



Workshop on Cross-Border E-commerce Payment and Risk Management

Enrollment Brochure

February 19-21, 2025 | Online training

Xiamen National Accounting Institute

Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Institute

I Background

Recently, as The Belt and Road Initiative has progressed, the cross-border e-commerce between China and Central Asian countries kept surging. According to official statistics, cross-border e-commerce volume in 2022 grew by an impressive 95% year-over-year. Nearly 300 Central Asian businesses have launched their presence at the Chinese e-commerce platforms, making more and more high-quality, unique products of Central Asia available in the Chinese market. While e-commerce offers unprecedented opportunities, Central Asian countries are actively working on a series of effective risk management strategies, such as boosting the development of digital infrastructure and expediting the launch of trade facilitation policies. Meanwhile, Central Asian countries are also navigating challenges like differentiating e-commerce regulations and shortage of cross-border e-commerce professionals.

The recent studies on the e-commerce infrastructure in the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) countries emphasize the necessity of internet access and reliable servers for online transactions. While technical capacity for internet access is generally high, barriers such as affordability and low digital literacy hinder actual usage. The studies reveal a low engagement of small and medium-sized enterprises in e-commerce, compounded by underdeveloped data infrastructure, including internet exchange points and cloud services. Additionally, effective payment systems and logistics are crucial for facilitating transactions, with the COVID-19 pandemic highlighting the importance of digital payments and the need for affordable smartphones.

To enhance e-commerce growth, the CI studies recommend improving internet infrastructure, expanding digital literacy, and developing payment systems to ensure timely transaction clearance. Strengthening logistics, including home delivery and cross-border trade facilitation, is also essential. Policymakers should focus on building trust in online transactions and fostering cooperation with e-commerce associations. By implementing a comprehensive e-commerce strategy and leveraging regional initiatives, CAREC countries can better support start-ups and small businesses, ultimately promoting domestic and cross-border digital trade.

CAREC countries must also address several key issues beyond the legal framework to enhance e-commerce. These include fostering positive attitudes towards technology and commerce, balancing regulation to protect public interests while promoting private choices and ensuring effective application of e-commerce laws through robust state power and legal processes. Additionally, the approach to electronic transactions should consider technology neutrality, which allows flexibility for businesses, versus technology specificity, which mandates the use of digital signatures

for reliability. A hybrid approach may be beneficial, combining both methods to cater to varying transaction needs while ensuring secure communications for sensitive dealings.

To align with international standards, CAREC countries should harmonize their e-commerce laws with key UN conventions, such as those governing international sales and electronic communications. Privacy legislation should be strengthened to ensure personal data protection, while cybercrime laws must be updated to address new digital threats effectively. Consumer protection is crucial for building trust in e-commerce; thus, dedicated legislation should be adopted and enforced. Collaboration among CAREC countries is essential for consistent legal frameworks, and participation in international agreements will facilitate trade and consumer rights enforcement. Strengthening national institutions and raising stakeholder awareness will further support the development of a robust e-commerce environment in the region.

Against this backdrop, Xiamen National Accounting Institute (XNAI) and the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Institute (CI) are about to jointly organize a Workshop on Cross-Border E-commerce Payment and Risk Management. This workshop is designed to delve into the application of innovative payment methods for cross-border e-commerce, enhance understanding of e-commerce regulations, and equip participants with effective risk management techniques. It will feature lectures and practical exercises, engaging financial officials, academic experts, and industry practitioners from CAREC member countries.

XNAI is an important financial and economic talent training base of the Ministry of Finance of China. Entrusted by the Ministry of Finance, it has long been involved in training of domestic and foreign high-level talents in finance, taxation, and economic management. In recent years, XNAI has taken a proactive stance in addressing issues related to the digital economy and corporate integrity, launching comprehensive research initiatives and organizing a series of international seminars and workshops.

CI is an intergovernmental organization that was jointly initiated and governed by CAREC member countries. It is the knowledge hub of Asian Development Bank's CAREC program, fostering knowledge sharing among CAREC member countries, enhancing countries' economic policymaking capabilities, promoting regional connectivity and economic trade cooperation. Currently, the CAREC Institute primarily provides policy advice and recommendations to CAREC member countries through capacity building activities, such as thematic trainings, seminars, policy dialogues, as well as policy research with prominent academic institutions and think tanks in the region.

II. Program Outline

Organizers: The Workshop will be co-organized by Xiamen National Accounting Institute and Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Institute.

Date and Time: The Workshop will take place online from **February 19-21, 2025 (15:00 - 17:30, Beijing time)**.

Target Participants: Officials from financial and economic departments of CAREC member countries, academia from universities and think tanks, enterprise managers and relevant experts.

