



**Book launch:**  
**DEVELOPING INFRASTRUCTURE IN CENTRAL ASIA**  
**Impacts and Financing Mechanisms**

**Biographies of Speakers**  
**(alphabetical order)**


Event | 29 March 2021 Online

	<i>Last Name</i>	Abbas	<i>First Name</i>	Qaisar
	<i>Institution</i>	Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Institute		
	<i>Department</i>	Research Division		
	<i>Position</i>	Chief		
<b>Short Bio</b>				
<p>Dr. Abbas joined CAREC Institute in February 2020 as Chief of Research Division. Dr. Abbas holds PhD degree in Human Resource Development from Nankai University Tianjin, China in May 2000. He performed Post-Doctoral Research at Cardiff Business School, Cardiff University, UK in September 2007. He also holds M.Sc. and M.Phil in Economics from Quaid-e-Azam University Islamabad, Pakistan. He has worked as Dean Faculty of Business Administration at Comsats University Islamabad (CUI) and Director CUI, Lahore Campus, Pakistan. Over the years, he has also assumed various additional responsibilities at CUI including, Provost, Convener of Campus Selection Committee, Convener Board of Studies of Management Sciences, and Convener Board of Faculties of Business Administration and Member Board of Governor CUI, Pakistan. Professor Abbas is a prolific researcher who has produced a consistent stream of research output that includes 38 publications in national and international journals, 9 conference proceedings and 7 conference presentations. Professor Abbas has also completed two research projects funded by Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan and CUI. Five students have completed their PhD under his supervision. He was instrumental in launching a new international research journal "South Asian Journal of Global Business Research" published by Emerald publications. He has been actively involved in organizing a number of international workshops / seminar / conferences/forums.</p>				

	<i>Last Name</i>	Abdullaev	<i>First Name</i>	Iskandar
	<i>Institution</i>	Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Institute		
	<i>Position</i>	Deputy Director		
<b>Short Bio</b>				
<p>Dr. Iskandar Abdullaev holds MSc and PhD degrees from Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agriculture Mechanization Engineers (TIAME), Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Part of his PhD work Dr. Abdullaev conducted at Iowa State University (ISU), Iowa, USA. Dr. Abdullaev have intensive training and education programmes in Israel (1996-1997), USA (1999) and the Netherlands, (2000), Switzerland (2002). Dr. Iskandar Abdullaev has over 25 years of experience in water management, water institutions, environmental activities in Afghanistan and five Central Asian countries. Dr. Iskandar Abdullaev joined Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Institute as Deputy Director in June 2019. From 2013-2019 Dr. Abdullaev worked as an Executive Director of Regional Environmental Center (CAREC) for Central Asia. Prior joining of CAREC in 2009-2013, Dr. Abdullaev worked as Regional advisor for Germany's Berlin Initiative- Transboundary Water Management in Central Asia (Programme) at the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ). During 2007-2009, he worked in position of Senior Researcher at ZEF Centre for Development Research University of Bonn (Germany) and conducted research in Central Asia and Afghanistan. During 2001-2007, Dr. Abdullaev worked as a regional researcher at International Water Management Institute (Headquarters in Sri Lanka). His research focus included Central Asia, Iran, Pakistan, Thailand and Sri-Lanka. Dr. Abdullaev very well linked with research, scientific societies of the region and worldwide. He is member of International Water Resources Association (IWRA), member of editorial boards of few internationally peer reviewed journals.</p>				

	<i>Last Name</i>	Aidarkhanova	<i>First Name</i>	Bibigul
	<i>Institution</i>	Kazakh University of Economics, Finance and International Trade		
	<i>Department</i>	Department of Economics		
	<i>Position</i>	Senior Lecturer		
<b>Short Bio</b>				
<p>Bibigul Aidarkhanova holds a PhD in Economic science. She has university degrees in advanced mathematics and economics. She also studied in Germany at the Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University at the international faculty of management. For many years she worked at a leading research institute of Kazakhstan, such as Economic Research Institute under the Ministry of national economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan, as head of the medium-term forecasting department and then as deputy director of the Center for macroeconomic and applied</p>				

economic and mathematical research (2007-2016). She also participated as a researcher in international projects of the Asian Development Bank and research institutes on topics such as “Good Jobs for Inclusive Growth in Central Asia and South Caucasus” (2016), “Macroeconomic Monitoring and Forecasting Model for CAREC Member Countries” (2017), “Measuring Impacts and Financing Infrastructure in the CAREC countries” (2019). Her research interests include macroeconomic analysis, modeling and forecasting, and applied economic researches.

