

CARC Business Forum
18 – 19 November 2025 | Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

AGENDA

Day 1 18 November, Tuesday	
<i>Transforming CAREC Corridors: Unlocking Business Opportunities</i>	
Venue: Grand Bishkek Ballroom Sheraton Hotel	
08:30 – 09:00	Registration
Emcee: Khalid Umar, Regional Cooperation Specialist, CWRD, ADB	
09:00 – 09:15	Opening Session
09:00 – 09:07	<i>Welcome Remarks</i>
	Mr. Yingming Yang, Vice-President (South, Central and West Asia), Asian Development Bank (ADB)
09:07 – 09:15	<i>Opening Address</i>
	Mr. Bakyt Sydykov, Minister, Ministry of Economy and Commerce, Kyrgyz Republic
09:15 – 10:30	Session 1: Context Setting
Moderator	<i>This session will explore trade and transit, logistics, digitalization, and tourism opportunities of CAREC Corridors, assessing current trade flows and future growth potential, and examining global supply chain trends and their implications for logistics development in the region. The session will begin with a presentation exploring the overall potential of the CAREC Corridors, followed by a panel discussion addressing three key questions crucial to realizing the full economic potential of CAREC Corridors, particularly CAREC Corridor 2.</i>
Ms. Lyaziza Sabyrova, Regional Head, Regional Cooperation and Integration, CWRD, ADB	Topic: Exploring Economic Potential of CAREC Corridors (15 minutes)
	Lead Speaker: Mr. Bahodir Ganiev, Senior Advisor, Center for Economic Development, Tashkent, Uzbekistan
	Panel Discussion (40 minutes)
	The panelists will address the following indicative questions:
	Q1: What are emerging global supply chain trends, and how do they impact logistics development along CAREC Corridors?
	Q2: How can multimodal transport networks contribute to sustainable and resilient regional connectivity in the CAREC region?
	Q3: What is the current state of digitalization and smart mobility along CAREC Corridors, and what measures are required to advance regional digital connectivity?

Panelist 1: Mr. Kassymkhan Kapparov, President, Central Asia International Business Council (CAIBC), Kazakhstan

Panelist 2: Mr. Antonio G. Zaballos, Director, Digital Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB

Panelist 3: Prof. Irakli Danelia, Head of Central Asia and Caucasus Region Development, MAERSK

Q&A and Discussion (20 minutes)

10-30 – 10:45

Group Photo and Coffee Break

10:45 – 12:30

Session 2: Fostering Regional Connectivity: Innovative Approaches and Solutions

Moderator:

Mr. Hiroaki Yamaguchi,
Senior Director
Transport Sector
Office, Sectors
Department 1,
ADB

This session will identify barriers to improving regional connectivity, including regulatory fragmentation, infrastructure gaps, and climate risks, while exploring the transformative role of digital infrastructure and innovative approaches and solutions. The session will also demonstrate regional success stories in customs clearance, digital freight platforms, GPS-based monitoring, among others.

Panel Discussion: Overcoming Challenges and Fostering Regional Connectivity (30 minutes)

The panelists will address the following indicative questions:

Q1: What are the principal regulatory and policy improvements needed to ensure seamless regional connectivity?

Q2: How can we bridge infrastructure gaps along key transport and trade corridors to enhance efficiency, particularly on Corridor 2?

Q3: What climate-induced risks threaten the sustainability of regional connectivity and infrastructure? What role can a well-coordinated regional policy planning play in mitigating the risk?

Q4: How can digital infrastructure and transformative technological solutions facilitate efficient trade and logistics across the CAREC region?

