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National Focal Points' Meeting

**Заседание Национальных
координаторов**

17 March 2026 | Virtual (14.00 - 16.00 Manila Time)

17 марта 2026 года | виртуально (14.00 - 16.00 по времени Манилы)



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Action Plan for MOUs signed at the 24th Ministerial Conference





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MOUs signed at the CAREC 24th MC and Milestones for 2026–2027

CARTIF Declaration



- Completed zero round of negotiations
- Fully operational negotiating Working Groups
- Strengthened national negotiating capacity
- Revised draft CARTIF Framework Agreement and initial protocols

CAREC Digital Corridor



- Feasibility Study completed
- MOU signing of additional countries

Regional Tourism Development



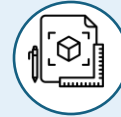
- Digital and AI Readiness of tourism platforms.
- Developed concepts of pipeline of digital and sustainable tourism projects.

Sustainable Cross-border Tourism Cluster (KGZ and UZB)



- Preliminary results of Master Plan presented

CAREC Advanced Transit System and Information Common Exchange



- Signing of multicountry framework agreement
- Onboarding and integration of new countries joined the CATS/ICE pilot
- Development of CATS/ICE 3 prototype and its live testing

KTNET E-Conformity Certificates



- Diagnostics and regulatory assessment of certificate procedure
- Pilot testing of e-certification and draft framework of mutual recognition in testing certificates of selected products

CAREC Innovation and Venture Investment Catalyst Facility (CIVIC)



- Capacity-building for early-stage venture capital and emerging fund managers and startup ecosystem builders
- Diagnostics and advisory to establishment of fund of funds

CAREC Agriculture Universities' Network



- Regional Projects proposals launched.
- Exchange programs in research and non-degree programs launched.



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Key CAREC events in 2026





Key CAREC events in 2026

Side events (all TBC)

CAREC National Focal Points' Consultation Meeting

17 March 2026, 14.00-16.00 MNL time, Virtual

- Consultation meeting to discuss focus of 2026-2027, major deliverables and action plans of MOUs signed at the CAREC 24th MC

CAREC High-level Session at the ADB Annual Meeting

5 May 2026, Samarkand, Uzbekistan

- CAREC and the Global Silk Road: Connecting Regions through Tourism
- RCI featured prominently in the Annual Meeting

Senior Officials Meeting (SOM)

11-12 June 2026, UB, Mongolia

- SOM is an institutional event of the CAREC Program to discuss progress achieved across sectors and to shape the agenda and deliverables for the 25th Ministerial Conference

CAREC Ministerial Conference

15 September 2026 (TBC)*, UB, Mongolia

- For MC 2026, the CAREC Secretariat is working with sector focals to prepare tangible deliverables

CAREC Business Forum

16-17 September 2026 (TBC), UB, Mongolia

- CAREC Business Forum to showcase investment opportunities across the CAREC region, especially in clean energy, critical minerals, transport, smart logistics, and resilient infrastructure.

CAREC Development Partners' Forum

14 or 18 September 2026 (TBC), UB, Mongolia

- CAREC Development Partners Forum to strengthen all DPs' role in CAREC and identify key flagship joint projects.

Sessions on transport and digital connectivity, trade and investment relevant to CAREC

CAREC Institute's Think Tank Forum

Asian Tourism Forum (hosted by MON Gov)

Capital Markets Development Forum

RKSI's knowledge sharing event

*Dates are subject to MON Government confirmation



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Other Planned Events for H1 of 2026

| Date | Event | Venue |
|-------------------|--|-------------------|
| 4 March | 1 st Inception Meeting (CAREC Caspian Green Energy Corridor Project) | Baku, AZE |
| March (postponed) | 5 th Meeting of CAREC Climate Change Working Group | Tashkent, UZB |
| 11 March | CARTIF Partnership Kick-off Meeting | virtual |
| 11-12 March | Inaugural Meeting of the CAREC Road Working Group | Urumqi, PRC |
| 1-3 April | 4 th CAREC Green Skills Working Group Meeting | Istanbul, Türkiye |
| 7-8 April | CAREC Technology Forum | Bishkek, KGZ |
| 22 April | ESCAP High-Level Dialogue on Sustainable and Digital Trade and Transport Corridors in Asia and the Pacific (featuring CAREC) | Baku, AZE |
| 9-10 April | CAREC Transmission and Interconnectivity Workshop | Tashkent, UZB |
| 5-6 May | CARTIF Partnership: 1 st Working Group Meeting | virtual |
| 19-20 May | CATS 7 th Technical Working Group Meeting | Tbilisi, Georgia |
| May (TBC) | Kick-off Meeting: CAREC Pilot Project on Electronic Exchange and Mutual Recognition of Conformity Certificates | Seoul, ROK |
| 18 May | 1 st Meeting of the CAREC Smart Mobility Working Group | ADB Headquarters |
| 3 June | CARTIF Partnership 2 nd Working Group Meeting | Ulaanbaatar, MON |
| 4-5 June | Joint Meeting of the CAREC Regional Trade Group and Customs Cooperation Committee | Ulaanbaatar, MON |
| 4-5 June (TBC) | 10 th Railway Working Group Meeting | Ulaanbaatar, MON |
| 8-9 June (TBC) | 23 rd Transport Sector Coordinating Committee Meeting | Ulaanbaatar, MON |
| 9-10 June (TBC) | 2 nd Meeting of the CAREC Agriculture and Food Security Working Group | Tashkent, UZB |



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Selected CAREC Pipeline Projects and New Initiatives





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Indicative ADB regional project pipelines in CAREC countries, 2026-2029, \$6.5 billion

AZE: Railway Signalling and Electrification (Bilajari-Yalama and Baku-Böyük Kəşik)

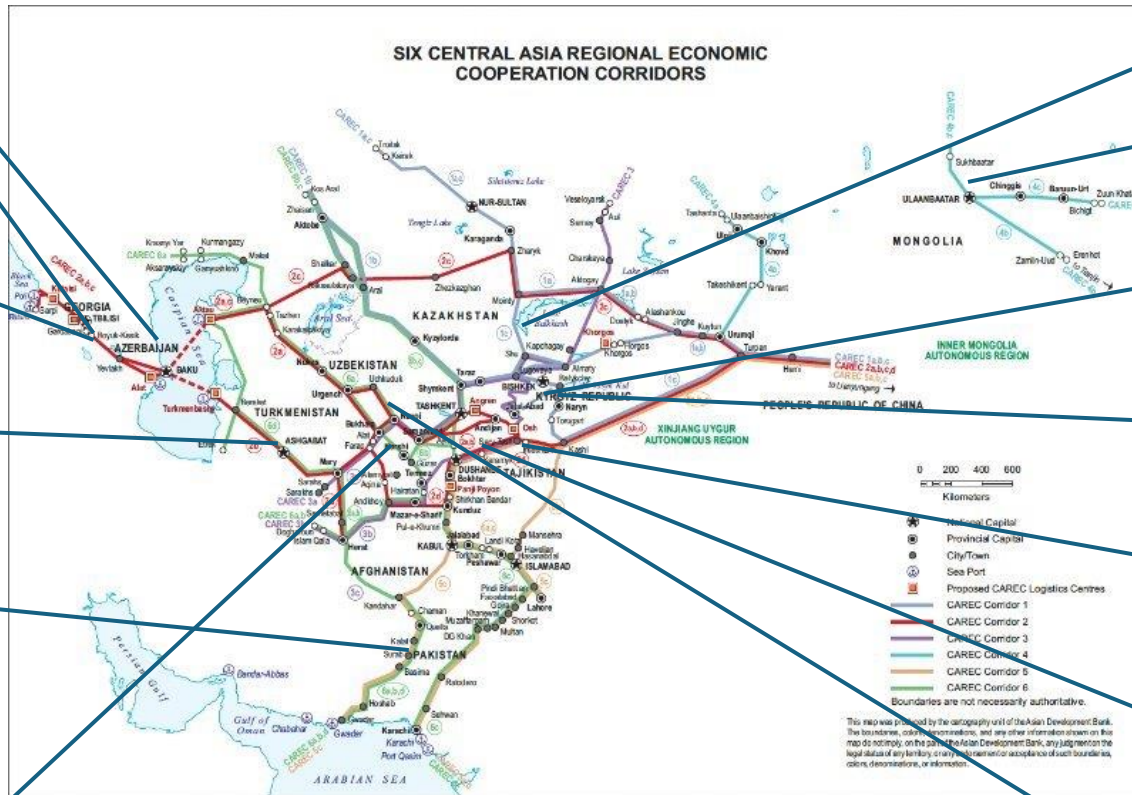
GEO: Tbilisi Bypass Project (Lots 4 and 5)

