



34th ESCC MEETING

04 April, 2024

15:00-17:00 Manila time

MEETING MINUTES

<p>1.</p>	<p>Opening Remarks by CAREC Presidency and ADB (10 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Assylzhan Mussin, Director of Power Sector Development Department, Ministry of Energy, Kazakhstan, CAREC Presidency 2024 • Mr. Joonho Hwang, Director Energy, Central and West Asia Department, ADB
<p>Key messages</p>	<p>Mr. Mussin and Mr. Hwang welcomed the CAREC member country representatives and development partners to the 34th ESCC Meeting. Mr. Sungat Yessimkhanov, Energy Vice-minister, was replaced by Mr. Mussin. He expressed his gratitude towards ADB and the CAREC energy program for their role in bringing together key stakeholders to discuss sustainable energy and energy cooperation in the region. Kazakhstan confirms its adherence to integration processes in the CAREC energy sector, acknowledging the potential and the effects of profound regional cooperation. Last year, Kazakhstan implemented a range of reforms, including the centralized energy buy-sell model and real-time electricity balancing market. Kazakhstan has ambitious plans to scale up renewable energy sources, and such plans require the energy system to operate in coordination and integration with neighboring countries, since the Central Asian energy system is a unified complex that includes the basic generation and the cycling generation. In terms of the workshop to be held in Tashkent, Kazakhstan commits to comprehending the key gaps and the actions to solve them. Kazakhstan also confirms its support for organizing EIF 2024 as part of the Water and Infrastructure Pillars.</p> <p>Mr. Hwang welcomed everyone convened at the 34th ESCC Meeting. He emphasized that it is crucial to acknowledge the pivotal role of the energy sector in propelling socio-economic development, setting regional cooperation, and nurturing sustainable growth. Mr. Hwang acknowledges the remarkable progress in advancing energy connectivity, promoting renewable energy sources, and strengthening the institutional framework. He also calls for remaining aware of the multifaceted challenges that persist, ranging from ensuring energy security in an affordable and reliable manner to mitigating the impacts of climate change. He mentions that the CAREC and ESCC Meetings serve as platforms for stakeholders to exchange insights, affirm their commitment to accelerating progress toward a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable energy future for the CAREC region. The primary objectives of the 34th ESCC meeting are: to reflect on the CAREC energy activities undertaken last year and to plan ahead for the events in 2024 and possibly 2025. Additionally, Mr. Hwang extends heartfelt appreciation to the Government of Georgia for successfully hosting the 6th Energy Investment Forum in November 2023. Mr. Hwang appeals to the participants to identify opportunities, facilitate collaboration, and realize the collective vision of CAREC energy. He affirmed these will serve as the essential building blocks to address current bottlenecks and some of the emerging challenges.</p>



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2.	<p>Tour de Table (10 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country representatives and Development Partners to introduce their names and positions and posing for a group photo thereafter
Key messages	<p>Working group members introduced themselves and expressed their interest in the discussion and exchange among member countries and development partners. All CAREC member countries were represented at the meeting except for Afghanistan.</p>
3.	<p>Lessons Learned from 2023 and Future Planning (15 minutes)</p> <p>Recap of the 2023 CAREC Energy Investment Forum in Tbilisi, Georgia.</p> <p>Speaker: Ms. Margalita Arabidze, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia</p>
Key messages	<p>Ms. Margalita Arabidze expressed her gratitude to CAREC and ADB for jointly organizing EIF 2023 with the Government of Georgia. EIF has transformed into a platform for expanded business dialogue and networking among energy stakeholders. EIF 2023 brought together 170 participants from CAREC member countries and the private sector to discuss business opportunities, investment projects, and stimulate innovation. The Forum acts as a catalyst for international and regional cooperation and drives a sustainable and interconnected energy landscape. The speaker calls for enhancing development and streamlining how EIF 2024 will be organized, identifying efforts needed to achieve energy security, economic well-being, and how regional cooperation nurtures the well-being of today's and future generations.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launching the idea to organize a Q4 2024 infrastructure Investment Forum in Almaty, jointly with CAREC's Water and Transport pillar. Information concerning the 2024 Capacity building mission to Norway and Denmark from June 17-21. Information concerning the Interconnectivity- and transmission workshop, scheduled for September 25-26 in Tashkent, (Co- hosted with Energiya Coordinating Dispatch Center (CDC)) <p>Speaker: Mr. Martin Sommerseth Jaer, Finance Specialist (Energy) and CAREC Energy Focal, ADB.</p>
	<p>The speaker presents the activities 2024 and expected deliverable. These are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Energy Mission to Norway and Denmark, Oslo and Copenhagen, Jun 17-21, 2024 The Nordic countries are the most advanced region in the field of regional interconnectivity and electricity trading. And it would be a chance for the Ministries of energy and regulators to exchange the knowledge and capacity building and replicate the successful experience in their countries if applicable.



