



Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program

Consultation Workshop

Toward Connected Skies: Scoping the Role of CAREC in Enhancing Regional Cooperation in Aviation

6-7 April 2017, Singapore

CAREC Overview

The Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Program is a partnership of 11 countries (Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, People's Republic of China, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan), supported by 6 multilateral institutions, working together to promote development through cooperation, leading to accelerated growth and poverty reduction.

The Program's long-term vision is Good Neighbors, Good Partners, and Good Prospects.

With the rapid economic expansion of neighboring regions, there is an unprecedented opportunity for CAREC countries to emerge as a center of trade and commerce, achieve higher levels of economic growth, and reduce poverty.

CAREC helps Central Asia and its neighbors realize their significant potential by promoting regional cooperation in four priority areas: Transport; Trade Facilitation; Energy, and Trade Policy.

The CAREC Transport and Trade Facilitation Strategy 2020 (TTFS 2020) presents a shared vision of transport and trade facilitation development across the region, identifying three transport goals:

- establish competitive transport corridors across the CAREC region;
- facilitate efficient movement of people and goods across borders; and
- develop safe, people-friendly transport systems.

Underlying the TTFS 2020 is the recognition by member countries of the need for coordinated actions in all modes of transport. As exemplified by the CAREC railway strategy, endorsed by the 15th CAREC Ministerial Conference in October 2016, transport sector work under CAREC is shifting away from a road-centric approach, to one that embraces multimodal thinking. As for aviation, TTFS 2020 already includes 15 airport and civil aviation projects.



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Opportunities for CAREC in the Aviation Sector

The strategic location of CAREC countries means that the region holds the potential to serve as a hub for aviation, both in terms of passenger and freight transport. The land-locked nature of many CAREC countries also means that air transport represents an essential mode in regional and global connectivity.

Air transport is particularly suited to addressing market competitiveness for perishable and high-value goods as well as passenger services where value of time is paramount. Air transport is thus an instrument to facilitate economic development involving sectors such as agriculture, high-value consumer goods, tourism, and business travel.

To date, the full potential of air transport in CAREC has not been realized. Financial constraints on aviation infrastructure investment, unmet capacity development for the sector, and the lack of a comprehensive regional agreement on open connectivity all limit aviation's role in the region's economies. Climatic conditions in the region also present challenges with respect to air safety.

Recognizing both the potential for aviation and the current challenges, CAREC countries have already made strides to increase investment, expertise, and cooperation on air transport. The CAREC Transport and Trade Facilitation Strategy 2020 already includes 15 airport and civil aviation projects, encompassing terminal facilities, aviation equipment, and airport accessibility.

Reaching the full promise of connected skies in the region, though, will likely imply greater coordination and investment. During the 15th CAREC Ministerial Conference, held in October 2016, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan raised the issue of aviation connectivity for the region. In particular, Prime Minister Sharif noted that while Pakistan's Civil Aviation Authority has entered some bilateral agreements with other CAREC countries, "this should be brought under regional umbrella of all member countries as CAREC aviation open skies agreement".

Exploring the potential for more regional air transport connectivity through the CAREC program may be a vehicle for improving air transport's effectiveness in the region.



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CAREC Work Shop on Aviation

Based on the opportunities for enhanced air transport in the CAREC region and requests from member Governments, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) is looking to facilitate a work shop on aviation in April 2017. The objective of the work shop is to allow CAREC member countries and key stakeholders in the aviation sector to discuss CAREC's potential role in facilitating greater aviation connectivity in the region. The work shop will assist the CAREC member countries to begin to define topics and themes within the aviation sub-sector that can be meaningfully coordinated through the CAREC program. The results of the work shop will be reported to the next Transport Sector Coordinating Committee (TSCC) meeting, which is to be held in May 2017, for its guidance.

The participants to the CAREC Aviation Work Shop will be comprised of aviation officials from transport ministries, civil aviation authorities, and some of the airline carriers in the CAREC region. In addition, key stakeholders in civil aviation, including the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) will be invited.

The work shop will take place in Singapore, which has worked with other countries in South East Asia to advance regional cooperation and integration in the aviation industry. For example, Southeast Asia has embarked in developing its own open skies agreement known as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Single Aviation Market (ASEAN-SAM). The work shop will allow experts and officials from the ASEAN region to share their impressions of the benefits and challenges in creating more connected skies.