	<i>Last Name</i>	Arduino	<i>First Name</i>	Alessandro
	<i>Institution</i>	National University of Singapore		
	<i>Department</i>	Middle East Institute		
	<i>Position</i>	Principal Research Fellow		

**Short Bio**

Dr Alessandro Arduino is the principal research fellow at the Middle East Institute (MEI), National University of Singapore. He is the co-director of the Security & Crisis Management International Centre at the Shanghai Academy of Social Science (SASS-Polito) and an external associate at Lau China Institute, King's College London. His two decades of experience in China encompasses security analysis and crisis management. His main research interests include China, Central Asia and Middle East and North Africa relations, sovereign wealth funds, private military/security companies, and China's security and foreign policy. Alessandro is the author of several books and he has published papers and commentaries in various journals in Italian, English and Chinese. His most recent book is *China's Private Army: Protecting the New Silk Road* (Palgrave, 2018). He has been appointed Knight of Order of the Star of Italy by the president of the Italian Republic.


	<i>Last Name</i>	Azhgaliyeva	<i>First Name</i>	Dina
	<i>Institution</i>	Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI)		
	<i>Position</i>	Research Fellow		

**Short Bio**


Her research interests include energy policy, particularly renewable energy, energy efficiency, and energy storage. She is currently a guest editor for the Applied Energy's special issue “Integration of Renewable Energy in Energy Systems, Perspectives on Investment, Technology, and Policy” Previously, she worked as a Research Fellow in the energy economics division of the Energy Studies Institute, National University of Singapore. She was also a Research Fellow at the Henley Business School, University of Reading (UK) where she was involved in empirical analysis of the impact of local content policy on extractive industries. She worked as Economics Teaching Fellow at the University College London. She also worked as a leading and chief specialist for the Tax Committee at the Ministry of Finance of Kazakhstan. She holds a PhD, Master's, and Graduate Diploma in economics, all from the University of Essex. She also holds


an internationally recognized teaching qualification from the Fellow of Higher Education Academy and a qualification in research career management from the Staff Educational and Development Association. More information is available here: <https://www.adb.org/adbi/about/staff-profiles/dina-azhgaliyeva>


	<i>Last Name</i>	Devidze	<i>First Name</i>	Nestan
	<i>Institution</i>	Kiva		
	<i>Department</i>	Impact Investments		
	<i>Position</i>	Investment Manager, South and Southeast Asia		
<b>Short Bio</b>				
<p>Currently, Nestan holds the position of Investment Manager for Kiva, a peer-to-peer Microfinance lending platform. Her previous experience includes Impact Assets' Management in South and Southeast Asia and Microfinance analytics in Georgia. Previously she has served as a Research Associate for the Asian office of BlueOrchard, a global Impact Investment Management firm. Along with transaction origination &amp; deal processing, she has completed several research studies related to SME &amp; Microfinance sector in South and South-East Asian countries, including financial sector risk assessment in various countries; Country risk reports, and a survey of Agro insurance trends &amp; opportunities in South Asia; Her study profile includes comprehensive studies for Georgian financial sector: SME financing needs &amp; challenges in Georgia; Affecting factors for Agriculture product prices; Exchange rate volatility effect on Micro &amp; SME portfolio quality.</p>				


	<i>Last Name</i>	Huang	<i>First Name</i>	Bihong
	<i>Institution</i>	International Monetary Fund (IMF)		
	<i>Department</i>	Monetary and Capital Market Department		
	<i>Position</i>	Economist		
<b>Short Bio</b>				
<p>Bihong Huang is now the Economist at the Monetary and Capital Market Department of International Monetary Fund. Prior to the Fund, Bihong Huang was an Economist at the Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department of Asian Development Bank, working on Asian Economic Outlook, ADB's flagship economic publication. Previously, she was a Research Fellow at the Asian Development Bank Institute where she led many research-based policy development projects. She was coordinator for the Think20 (T20) Japan policy innovation task force examining the Future of Work and Education for the Digital Age under Japan's 2019 G20 presidency. Before joining ADBI, she served on the academic faculty at Renmin University of China</p>				


and University of Macau. Her research interests include environmental transition, digital economy, fintech, financial inclusion, financial stability and income inequality.

