

XII Astana Economic Forum – 2019
INSPIRING GROWTH: PEOPLE, CITIES, ECONOMIES

CAREC Corridors for the Future:
Learning from Economic Corridor Development in Asia

Date: 16 May 2019

Time: 16:30-17:45

Place: Hall 1, EXPO-2017 Congress Center, Nur-Sultan

Organizer: Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Synopsis: The myriad examples of successful economic corridors in Asian countries show their power in mobilizing private and public investments, promoting high-quality growth and jobs, and raising the knowledge-intensity of exports. Economic recovery and favorable trend observed in Central Asia recently add further momentum to the development of regional economic corridors. The Almaty-Bishkek Economic Corridor under the Central Asia Region Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Program is one example of creating opportunities for projects in agriculture, tourism, health, and transport through joint efforts. Cross-border economic agglomeration allows business to specialize, capture economies of scale and improve economic diversification and competitiveness. To expand regional economic dynamism, CAREC has also started the development of a new economic corridor among Kazakhstan (Shymkent), Uzbekistan (Tashkent), and Tajikistan (Khujand). The session will discuss the opportunities created by economic corridors development in the world and focus on promoting economic diversification in the CAREC region by engaging with the public and private sector.

Aim: Enhance understanding on common issues of regional economic corridor development to promote economic growth in the CAREC region

Duration: 75 minutes

Format: Panel discussion including one moderator and 8 speakers from CAREC countries, multilateral organizations, private sector, and the academia

Target audience: Government officials from CAREC countries, think tanks, civil society, academia, representatives of international organizations and NGOs, and private sector.

Moderator (5 minutes introduction):

Werner Liepach, Director General, Central and West Asia Department, ADB

Speakers (panel discussion, 5-7 minutes each):

1. Zahid Hamdard, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance, Afghanistan
2. Madi Takiev, Vice-Minister, Ministry of National Economy, Kazakhstan
3. Sultan Akhmatov, Director, Aid Strategy Department, Ministry of Economy, Kyrgyz Republic
4. Gulru Jabborzoda, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, Tajikistan
5. Shixin Chen, Vice-President (Operations 1), ADB
6. Paul Vallely, Program Leader for Connectivity and Infrastructure, Central Asia Office in Almaty, World Bank

7. Dossym Kydyrbayev, Managing Partner, Bakurs Consulting, Almaty, Kazakhstan
8. Aradhna Aggarwal, Professor of Copenhagen Business School

Questions for Panelists:

- How to select “winning” regional corridors that have a high chance of success?
- What are the prerequisites of successful corridors?
- In what ways can cross-border special economic zones (SEZs) and industrial parks (IPs) promote economic corridor development?
- What are the requirements for establishing successful SEZs and IPs?
- What are the roles of the private sector for economic corridor development?
- What policies are needed to maximize benefits of small and medium enterprises for participating in economic corridor development?
- In what ways can development institutions and regional platforms like the CAREC Program support the development of regional economic corridor development?
- What are effective institutional arrangements for managing a regional economic corridor that crosses more than one country and involves sub-national entities?
- How to ensure coordinated role of governments at national, provincial and local level?