

Joint Meeting of the CAREC Regional Trade Group and Customs Cooperation Committee

4 June 2026, Ulaanbaatar

Opening Session

**Joint Meeting of the CAREC Regional Trade Group (RTG) and
Customs Cooperation Committee (CCC)**
4 June 2026, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

The slide features three decorative circular icons on the left side, each composed of six colored segments (green, yellow, orange, red, purple, blue) with various white icons. The top icon includes a headset, a hand holding a smartphone, a person with a microscope, a person with a shopping cart, a person with a suitcase, and a person with a briefcase. The middle icon includes a tractor, a person with a suitcase, a person with a briefcase, a person with a briefcase, a person with a briefcase, and a person with a briefcase. The bottom icon includes a cloud, a person with a briefcase, a person with a briefcase, a person with a briefcase, a person with a briefcase, and a person with a briefcase.

Session 1: Meeting Overview and Setting the Stage

**Dorothea Lazaro, Senior Regional Cooperation Specialist,
ADB**

Overview of Joint RTG and CCC Meeting

Opening Session

Session 1: Meeting Overview and Setting the Stage

Session 2: Supporting Trade Policy Reforms and Agreements

Session 3: Modernizing Border Crossing Points and Trade Facilitation Measures

Session 4: Accelerating Digital Trade

Session 5: Expanding Investments and Trade in Services

Session 6: Scaling Investment Projects for the CITA Rolling Strategic Action Plan (RSAP)

Session 7: Development Partners Perspectives

Wrap up and Closing Session

Reported to
CAREC Senior
Officials
Meeting

11-12 June 2026

Trade Sector
Deliverables to
25th CAREC
Ministerial
Conference

29 Sep 2026

Key Developments under CITA 2030 (2025–2026)

- 24th CAREC Ministerial Conference in November 2025 in Bishkek
 - Midterm Review of CITA 2030, along with CAREC Transport Strategy 2030 and CAREC Digital Strategy 2030 **endorsed**
 - Memorandum of Agreements **signed** and/or launched, action plans drafted
- Series of trade-related dialogue and **capacity-building** activities
- Additional **financing** for TA Cluster 0069-REG: Implementing CITA 2030 (Phase 2), to support subprojects on trade facilitation, accelerating digital trade, and sustainable tourism and services trade
- New *ADB Operational **Approach** for Revitalizing Regional Cooperation and Integration* (March 2026) with trade among the priority areas

Midterm Review of CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda 2030

Highlights

- CITA 2030 remains **relevant**, responsive and aligns with national priorities of countries
- **Trade-technology-sustainable development** nexus highlighted
- Between 2018–2024, ADB approved 5 trade-related **investments** (\$759 million) and 16 **TA projects** (\$23.9 million) supporting trade reforms, capacity-building, policy dialogues
- Need for **longer-term** and **programmatically** approach (e.g., PBL for post-accession reforms), prioritize impactful interventions.

Recommendations

1. Modernize **BCPs** and trade facilitation measures
2. Advance **digital trade** and promote cross-border e-commerce
3. Adopt a **formal framework** through CAREC Trade and Investment Facilitation Partnership Agreement
4. Increase support in **trade in services** and cross-border investment
5. Mainstream **innovation** and **climate action** in CITA priorities
6. Strengthen CITA **institutional** framework
7. Strengthen **coordination** with Development Partners, South-South cooperation
8. Deepen **private sector** engagement
9. Improve **tracking of CITA**'s progress and effectiveness

Documents signed during the 24th CAREC Ministerial Conference



Bishkek Ministerial Declaration on the Launch of Negotiations for the CARTIF Partnership Agreement



Loan Agreement: Almaty–Bishkek Economic Corridor Regional Improvement of Border Services Project



MOU on Implementing the Testing Phase of the Expanded CAREC Advanced Transit System and Information Common Exchange



MOU on Pilot Project on Electronic Exchange and Mutual Recognition of Conformity Certificates



MOU on CAREC Regional Tourism Development



MOU on the Kyrgyz Republic–Uzbekistan Cross-Border Sustainable Tourism Cluster Development

Action Plan for Implementing MOUs

MOU/Document	Signatories (Additional Participants)	Target by 25th MC (Sep 2026)	Progress or Status
Bishkek Ministerial Declaration on the Launch of Negotiations for the CARTIF Partnership Agreement	PRC, GEO, KAZ, KGZ, MON, PAK, TKM, UZB + TAJ	Establishment of Working Groups and capacity-building Text based negotiations	Zero round negotiations Agreement on modalities, timeline and workplan
MOU on Expanded CAREC Advanced Transit System and Information Common Exchange (CATS/ICE)	AZE, KGZ, PAK + GEO	Multi-country Framework Agreement (MCFA) finalized	Review of draft MCFA Version 3 enhancement of CATS/ICE software
MoU on Pilot Project on Electronic Exchange and Mutual Recognition of Conformity Certificates	AZE, KGZ, PAK, UZB + TAJ	Diagnostic assessment, product selection, minimum viable dataset and specifications	Governance structure and project dashboard
MoU on CAREC Regional Tourism Development	AZE, GEO, KGZ, MON, PAK, UZB + PRC, KAZ, TAJ	Reactivation of Tourism Working Group	CAREC session on ADB Annual Meeting

Dialogue and Capacity Building Activities

Event	Venue	Date
Regional Workshop on CAREC Trade and Investment Facilitation (CARTIF) Partnership	Bishkek, KGZ	12 June 2025
7th Meeting of the CAREC Regional Trade Group	Bishkek, KGZ	13 June 2025
Workshop on CAREC Trade and Investment Facilitation (CARTIF) Partnership	Bishkek, KGZ	28-29 August 2025
24th CAREC Customs Cooperation Committee Meeting	Bishkek, KGZ	3-4 September 2025
6th Technical Working Group Meeting on CATS/ICE: Pilot Phase Implementation	Tashkent, UZB	8-9 September 2025
High-Level Forum on the CAREC Region and the Multilateral Trading System: Deepening Integration In Central Asia And Beyond	Geneva, Switzerland	22-23 October 2025
Workshop on Advancing Digital and Green Trade Facilitation in CAREC Countries	Seoul, ROK	25-27 November 2025
Inaugural Meeting for the Negotiations of the CAREC Trade and Investment Facilitation Partnership Agreement	Online	11 March 2026
Workshop on Navigating Trade Issues and WTO Transparency Requirements	Astana, KAZ	8-10 April 2026
Introductory Session for the CAREC Pilot Project on Electronic Exchange and Mutual Recognition of Conformity Certificates	Online	21 April 2026
Chief Negotiators' Meeting on CAREC Trade and Investment Facilitation Partnership Agreement (CARTIF)	Online	8 May 2026
7th Technical Working Group Meeting on CATS/ICE: Pilot Phase Implementation	Tbilisi, GEO	19-20 May
Kick-off Meeting: CAREC Pilot Project on Electronic Exchange and Mutual Recognition of Conformity Certificates	Seoul, ROK	1-2 June 2026

Asian Economic Integration Report 2026

Leveraging Regional Cooperation and Integration to Navigate Global Uncertainties

Rolando Avendano

Economist

Economic Research and Development Impact Department
Asian Development Bank



Key messages

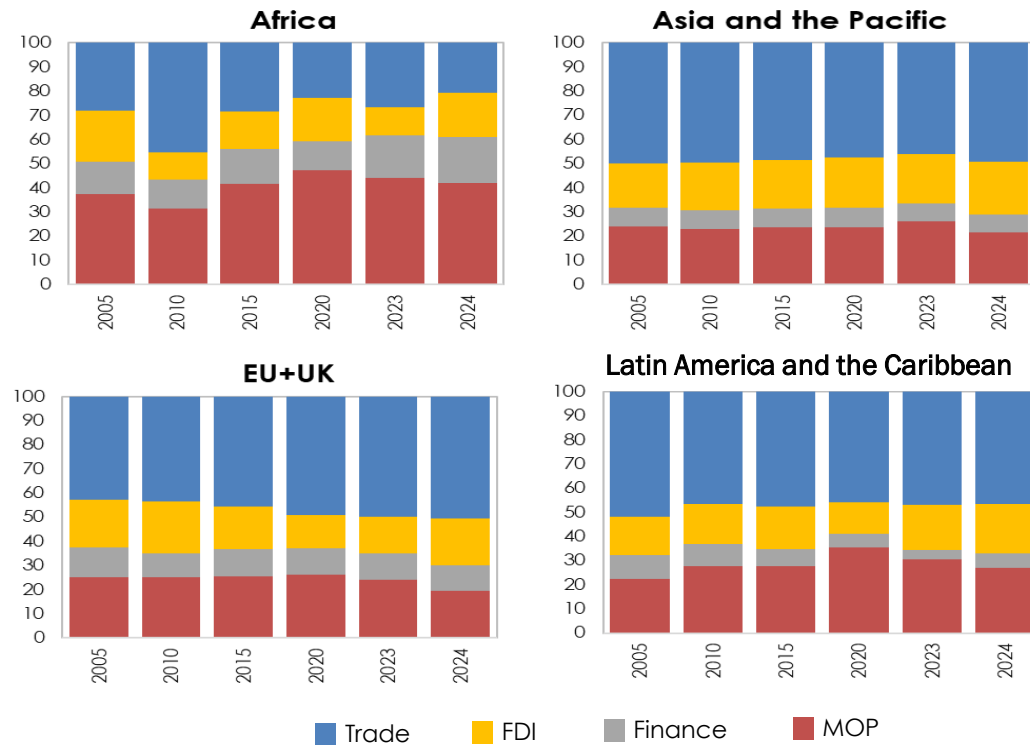
- Despite heightened global uncertainty and a challenging trade policy environment, Asia and the Pacific remains resilient in trade and continues to upgrade its value-chain structure.
- After contracting in 2023, foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows to the region show signs of stabilization and nonresident capital flows remain steady.
- Key policy priorities include promoting trade diversification, strengthening the effectiveness of trade agreements, leveraging digital FDI, and strengthening regional financial safety net.
- Sustaining long-term resilience will also require enhanced regional economic cooperation for improved cross-border skills recognition and the facilitation of seamless tourism.

Trade has been the main driver of regional economic integration in Asia; followed by FDI and movement of people

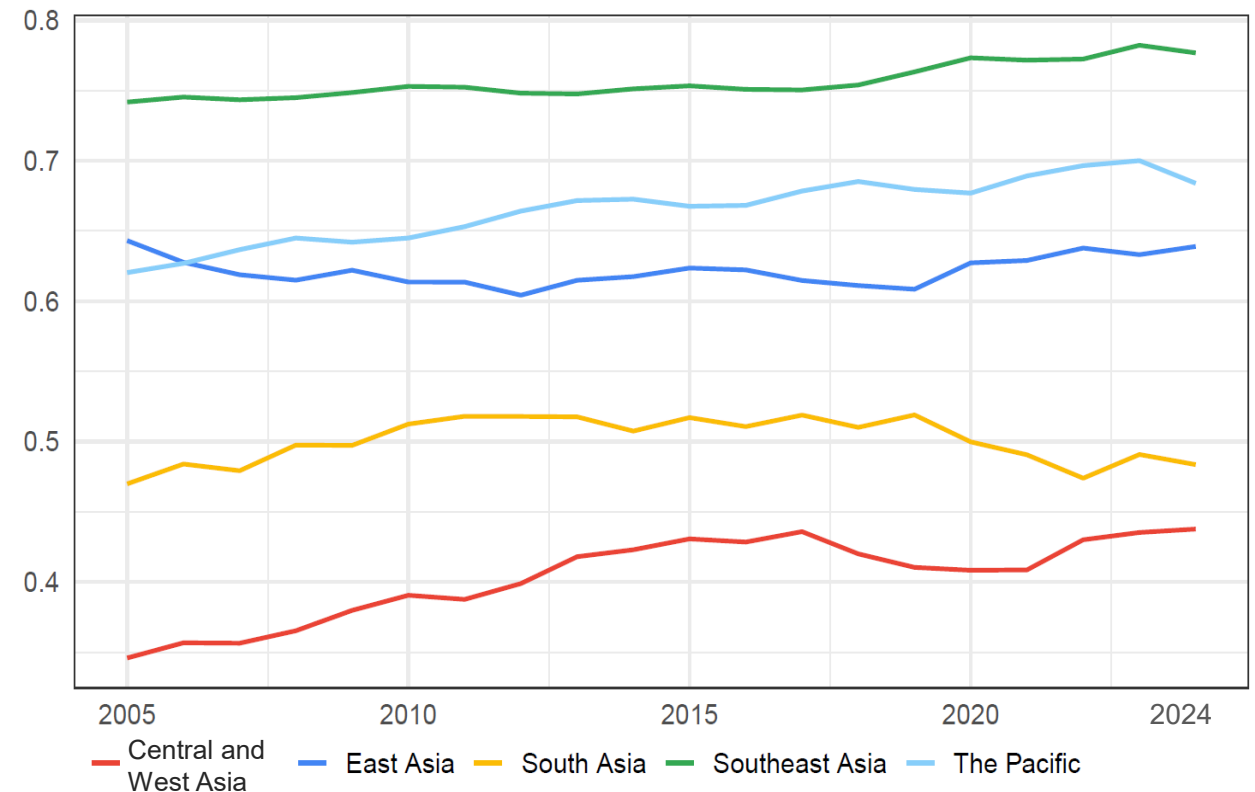
Trade in goods and services is the main driver of regional integration in Asia and other regions, except for Africa

Economic integration with Asia is highest for Southeast Asia compared to other Asian subregions

Dimensional Shares to Overall Regional Integration Index, by World Regions (%)



Overall Regional Integration Index by Asian Subregions
(subregion's integration with itself plus with the rest of Asia and the Pacific)



EU = European Union (27 members), FDI = foreign direct investment, MOP = movement of people, RII = Regional Integration Index, UK = United Kingdom.

