



***“Envisioning a Greener Future: Crafting Strategic Financing Pathways for the Green Transition in CAREC Region”***

**CTTN RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAM (RGP)**

**Call for Papers**

**INTRODUCTION and RATIONALE**

Established in 2017, the CAREC<sup>1</sup> Think Tank Network (CTTN) acts as a regional network of leading think tanks in the member countries of the CAREC Program<sup>2</sup> to promote regional cooperation and integration (RCI) by exchanging ideas, information, knowledge, and conducting joint Research. Since its inception, the CTTN has organized flagship annual CAREC Think Tank Development Forums, managed Research Grants Program (RGP), and held dialogues among the regional think tanks. Launched in 2019, the Research Grants Program (RGP) has awarded twenty four research grants for undertaking policy research on pertinent regional topics to foster regional cooperation and integration in the CAREC region. The RGP is designed to (i) actively support CTTN member think tanks to produce policy research on topics of regional significance to add value to the regional body of knowledge, (ii) promote and facilitate collaboration among member think tanks to jointly work on regional issues, (iii) provide a regional platform to national think tanks to present their research output at the annual think tank development forum to a larger audience of think tanks, policymakers and development partners, and (iv) and encourage member think tanks to develop linkages with regional think tanks to understand better and analyze regional developmental context and imperatives.

This year's RGP for CTTN is titled ***“Envisioning a Greener Future: Crafting Strategic Financing Pathways for the Green Transition in CAREC Region”***. The RGP will provide funding to support research topics with a clear policy focus on the selected theme.

**PROPOSED RESEARCH THEME**

The general theme of the RGP is the issues on ***Financing Green Transition***. While research topics are expected to remain within the five clusters of the CAREC 2030 Strategy and CAREC Institute

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<sup>1</sup> CAREC - Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation

<sup>2</sup> CAREC Program comprises of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Pakistan, People’s Republic of China, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan

Strategy 2021-2025, preference will be given to proposals supportive of and closely linked with the theme of this year's RGP.

The global transition to a sustainable and low-carbon economy is a critical challenge of the 21st century. This transition requires substantial investments in renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable transportation, and other green technologies. However, in the CAREC region the scale of financing needed to achieve these goals is immense, presenting a significant hurdle to progress. This call for research aims to investigate the critical aspects of financing the green transition, focusing on:

- current state of green finance, including the volume and sources of investment, key challenges and opportunities, and existing policy frameworks in the CAREC region;
- the effectiveness of different financing mechanisms in supporting the green transition, such as green bonds, impact investing, and climate finance initiatives;
- analysis of the key barriers to private sector investment in green projects, including risk perception, lack of access to finance, and regulatory hurdles; and
- policy recommendations for governments, financial institutions, and other stakeholders to enhance the flow of private capital towards green investments.

Research proposals are broadly expected to be drawn from the following areas:

- Innovative financing mechanisms for renewable energy projects.
- Private sector investment in green technologies.
- Public-private partnership in resource mobilization to finance green transition
- Policy frameworks to support green transitions.
- The role of funding agencies and multilateral development banks in financing climate action.
- Role of ESG investment in generating green capital accumulation.
- Taxonomy of transition finance.
- Overcoming barriers to green finance in CAREC countries.
- Measuring the impact of green finance initiatives.

The above topics are indicative, and researchers are encouraged to draw topics that are closely aligned with the theme of this year's RGP. **Further, proposals comparing (sub) regions, deriving lessons, and sharing best practices and success stories from Asia are especially welcome.**

## **ELIGIBILITY**

CTTN member think tanks within the CAREC region are eligible to apply by submitting an institutional proposal draft paper (approximately 5,000 words, excluding references) to develop a country case study that will become part of a regional report – CTTN Regional Report – combining five country case studies. A think tank can submit more than one proposal on the topics mentioned above. Emphasis is placed on practical policy suggestions and recommendations that address country-specific issues and challenges and promote regional

integration in the CAREC region. The selected preliminary draft papers will be awarded the grant to expand the manuscripts into policy research papers.

### **DURATION of the GRANT**

The research grant is for nearly **SIX** months from the date of grant approval.

### **NUMBER and AMOUNT of the GRANT**

The CI finances a total of five research grants each year. The amount of each grant will be a maximum of **US\$5,000**.

### **DELIVERABLES**

The following deliverables are expected:

1. A Professionally edited, Research-based Policy Paper (not exceeding 10,000 words, excluding references) suggesting policies on the senior government level.
2. A Presentation with key findings of the Research at the CAREC Think Tanks Development Forum (CTTDF). This is subject to CAREC Institute's approval.
3. Input in the form of a policy brief, article, and blog entry to the CI's and its partners' knowledge platforms (CTTN blog, E-Learning Platform, Development Asia, etc.), as required by the CAREC Institute.

### **GRANT TIMELINES**

Timelines for the research grant are shown in the schedule below:

Call for Papers	24 January
Submission of Proposal Draft	01 April
Decision Announced & Contract Signing	15 April
Submission of First draft	30 May
Presentation at think tank forum	June/July (tentatively)
Submission of Second draft	20 August
Submission of Final draft	30 Oct
Blog input	20 November

### **RESEARCH DISSEMINATION**

The CI and the participating think tanks will own copyrights of research deliverables. Both institutions will be entitled to publish research deliverables on their respective websites and/or the institutions' journals bearing both institutions' logos. The use of CI's logo is subject to the final paper's approval by the CI Publication Board, consistent with its quality standards.

## GRANT APPLICATION

Applications for research grants should be emailed to **Ms. Jesscy Hu, Coordination Specialist**, at [jesscyh@carecinstitute.org](mailto:jesscyh@carecinstitute.org), with the subject "**CTTN Research Grants Program**."

The following documents are required of all applicants:

1. Application form (see Annex 1);
2. CV of the researchers and a list of publications (in English);
3. Preliminary draft of the paper (3,000-5,000 words);
4. One Sample of Writing (printed research papers, policy briefs, and op-eds and etc.); and
5. Certificate of Institutional Establishment/legal entity.

### Annex 1

#### APPLICATION FORM

All applicants are required to fill in the application form - description of research and workplan/timelines.

<b>TITLE of RESEARCH PROPOSAL</b>	
<b>Principal Researcher (PR):</b> (name/designation/organization/tel/email)	<b>Co-Principal Researcher (Co-PR) if any:</b> (name/designation/organization/tel/email)
<b>Date of Application:</b>	
<b>Abstract: (maximum 300 words)</b>	

**Objectives of the Study:** (list the objectives, contribution to policy, and an assessment of the possible benefits to regional integration)

**Relevance to Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation:**

**Schedule of Deliverables** (With the expected date of completion):