



4th CAREC Institute Annual Research Conference

**Rethinking Development Strategies: Green, Innovative, and Inclusive Development
for the CAREC region**

August 29–30, 2024

Almaty, Kazakhstan

co-organizing with China & Central Asia Studies Center, KIMEP University

Supported by: **Asian Development Bank**

DAY ONE – 29 August 2024

OPENING SESSION

Hall #220, 2nd floor

Moderator: Kuat Akizhanov (Deputy Director), CAREC Institute (CI)

9.15–10.00

Registration/CI Video to be screened

10.00–11.00

1. Opening Remarks (5 mins each)

Kabir Jurazoda, Director, CAREC Institute (CI)

Damian Riviez, Vice President of Academic Affairs, KIMEP University

Kadir Basboga, Senior Regional Integration & Trade Promotion Economist,
Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)

2. Keynote address (30 mins)

Johannes F. Linn, Nonresident Senior Fellow, The Brookings Institution

Group Photo

11.00–11.30

Coffee break, lounge, next to Hall #102, 1st floor

Parallel Sessions

Parallel Session I: Energy/Renewable Energy/Sustainable Energy

Hall #1, 2nd floor

Green development strategies entail prioritizing sustainability and inclusivity across all facets of economic, social, and environmental planning. Global trends in energy sector reforms are obvious. Global trends primarily involve transitioning towards renewable energy sources and implementing eco-friendly practices across industries and policy domains. Therefore, this session will elaborate, present and discuss selected papers pertinent to energy, renewable and sustainable energy.

11.30–13.00

Moderator

Vladislav Zavadskiy, Senior Energy Expert, CI

Speakers:

Burulcha Sulaimanova, Dina Azhgaliyeva, Hans Holzhaacker “House insulation: needs and willingness in Central Asia”

Qiong Zhang, Dina Azhgaliyeva “Hydrogen Fuel Cell Trucks: Total Cost of Ownership Analysis for the People’s Republic of China”

Ubaid ur Rehman Zia, Mahnoor Arshad, Zainab Babar “Sustainable Energy Transition in South Asia: Challenges and Emerging Opportunities through Regional Collaboration”

Hu Sheng, "PhotoSynthetic Refining: heavy oil slurry bed hydro-splitting full conversion technology"

Ramil Shakirov, “Electrical Digital Twin: Enabling Safety & Sustainability for today & future”, Schneider Electric

Discussant:

Ramil Shakirov, Head of the Training Center, Schneider Electric

Parallel Session II: Green Initiatives/Climate and Environment

Hall # 102, 1st floor

In the CAREC region only China and Kazakhstan have successfully introduced emission trading scheme, all of the selected countries are now considering carbon pricing instruments at different levels in their institutions. Given the difference in industry production structure of member countries, it is of great interest to assess various carbon pricing frameworks for high-emitting sectors. Analyzing institutional landscape for climate action for the selected scope of countries and industries including climate commitments (NDCs) and regulation trends will be discussed in the session.

11.30–13.00

Moderator

Asif Razzaq, Senior Research Specialist, CI

Speakers:

Falendra Kumar “Unlocking Innovative Governance Practices and Public-Private Financing for Achieving Sustainable Green Energy Transition in the CAREC Region: Challenges, Opportunities, and Policy Implications”

Hua Wang, Yingqing Lai, Yixin Yao “How Factors Affect Carbon Emission Price: Case Study of Beijing Carbon Emission Market”

Iskandar Abdullaev, Shakhboz Akhmedov “Water Security in Central Asia - Adaptation Strategies for Climate Resilience”

Ding Chen, “Dynamic connectedness between FDI, economic activity, energy consumption and CO2 emissions in Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) countries: The mediating role of institutional quality”

Naseem Faraz, Ghulam Samad “Climate Debt and Sustainability: Implication for CAREC Region”

Anton Merkulov, “Smart integration of renewable power generation as a key factor of green initiatives implementation”, Siemens Kazakhstan

Discussant:

Shu (Grace) Tian, Senior Economist, Economic Research and Development Impact Department, ADB

Parallel Session III: Trade/Connectivity/Corridors

Hall #220, 2nd floor

Trade, connectivity and corridors development play significant role in country development, particularly, stimulate industrial growth, facilitate trade, and attract investments. It fosters innovation and competitiveness, enabling companies to adapt to rapidly changing markets. The main purpose of this session is to present and discuss the selected papers pertinent to regional integration, digital trade, connectivity and corridors development.

