



Call for Papers

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Announcing the Fifth CAREC Institute Annual Research Conference

Theme: CAREC Connectivity: Promoting Trade and Trade Facilitation

The CAREC Institute¹(CI) is pleased to announce the call for papers and the fifth CAREC Institute Annual Research Conference, which is scheduled for **29-30 May 2025 in Islamabad, Pakistan**. The selected papers will be presented at the fifth CAREC Institute Annual Research Conference. The conference aims to provide a platform for conducting high-quality research on the given topic and an opportunity for research networking.

Potential authors are invited to submit original articles, case studies, and reviews pertinent to the topics elaborated below. The submissions will be commissioned by the Publication Board and External Review Board of the CI, comprising independent reviewers with solid research and professional experience on the topics. Upon acceptance, **the selected manuscripts will be presented at the conference and published as conference proceedings or book.**

1. Background

The CAREC region stands at a pivotal moment, facing critical challenges in connectivity and trade facilitation. Fragmented supply chains, shifting geopolitical dynamics, and the slow adoption of digital solutions hinder seamless trade across borders. Additionally, the urgent need for sustainable and resilient infrastructure demands innovative strategies to enhance regional integration.

Regional collaboration is the key to overcoming these barriers. By strengthening trade corridors, transit development, and customs efficiency, the CAREC region can unlock its economic potential and foster sustainable growth. Green transport solutions, digital trade facilitation, and streamlined border processes are essential to building a more connected and competitive economic landscape.

Pakistan, as a strategic transit hub, plays a vital role in bridging regions through efficient trade routes and transit corridors. Initiatives such as TIR and eTIR offer opportunities to reduce logistical barriers, enhance efficiency, and boost regional trade volumes. Engaging the private sector and leveraging foreign direct investment in green sectors will further drive economic transformation.

¹ The Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Institute is jointly shared, owned, and governed by eleven member countries: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, the PRC, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. It is a knowledge support arm of the CAREC region.



Against this backdrop, the ***Fifth CAREC Institute Research Conference*** will serve as a platform to explore these pressing issues. Through two days of in-depth discussions, leading experts, policymakers, and researchers will collaborate to develop evidence-based policy recommendations that rethink connectivity and trade facilitation strategies in the CAREC region. By fostering knowledge exchange and multi-stakeholder dialogue, the conference aims to shape actionable solutions for a more integrated, innovative, and resilient regional economy.

2. Theme

The theme of the fifth conference is “**CAREC Connectivity: Promoting Trade and Trade Facilitation**”. The sub-themes are:

1. Regional Connectivity and Trade Facilitation

- The role of transit trade agreements
- Integration and implementation of TIR and eTIR systems
- Application of CMR Convention and Transition to e-CMR
- Enhancing customs operations through digitalization and efficiency reforms
- Connecting South Asia with Central Asia, East Asia, Middle East and International Markets
- Developments in Border-Crossing Points (BCPs)

2. Green Transport and Corridor Development

- Development of efficient and sustainable transport systems
- Opportunities and challenges in green corridor infrastructure
- Policy frameworks for decarbonizing regional transport networks

3. Customs Reforms and Efficiency

- Innovative approaches to streamline customs processes
- Cross-border cooperation and capacity building
- Leveraging technology for transparency and operational efficiency
- Showcase of Pakistan Single Window (PSW)

4. Energy Transition and Green Investment

- Role of regional partnerships in energy trade and transition projects
- Investment eco-system for Renewable energy and other green infrastructure projects
- Case studies on successful green investment initiatives

5. Private Sector Engagement and Regional Cooperation

- Encouraging public-private partnerships in trade and transport development
- Role of private investment in enhancing connectivity and logistics
- Corridor Performance Measurement and Monitoring (CPMM)

6. Multimodal Logistics

- Policies, Strategies and Standards to Develop Multimodal Logistics
- Role of the Seaports: Issues, Actions and Investment
- Containerization in the CAREC Region and Multimodal Logistics Center
- Railways – Expanding Freight Traffic and Reshaping Corridors
- Waterways: Time to Rethink Its Potential?



The papers on critiquing the old development paradigms and proposing new development strategies in the CAREC region are welcomed.

3. Submission procedure

The CAREC Institutes invites the submission of papers relevant to the above-listed thematic areas. Authors should submit extended abstracts of no more than 500 words by **April 3rd 2025** to emmat@carecinstitute.org. Notifications of the acceptance of the abstracts will be sent on **April 18th, 2025**. First drafts of full manuscripts of 8,000 words maximum, excluding annexes, should be submitted to the same email address by **20th May 2025**.

All submissions are required to include the following information on a separate cover page:

- Title of the paper
- Name(s) of author(s) in intended order of authorship, their organizational affiliation(s), position(s), and e-mail address(es)
- Lead author's telephone number
- Manuscript words count

The language of manuscript submissions and conference presentations is English. All submissions will be thoroughly reviewed by CI's Publication Board and External Review Board members based on the following criteria:

- Significance/contribution to the field
- Relevance to conference theme
- Aims and purposes
- Theoretical foundation
- Methodology
- Results and policy recommendations
- Conclusion

4. Timelines

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

Submission of Abstract	3 April 2025
Submission of First draft	20 May 2025
Presentation at Research Conference	29-30 May 2025
Submission of Revised Draft	30 July 2025



5. Programme

The conference programme will be shared with participants once it is finalized.

6. Contact

For any question concerning the announcement and content or any other request relevant to the conference, please contact Ms Emma Tong emmat@carecinstitute.org

7. Publication Requirement:

Authors presenting at the conference are required to publish their papers as chapters in the conference's annual book, following a review process. This policy ensures the effective use of funds allocated for presenters' travel and other expenses, culminating in the annual book as a key deliverable.

8. Formatting, Structure, Style, and Referencing Guidelines for the Paper (see link for publication guidelines)