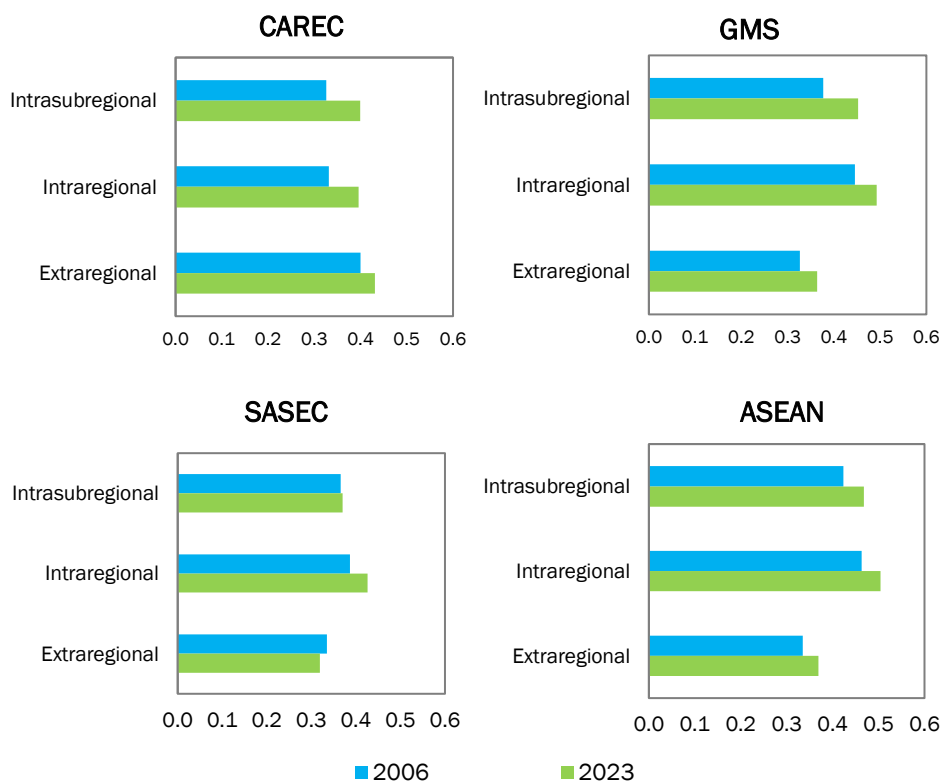
Notes: Based on ADB's Regional Integration Index, estimated using Bayesian state-space model, the overall RII is the weighted average of the dimensional indexes: trade in goods and services, movement of people, FDI, and finance. For the detailed methodology, indicators used per dimension, and data sources, refer to Box 1.1 of ADB, 2025. *Asian Economic Integration Report 2025*. The composition of subregional groupings in Asia and the Pacific is outlined in <https://aric.adb.org/integrationindicators/groupings>.

Source: ADB calculations using ADB's Regional Economic Integration Index Database.

CAREC's economic integration among members, with Asia and outside Asia is rising

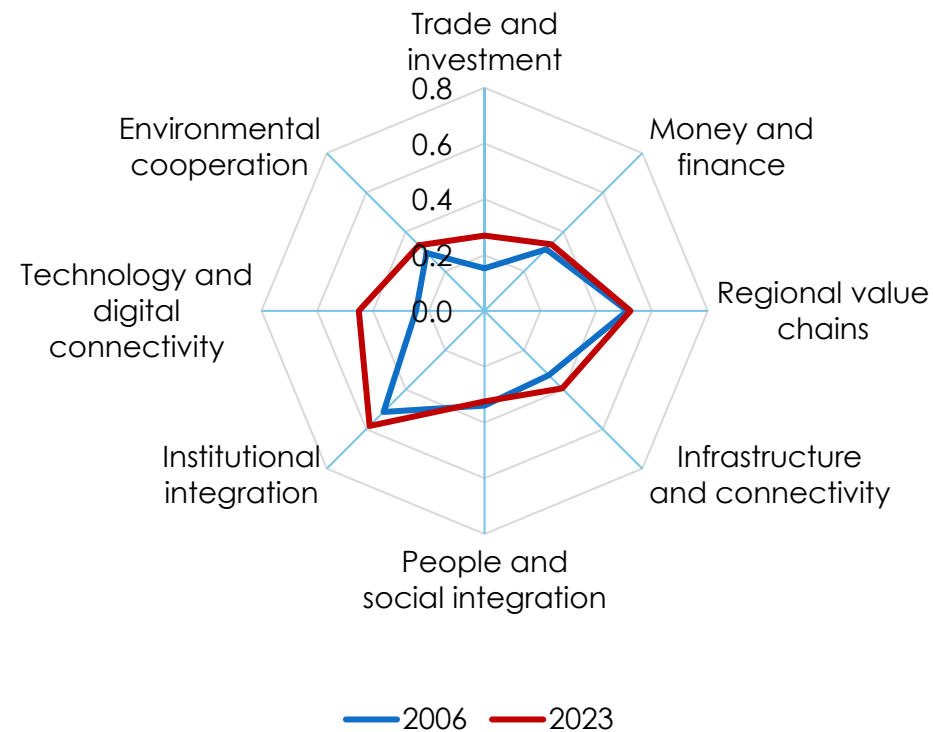
Asian subregional initiatives show different patterns of economic engagement

Overall intrasubregional, intraregional, and extraregional integration, 2006 and 2023



Integration within CAREC has been driven mostly by institutions and regional value chains

Dimensional regional integration index—CAREC

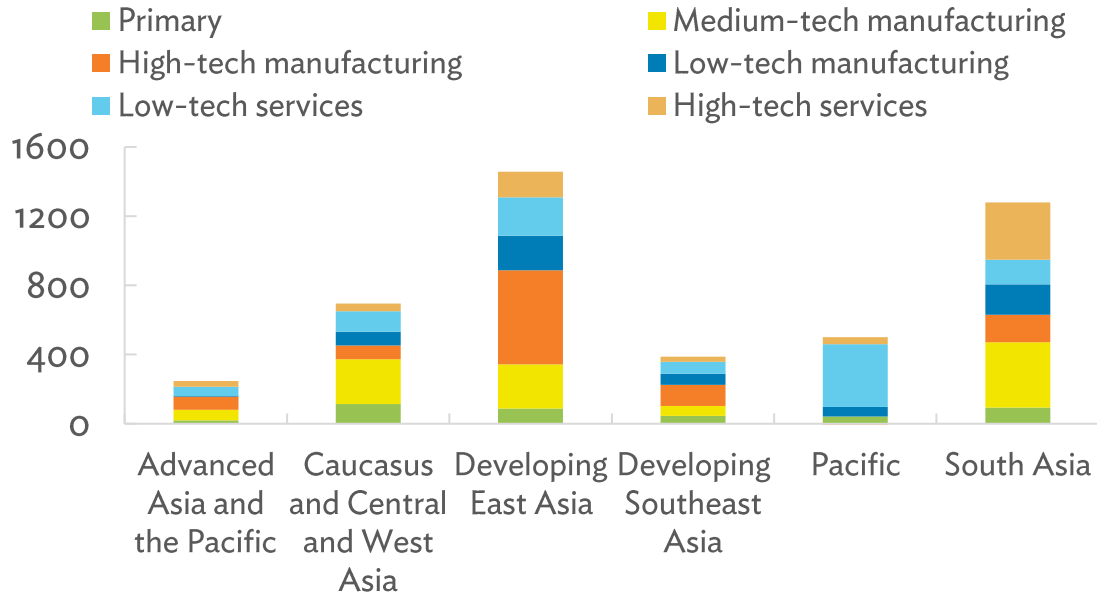


CAREC = Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation; ASEAN = Association of Southeast Asian Nations; GMS = Greater Mekong Subregion; SASEC = South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation. Notes: Based on ADB's Asia-Pacific Regional Cooperation and Integration Index estimates. Intraregional integration captures integration of subregional initiatives with Asia and the Pacific; intrasubregional integration reflects integration within subregional initiatives; and extraregional integration measures integration of subregional initiatives with economies outside Asia-Pacific. Source: ADB. Asia-Pacific Regional Cooperation and Integration Database. <https://aric.adb.org/database/arci> (accessed November 2025).

CAREC remains deeply integrated into global value chains—and its structure is evolving

GVC pathways diverge by subregion

Growth in GVC Trade, by Sector and by Asian Subregion (percentage change, 2000 vs. 2023)



CAREC = Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation, EU = European Union, GVC = global value chain, UK = United Kingdom.

Note: Asia refers to Asia and the Pacific. The composition of Asia and the Pacific is outlined in <https://aric.adb.org/integrationindicators/groupings>.

Sources: ADB calculations using data from ADB Multiregional Input–Output Database; and methodology by Wang et al. (2017).

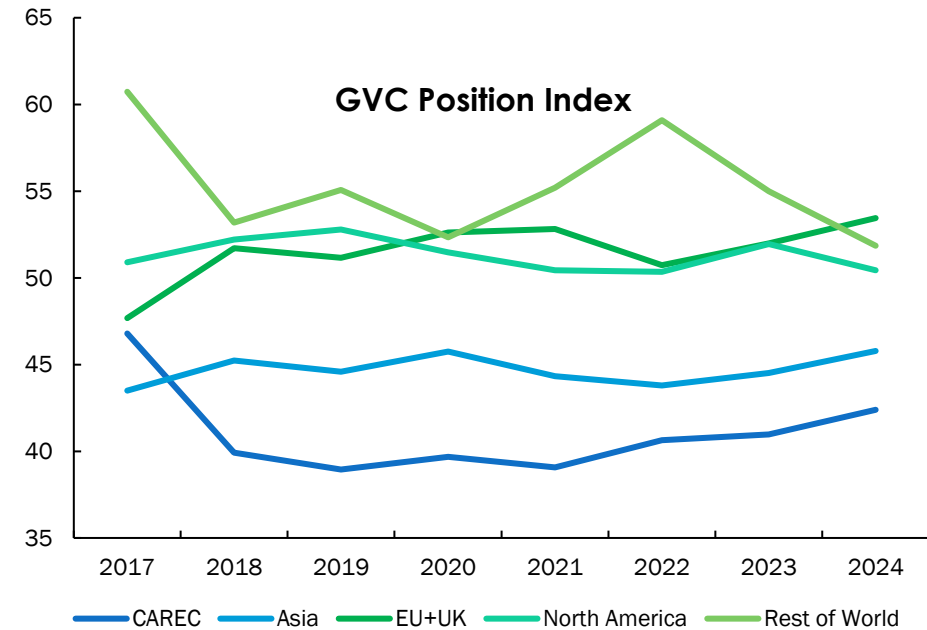
- Central and Developing East Asia have developed manufacturing and enhanced GVC participation

CAREC has upgraded into more complex segments since 2022

Higher forward linkages, more upstream activities



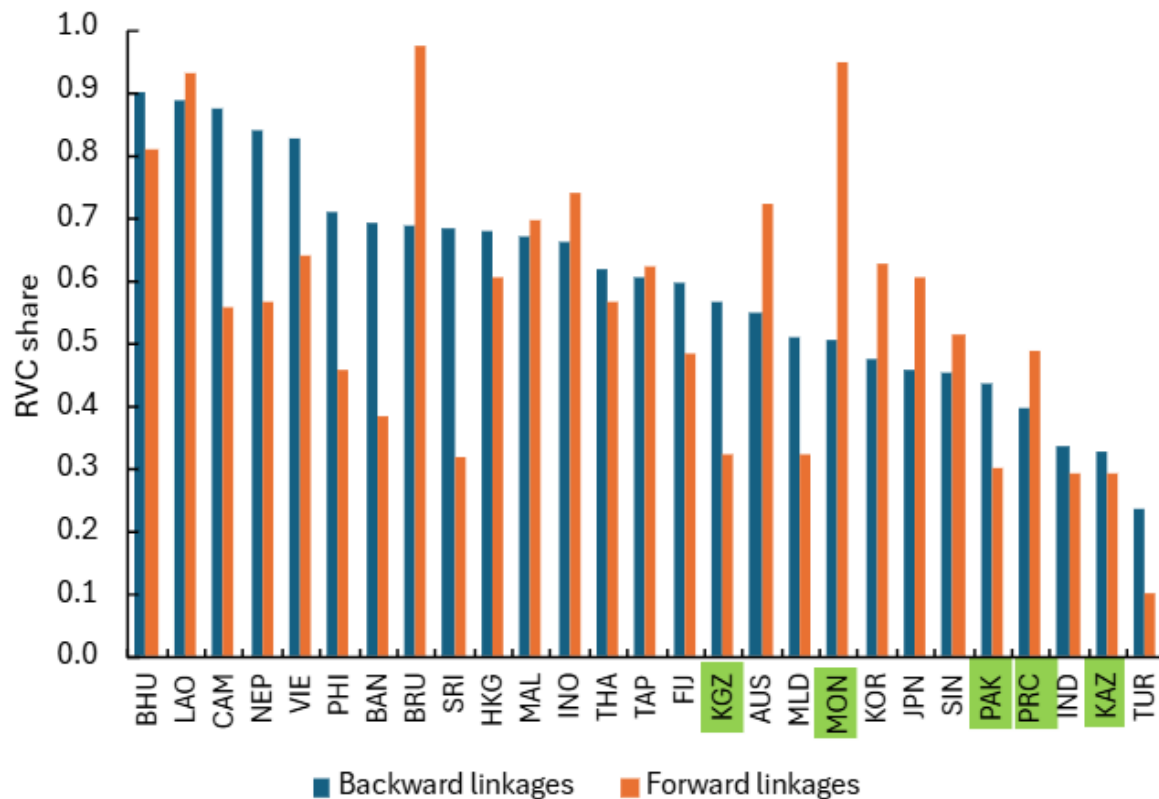
Higher backward linkages, more downstream activities



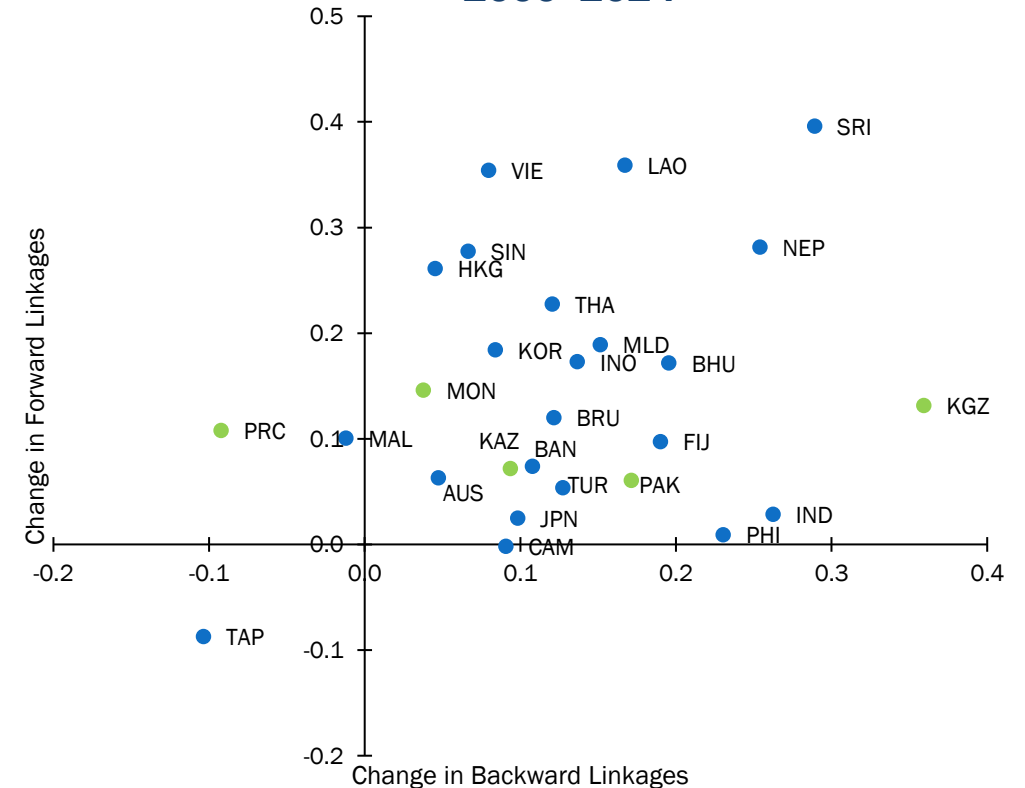
- CAREC's GVC positioning shows the high backward linkage orientation relative to other regions including Asia.
- Since 2022, a gradual shift toward stronger forward linkages—more upstream activities—suggesting a move from primarily assembling imports to value-added inputs to global production

