Regional: Supporting the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Institute

**Project Name**  
Supporting the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Institute

**Project Number**  
52370-001

**Country / Economy**  
Regional  
Afghanistan  
Azerbaijan  
Georgia  
Kazakhstan  
Kyrgyz Republic  
Mongolia  
Pakistan  
China, People's Republic of  
Tajikistan  
Turkmenistan  
Uzbekistan

**Project Status**  
Active

**Project Type / Modality of Assistance**  
Technical Assistance

**Source of Funding / Amount**  
TA 6694-REG: Supporting the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Institute  
Technical Assistance Special Fund  
US$ 1.00 million  
People's Republic of China Poverty Reduction and Regional Cooperation Fund  
US$ 1.00 million

**Operational Priorities**  
OP2: Accelerating progress in gender equality  
OP3: Tackling climate change, building climate and disaster resilience, and enhancing environmental sustainability  
OP6: Strengthening governance and institutional capacity  
OP7: Fostering regional cooperation and integration

**Sector / Subsector**  
Industry and trade / Industry and trade sector development

**Gender**  
Some gender elements

**Description**  
The regional knowledge and support technical assistance (TA) will support further institutional development of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Institute, an intergovernmental organization that aims to contribute to the CAREC Program through knowledge generation and capacity building. This TA will (i) strengthen the CAREC Institutes institutional capacity and its financial sustainability, (ii) enhance the quality of the CAREC Institutes knowledge products and services (KPSs), and (iii) invigorate the CAREC Institutes communication and outreach functions. The TA will help further realize the CAREC Institutes potential comparative advantages and uniqueness. The TA is estimated to cost $2,000,000 of which (i) $1,000,000 will be financed on a grant basis by ADB's Technical Assistance Special Fund (TASF-6 and TASF-other sources) and (ii) $1,000,000 on a grant basis by the People's Republic of China Poverty Reduction and Regional Cooperation Fund (PRC Fund) and administered by ADB.

**Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy**  
Since its establishment, the CAREC Institute has made important progress in all four areas of its operations: research, capacity building, knowledge management, and networking and partnerships. Together with funding from the Peoples Republic of China (PRC), ADBs previous and ongoing TA projects contributed to institutional establishment and functioning of the CAREC Institute in delivering its mandate as a knowledge arm of the CAREC Program. In addition to TA support, ADB team is providing intellectual support to the CAREC Institutes activities, with regular guidance and technical advice from ADBs Central and West Asia Department and other ADB departments and units. Over time, the CAREC Institute has significantly shored up its institutional capacity.

In the process of becoming a reputable regional think tank, the CAREC Institute, however, is still at an early stage of development. There is a need to deepen the CAREC Institutes in-house expertise and for the CAREC Institute to devise ways to meet its aspirations with limited resources. The CAREC Institute should also build up its brand and reputation in a systemic yet gradual way, through the development of a few key (flagship) products and activities, and the gradual expansion to other carefully selected areas.

**Impact**  
Stronger regional cooperation among CAREC member countries based on high-quality policy dialogue and value-adding knowledge work realized

**Project Outcome**

**Description of Outcome**  
The CAREC Institute functioning as an independent entity delivering high quality knowledge services.

**Progress Toward Outcome**

**Implementation Progress**

**Description of Project Outputs**  
Institutional capacity and financial sustainability strengthened  
Knowledge functions enhanced  
Knowledge management improved

**Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues)**

**Geographical Location**  
Afghanistan - Nation-wide; Azerbaijan - Nation-wide; China - Nation-wide; Georgia - Nation-wide; Kazakhstan - Nation-wide; Kyrgyz Republic - Nation-wide; Mongolia - Nation-wide; Pakistan - Nation-wide; Tajikistan - Nation-wide; Turkmenistan - Nation-wide; Uzbekistan - Nation-wide

**Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects**

**Environmental Aspects**

**Involuntary Resettlement**

**Indigenous Peoples**
Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation
During Project Design
During Project Implementation

Responsible ADB Officer: Mogilevskii, Roman
Responsible ADB Department: Central and West Asia Department
Responsible ADB Division: Regional Cooperation and Integration Unit, CWRD (CWRC)
Executing Agencies: Asian Development Bank

Timetable

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<tr>
<td>Concept Clearance</td>
<td>07 Oct 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fact Finding MRM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Approval</td>
<td>18 Dec 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last Review Mission</td>
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TA 6694-REG

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<td>30 Sep 2023</td>
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Request for Information: http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=52370-001
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