



CAREC Institute Enhances Collaborations through Strategic Engagements in Beijing

The CAREC Institute delegation, led by Director Mr. Charymuhammet Shallyyev and Deputy Directors Dr. Huang Jingjing and Dr. Kuat Akizhanov, concluded a productive visit to Beijing from February 19 to 24. The visit advanced collaboration with governmental, academic, and think tank partners to promote sustainable development and regional cooperation across CAREC member countries.

On February 21, the delegation had strategic discussions with Ms. Chang Junhong, Director General of the Department of International Economic and Financial Cooperation at the Ministry of Finance (MoF), and Mr. Lu Jin, Deputy Director General and CAREC Institute Governing Council member. Ms. Chang reaffirmed MoF's consistent support for the CAREC Institute's mission during the meeting. Mr. Lu Jin outlined expectations for the Institute's strategic directions and highlighted the Governing Council's endorsement of key initiatives, including the high-level CAREC Development Forum in Urumqi, the Annual Development Report, and the Leadership Training Program. He also encouraged the Institute to strengthen collaboration with multinational and national institutions to amplify its impact as a regional knowledge hub.

The delegation also visited several institutions to strengthen collaboration, including the Central University of Finance and Economics (CUFE), the Center for International Knowledge on Development (CIKD), the Beijing National Accounting Institute (BNAI), the Institute of New Structural Economics at Peking University (INSE), the Global Sustainable Transport Innovation and Knowledge Center (GSTIKC), and China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE).

During the visit to CUFE, Dr. Chen Binkai, Vice President, welcomed the delegation. The discussions focused on opportunities for joint research, student internships, and academic exchange. At CIKD, Dr. Zhang Jin, Deputy Director General, briefed the delegation on mutual support for each other's flagship events and shared insights on promoting China-Central Asia cooperation in infrastructure, green finance, and digital transformation. The delegation met with Dr. Ye Kangtao, Vice President, and his team at BNAI. The two parties have already established a strategic partnership by signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Both sides discussed the implementation of the MoU and the development of customized financial management training programs for CAREC economies. At INSE, discussions with Dr. Wang Yong, Deputy Dean, and Dr. Yu Jia, head of the International Cooperation Department, explored potential synergies in joint research, training programs, and events.

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Left to right: Mr. Charymuhammet Shallyyev, CI Director, and Ms. Chang Junhong, Director General of the Department of International Economics and Financial Cooperation at MoF



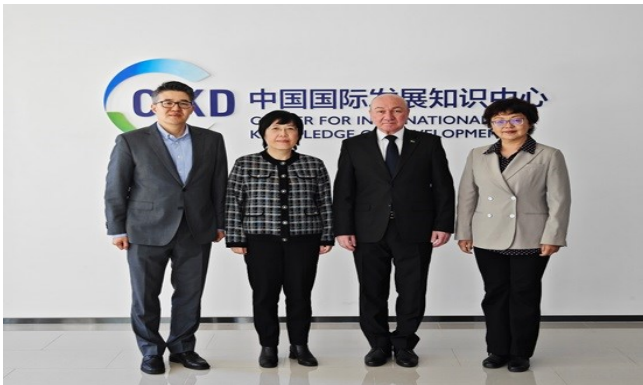
Group photo taken at MoF

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Mr. Shallyyev also held two separate meetings, one with Mr. Liu Peng, Director of GSTIKC, and another with Ms. An Yan, Deputy Secretary of CEAIE, and Ms. Gao Lin, Executive Director of the Global SDGs and Leadership Development Center at the United Nations Institute for Training and Research. The discussions focused on potential areas for cooperation.

At the end of these visits, Director Shallyyev noted, "These engagements are highly fruitful. CI will integrate and leverage China's expertise and resources within the CAREC framework to promote more knowledge solutions for the region's sustainable growth."