Regional value chain integration has deepened among CAREC members, albeit at different speeds

Regional Value Chain Integration by Economy, 2024



Change in Regional Value Chain Integration, 2000–2024



ARM = Armenia; BAN = Bangladesh; BHU = Bhutan; BRU = Brunei Darussalam; CAM = Cambodia; PRC = People's Republic of China; FIJ = Fiji; GEO = Georgia; GVC = global value chain, HKG = Hong Kong, China; IND = India; INO = Indonesia; KAZ = Kazakhstan; KGZ = Kyrgyz Republic; KOR = Republic of Korea; LAO = Lao People's Democratic Republic; MAL = Malaysia; MLD = Maldives; MON = Mongolia; NEP = Nepal; PAK = Pakistan; PHI = Philippines; RVC = regional value chain; SIN = Singapore; SRI = Sri Lanka; TAP = Taipei, China; THA = Thailand; TUR = Türkiye; and VIE = Viet Nam.

Notes: The RVC indicators are calculated using hypothetical extraction, wherein trade in value-added with no trade in intermediates between Asian economies is compared with the scenario allowing trade in intermediates between Asian economies. Participation rates are calculated as the share of forward GVC activity in total value-added in the case of forward linkages and as the share of backward GVC activity in final production in the case of backward linkages.

Sources: ADB calculations using data from ADB, Multiregional Input-Output Tables; and methodology by Los and Timmer (2018).

GVCs and inclusive development: 2026 ADB Governor's Seminar

Upgrading: increasing domestic value-added and/or GVC diversification

Dual Upgrading
Indonesia, Pakistan,
Philippines, PRC,
Malaysia, Sri Lanka

Upgrading,
cross-chain
Mongolia, Thailand,
Viet Nam

Upgrading,
within-chain
Kazakhstan

Low influence in GVCs

Peripheral
Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam,
Cambodia, Fiji, Kyrgyz Republic,
Lao PDR, Maldives, Nepal

Integrated, but not Upgrading
Bangladesh, India,
Türkiye

Upgrading

GVC Integration

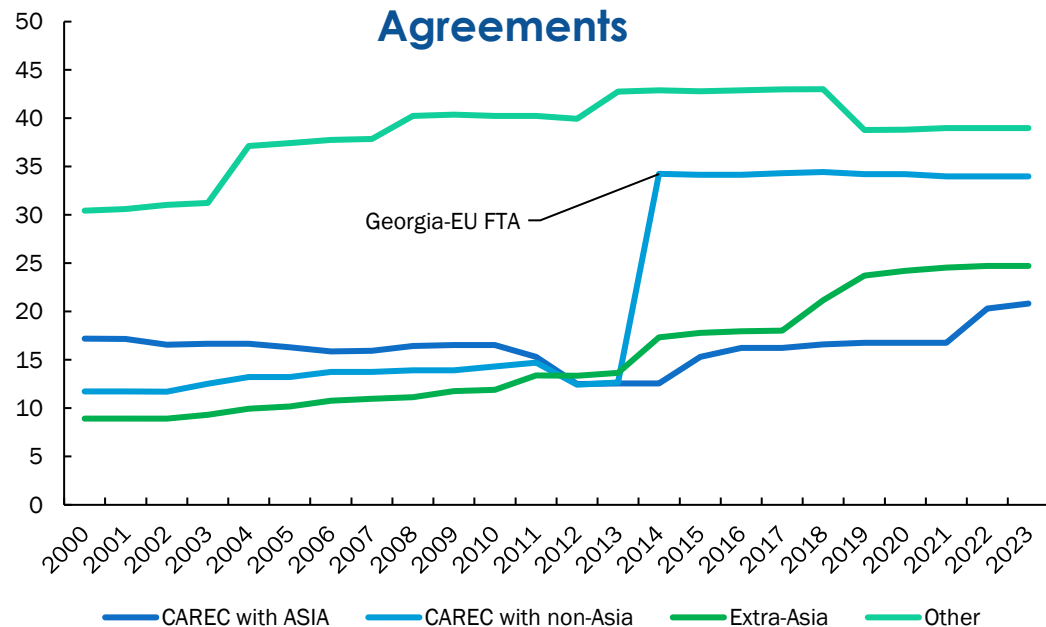
Peripheral

Integrated

- Global value chains (GVCs) have enhanced growth and reduced poverty in developing Asia and the Pacific
- But the benefits have been unequally shared:
 - Some economies have remained peripheral in GVCs
 - Smaller firms, low-skilled workers, and women have not always benefited from GVC integration
- Emerging challenges are reconfiguring and narrowing traditional GVC pathways
- Realizing inclusive GVC gains requires coordinated system-level policies differentiated by the nature and level of GVC participation

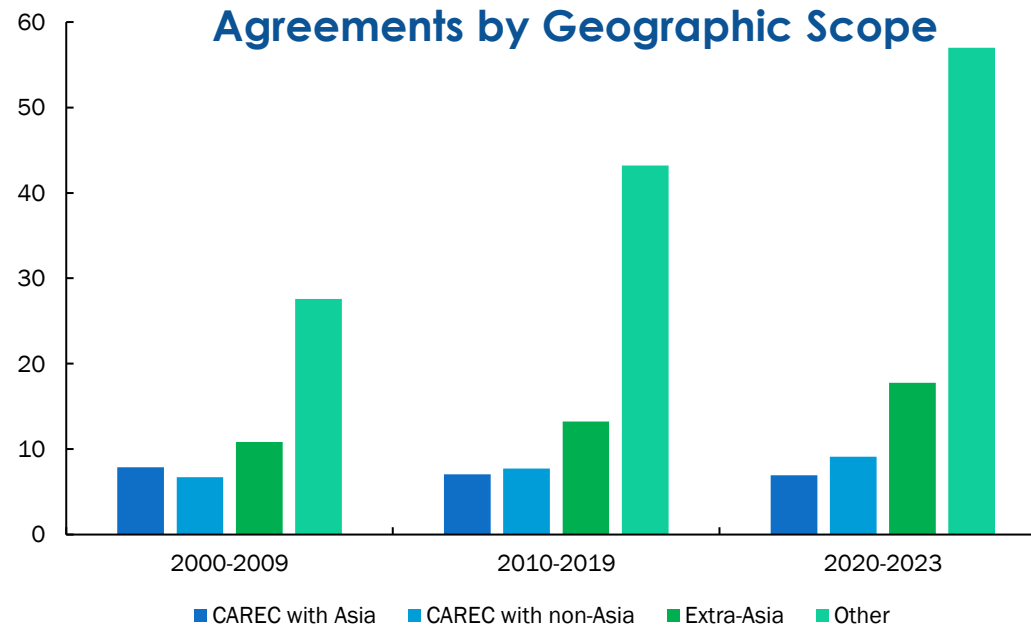
While the number of trade agreements has risen, they tend to be narrower in membership and scope

Developments in Relative Scope of Trade Agreements



- In 2014, Georgia-EU FTA, which include 92% of the provision, was signed; boosting CAREC's average scope from 13% to 34%.
- Convergence has occurred more for CAREC–non-Asia agreements than with CAREC–Asia agreements.

Average Number of Trade Partners in Trade Agreements by Geographic Scope



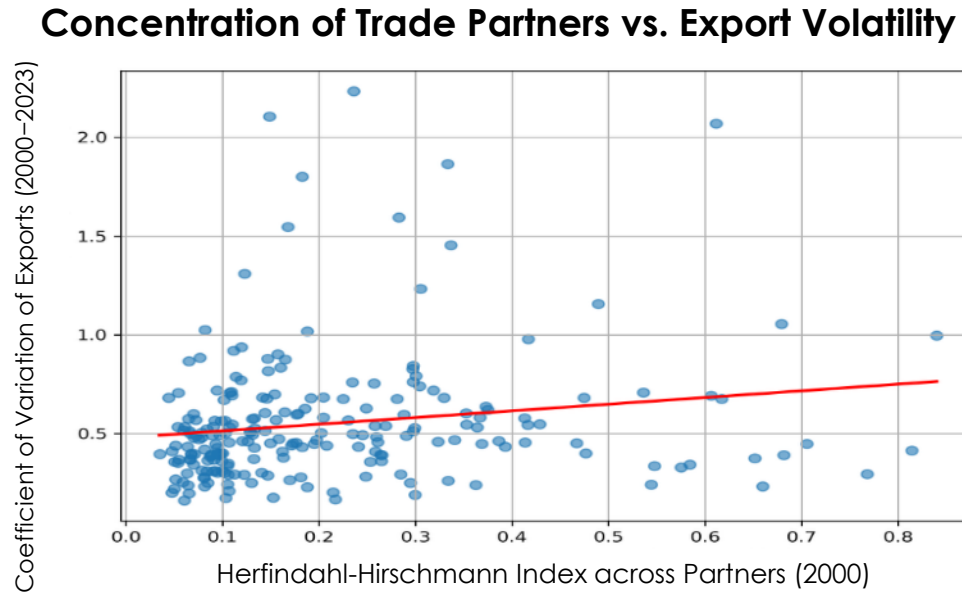
- In the recent years, CAREC trade agreements with Asia tend to involve fewer trade partners than outside Asia.
- Though membership size for CAREC's agreements outside Asia is still fewer than Asia's total average.

Notes: Asia refers to the 50 regional member economies of ADB. Extra-Asia refers to the trade agreements of Asian economies (including BIMSTEC) with economies outside of Asia. Other refers to the trade agreements between non-Asian economies.

Source: ADB calculations using data from World Bank. Deep Trade Agreements Database. <https://datatopics.worldbank.org/dta/table.html> (accessed August 2024).

Diversification and trade agreements can mitigate the negative impact of uncertainty on trade

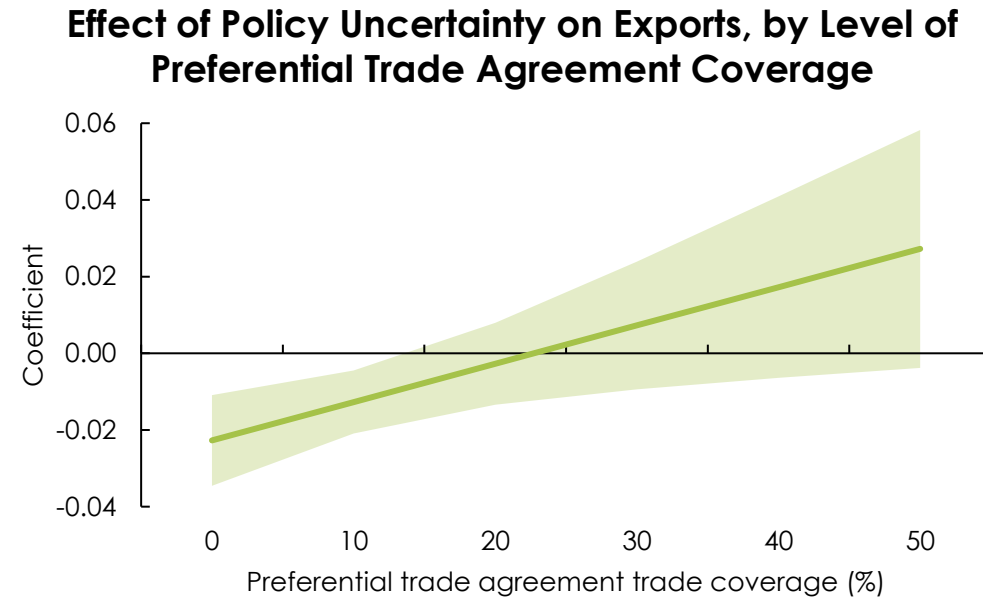
Diversifying trade partners could help reduce trade volatility



Note: The Herfindahl-Hirschmann index is an indicator of the concentration of an economy's exports across partner economies, with higher numbers indicating a more concentrated export structure. The coefficient of variation is an indicator of how volatile an economy's exports were over the period 2000-2023.

- Economies with more diversified exports experience lower export volatility
- Greater geographic diversification reduces exposure to economy-specific shocks
- Diversification strengthens resilience in an environment of elevated uncertainty

Trade agreements contribute to mitigating the negative impact of policy uncertainty on trade



Note: The line reports the estimated effect of trade policy uncertainty on exports for different shares of exports covered by trade agreements. The shaded error reports the 95% confidence interval.

