



Newsletter

CAREC Institute Welcomes High-Level Chinese Delegation for Strategic Collaboration

On September 27, in a significant step towards bolstering regional cooperation, the CAREC Institute was pleased to host an esteemed delegation from the People’s Republic of China at its headquarters in Urumqi. The delegation, under the leadership of Mr. Liao Min, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Finance, included Ms. Li Hongxia, Acting Director General of the International Economic and Financial Cooperation Department; Mr. Lu Jin, CAREC National Focal Point and Deputy Director General; and Mr. Ma Yong, Deputy Director General of the Xinjiang Finance Department.

CI Director Mr. Kabir Jurazoda took the opportunity to highlight the institute’s pivotal contributions to research, capacity building, and knowledge exchange among member countries. He underscored China’s crucial role in these efforts and introduced a strategic revitalization plan aimed at further enhancing the institute’s impact.

Vice Minister Liao Min commended the institute for its achievements and underscored the collaborative spirit of the concept note drafted recently, which aims to refine governance, focus areas, and flagship initiatives targeting regional policymakers. He advocated for deeper engagement with member states to fine-tune this strategy based on collective feedback.

Addressing strategic priorities, the delegation encouraged CI to intensify its focus on critical areas such as trade, climate change, energy, and water resource management, aligning with the strategic plan set for 2026-2030. There was also strong support for transitioning to a merit-based management selection process to foster long-term institutional stability and effective resource mobilization.

The visit included discussions on operational enhancements, such as the development of annual flagship reports and the expansion of high-level forums. These are intended to elevate CI’s profile and influence on policy development across the region. Emphasizing the importance of comprehensive partnerships, the delegation highlighted ongoing collaborations with multilateral institutions like the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank, and stressed the need for strengthened links with regional academic and research entities.

Further deliberations focused on talent acquisition and the establishment of training programs that incorporate global best practices, reflecting China’s extensive development experience.

Concluding the visit, both parties reaffirmed their commitment to sustained collaboration and strategic engagement, aligning their efforts with global sustainable growth initiatives.

Inside This Issue

| | |
|--|----|
| Meets with Turkmenistan NFP ... | 2 |
| Participates in 7th Belt and Road High-quality Development Conference | 4 |
| Participates in the International Conference on Central Asia’s Transformations | 5 |
| Partnership Engagements..... | 7 |
| Road Asset Management Workshops in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan | 10 |
| New Research..... | 12 |
| Job Advertisement..... | 13 |
| Call for Consultant | 14 |
| Event Announcement..... | 15 |

CAREC Institute’s Online Resources

- [News](#)
- [Events](#)
- [E-Learning Platform](#)
- [Publications](#)



Group Photo at the Headquarters of the CAREC Institute

CAREC Institute Director Meets with Turkmenistan’s National Focal Point at the Turkmenistan Investment Forum

At the Turkmenistan Investment Forum, Mr. Kabir Jurazoda, Director of the CAREC Institute, met with Turkmenistan’s National Focal Point, Minister of Finance and Economy Serdar Jorayev, to discuss strengthening collaboration between Turkmenistan and the CAREC Institute. The meeting centered on enhancing Turkmenistan’s role within the CAREC framework and addressing key areas of mutual interest.

A primary focus of the discussion was the appointment of the next CAREC Institute Director from Turkmenistan. Minister Jorayev reaffirmed his support for the nomination process and requested the acceleration of selection procedures to ensure a smooth leadership transition.

The ongoing CAREC Institute Revitalization Initiative, developed in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank, was another critical agenda item. This initiative aims to enhance the Institute’s governance and alignment with the evolving needs of its member countries. Minister Jorayev expressed full support and committed to providing feedback to ensure its successful implementation.

To further strengthen research and capacity building, the CAREC Institute received feedback from Turkmenistan on its Country Needs Assessment (CNA). The Institute will align these needs with its operational priorities and integrate them into future work plans. Both parties also emphasized the importance of early invitations to CAREC Institute events to ensure stronger participation from Turkmenistan’s experts and researchers.

Additionally, Mr. Jurazoda highlighted the importance of increasing Turkmen researchers’ involvement in the CAREC Think Tank Network, which offers annual grants and Visiting Fellowships. The meeting also explored the possibility of organizing a Road Asset Management (RAM) workshop in Turkmenistan in 2025, focusing on proactive asset management and strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The meeting concluded positively, with both sides reaffirming their commitment to advancing shared regional goals and enhancing cooperation in research, capacity building, and regional connectivity.