GEO-AZE: Joint Border Crossing Point Development

TKM: TransTurkmenistan Railway Modernization Project

PAK: Enhancing Trade, Logistics and Private Sector Development Program

UZB: CAREC Corridors 2 and 6 Road Modernization Program, Tranche 1 (Navoi-Karman Bypass, 147-181.5 km section of M37 Road)



KAZ: CAREC Corridors 3 and 6 Construction and Operation of Turkistan Oblast Highway (Saryagash Bypass) Project

MON: CAREC Road Transport and Logistics Development

KGZ: Kambarata-1 Hydropower Plant Project

KGZ: Skills Development System Transformation Program

TAJ: Enhancing Sustainability: Financing for the Rogun Hydropower Project

TAJ: Integrated Regional Health Security and Primary Healthcare Services Project

UZB: Modernization of Vocational Education for Green Economy Project



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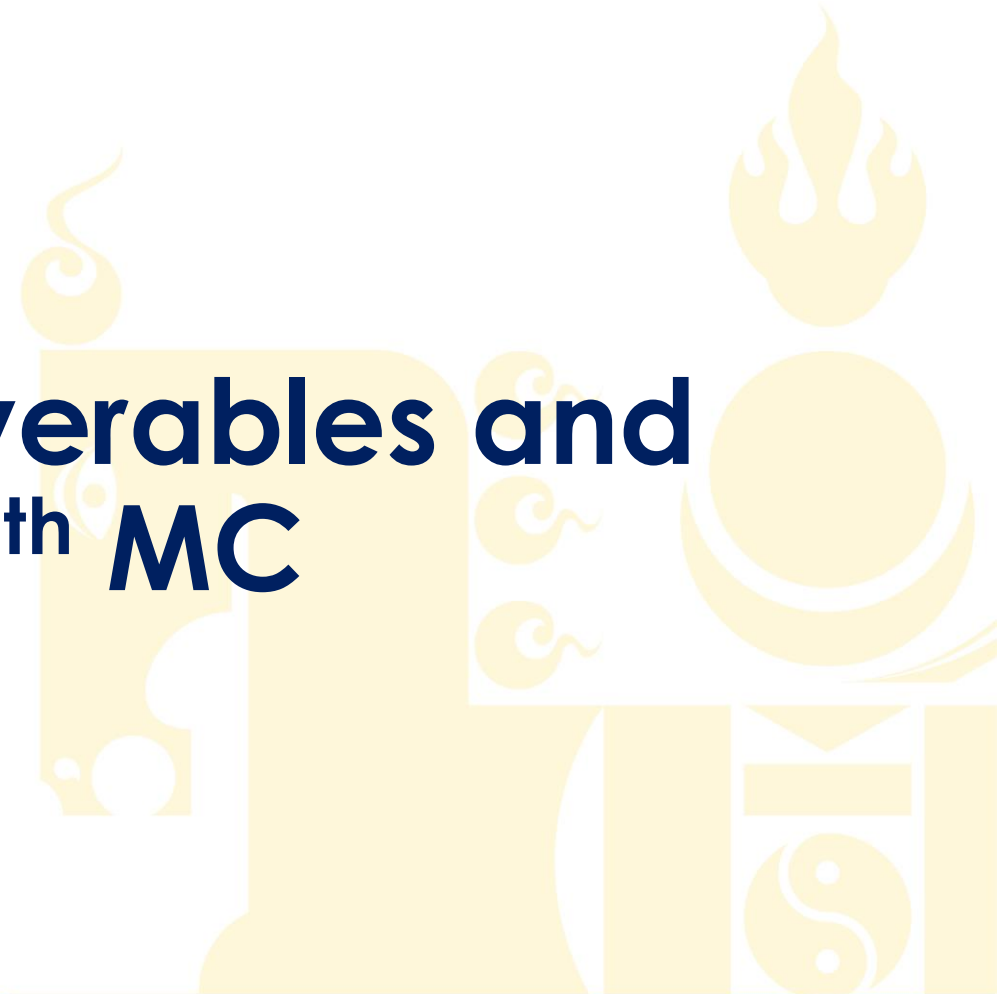
Emerging Areas for Investments in CAREC region, 2027-2030

- ❖ **Critical Minerals Value Chain Development**
 - investment pipeline for critical minerals processing and trade along CAREC Corridors
- ❖ **Transformation of CAREC transport corridors into economic corridors with multi-sector projects**
 - agriculture and food value chain development
 - skills development
 - logistics hubs, multi-modal connection, and feeder access development
 - urban and water infrastructure services development
 - CAREC Corridor 2 connecting more economies
- ❖ **Digital Corridor Development**
 - digital investment projects along CAREC Corridors
- ❖ **Policy-based programs to support reforms and institutional capacity development in various areas (disaster risk management, trade and diversification, regional public goods)**



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Preliminary List of Deliverables and Initiatives for 25th MC





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Key Initiatives under the CAREC Program for 2026

Sectoral

- **BUILD Facility** Action Plan to launch feasibility studies to modernize and/or develop joint BCPs.
- **CAREC Transport Model** to support strategic planning, investment prioritization, and resilience-building.
- **Carbon Markets Readiness Plan** to unlock private capital for emissions reductions.
- **Capital Markets Development Forum** and other initiatives to deepen regional financial integration.
- **Food Security Strategic Action Plan** to identify investment opportunities for strengthened food security in CAREC.
- **Regional Financing Facility for Critical Minerals Value Chains** for development of regional projects.

Institutional

- **Türkiye's membership:** Formal request received from the Government of Türkiye. Secretariate is waiting for non-objection letters from existing member countries.
- **Nomadic Tourism:** to showcase touristic attractions along the nomadic CAREC countries.
- **CAREC Project Dashboard** which is an interactive subsite on CAREC ongoing projects.
- **High-Level Development Partners Forum** for a more coordinated approach to support CAREC members' regional priorities.



CAREC Communications Plan for 2026 is being developed

CAREC Connect: Quarterly updates and stories from the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program



2025 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2025, the CAREC Program delivered tangible results while laying the foundation for future growth across priority sectors. Regional cooperation is supported by robust project pipeline—with new financing facilities, regional strategies, and mainstreaming regional public goods in country programming—with an estimate of up to \$10 billion investments with support from ADB through 2030. Achievements spanned infrastructure connectivity, energy cooperation, trade facilitation, tourism development, economic corridors, water, health, education, and financial stability, supported by investment projects, policy dialogues, and capacity-building. These were reinforced through crosscutting initiatives on gender, climate change, disaster risk management, innovation and digital transformation. Overall, CAREC strengthened collaboration, project quality, and results monitoring, supported by improved communications tools and continued enhancements to the Program Results Framework aligned with CAREC 2030 priorities. [Read more.](#)

HIGHLIGHTS FROM Q4 2025 EVENTS

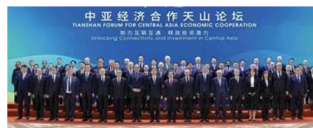
Advancing regional cooperation for a green and digital CAREC

At the 24th CAREC Ministerial Conference held on 20 November in Bishkek, ADB President Masato Kanda announced plans to invest over \$10 billion through 2030 to strengthen regional integration in the CAREC region. Ministers endorsed the Bishkek Declaration to launch negotiations on trade and investment facilitation. The CAREC Business Forum, stressed the private sector's role in shaping a connected region with VP Yingming Yang reaffirming ADB's commitment to engaging with the private sector, particularly small and medium enterprises. The Country Chair, represented by Kyrgyz Minister of Economy and Commerce Bakyt Sydykov emphasized the need for regional cooperation for advancing regulatory reforms and infrastructure development.