Panelist 1: Ms. Erdenetuya Darinchuluun, Director General for Trade and Economic Cooperation Policy Department, Ministry of Economy and Development, Mongolia

Panelist 2: Dr. George Doborjginidze, Chairman, Georgian Logistics Association

Panelist 3: Mr. Alim Khamitov, CEO, MOST Ventures & Managing Partner MOST Holdings, Kazakhstan

Panelist 4: Mr. Syed Shakeel Shah, Member Customs Operations, Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), Pakistan

Panelist 5: Mr. Hong Wei, Head of Client Relations, Public Sector Clients Department, Region 2, AIIB

Showcasing Regional/Global Success Stories – Presentation by Companies/Solution Providers (15 minutes each)

- Digital Transformation of Customs Administration: New Services, Convenience, and Increased Trade Efficiency by Mr. Azat Biymyrzaev, Chief Inspector of the Department for Project Implementation and Trade Facilitation, State Customs Service, Kyrgyz Republic
- Core Solution for the National Digital Transport & Logistics Platform - serving intermodal cargo transportation and cross-border information exchange in transport corridors, Presentation by Mr. Siarhei Voinich, CEO of CompleteSoft LLC, Germany
- Practical Approaches to Digitalization and Standardization of Business Processes in the National Segments of the Middle Corridor, Presentation by Mr. Torsten Thieme, CEO, ThiemeBieg & Associates GmbH, Germany
- LogoPark - a Catalyst for Cross-border Trade and Regional Integration, Presentation by Mr. Almas Chukin, Managing Partner, Visor, Kazakhstan

Q&A and Discussion (15 minutes)

12:30 – 13:30

Lunch @ Legend Restaurant

13:30 – 14:45

Session 3: Public-Private Partnership for Infrastructure Development and Regional Connectivity

This session will explore innovative PPP models with public benefits, drawing on global and regional best practices. A dedicated presentation will spotlight bankable PPP projects along CAREC Corridors.

Moderator

Ms. Shirin
Jamshidi, Senior
Investment
Director, Alma
Capital, Kyrgyz
Republic

Topic: Highlighting innovative PPP Models – Global and Regional Best Practices (15 minutes)

Lead Speaker: Mr. Ziad-Alexandre Hayek, President, World Association of PPP Units and Professionals, Switzerland

**PPP Projects along CAREC Corridors
(10 minutes each)**

Presented by:

- Ms. Mibo Ahn, Market Development Advisory Specialist, OMDP, ADB
- Mr. Shuaib M. Kamili, Market Development Advisory Specialist, OMDP, ADB (virtual)

PPP Projects:

1. Almaty–Issyk-Kul Alternative Road Project
2. Almaty–Bishkek E-Bus Project
3. Green Data Center PPP Project – the Kyrgyz Republic

Q&A and Discussion (20 minutes)

14:45 – 15:00

Coffee Break

15:00 – 16:50

Moderator

Mr. Rafal Trepka,
VP, Business
Development CIS
& Caucasus,
Mastercard

Session 4: Integrating the Private Sector into Regional Value Chains

This session will discuss key growth sectors—such as E-commerce, Agro-tech, and SMEs—that offer promising investment opportunities for private businesses, along with focusing on risk mitigation strategies in improving access to finance and regional digital payment systems, to foster cross-border expansion. The session will also showcase success stories of local companies scaling regionally.

Topic 1: Key Growth Sectors and Emerging Investment Opportunities for the Private Sector (15 minutes)

Lead Speaker: Mr. David Tsiklauri, Senior Advisor, PMCG – LLC Policy and Management Consulting Group, Georgia

Topic 2: CAREC Innovation and Venture Investment (CIVIC) Facility – Supporting Startup Ecosystem (15 minutes)

Lead Speaker: Mr. Daniel Hersson, Senior Investment Specialist, Private Sector Operations Department (PSOD), ADB

Panel Discussion: Mapping Risks for the Private Sector and Identifying Risk Mitigation Approaches (25 minutes)

The panelist will address the following indicative questions:

Q1: What are the key challenges and risks the private sector confronts while investing in these areas (E-commerce, AgroTech, SMEs), and how can those be mitigated?

Q2: How can access to finance be enhanced for SMEs in the context of regional trade and digital transformation?