Mr. Kabir Jurazoda Meets with Turkmenistan’s National Focal Point at the Turkmenistan Investment Forum

CAREC Institute Director Kabir Jurazoda Delivers Key Speech at the Turkmenistan Investment Forum Panel Session

On 11 September 2024, Mr. Kabir Jurazoda, Director of the CAREC Institute, delivered a speech during a panel session on Turkmenistan's Accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO), held as part of the Turkmenistan Investment Forum. The session, moderated by Anna Varyanik, Legal Officer at the WTO Secretariat, featured prominent experts and representatives from international organizations, including Xiangchen Zhang, Deputy Secretary-General of the WTO, and Atageldi Hajiyanov, Head of the International Economic Cooperation Division at Turkmenistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During the session, Mr. Jurazoda highlighted the CAREC Institute's role in supporting Turkmenistan's WTO accession and its broader efforts to integrate more deeply into the global economy. He emphasized the importance of regional cooperation and trade liberalization in enhancing economic development, particularly through the alignment of trade policies with international standards.

Mr. Jurazoda reaffirmed the CAREC Institute's commitment to providing evidence-based research, capacity-building programs, and policy guidance to assist Turkmenistan on its path toward WTO membership. He also spoke about the Institute's ongoing initiatives to promote digital and sustainable trade facilitation in the region, stressing the role of paperless trade measures and national Single Windows in streamlining customs procedures. These efforts, he noted, are crucial for enhancing Turkmenistan's competitiveness in global trade.

Additionally, Mr. Jurazoda shared key findings from the CAREC Institute's research on Trade and Transport Connectivity within the region. The report identifies key challenges, such as infrastructure gaps and inefficiencies in border clearance, and offers comprehensive policy recommendations to reduce trade costs and improve regional connectivity. These insights, he stressed, are vital as Turkmenistan continues its progress toward WTO membership.

Mr. Jurazoda concluded by reiterating the CAREC Institute's unwavering support for Turkmenistan's WTO accession and its readiness to provide further assistance through technical support and capacity-building initiatives. He emphasized the importance of collaboration with international organizations and regional partners in driving Turkmenistan's successful integration into the global trading system.

The panel session was one of several key discussions held during the Turkmenistan Investment Forum, which featured a broad range of topics aimed at enhancing the country's economic development and attracting international investments. The forum provided an important platform for stakeholders to engage in dialogue on regional cooperation, trade facilitation, and economic integration, reinforcing Turkmenistan's role in the global economy.



Mr. Kabir Jurazoda Delivers a Speech at a Panel Session on Turkmenistan's Accession to the World Trade Organization

CAREC Institute Participates in the 7th Belt and Road High-Quality Development Conference in Xiamen

The CAREC Institute participated in the Seventh Belt and Road High-Quality Development Conference on September 9, 2023, in Xiamen, the People's Republic of China. As a significant event within the 24th China International Fair for Investment and Trade (CIFIT), the conference centered on "Refining the Mechanisms for High-Quality Cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)." Organized by the China Association for International Economic Cooperation (CAIEC) and the Xiamen National Accounting Institute (XNAI), the conference brought together over 100 participants, including government officials, international organization representatives, scholars, and experts from Belt and Road partner countries.

The conference featured remarks from key figures such as Gao Yuanyuan, President of CAIEC, and Ding Yougang, Vice President of XNAI, who underscored the importance of strengthening financial cooperation to achieve the BRI's objectives. The agenda covered topics like financing challenges for Belt and Road projects and the potential for increased investment in sectors like the electric vehicle supply chain. Attendees engaged in discussions aimed at enhancing future collaboration and promoting joint development efforts.

During a panel session titled "Financial Integration Promotes Shared Prosperity for BRI Partner Countries," Dr. Jingjing Huang, Deputy Director One at the CAREC Institute, highlighted global and regional trends in the digital economy, particularly in Central Asia. She emphasized the importance of digital transformation in driving economic cooperation and sustainable growth across the BRI region, noting how digital economies could lead to deeper integration and shared development.

A key takeaway from the conference was the increasing importance of digital and green economies. Participants underscored the need to enhance financial connectivity through digital and green finance, aligning with global trends towards sustainability and innovation. This shift is critical for ensuring the continued success of the Belt and Road Initiative.

The CAREC Institute's participation in this conference highlights its dedication to fostering regional cooperation, promoting innovation, and supporting member countries as they navigate the rapidly evolving global economic landscape.



Group Photo of the 7th Belt and Road High-Quality Development Conference in Xiamen

CAREC Institute Participates in the International Conference on Central Asia's Transformations

Dr. Kuat Akizhanov, Deputy Director Two at the CAREC Institute, actively contributed to the International Conference "Central Asia's Transformations: Politics, Economy, and Society," which was held in Almaty from September 6th to 8th, 2024. The event brought together a distinguished group of scholars, policymakers, and practitioners to analyze the region's significant changes over the past three decades.