Group photo taken at CIKD



Group photo taken at CUFE



Group photo taken at BNAI



Meeting at GSTIKC



Meeting at INSE



Meeting at CEAIE

CAREC Institute and Xiamen National Accounting Institute Conclude Workshop on Cross-Border E-Commerce Payment and Risk Management



The CAREC Institute (CI) and the Xiamen National Accounting Institute (XNAI), successfully concluded its three-day online workshop on “Cross-Border E-Commerce Payment and Risk Management” on 21 February 2025. The workshop brought together over 80 participants, including government officials, industry experts, and digital governance professionals from CAREC member countries, to deepen their understanding of the application of innovative payment methods for cross-border e-commerce, enhance their knowledge of e-commerce regulations, and equip them with effective risk management techniques.

Mr. Charymuhammet Shallyyev, Director of CI, opened the workshop by highlighting the transformative potential of digital trade for regional economies. “By equipping stakeholders with practical tools and strategies, we aim to effectively manage risks and optimize payment systems in this dynamic landscape,” he remarked. Mr. Deng Jianping, Vice President of XNAI, in his opening remarks, expressed XNAI’s eagerness to foster multifaceted exchanges and collaborations in areas such as integrity and compliance, green finance, and fiscal and tax management.

Over three days, participants engaged with insights from leading experts. Dr. Ghulam Samad, Chief of Research at the CAREC Institute, analyzed regional e-commerce ecosystems, highlighting China’s move to payment interoperability and the QR code standardization in ASEAN. He recommended that governments implement interoperability policies and strengthen public-private partnerships. Dr. Asif Razzaq, Senior Researcher at CAREC, presented objective, key findings, and policy recommendations from studies on the Regional Digital Gap and Digital FDI Ecosystem, emphasizing the link between digital infrastructure gaps and e-commerce scalability.

The second day focused on practical applications. Ms. Chen Yina, Deputy General Manager at Bank of China’s Xiamen Branch, outlined strategies for cross-border sales through “Approach to China” initiatives, shared best practices for launching e-commerce stores, settlement flow for e-commerce and introduced the China’s payment regulations. On the final day, Dr. Jian Wei, XNAI’s Associate Professor, discussed the role of cryptocurrency, Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), and China’s e-CNY in global finance.

Concluding the workshop, Dr. Wang Zhixuan, Deputy Director of Research Center for the Belt and Road Financial and Economic Development, XNAI, praised the workshop as a catalyst for regional collaboration and a step forward in harmonizing digital trade frameworks and advancing shared prosperity.



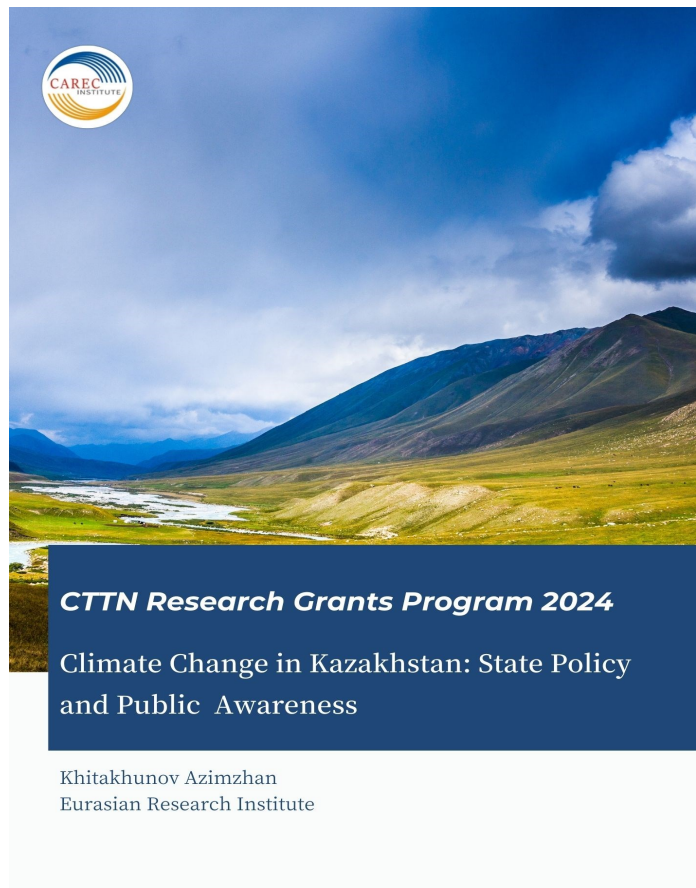
Group Photo from Workshop on Cross-Border E-commerce Payment and Risk Management

