



CAREC INSTITUTE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

**THEME: Resilience and Economic Growth in Times of High Uncertainty in
CAREC Region**

11-12 April 2022

AGENDA

In partnership
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CAREC INSTITUTE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

THEME: Resilience and Economic Growth in Times of High Uncertainty in CAREC Region

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ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The second CAREC Institute Research Conference takes place on 11-12 April 2022 on the theme "Resilience and Economic Growth in Times of High Uncertainty in CAREC Region" in a virtual mode. Its sub-themes include the following thematic sessions: (i) Green Economy and Sustainable Development; (ii) Understanding Current Business Risks and Regional Cooperation; (iii) Sustainable Agriculture and Food security. Beyond that, the conference features one special session dedicated to the launch of the first volume of the CAREC Institute Annual Book, and a panel discussion on Revitalizing Regional Cooperation for Green, Sustainable, and Inclusive Recovery.

BACKGROUND

The global pandemic has cloaked economies in high uncertainty. As countries are slowly emerging from it, they look to ensure rapid recovery, yet the much talked "better recovery" is uncertain. Recurrent outbreaks drag on growth prospects of all economies. The recovery paths of CAREC economies are divergent and economic growth will be distributed in sectors in varying degrees than conventional anticipation of broad-based recovery and growth. Having caused disruptions of varied scale and forms across countries, the ongoing pandemic is indeed to leave an indelible impact on and uncertainty for Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs), the tourism sector, energy markets, agriculture and food security, and cross-border trade.

At the same time, the above-mentioned areas can be the driving force of economic growth and accelerate resiliency if it is guided through well-orchestrated research-based policies aimed at sustained growth. These and other pertaining questions are the key areas to be discussed at the conference.

STRUCTURE

This two-day virtual research conference will bring together researchers and representatives of governments, international organizations, research institutes and think tanks across the CAREC region and beyond. The first day will be begin with opening session including opening remarks, keynote speech which charts the ground for the two-day discussion and contains one special and one thematic session. The second day comprises two thematic sessions, along with a panel discussion and closing session.



AGENDA

Time	SESSIONS
DAY ONE – 11 April 2022	
OPENING SESSION Chair: Mr Syed Shakeel Shah , Director, CAREC Institute (CI)	
Purpose: By giving welcoming remarks to participants, this session provides context for the conference and its sessions which is accompanied by a thematic keynote speech.	
Note to chair: The chair of this session will start off the conference by giving a speaking turn to each distinguished speaker to make welcoming remarks to the audience. At the end of the opening session, the chair closes the session by quick highlights.	
Time (Beijing time) 10.45 – 11.00	Thematic videos to be screened
11.00 – 11.50	1. Opening Remarks (5 mins each). Introductory notes by the chair of the session Mr Jin Lu , the Deputy Director General of the Department of International Economic and Financial Cooperation, Ministry of Finance, the PRC Dr Tetsushi Sonobe , Dean and CEO, Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) Dr Lyaziza Sabyrova , Director, Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination Division, Asian Development Bank (ADB) 2. Keynote address (20 mins) Dr Johannes F. Linn , Nonresident Senior Fellow, The Brookings Institution
Group screenshot	
11.50 – 12.00	Short break (10 mins)
Special session: Launch of the CAREC Institute Annual Book 1st Volume COVID-19 and Economic Recovery Potential in CAREC Region <i>jointly with ADBI</i>	



Chair: Dr Iskandar Abdullaev, Deputy Director Two, CI

Purpose: The main purpose of this special session is to officially launch the CAREC Institute Annual Book, and present and discuss the chapters of its first volume.

Note to chair: The main task of the chair is to facilitate the session and help others to move through the presentations and discussions as structured in the programme. The chair ensures that each speaker presents their presentation within the allocated time, which is **15 minutes for each speaker**. Presenters will be introduced by the chair only **by their names and affiliations**. Detailed information about the speakers will be available in the document to be handed out before the conference.

Before starting the session, the chair delivers **15 minutes of opening remarks** about the book by providing the background note and its main features. This introduction of the book should be accommodated to 15 minutes.