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	<p>2. Transmission and interconnectivity workshop, Tashkent, Sep 25-26, 2024 The workshop will be a logical follow-up of the Study tour to Norway and Denmark</p> <p>3. Proposed: Infrastructure Investment Forum. Almaty, Q4 2024 (TBC) Lyaziza Sabyrova, ADB Regional Head, Regional Cooperation and Integration, expressed the gratitude to the Government of Georgia for CAREC Presidency 2023 including the Ministerial Conference on 30 November and EIF 2023 on 28-29 November 2023. The speaker told that is just an idea to organize EIF 2024 under umbrella of Infrastructure Investment Forum in Almaty, jointly with CAREC’s Water and Transport pillar. Such an approach would integrate the countries and potential financiers in funding the infrastructure projects including the energy sector. But the stakeholders should confirm whether the EIF to be umbrellaed by the Infrastructure Investment Forum or to be a standalone event. CAREC Secretariat will provide the support.</p> <p>4. Energy Efficiency Event, Bishkek?, H1 2025 (TBC). Since the Kyrgyz Republic will be CAREC Presidency 2025 and it is proposed to organize the activity in Bishkek. It is still under consideration.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Cooperation of power systems within the Unified Power System of Central Asia (15 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energiya Coordinating Dispatch Center (CDC) will give a presentation about interconnectivity in the CAREC region. <p>Speaker: Dr. Shamsiev, Director, Energiya Coordinating Dispatch Center (CDC), Tashkent</p>
<p>Key messages</p>	<p>Dr. Shamsiev confirmed to co-host the workshop in September 2024 for 30 attendees. The speaker presented the actual status of the Central Asian Unified Power System integrating 3 countries (Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyz Republic) and the development potential to get Turkmenistan and Tajikistan participating in the CAUPS as well. Besides Dr. Shamsiev emphasized the fields of stakeholder’s beneficial cooperation as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • electricity trading ; • development of interstate power grids; • joint construction of power plants; • planning the integrated development of energy systems. <p>At the end of presentation, a list of subjects to discuss at the upcoming workshop in Tashkent is introduced.</p> <p>As well the speaker expressed the gratitude to ADB for supporting construction of new 500kV transmission line to interconnect New Syrdarya TPP (Uzbekistan) and SS Sughd (Tajikistan).</p> <p>More details are available on PPP</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Discussion (70 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member Country interventions • Development Partner interventions



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Key messages

During the meeting, all member countries were prompted to provide their insights on two key issues as below:

- 1) Considering the upcoming interconnectivity and transmission workshop planned for September 2024, how can the workshop best address the key challenges and opportunities your country currently faces in the context of regional energy transmission and interconnectivity?
- 2) Reflecting on the plan to organize a 2024 Investment Forum in Kazakhstan, are there any specific themes your country would appreciate the forum to focus on?

A summary of each member country's and development partner's interventions are listed as follows:

Azerbaijan:

The representative from Azerbaijan shared the country's latest developments in energy. The government attains full energy security and exports energy to Turkey via a 330kV transmission line and to Georgia (700MW) via a 500kV transmission line. In 2022, AzerEnergy and the Georgian State Electrosystem System entered into an agreement to expand energy transmission from Azerbaijan to 3000MW, split as follows: 1400MW from Georgia to Turkey and 1000MW from Georgia to Romania. In order to increase energy transit from Georgia to Turkey, it was agreed to set up additional capacity of 700MW by constructing a new 500kV transmission line and modernizing the converting substation on the border of Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Turkey. The World Bank supported the Feasibility Study on the Black Sea digital cable project (Georgia – Romania) in which Azerbaijan participated upon invitation, along with Georgia and Romania. CESI of Italy was awarded the contract to elaborate on the Feasibility Study on the Green Energy Corridor between Azerbaijan, Georgia, Romania, and Hungary. Azerbaijan has interconnectivity with Georgia only. Negotiations with KEGOC JSC (Kazakhstan) are underway to construct the Caspian Sea underwater cable line of 1000MW and 500MW. Azerbaijan is also negotiating with TurkmenErgo on an underwater cable line of 1500MW. It would be good to discuss at the workshop how the Caucasus energy system can be interconnected with the Central Asian energy system.