Given Singapore's success as a major hub for air travel, the work shop also holds the potential to impart valuable experiences and lessons for the CAREC members. Singapore's Changi Airport has been consistently ranked as the world's best airport, both in terms of its management and the offering of amenities to the flying public.

The work shop will feature knowledge sessions with expert resource persons, discussions on CAREC aviation challenges and opportunities, and site visits to best practice aviation facilities in Singapore.



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PROGRAM

Toward Connected Skies:

Scoping the Role of CAREC in Enhancing Regional Cooperation in Aviation

6-7 April 2017, Singapore, Raffles City Conference Center (Fairmont Hotel)

Day 1: 6 April 2017 (Thursday)

Time	Activity	Facilitator / Speaker
08h30 – 09h00	Participant registration	Registration team
09h00 – 09h10	Welcoming remarks	Chair: Ziyodullo Sharipov, Civil Aviation Authority of Tajikistan, CAREC-Tajikistan ADB: Xiaohong Yang, Director, CWTC
Part I: Setting the Scene		
09h10 – 09h15	Overview of CAREC program	Oleg Samukhin, ADB
09h15 – 09h35	The state of aviation in Central and West Asia	Antonin Combes, International Civil Aviation Organization
09h35 – 09h50	Civil aviation and the experience of Singapore	Margaret Tan, Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore
09h50 – 10h30	Country reporting on key aviation issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Operational issues ▪ Infrastructure issues ▪ Connectivity ▪ Bilateral or regional agreements 	Xiaohong Yang, ADB (facilitator) Report from each country
10h30 – 10h45	Tea and coffee break	
10h45 – 11h20	Continuation of country reporting on key aviation issues	Xiaohong Yang, ADB (facilitator) Report from each country
Part II: Open Skies and Economic Development		
11h20 – 11h40	Open sky agreements and economic development	Antonin Combes, International Civil Aviation Organization
11h40 – 12h00	ASEAN Single Aviation Market Agreement	Brendan Sobie, Centre for Aviation (CAPA)



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Continuation of Day 1		
Part III: Operations		
12h00 – 12h45	Roundtable discussion with airline representatives	Tyrrell Duncan, ADB (facilitator) Airline representatives
12h45 – 13h45	Lunch	Café Swiss, Level 2 of the Swissotel The Stamford
14h00 – 17h30	Study visit to Changi Airport and the Singapore Aviation Academy (group photo at Academy)	Changi Airport Group and CAAS
18h30 – 21h00	Group dinner in Singapore	SkySuites, Level 69 of the Swissotel The Stamford

Day 2: 7 April 2017 (Friday)

Time	Activity	Facilitator / Speaker
Part III: Operations continued		
09h00 – 09h10	Day 1 review	Oleg Samukhin and Lloyd Wright, ADB
09h10 – 09h30	Efficient airport operations	Yan Keat Koh, Changi Airport Group
09h30 – 09h45	e-Cargo solutions for air freight	Terence Tan, vCargo Cloud
09h45 – 10h00	Air safety for CAREC	Shane Sumner, International Civil Aviation Organization
Part IV: Infrastructure		
10h00 – 10h15	Air transport infrastructure for economic development	Lloyd Wright, ADB
10h15 – 10h30	Tea and coffee break	
Part V: CAREC Aviation - The Way Forward		
10h30 – 11h30	Breakout Group Discussions: Opportunities for CAREC and aviation	Group 1 facilitators: Paul Valley (World Bank) and Tyrrell Duncan (ADB) Group 2 facilitators: Grigory Savva (EBRD) and Oleg Samukhin (ADB)
11h30 – 12h15	Report back by groups	Group activity
12h15 – 14h00	Lunch	Café Swiss, Level 2 of the Swissotel The Stamford



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Continuation of Day 2		
14h00 – 14h45	Discussion and finalization of Summary Proceedings	Kamel Bouhmad, ADB (facilitator)
14h45 – 15h00	Event wrap-up and final reflections	Xiaohong Yang, ADB (facilitator)
15h00	Concluding remarks	ADB: Xiaohong Yang, Director, CWTC Chair: Ziyodullo Sharipov, Civil Aviation Authority of Tajikistan, CAREC-Tajikistan