Reaffirming commitment to regional cooperation

At the inaugural Tianshan Forum for Central Asia Economic Cooperation and the 9th CAREC Think Tank Development Forum held on 1-3 December in Urumqi, PRC, VP Yingming Yang underscored ADB's commitment to regional cooperation and sustainable development across the CAREC region. VP Yang also met with the PRC's Minister of Finance and ADB Governor Lan Fo'an, Pakistan's Federal Minister of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary, and representatives from international financial institutions, the private sector, and academia attending the Forums.



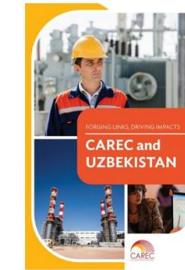
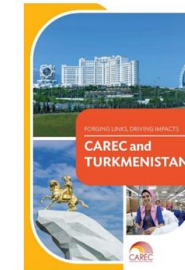
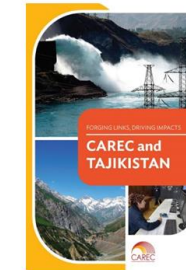
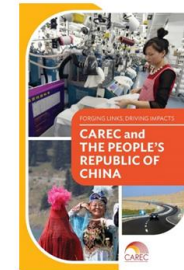
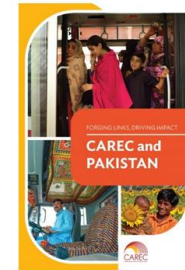
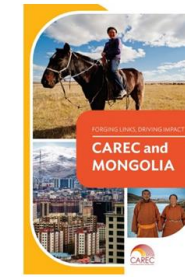
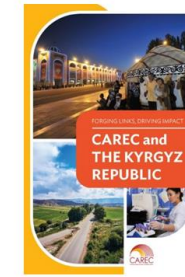
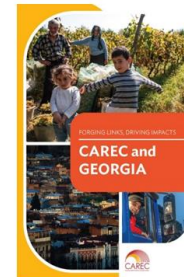
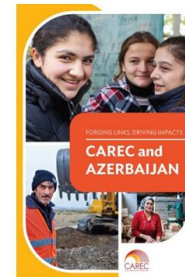
Strengthening partnerships for regional progress

The CAREC Development Partners' Retreat on 21 November in Bishkek provided a platform for development partners to discuss concrete actions for stronger collaboration, including building a regional project pipeline, enhancing project monitoring and evaluation, and mobilizing resources. Partners also explored ways to enhance institutional and knowledge coordination, including joint knowledge products and plans to commemorate CAREC's 25th anniversary in 2026.



IMPACT STORIES

These stories highlight ADB-supported projects across the CAREC region, showing how investments in transport, trade, energy, and economic corridor development, among many others, are strengthening economies, enhancing livelihoods, and improving connectivity.



VISUAL SNAPSHOTS

CAREC 24th Ministerial Conference

The video showcases CAREC's two-decade journey driving regional connectivity, green growth, and digital transformation, highlighting achievements and future pathways for an inclusive, sustainable region.

Risk-Layered Disaster Relief Finance Program

The video highlights ADB's risk-layered disaster relief finance program in the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan that introduces contingent disaster financing and disaster relief bonds to help countries strengthen resilience and respond quickly to natural disasters.

CAREC at 25: Mongolia Awaits

This video shows Mongolia's role as host of CAREC's 25th anniversary in 2026, emphasizing regional cooperation, cultural richness, and a shared vision for resilience and digital progress.



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CAREC 25th MC and CAREC Business Forum Concepts





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Online Poll: Voting for the theme and logo

Please vote before 15 March 2026 (use survey link below)

1
✓

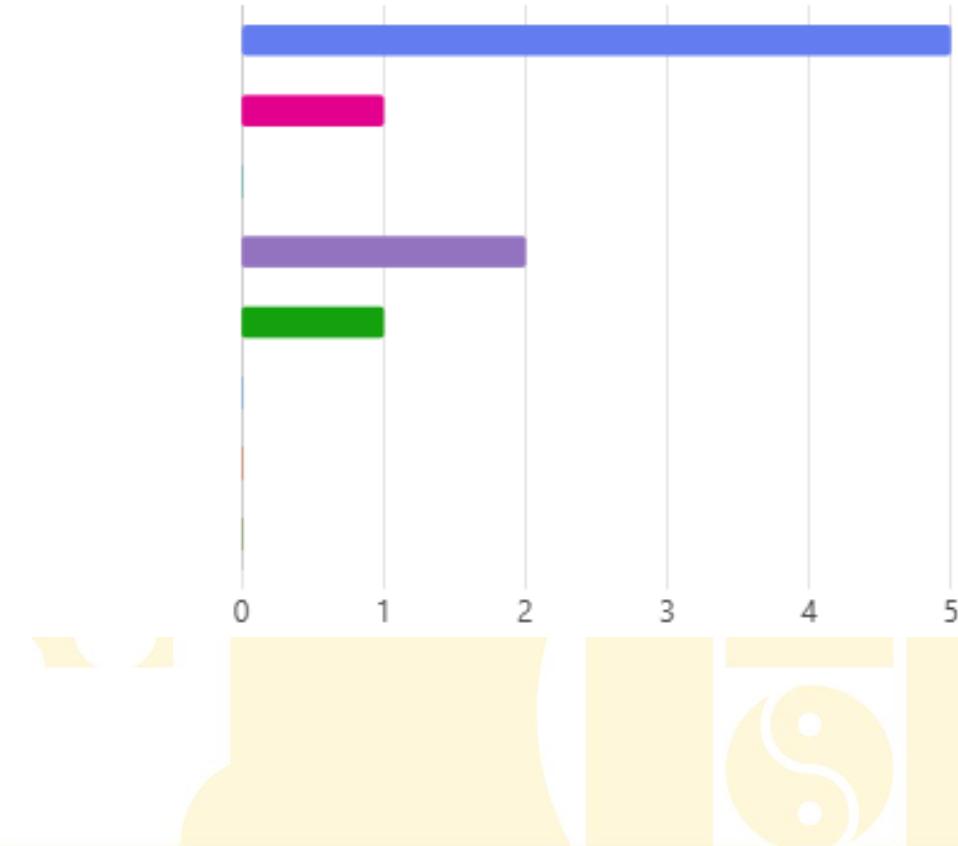


2. Theme for 25 Years of CAREC

✓

- 25 Years of Partnership: Shaping the Future Together
- 25 Years of Partnership: Building Trust, Delivering Impact
- From Shared Vision to Shared Future: 25 Years of Partnership
- Partnership in Action: 25 Years of Regional Progress
- CAREC@25: Cooperation That Delivers
- CAREC@25: A Region Connected. A Future Shared.
- 25 Years of Cooperation: Working Together for Shared Prosperity
- Other

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2



● Option 1 9

● Option 2 0



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Proposals for CAREC members' participation at the 25th Ministerial Conference

Enhancing country ownership and regional dialogues

- *How can we further encourage and support CAREC Ministers' active engagement at the MC? Should we continue to arrange bilateral discussions among countries and with development partners?*
- *How can we better leverage the session on CAREC Members' statements/ interventions at the MC?*
- *Can we request CAREC Ministers to moderate sessions and/or deliver presentations at selected CAREC topics/themes?*
- *Which initiatives or topics your delegation would like to focus in terms of MC discussion?*
- *Should we have a dedicated knowledge session in the afternoon of the MC?*



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Draft concept/theme of the CAREC Business Forum

Scaling Up Investment, Driving Infrastructure Transformation

Dates: September 2026 (2 days)
Location: Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Host/Co-organizers: Government of Mongolia;
ADB/CAREC Secretariat

Objectives:

- Showcase investment opportunities across the CAREC region, especially in clean energy, critical minerals, transport and smart logistic and resilient infrastructure
- Leverage Mongolia as a regional hub for infrastructure and connectivity
- Facilitate partnership (public-private, public-public) and mobilize capital into bankable projects.
- Advance regional policy dialogue on enabling environment, market integration, and green/ resilient infrastructure.