11.30–13.00

Moderator

Ghulam Samad, Chief of Research Division, CI

Speakers:

Yinghao He, Yueshu Zhao “The Economic Shadow of CBAM: Assessing Trade Impacts on Central Asia and the South Caucasus”

Farrukh Khakimov “Digital Readiness of Central Asian States for Cross-Border Paperless Trade: A Study on Digital Infrastructure and Regional Connectivity”

Qaisar Abbas “Digital Trade, Economic Corridors Development: Need for Innovative Strategies”

Ali Raza Hanjra “Enhancing Port Competitiveness and Regional Trade in Pakistan along the CAREC Corridor: Role of the Government Support”

Discussant:

Xiaotong Zhang, Academic Director at China and Central Asia Studies Center (CCASC)

13.00–14.00

Lunch, lounge, next to Hall #102, 1st floor

Parallel Sessions

Parallel Session IV: Inequality and Inclusivity

Hall #1, 2nd floor

Inclusive development requires addressing social disparities and ensuring that growth benefits all segments of society, particularly marginalized segments of society. This involves implementing policies, for example, job creation, skills development, and entrepreneurship support to the marginalized segment, including women, that promote social equity and social protection. The following selected papers will be presented to highlight the underlying discourse.

14:00–15.30

Moderator

Ilhom Abdulloev, Chief of Capacity Building Division, CI

Speakers:

Kuat Akizhanov “Addressing Socio-Economic Inequality in the CAREC Region: Why Non-Orthodox Approach Is Needed”

Kaliyeva Saule, Elvira Buitek “Competencies and Skills Essential for Green Jobs”

Emmanuel Umoru Haruna, Vincent Tawiah “Does Income Inequality endanger Green growth? Evidence from selected countries in Asia and the Global South”

Adeel Kadri “Breaking Chains: Informal Employment in CAREC and Escaping the Middle-Income Trap”

Madina Junussova, Saniya Soltybaeva, Bakhytzhan Kurmanov “Urban Economic Resilience in Central Asian Cities”

Discussant:

Alma Kudebayeva, KIMEP University

Parallel Session V: ADB-PRC RCSI

**Evidence from the CAREC Corridor Performance Measurement and Monitoring Database
Hall #220, 2nd floor**

This session dedicated to the project on CAREC Corridors Performance, Measurement and Monitoring (CPMM) launched in 2009 by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The CPMM is a methodology for quantifying, evaluating, and monitoring the time and cost effectiveness of cross-border trade across the six CAREC corridors. Time and cost data from standardized forms are transmitted on a monthly basis, subsequently consolidated, analyzed, and published. The overall purpose of this session is to create awareness about CPMM publications and data to be used by relevant stakeholders.

14.00–15.30

Moderator

Akiko Terada-Hagiwara, Principal Country Specialist, East Asia Department, ADB

Speakers:

Kijin Kim “The Impact of COVID-19 Mobility Restrictions on Trade Facilitation at Borders in the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Region”

Dorothea Ramizo “Impact of Non-Tariff Measures and Border Crossing Time and Costs on Trade in Perishable Goods in the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Region”

Kamalbek Karymshakov “Trade Facilitation, Infrastructure, and International Trade in Central Asian Countries”

Ghulam Samad “Geographical Proximity and Trade Impacts in the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program Region”

Discussant:

Max Ee, CPMM consultant

Parallel Session VI: Innovation/innovative solutions

Hall # 102, 1st floor

Innovative developmental strategies embrace a culture of creativity, investing in research and development, and leveraging emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, robotization and blockchain. By embracing digital transformation and fostering innovative ecosystems, countries can enhance factors of production efficiencies, improve trade facilitation, create new markets, and address pressing social challenges. Therefore, inclusive innovative strategies ensure that the benefits of innovation are accessible to all segments of society.

