

Roundtable Discussion: Possible Second Tier Activities Chaired by Annette Dixon, Regional Director, World Bank

Ongoing Activities and Options

**Nadir Safaev, CAREC Senior Advisor for
Uzbekistan**

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Urumqi Declaration

“Under the Comprehensive Action Plan, we will broaden the CAREC Program following a two-tiered approach. The first-tier will continue to focus on sector-wide initiatives in our priority areas: transport, energy, and trade. The second-tier activities will include special initiatives in new sectors, including human development, environment, agriculture and tourism.”

Report of Senior Officials, October 2006

“Upon Ministerial endorsement of the two-tier approach to broadening the CAREC Program, Senior Officials will consider in more detail special initiatives regarding human development (training of officials and measures against communicable diseases such as avian flu and HIV/AIDS), the environment (through information exchange and capacity building, for example), disaster management, tourism and agriculture.”

Characteristics of Second-Tier Projects

- Unlike first-tier initiatives, not sector wide
- Limited to highly focused projects (e.g., training regional cooperation skills for govern. officials)
- CAREC coordinating committees not required
- Second-tier projects managed as per project preparation/implementation provisions
- CAREC Secretariat to monitor and report on second-tier activities
- Second-tier activities could involve new development partners

Current Second-Tier Activities

A number of formal and informal second-tier activities:

- Training program is underway (human development)
- Outreach/research activities are being expanded (CAREC Institute)
- Regional coordination re communicable diseases (avian flu/HIV/AIDS)

But insufficient action to date in initiating second-tier projects.

Proposed Second-Tier Projects

- Country consultations in June/July 2006 re preparation of the CAP identified second-tier activities:
 - Re the environment: integrating with economic development planning; institutional strengthening in knowledge management and information sharing;
 - Re agriculture: animal disease control; facilitation of trade in agricultural products;
 - Re tourism: access (air routes, border crossings) and entry (multiple entry visas);
 - Re business sector: economic corridors; global value chains.
- Country consultations in January yielded little guidance on second-tier activities, except for the CAREC Institute (the subject of the next session)

Kyrgyz Republic Workshop Proposals

Kyrgyz Republic In-Country Workshop March 6 identified the following second-tier projects:

- **Re the environment:** action plan and register of transboundary ecological problems; capacity building for sustainable development of mountain ecosystems, a unified regional monitoring system in environment protection;
- **Re disaster management:** establish a Regional Disaster Management Center to monitor and prevent natural disasters;
- **Re tourism:** facilitation of electronic visas in CAREC member countries.

Action Plan for Second-Tier Activities

- Question: Should we endeavor to have an Action Plan for Second-Tier Activities by Next SOM?
- Is so, how? What are your priorities?
- Proposal: formation of small study groups, pairing CAREC countries and MIs, with one designated as lead agency:
 - Environment Mongolia/Kyrgyz Republic/ADB
 - Agriculture Afghanistan/Tajikistan/IsDB/WB
 - Human Development PRC/Uzbekistan/ADB/UNDP
 - Tourism Kyrgyz Republic/Uzbekistan/UNDP
 - Disaster Management Tajikistan/Azerbaijan/WB
 - Business Perspective Kazakhstan/PRC/EBRD/IMF

Reports of Study Groups

- Goals/objectives of proposed second-tier initiative
- Specific activities/inputs involved
- Technical and financial resources required
- Development partners willing to be supporting agencies
- Time frame and process of implementation
- Expected outputs/outcome/impact of the initiative
- Performance indicators for monitoring progress