

**Global Challenges Summit 2018
Astana Economic Forum**

The New Central Asian Trade Agenda – Strengthening the Role of the Private Sector

Format: Panel Discussion

Date/Time: 17 May 2018, Thursday, 17:00-18:15

Venue: Room №7 Presentation Albert Einstein, Astana Expo 2017

Synopsis: *Intraregional trade among Central Asian countries remains limited. While countries undertake structural reforms and implement open trade strategies, rising global trade tensions could weaken business confidence and undermine private sector participation in global and regional value chains. How can a regional trade agenda or trade agreement help Central Asian countries better realize their growth potentials? How can the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC¹) program serve as a catalyst to promote trade and build synergies with the Belt and Road Initiative, the Eurasian Economic Union, and other regional arrangements?*

Agenda

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| 1700 – 1710 | <p>Session objectives and brief presentation on CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda (CITA) 2030</p> <p>Mr. Shigeo Katsu, President, Nazarbayev University (Moderator) will give an introduction and the objectives of the session as follows:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The session aims solicit experts views and private sector perspectives on the proposed integrated trade agenda under the framework of Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) 2030. The development of CITA comes at the time where CAREC countries are undertaking structural reforms with some beginning to adopt open trade policies and trade-led growth strategies – amid the evolving trade landscape and rising protectionism.</i></p> <p>Introduction of Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Wencai Zhang, Vice President, Asian Development Bank • Mr. Seric Zhumangarin, Vice-minister of National Economy of Kazakhstan • Mr. Patrick Low, Asia Global Institute Fellow and Visiting Professor, The University of Hong Kong and former Chief Economist, World Trade Organization • Mr. Paul Vallely, Program Leader for Central Asia, World Bank • Ms. Ketevan Bochorishvili, CEO, JSC Anaklia City and former Vice Minister, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia • Ms. Aigul Djailaubenova, Deputy CEO, Tsesnabank, Kazakhstan • Ms. Nargis Khamidova, Vice-Chairman, Association of Logistics of Tajikistan |
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¹ 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) and development partners.

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| 1710 – 1740 | <p>Experts and Development Partners' Views</p> <p>The moderator gives the floor to first set of panelists and to give their general comments on the proposed CITA 2030 and to respond to specific questions.</p> <p>Mr. Wencai Zhang</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>With the endorsement of the new strategy – CAREC 2030 and the development of CITA, what are potential benefits of regional cooperation for CAREC countries and how can CAREC serve as a catalyst to promote trade in the region?</i> <p>Mr. Seric Zhumangarin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>How can a regional trade agenda effectively support and complement national strategies such Kazakhstan 2050 and Nyrly Zhol (The Path to the Future or Bright Path)?</i> <p>Mr. Patrick Low</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>How can governments assist CAREC countries, especially the private sector, in promoting innovation and linkages with the global and regional value chains?</i> <p>Mr. Paul Vallely</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>How can a regional trade agenda help Central Asian countries diversify their economies and better realize their growth potentials?</i> <p>Open Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>How can the CAREC program build synergies with the Belt and Road Initiative, the Eurasian Economic Union and other regional arrangements?</i> • <i>Is a regional trade agreement a way forward?</i> |
| 1740 – 1800 | <p>Private Sector Perspectives</p> <p>The moderator gives the floor to second set of panelists to give their perspectives and comments on the proposed CITA 2030 and to respond to specific questions</p> <p>Ms. Ketevan Bochorishvili</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What role can special economic zones (SEZs) play to help CAREC expand trade including through development of regional value chains and integration with the global value chain? What policy mechanisms and regional cooperation approaches could support SEZs in this regard?</i> <p>Ms. Aigul Djailaubenova</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What role does the banking and financial sector have in regional trade-based growth? How can CAREC countries better mobilize private sector financing for infrastructure investments as well as expansion of trade credit to SMEs?</i> |

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| | <p>Ms. Nargis Khamidova</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>There are recent national and regional initiatives to improve connectivity through transport corridors and reduce costs. Aside from investments, what measures could attract and sustain private sector interests to maximize trade opportunities particularly for landlocked countries?</i> <p>Open Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>From your perspectives, what are the main challenges and priority issues that need to be addressed to support trade expansion and diversification among CAREC countries?</i> |
| 1800 – 1815 | Open Forum - <i>interactive discussions with the audience</i> |