14.00–15.30

Moderator

Hans Holzhaecker, Chief Economist, CI

Speakers:

Abylaikhan Soltanayev “Living Labs as Catalysts for Sustainable Energy Transition in Central Asia”

Kinza Malik “Modelling the Effect of FDI on Economic Growth in Central Asia: The Role of Digitalization”

Asif Razzaq “Does Artificial Intelligence Improve Green Transformation? Mechanism Analysis of China's A-share Listed Companies and Implications for CAREC Ladder Countries”

Merdan Yazyev “Innovation in small and medium-sized enterprises with a focus on energy efficiency, renewables, and digitalization”

Liu Bingcai “Evaluation of the Co-benefits and Trade-offs of Solar+ Projects and Their Prospects for Application in the CAREC Region”

Michiko Enomoto “Fostering Innovation and Development in Central Asia”

Discussant:

Nurgali Rakhmanov, President “Digital Society” NGO, S/GPP Policy Expert

15.30–16.00 Coffee break, lounge, next to Hall #102, 1st floor

Panel Session: Rethinking Development Strategies: Green, Innovative, and Inclusive Development for the CAREC region

Hall #220, 2nd floor

Moderator: **Kuat Akizhanov**, Deputy Director, CAREC Institute

In today's world, with increasing environmental and climatic challenges, rapid technological transformations, severe geopolitical tensions, and deep socio-economic change adding to persistent social inequalities, traditional approaches to development are being re-examined. A shift towards green, innovative, and inclusive development strategies is imperative to navigate these complexities and ensure sustainable progress. The CAREC region is a dynamic region with diverse economies. Therefore, it is necessary to develop growth strategies that would meet modern challenges. This panel convenes experts, policymakers, and practitioners to explore and share insights on "Rethinking Development Strategies: Green, Innovative, and Inclusive Development for the CAREC region," seeking to uncover actionable approaches across sectors and regions. By fostering collaborative discussions, we aim to catalyze practical measures that align progress with environmental stewardship, inspiring collective efforts towards a resilient and prosperous future.

16.00–17.30 **Soo Hyun Kim**, The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Kadir Basboga, Senior Regional Integration & Trade Promotion Economist, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)

Eldar Madumarov, Chair at the Department of Economics, KIMEP University

Marthe M. Hinojales, Senior Economist, AMRO+

Jang Ping Thia, Lead Economist and Manager of Economics Department Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

18.00–20.00 Banquet, by invitation only

DAY TWO – 30 August 2024

Hall #220, 2nd floor

This session is dedicated to the launch of CI's two flagship products: 3rd Annual Research Conference report and ESCAP-CI Joint report on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation. The main purpose of this session is to present key messages and policy recommendations for the CAREC member countries. Key messages and policy recommendations derived from the book and joint report will be presented in CI's Governing Council, Senior Officials, and CAREC working groups meetings to suggest research-based policy perspectives.

Special Session

- 10.00–10.10 **Introduction of the CAREC Institute Knowledge Products**
Jingjing Huang, Deputy Director, CI
Kuat Akizhanov, Deputy Director, CI
- 10.10–10.30 **CI's Book Launch "PROSPECTS FOR INCLUSIVE GREEN GROWTH AND SUSTAINABILITY IN THE CAREC REGION"**
Kuat Akizhanov, Deputy Director, CI
Ghulam Samad, Chief of Research Division, CI
- 10.30–11.00 **CI and UNESCAP Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation Report Launch**
Soo Hyun Kim, The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
Ghulam Samad, Chief of Research Division, CI

Lecture by Researcher

Hall #220, 2nd floor

- 11.10–12.15 Xiaotong Zhang, Professor at the Department of Political Science and International Relations of KIMEP University, Academic Director at China and Central Asia Studies Center (CCASC)
- "The Geography of Prosperity for the CAREC Region"
- Open Discussion**

CLOSING SESSION

Hall #220, 2nd floor

- 12.15–12.30 **Kuat Akizhanov**, Deputy Director, CAREC Institute (CI)
Xiaotong Zhang, Academic Director at China and Central Asia Studies Center (CCASC)