New Report Highlights Urgent Need for Climate Change Awareness and Policy Engagement in Kazakhstan

A CTTN Research Grant Report underscores critical gaps in climate governance coordination across Kazakhstan. Authored by Dr. Azimzhan Khitakhunov of the Eurasian Research Institute, "[Climate Change in Kazakhstan: State Policy and Public Awareness](#)" reveals insufficient synergy between governmental climate strategies and public engagement mechanisms. The state-funded study, part of the 2024 CTTN Research Grants Program, identifies particular deficiencies in communicating policy objectives to civil society.

The analysis establishes three core intervention areas: structured youth participation frameworks, multi-stakeholder climate innovation systems, and nationwide environmental education standardization. While acknowledging existing youth engagement in climate initiatives, Dr. Khitakhunov emphasizes the need to institutionalize public consultation channels through regional climate councils and vocational training integration.

These findings hold immediate relevance for CAREC nations developing climate adaptation frameworks. The report specifically advocates establishing ministerial-civil society working groups to synchronize policy implementation, stressing that effective climate action requires transparent communication between governmental bodies, academic institutions, and municipal authorities.



New CTTN Report Highlights Challenges and Opportunities for Emission Trading Mechanisms in CAREC Nations

[A CTTN-funded study](#) reveals critical implementation barriers for emission trading systems (ETS) in Central Asia's developing economies. Dr. Razi and Dr. Ramzan's analysis underscores Kazakhstan and China's contrasting approaches, with Kazakhstan's 7% emission reduction target lagging behind regional decarbonization needs while China's national ETS offers transferable lessons.

EU carbon border measures pose acute challenges for CAREC's export-driven industries, particularly impacting Kazakhstan's metallurgical sector where production costs could rise 12-18%. The report cautions against direct replication of Western carbon pricing models, advocating instead for phased market mechanisms that balance climate targets with energy security priorities.

Essential reforms center on three areas: sector-specific carbon pricing frameworks, cross-border certification protocols, and modernized emissions monitoring infrastructure. These measures could help avoid 45-60 million tones of annual CO2 emissions by 2030 while mitigating trade risks from evolving carbon regulations.

The findings provide actionable insights for policymakers navigating the region's unique post-Soviet industrial legacy and growing renewable energy ambitions. With CAREC economies accounting for 9% of Eurasia's industrial emissions, effective ETS implementation remains

crucial for aligning economic growth with global climate commitments.



CTTN Research Grants Program 2024

Progress and Challenges to Implement Emission Trading Mechanisms in CAREC Nations: Insights from Kazakhstan and China

