

Facilitation of Movement of People in CAREC Countries

20th Trade Policy Coordinating
Committee Meeting

25 June 2014

Ying Qian

Director, EARD/EAPF

Asian Development Bank

Background

CAREC economic reforms

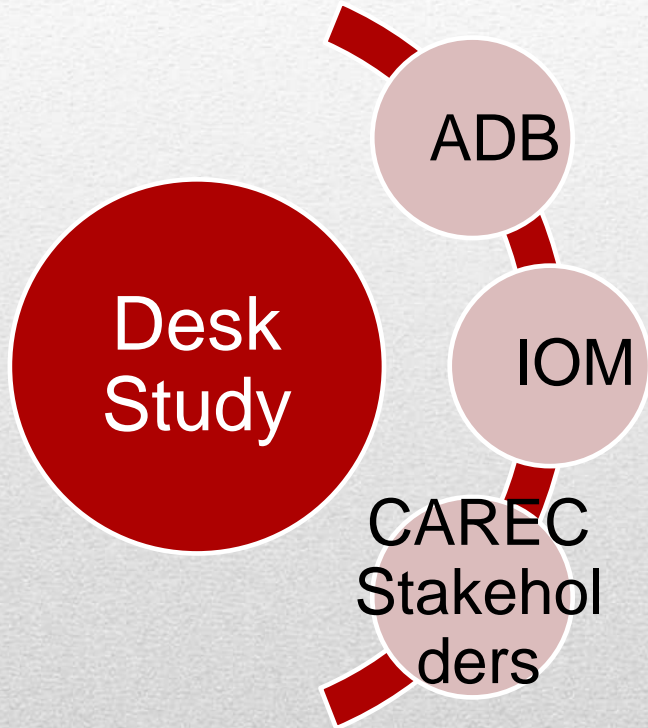
Integration with global markets

more investors,
business people,
tourists, other visitors

Movement of people in CAREC
limited by

- 1 Inconsistent entry/exit rules
- 2 Too much paper work
- 3 Complex procedures
- 4 Limited consulates

Background of the Study



Objectives:

- 1 Identify constraints to mobility of people in the region
- 2 Recommend solutions to facilitate business and personal travel without compromising legitimate national safety concerns

Economic Development and

Mobility

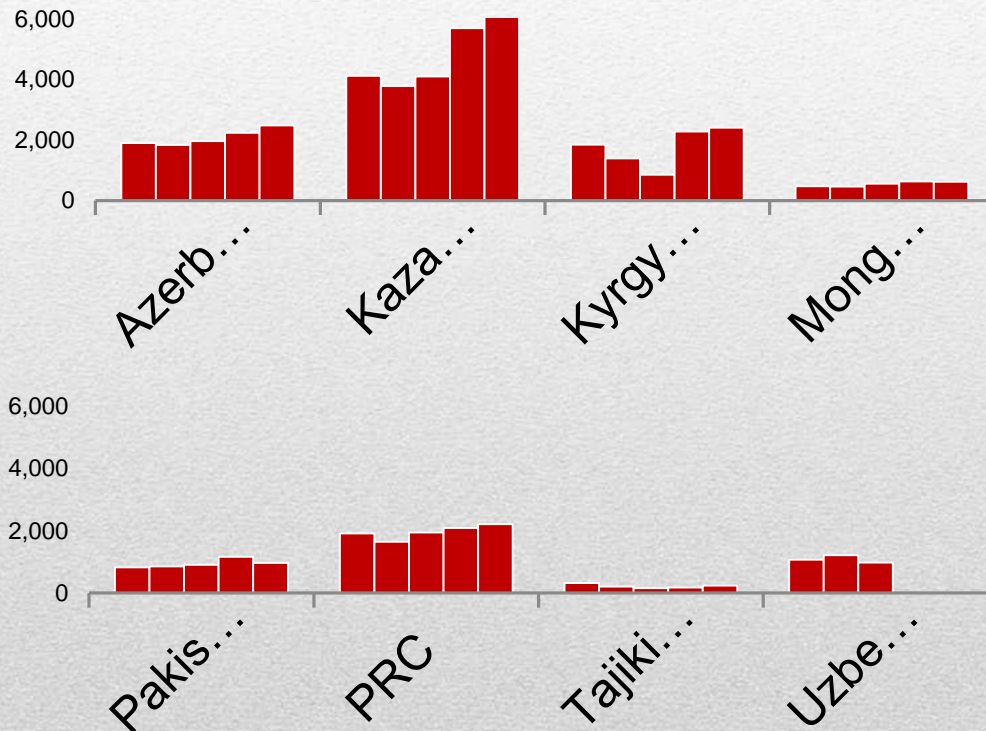
Where goods and people move quickly and reliably, it is more likely to link into regional/global production distribution networks



Trend of People Movement

in CAREC

Temporary Tourist Arrivals into CAREC Countries ('000), 2008-2012



- 1 Figures show an increasing trend in temporary visitor arrivals implying increased openness to travelers in CAREC countries
- 2 Travel between and among CAREC countries is most frequent between KAZ, KG and UZB.