	<i>Last Name</i>	Karymshakov	<i>First Name</i>	Kamalbek
	<i>Institution</i>	Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Institute		
	<i>Department</i>	Chief Economist Team		
	<i>Position</i>	Economist		
<b>Short Bio</b>				
<p>Kamalbek Karymshakov is Economist at the CAREC Institute. His research interests include labor economics, migration, economic integration, infrastructure, economic growth and development in Central Asian region. He has applied economic analysis experience using household level data. He has project and consultancy experience on various topics of labor market, migration, public policy and rural economic development. Previously, he worked as Associate Professor at the Finance and Banking department of Kyrgyz-Turkish Manas University (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan). He holds PhD in Economics from Yeditepe University (Istanbul, Turkey). He also had post-doctoral research fellowship at Free University of Berlin (2010- 2011). From 2016-2020 he was vice-director of Central Asian Research Center (ORASAM) at Kyrgyz-Turkish Manas University.</p>				


	<i>Last Name</i>	Morgan	<i>First Name</i>	Peter
	<i>Institution</i>	Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI)		
	<i>Position</i>	Senior Consulting Economist, Vice Chair		
<b>Short Bio</b>				
<p>Peter Morgan joined ADBI in December 2008. Previously he served in Hong Kong, China as Chief Asia Economist for HSBC where he was responsible for macroeconomic analysis and forecasting for Asia. Before that, he was Chief Japan Economist for HSBC and held comparable positions at Merrill Lynch, Barclays de Zoete Wedd, and Jardine Fleming. Prior to entering the financial industry, he worked as a consultant for Meta Systems Inc in Cambridge, Massachusetts in the United States specializing in energy and environmental areas, including energy policy issues in Asian countries, and at International Business Information KK in Tokyo specializing in financial sector consulting. His research focuses are macroeconomic policy and financial sector regulation, reform, financial development, financial inclusion, fintech, financial literacy, and financial education.</p>				


	<i>Last Name</i>	Shah	<i>First Name</i>	Syed Shakeel
	<i>Institution</i>	Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Institute		
	<i>Position</i>	Director		
Short Bio				
<p>Mr. SYED SHAKEEL SHAH is the CAREC Institute Director. Prior to this, he was the Chief Reforms, Automation and Preferential Trade – Pakistan Customs – Federal Board of Revenue, Government of Pakistan. He has also served as the Joint Secretary, Economic Affairs, Prime Minister’s Office, Government of Pakistan. He has decades of experience working in the civil service system of the Government of Pakistan. He holds two master’s degrees: 1) in Advanced Studies in International Trade Law and Economics (MILE) from World Trade Institute – Bern – Switzerland, and 2) in International Relations from Quaid-e-Azam University – Islamabad -Pakistan. His areas of expertise include WTO law (Dispute Resolution, SPS, TRIPS/ TRIMS Agreements, Doha Round), Micro and Macroeconomics, Trade (International, Regional and Preferential), Economic Corridors, Customs laws, Reforms and Automation including Single Windows for Trade, Ease of doing business in Trading Across Border indicator, and Trade Facilitation Agreement of WTO.</p>				

	<i>Last Name</i>	Sonobe	<i>First Name</i>	Tetsushi
	<i>Institution</i>	Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI)		
	<i>Position</i>	Dean and CEO		
Short Bio				
<p>Dr. Tetsushi Sonobe is the Dean and CEO of the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI). Before joining ADBI on April 1, 2020, he was Vice President of National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS). He received his BA from the University of Tokyo and his PhD in economics from Yale University. His research interest is in development economics, especially field studies of the processes of industrial development, human resource development, social development, poverty reduction, and sustainable economic growth in developing countries. At ADBI, he exercises intellectual and strategic leadership to make ADBI’s policy research and capacity building activities more relevant, timely, and evidence-based and reach a wider audience.</p>				

