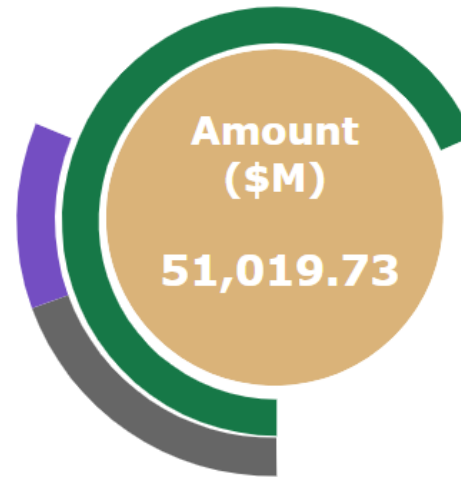
CAREC Project Dashboard

- Monitoring tool for improved portfolio information.
- Generated tables and figures can be exported directly to PowerPoint
- Data on CAREC Portfolio investments segregated by country, year, sector, fund source and investment type
- Prototype being updated for improved navigation, data extraction, and accessibility (Power BI)

CAREC Operations Summary, Projects

Cumulative Figures, 2001 to 2023

DP's	68.5%
Counterpart	19.7%
Cofinancing	11.8%



ADB	137
World Bank	69
IsDB	27
EBRD	25
EFSD	6
AIIB	4



CAREC Project Dashboard

Per-country information on total project portfolio, sector, funding source, and project status, both in number and amount, can be found in the **CAREC Projects Tab**.

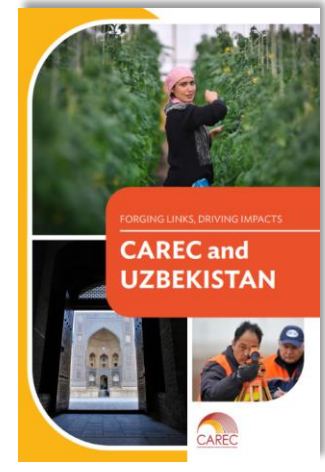
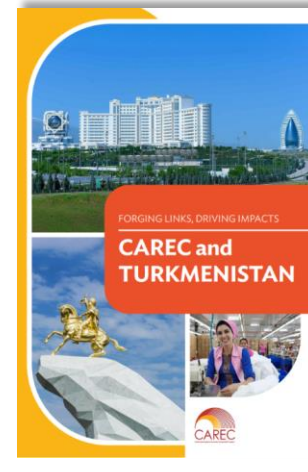
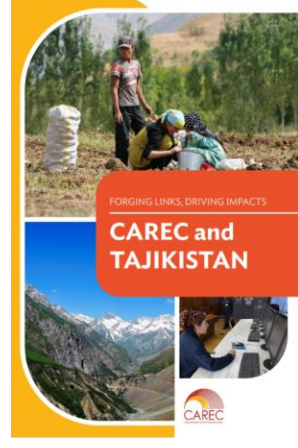
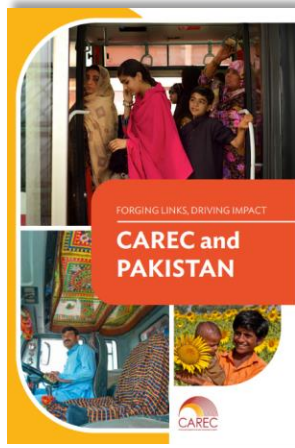
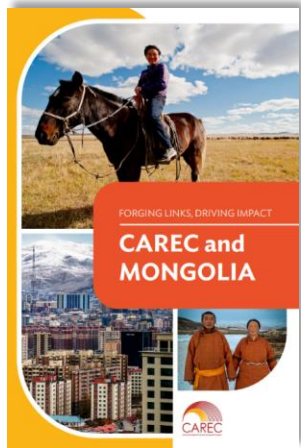
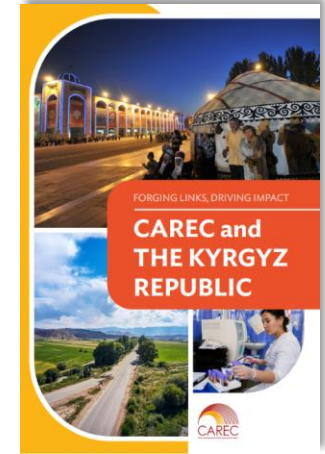
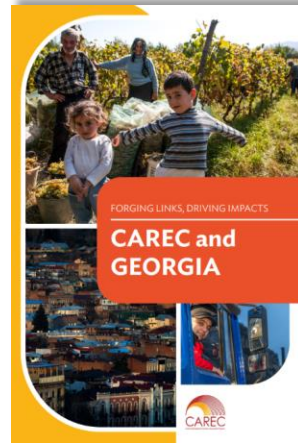
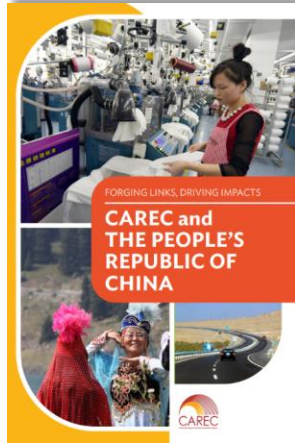
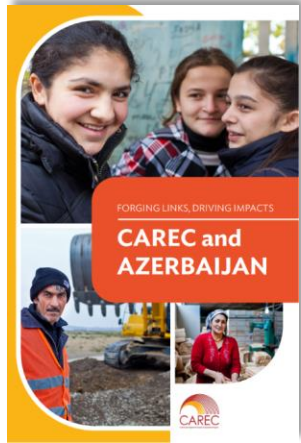
Click the plus “+” sign at the end of each bar to expand the selection.