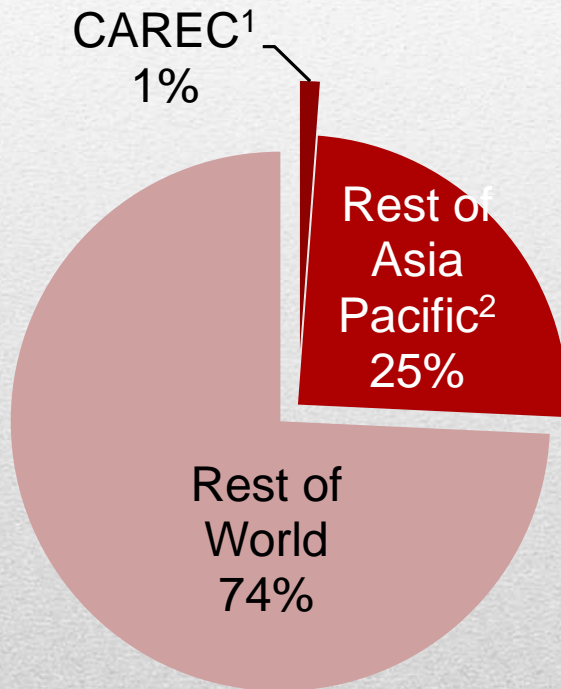
Source: World Tourism Organization

PRC data source: National Bureau of Statistics (for XUAR and IMAR only)

No data for AFG, TKM

CAREC Arrivals vs ESCAP

Import to CAREC Tourist Arrivals and World 2008



- 1 The proportion has been **declining** in the past few years.
- 2 There is **significant scope for improving** the arrival statistics of CAREC countries and increasing their opportunities to corner a greater market share of the international tourism and business travel revenues.

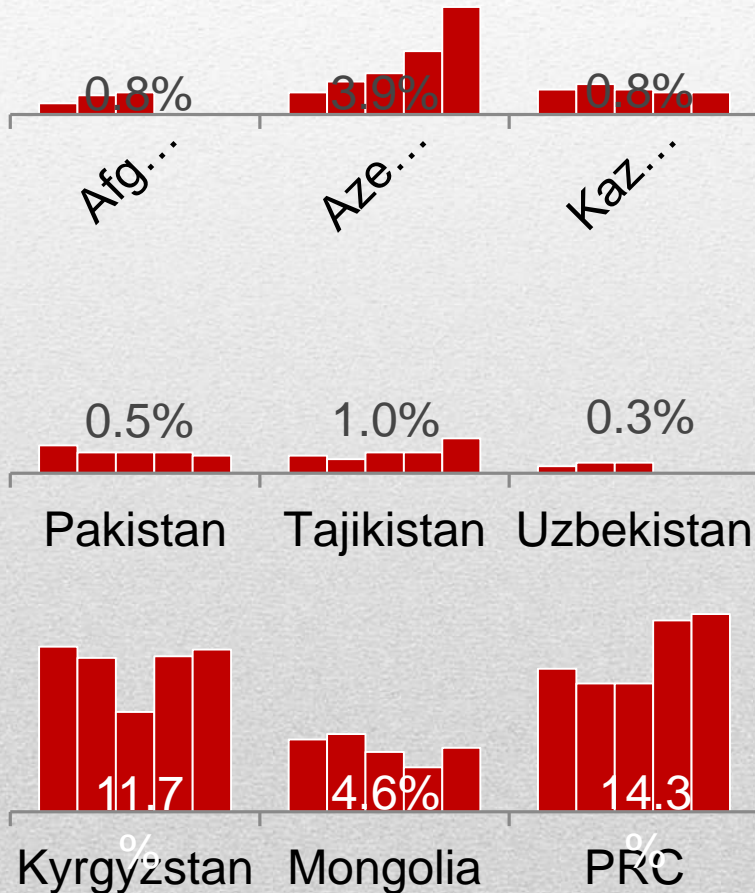
Source: UNESCAP

1. Sum of available statistics of CAREC countries, the data for PRC includes Xinjiang Uyghur and Inner Mongolia only

2. Sum of all ESCAP countries

Inbound Tourism

Inbound Tourism Expenditure % to GDP, 2008-2012



- 1 Foreign revenue inflow generated by inbound tourism has steadily grown
- 2 Tourism is a viable vehicle for job creation, economic growth and development

Source: UN World Tourism Organization
PRC includes XUAR and IMAR data only

Obstacles to People Movement in CAREC

1 **Complex and ambiguous visa issuance rules**

- special “visa support” letter for business people, international truck drivers
- tourists need to use local travel agents to secure visa

2 **Limited consular missions & inadequate facilities at border crossing points**

- visa applications consumes lot of time and sometimes entails high transportation cost
- where CAREC countries do not have consular missions and do not offer visa on arrival or eVisa services, travelers have to travel to nearest country with a consular mission
- consular missions at the border - no computers, photo services, foreign exchange, or photocopying machines

Visa Facilitation Schemes and Models

1 Facilitation Schemes

- Reciprocally open policy or visa-free regimes
- Visa on arrival
- eVisa

2 Regional Models

- APEC Business Travel Card
- Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) visa
- Pacific Alliance “shared embassies”

Visa Free Regimes in CAREC Countries

- 1 No CAREC country offers visa free privileges to **ALL** neighboring CAREC countries
- 2 **AZE, KAZ, KGZ, TAJ** – visa free regime for at least 5 other CAREC countries for all types of passports
- 3 All others except AFG and TKM have visa free regime for diplomatic and service passport holders from CAREC member countries

Recommendations

1

Visa Reforms

- Expansion of visa-free regimes
- Additional or new visa categories
 - Special visa category for international drivers
 - Investor Visa

2

Use of modern information technologies

- Improve delivery of visa information
- Move towards eVisa

3

Regional Cooperation Initiatives

- CAREC Business Travel Card
- Coordination among Immigration Authorities
- Shared consular offices

Conclusions

- 1 increased movement and mobility of people to, from, and within CAREC will promote tourism, stimulate innovation, open up business opportunities that can generate employment, and build confidence among CAREC countries in conducting business with one another
- 2 combined efforts of trade policy and trade facilitation initiatives in CAREC that support liberalization of movement of people can substantially expand trade and improve competitiveness of the region

Thank You

Ying Qian

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