Georgia:

The speaker, representing Georgia, outlined that Georgia has interconnectivity with Azerbaijan, and the Russian Federation via 500kV transmission lines each, with Turkey – via 400kV HVDC back-to-back line, 330kV line with Azerbaijan, 220kV line each with Turkey, Azerbaijan and Armenia and 110kV line with Russia making the country an important player in transboundary energy interchange. However, there are differences in electricity trading models and technical standards. Ms. Arabidze emphasized the importance of regional cooperation between regional energy regulators. For example, the Georgian State Electrosystem (GSE) is a single operator of energy transmission. GSE elaborated the Ten-Year Network Development Plan on developing the transmission lines, including forecasts to strengthen energy security and improve interconnectivity with neighboring countries. The Georgian National Energy and Water Supply



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Regulatory Commission reviews the Ten-Year Network Development Plan to ensure adherence to effective legislation and update them if needed. The Ten-Year Network Development Plan is subject to regular review by the Georgian National Energy and Water Supply Regulatory. Georgia has been actively pursuing renewable energy development aiming to reduce the environmental impact while enhancing energy independence. The installed energy capacity in Georgia is 4596MW, of which 73% is hydropower generation. The government is expanding solar and wind power generation to be transmitted into the existing grid. There are several options to support the renewable energy projects including the Contract for Difference (CfD) scheme via which the auctions for renewables including for solar, wind, and hydro energy, was announced, for example, construction of SS 500kV Svaneti, which improves the regional interconnectivity.

Theme for EIF 2024: RES is a priority for Georgia, aligning with national goals and commitments.

Kazakhstan:

The speaker outlined that Kazakhstan has been facing power system deficiencies in peak load. To resolve this gap, Kazakhstan elaborated an action plan till 2035. The government plans to set up 26GW additional energy capacity, including RES and cycling generation. Mr. Musin emphasized that climate forces Kazakhstan to keep using pure coal so that emissions align with European standards. Additionally, operating energy utilities are pushed towards clean filtered emissions in line with the Paris agreement. Since RES are scaling up, there is a need for cycling generation to sustain the national energy system. The proposals articulated by CDC are to be reviewed and discussed. This year, the heating season proved that our energy systems operate in a coordinated manner. ADB commentary: ADB considers the opportunity to invite KEGOC to expand RES to supply the city of Almaty with energy and to boost energy transit.

Kyrgyz Republic:

The speaker from Kyrgyzstan discussed ADB and Kyrgyz Republic cooperation in the successful modernization, rehabilitation, and improvement of power stations, which have a positive impact on the environment. Kyrgyzstan plans to involve ADB in infrastructure projects like constructing power transmission lines, small, medium & macro hydropower plants. The Kyrgyz representative formulated the main concern related to integrating and dispatching intermittent power sources (RES) into the existing power grid. In this regard, both the study tour would be beneficial to learn how these challenges were solved in the Nordic countries, what solutions and capacity building were opted for. And the workshop would polish the Study tour outputs.

Mongolia:

The speaker from Mongolia's Ministry of Energy discussed the country's energy situation – in 2023, the total energy capacity amounted to 1560MW, of which 18% is RES share. Due to interconnectivity with PRC and the Russian Federation, Mongolia imports 17% of energy from PRC and 30% from Russia. The total volume of imported energy was 2.5 billion kWh in 2023. As per the medium-term strategy, Mongolia plans to be an energy-exporting country. A Pre-Feasibility Study was implemented for ADB-supported Napsi project, which is underway. The interim report is



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provided by consultancy. The speaker proposed wind and solar energy as a key subject for forthcoming events (EIF and workshop) since RES meet the national demand for energy and help modernize the national power system by using new technologies. The country plans to integrate RES energy into the existing grid. However, the Napsi project report identified 27 technical gaps to be eliminated to sustain RES generation in full and to implement smart grids. ADB congratulated Mongolia on the successful implementation of the project battery energy storage 30MW and 20MW.

Pakistan:

The representative from Pakistan highlighted that the World Bank suspended funding CASA 1000 due to instability in Afghanistan, but 80% of the project is completed. Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, and Tajikistan are in the process of negotiating with the WB to restart the project. Pakistan hopes it will be reinstated in May 2024 and completed in May 2026. Additionally, USAID stopped funding the open access initiative as part of the global effort, and Pakistan is approaching the CAREC secretariat with a request for supporting the evaluation of electricity transmission from Tajikistan and Turkmenistan since the open access initiative should be completed. ADB commented that WB approved option 3.0 and during the forthcoming ADB visits to Pakistan, the open access initiative will be discussed in detail.

