

Statement by Mr. Charymuhammet Shallyev
Director, CAREC Institute
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Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program
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Thank you, Chair.

Dear Colleagues,

It is a great honor to join my first CAREC Ministerial Conference as the Director of the CAREC Institute. I am delighted to be here today.

We are meeting at a time when global economic relations are undergoing profound transformation. The convergence of emerging technologies, deeper financial interconnectedness, and a re-examination of traditional models of globalization is reshaping the world economy. Yet, globalization is also facing strong headwinds—from geopolitical tensions to growing uncertainty in trade and investment flows. In such an environment, the case for *stronger regional cooperation* across the CAREC region is more compelling than ever. It is essential not only for short-term efficiency, but for long-term resilience, stability, and shared prosperity.

The spirit of this Ministerial Conference is to reaffirm our collective commitment to a vision of integrated, sustainable, and inclusive growth. As the knowledge support arm of the CAREC Program, please allow me to highlight three key messages.

First, the CAREC Institute has made significant and steady progress over the past year.

Driven by the priorities of our member countries, we have conducted research and capacity-building initiatives in strategically important areas—including transport corridors, containerization, renewable energy investment, artificial intelligence, trade facilitation, and broader economic monitoring.

We have actively leveraged opportunities arising from high-level international and national events to amplify the voice of the CAREC region. In parallel, we have expanded our partnerships with development partners, financial institutions, universities, and research organizations, strengthening our role as a regional knowledge hub.

Importantly, we have deepened our support for member countries by producing more demand-driven knowledge products and enhancing our training programs. These efforts contribute directly to building institutional capacity, improving policy readiness, and strengthening the region's ability to absorb and apply new knowledge.

Second, the CAREC Institute has charted a clear and practical path for its future development.

A major milestone this year has been the formulation of our new five-year strategy. This strategy answers three essential questions: *Why does the CAREC Institute exist? What should we do? And how will we deliver it?*

The new strategy reaffirms our mandate: to enhance the quality, effectiveness, and impact of the CAREC Program. To achieve this, we will:

- Focus strategically on selected research areas where we can build long-term excellence.
- Offer broader and more adaptive capacity-building programs that strengthen institutions, support policy reforms, and equip member countries with future-ready skills.
- Reinforce our governance structure, deepen engagement with member countries, strengthen operational processes, build a stronger institutional brand, and diversify our financial foundation.

By doing so, we will evolve into a more agile, insightful, and impactful regional knowledge institution—one that not only produces ideas but helps implement them.

Third, the CAREC Institute is approaching an important moment in just ten days.

From 1 to 5 December 2025, we will host CAREC Institute Week, featuring three major flagship events:

- The inaugural Tianshan Forum for Central Asia Economic Cooperation
- The 9th CAREC Think Tank Development Forum
- The first Leadership Training Program

Under the theme “Unlocking Connectivity and Investment in Central Asia,” the Tianshan Forum will serve as a premier platform for high-level policy dialogue, knowledge exchange, and partnership building. We are honored to welcome nearly 10 Ministers and Vice Ministers, representatives from 20 international organizations—half represented by senior management—as well as major policy and commercial banks, investment corporations, leading private firms, distinguished scientists, and a Nobel laureate.

This will be a milestone event for the region. We warmly invite all of you to participate or follow the discussions closely.

Distinguished Colleagues,

Regional cooperation remains fundamental to rebalancing growth, strengthening resilience, and opening new pathways for shared prosperity. As global uncertainty grows, the value of regional knowledge, collective problem-solving, and coordinated policy responses becomes even more important.

The CAREC Institute remains committed to supporting our member countries during this great process.

Thank you.