Day 1

Parallel Regional Plenary Sessions

Energy Investment Forum as a plenary session and an afternoon parallel sessions

Morning plenary

- Opening Session: Welcome and opening remarks,
- Keynote Address: Mobilizing capital across CAREC for smart and resilient infrastructure
- High-level panel discussion: Unlocking opportunities in clean energy, transport, smart logistics and resilient infrastructure

Afternoon Parallel Sessions - Sectors:

1. Energy & Interconnectivity – renewables, regional power trade, smart grids, PPP.
2. Transport & Smart Logistics – corridor development, multimodal integration.
3. Resilient Infrastructure – smart cities, sustainable urban systems.

Day 2

Mongolia (Host country session)

Morning parallel plenary sessions for sectors:

- Presentation: Mongolia's infrastructure & energy strategy
- Panel: Mongolia - energy exports, transit corridors, investment climate
- Investor roundtable: Pipeline projects, PPPs, role of private finance

Afternoon session: B2B/B2G
Matchmaking and Signing Ceremony



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Appendix

Background notes on new initiatives





Draft Action Plan on Implementation of MOUs signed at the CAREC 24th MC

| MOU | Proposed 25 th MC deliverables | Q1 2026 | Q2 2026 | Q3 2026 | Q4 2026 |
|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| CAREC Trade and Investment Facilitation Framework (CARTIF) Partnership Agreement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed zero round of negotiation • Fully operational negotiating Working Groups Strengthened national negotiating capacity • Revised CARTIF Framework Agreement and initial protocols | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary national consultations to assess readiness, priorities, and sensitivities • Mapping of WTO and other international commitments • Regional briefings for negotiators on CARTIF structure and process | Non-binding, technical discussions to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Familiarize countries with CARTIF architecture • Clarify scope and ambition • Identify areas of convergence and divergence • Agree on modalities, timelines, and work plans | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal establishment of Working Groups with agreed Terms of Reference • Transition to text-based negotiations using the zero-draft • Iterative revision of draft texts reflecting country inputs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed zero round of negotiations • Fully operational negotiating Working Groups • Strengthened national negotiating capacity • Revised draft CARTIF Framework Agreement and initial protocols |
| CAREC Digital Corridor | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of Final Feasibility Study at MC • Endorsement of recommendations and next steps • Final Master Feasibility Study with all annexure submitted | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated work plan and international coordination mechanism • Inception report | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country profile and baseline data compilation • Initial stakeholder mapping and interim results • Present interim progress report at SOM • MOU signing of additional countries | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two-day Digital Steering Committee Meeting with government counterparts to discuss key findings, route options, financial scenarios and governance options • First draft of feasibility study ready | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final draft circulated to member countries for written endorsement • Bilateral resolution of any outstanding country-specific concerns • Preparation for presentation material at MC |



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Draft Action Plan on Implementation of MOUs signed at the CAREC 24th MC

| MOU | Proposed 25 th MC deliverables | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
|--|---|--|--|--|---|
| CAREC Advanced Transit System and Information Common Exchange | Signing of multicountry framework agreement, onboarding and integration of new countries joined the CATS/ICE pilot, development of CATS/ICE 3 prototype and its live testing | Development of accession manual and guidelines | Onboarding of new pilot countries | CATS Prototype version 3 | Signing of multicountry framework agreement |
| CAREC Pilot on E-Conformity Certificates | Pilot testing of e-certification and draft framework of mutual recognition in testing certificates of selected products | Regulatory mapping and kick-off meeting to agree on the scope of the pilot | Diagnostic assessment and development of module for phase 1 | Development of pilot-testing model and capacity-building | Draft framework for mutual recognition and testing of e-certificate system |
| CAREC Innovation and Venture Investment Catalyst (CIVIC) Facility | Launch of the CIVIC Facility with capacity-building and technical advisory support delivered at regional and country level, potential link with ADB investment operations | Country-specific needs or gaps assessment and mapping of related investments | First phase of regional capacity building for emerging fund managers and development | Toolkit to inform policy initiatives on fund of funds structure and enabling startup/SME finance development | Tailored capacity-building and scoping for possible ADB investment projects or programs |



Draft Action Plan on Implementation of MOUs signed at the CAREC 24th MC

| MOU | Proposed 25th MC deliverables | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
|--|---|---|--|--|--|
| Regional Tourism Development | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Digital and AI Readiness of tourism platforms.• Tourism services diagnostics to assess needs and opportunities within the sector | Preparation for the CAREC Session on Tourism at ADB Annual Meeting | Analysis of Sustainable Tourism Policy Gaps | Implement capacity-building activities to enhance skills and competencies in the sector. | Project Pipeline – identify digital and sustainable concepts, develop investment pipeline concepts |
| Sustainable Cross-border Tourism Cluster between the Kyrgyz Republic and Uzbekistan | Preliminary results of Master Plan | Submission of Expression of Interests | Firm consultant recruitment | Presentation of preliminary results of development plan | Preparation of Implementation Roadmap |
| CAREC Green Skills Initiative/Agriculture Universities Network | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regional Projects proposals launched• Workshop on Micro-credentials in climate-smart agriculture delivered• Exchanges programs in research/non-degree programs | 2-3 regional cooperation proposals (academic, research, Regional Green Skills Center) | Regional capacity building/Training workshop on micro-credentials in climate - smart agriculture delivered | 1) exchange programs on research and non-degree programs among CAREC Agriculture Universities 2) research articles resulting from joint research initiatives | TA closing activities |



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Capital Markets Development Forum





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Institutionalizing CAREC Capital Market Develop Forum (CMDf)

CAREC CMDf would be a strategic instrument to deepen **regional cooperation**, mobilize **long-term finance**, and support **inclusive and sustainable growth** across CAREC economies.

The region needs **long-term local-currency financing** to support infrastructure, SME growth, climate transition, and disaster resilience. CMDf would help keep capital market development high on the policy agenda, alongside banking sector reforms.

The region has limited cross-border investment and cooperation. CMDf would help build regional dialogue among regulators, exchanges, and market participants toward greater harmonization, and eventually **cross-border capital flows**.