PRC:

The representative from the People's Republic of China confirmed that China has been committed to the development of clean energy, developing renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, and hydro energy, which act as an impetus for promoting original energy cooperation and set an example for the development and utilization of renewable energy. However, RES integration is a challenge that may bring about a chain reaction when the interconnection line fails, affecting the operational security of the National Power Grid for reliable access, delivery, and consumption of new energy. Secondly, as the progression of new energy gradually increases, it will cause more overall voltage, stability, and frequency problems, which will put forward higher requirements. Hence, EIF and the workshop should thoroughly consider these gaps.

Tajikistan:

The representative outlined recent updates in their country's energy sector as follows:

In May 2024, Tajikistan's energy system expects to get integrated into the Central Asian Unified Power System.

An agreement is signed with EBRD on expanding SS 500kV Sughd by installing the autotransformers, which increase the power capacity.

An agreement is signed with the World Bank on constructing a 500kV transmission line SS Dushanbe – SS Regar to transmit the energy generated by Rogun HPP further to the Central Asian Unified Power System.



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An active cooperation with the World Bank on constructing a 500kV transmission line from Rogun HPP to SS 500kV Sughd and setting up a new SS Saikhun and getting it connected to SS 500kV Sughd. All of the above are worth discussing at the workshop since they affect the Central Asian Unified Power System. It would be good to organize a separate panel discussion at EIF 2024 on structuring the projects which would attract the private sector to participate in and finance. In terms of the study tour to the Nordic countries, the speaker articulated the request to ensure Russian interpretation since the nominated delegates are Russian-speaking only.

Turkmenistan:

The Turkmenistan representative articulated the following commentaries on the workshop:

- 1) The rate-making is critical to discuss since when the interconnectivity is in question, it means the power transfer by and between the countries. And the price of hydro energy should differ from the energy price generated by a stable energy source.
- 2) Interconnectivity of 2 energy systems with Afghanistan. Uzbekistan is the main energy supplier to Afghanistan; Turkmenistan has built up SS 500kV on the TKM-AFG border (Akina village). Afghanistan has to complete constructing a 500kV line to get SS Akina connected to Kabul. Previously, ADB funded this project on the B2B principle. And now the issue to be sorted out - what are the further actions to be undertaken.
- 3) Turkmenistan started constructing a 1.6GW power plant in the Balkan region and would like to consider Transcaspian interconnectivity with Azerbaijan. Last year a 3-party meeting was held in Avazar (Turkmenistan) including the ministries of energy from Turkey, Azerbaijan, and Turkmenistan. An MoU was drafted but not signed due to the status of the Caspian Sea. Hence the Transcaspian interconnectivity project is worth discussing at the workshop. EIF 2024: One of the topics to discuss are the special financial vehicles for RES.

Uzbekistan:

The representative of Uzbekistan outlined recent updates in their country's energy sector as follows:

Uzbekistan's energy system includes 87 power plants with a total capacity of more than 20 gigawatts, generating approximately 80 billion kilowatt-hours last year (80 TWh). Recently, two solar PV stations, each with a capacity of 100 megawatts, were commissioned, and last year, 1.4 gigawatts of large solar and wind power plants were added. Projects totaling 3.5 gigawatts are planned to be commissioned to generate an additional 7.2 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity.

Efforts are underway to enhance both domestic and interstate power transmission lines. In cooperation with strategic partners, work is progressing to establish parallel operation of the energy systems with Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. Commissioning work is also ongoing for electrical equipment in the southern part of Uzbekistan's energy system.



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	<p>Regarding international cooperation, a project is being developed for the construction of a Hydro Power Plant with a capacity of 140 megawatts. Currently, efforts are being made to find investors for this project, with a presentation planned within the framework of the Tashkent Invest Forum in May this year.</p> <p>UNECE:</p> <p>UN supports the interconnectivity project in cooperation with sister organization CAMTO. 30 May (virtual) and 12 June (in person) a meeting will be convened in Astana. ADB and the national stakeholders are kindly invited to Astana forum in June.</p> <p>CAREC Institute</p> <p>CAREC Institute completed the pilot project in Ferghana valley which encompasses Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyz Republic. The target is to study household behavior toward energy consumption. The second stage of this project will cover a larger area. Another project is planned to focus on energy innovation and digitalization. It will be implemented with UNIDO, ADB institute.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Wrap-Up and Closing (5 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Joonho Hwang, Director Energy, Central and West Asia Department, ADB
<p>Key messages</p>	<p>Mr. Hwang expressed his appreciation for the updates shared by member countries regarding the progress made in their respective energy sectors. He recognized the significant strides in expanding energy systems, improving interconnectivity particularly Uzbekistan. He thanked the member countries for their approval of the activities for the year 2024. In terms of Afghanistan related projects with Pakistan and Turkmenistan participation Mr. Hwang committed to revert on this issue.</p> <p>The vision on organizing EIF 2024 will be discussed with Water and Transport pillar and the results will be communicated to the member countries.</p>