Dr. Akizhanov played a pivotal role in the conference, moderating several key sessions that provided critical insights into Central Asia's evolving geopolitical and economic landscape. His leadership in the session on "Central Asia in Global Geopolitics: Navigating Diplomatic Relations and Foreign Policy Challenges" was particularly impactful, where discussions centered on Central Asia's diplomatic strategies amid shifting global dynamics. The session explored the region's complex relations with the EU, Italy, and the Eurasian Economic Union, underscoring the importance of strategic foreign policy in maintaining regional stability.

Dr. Akizhanov also chaired the session on "Transport Connectivity, Regional Integration, and Economic Transformation in Central Asia," where discussions delved into the challenges and opportunities presented by the region's economic transformations. The session examined critical topics such as market integration, and the role of transport connectivity in fostering regional cooperation. These discussions closely align with the CAREC Institute's priorities, which focus on promoting regional integration, trade facilitation, and economic development in Central Asia.

Hosted by the Kazakh-German University and supported by the German Academic Exchange Service with funding from Germany's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the conference provided an interdisciplinary platform for deepening understanding of Central Asia's ongoing transformation. Dr. Akizhanov's contributions not only enriched the discussions but also reinforced the CAREC Institute's commitment to advancing research and policy dialogue on the region's economic challenges.



Dr. Kuat Akizhanov Participates in the International Conference on Central Asia's Transformations

CAREC Institute Contributes to the First Kazakhstan Economic Freedom High-Level Conference

The First Kazakhstan Economic Freedom High-Level Conference, held on September 17-18, 2024, was organized by the Reinventing Bretton-Woods Committee and Freedom Holding Corp. The event gathered leading policymakers, economists, and industry experts to address the challenges and opportunities shaping the global economy amid geopolitical fragmentation and uncertainty.

Key discussions focused on monetary policy, trade geography, and digital finance. Dr. Hans Holzacker, Chief Economist of the CAREC Institute, highlighted the strategic importance of the Middle Corridor for regional trade, referencing a roadmap signed by Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Turkey to increase the corridor's capacity to 10 million tons annually by 2027. He stressed the need for effective governance and cooperation, emphasizing sustainable transport and support for local businesses to enhance trade between Asia and Europe.

The meeting also emphasized the importance of sustainability and technology in future economic policies, covering discussions on financial technology and regional sustainable development efforts. Participants expressed optimism about strengthening international cooperation and building a resilient economic framework, viewing this as a foundation for Kazakhstan to play a more significant role in the global economy.



Dr. Hans Holzacker Contributes to the First Kazakhstan Economic Freedom High-level Conference

CAREC Institute and Kyrgyz Republic Discuss Collaboration Opportunities

On September 19, 2024, the CAREC Institute (CI) convened a pivotal virtual meeting with Kyrgyz Republic officials to fortify collaboration in research, capacity building, and knowledge management. Chaired by Dr. Ghulam Samad, CI's Chief of the Research Division, the session welcomed key participants including Ms. Erkinbaeva Sonun, Head of the Grant and Technical Assistance Coordination Division at the Kyrgyz Ministry of Economy and Commerce. The meeting focused on aligning CI's initiatives with the Kyrgyz Republic's strategic priorities, both nationally and regionally.

The discussions delved into the Country Needs Assessment to foster synergy between CI's activities and the Kyrgyz Republic's developmental objectives. Principal areas of concentration were trade connectivity, climate change adaptation, sustainable energy, and inclusivity, aiming to support the Kyrgyz Republic's goals in advancing digital skills, promoting sustainable development, and enhancing green mobility.

The participants agreed to intensify their cooperation through various joint initiatives. These initiatives include developing sustainable practices in the mountainous regions critical for the country's green energy and tourism sectors, finding new uses for electric vehicle batteries to promote green mobility, and devising methods to assess public investment projects.

As the Kyrgyz Republic gears up to chair the CAREC Programme in 2025, the emphasis was on boosting bilateral communication and exploring further collaborative ventures. This meeting highlighted the CAREC Institute's commitment to providing actionable research and policy recommendations to benefit CAREC member countries.

CAREC Institute Hosts Strategic Side Events at AIIB Annual

On September 24, 2024, during the Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) Annual Meeting in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, the CAREC Institute (CI) held two significant side events with key partners to strengthen regional cooperation and economic integration.