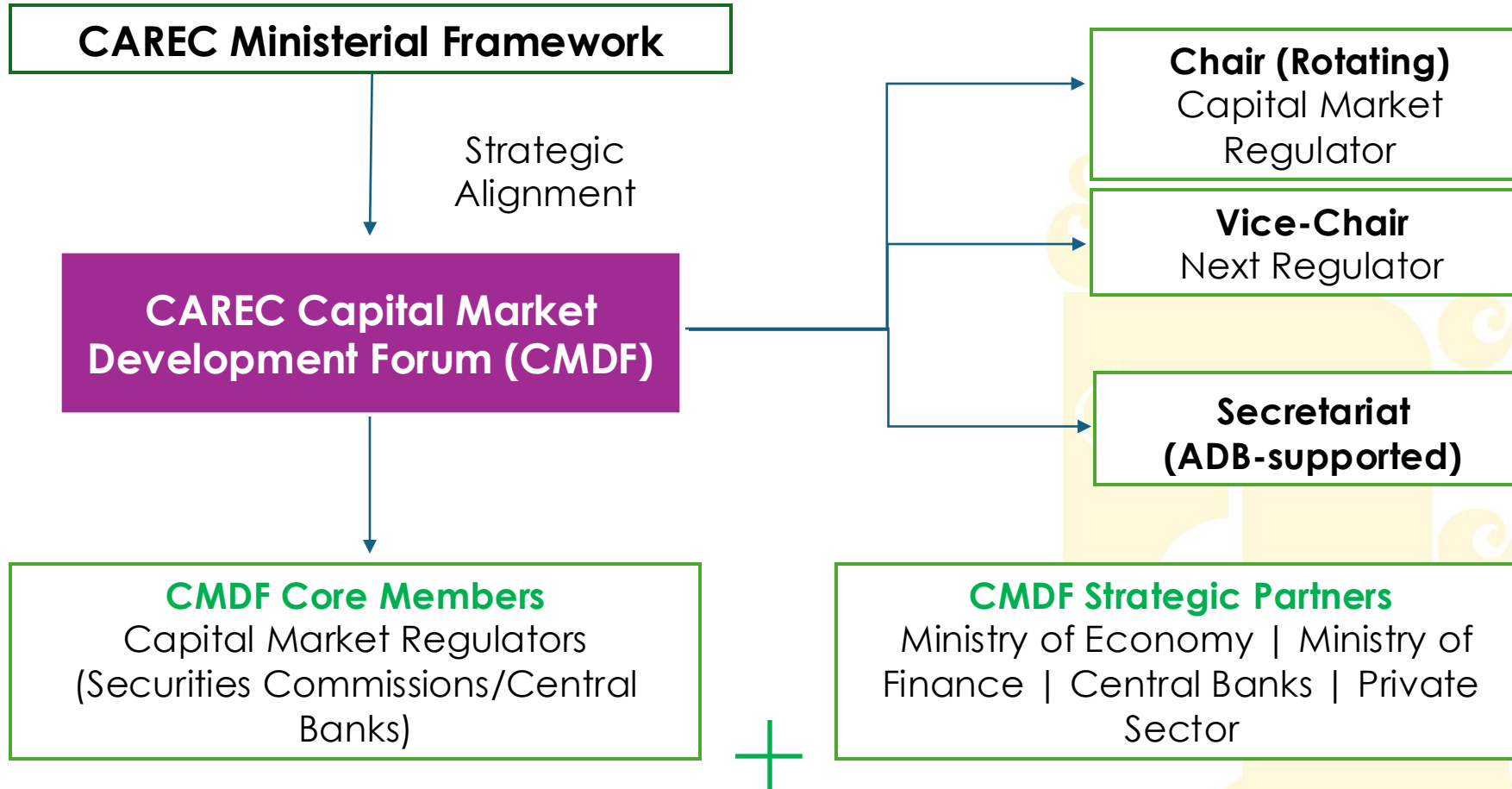
Many CAREC countries are now working on green finance frameworks, taxonomies. CMDf would allow countries to align approaches on **green and sustainable finance**, accelerate the development of sustainable capital markets.

A regional forum would create a **dedicated platform for peer learning and capacity building**, allowing more advanced markets to share practical experiences while helping less-developed markets avoid costly trial and error.

The region can leverage **ADB support** and regional development objective, through technical assistance, policy reforms, investment and lending operations. **Added value by connecting CMDf with ACMF & ABMF**



CMDF Governance Structure





ADB's CAREC Capital Markets Initiative (TA Support)

Regional TA (\$700,000 funding mobilized)

TA aims to lay the foundation for a regional sustainable capital market ecosystem in CAREC, enabling regional cooperation, harmonized standards, and cross-border investments.

Strategic Approach and Solution:

TA will deliver a set of regional initiatives focused on capital market development, policy alignment, and knowledge sharing.

Institutionalize the **CAREC Capital Market Development Forum (CMDF)** as a platform for regular dialogue among CAREC capital market regulators, ensuring structured agendas and sustained engagement to advance regional cooperation.

Develop (i) CAREC Sustainable Capital Market Roadmap; (ii) Regional Green Taxonomy; and (iii) Regional online platform to consolidate and disseminate data on capital market instruments

Capacity building and secondment programs.

Collaboration with the **ASEAN Capital Markets Forum (ACMF)** to showcase best practices, regulatory innovations, and sustainable finance frameworks from both regions.

Expected Outcome:

Enhanced development of bond markets, regional markets, and sustainable finance across the CAREC region.



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Carbon Markets Readiness Plan





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Carbon Markets Development



Climate Change Action Plan Area 3 – Low Carbon Growth

Supporting countries' readiness to build their key carbon market blocks and institutions.



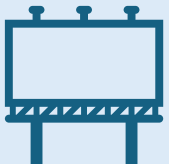
Carbon Market Readiness Plan

Development of a CAREC readiness plan based on gaps and needs assessment (key output of the 5th meeting of the Working Group on Climate Change).



Joint Statement of Intend or MOU for Regional Carbon Market Development

Commitment towards regional carbon market readiness.



Launch at 2026 CAREC Ministerial Conference in Mongolia (Sept)

Building momentum on global climate focus in the region.





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Regional Financing Facility for Critical Minerals Value Chains





Update on Policy Dialogue and Analytical Work in Central West Asia

Regional Initiatives

- RCI Conference, Oct. 2024
- CAREC CMM MOU
- Regional Copper / Lithium economic corridors
- South-South knowledge sharing
- OECD Responsible Minerals Conference

Uzbekistan

- Supporting resource efficiency in extractives; consultant being engaged
- Potential smelter upgrade project
- ADB Annual General Meeting Event on CMM

Pakistan

- Reko Diq subject to signing
- Public financial management to strengthen sustainability and fair benefit sharing
- Input into Country Partnership Strategy

Mongolia

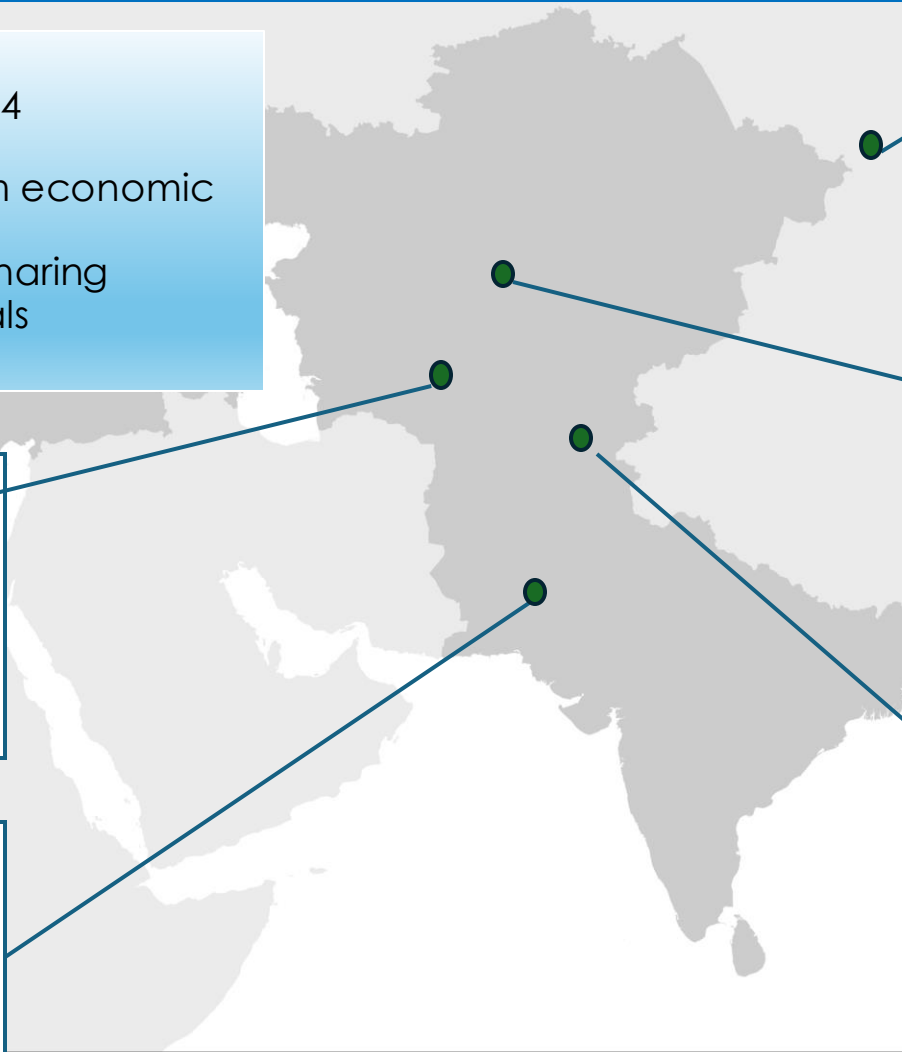
- Critical mineral strategy delivered
- Contribution to the Country Partnership Strategy
- Logistics study for Critical Minerals
- Clean energy supply for mine project