Note to speakers: Speakers are expected to present their papers within the allocated time of **15 minutes** which highlights the main findings and policy recommendations of the parts of the book.

Time (Beijing time) 12.00 – 12.15	Introduction of the first volume of the CAREC Institute Annual Book
12.15 – 12.30	<i>Part I: Digital CAREC and post-COVID-19 economic recovery</i> Dr Qaisar Abbas , Chief of Research Division, CI
12.30 – 12.45	<i>Part II: Economic Dynamics and COVID-19 Pandemic</i> Mr Shakhboz Akhmedov , Senior Research Fellow, Knowledge and Research Networking, CI
12.45 – 13.00	<i>Part III: COVID-19 Impacts on Human Development</i> Dr Dina Azhgaliyeva , Research fellow, ADBI
13.00 – 13.20	Q&A session
13.20 – 14.00	Health break (40 mins)

Session one: Green Economy and Sustainable Development

Chair: Dr Qaisar Abbas, Chief of Research, CI



Purpose: The main purpose of this session is to present and discuss the selected papers pertinent to Green Economy and Sustainable Development in the CAREC region.

Note to chair: The main task of the chair is to facilitate the session and help others to move through the presentations and discussions as structured in the programme. The chair ensures that each speaker presents their presentation within the allocated time, which is **10 minutes for speakers** and **5 minutes for discussants**. Both presenters and discussants will be introduced by the chair only by their names and affiliations. Detailed information about speakers and discussants will be available in the document to be handed out before the conference.

Before starting the session, the chair delivers **5 minutes of opening remarks** about the topic at stake by providing the latest trends and future potential outlook on them. This quick introduction should be accommodated to 5 minutes.

Note to speakers: Speakers are expected to present their papers within the allocated time of **10 minutes** which highlights the main findings and policy recommendations of the paper.

Note to discussants: The role of discussants is to read a paper and provide a 5-min presentation including key takeaways, suggestions for improvements, and suggestions for policy implications. The intervention period should be confined to 5 minutes of time.

Time (Beijing time) 14.00 – 14.05	Introduction and opening remarks by chair
14.05 – 14.15	1. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Sustainable Economic Development in Kazakhstan and implications for Central Asia Dr Ablay Dosmaganbetov , Project Manager at Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) in Kazakhstan & Ms Yelif Ulagpan , PhD student at the School of International and Public Affairs, Shanghai Jiao Tong University
14.15 – 14.20	<i>Discussant</i> Dr Zhanna Kapsalyamova , Assistant Professor in Economics, Nazarbayev University
14.20 – 14.30	2. Transformative Solutions and Green Finance: ADB Projects in the People’s Republic of China and Mongolia Case Study Dr Yixin Yao , Senior Research Fellow, ADBI & Mr Arnaud Heckmann , Principal Urban Development Specialist, ADB



- 14.30 – 14.35 *Discussant*
Dr Kamalbek Karymshakov, Vice Rector, Kyrgyz Turkish Manas University
- 14.35 – 14.45 3. Potential Economic Impact of Green Economies and Determinants of Carbon emission in Central Asia: the case of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan
Ms Azizakhon Mukhammedova, Research Assistant, Graduate School, Westminster International University in Tashkent
- 14.45 – 14.50 *Discussant*
Dr Dina Azhgaliyeva, Research Fellow, ADBI

14.50 – 15.10	Q&A session
15.10 – 15.20	Recap of the first day



DAY TWO – 12 April 2022

Session two: Understanding Current Business Risks and Regional Cooperation **Chair: Mr Khalid Umar**, Chief of Strategic Planning, CI

Purpose: The main purpose of this session is to present and discuss the selected papers pertinent to Current Business Risks and Regional Cooperation in the CAREC.

Note to chair: The main task of the chair is to facilitate the session and help others to move through the presentations and discussions as structured in the programme. The chair ensures that each speaker presents their presentation within the allocated time, which is **10 minutes for speakers** and **5 minutes for discussants**. Both presenters and discussants will be introduced by the chair only **by their names and affiliations**. Detailed information about speakers and discussants will be available in the document to be handed out before the conference.

