

Building CAREC Knowledge Corridors

Networking at a regional scale

Ruud Crul

ADB Consultant for CAREC Institute

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OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

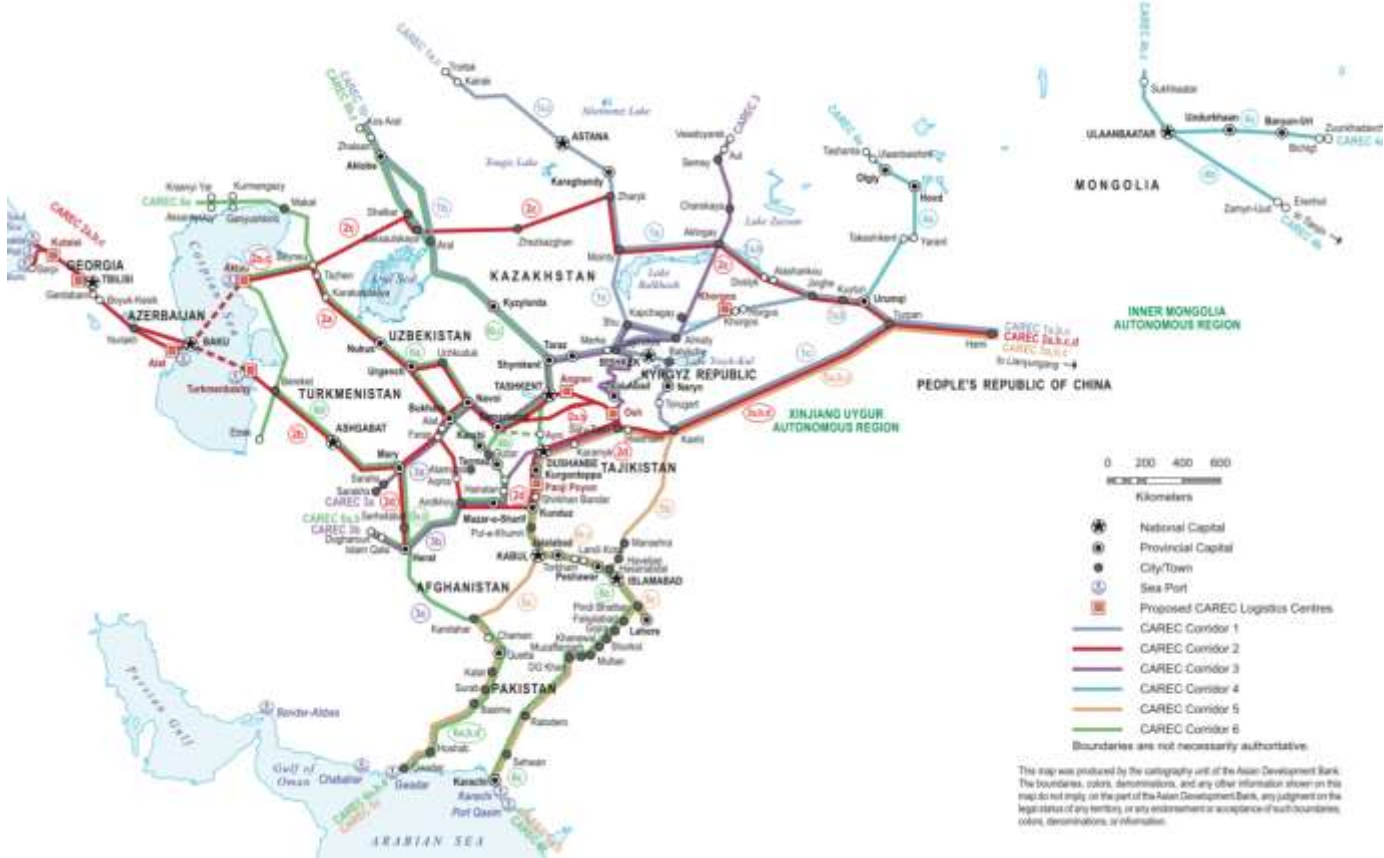
- ▶ Economic and Knowledge Corridors
- ▶ Current status
- ▶ Support initiatives
- ▶ Key stakeholders
- ▶ Way forward

Economic and Knowledge Corridors along the Silk Road

- ▶ Economic Corridors
- ▶ Knowledge Corridors and their current status
- ▶ Initiatives supporting the building of Knowledge Corridors in the CAREC Region

CAREC Economic Corridors

SIX CENTRAL ASIA REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION CORRIDORS



Knowledge Corridors in CAREC region

- ▶ Networks of geographically dispersed nodes: industrial parks, technology and logistical clusters, and cities; Each Node is a network of collaborating actors
- ▶ NETWORKS OF NETWORKS with an interlinking ICT infrastructure

Nodes of the Knowledge Corridors

NODES:

Knowledge Parks, research hubs, Innovation Clusters and Industrial Parks along the economic corridors

Current status:

- ▶ CAREC countries have and are developing Industrial and/or Tech Parks
- ▶ These Parks are still in development and face a range of challenges (lack of skilled personnel, collaboration, investment, technological research...)

ICT Infrastructure in CAREC region

Current situation

- ▶ Relatively weak ICT infrastructure
- ▶ Bandwidth low and Bandwidth prices 10-100 higher in Central Asia than in the US

ICT Infrastructure is a bottleneck for virtual Knowledge sharing between the network nodes.

Support for Industrial Development and industrial Parks in Central Asia

UNIDO has been active in the region with support for industrial development.

Current support by different development partners.

- ▶ **UNIDO regional project** ‘Fostering inclusive and sustainable industrial development in the New Silk Road Economic Belt (Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan)
- ▶ **ADB regional project:** Supporting Industrial Park Development in the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Region (Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan)

Digital Central Asia – South Asia (CASA)

- ▶ New WB project supporting ICT/digital development in Central Asia
- ▶ Starting in Afghanistan and Kyrgyz Rep; Uzbekistan and Tajikistan may follow soon.
- ▶ Activities: setting up a regional digital infrastructure, a digital environment (online platforms and ICT solutions), and an enabling conducive environment

Building Knowledge Corridors in CAREC region

Knowledge Corridors can be seen as a Networks of Networks

with as main actors

- ▶ **(R&D) Universities** partnering with
- ▶ **Private sector companies**
- ▶ supported by **Government institutions**
- ▶ **Think Tanks** advising government

WAY FORWARD

APPROACH TO MAKE THESE KNOWLEDGE CORRIDORS WORK

1. Start up a process of initiating regional collaboration of the actors (by bringing the main actors together)

This Forum is an excellent opportunity as main actor groups are invited. Tomorrow morning a full session dedicated for starting up this process

2. This will clarify the roles the key actors have to play in the Knowledge corridors, main challenges and opportunities

WAY FORWARD

APPROACH TO MAKE THESE KNOWLEDGE CORRIDORS WORK

3. Setting up networks of networks is not an easy task. Starting small in KM is always a smart approach.
e.g. with one or two selected regional collaborations based on priority needs
4. CAREC Institute in collaboration with development partners can play a role in supporting Knowledge Corridors, as it already does for the CAREC TT Network
5. KM Activities should be demand-led and focusing on priorities.

THANKS