Kazakhstan

- Critical Minerals Strategy; consultants being engaged

Tajikistan

- Supported 2025 Dushanbe Investment Forum
- Engagement with Ministry of New Industries and Technology for EV battery recycling support





Launch of the CMM Financing Partnership Facility (CMM FPF) and Regional CMM Economic Corridors

Scaling Up Investments and Partnerships Across Regional CMM Economic Corridors

Critical Minerals-to-Manufacturing Financing Partnership Fund

Grant Window

→ **Contribution Agreements with Sovereign governments**

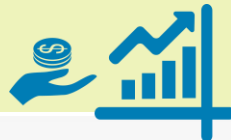
- CMM Trust Fund for Japan, Korea, UK
- Policy and Regulatory Reform
- Supply chain mapping and ESG studies
- Project preparation and due diligence



Catalytic Finance Window

→ **Framework Arrangements with Financing Partners**

- Project specific Co-financing
- Concessional Loans
- Risk-sharing instruments



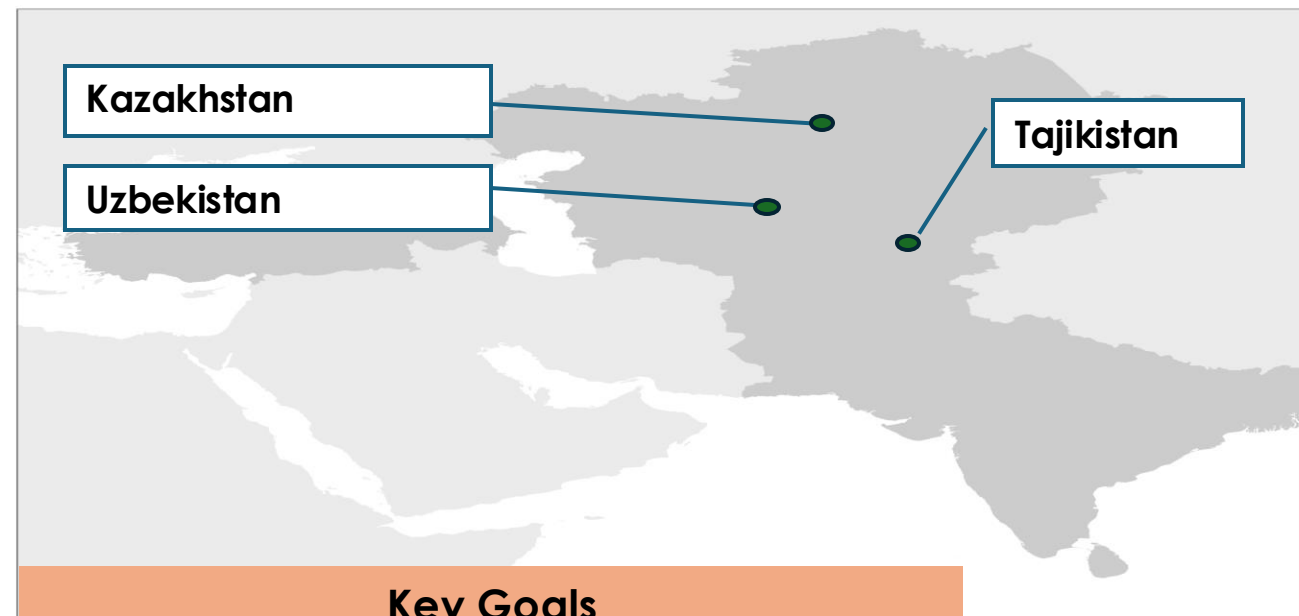
Main Financing Partners (TBC)

 JAPAN  KOREA  UK KEXIM JBIC K-SURE

⇒ **CMM FPF Launching Event** will be held on **3 May during 2026 AGM in Samarkand**

CAREC Regional Copper Economic Corridors

- Cross-border corridors linking upstream, midstream, downstream
- Aligned with Regional Framework of CAREC



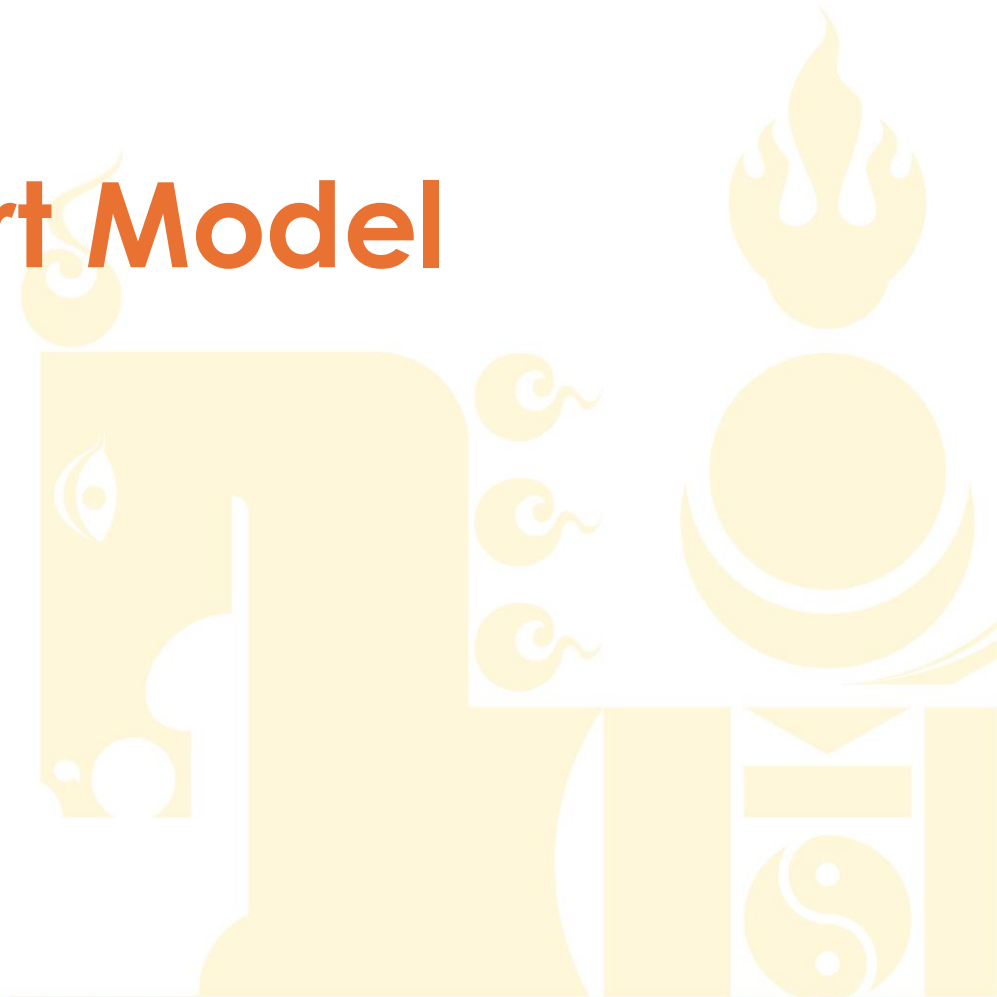
Key Goals

- Diversified and resilient supply chains
- Value-added manufacturing in DMCs
- Mobilization of large-scale private capital
- Reduced concentration and supply risks.