In a meeting with the Multilateral Cooperation Center for Development Finance (MCDF), CI Director Mr. Kabir Jurazoda and MCDF CEO Mr. Wang Zhongjin discussed enhancing collaboration in regional development and infrastructure investment. Mr. Jurazoda highlighted MCDF's support for initiatives like the upcoming Residential Workshop on Debt Sustainability, scheduled for November. Mr. Wang emphasized the importance of innovative financial solutions and regional cooperation for sustainable development. Both institutions aim to expand joint efforts in capacity building, knowledge sharing, and research projects focused on climate change, transport connectivity, and sustainable urban development.

In a separate meeting with the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO), Mr. Jurazoda and AMRO Director Dr. Li Kouqing explored ways to deepen economic ties between the CAREC and ASEAN+3 regions. The discussion focused on joint research, capacity-building programs, and human resource exchanges to enhance regional integration, trade facilitation, and climate resilience.

Both meetings reaffirmed the commitment of CI and its partners to foster regional dialogue and cooperation, promoting sustainable economic growth across Asia.



Meeting between Mr. Kabir Jurazoda and the MCDF delegation



Meeting between Mr. Kabir Jurazoda and Dr. Li Kouqing

CAREC Institute Welcomes Two Visiting Scholars Under 2024 VFP

The CAREC Institute (CI), with the support of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), recently hosted two distinguished scholars through its 2024 Visiting Fellow Program (VFP). Dr. Xialin Wang, an agricultural economics expert, was the first scholar to participate in in-person exchanges under the program. Her research focused on the Water-Food-Energy Nexus in the transboundary Irtys River Basin, emphasizing climate adaptation strategies and sectoral trade-offs. The presentation fostered an engaging discussion with CI management and experts, underscoring the institute's commitment to practical research and policy development in Central Asia.

Shortly after, Mr. Khalil Raza, an expert in sustainable energy, delivered a lecture titled "Decarbonizing Road Transport: Transitioning to Electric Mobility in the CAREC Region." He explored global trends in electric mobility, with a particular focus on China's leadership, and examined policy frameworks within CAREC economies. Mr. Raza highlighted the role of government incentives and the potential for regional electric vehicle (EV) trade, sparking keen interest from CI's specialists in reducing emissions and enhancing energy security.

These events under the VFP demonstrated CI's dedication to addressing key regional challenges through academic collaboration, emphasizing the importance of scholarly exchange in shaping sustainable economic and environmental policies.

CAREC Institute and IsDB Host Policy Dialogue on Educational Technology



Group Photo of the Policy Dialogue

On 18 September 2024, the CAREC Institute held a policy dialogue and country consultation on the joint CI-IsDB study, “Blended Learning through Flipped Classrooms in the CAREC Region: Designing a Data-Driven Flipped Classroom Program.” This approach combines traditional instruction with online learning, enhancing engagement and accessibility by leveraging technology to accommodate various learning styles. The study involved experts and officials from Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Kazakhstan.

Dr. Kuat Akizhanov, Deputy Director Two of the CAREC Institute, highlighted the significance of this third collaborative project with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB). May Ali Babiker Eltahir, Director of Cooperation & Capacity Development at IsDB, emphasized the potential of such partnerships.

The session, moderated by Dr. Ghulam Samad, Chief of the Research Division at the CAREC Institute, featured insights from Dr. Asif Razzaq, Senior Research Specialist at the CAREC Institute, and a consulting team. They recommended implementing flipped classroom models (FCM) initially in foundational subjects, suggesting video lectures should be 5 to 20 minutes long, combining animations, problem-solving exercises, and complex concept explanations. An optimal online platform should prioritize accessibility and ease of use, balancing online and offline content to enhance transparency and student preparedness.

The second session, moderated by Sulayman Janneh, IsDB representative, involved feedback from education experts and government officials. Notable inputs came from Professor Asadul Islam of Monash University and Daniel Suryadarma, Senior Research Economist at the Asian Development Bank Institute, discussing challenges like technology constraints and digital device inadequacies.

The dialogue concluded with Syed Hassan Alsagoff of IsDB outlining their vision for supporting Edu-tech projects, indicating that the outcomes will influence regional education policies and innovations. The final report will incorporate stakeholder feedback and will be available on the CAREC Institute website.

CAREC Institute Researcher Contributed to Xinjiang Digital Trade Workshop

As digital trade emerges as a new trend in international trade and a key driver of global economic growth, China has positioned it as a crucial engine for advancing its status as a major trading nation. To further develop the expertise of relevant practitioners and promote the development of digital trade, the Department of Commerce of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region successfully convened a digital trade workshop in Urumqi on 27-29 August 2024.

