



Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program

Reference Document for Session 6

## **Ministerial Announcement on the Establishment of the Physical Base of the CAREC Institute**

**Consultation Meeting with the CAREC National Focal Points  
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Issyk Kul, the Kyrgyz Republic**



## **MINISTERIAL ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PHYSICAL BASE OF THE CAREC INSTITUTE**

At the 11<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference in October 2012, in Wuhan, the People's Republic of China, the CAREC Ministers agreed to establish a physical base for the CI to help provide, on a continuing and sustainable basis, the analytical underpinning for strategic-, sector-, and project-related work under the CAREC Program, and associated capacity development for all CAREC bodies.

Further consensus was reached at the 12<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on 23-24 October 2013 in Astana, Kazakhstan to accept the offer of the People's Republic of China to host the physical base of the CI in Urumqi, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, and to start its initial operations in 2014 so that it can begin providing analytical inputs and associated capacity building in support of CAREC Program initiatives.

We are pleased to announce that the CAREC Institute's office has now been set up in Urumqi and will start operations in December 2014. [and will conduct its first activity in December 2014].

### **Mission and Purposes**

The mission of the CI is to enhance the quality of the CAREC Program through knowledge generation and capacity building for effective regional cooperation towards CAREC's strategic goals and accelerating economic growth in the CAREC region.

The main purposes of the CI are to:

- provide innovative solutions based on the sharing of good practices to enable CAREC member countries to respond to regional challenges and cooperative processes;
- enhance the capabilities of CAREC government officials to engage in regional cooperation processes, improve their capacities to plan and implement regional cooperation projects, and build their capacities for informed policy analysis;
- conduct strategic research by mobilizing world-class intellectual resources to enhance regional cooperation capacity and accelerated growth in the CAREC region;
- promote the effectiveness of scientific research among the CAREC member countries through joint or collaborative projects and wide dissemination of research findings and results; and
- develop a network of research institutions in the region to serve as a resource base for strategic research and knowledge sharing comprising, among others, of universities, think tanks, and development institutions.

### **Guiding Principles**

The CI, as an entity for regional economic cooperation, is owned by the countries participating in the CAREC Program. The nature of this ownership shall be reflected in all aspects of the CI's operations, including its governance structure, decision-making, staffing, access to training and right of access to information.

The operations of CI shall be balanced and fair, considering the multitude of needs of CAREC member countries, without undue advantage to the host country of the CI, or any one country, in planning or carrying out its work. The CI will take into account the special needs and

circumstances of smaller countries. Services of the CI will be distributed equitably based on the country needs for capacity building to further enhance regional cooperation.

### **Governance Structure**

We have established a Governing Council with the mandate to guide, oversee and supervise the CI. The CI Governing Council shall report to the Ministerial Conference as the highest decision-making body of the CI. The Governing Council shall decide on the basis of the principle of consensus.

The Governing Council shall establish an Advisory Council to serve as a sounding board and source of new ideas and approaches that could enhance the strategies and operations of the CI. Members of the Advisory Council will be prominent thinkers, scholars or civic leaders that stand out in their respective fields or disciplines that relate to the priorities of CAREC.

### **Organization, Management and Staffing**

CI's organization structure, management and staffing shall be guided by (i) adherence to the guiding principles of equal ownership and regionality, and fairness and balance; (ii) enhancement of the effectiveness and efficiency of CI operations; and (iii) the development of CI's in-house capacity for long-term sustainability and effectiveness. Balance in the representation of countries shall be observed in selecting candidates for the managerial and technical positions. The operations of the CI shall abide by principles consistent with public international law and good governance, and apply best practice among international organizations, as may be appropriate. ~~regardless of the legal form that it may take.~~

The Governing Council shall ensure that the recruitment and selection of candidates for CI management and staff positions follows sound international practices and are transparent, fair, based solely on merit, and without discrimination on account of gender, race or religious beliefs. The Governing Council may create bodies or mechanisms to provide support in putting in place the required processes to uphold these principles and standards.

We reaffirm our commitment to make the CAREC Institute an effective and sustainable world-class knowledge provider that will establish the intellectual base to drive regional cooperation to a new horizon towards CAREC 2020's goals.