



CAREC Development Partners Forum

Building a stronger partnership

Issues and options

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Background

- Development partners (DPs) played a critical role in CAREC's 20 years
- Until 2017, six DPs: ADB, EBRD, IMF, IsDB, UNDP, WB
- DPs invested USD 30.0 billion of USD 38.8 billion through end-2019 in CAREC investment projects
- 2018-19, 12 of 40 projects cofinanced by 2 or more DPs
- CAREC 2030 strategy opened up participation of other DPs and promised to further strengthen DP engagement in CAREC

Key issue 1: Information on DP activities

- **Current situation:**

- Good data base on portfolio of CAREC projects under implementation
- No systematic gathering of information on DP plans for engagement

- **Options:**

- Use DPFs, SOMs and Sector Committee meetings and other occasions for informal exchange of information on plans; **or**
- Develop a searchable data base for regional project and program plans, regularly updated, possibly supported by a DP Coordination Unit

- **Question:**

- Should CAREC develop a systematic data base of planned DP activities?

Issue 2: Financing of CAREC activities

- **Current situation:**

- DPs parallel and co-finance specific project under CAREC umbrella
- ADB finances all administrative costs of CAREC Secretariat

- **Options:**

- Explore increased parallel and co-financing of projects
- Explore cofinancing of DPs' special regional programs (e.g. ADB programs – to be presented separately)
- DPs to contribute to financing CAREC Secretariat admin costs

- **Questions:**

- Any DP feedback on parallel and co-financing lessons?
- Sharing of information on DP regional programs for co-financing?
- Any DP interest in sharing in CAREC admin costs?

Issue 3: Non-financial engagement

- **Current situation:**

- DPs participate in MCs, SOMs, and selected committees and working groups

- **Options:**

- More intensive engagement of a greater number of DPs in these meetings
- DPs to co-chair sector committees
- Secondment of DP staff to the CAREC secretariat

- **Question:**

- Would DPs be interested in contributing via non-financial modalities, and if so, which?

Issue 4: DP engagement in CAREC Institute (CI)

- **Current situation:**

- CAREC Institute intensifying effort for providing high-quality regional knowledge services (research, capacity building, advisory services)
- So far funded by PRC and by ADB TA, with limited engagement from DPs

- **Options:**

- Increased funding from member countries
- Joint CI/DP knowledge/research work plus joint CI/DP use of new CI e-platform/space to deliver/replicate capacity development programs
- Co-financing and project funding from DPs for knowledge products

- **Question:**

- Would DPs be interested in exploring engagement with CI?

Issue 5: Institutional constraints

- **Current situation:**

- Internal constraints may limit cooperation of DPs under CAREC (e.g., lack of instruments for regional engagement, geographic division of responsibility, etc.)
- Lack of presence of CAREC Secretariat in the region may hinder exchange of information and coordination

- **Option:**

- ADB to consider locating some CAREC Secretariat capacity in the region (Almaty), including possibly a CAREC DP coordination capacity

- **Question:**

- Would DPs welcome a stronger CAREC Secretariat presence and DP coordination in the region?

Issue 6: CAREC's visibility and country ownership

- **Current situation:**
 - Potential to increase visibility and country ownership of CAREC to wider range of policy makers and stakeholders
- **Options:**
 - Explore head-of-state/government meeting (as for Greater Mekong Subregion Program)
 - Develop high-visibility initiatives for CAREC on current priority issues (e.g., regional response to COVID crisis, digital connectivity, climate change)
- **Questions:**
 - How would DPs suggest strengthening CAREC visibility and country ownership?

Summary of questions

1. Should CAREC develop a systematic data base of planned DP activities?
2. Any DP feedback on parallel and co-financing lessons, cofinancing DP regional programs, sharing in CAREC admin costs?
3. Would DPs be interested in contributing via non-financial modalities?
4. Would DPs be interested in exploring engagement with CI?
5. Would DPs welcome a stronger CAREC Secretariat presence and DP coordination in the region?
6. How would DPs suggest strengthening visibility/country ownership?