Before starting the session, the chair delivers **5 minutes of opening remarks** about the topic at stake by providing the latest trends and future potential outlook on them in the post-COVID-19 world both worldwide and the CAREC region. This quick introduction should be accommodated to 5 minutes.

Note to speakers: Speakers are expected to present their papers within the allocated time of **10 minutes** which highlights the main findings and policy recommendations of the paper.

Note to discussants: The role of discussants is to read a paper and provide a 5-min presentation including key takeaways, suggestions for improvements, and suggestions for policy implications. The intervention period should be confined to 5 minutes of time.

Time (Beijing time) 10.45 – 11.00	Thematic videos to be screened
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11.00 – 11.05 Introduction and opening remarks by chair

11.05 – 11.15 1. Smart Tourism Triggers Tourist Minds-Do you have the mind to mind it?
Ms Nasiba Mukhtorova, Academic Lyceum of Westminster International University in Tashkent, Uzbekistan



- 11.15 – 11.20 *Discussant*
Dr Ravi Bankar, Senior tourism specialist
- 11.20 – 11.30 2. Cross-country policy comparison of supporting SMEs during the covid-19 pandemic: Recovery strategies for SMEs in emerging economies of Central Asia
Dr Brendan Duprey, Director (Associate Professor)-Sustainable Kazakhstan Research Institute (SKPI) at Narxoz University & **Ms Aizhan Salimzhanova**, Researcher, SKPI at Narxoz University, Kazakhstan
- 11.30 – 11.35 *Discussant*
Dr Rauf Salahodjaev, Director at ERGO Analytics / Professor at Tashkent State Economics University and AKFA University
- 11.35 – 11.45 3. Impacts of Covid-19 on Households' Business, Employment and Education: Evidence from Households Survey in CAREC countries
Dr Dina Azhgaliyeva, Research Fellow, ADBI
- 11.45 – 11.50 *Discussant*
Dr Ghulam Samad, Senior Research Specialist, CI
- 11.50 – 12.00 4. Household Employment and Income Shock During COVID-19: Evidence from Georgia and Mongolia
Dr Kamalbek Karymshakov, Vice Rector, Kyrgyz Turkish Manas University
- 12.00 – 12.05 *Discussant*
Dr Minsoo Lee, Senior Economist, ADB
- 12.05 – 12.15 5. The Economic Impact of Zangazur Corridor on CAREC Region and the Perspectives of Economic Relations between the CAREC Region and EU
Mr Ayaz Museyibov, Head of Strategic Planning and Development department at the Center for Analysis of Economic Reforms and Communication (CAERC) & **Mr Ayhan Satiji**, Analyst of the Strategic Planning and Development department, CAERC
- 12.15 – 12.20 *Discussant*
Mr Rovshan Mahmudov, Senior Capacity Building Specialist, CI

12.20 – 12.40	Q&A
12.40 – 12.50	Short break (10 mins)



Session three: Sustainable Agriculture & Food Security
Chair: Dr Dil Rahut, Vice-Chair of Research and Senior Research Fellow, ADBI

Purpose: The main purpose of this session is to present and discuss the selected papers pertinent to sustainable agriculture and food security in the CAREC region.

Note to chair: The main task of the chair is to facilitate the session and help others to move through the presentations and discussions as structured in the programme. The chair ensures that each speaker presents their presentation within the allocated time, which is **10 minutes for speakers** and **5 minutes for discussants**. Both presenters and discussants will be introduced by the chair only **by their names and affiliations**. Detailed information about speakers and discussants will be available in the document to be handed out before the conference.

Before starting the session, the chair delivers **5 minutes of opening remarks** about the topic at stake by providing the latest trends and future potential outlook on them in the post-COVID-19 world both worldwide and the CAREC region. This quick introduction should be accommodated to 5 minutes.

Note to speakers: Speakers are expected to present their papers within the allocated time of **10 minutes** which highlights the main findings and policy recommendations of the paper.

Note to discussants: The role of discussants is to read a paper and provide a 5-min presentation including key takeaways, suggestions for improvements, and suggestions for policy implications. The intervention period should be confined to 5 minutes of time.