Click the up “↑” or down “↓” arrows to browse information for the selected data.

The screenshot shows the CAREC Project Dashboard in Power BI. The dashboard is titled "CAREC Dashboard" and has a data update date of 2/10/25. The sidebar on the left contains navigation options: Home, Create, Browse, OneLake, Apps, Workspaces, My workspace, CAREC Dashboard, and a plus sign. The main content area is divided into two sections. The top section is titled "Total Financing Amount (in \$ million) 2001 - 2023" and features a bar chart with a total value of 49,856.05. The bottom section is titled "List of CAREC Projects and Technical Assistance" and contains a table with the following data:

Project Number	Project Name	Country	Development Partner
44198-013	Power Sector Rehabilitation Project	Kyrgyz Republic	ADB
45169-001	Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Corridor 3 (Bishkek-Osh Road) Improvement Project, Phase 4	Kyrgyz Republic	ADB
46124-001	CAREC Regional Improvement of Border Services (KGZ, TAJ)	Kyrgyz Republic	ADB
46348-003	Toktogul Rehabilitation Phase 2 Project	Kyrgyz Republic	ADB
Total			

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Impact Stories

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WHAT IS THE CAREC PROGRAM?

The Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Program brings together 11 countries' and multiple development partners to accelerate economic growth and reduce poverty. It is guided by the overarching vision of Good Neighbors, Good Development Bank (ADB) serves

For more than 2 decades, the program develops and implements regional multisector initiatives critical to

From 2001 to 2024, CAREC has focused on establishing multimodal trade and security, facilitating the developing economic corridors.

CAREC 2030 Strategy is the long-term anchored in a mission to connect and sustainable development. It and a collaborative approach, the growth and yields tangible economic opportunities.

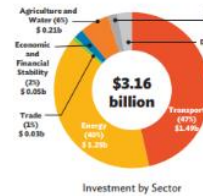
CAREC AND THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

As a key node in an international land transport network connectivity across Central Asia, the Kyrgyz Republic is efforts to transform the vast region into a vibrant hub of Driven by CAREC initiatives, improved transport is boosting economic growth. Crossing borders and clearing customs. A pilot spatial economic corridor is unifying the country single economic space. Development partners are financing link two CAREC corridors as well as road sections between

Better connectivity has improved access to regional markets promoting trade and economic activities while positioning as a transit country. The strategic and economic significance, as most passengers and goods rely on road transport corridors ease access for remote populations, reducing improving convenience, and helping alleviate poverty by social opportunities.

CUMULATIVE INVESTMENTS

As of December 2024, more than \$3.1 billion has been invested in 57 CAREC-related projects in the Kyrgyz Republic, with transport (47%) and energy (40%) making up most of them. ADB has financed or cofinanced 14 of the projects.