Mr. Shiliang Lu, research specialist at the CAREC Institute, was invited to deliver a speech titled “The Development of the Digital Economy in Central Asia and Cooperation Opportunities.” Lu pointed out that while digital infrastructure and internet access are top performing indicators of digital development in the region, significant disparities exist in areas such as digital payments and e-commerce. He further highlighted that low-income countries exhibited much less internet coverage compared to high-income countries, revealing the persistent global digital divide. Lu emphasized the financial challenges that Central Asian countries face in digitalizing their economies, suggesting that attracting foreign investment could help facilitate digital transformation, but at the same time also bringing in technology transfer and job opportunities. He noted that while Central Asian countries have developed digital strategies, their effective implementation would require substantial financial support.

The workshop attracted over 100 participants, including government officials and entrepreneurs. The event showcased the academic influence of the CAREC Institute in the field of digital transformation.



Mr. Lu Shiliang Delivers a Speech at the Digital Trade Workshop

CAREC Institute and ADB Host Webinar on Socio-Economic Inequality in the CAREC Region: Promoting Equality and Decent Work

On September 24, the CAREC Institute, in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), hosted the 10th CAREC Chai Webinar, focusing on “Socio-Economic Inequality in the CAREC Region: Enhancing Equality and Decent Work.” The event addressed the increasing socioeconomic disparities in the region, further aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Kabir Jurazoda, Director of the CAREC Institute, underscored the urgency of tackling inequality in the CAREC region. He emphasized the value of constructive dialogue among key stakeholders to understand the shifting dynamics of income inequality and labor market changes. Mr. Kabir Jurazoda called for joint efforts to foster shared prosperity and ensure decent work for all, expressing optimism that collaborative actions would result in tangible benefits for communities across the CAREC region.

The webinar included an expert discussion led by Dr. Kuat Akizhanov, Deputy Director Two of the CAREC Institute, with key contributions from Dr. Alessandro Pio, Scientific Advisor at the Institute for International Political Studies (Italy), and Dr. Siddharth Saxena, Chairperson of the Cambridge Central Asia Forum of the Cambridge University (UK). They explored topics such as the current state of income inequality, the political economy of labor and capital, and the broader implications for socioeconomic equality. A significant portion of the discussion centered on Central Asia’s role in global sustainable development, particularly through the intersection of science and industry. The speakers highlighted the CAREC region’s vast natural resources and their critical importance for global industrial growth. They also raised fundamental questions about the limitations of market-driven approaches in addressing issues like healthcare advancements and alternative energy solutions. The event concluded with a call for a unified strategy to address these complex challenges.

Dr. Alessandro Pio’s presentation offered a critical analysis of income and wealth inequality, particularly within Central Asia. He emphasized growing disparities both within and among countries, noting that the post-pandemic expectation of economic improvement for future generations is being increasingly challenged, particularly for millennials. Dr. Alessandro Pio identified finance capitalism as a contributing factor to these inequalities and stressed the importance of a multidisciplinary approach to address the interconnected challenges of income distribution, job creation, and socio-economic inequality.

Dr. Siddharth Saxena also emphasized the need for a systematic, interdisciplinary approach to address socio-economic inequality in the CAREC region. He discussed the region’s transition from a unified post-Soviet economy to individual national economies, underscoring the need to rebuild regional connections. Dr. Siddharth Saxena highlighted that understanding income and wealth distribution is key to designing effective policies that promote equality and decent work. He advocated for enhanced analytical frameworks and the development of human capital to address these complex issues.

Looking ahead, future research in the CAREC region should focus on the intricate relationship between income and wealth inequality and its impact on socio-economic development. This includes examining the effects of globalization on job creation and economic integration, as well as the role of digital and green transitions in creating decent work opportunities. Innovative measurement tools are needed to accurately assess inequality and its socio-economic consequences. Research should also consider the historical context of economic disparities in the region, investigating how past economic systems continue to influence present inequalities. Interdisciplinary studies that integrate economic, social, and environmental perspectives will be crucial for developing comprehensive strategies to tackle these challenges and foster inclusive growth.



Group Photo of the CAREC Chai X

CAREC Institute Conducts Road Asset Management Workshops in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan



Workshop Report

CAREC Road Asset Management: In-Country Workshop and Maturity Assessment

Uzbekistan

September 2024

The CAREC Institute, in partnership with the Asian Development Bank, recently hosted two significant Road Asset Management (RAM) workshops in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. These events, held from September 3-6 and September 9-12, 2024, respectively, marked the third series of specialized workshops following the CAREC Institute’s 2021 RAM maturity assessment in each country.

Both workshops attracted a diverse group of senior officials, road sector specialists, project lawyers, chief accountants, and esteemed professors from Tashkent State University. The sessions in both countries emphasized the critical role of effective RAM in enhancing road infrastructure, focusing on sustainability, safety, and efficiency within the CAREC region.