Ummara Razi
Muhammad Ramzan

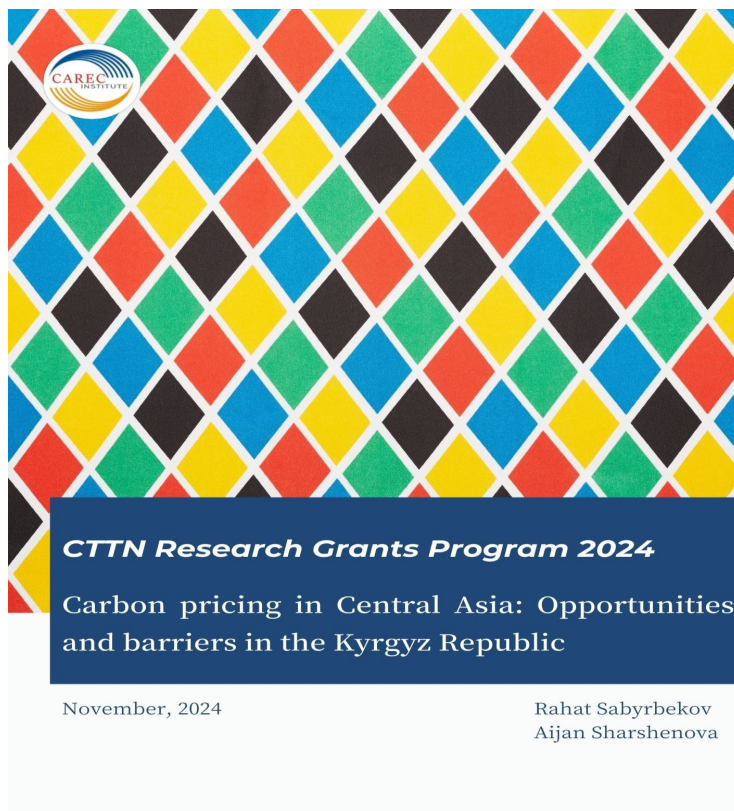
Exploring Carbon Pricing in Central Asia: New Insights from the Kyrgyz Republic



A new CTTN Research Grant Report 2024, "[Carbon Pricing in Central Asia: Opportunities and Barriers in the Kyrgyz Republic](#)," written by Dr. Rahat Sabyrbekov and Dr. Aijan Sharshenova, explores the economic and policy challenges surrounding carbon pricing in the region. The report highlights the need for a strong carbon pricing mechanism to tackle climate change while supporting sustainable development. The authors argue that effective carbon pricing could drive emissions reductions and attract investment in green technologies.

The report also offers several key recommendations for policymakers, including the importance of engaging stakeholders to ensure effective collaboration between civil society, experts, and government officials. It stresses the need for a transparent framework that considers the unique socio-economic context of the Kyrgyz Republic. By fostering dialogue among different groups, the authors believe the country can overcome current barriers and seize opportunities to implement carbon pricing strategies.

In conclusion, Dr. Sabyrbekov and Dr. Sharshenova call for integrating carbon pricing into national economic policies. They emphasize the importance of creating a supportive regulatory environment to encourage innovation and investment in renewable energy. The report's findings aim to contribute to ongoing discussions at both national and international levels, helping to pave the way for a sustainable future in Central Asia.



Exploring Opportunities for Linking Emissions Trading Systems among CAREC Countries: A Pathway to Sustainable Development

[A CTTN Research Grant report](#) by Dr.Giorgi Khishtovani, Dr.Nana Kajaia, and Dr.Gugula Tsukhishvili analyzes the potential for cross-border emissions trading system (ETS) integration among Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) countries. By categorizing members into three economic profiles—diversified, energy-intensive industrial, and agriculture-dependent economies—the study identifies ETS linkage as a cost-effective tool to align climate action with growth agendas. Complementary partnerships could optimize marginal abatement costs (MACs), with energy-intensive economies trading credits with diversified counterparts, while agriculture-focused nations deploy sector-specific offset mechanisms.

The authors propose a phased roadmap emphasizing regulatory harmonization, standardized MRV (monitoring, reporting, verification) protocols, and a regional knowledge-sharing platform to address governance asymmetries. Such collaboration would enhance compliance with Paris Agreement Article 6 and NDC targets while mitigating carbon leakage risks. Sustained political dialogue and adaptive governance, the report argues, are critical to navigating regulatory divergences and market volatility.