ADB = Saudi Arabia, IDB = IDB, IDB = IDB, IDB = IDB

CAREC IMPROVEMENT OF BORDER SERVICES (KYRGYZ REPUBLIC COMPONENT)

Approved in 2013 with \$8.4 million in ADB financing component, the project expedited the construction crossing points (BCPs) between the Kyrgyz Republic on earlier CAREC feasibility studies and extensive studies the project selected the two countries based on their infrastructure and trade procedure reforms. With in single-window systems already in place, both countries complementary facilities across the border.

Streamlined, more reliable, and cost-efficient cross-

- Time and cost at project BCPs dropped by more than 30% in 2020, compared with the 2012 baseline.
 - Time to clear the Karamyk BCP: outbound, 2.2 hours; inbound, 2.1 hours in 2020, compared with 11.8 hours in 2012
 - Cost at the Karamyk BCP: outbound, \$42; inbound, \$25 in 2020, compared with \$147 in 2012.

Source: ADB. 2024. Completion Report: CAREC Regional Improvement of Border Services Project in the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan.

ALMATY-BISHKEK ECONOMIC CORRIDOR

The Almaty-Bishkek Economic Corridor (ABEC) aims to unify Almaty, Kazakhstan; Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic; and their surroundings, accelerating the flow of ideas, goods, and services.

Since 2014, the two governments have supported on piloting a spatial economic corridor several initiatives that are realizing tangible

- The modernization of key BCPs in both countries.
- The ABEC tourism master plan pilot project in Almaty, Kazakhstan with Lake Issyk-Kul.
- Collaboration between medical laboratories in both countries to address future pandemics.
- Air quality monitoring sensors were installed in 2022, allowing officials to accurately monitor air quality and take actions that are outlined in the ABEC Action Plan.

The preparedness for potential disasters in Almaty, Bishkek, and surrounding regions is being improved through the ongoing ABEC disaster risk management project.

- Government engagement has intensified through the Intergovernmental Council, ministers of both countries.

Source: ABEC. What is Almaty-Bishkek Economic Corridor?



CAREC CORRIDOR CONNECTOR ROAD

This project, financed in 2016 by an ADB loan of \$98.11 million, rehabilitated the 70 km Epkin section of the North-South Alternate Corridor with Jalal-Abad. It aims to boost connectivity in underprivileged regions in the Kyrgyz Republic, and strengthen the institutional capacity of the Ministry of Transport and Roads. An additional \$78 million from ADB, approved in 2018, is financing the rehabilitation of sections of the North-South Alternate Corridor marker 43, and Kochkor to Epkin—totaling \$176 million. The project aims to provide a faster, alternative route between Naryn and Osh by 50% in 2028, from 22 hours; increase average daily vehicle traffic to 5,572 in 2028, from a 2015 baseline of 3,572; increase average daily vehicle traffic from 84,912 in 2028, from a 2015 baseline of 2,061.

Source: ADB. 2018. Report and Recommendation of the President of the International Development Bank for a Loan to the Kyrgyz Republic and ADB. 2018. ADB Provides \$78 Million to Improve Regional Road Transport in the Kyrgyz Republic. News release, 2 November 2018.