- Higher trade coverage by preferential trade agreements weakens the negative effect of uncertainty on exports
- Trade agreements provide predictability and reduce effective trade costs

Enhancing the effectiveness of trade agreements in Asia is crucial in maximizing the benefits of regional cooperation and integration

Limitations with Trade Agreements

- Shallow commitments, especially in critical market access provisions
- Failure to solve structural barriers, restricting potential impact on trade flows
- Complex administrative requirements
- Overlapping network of PTAs creating compliance challenges and administrative costs
- Limitations in promoting export diversification and services trade

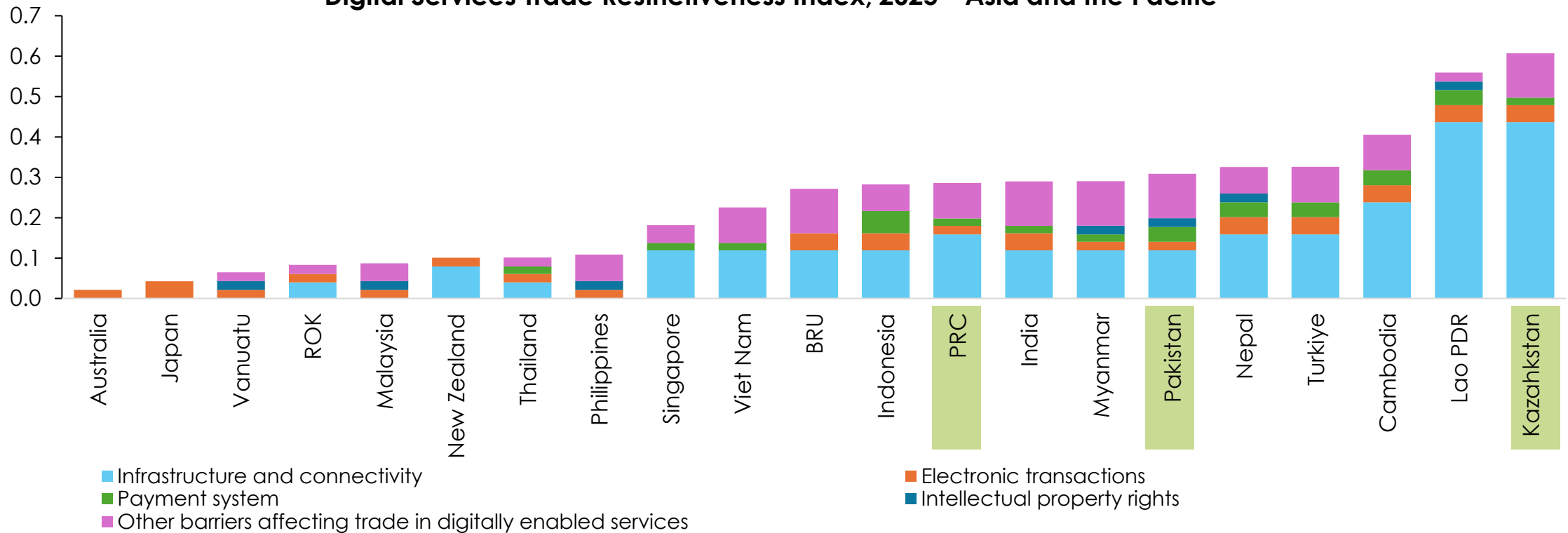
Ways to Improve the Effectiveness of Trade Agreements

- Simplifying trade rules
- Deepening commitments
- Aligning Rules of Origin criteria with regional production patterns
- Fostering diversification of negotiating partners with prospective markets instead of solely reinforcing existing trade relationships
- Reducing compliance costs through awareness enhancement and capacity building

Reducing digital services trade barriers—especially infrastructure and ‘other’ regulatory constraints—could help deepen regional integration

CAREC economies show wide divergence in digital services trade restrictiveness

Digital Services Trade Restrictiveness Index, 2025—Asia and the Pacific



PRC = People's Republic of China, ROK = Republic of Korea, Lao PDR = Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Notes: The OECD Digital Services Trade Restrictiveness Index (STRI) identifies, catalogues and quantifies barriers that affect trade in digitally enabled services across 129 economies. It provides policy makers with an evidence-based tool that helps to identify regulatory bottlenecks, design policies that foster more competitive and diversified markets for digital trade, and analyze the impact of policy reforms. The OECD Digital STRI captures cross-cutting impediments that affect all types of services traded digitally. As a stand-alone instrument, it complements the OECD Services Trade Restrictiveness Index (STRI). The indexes take values between 0 to 1, where 0 is completely open and 1 is completely closed. They are calculated on the basis of information provided in the Digital STRI regulatory database.

Source: OECD.



Session 2: **Supporting Trade Policy Reforms and Agreements**

**Zulfia Karimova, Principal Regional Economic Cooperation
Specialist, ADB**

**Dorothea Lazaro, Senior Regional Cooperation Specialist,
ADB**

Launch of Negotiations for the CAREC Trade and Investment Facilitation (CARTIF) Partnership Agreement

Draft text was circulated; countries started domestic processes for participation (*Regional Workshop in June 2025*). Comments, institutional arrangements, and further procedures were discussed (*Regional Workshop in Aug 2025*).



Bishkek Ministerial Declaration on the Launch of Negotiations for the CARTIF Partnership Agreement (20 Nov 2025)



Inaugural Meeting for the Negotiations (11 March 2026)

- CARTIF implementation roadmap for negotiations
- Hybrid, flexible approach



Chief Negotiators' Meeting (8 May 2026)

- Reviewed the negotiation structure and modalities
- Ensured readiness for the launch of negotiations



CARTIF Zero Round Negotiations (3 June 2026): Key Outcomes and Issues

- Negotiation Modalities and Terms of Reference, including institutional structure and negotiation approach were approved, after substantial discussion of the following issues:
 - "Silence Procedure" and timeframe for comment
 - Reopening provisions where convergence has been recorded
 - Categorization of protocols and establishment of Working Groups
 - Possibility of "Early Harvest"
 - Definition of sensitive/complex issue
- Framework Agreement (FA) text was initially discussed

NEXT STEPS:

- Participating Countries to submit written comments on the FA and all protocols by **3 July 2026**
- Secretariat will consolidate and disseminate, and identify Working Groups to establish including WG on the FA with the participation of the Chief Negotiators
- Secretariat will coordinate organization of virtual WG negotiations and in-person Chief Negotiators' Meeting in September, in the run-up to the CAREC Ministerial Conference to facilitate conclusion of negotiations on the FA and low-divergence protocols
- Prepare for the next Chief Negotiators' Meeting (**Sep 2026**)

23

Support to WTO Accession

High-Level Forum on CAREC and the Multilateral Trading System: Deepening Integration in Central Asia and Beyond (Oct 2025, Geneva)

- Chief Negotiators and high-level government officials discussed current challenges and the role of a rules-based trading system
- Commemorated Georgia and Kazakhstan's 25th and 10th year of WTO membership



Azerbaijan

- 17th Meeting of the WP for accession in 2026
- Technical-level visit in Baku and discussion with development partners

Turkmenistan

- Finalization of Memorandum of Foreign Trade Regime and state of play (by June 2026)
- Advisory support and capacity-building (ongoing)

Uzbekistan

- 12th Meeting of the Working Party (WP) on Accession of Uzbekistan (Mar 2026)
- ADB organized workshop on trade policies in Tashkent
- Support for the alignment of laws with WTO, including technical regulations, standardization, and general product safety and preparation of the draft Law on Foreign Economic Activity

Workshop on Navigating Trade Issues and WTO Transparency Requirements (Astana, April 2026)

- Strengthened national systems for implementing WTO transparency and notification obligations
- CAREC work on market access, trade facilitation and digitalization, technical barriers to trade (TBT) and sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures, cross-border investment and services, and regional trade agreements



TAJKISTAN: Supported preparation of State Export Development Program of the Republic of Tajikistan (2026–2030)



ADB-World Bank Trade Forum 2026 (Bangkok, May 2026)

- Trade officials including from CAREC countries, academic economists and international trade experts discussed the new geopolitics of multilateral trade and their implications for value chain integration and economic resilience
- A specific session focused on enhancing market access through WTO and regional agreement accessions

Session 3: **Modernizing Border Crossing Points and Trade Facilitation Measures**

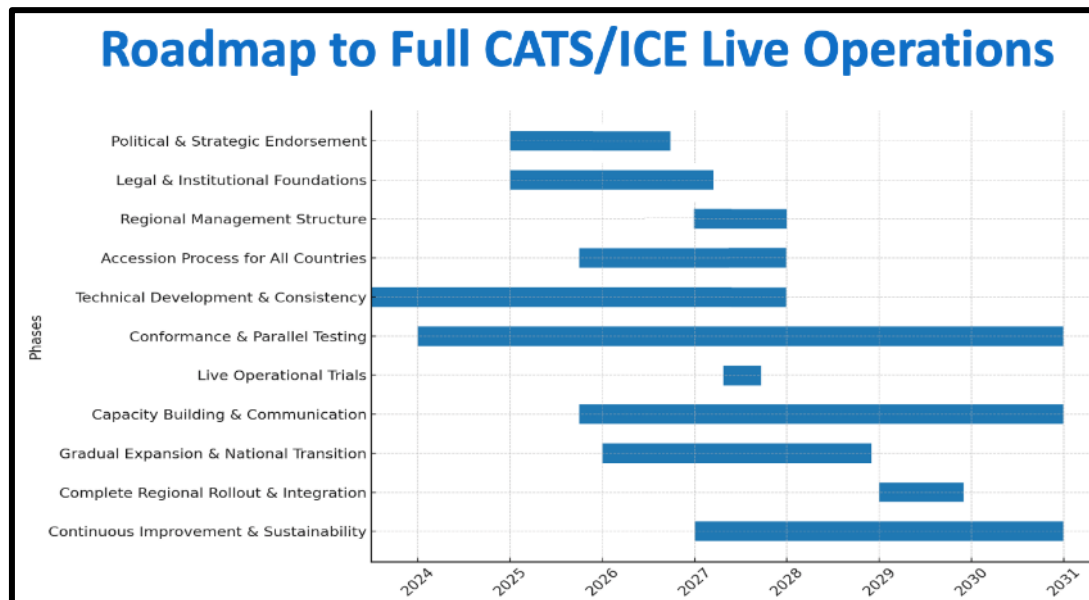
**Zulfia Karimova, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist,
ADB**

**Ari J. Kalliokoski, Principal Transport Specialist, Transport
Sector, Office, Sectors Department 1**

Pilot Test of CAREC Advanced Transit System (CATS)/ Information Common Exchange (ICE)

MILESTONES

- MoU signed by Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Uzbekistan at 24th CAREC Ministerial Conference on 20 Nov 2025
- Multicountry Framework Agreement to Support the Implementation of CATS/ICE - country comments on draft are being discussed
- CATS/ICE software - Version 3 being finalized; conformity and parallel testing planned in 3rd quarter
- CATS/ICE User and Training Manuals – in progress; Procedural Manuals are to be prepared



2026 Workplan

1. Establish regional legal framework
 2. Update software based on user requirements
 3. Develop manuals and provide training
 4. Engage with stakeholders
- Insurer and Guarantor Liaison Group met in Sept 2025

CPMM



Partnership with CI

SKILLS

- Data management to CI
- Big data and GIS tools

MANPOWER

- Additional staff to support data management

COST

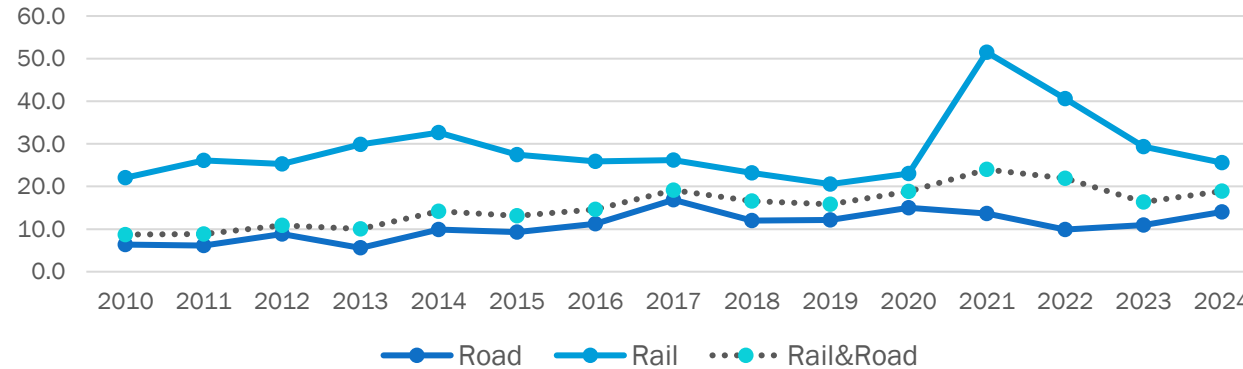
- Absorb some of the consultancy and/or data collection cost

WORKPLAN

- CI to draft a Transition Action Plan
- Joint upkeep and content creation for the CPMM portal