In Uzbekistan, the workshop was opened by Mr. Bakhodir Korabaev, Deputy Chair of the Transport Inspectorate at the Ministry of Transport, who underscored the value of regional collaboration in optimizing resources and enhancing connectivity. In Kazakhstan, Mr. Bakhtiyar Zhambyl, Chairman of the Committee for Roads under the Ministry of Transport, similarly highlighted the critical role of international best practices and national expertise in advancing infrastructure management.

Dr. Kuat Akizhanov, Deputy Director Two of the CAREC Institute, presented the CAREC Corridors Performance Measurement and Monitoring tool in both workshops, illustrating its role in identifying inefficiencies and enhancing transport operations. Dr. Ilhom Abdulloev, Chief of the Capacity Building Division at the CAREC Institute, further discussed the evolution of CAREC corridors and the CAREC Strategy 2030, aimed at fostering economic integration and competitiveness.

The workshops also featured international experts such as Dr. Ian Greenwood and Dr. Theuns Henning, who shared insights on RAM implementation, data management, and maintenance. Mr. Giorgi Japaridze, a RAM System Consultant from Georgia, provided perspectives on best practices within the region.

Participants praised the workshops for offering valuable, applicable knowledge and international experiences crucial for advancing road asset management in their respective countries. They also expressed a strong interest in continuing these collaborative learning experiences to further enhance regional transport infrastructure and quality of life.

For further details, see the full Workshop Reports.

[Workshop report on road asset management in Uzbekistan](#)

[Workshop report on road asset management in Kazakhstan](#)



Workshop Report

CAREC Road Asset Management: In-Country Workshop and Maturity Assessment

Kazakhstan

September 2024



Group Photos of RAM Workshops

CAREC Institute Webinar Explores Solutions to Food Insecurity Amid Economic Challenges

On September 13, the CAREC Institute and the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) hosted a webinar titled “Tackling Food Insecurity During Economic Turbulence: Exploring Solutions for Financial Strain and Inflation Impacts on Vulnerable Families.” The event focused on food insecurity in the CAREC region, emphasizing how inflation and economic instability are disproportionately affecting low-income households.

Mr. Kabir Jurazoda, Director of the CAREC Institute, stressed the multifaceted nature of food security, linking it to economic stability, social equity, and environmental sustainability. He called for collaborative, practical solutions to the challenges intensified by climate change, economic fluctuations, and inflation.

Moderated by Dr. Kuat Akizhanov, Deputy Director Two at the CAREC Institute, the webinar featured Dr. Dina Azhgaliyeva, Senior Research Fellow at ADBI, who shared survey insights showing how inflation worsens food insecurity. She emphasized the need for targeted government interventions like subsidies and cash transfers.

Dr. Wang Xialin, Research Fellow at Yunnan University and Visiting Fellow at the CAREC Institute, discussed her research on the groundwater-food-energy nexus in Northern China, advocating for differentiated groundwater pricing to balance food production with sustainability.

Dr. Kamiljon Akramov, Senior Research Fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), highlighted findings from the 2024 Global Food Policy Report, focusing on malnutrition in Central Asia and the need for agricultural diversification.

Panel discussions included Ms. Charyyeva Suray, Researcher at the Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO); Dr. Kayumov Abdurasul, Country Manager at Arche NoVa; and Dr. Tilekeyeva Kanat, Senior Research Fellow at the Graduate School of Development, University of Central Asia. They explored the roles of government support, agricultural innovation, and inclusive economic growth in strengthening food security.

The event concluded with a call for stronger collaboration to bridge research and practical solutions to food insecurity during economic challenges.



Group Photo of Webinar Participants

New Research:

New Report Highlights Urgent Need for Home Insulation in Central Asia

A recent working paper published by the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) titled “House Insulation: Perceived Needs and Willingness in Central Asia” sheds light on the critical issue of home insulation in the region. Authored by Burulcha Sulaimanova, Dina Azhgaliyeva, and Hans Holzhaecker — Chief Economist at CAREC Institute, the report analyses the readiness of households to insulate their houses, which is important for energy-efficient practices among households, particularly in light of rising energy consumption and reliance on outdated heating systems in Central Asia. The paper is based on data from the CAREC Institute/ADBI/Public Opinion Research Institute (PORI) project on household energy use in the Fergana Valley – financed by the Asian Development Bank. (https://lnkd.in/dQu_ZsYq)

The data shows that urban residents are less likely to insulate their homes compared to those in rural areas, highlighting a disparity that could exacerbate energy inefficiencies. Older household heads are less likely to undertake insulation measures, while construction materials and heating sources significantly influence insulation decisions. The energy-saving behavior index developed in the paper suggests that promoting energy-saving behaviors could lead to a broader acceptance of insulation practices, ultimately enhancing energy efficiency across the region.