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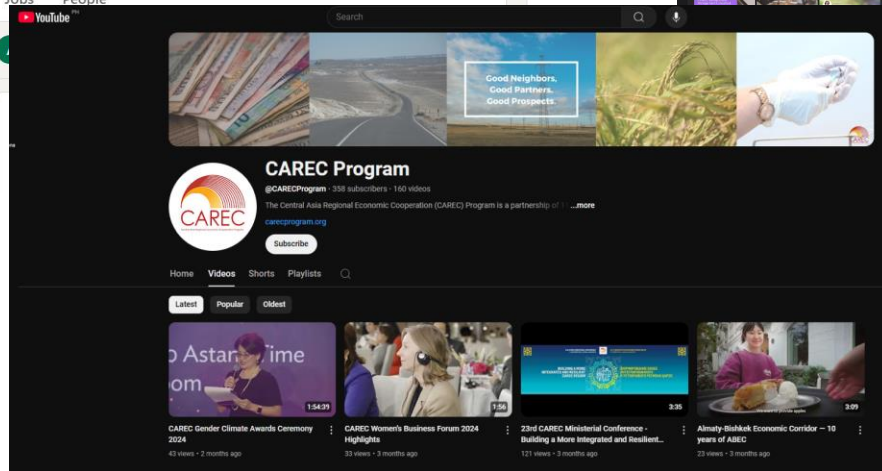
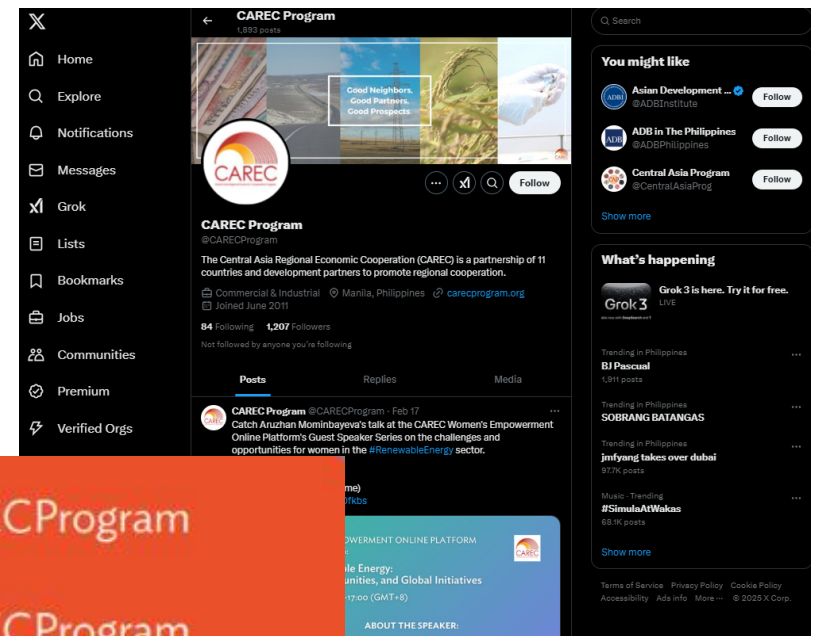
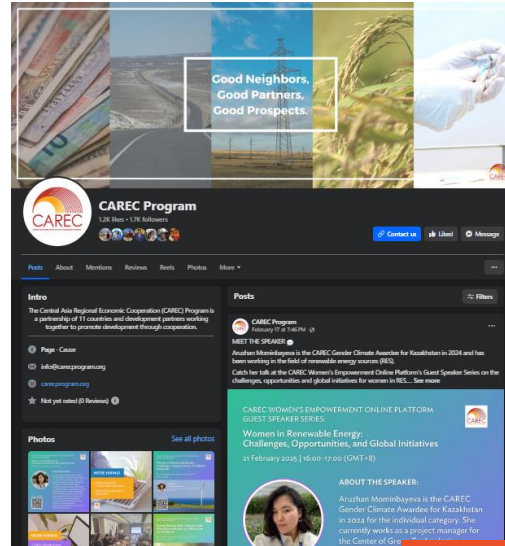
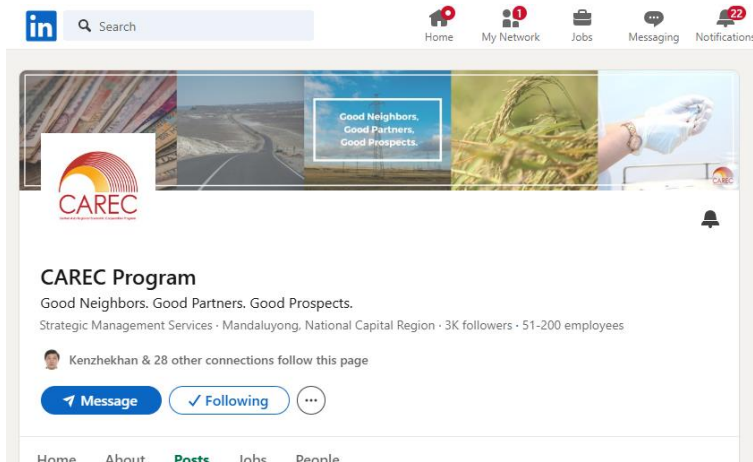
For more information visit www.carecprogram.org

All photos courtesy of ADB unless otherwise indicated.

