Digital CAREC Virtual Policy Dialogue: Analysis of the Regional Digital Gap

Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Institute
Islamic Development Bank
Asian Development Bank Institute

23 February 2022
14:50 – 17:00 (Beijing time)

Agenda

14:50-15:00 Virtual Connection to the Dialogue and Webinar Rules
Gary Huang, E-Learning Specialist, CAREC Institute

15:00-15:15 Opening Remarks
Syed Shakeel Shah, Director, CAREC Institute
Saad Paracha, Unit Head, CAREC, ADB
Ibrahim Shoukry, Head, Regional Hub of Almaty, IsDB

Moderator: Rovshan Mahmudov, Senior Capacity Building Specialist, CAREC Institute

Session 1: Analysis of the Regional Digital Gap

Introduction and Country Profiles of Digital Development in the CAREC Region

15:25-15:35 Asif Razzaq, Dalian University of Technology, PR of China
Methodologies and Outcomes of Gap Analysis

15:35-15:45 Qaisar Abbas, Chief of Research Division, CAREC Institute
Policy Recommendations and Future Directions
15:45-15:55 Q&A

Moderator: Shaharyar Jawaid, Senior ICT Specialist, IsDB

Session 2: Policy Dialogue and Exchange of Views on Digitalization in the CAREC Region

15:55-16:50 This is an open dialogue session with leading international experts from key implementing partner organizations. Each expert will be given 5-7 minutes to address the following guiding questions and engage in open dialogue with other experts, and participants.

1. What is digital transformation and how does it impact the economy, especially in light of the COVID-19 crisis?
2. What are the key challenges of digital transformation and recommendations to policymakers in terms of ways to bridge the digital divide for a post-COVID era?
3. What is the role of development partners on worldwide digitalization, especially in the CAREC region?

Distinguished Discussants:
- Aimee Hampel-Milagrosa, Economist, ERCD, ADB
- Hans Holzhacker, Chief Economist, CAREC Institute
- Kadir Basboga, Senior Regional Integration Economist, IsDB
- Linda Faustina Arthur, Senior Capacity Building and Training Specialist, ADBI
- Naoyuki Yoshino, Professor Emeritus, Keio University, Tokyo, Japan
- Paul Lam, CFA, FRSA, AIIB
- Soo Hyun Kim, Economic Affairs Officer, UNESCAP (pre-recorded)
- Fanil Kadirov, Deputy Director, International Institute of Central Asia

Moderator: Iskandar Abdullaev, Deputy Director, CAREC Institute

16:50-17:00 Closing Remarks

Riad Ragueb, Acting Director of the RCI Department, IsDB
Iskandar Abdullaev, Deputy Director, CAREC Institute