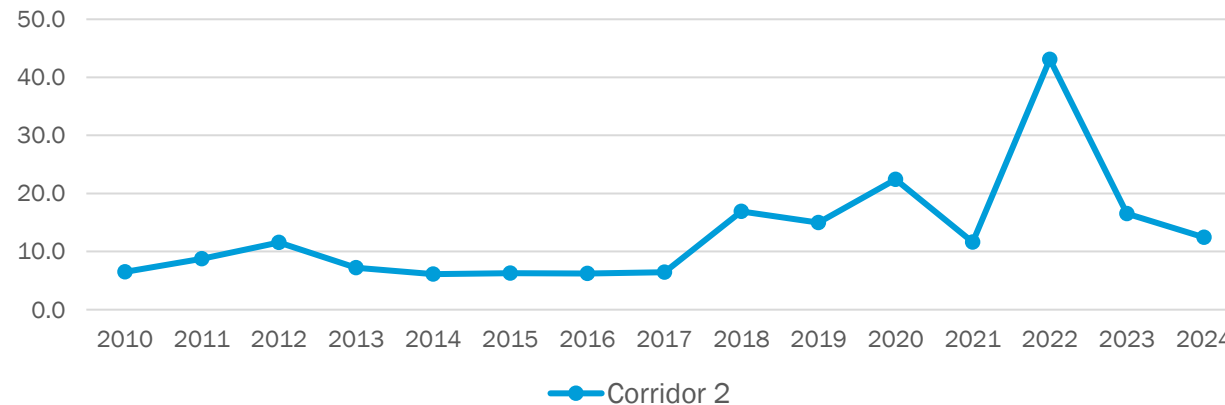
Average Time Taken to Clear a BCP

Time Taken to Clear a BCP (hours) - by Mode, all corridors



No improvements in BCP clearance time

Time Taken to Clear a BCP (hours) – Corridor 2

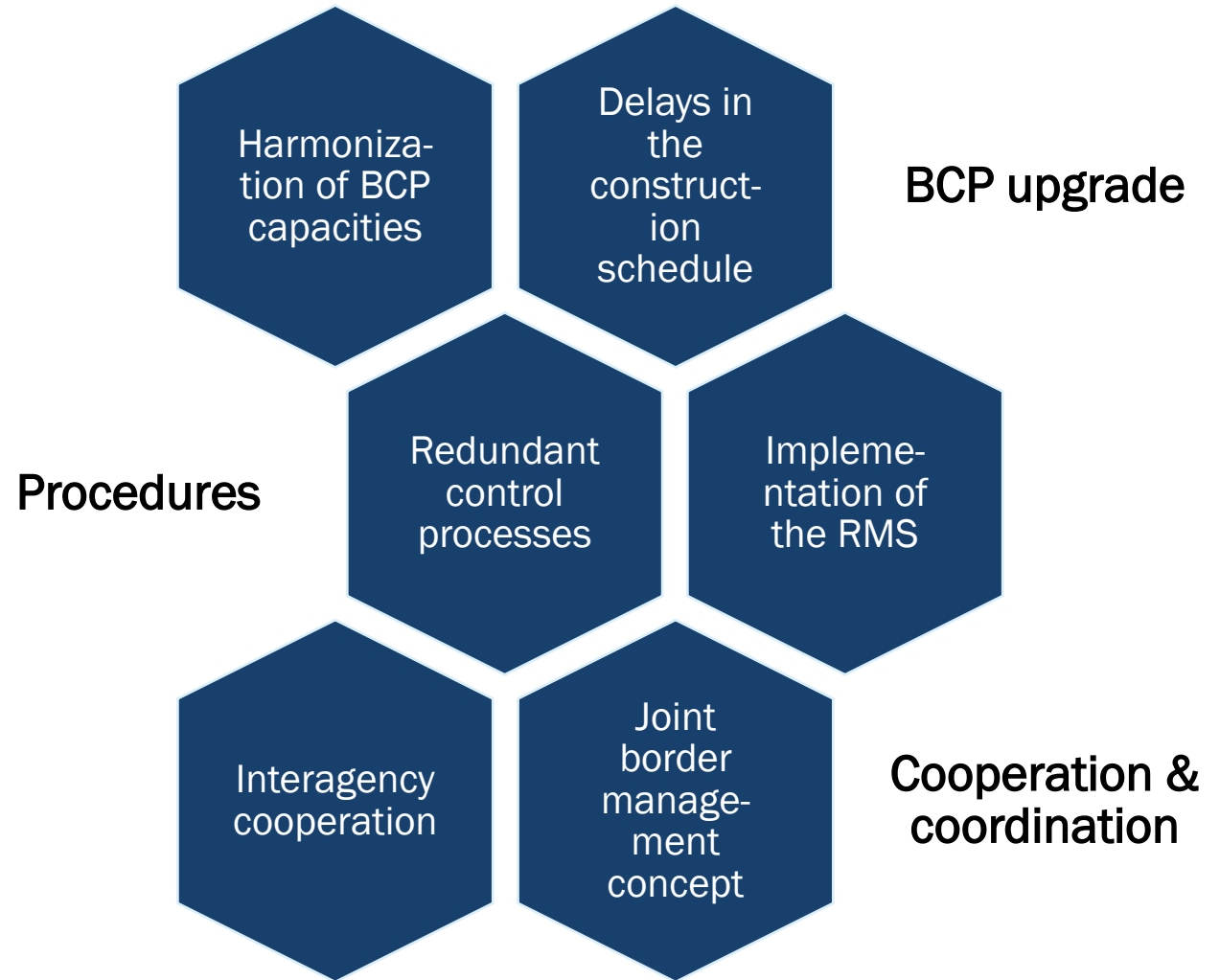
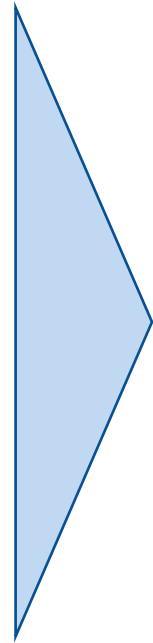


Source: CPMM

Regional Improvement of Border Services:

Main challenges

Factors impeding efficient border services in CAREC



Key Recommendations

Synchronized development of BCP infrastructure and capacities

- Ensure a synchronized approach to border infrastructure development, with mutual investment and aligned procedures
- Upgrade BCP facilities on both sides of the border to avoid imbalances that may create bottlenecks

Harmonized border-crossing procedures

- Minimize physical truck inspections by implementing a risk-based control approach
- Implement Risk Management Systems at BCPs
- Introduce the Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) schemes
- Implement post-clearance audit function to support systems-based trader audits

Speedup the full implementation of the single window system

- Align trade documents with internationally recognized standards
- Design and implement a compatible single window system across CAREC countries
- Enhance compatibility among national systems to support integration into global value chains

Key Recommendations

Improve interagency cooperation

Establish bilateral coordination committees with neighboring countries to

- Harmonize customs procedures and formalities
- Develop integrated information systems to permit the exchange of information
- Establish a common approach to risk management

Develop joint border crossing points (JBCP)

Develop joint border-crossing (JBCP) concepts to

- Increase in BCP throughput capacities through the removal of redundant administrative procedures and adoption of the one-stop principle
- Reduce the cross-border time and increase efficiency of cross-border operations

Ensure digitalization of transport documents

- Adopt national legislation to implement e-CMR and E-TIR
- Upgrade electronic customs systems to support e-CMR and e-TIR and integrate digital transport documentation with existing SWSs
- Ensure interoperability between national, regional, and international platforms

Border Upgrades for Integration, Logistics, and Development (BUILD) Facility

- **New financing facility** for border crossing point (BCP) improvements in the CAREC region (expected approval in June 2026)
 - address infrastructure and soft-side needs
 - promote joint BCPs
- **ADB financing of \$400 million** to finance a series of individual BCP projects along the CAREC network
 - seeking approx. \$150 million grant and concessional co-financing
- ADB's extensive experience on BCP projects show significant **cost and time reduction at BCPs**
- **TA (\$1.25 million)** supporting the BUILD preparation and implementation approved in April 2026
- **Priority projects** include Azerbaijan–Georgia joint border crossing point



Border Upgrades for Integration, Logistics, and Development (BUILD) Facility

- Reducing travel time along the CAREC corridors through BUILD initiative will provide **significant benefits for businesses and consumers**
- BCP projects will:
 - (i) support global climate goals,
 - (ii) provide spillover benefits to the border area communities,
 - (iii) reduce smuggling risks protecting industries, and
 - (iv) promote transparent, rules-based trade systems aligned with international standards.
- BCP projects provide **opportunities for** European and Asian **private sector** to export cutting-edge digital border crossing solutions (paperless customs, digital tracking, AI-driven inspections and logistics).



Border Upgrades for Integration, Logistics, and Development (BUILD) Facility

- **Tentative candidate projects (work in progress):**
 - Silk Road Joint BCP between Georgia and Azerbaijan
 - Several BCPs between Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and other neighboring countries (Fotehobod/Oybek, etc.)
 - BCPs between Pakistan and neighboring countries
 - Your suggestions are welcome!



Digital Customs Initiatives



Azerbaijan
Smart Customs



PRC
Smart Customs



Georgia
Digital and robotics



Kazakhstan
Unified Keden IT Platform



Kyrgyz Republic
Smart Bazhi



Mongolia
Establishing National Single Window



Pakistan
National Single Window



Tajikistan
Transitioning to ASYCUDA World



Turkmenistan
Smart Customs



Uzbekistan
Green Customs Initiative

Other Trade Facilitation Measures



Workshop on Advancing Digital and Green Trade Facilitation in CAREC (Seoul, 25-27 Nov 2025)

- Co-organized by ADB and Korean Customs Service, it highlighted: practical technological innovations, e.g. AI-enabled risk management, blockchain-secured data exchange, IoT-based cargo visibility, green performance indicators
- Presented the *E-Commerce Goods Clearance Integration Strategy* developed by ADB and KCS, a digital-first approach to managing small-parcel trade flows
- Underscored the role of National Trade Facilitation Committees (NTFCs) in whole-of-government digital trade reform

Enhancements to the CPMM methodology were implemented:

- addition of routes
- new indicators
- BCP surveys, shift to quarterly from monthly, new data collection partners

CPMM framework can be expanded for policy analysis, e.g. Cross-Border Trade and Transport Facilitation Index of ADB



Session 4: Accelerating Digital Trade

**Dorothea Lazaro, Senior Regional Cooperation Specialist,
ADB**

Digital trade and e-commerce – long standing priorities under the CAREC Program

CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda 2030

- alignment with international instruments
- cross-border connectivity
- knowledge-sharing on best practices on e-commerce

CAREC Digital Strategy 2030

- reduce existing barriers to cross-border trade, through e-payments and digital platforms
- adopt common standards and principles of interoperability, scalability, and security

Enabling environment

Align with international conventions and international best practices to increase consumer confidence and support e-commerce ecosystem and private sector growth. Cultivate culture of trust and regional inter-operability.

Infrastructure development

Establish backbone networks, internet exchange points, and data centers. Expand payment systems capacity, logistics services, and cross-border connectivity. Support start-up ecosystems.

Regional cooperation

Collective effort to harmonize, build mutual trust and share good practices. Facilitate trade and improve rules on cross-border e-commerce transactions. Participate at international and regional platforms (CAREC, UNNEXT)



CAREC Partnership for Trade, Climate, and Innovation

November 2024, Baku

Pursues **regional actions** and innovative solutions to climate change and trade issues.

Strong consensus on the need for regional cooperation, digital trade harmonization, climate-smart infrastructure, and innovation financing.

Members **ready to support** the CAREC Partnership and proposed a **plan of action** to operationalize it

Priority Initiatives

- UN Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records (**MLETR**)
- **ePhyto** (electronic phytosanitary certificate) Solution (**IPPC**)
- electronic exchange and mutual recognition of **conformity certificates** (pilot with **KTNET**)
- QR-code technology for **carbon traceability** (ADB Trade and Supply Chain Finance Program)
- CAREC Advance Transit System and Information Customs Exchange (**CATS/ICE**)
- Use of **AI/robotic process automation** in Georgia
- Minimum viable product for e-COO using **digital ledger technology** in Mongolia
- **CAREC Innovation and Venture Investment Catalyst** (CIVIC) to catalyze the deployment of venture capital (Fund of Funds) for startup ecosystems



Pilot Project on Conformity Certificates

MOU on pilot project on e-exchange and mutual recognition of conformity certificates (Bishkek, Nov 2025)

Signed by Azerbaijan, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, ADB and KTNET

Tajikistan expressed interest to join (Feb 2026)

Information session and survey questionnaire in April – May 2026



Objective: Establish a pilot model for the electronic exchange and interoperability of Certificates of Conformity (e-CoC) and Test Reports (e-TR), creating a foundation for regional digital trade infrastructure cooperation

Pilot Project on Conformity Certificates

Kick-Off Workshop (Incheon, ROK, 1-2 June 2026)

- Preliminary comparison of baseline institutional and technical readiness of pilot countries
- Discussion on pilot products for e-conformity certificates and test results
- Global benchmarks and lessons learned from IPPC's ePhyto, APEC and others;
- Study tour at Korea Conformity Laboratories



Phase 1 Hub Development (M1–M12)

- ▶ Situation diagnostics & gap analysis
- ▶ Public key registry & CAB common code infrastructure
- ▶ SOP draft finalized and submitted to ADB
- ▶ Hub development (document + metadata exchange, authenticity verification)
- ▶ Hub management portal (default connectivity for participants)

Phase 2 Pilot Operation (M13–M24)

- ▶ SOP refinement & pilot arrangement discussion
- ▶ Pilot operation (target: 60+ exchanges)
- ▶ Final pilot report submitted to ADB
- ▶ CAB registration & connectivity testing (arrangement-based)
- ▶ Performance management (KPI monitoring)

Seminar on Advancing Cross-Border Trade through Digital Payments | September 2025, Hangzhou, PRC

- 3rd year of CAREC Seminar at the sideline of Global Digital Trade Expo hosted by the PRC in Hangzhou
- Shared government strategies to strengthen digital trade infrastructure, promote interoperability, and foster inclusive regional digital economy
- Strong stakeholder interest to develop secure, interoperable digital payment systems and coordinated regulatory approaches, proposals for regional instant payment rail, interoperable QR and wallet systems, and harmonized regulations supported by electronic Know-Your-Customer integration
- **PRC case studies and study tours:** Hangzhou's cross-border e-commerce innovations, the Central Asia China-Tower Industrial Park, and Coral Cross-Border's smart payment solutions showcased practical models for regional digital trade and payment innovation.

Aligning E-Commerce Framework with Best Practices

Rapid Assessment of Legal and Regulatory Framework for E-Commerce in Kazakhstan

- Co-supported with KEEP (Knowledge and Experience Exchange Program), a joint initiative of ADB with the government of Kazakhstan to expand policy dialogue
- Examined international trends in e-commerce regulations and alignment of Kazakh law with international and regional commitments
- Compared Kazakhstan approaches with EU legislation relating to e-commerce and digital platforms
- Assessed the applicability of international approaches in the context of Kazakhstan

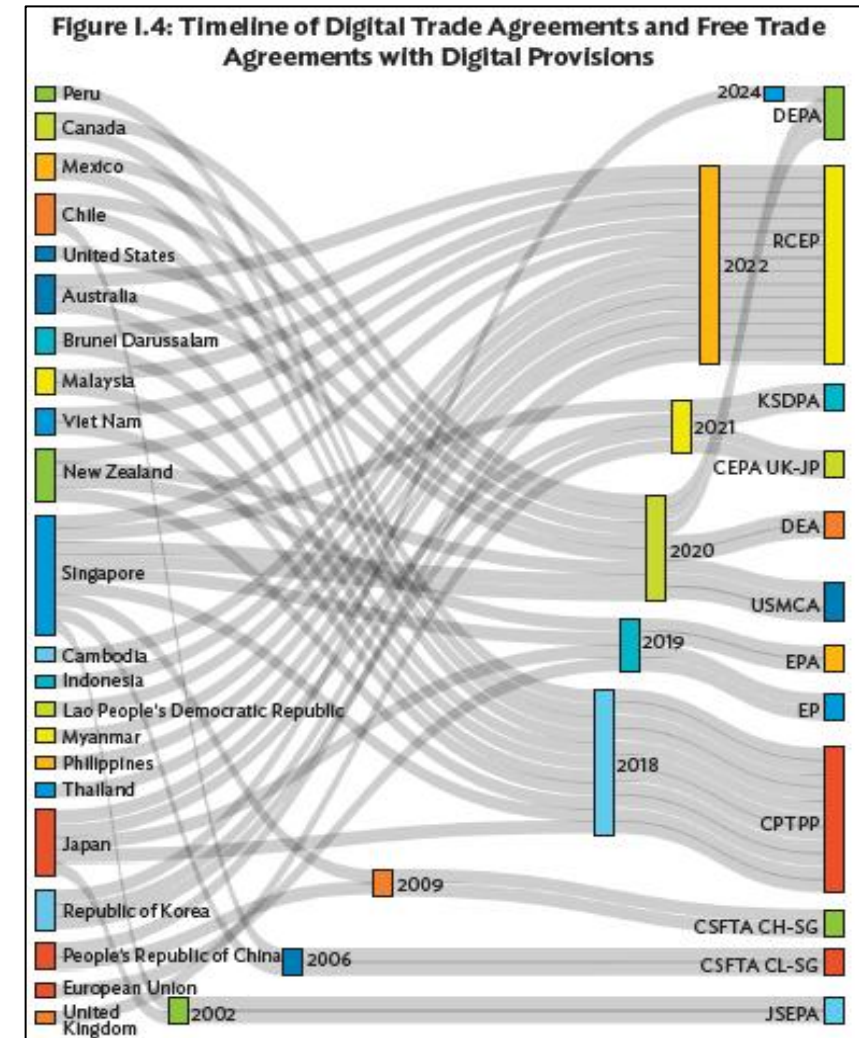
5 CAREC countries (PRC, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia) are among the 91 WTO members advocating for a WTO e-commerce agreement through the Joint Statement Initiative on E-Commerce. A plurilateral WTO agreement on e-commerce was signed in 2024 by 82 members.