	<i>Last Name</i>	Sugiyarto	<i>First Name</i>	Guntur
	<i>Institution</i>	Asian Development Bank (ADB)		
	<i>Department</i>	Central and West Asia Regional Department		
	<i>Position</i>	Principal Economist		
<b>Short Bio</b>				
<p>Dr. Guntur Sugiyarto is a Principal Economist at the Asian Development Bank. He received MSc and PhD degrees from the School of Economics, University of Warwick and University of Nottingham, United Kingdom (UK), respectively, through academically competitive scholarships. Prior to studying in the UK, he has already obtained two university degrees in Statistics and Economics from Academy of Statistics (also through a scholarship) and University of Indonesia. Before joining ADB in 2004, he worked for universities of Nottingham and Warwick in UK and Central Bureau of Statistics in Indonesia. He has published a significant number of works on a wide range of pertinent development issues, including on competitiveness, investment, tourism economics, labor markets, poverty, CGE modeling, trade liberalization and policy framework, taxation, commodity prices, biofuel and food security, education, infrastructure, fragility, special economic zone, economic corridors, industrial development and industrial policy, and migration and remittance.</p>				

	<i>Last Name</i>	Sze	<i>First Name</i>	Andy
	<i>Institution</i>	Fastraxx Group, LLC		
	<i>Position</i>	Managing Director		
<b>Short Bio</b>				
<p>Andy Sze is the Founder of Fastraxx Group, a consulting firm known for delivering smart logistics solutions. He was the CEO and partner of a highly successful US multimodal logistics company with nine figure revenue. Since 2007, Mr. Sze has worked for ADB in assisting the governments of the PRC, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Georgia, and Azerbaijan on transport infrastructure project. His education includes MBA from University of Chicago, MS/ABD in Industrial Engineering &amp; Management Science from Northwestern University. He is a Fellow of the Intermodal Transportation Institute, a former Director of American Society of Transportation &amp; Logistics and a member of the Business Advisory Committee, Northwestern University Transportation Center. Twice, he served the US Department of Commerce as an Examiner of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. His research interests include multimodal transport, cold chain logistics, trade facilitation and connecting Central Asian countries to the global value chain.</p>				

	<i>Last Name</i>	Umurzakov	<i>First Name</i>	Kubat
	<i>Institution</i>	National Institute for Strategic Studies, Kyrgyz Republic		
	<i>Position</i>	Expert		
<b>Short Bio</b>				
<p>Mr. Kubat Umurzakov has a PHD of science in economics from national academy of science at Kazakhstan. He worked in different positions for government agencies of Kyrgyz Republic more than 15 years, including positions of Head of Department of Prime-Minister's Office and Deputy Head of State Commission on Economic Reform. From 2005-2008, he worked as a Director, Economic Research &amp; Statistics in ECO, regional intergovernmental organization based in Tehran, Iran; from 2015-2017, he performed his duties as the First Director of CAREC Institute. His experience includes also working as an international consultant in several projects, conducting studies on trade and investment policy, regional integration, including Eurasian Economic Union, economic corridors, etc. His research focus included Central Asian countries and Russian Federation.</p>				

	<i>Last Name</i>	Yoshino	<i>First Name</i>	Naoyuki
	<i>Institution</i>	Keio University (Economics)		
	<i>Position</i>	Professor Emeritus		
<b>Short Bio</b>				
<p>Dr. Naoyuki Yoshino is Professor Emeritus at Keio University (Economics), Tokyo, Japan and until March 2020 was Dean/CEO of the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADB). He obtained his PhD from Johns Hopkins University under supervision of Sir Alan Walters who was an economic advisor to PM Margaret Thatcher of UK. He received honorary doctorates from University of Goteborg (Sweden) and Martin Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg (Germany). Dr. Yoshino has been a visiting scholar at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (United States) and a visiting professor at various universities including the University of New South Wales (Australia), Fondation Nationale des Sciences Politiques (France), and University of Gothenburg (Sweden). He has also been an assistant professor at the State University of New York at Buffalo and an economics professor at Keio University (1990-2014). Dr. Yoshino's professional career includes membership in numerous government committees. He was appointed as Chair of the Financial Planning Standards Board in 2007. He has served as Chairperson of the Japanese Ministry of Finance's Council on Foreign Exchange as well as its Fiscal System Council (Fiscal Investment and Loan Program Section). Additionally, he has been a Board Member of the Deposit Insurance Corporation of Japan and President of the Financial System Council of the Government of Japan. He was named Director of the Japan Financial Services Agency's (FSA) Financial Research Center (FSA Institute) in 2020. He is currently a visiting Professor at GRIPS and visiting Lecturer at University of Tokyo.</p>				