Q3: How can regional digital payment systems facilitate cross-border trade, and what are major regulatory and infrastructure barriers?

Q4: How can regional cooperation harness development of startups and digital ecosystems?

Panelist 1: Ms. Tatyana Bystrushkina, Executive Director, American Chamber of Commerce in Uzbekistan

Panelist 2: Mr. Babanyyaz Yalakov, Deputy Minister of Finance and Economy, Turkmenistan

Panelist 3: Mr. Daniel Abdyl daev, Chief, Investment Officer, Accelerate Prosperity, Kyrgyz Republic

Panelist 4: Mr. Alibek Sultangazin, Deputy CEO – Chief Investment Officer (VC), BGlobal Ventures, Kazakhstan

Showcasing Success Stories: Local companies scaling across CAREC borders in sectors such as:
(08 minutes each)

- E-Commerce - Powering Digital Trade Without Borders: The Future of e-Cross-Border Trade in the CAREC Region”, by Mr. Asif Pervez, Founder & CEO, Galaxefi, Pakistan
- Role of High Technology Park in the Innovation Ecosystem of the Kyrgyz Republic, by Mr. Chubak Temirov, Deputy Director of the High Technology Park
- Smart Irrigation Infrastructure for a Thirsty Region, by Mr. Zhoodar Saydilkhan, Founder of United Concrete Canvas, Kyrgyz Republic
- Pioneering Smart Trade through AI and E-Commerce, by Dr. Mohsin Tanveer, Director, Beecons International, Pakistan
- Regional Cooperation in Sustainable Tourism, by Ms. Umeda Kurbanbekova, CEO and Founder, Javohir Tours, Tajikistan

Q&A and Discussion (10 minutes)

16:50 – 17:00

First Day Wrap Up and Briefing on the Second Day

18:00 – 19:30

Dinner @ Legend Restaurant, hosted by ADB

Day 2 | 19 November, Wednesday

Spotlighting the Kyrgyz Republic: Advancing its Regional Potential

Venue: Grand Ballroom

07:30 – 08:30

Registration

Emcee: Ms. Lyaziza Sabyrova, Regional Head, Regional Cooperation and Integration, CWRD, ADB

09:00 – 09:15

Opening Session

09:00 – 09:08

Keynote Address

Mr. Adylbek Kasymaliev
Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Head of the Presidential Administration of the Kyrgyz Republic

09:08 – 09:15

Opening Address

Mr. Masato Kanda
President
Asian Development Bank (ADB)

09-15 – 10:30

Session 1: Regional Logistics Hub – Spotlighting the Kyrgyz Republic

This session will highlight the growing focus of the Kyrgyz Republic on capitalizing its geographic location to serve as a regional logistics hub, particularly highlighting key projects, including the China-Kyrgyz Republic-Uzbekistan (CKU) railway and the North-South highway, and identify potential projects on CAREC Corridors.

Topic: Regional Logistics Potential of the Kyrgyz Republic (20 min)

Lead Speaker and Moderator: Mr. Bakyt Sydykov, Minister, Ministry of Economy and Commerce, Kyrgyz Republic

Panel Discussion (30 min)

Panelist 1: Mr. Yingming Yang, Vice-President (South, Central and West Asia), Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Panelist 2: Mr. Bazaraliev Beknazar Tokosunovich, Deputy Minister of Transport and Communications, Kyrgyz Republic

Panelist 3: Mr. Aibek Kurenkeev, President of the E-commerce Association, Kyrgyz Republic

Panelist 4: Mr. Muktar Dzhumaliev, Former Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kyrgyz Republic to the WTO, USA, EU & UNESCO

Q&A and Discussion (25 minutes)

10:30 – 10:45

Coffee Break

10:45 – 12:00

Session 2: Digitalization and Smart Logistics in the Kyrgyz Republic
(Organized by CAREC Institute)

Moderator

Mr. Masahiro
Nishimura
Unit Head, Project
Administration,
Transport Sector
Office, Sectors
Department 1,
ADB

The session will explore how digital solutions can transform transport and trade systems into efficient, transparent, and competitive logistics networks. Panelists will discuss current reforms in e-customs, single-window operations, and data interoperability, alongside private-sector innovations that enable smarter freight management. The dialogue will also reflect remaining barriers—such as digital integration gaps, transit fees, and border-level practices—that affect competitiveness.