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CAREC Transport Model





MTR of CTS 2030 recommend:

- Deepen Institutional Collaboration and Future Planning
 - Develop a region-focused transport model to evaluate and measure impacts of investments in, and policies applied to, CAREC corridors covering all modes
- Strategic Needs Beyond 2030
 - Assess the validity of the current corridor network and determine if additions and adjustments are required based on the increasing demand for movement in the region
- Technical Activities of CAREC Institute
 - Inputs to the transport model for monitoring of freight flows and development of CAREC corridors



- Past models
 - ADB developed CUBE software-based models for (i) CAREC, (ii) SASEC, and (iii) wider pan-Asia by 2020
- Ongoing scoping study (January–April 2026)
 - Identification of the best-suited model structure and scenarios
 - Utilization of various data (CPMM, Asian Transport Observatory)
 - Data collection needs from CAREC countries
 - Discussion at the Road Working Group of TSCC (11–12 March 2026)
 - Training of the CUBE software to ADB and CI staff (13 Mar 2026)
- Collaboration with International Transport Forum of OECD
 - ITF model to be utilized for data inputs and output calibration



Necessary Data for Model Development/Update

| Item | Description |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Economic data | Updated Socio-economic characteristics by small area eg population, employment by category, regional GDP by category including any projections often available from the Ministry of Economic Affairs |
| Customs and Immigration | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customs movement by tonnes by origin, commodity and mode • Immigration movement by origin and mode |
| Origin destination data | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movement data by persons to/from a small area by mode • Commodity Flow Data tonnage movement to/from a small area by commodity and mode <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ UN ComTrade and ITF Data Source. • Count volume data on infrastructure eg traffic count both road and rail including historical data. |
| Infrastructure inventory | <p>Inventory datasets preferably in the form of GIS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed data on network infrastructure on a transport link often available from the Ministry of Transport <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number of lanes/tracks on infrastructure link; ○ Quality of infrastructure link; ○ Any toll; and ○ Average operating speed both road and rail sector. • New Proposals both water, road, and rail sector <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The potential opening year of new projects • Any specific details on border crossings in a similar format to the CAREC monitoring program, CPMM |
| Travel cost data | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person Movement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Passenger fares (Bus and Rail) ○ Fuel Costs • Cargo Movement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cost of tonne by commodity by mode per kilometre ○ Cost of the container by mode per kilometre ○ Any movement restrictions ○ Cost of cargo handling • Vehicle operational costs |
| National transport database | Access to any existing national transport database |

Current Socio-economic Inputs by Traffic Analysis Zone

- Population by three income classifications
- Employment by three classifications
- GDP
- Vehicle Ownership
- Percentage Urban Population



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BUILD Facility Action Plan





BUILD Milestone and Timeline

- 2025: Initial CAREC country consultations conducted.
- 16–19 June 2025: CAREC Transport Sector Committee Meeting and CAREC Senior Officials Meeting endorsed the BUILD approach.
- 20 November 2025: CAREC Ministerial Conference endorsement.
- 22 December 2025: ADB approved the BUILD Concept Note.
- **March 2026: Technical Assistance (\$1.25 million ADB financing) approval.**
- **June 2026: ADB approval of the BUILD facility**
- **2026-onwards: Individual projects designed (ongoing) and approved.**

Figure A2.3: Kemin Joint Border-Crossing Point 3D Concept



JCBP = joint border-crossing point.
Source: Asian Development Bank.





BUILD Partnerships

- ADB's long-term commitment of \$400 million for BCP improvements will:
 - respond the growing demand of such improvements;
 - provide visibility for both ADB, its developing member countries (DMCs), and development partners, to program and design such projects in a structured manner;
 - ensure the due diligence in terms of environment; social, gender, and poverty; climate change; financial management; integrity etc. will be properly conducted;
 - promote joint BCPs;
 - and provide more opportunities for private sector.
- ADB is seeking approx. \$200 million grant and concessional co-financing:
 - Grant resources to offset the financing charges and interest rate of ADB loans for all CAREC countries.
 - Concessional resources comparable to ADB COL or lower for Group C countries.
 - A roadshow to Europe, PRC, Japan and Korea is being prepared and implemented in 2026.



BUILD will unlock significant economic potential through improved connectivity, faster cargo movements, and reduced cargo costs.





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CAREC Strategic Action Plan on Agriculture and Food Security Development, 2026-2030





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Rationale

❖ **Accelerating risks**

- Climate & water stress (glacier melt, drought, salinization)
- Weak SPS/food safety systems and fragmented digital platforms
- Logistics gaps, institutional fragmentation, and rural inequality

❖ **Emerging opportunities**

- Rising agri-food trade demand and corridor investments
- Digitalization, climate finance, and SPS harmonization momentum

❖ **Why CAREC Strategic Action Plan**

- Challenges are regional → require shared standards, coordinated investments, and aligned policies



❖ **Strategic Focus:**

- Build resilient, competitive, and inclusive agri-food systems through regional cooperation

❖ **Priority actions:**

- Modernize production and strengthen institutions
- Improve trade readiness, SPS systems, and logistics
- Strengthen food security, climate resilience, and water governance
- Accelerate digital transformation
- Promote inclusion of women and youth



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Regional Action Clusters

- ❖ **Knowledge & Innovation (AKIS):** Stronger research, extension, skills, and regional knowledge exchange
- ❖ **Value Chains & Agro-Logistics:** Reduced post-harvest losses, upgraded small and medium-sized enterprises, and corridor-linked logistics
- ❖ **SPS & Food Safety:** Harmonized standards, accredited labs, and modern border systems
- ❖ **Food & Nutrition Security:** Early warning, reserves, monitoring, and nutrition-sensitive agriculture
- ❖ **Climate & Water Resilience:** Climate-smart agriculture, improved water governance, and cross-border cooperation
- ❖ **Digital Agriculture:** Interoperable data, traceability, digital advisory, and analytics



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Corridor-based Cooperation: Linking Trade and Agri-food

Corridor-focused interventions maximize spillovers and align closely with transport and trade operations