Declaration on WTO Agreement on E-commerce With Interim Arrangements adopted by 5 CAREC members (WTO MC-14, March 2026)



Digital economy agreements as a new approach

- **Context:** High heterogeneity in regulatory frameworks across economies, progressing at different paces.
- **Objective:** Advance digital trade and regulatory cooperation in the region.
- **Methodology:** overview and deep dives into selected thematic areas, using **Digital Economy Agreements (DEAs)** as the **common analytical thread** linking chapters.
- **Outcome:**
 - State of play of digital regulations
 - In depth-analysis of selected areas through the lens of DEAs
 - Laying the foundation for future research and dialogue on digital trade and regulations, bridging the gap between the content of DEAs and their practical application.
- *ADB Project: Digital Regulatory Cooperation: Unpacking the Implementation “Black Box”*



Digital Agreements will be increasingly important for Investment

Context

- Digital Economy Partnership Agreement (DEPA) between Singapore, New Zealand, Chile, and the Republic Korea (2025).
- A pioneering framework addressing rapidly evolving challenges, tackling issues such as, for example, data flows, AI governance, and digital identities.

DEPA modularity – No one size fits all



Data Flows	Cybersecurity	Personal Information Protection
Key Issues		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Binding rules can reduce policy space over data governance. • Data flows favor big tech, may hurt local players. • Sovereignty concerns on enforcement and control. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laws are outdated or underfunded. • Limited capacity to manage threats. • Need for cross-border coordination. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weak Data Protection Laws: in many countries. • Privacy Concerns: Conflicts between global data flow and domestic privacy laws. • Data Localization Challenges: Issues with compliance and protection standards.
Policy focus		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt risk-based, flexible rules on data flow, using modular and transparent frameworks like DEPA. • Promote transparent, interoperable standards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Align and update national frameworks with international standards • Invest in cyber capacity-building • Foster International cooperation for sharing cybersecurity threat intelligence and coordinated responses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen Privacy Laws and promote mutual recognition of standards. • Encourage Privacy by Design into digital services from the outset.

Session 5: Expanding Investments and Trade in Services

Zulfia Karimova, Principal Regional Economic Cooperation
Specialist, ADB

Rolando Avendano, Senior Economist, ADB

Regional Tourism Development

MoU on CAREC Regional Tourism Development | November 2025, Bishkek

- Reaffirms commitment under CAREC Tourism Strategy and develop regional tourism clusters

MoU on the Kyrgyz Republic–Uzbekistan Cross-Border Sustainable Tourism Cluster Development | November 2025, Bishkek

- Study the feasibility of sustainable cross-border tourism and integrate tourism services in the socio-economic development plan of Chatkal district, develop a Roadmap for Sustainable Cross-Border Tourism Cluster implementation

CAREC and the Global Silk Road: Connecting Regions through Tourism | May 2026, Samarkand

- organized at the margins of ADB's 2026 Annual Meeting
- discussed opportunities in leveraging Silk Road heritage and modern connectivity to create a regional brand, and position CAREC as a global tourism corridor
- ADB and UN Tourism signed a **Letter of Intent** to jointly pursue initiatives in support of regional tourism.



... scaling beyond borders

ADB Tourism-Related Pipeline Projects

Pakistan: Sustainable and Green Infrastructure Project, *promoting cross-border medical tourism*

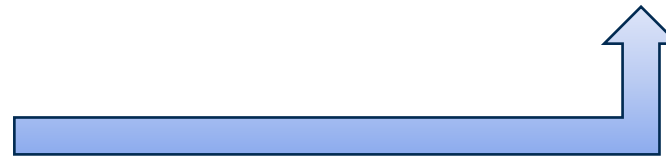
Kyrgyz Republic: Skills Development System Transformation Program, *training specialists for tourism sector*

Tajikistan: Tourism Development Multisector Project, *developing tourism sector*

Kyrgyz Republic: Advancing Green Investment and Resilient Economic Growth Program, *supporting reforms in implementing Sustainable Tourism Development Program and integration of Uzbekistan-Kyrgyz Republic **cross-border tourism** into social and economic development plan of the cross-border district*

Kyrgyz Republic–Uzbekistan: Sustainable Cross-Border Tourism Cluster Development

- **Boosts regional growth:** Higher visitor spending lifts Gross Regional Product in Jalal-Abad province with **1.3 million people** and Tashkent region with its **3.1 million people** through hospitality, transport, retail, and services.
- **Expands national value creation**
- **Reduces poverty, improves wellbeing**
- **Creates inclusive jobs**



Global Travel Trends and CAREC Tourism Opportunities



Adventure Travel
\$1.16 Trillion
global outbound
adventure market
(2024)

Up 160% since 2016.
CAREC region's
tourism assets and
offer is perfectly
positioned for this
high value market.



Cultural & Culinary
75% of travelers
seek authentic local
cultural experiences,
culinary top activity

Diversity of cultures
and cuisines across
CAREC members
creates opportunity to
create unique tourism
experiences and
cross-border routes.



Digital and AI in
Travel Planning
52% of travelers
using AI to plan travel
(up from 26% in 2024)

90% of tourists
research travel online.
Digitalized tourism
sectors in CAREC are
leveraging this to
attract and sell to
international markets.




Visa Liberalization
Supports Growth
Significant visa
reforms across
CAREC Region

Most CAREC
members now offer
visa-free or e-visa
access to key source
markets. This makes
cross-border travel
more seamless.


50

Moving Forward: CAREC Region's Tourism Future

 **CONNECT**
We connect the region


Improve connectivity and seamless travel across the region, create quality cross-border tourism products and promote this unique tourism region rich with diverse cultures, natures, cuisines and experiences.



 **TRANSFORM**
We transform how it's experienced and marketed

Digitalization and skills development to strengthen the region's tourism ecosystem to support a competitive private sector, quality tourism services, and innovative marketing to attract high value visitors.



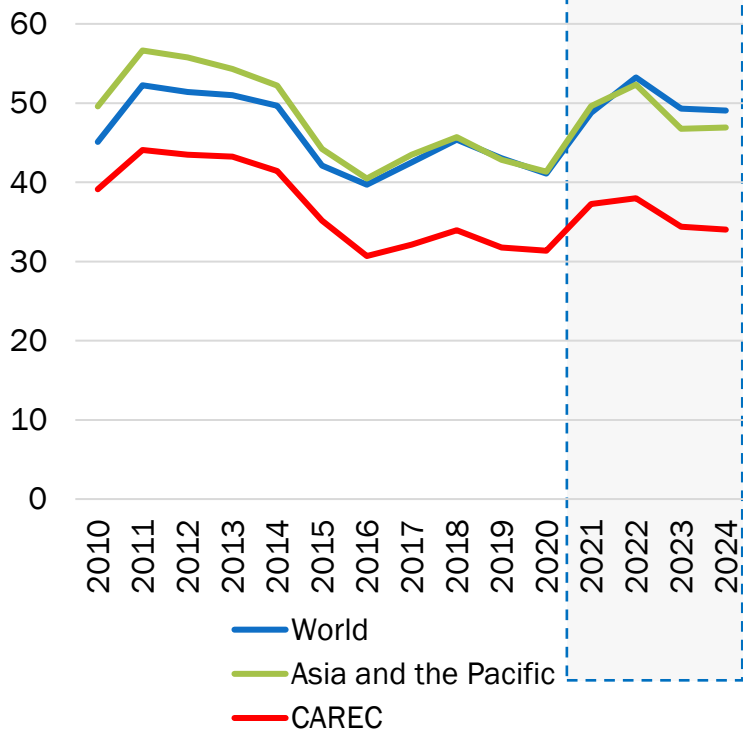
 **BUILD**
We build resilience for the long-term growth

Support sustainability and climate action policies and interventions to build resiliency, climate adaptivity and risk management skills in the region's tourism sector.

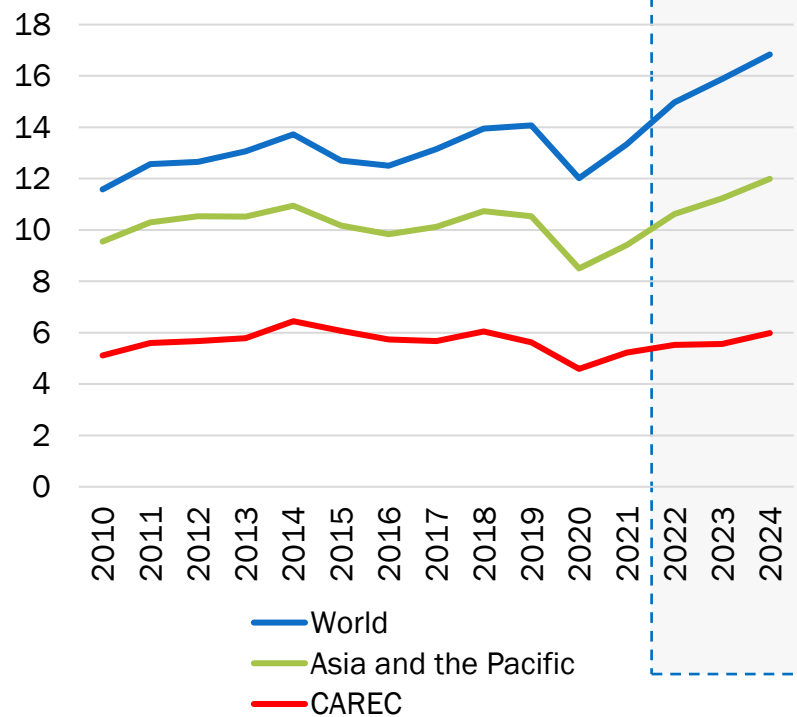
Trade in services in Asia is growing and increasingly important

Trade in goods, services and digital services as a share of GDP (%)

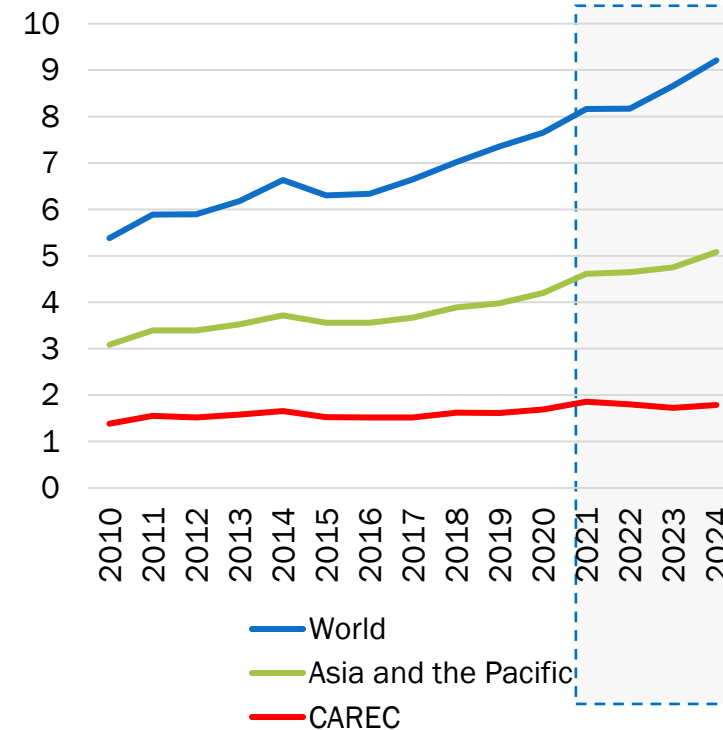
Trade in Goods



Trade in Services



Trade in Digital services



Note: a) Trade in services excludes mode 3 (commercial presence). B) Solid lines denote digitally deliverable services, dotted lines are non-digitally deliverable service items.

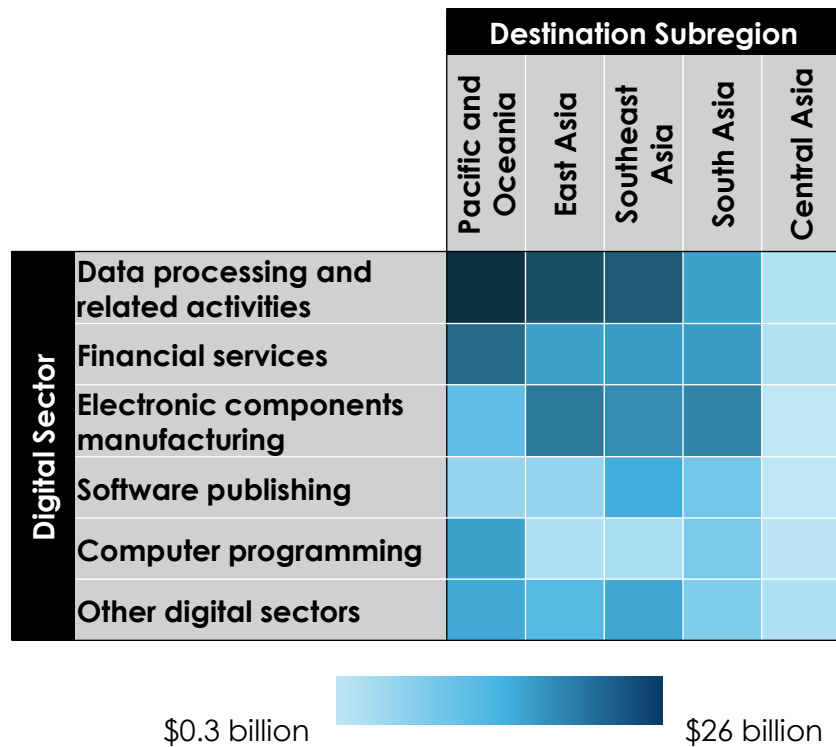
Source: ADB calculations using WTO-UNCTAD (accessed March 2026).