By prioritizing interoperability, CAREC members could transform ETS linkage into a driver of low-carbon resilience and economic integration, turning climate commitments into actionable, regionally cohesive strategies.



New Study Advocates Climate-Smart Trade Policies for CAREC Region

A 2024 CTTN research report "[Decarbonizing Trade through Climate Regulations: Policy Implications for the CAREC Region](#)" establishes that strategic climate governance could simultaneously enhance low-carbon exports and mitigate regional vulnerabilities. Based on 2010-2019 bilateral trade analysis, co-authors Dr. Hadiqa Tanveer and Dr. Mubinzhon Abduvaliev identify government pollution control expenditures and green bond instruments as effective catalysts for environmental goods trade, while environmental taxes demonstrate negligible impact. The study underscores ISO 14001 certification and environmental provisions in trade agreements as critical accelerators, particularly in Asian and developed markets.

The report prescribes three priority actions for CAREC members: escalating investments in digital infrastructure and pollution abatement systems, standardizing climate clauses in regional trade agreements, and incentivizing voluntary adoption of global environmental standards. Researchers emphasize differentiated implementation strategies, noting developing economies face institutional capacity constraints and financing gaps. China's dominance in low-carbon exports (6.82% of total) and Georgia's ISO 14001 compliance rates are highlighted as operational benchmarks.

With trade constituting 35% of CAREC's aggregate GDP, the findings stress the imperative to embed climate resilience in economic planning. The analysis identifies Kazakhstan and Georgia as moderately prepared for climate disruptions, versus Afghanistan and Pakistan's elevated exposure due to hydrological risks and extreme weather patterns. Aligning trade frameworks with decarbonization objectives under the CAREC 2030 Strategy, the authors argue, could

stabilize economic outputs, secure sustainable investments, and bolster multilateral coordination ahead of the 2025 UN climate negotiations.



Hadiqa Tanveer
Mubinzhon Abduvaliev

Upcoming Event: CAREC Institute to Host Policy Dialogue on Electric Vehicle Deployment in the CAREC Region

The CAREC Institute is set to convene a pivotal Policy Dialogue on Electric Vehicle (EV) and Infrastructure Deployment in the CAREC Region on March 26, 2025. This online event aims to address the critical barriers and opportunities associated with the adoption of electric vehicles in the landlocked economies of Central Asia, where the transportation sector is a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions.

The dialogue will feature a comprehensive review of global and regional experiences in EV development, highlighting both successes and challenges. Participants will engage in discussions focused on the formulation of targeted policies to enhance the domestic EV industry, improve infrastructure, and promote sustainable practices. Key topics will include advanced battery technologies, charging infrastructure development, and the integration of smart grid solutions.

Government officials, business leaders, and academic researchers will gather to share insights and collaborate on strategies that can drive economic growth, improve energy security, and enhance environmental quality across the CAREC region. The outcomes of this dialogue are expected to contribute significantly to the formulation of national policies that facilitate EV adoption and promote regional cooperation.

Electric Vehicle Deployment in the CAREC Region



Policy Dialogue

- March 26, 2025
- 16:00-18:00 (Beijing time)
- Online Event



Scan for registraion



Upcoming Event: CAREC Institute Announces the Fifth Annual Research Conference-CAREC Connectivity Promoting Trade and Trade Facilitation

The CAREC Institute (CI) is pleased to announce its 5th Annual Research Conference, themed “CAREC Connectivity: Promoting Trade and Trade Facilitation.” This year’s conference will be co-organized with the Islamic Development Bank, the Pakistan Single Window, the Allama Iqbal Open University, and the University of Sargodha, Pakistan, and will take place from May 29-30, 2025, in Islamabad, Pakistan.