Time (Beijing time) 12.50 – 12.55	Introduction and opening remarks by chair
12.55 – 13.05	1. Agricultural Productivity and Resilience to External Shocks: an empirical study of selected CAREC countries Dr Etenesh B. Asfaw , Sr. Research Fellow, CPRO-Westminster International University in Tashkent, Uzbekistan & Dr Iroda Amirova , Post-doctoral fellow, CPRO- Westminster International University in Tashkent, Uzbekistan
13.05 – 13.10	<i>Discussant</i> Dr Dil Rahut , Vice-Chair of Research and Senior Research Fellow, ADBI



- 13.10 – 13.20 2. Sustainable Land Use Resources and Food Systems in Kazakhstan and implications in the wider Central Asian region
Dr Stefanos Xenarios, Associate Professor, Graduate School of Public Policy, Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan
- 13.20 – 13.25 *Discussant*
Dr Ayoob Ayoobi, Chief of Capacity Building, CI
- 13.25 – 13.35 3. Food security resilience during extremes: the case of CAREC countries
Mr Kashif Majeed Salik, Associate Research Fellow, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI)
- 13.35 – 13.40 *Discussant*
Dr Ihtiyor Babadjanov, Research Associate, Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO)

13.40 – 14.00	Q&A
14.00 – 14.40	Health break (40mins)

PANEL DISCUSSION & CLOSING SESSION

Chair: Dr Peter Morgan, Senior Consulting Economist and Advisor to the Dean, ADBI

Theme: Revitalizing Regional Cooperation for Green, Sustainable, and Inclusive Recovery

Context
 GDP growth in the CAREC region substantially re-accelerated after the sharp slow-down in 2020 caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, allowing GDP to exceed 2019 levels in 2021 in most CAREC economies. However, the recovery is not solid yet and geopolitical tensions cause new challenges. Restructuring economic paradigms to balance the visions of growth and development with climate imperatives has assumed centrality in the global agenda, and CAREC economies will have to align their strategies with these trends.

Technological progress and digitalization sharply accelerated by the pandemic opens new opportunities for the region but also require new policies for industrial development, employment, and income distribution. Development agendas for the economies of the CAREC region must be re-adjusted and re-drawn to the imperatives of climate change, commitments to decarbonization, and more broadly green transition. Rebalancing of sectors away from fossil fuels, digitalization, the need for new investment, qualifications, connectivity, and public health care requires modified business approaches and



government programs. Moreover, the related social change necessitates policies to mitigate potential adverse impacts on some parts of the population, so that desirably no one is left behind and the transition can progress relatively smoothly without heightened social tensions.

The alignment of visions of growth and development with sustainability challenges requires a careful stock-taking of existing approaches and make course corrections wherever required.

This panel discussion intends to ignite an exchange of thoughts about fostering informed dialogue to re-design policy approaches with specific focus on regional economic cooperation.

The discussion will be moderated through the following **guiding questions** to the panelists:

1. What are the opportunities for rising intra-regional trade in the CAREC region and strengthening sustainable connectivity?
2. How better regional cooperation and governance in the energy sector can unleash sustainable and inclusivity development in the CAREC region?
3. What are opportunities and challenges in digital transformation of CAREC economies? How can digital opportunities create value for green, sustainable, and inclusive economic growth in the region?
4. What are the options for climate to become a strong factor in policymaking for sustainable economic growth?
5. How CAREC SMEs and MSMEs can survive and thrive post COVID-19 development challenges?

Panelists:

- 14.40 – 16.00 **Dr Lyaziza Sabyrova**, Director, Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination Division, ADB
Dr Farhad Taghizadeh-Hesary, Associate Professor of Economics, Tokai University, Japan
Dr Jayant Menon, Senior Fellow at ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore
Ms Kimberley Botwright, Head of Sustainable Trade, World Economic Forum
Dr Hans Holzacker, Chief Economist, CI

CLOSING SESSION



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- 16.00 – 16.30
1. **Dr Iskandar Abdullaev**, Deputy Director Two, CI
 2. **Mr Saad Paracha**, Head of CAREC Program Secretariat, ADB
 3. **Dr John Beirne**, Vice-Chair of Research and Senior Research Fellow, ADBI
 4. **Mr Syed Shakeel Shah**, Director, CAREC Institute
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