



**DRAFT**

**EVENT BRIEF:**

***Middle Corridor: what are the economic opportunities and challenges?***

**23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024, 09:00-11:00 GMT, London (18.00-20.00 Tokyo, 17.00-19.00 Manila)**

**Background:**

As trade volumes between Asia and Europe witness continual growth and geopolitical events disrupt established trade routes, major trading and logistics companies are actively exploring avenues to diversify and optimize transportation routes for enhanced sustainability. The Middle Corridor, also known as the Trans-Caspian corridor, spans through Central Asia and traverses the Caspian Sea. The Middle Corridor was until recently considered the second best option to the Northern Corridor in connecting Europe and Asia, boasting a potential reduction of up to 3000 km (EBRD). While the full realization of the corridor's potential promises long-term benefits for all participating nations, a crucial aspect is the analysis of economic costs and opportunities associated with overcoming the infrastructural challenges along the route. Specifically, this virtual roundtable will explore the following questions:

- What are the opportunities presented by the Middle Corridor?
- What are the infrastructural challenges of the Middle Corridor?
- What are the economic costs of infrastructure development on this route?
- What are financing options of infrastructure development on this route?

**Aims:**

- To highlight the key opportunities presented by the Middle Corridor
- To analyse economic and administrative challenges of the Corridor

**Date, time and format:**

- 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024, 9am-11 am (GMT)
- Virtual Roundtable via Zoom platform

**Event programme**

<b>09:00-09:05</b>	<b>Welcome</b>	<b>Welcome and event opening remarks:</b>  <b>Hans Peter Lankes, Deputy Chief Executive and Managing Director, Overseas Development Institute (ODI)</b>
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<b>09:05-09:10</b>	<b>Opening remarks</b>	<b>Tetsushi Sonobe, Dean and CEO, Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI)</b>
<b>09:10-9:40</b>	<b>Presentations</b>	<b>Presenters</b>
<i>9:10-9:20</i>	Sustainable transport corridors between Europe and Asia	Idil Bilgic- Alpaslan, Associate Director, Governance Sector Reforms Team Policy, Strategy and Delivery (PSD) Department European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
<i>9:20-9:30</i>	Middle Corridor development	Roman Mogilevskii, Senior Economist, Asian Development Bank (ADB)
<b>9:40-10:40</b>	<b>Moderated panel discussion</b>	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Hans Peter Lankes, ODI</p> <p><b>Panellists:</b></p> <p>Richard Pomfret, Senior Adjunct Professor, The Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS Europe), Bologna, Italy, Professor of Economics Emeritus, University of Adelaide, Australia</p> <p>Radkha Meneshova, Head of Project Department, The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport Central Asia</p> <p>Dolores Tyulebekova, Director of the World Economy Research Center, Economic Research Institute, Kazakhstan</p> <p>Gulzhan Arginbayeva, Director, Center for Trade and Economic Strategies &amp; Advisor to the Deputy Prime Minister – Minister of Trade and Integration of the Republic of Kazakhstan</p> <p>Dina Azhgaliyeva, Senior Research Fellow, ADBI</p> <p>Elvira Mami, Senior Economic Risk Analyst, ODI</p>
<b>10:40-10:55</b> <i>(15 mins)</i>	<b>Moderated expert Q&amp;A</b>	<p><b>Moderator: Hans Peter Lankes</b></p> <p><b>All participants</b></p>
<b>10:55-11:00</b>	<b>Closing remarks</b>	<b>Hans Peter Lankes, Deputy Chief Executive and Managing Director, ODI</b>

For questions please contact organizers Elvira Mami [e.mami@odi.org](mailto:e.mami@odi.org), Dina Azhgaliyeva [dazhgaliyeva@adbi.org](mailto:dazhgaliyeva@adbi.org)