The findings of this report are particularly relevant as Central Asia grapples with high energy consumption rates and a growing population. The Kyrgyz Republic, for instance, has seen its residential energy consumption quadruple between 2010 and 2019, with many homes constructed before 1980 lacking modern energy efficiency standards. The authors argue that improving insulation not only contributes to energy savings but also plays a vital role in reducing reliance on dirty fuels, thereby supporting the region’s decarbonization efforts.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.56506/NLWV6429>

New Working Paper Highlights the Impact of “Made in China 2025” as a Catalyst for Firm’s Green Innovation

The Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) has published a compelling working paper titled “Impact of ‘Made in China 2025’ Industrial Strategy on Firms’ Green Innovation: A Quasi-Natural Experiment”, authored by Dr. Asif Razzaq, Senior Research Specialist at CAREC Institute. The paper examines how China’s industrial policy has significantly driven green innovation among enterprises, particularly in response to growing environmental challenges.

Key takeaways from the working paper include:

- The “Made in China 2025” policy has had a significant impact on promoting green innovation across a variety of enterprises, particularly by alleviating corporate financing constraints, advancing digital transformation, and improving regional marketization.
- The analysis, which included 1,594 Chinese firms, found that 815 were directly impacted by the policy, while 779 served as a control group.
- The policy’s influence varies depending on location, sector, and pollution levels, with firms in the eastern regions and those with lower pollution levels experiencing more pronounced positive effects.

Dr. Asif Razzaq, a Senior Research Specialist from the CAREC Institute, who contributed valuable insights and data to the working paper, highlighted the dual goals of the “Made in China 2025” policy: enhancing China’s manufacturing competitiveness while fostering sustainable development through green innovation. This collaboration underscores the importance of regional partnerships in addressing shared challenges and advancing sustainability across borders.

The working paper also emphasizes the need to address regional disparities and tailor industrial policies to local conditions, enhancing the overall effectiveness of green innovation efforts. For more details, you can access the full report by clicking the link below:

[Full Report](#)

Suggested Citation

Razzaq, A., D. Azhgaliyeva, and D. B. Rahut. 2024. *Impact of “Made in China 2025” Industrial Strategy on Firms’ Green Innovation: A Quasi-Natural Experiment*. ADBI Working Paper 1477. Tokyo: Asian Development Bank Institute. Available: <https://doi.org/10.56506/VAXI8481>

Job Advertisement:

The Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Institute is an intergovernmental organization dedicated to promoting economic cooperation in Central Asia and along the Silk Road through knowledge generation and sharing. The Institute is headquartered in Urumqi, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, the People's Republic of China (PRC).

The CAREC Institute is jointly shared, owned, and governed by eleven member countries: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, the PRC, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. It is a knowledge support arm of the CAREC Program which is a proactive facilitator of practical, results-based regional projects, and policy initiatives critical to sustainable economic growth and shared prosperity in the region, guided by the overarching vision of "Good Neighbors, Good Partners, and Good Prospects."

The Institute acts as a knowledge connector among the five CAREC clusters (Economic and Financial Stability, Trade, Tourism, and Economic Corridors, Infrastructure and Connectivity, Agriculture and Water, Human Development) to ensure coherence in the design and implementation of policies, programs, and projects to promote regional economic cooperation and integration. The main operational activities of CAREC Institute include research, capacity building, knowledge management, and networking and forging partnerships.

A Research Specialist

The CAREC Institute invites applications for a locally recruited position of **Research Specialist**. Applicants should be **nationals of the People's Republic of China** and meet the qualifications and requirements stated in [the Terms and Reference \(TOR\)](#).

Application Procedures

Applications should be emailed to Jia Ni (hr@carecinstitute.org) by 7:00 p.m., 11 October 2024 (Friday), Beijing time. CAREC Institute is an equal opportunity employer, and women are encouraged to apply. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

A Chief Economist-Extension

The CAREC Institute invites applications for the position of **Chief Economist, who will also head the Chief Economist Team**. The position will be recruited on a global basis and applicants should meet the qualifications and requirements stated in [the Terms of Reference \(TOR\)](#).

Application Procedures

Applications should be emailed to Jia Ni (hr@carecinstitute.org) by 7:00 p.m., 18 October 2024 (Friday), Beijing time. CAREC Institute is an Equal opportunity employer, and women are encouraged to apply. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Candidates are required to certify that all information provided on any employment application form, resume, or CV is complete, true, and accurate to the best of their knowledge. Candidates should understand that information may be verified, and any misrepresentation of facts may be considered the cause for dismissal regardless of when it is discovered by the CAREC Institute.