Enhancing Foreign Investment among CAREC members

Digital FDI is increasing across Asia and for major digital industries

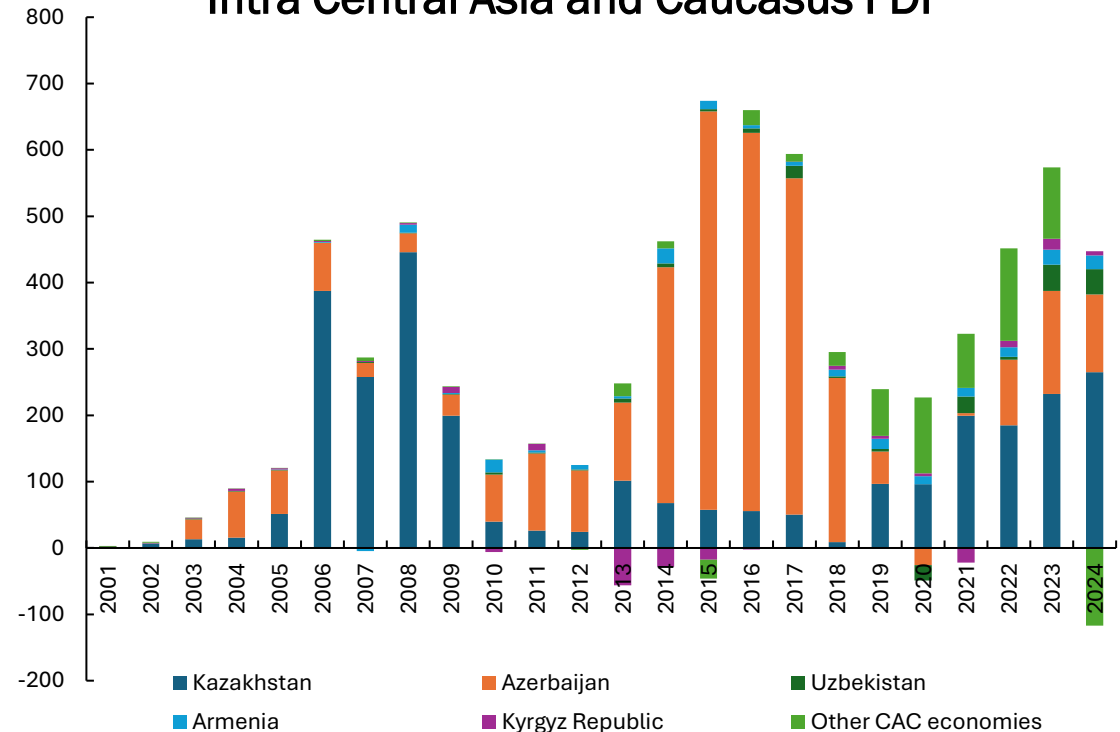
Opportunities for investment among CAREC members in energy, transport digital, agriculture

Digital FDI in Asia by Destination Subregion and Sector—Firm-Level, 2024 (\$ billion)



Source: ADB 2026 Asian Economic Integration Report.

Intra Central Asia and Caucasus FDI



Source : ADB calculations using data from International Monetary Fund and UN Trade and Development. World Investment Report.

Roadmap for Sustainable Investment Policy Reforms in Uzbekistan



OECD Investment Policy Reviews

Roadmap for Sustainable Investment Policy Reforms in Uzbekistan



- Launched in 2024 by OECD, EU, ADB and Uzbekistan, and published in 2025
- A comprehensive assessment of the current investment framework in Uzbekistan, to provide evidence-based and up-to-date analysis and tailored recommendations to improve the investment climate, support reform implementation, and maximize the development impact of FDI
- Reform priorities are to:
 - (a) improve market openness and clarity
 - (b) consistency and transparency of investment rules
 - (c) promote responsible business conduct
 - (d) improve investment promotion, facilitation and tax incentives governance and alignment with national priorities
 - (e) strengthen the contribution of FDI to the green and digital transitions and export diversification

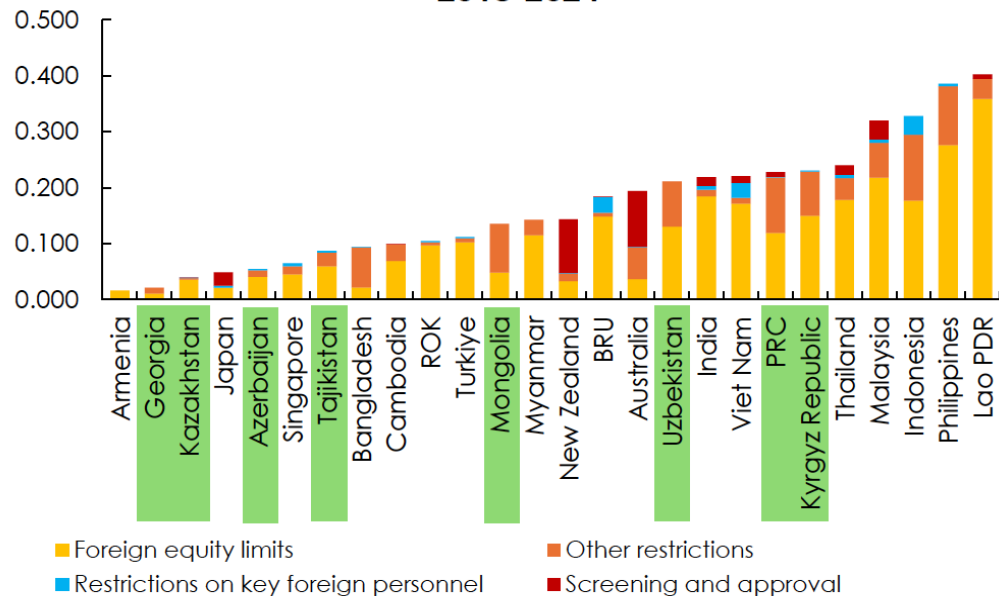
Next step: Regional Alliance Foreign Investment Councils (RAIC-CAC)

Reducing Regulatory Barriers and Enhancing Investment Facilitation Policies Can Boost Cross-Border Investments

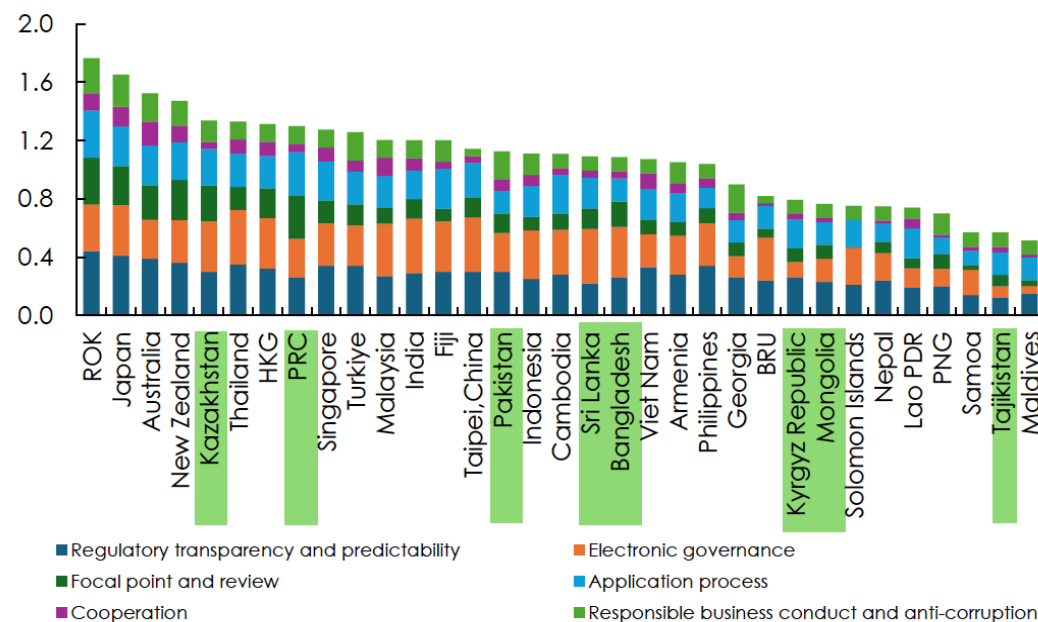
Regulatory restrictiveness remains higher in developing Asian economies

Asian economies feature high adoption of investment facilitation measures, with some regional variation

FDI Regulatory Restrictiveness Index, Period Average, 2018-2024



Investment Facilitation Index, 2023



BRU = Brunei Darussalam; PRC = People's Republic of China; HKG = Hong Kong, China; ROK = Republic of Korea; Lao PDR = Lao People's Democratic Republic; PNG = Papua New Guinea.

Notes: The FDI Regulatory Restrictiveness Index measures statutory restrictions across 4 main areas, with values ranging from 0 to 1, 0 being more open and 1 being more closed. The Investment Facilitation Index measures how deeply economies have adopted investment facilitation policies across 6 dimensions. Values range from 0 to 2, with values close to 2 indicating a higher degree of adoption. CAREC economies are highlighted in green.

Sources: ADB calculations using data from IDOS and WTO. WTO Investment Related Databases. Investment Facilitation Index Database. https://www.wto.org/spanish/res_s/reser_s/invest_related_db_s.htm (accessed March 2024); and OECD. OECD Data Explorer. <https://data-explorer.oecd.org/> (accessed October 2025).



Priorities for sustainable investment policies

Priority 1:

Improve market openness and the clarity, consistency and transparency of investment rules to boost competition and private sector development

- **Reduce the frequency of regulatory changes and improve regulatory impact assessments** to determine whether the adoption of new laws or regulations is necessary.
- **Re-evaluate the necessity of foreign equity restrictions** in service sectors and discriminatory minimum capital requirements.
- **Consolidate FDI restrictions through a negative list approach** in the future by-law on investment and make sure it is adopted in parallel with the new Law to reduce uncertainty.
- **Enhance judicial capacity for complex commercial disputes** and expand mediation and arbitration mechanisms to improve legal predictability.
- **Reduce SOEs' preferential access to land and finance, and improve SOE transparency** and governance—including ESG reporting

Priority 2:

Promote responsible business conduct (RBC) to advance sustainability goals

- Co-ordinate efforts to promote RBC across government and stakeholders, including by **adopting National Action Plans** to set out expectations for businesses
- **Raise awareness of RBC** and provide support to businesses, for instance by implementing the national SME strategy.
- **Promote greater compliance** with labour, human rights and environmental standards and effective access to remedy.
- **Encourage RBC through economic policies.** Governments can reinforce expectations of SOEs, building on its efforts to promote ESG risk management, and provide guidance on integrating RBC in green and sustainable procurement.

Priority 3:

Improve investment promotion, facilitation and tax incentives governance and strengthen FDI impact in green and digital sectors and export diversification

- **Ensure responsibilities spanning investment promotion and facilitation government bodies are clear**, with transparent key performance indicators and increased resources for investor relations, aftercare, and policy advocacy.
- **Prioritise tax incentives that are linked to firm expenditures** over those that give relief based on income (tax holidays), including in SEZs.
- **Streamline coordination between investment promotion bodies** to strengthen investment promotion, facilitation, and aftercare in the digital sector.
- **Enhance cross-border investment facilitation procedures** through a single window system, ensuring alignment with the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

Elements of a WTO/WB TS4D Work Program

- Developing a User-Friendly **Competitiveness Diagnostic** Dashboard
- Improving Services Trade **Statistics**
- Identifying Best Practices in **Export Promotion Strategies** in Services
- Expanding the coverage of the **STPD** and **STRI** in the developing world
- Promoting Services Trade Policy **Transparency**
- Assisting developing countries in facilitating trade through the promotion of **good regulatory practices** on services



Session 6: **Scaling Investment Projects for the CITA Rolling Strategic Action Plan (RSAP)**

Dorothea Lazaro, Senior Regional Cooperation Specialist, ADB

Transforming CAREC Corridors into Economic Corridors

Multi-Sector Finance for 2026–2030

\$10 Billion+

ADB committed finance envelope through 2030

~40 Projects

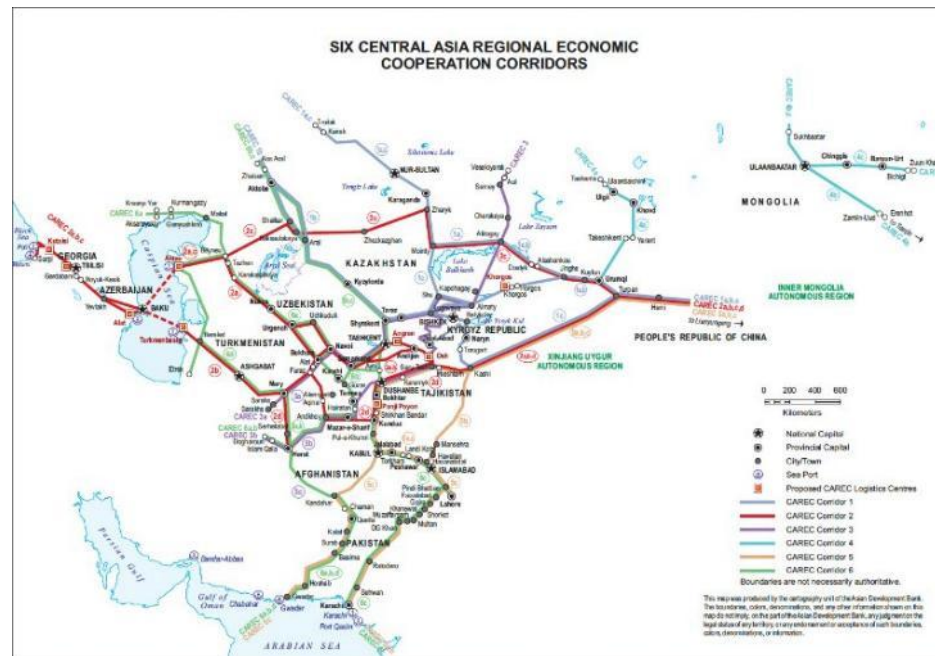
Pipeline operations across CAREC member countries

6 Corridors

Spanning 11 countries from East Asia to Europe

Investment Themes

- Economic Corridor Development (~\$3.4B)
- Digital Connectivity & Transformation (~\$500M)
- BUILD Facility for Border Modernization (~\$400M)