Impact Stories



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Social Media



Support to RCI Programming

- **Stakeholder engagement** to discuss new regional initiatives.
- **Improved institutional mechanisms** for regional project pipeline and Sector Focals coordination and active participation in Country Programming
- **Mobilizing financing and TA monitoring**
- **Collaboration** with COHs and SG focal points in developing and implementing strategies.

Incorporating Regional Pipeline into Country Operations

- 1. Annual Country Programming Cycles.** Projects are integrated into a 3-year rolling pipeline.
- 2. Engagement by CAREC Secretariat.** Consultations with CAREC National Focal Points (NFPs) and sector committees/working groups.
- 3. Country Programming Missions (Feb-Apr 2025)**
 - Missions ongoing in CAREC countries.
 - Aim to identify and firm up pipeline projects.
 - Coordination with ADB Governor offices through mission Aide-Memos or Memorandum of Understanding.
- 3. Coordination and Endorsement.** NFPs coordinate with:
 - CAREC Secretariat's country assigned staff
 - ADB Governor offices.
 - Potential project executive agencies.

Ensures timely allocation of resources and project processing

Suggestions in Improving the CAREC Results Framework



Cluster 1: Economic and Financial Stability (EFS)

- retain cluster-level outcome 1
- introduce sector level outcome that describes the more immediate and direct benefits of the outputs under EFS

Cluster 2: Trade (TRD), Tourism (TSM) and Economic Corridors (ECD)

- **TRD:** replace Output 2 indicators with ‘institutional capacity for trade policy formulation and implementation strengthened’ to harmonize with CITA 2030
- **TSM:** add outcome indicator ‘international visitor arrivals in CAREC region increased’ from the CAREC Tourism Strategy results framework as it is a more direct measure of progress
- **ECD:** outcome indicator reporting needs to be strengthened; ‘add indicator on trade along designated economic corridors’; revise output 1 to ‘economic corridor development concept adopted by member countries in their national or sub-national strategies’



Suggestions in Improving the CAREC Results Framework

Cluster 3: Infrastructure and Economic Connectivity

- **ENERGY:** add outcome and output indicators to measure progress on energy security
- include output indicator showing actual progress in regional energy trade
- revise output 2 on CAREC green energy alliance to ‘financing for green energy projects in CAREC countries increased’



Cluster 4: Agriculture (AGR) and Water (WTR)

- **AGR:** revise/refine outcome statement and outputs given the issues encountered in initiating a CAREC food safety network
- **WTR:** revise highly ambitious outcome and outputs

Cluster 5: Human Development

- **EDU:** revise outcome given the shift in the scope of the education sector (green skills)
- **HLT:** replace outcome indicator with an indicator that directly measures the outcome



For NFPs Guidance/Consideration

- How do we improve stakeholders' awareness of CAREC Program including the impact of projects and interventions?
- How can we support NFPs in effectively coordinating country priorities and align with common regional objectives through RCI operations?
- How can we better assess the success of CAREC interventions and what are your views in terms of KPIs and results indicators?

Session 11: CAREC Flagship Regional Projects, Plans for 2025-2026, Wrap Up, and Next Steps



Chair

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

Discussants



Mr. Yevgeniy Zhukov
Director General
CWRD, ADB



Mr. Bobur Alimov
Advisor
EARD, ADB



Ms. Lyaziza Sabyrova
Regional Head, RCI
CWRD, ADB

For NFPs Guidance/Consideration

- Take-aways from NFP Strategic Planning Meeting
- Outline of draft MTR Implementation Action Plan with defined timelines, deliverables and accountabilities for further stakeholders' consultation.
- List of proposed flagship regional projects and priority activities and initiatives for 2025 including the timing of the Senior Officials Meeting and the 24th Ministerial Conference chaired by the Kyrgyz Republic.
- Early suggestions for 2026, particularly the commemoration of CAREC Program's 25th year in Mongolia and CAREC activities during the ADB Annual Meeting in Uzbekistan.