We're
HIRING

Call for Consultants: CAREC Annual Development Report: Green Financing Pathways and Navigating Future Challenges

The CAREC Institute is seeking consultants to contribute to the Annual Development Report (ADR) focused on green financing pathways within the CAREC region. This pivotal project aims to foster sustainable investment practices, addressing climate change challenges and promoting economic resilience.

This year, the ADR will emphasize strategies to bridge green investment gaps in critical sectors, enhancing climate finance structures and integrating innovative financial technologies. Consultants will be tasked with a thorough analysis of green financing tools, evaluation of public-private partnerships (PPP), and assessment of the roles of multilateral development banks (MDBs). The report aims to provide strategic insights and frameworks to escalate sustainable investments across the region.

Key objectives include a critical review of globally recognized financing tools for green investments, linking sectors such as energy, water, agriculture, and mining to sustainable practices, and evaluating the efficacy of environmental regulations and institutional support.

Selected consultants will significantly contribute to policy briefs, stakeholder engagement, and a series of blog posts that disseminate the findings. This role offers a formidable opportunity to shape regional policies on climate action and sustainable development through detailed financial analysis and the introduction of innovative solutions.

Interested candidates are encouraged to submit their Expressions of Interest via the ADB Consultant Management System by October 9, 2024. Positions available include an International Expert and national consultants for Central Asia, Pakistan, the People's Republic of China, and Azerbaijan/Georgia. For application details, please visit the respective links for each position.

TA-6694 REG: CAREC Annual Development Report: Green Financing Pathways and Navigating Future Challenges (52370-001):

1- International Expert:

https://selfservice.adb.org/OA_HTML/adb/xxcrs/jsp/ADBCsrnFwd.jsp?sel=203722

2- National Consultant for Central Asia:

https://selfservice.adb.org/OA_HTML/adb/xxcrs/jsp/ADBCsrnFwd.jsp?sel=203744

3- National Consultant for Pakistan:

https://selfservice.adb.org/OA_HTML/adb/xxcrs/jsp/ADBCsrnFwd.jsp?sel=203746

4- National Consultant for PRC:

https://selfservice.adb.org/OA_HTML/adb/xxcrs/jsp/ADBCsrnFwd.jsp?sel=203755

5- National Consultant for Azerbaijan / Georgia:

https://selfservice.adb.org/OA_HTML/adb/xxcrs/jsp/ADBCsrnFwd.jsp?sel=203756



Event Announcement :

CAREC Institute Research Talks “Water Deficit and Hydrogen Production– Central Asia Perspective”

The CAREC Institute is pleased to invite you to an insightful webinar, **CAREC Institute Research Talks: “Water Deficit and Hydrogen Production – Central Asia Perspective,”** scheduled for 15 October 2024, from 16:00 to 18:20 (Beijing time).

The session will examine the impacts of water deficits on hydrogen production, evaluate the potential of green hydrogen as a sustainable energy solution for Central Asia, and identify key challenges and opportunities within this rapidly evolving sector.

This event offers a unique opportunity for participants to engage with researchers and experts in the field. We invite you to join this webinar for an in-depth discussion on best practices, innovative research, and the future of hydrogen production in the CAREC region.

Please register here:

<https://carecinstitute-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/>



Residential Workshop on Debt Sustainability

Co-organized by the Multilateral Cooperation Center for Development Finance (MCDF) and the CAREC Institute, this pivotal four-day event aims to equip policymakers and financial experts with critical tools to address the pressing challenges of sovereign debt management.

Amid the rising sovereign debt distress, further compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Workshop will build upon the successful Workshop Series on Sustainable Financing of Development and Infrastructure, which has engaged over 800 professionals from 60 countries worldwide. Attendees will delve into key topics such as debt management strategies, risk mitigation, and debt sustainability assessments, fostering an environment conducive to knowledge exchange and collaboration.

With participants expected from CAREC countries’ Debt Management Offices and financial institutions, the workshop will provide a platform for meaningful interaction between borrowers and lenders. This initiative marks a significant step towards empowering regional stakeholders to tackle debt-related issues with confidence and innovation.



About CAREC Institute

The Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Institute is an intergovernmental organization dedicated to promoting the economic cooperation in the Central Asia and along the Silk Road through knowledge generation and sharing. The CAREC Institute is jointly shared, owned, and governed by eleven member countries.

The Institute acts as a knowledge connector among the five CAREC themes—economic and financial stability; trade, tourism, and economic corridors; infrastructure and economic connectivity; agriculture and water; human development—to ensure coherence in design and implementation of policies, programs, and projects to promote regional economic cooperation and integration.