Venue: The Workshop will be held virtually via ZOOM.

Language: The language of the Workshop will be English with Russian simultaneous interpretation.

Speakers: Experts from XNAI and CI, Cross-Border E-commerce representatives will be invited to provide lectures and practical exercises.

Completion Certificate: Participants, who would successfully complete all activities of the Workshop, shall receive a Completion Certificate co-issued by XNAI and CI.

III. Workshop Topics and Speakers

(i) Current Status, Challenges and Solutions of Cross-Border E-commerce in Central Asia

Speaker: TBC

Description:

(ii) Cross-Border Payment Sandbox Simulation for E-commerce

Speaker: TBC

Description:

(iii) Current Status and Trends in Digital Currency Development

Speaker: Dr. Jian Wei, Associate Professor of Xiamen National Accounting Institute

Description:

IV. Draft Agenda

Date	Beijing time	Activities	Speaker
Feb 19 Wednesday	15:00-15:30	Opening Ceremony	TBC
	15:30-17:30	Lecture 1: Current Status, Challenges and Solutions of Cross-Border E-commerce in Central Asia	TBC
Feb 20 Thursday	15:00-17:00	Lecture 2: Cross-Border Payment Sandbox Simulation for E-commerce	TBC
Feb 21 Friday	15:00-17:00	Lecture 3: Current Status and Trends in Digital Currency Development	Dr. Jian Wei, Associate Professor of Xiamen National Accounting Institute
	17:00-17:30	Closing Ceremony	TBC

V. Registration

Participants should register for the Workshop through the following link

https://carecinstitute-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_mPOs0_dESM-Xd8Zp-IRlug

Contact people:

XNAI: Ms. Lin Chendi, rbrf@xnai.edu.cn

CI: Mr. Huang He: garyh@carecinstitute.org

VI. Workshop Team

Xiamen National Accounting Institute (XNAI) was founded in 2002 and is directly affiliated with China's Ministry of Finance. It is an important training base for high-level talents in finance, tax, economic management, accounting and auditing. It holds high-end training programs for fiscal and tax officials, enterprise executives and industry elites. It has a strong teaching faculty covering top experts and scholars in the field of finance and economics at home and abroad. XNAI has cooperated with international institutions such as the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, the New Development Bank, the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Institute, and the Multilateral Cooperation Center for Development Finance, as well as multiple Chinese government departments to carry out a series of international capacity-building projects for financial and economic talents.

The Research Center for the Belt & Road Financial and Economic Development advocated by the Chinese government was established at XNAI. With a unique system for financial and economic think tanks, XNAI has been carrying out in-depth research on international financial issues and has achieved great outcomes. The faculty of XNAI have constantly provided professional advisory opinions for the Ministry of Finance and other national ministries and commissions, local government departments, and enterprises. They have proactively participated in various dialogues and seminars on international fiscal and financial policies.

Under the guidance of the Ministry of Finance, XNAI established the Belt and Road Economic and Financial Capacity Building Platform. This platform is one of the deliverables of the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation. It facilitates the experience exchange and mutual learning of financial and economic officials, experts and scholars, and enterprise managers from BRI partner countries on the Belt and Road financial and economic research, exchanges and talent cultivation. Research Center for the Belt & Road Financial and Economic Development is the liaison office of the Belt and Road National Accounting Standards Cooperation Forum (hereinafter referred to as the cooperation forum) and has hosted five cooperation forums. XNAI has been creating exchange and cooperation projects with brand influences, including the Asia-Pacific Anticorruption and Integrity Forum and the Belt and Road High-quality Development Conference; undertaken workshops sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce; and carried out a series of seminars and capacity development activities.

The CAREC Institute (CI) is an intergovernmental organization dedicated to promoting regional cooperation and integration (RCI) through knowledge generation, capacity building and knowledge sharing in the CAREC region. As a leading regional knowledge hub, the mission of the CI is to enhance the quality and effectiveness of the CAREC Program by providing evidence-based research and capacity-building services, dissemination of knowledge products, and network with research institutions. The CAREC Institute is a knowledge arm of the CAREC Program, which is a sub-regional development initiative led by ADB and supported by AIIB, EBRD, IMF, IsDB, UNDP and WB. The CAREC Institute acts as a knowledge connector among the five CAREC clusters to ensure coherence in design and implementation of policies, programs, and projects to promote regional economic cooperation and integration: i) economic and financial stability; ii) trade, tourism, and economic corridors; iii) infrastructure and economic connectivity; iv) agriculture and water; and v) human development. The CAREC Institute is jointly shared, owned, and governed by eleven member countries: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, People's Republic of China, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Pakistan,

Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.