Strategic Vision

- Moving beyond transit corridors to **integrated economic corridors** with multi-sector investments in transport, energy, **trade**, digital, tourism, and agriculture
- Leveraging 10+ years of Almaty-Bishkek Economic Corridor experience to scale the economic corridor model across all 6 CAREC corridors
- Anchored in CAREC 2030 Strategy and ADB’s Operational Approach for Revitalizing RCI (March 2026)

CITA 2030 RSAP 2025-2028

CITA ROLLING STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN 2025-2028 (INDICATIVE)

Area	Project/Activity	Type or Modality	Proponent	
Pillar 1: Trade Expansion from Increased Market Access				
1	Trade policy and measures	Roadmap for transformation of trade policy and trade facilitation; customs and tax reform support program (Policy-based loan or PBL for UZB)	Policy dialogue, Investment project	TKM, UZB
		Harmonization of policy and regulations (PBL for AZE)	Policy dialogue, Investment project	AZE
	Simplification of customs, border and transit procedures and liberalization of cross-border trade; link Customs clearance and risk management systems	Policy dialogue	GEO, TAJ, TKM, PAK	
		Investment project	UZB	
		Knowledge products and services	AZE, UZB, TKM, KAZ	
2	Border infrastructure and facilities	Modernize border infrastructure (inspection equipment, technical control, customs warehouses, logistics centers) e.g., Port of Baku connectivity	Investment project	AZE, KAZ, TAJ
		Establishment of a border crossing point (BCP) regional facility: Borders Upgrades for Integration, Logistics and Development (BUILD) Facility	Investment project	REG
	Almaty-Bishkek Economic Corridor (ABEC) Regional Improvement of Border Services (RIBS)	Investment project	KGZ	
	Reconstruct Yallama, Dustlik-Aytodorozhny, Sariyasiya and integrate digital solutions	Investment project	UZB	
	Construct and equip BCPs at Bedel, Yntymak, Karamyk, Issyk-Kul; add Bedel to Corridor 1, open and include Yntymak in Corridor 2, upgrade Karamyk to international status; modernize Torugart and Irkeshtam BCPs; equip Issyk-Kul and Karakol airports with inspection and control systems.	Investment project	KGZ	
	Modernize Kharlachi, Ghulam Khankhel and Agoor BCPs	Investment project	PAK	
	Joint BCP infrastructure, harmonized customs procedures, coordinated management	Investment project	AZE, GEO	

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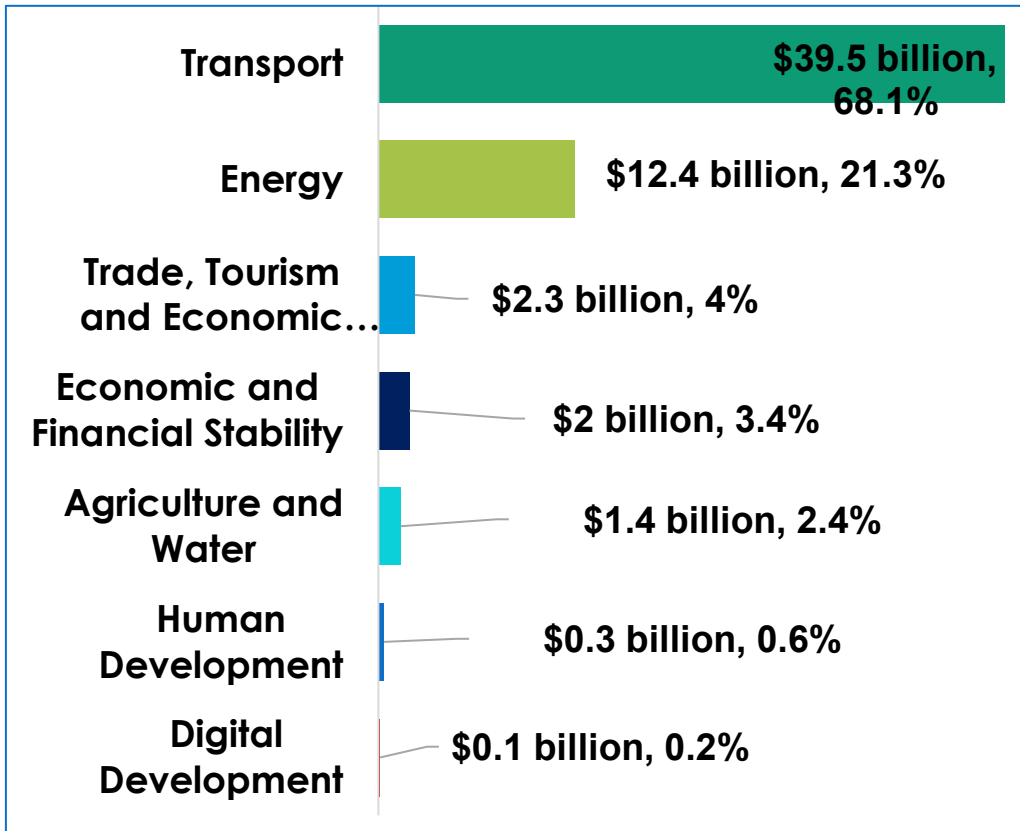
Appendix 4 continued

Area	Project/Activity	Type or Modality	Proponent	
	Develop multimodal/intermodal logistics centers (dry ports, terminals) near key BCPs and key routes	Investment project	KAZ, KGZ, UZB	
	Develop logistics hubs in Navoi, Tashkent and Termez for multimodal transit between PRC, South Asia and Caucasus	Investment project	UZB	
	Use of scanners, automated or contactless systems, and electronic queue management system in BCPs	Investment project	PAK, UZB	
	Digital infrastructure for seamless Customs operations	Investment project	AZE	
	Develop CAREC Corridor 2 (Middle Corridor) with common standards, joint investment projects, inclusive regional mechanism	Policy dialogue	GEO	
3	Digital trade processes and documents	Regional strategy to improve logistics services, including logistics hubs and terminals	Policy dialogue	TKM
		Digital and regulatory alignment, scale up digital innovations regionally	Knowledge products and services, Investment project	AZE, GEO, KAZ, KGZ, MON, PAK, TAJ, UZB, TKM
	Common digital system or regional platform for documentation, verification, data sharing; electronic exchange of trade documents	• Digitalization of cross-border processes: electronic document management, new digital services, cybersecurity	Investment project	MON, PAK, TAJ, UZB, TKM
		• Establish national single window (NSW), facilitate advance manifest of import, export or transit cargo	Policy dialogue, Investment project	GEO
	E-Corridor integrating NSWs or regional Electronic Pre-Parcel Information (EPI) system for all members	Policy dialogue, Investment project	UZB	
	National Single Window for trade based on international standards (through PBL for UZB)	Investment project	UZB	
	Pilot to expand Pakistan Single Window to more regulatory agencies from CAREC members through bilateral arrangements, a precursor to integrating SW regionally	Investment project	PAK	
Use of disruptive technology for Customs performance	Investment project	MON, GEO		
4	CAREC Advanced Transit System (CATS) and Information Common Exchange (ICE) Pilot Project	• Pilot of a CAREC regional transit scheme based on comprehensive and risk-based guarantees, and a customs information common exchange	Policy dialogue, Investment project	AZE, GEO, UZB, KGZ, PAK, TAJ, TKM
		• Private sector engagement in CATS/ICE parallel testing		
		• Expansion of pilot implement to other countries		
5	AEO program	• Capacity building and mutual recognition on authorized economic operators	Knowledge products and services	AZE, MON, PAK
		• Expand membership to manufacturers, freight forwarders, customs brokers, international postal services, and Customs-to-Customs/Customs-Business partnership		

continued on next page

CAREC Trade-Related Investment Projects

CAREC Investments by Sector
In billion US\$ as of December 2025



IFI	Country Project Title
ADB	PRC: Inner Mongolia Sustainable Cross-Border Development Investment Program
	KGZ: Regional Customs Modernization and Infrastructure Development Project
	MON: Border Efficiency for Sustainable Trade Project
	MON: Regional Improvement of Border Services Project
	MON: Regional Upgrades of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures for Trade Project
	MON: Developing the Economic Cooperation Zone Project
	PAK: Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Regional Improving Border Services Project
	PAK: Improved Resource Mobilization and Utilization Reform Program, (Subprogram 2)
	TAJ: Regional Customs Modernization and Infrastructure Development Project
	World Bank
PAK: Trade and Transport Facilitation II Project	
TAJ: Financial and Private Sector Development Project	
ISDB	TAJ: Import Financing Facility for Import Agricultural Inputs

Some ADB Financing Opportunities on Projects with Trade Impact

Policy Reforms

- KGZ: Advancing Green Investment and Resilient Economic Growth
- UZB: SEZ Infrastructure Modernization Initiative (SIMI) Program
- UZB: Promoting Accelerated Integration to Global Value Chains (WTO) Program

Tourism and others

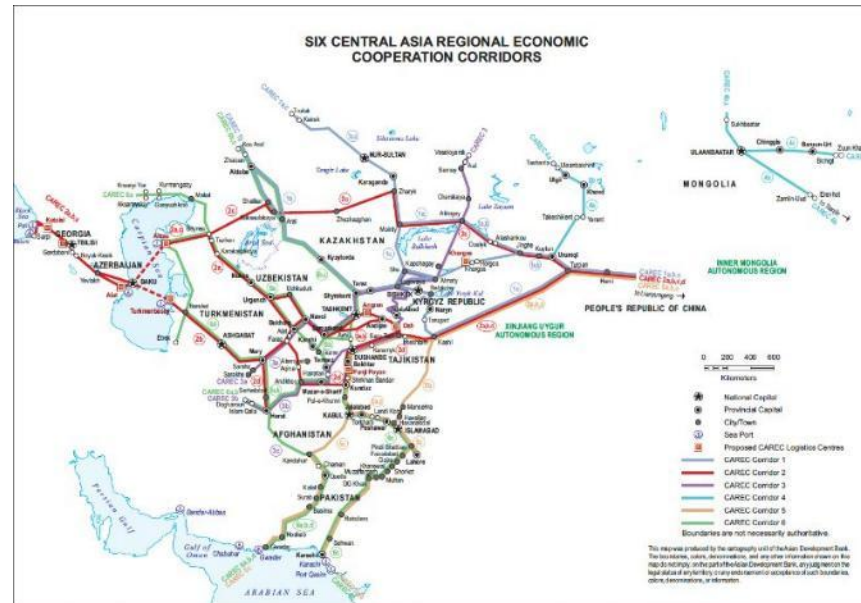
- KGZ: Skills Development System Transformation Program
- KGZ: Advancing Green Investment and Resilient Economic Growth Program
- MON: Promoting Green and Digital Economy Among Women Entrepreneurs
- PAK: Sustainable and Green Infrastructure Project
- TAJ: Tourism Development Multisector Project
- UZB: Modernization of Vocational Education for Green Economy Project

Transport

- AZE: Railway Electrification Projects
- GEO: Railways Sector Investment Project and Bypass Projects
- KAZ: CAREC Corridor 3 Highway Project
- KGZ: CAREC Transport Development Project
- KGZ: CAREC BUILD Project
- TKM: TransTurkmenistan Railway Modernization
- UZB: Tashkent Green Mobility Project
- UZB: CAREC Corridors 2 and 6 Road Modernization and Safety Project
- UZB: CAREC Corridors 2 and 6 Road Modernization Program

CAREC Food Safety and Agriculture Trade Corridor

Reforms and Investment Opportunities



Country	Potential Area of Intervention	CAREC Corridor
Azerbaijan	Climate-Resilient Horticulture & Export Development	Corridor 2
Georgia	Integrated Agri-Logistics & SPS Enhancement	Corridor 2
Kazakhstan	Sustainable Livestock & Rangeland Development	Corridor 2
Kyrgyz Republic	Climate-Resilient Smallholder Integration	Corridor 2
Tajikistan	Agrifood Trade Facilitation and Veterinary Border Control Project, Water-Efficient Agriculture & Value Chains	Corridor 2
Uzbekistan	Food Safety System Modernization & Export Support	Corridor 2
Pakistan	High-Value Crop Value Chain Development	Corridor 5
Pakistan	Horticulture & Pest Management Systems	Corridor 5
Mongolia	Climate-Resilient Livestock Systems	Corridor 4, connecting to Corridor 2
Turkmenistan	Trade Facilitation & Agri-Food System Entry	Corridor 2

Azerbaijan:

SPS & Veterinary/Phyosanitary Systems

- International-standard SPS regulatory framework and lab network (11 labs modernized)
- Digital disease monitoring, vaccine traceability, and pest early warning systems
- Complete one-time national livestock identification (cattle and small ruminants)
- Integrated plant protection and fumigation infrastructure upgraded

Uzbekistan:

Unified Food Safety Committee

- A single Food Safety Committee consolidating multiple agencies to enhance coordination and enforcement.

Risk-Based Inspection System

- The reform shifts from mandatory certification to risk-based inspection for more effective and focused controls.

Digital Transformation in Governance

- The decree mandates digital systems for data integration, risk analysis, and monitoring to improve transparency and efficiency.

Session 7: Development Partners Perspectives

Joint Meeting of the CAREC Regional Trade Group (RTG) and
Customs Cooperation Committee (CCC)
4 June 2026, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia



Wrap-up: **Highlights of RTG and CCC Meeting** **Outcomes and Next Steps**

**Joint Meeting of the CAREC Regional Trade Group (RTG) and
Customs Cooperation Committee (CCC)**
4 June 2026, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Highlights of the Joint RTG – CCC Meeting

- **Recognized** the good progress of trade initiatives aligned with CITA Midterm Review recommendations, particularly the action plans of MOUs and initiatives signed at 24th CAREC Ministerial Conference in 2025
- **Looked forward** to WTO accession efforts of remaining CAREC Member countries
- **Welcomed** the finalization of Modalities and **encouraged** continuing momentum in CARTIF negotiations, to finalize the Framework Agreement and its Protocols
- **Welcomed** Mongolia's participation in CATS/ICE initiative, pilot project on e-cert of conformity certificates, and opportunities to share experience and expand the pilot project to other countries, link with NSWs
- **Noted** the forthcoming establishment of CAREC BUILD Facility, invite CAREC to submit proposals for BCP modernization projects
- **Appreciated** support by development partners and highlight creating synergies
- **Discussed** opportunities to collaborate on digital economy, e-commerce, services and investment facilitation
- **Encouraged** RTG/CCC to coordinate with other agencies on trade-related investment projects (Agriculture, Food Safety agency, Transport, Digital) and submit proposals on projects, policy reforms, technical support and policy dialogues