As a flagship knowledge event, the CAREC Institute Annual Research Conference provides a critical platform for stakeholders across the CAREC region to deliberate on pressing issues, share insights, and foster regional collaboration. Through synthesizing knowledge activities across the region, the CI aims to build up the region’s research partnerships and attract partners from CAREC countries and the rest of the world into high-quality research activities. The conference has previously been held virtually in 2021, 2022, and 2023, and in-person in 2024 in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

The core objectives of the fifth Conference are to enhance regional integration, strengthen regional cooperation, promote green infrastructure, facilitate transit and trade in South Asia-Central Asia context, and advance knowledge sharing.

The two-day conference will feature three thematic sessions, panel discussions, and both opening and closing sessions. For additional information about the conference, please see details in the attached [Document](#).

We look forward to your participation in this important event.



th
 CAREC Institute Annual Research Conference

CAREC Connectivity: Promoting Trade and Trade Facilitation

29-30 MAY | ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN

Call for Papers for the Fifth CAREC Institute Annual Research Conference in Islamabad

The CAREC Institute (CI) invites the submission of papers to be potentially featured during the fifth CAREC Institute Annual Research Conference on 29-30 May 2025 in Islamabad, Pakistan. The Research Conference is a flagship knowledge event that serves as a critical platform for stakeholders across the CAREC region to deliberate on pressing issues, share insights, and foster regional collaboration. We welcome original articles, case studies, and reviews pertinent to the conference themes.

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
2. Green Transport and Corridor Development
3. Customs Reforms and Efficiency
4. Energy Transition and Green Investment
5. Private Sector Engagement and Regional Cooperation
6. Multimodal Logistics

Important dates:

- Submission of Abstract: 20 March 2025
- Submission of First Draft: 12 May 2025
- Presentation at Research Conference: 29-30 May 2025
- Submission of Revised Draft: 30 July 2025

Submissions:

Abstracts (500 words or less) must be submitted to emmat@carecinstitute.org no later than **20 March 2025**. 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. Authors will have the opportunity to network with leading experts, policymakers, and industry professionals, gaining valuable insights and feedback on their research.

Please refer to the following [Guidelines](#) for the formatting, structure, style, and referencing requirements for the paper. For additional information regarding the call for papers, kindly see the details in the attached [Document](#).





5th CAREC Institute Annual Research Conference
29-30 MAY | ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN

CAREC CONNECTIVITY: PROMOTING TRADE AND TRADE FACILITATION

CALL FOR PAPERS

- Submit your papers / abstracts (500 words) by **20 March, 2025**
- Notification of accepted full tracts (500 words) by **12 May, 2025**
- Revised paper by **30 July, 2025**

NOTES

- Format: English manuscripts only.
- Follow the guidelines
- Publication Mandatory for accepted presenters

CONTACT

- Ms. Emma Tong
emmat@carecinstitute.org



Call for Papers:2025 CTTN Research Grants Program: Envisioning a Greener Future: Crafting Strategic Financing Pathways for the Green Transition in CAREC Region

The CAREC Institute is pleased to announce the opening of the 2025 Research Grants Program, inviting proposals focusing on advancing strategic financing pathways for the green transition in the CAREC region.

Established in 2017, the CAREC Think Tank Network (CTTN) connects leading think tanks from CAREC member countries, encouraging regional cooperation and integration through shared insights on policy and development challenges.

Call for Applications:

We invite CTTN member think tanks in the CAREC region to submit grant applications along with the draft proposal (maximum 5,000 words, excluding references). Successful applicants will receive grants of up to **US\$5,000** to expand their manuscripts into full policy research papers. The research grant is for nearly **six months** from the date of grant approval.

Research Topics:

Proposals are expected to address one or more of the following areas related to the green transition:

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

Submission Details:

To apply, please submit your proposal to **Ms. Jesscy Hu**, Coordination Specialist, at jesscyh@carecinstitute.org, with the subject line “CTTN Research Grants Program.” The deadline for submission is **1 April 2025**, with decisions to be announced by **15 April 2025**.

For more information and to access the application form, please refer to the [document](#) titled “Call for Papers.”

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.