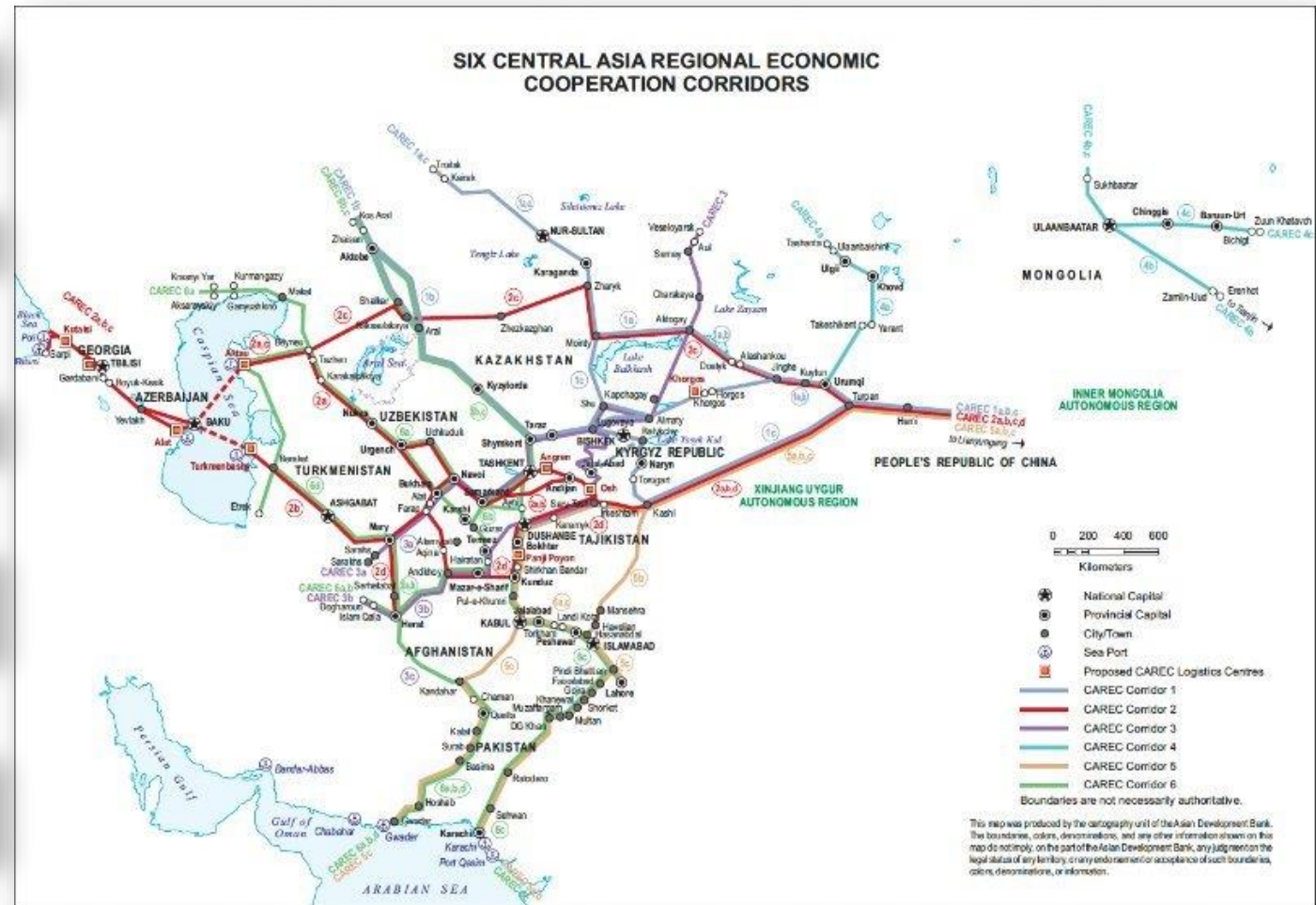
Reduce transport and transaction costs

Harmonize SPS and border inspections

Develop cold-chain and logistics hub

Facilitate coordinated value-chain clusters
(livestock, horticulture, cereals, oilseeds).

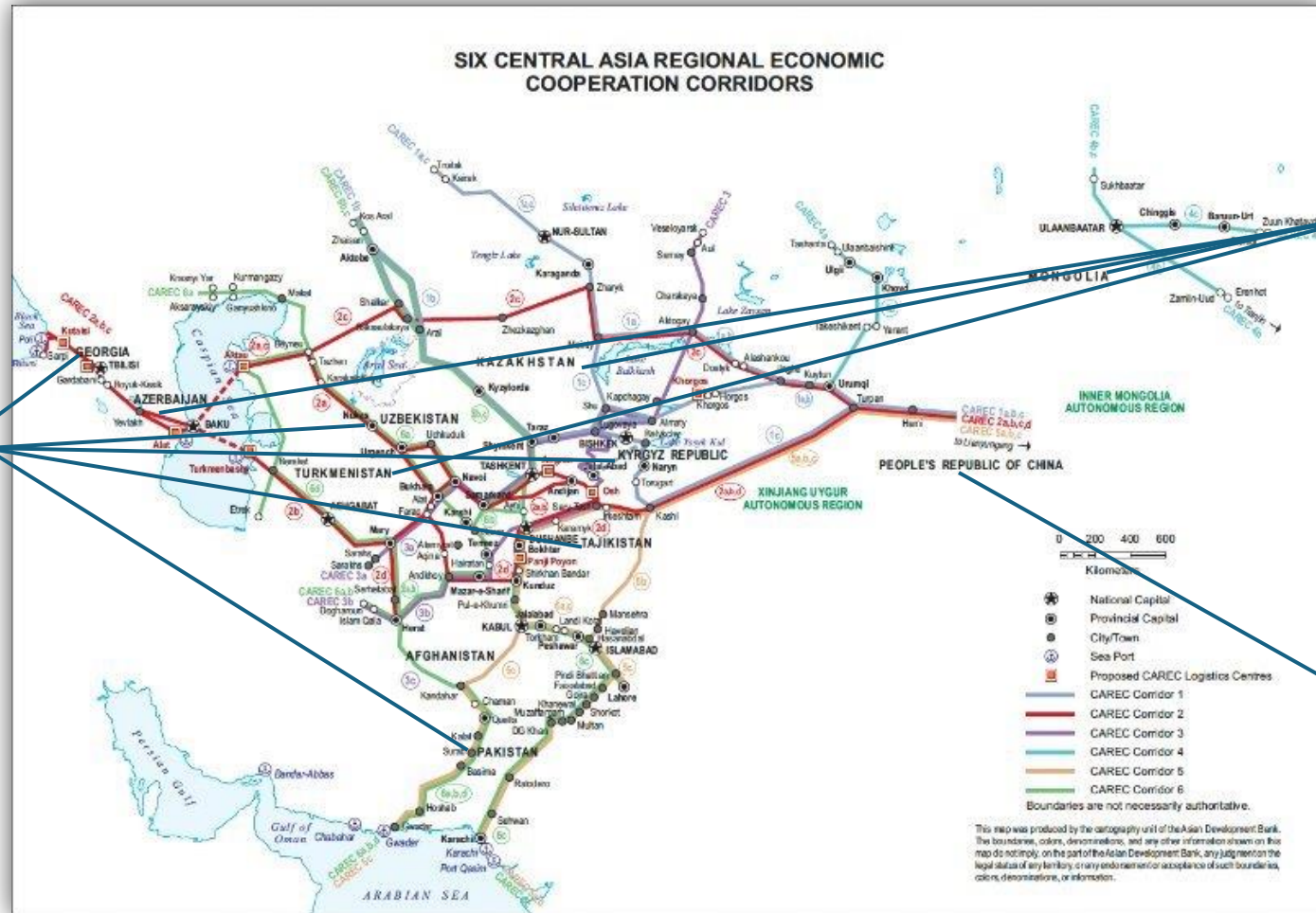
Improve cross-border digital certification (e-phyto,
e-vet)





Country Engagement: Ensuring Efficiency and Strategic Concentration of Regional Resources

- High engagement**
- ❖ Strong Reform Demand and Corridor Relevance
 - ❖ Project Absorbive Capacity



- Medium engagement**
- ❖ Selective and high value opportunities
 - ❖ Corridor-based interventions

- Knowledge partner**
- ❖ Contributes technology
 - ❖ Standards, research and knowledge



Deliverables and Timeline

| Deliverable | Mechanism | Timeline | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| Country Assessments Policy Briefs | - Consultations with Working Group members of GEO, KGZ, TAJ, PAK, and UZB | Feb-May 2026 (online meetings) | - Consultations are ongoing |
| Strategic Action Plan (SAP), 2026-2030 | - Consultations and clearance by Working Group members - Proceedings of Ministerial Conference | 1-5 Jun 2026 (online meeting) Sep 2026 | - Draft SAP is under translation following ADB internal discussion for submission to WG members for review in Mar |
| Integration of proposed investment opportunities into the 2027-2030 pipeline projects | - Country programming missions | Mar-Aug 2026 | Ongoing with Country Programming Missions |