Panel Discussion (50 min)

Panelist 1: Mr. Bekzhan Rysmendeev, Deputy Minister of Transport and Communications of Kyrgyz Republic

Panelist 2: Mr. Turkmen Erkinbaevich Bootaev, Honorary Chairman of AIRTO KR

Panelist 3: Ms. Nurgul Akimova, Digital Transformation Expert, Kyrgyz State Law Academy, Bishkek

Panelist 4: Mr. Tilek Asanvo Director of Single Window Center of Kyrgyz Republic

Panelist 5: Mr. Valery Virkoski, Head of Laboratory of Digitalization of Transport and Logistics Processes, Azerbaijan

Panelist 6: Mr. Ghulam Samad, Chief, Research Division, CAREC Institute.

The panel will address the following key questions:

Question 1: What are the key digital infrastructure and policy enablers needed to enhance Kyrgyz Republic's logistics competitiveness and integration within CAREC corridors?

Question 2: How can digitalization—through single-window systems, customs data exchange, and e-transit platforms—help reduce bottlenecks such as border delays, additional brokerage costs, and transit fees, while maintaining transparency and security?

Question 3: What roles can the private sector, particularly logistics service providers and platforms like AIRTO-KR, play in accelerating smart logistics adoption and improving cross-border interoperability?

Question 4: How can Kyrgyz Republic's digitalization efforts serve as a model for other CAREC members, and what regional mechanisms (e.g., harmonized standards, data sharing protocols, or permit systems like QTTA) can sustain momentum for corridor-wide smart logistics?

Question 5: Based on the recent CAREC Institute study, on E-logistics and Digitalization of CAREC Corridors, what are the key challenges and policy recommendations highlighted for Central Asia but particularly for Kyrgyz Republic?

Q&A and Discussion (25 minutes)

12:00 – 13:15	Lunch @ Legend Restaurant
13:15 – 13:40	Session 3: Business Partnerships Signing
Facilitator	Witnessed by
Khalid Umar, Regional Cooperation Specialist, ADB	Mr. Bakyt Sydykov, Minister, Ministry of Economy and Commerce, Kyrgyz Republic
	Mr. Yingming Yang, Vice-President (South, Central and West Asia), Asian Development Bank (ADB)
	MOUs between:
	1. Shenzhen Cross-Border E-Commerce Association (SZCBEA), PRC, and Gujranwala Business Centre (GBC), Pakistan
	2. Xinjiang Xinghongbo Industrial Co., Ltd, PRC, and Favran Logistics, Tajikistan
	3. Chui Region Destination, Kyrgyz Republic, and Javohir LLC, Tajikistan
	4. Central Asia International Business Council (CAIBC), Kazakhstan and Global Business Alliance (GBA), Pakistan

5. Agreement of Joint Cooperation between ADB, Stichting Wageningen Research, Wageningen University & Research, and CAREC Agricultural Universities

13:40 – 15:45

Session 4: B2B and B2G Matchmaking: Connecting Investors, Businesses and Governments

Facilitator

Khalid Umar,
Regional
Cooperation
Specialist, ADB

- **B2B and B2G Meetings** – Facilitated meetings between investors, businesses and governments to explore joint ventures, financing and procurement opportunities.
- **Tour de Exhibition Booths** – demonstration of the latest technologies in smart ports, cargo tracking, paperless trade solutions, fintech, E-commerce, sustainable tourism, agri-tech.

15:45 – 16:00

Coffee and Networking