The recording of this meeting is available on the CAREC Energy Members Area at energy.carecprogram.org

Appendix: List of Participants

Appendix

List of Participants

	Name	Position	Organization	Country
Country representatives				
1.	Mr. Azylzhan Mussin	Director of Power Sector Development Department	Ministry of Energy	Kazakhstan
2.	Ms. Margalita Arabidze	Head of EE and RE Policy and Sustainable Development Department	Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia	Georgia
3.	Mr. Nikoloz Kholodov	Chief Specialist at EE and RE Policy and Sustainable Development Department	Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia	Georgia
4.	Mr. Asaf Rzayev	Head of the Energy Efficiency Sector, Electric Power and Energy Efficiency Department	Ministry of Energy	Azerbaijan
5.	Ms. Afsana Garayeva	Leading Advisor	International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Energy	Azerbaijan
6.	Mr. Elnur Alakbarov	Head of Cooperation with International Organizations Division	International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Energy	Azerbaijan
7.	Mr. Suleyman Bayrammyradov	Deputy Head of Foreign Economic Relations Department	Ministry of Energy	Turkmenistan
8.	Mr. Hidayat Ullah	Joint Secretary (Transmission), Power Division	Ministry of Energy	Pakistan
9.	Mr. Asjad Ullah Qureshi	Assistant Director, M&E	National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA)	Pakistan
10.	Mr. Enkhtuvshin Ganbaatar	Head of Strategical policy and planning division	Ministry of Energy	Mongolia
11.	Mr. Munkhjargal L.	Head of Foreign relations division	Ministry of Energy	Mongolia
12.	Ms. Ganchimeg Ch.,	Officer of Foreign relations division	Ministry of Energy	Mongolia
13.	Mr. Ren Cong	Principal Staff Member	China National Energy Administration	PRC
14.	Yan Bingbing	Cadre	China National Energy Administration	PRC
15.	Mr. Ruiqing Zhang	Deputy Director, International Department	China Electric Power Planning & Engineering Institute	PRC



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16.	Mr. Wenchang Cai		China Electric Power Planning & Engineering Institute	PRC
17.	Mr. Xie Yitian		China Electric Power Planning & Engineering Institute	PRC
18.	Mr. Manuchehr Safarzoda	Deputy Minister, CAREC National Coordinator for the Energy Sector	Ministry of Energy and Water Resources	Tajikistan
19.	Mr. Mirbek Esengulov	Leading Expert, Electric Power Policy Department	Ministry of Energy	Kyrgyz Republic
20.	Mr. Shalpykov E.	Chief Expert of International Relations Department	National Electric Grid of Kyrgyzstan	Kyrgyz Republic
21.	Mr. Fitrat Nabiyeu	Head of the Consolidated Information and Analytical Department	Ministry of Energy	Uzbekistan
22.	Ms. Elena Kim	Head of International Cooperation Service	Ministry of Energy	Uzbekistan
23.	Mr. Fazliddin Sharofitdinov	Director of the Project Office	Ministry of Energy	Uzbekistan
24.	Dr. Khamidulla Shamsiev	Director	Energiya Coordinating Dispatch Center (CDC)	Uzbekistan
25.	Mr. Abdurashid Mirzaev	Chief Dispatcher	Coordination Dispatch Center "Energiya"	Uzbekistan

Development partners

	Name	Position	Organization	Country
26	Maxim Titov	Head of Energy and Infrastructure	Eurasian Fund for Stabilization and Development (Eurasian Development Bank)	Kazakhstan
27	Yerlan Aliyaskarov	Senior Project Manager	Eurasian Fund for Stabilization and Development (Eurasian Development Bank)	Kazakhstan
28	Mr. Hans Holzhaecker	Chief Economist	CAREC Institute	PRC
29	Mr. Rovshan Mahmudov	Senior CB Specialist	CAREC Institute	PRC
30	Hongliang Yang	Principal Investment Operations Specialist (Energy)	AiIB	PRC
31	Jianshi Yao	Senior Investment Operations Specialist (Energy)	AiIB	PRC
32	Kazuhiro Nomoto	Partnership Officer, Institutional Engagement and Cooperation	AiIB	PRC
33	Wei Huang	Strategy and Policy Officer (Energy)	AiIB	PRC
34	Patrick Meyer	Energy Advisor	USAID Central Asia	USA
35	Nadejda Khamrakulova	Economic Affairs Officer	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe,	Switzerland



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ADB			
36	Lyaziza Sabyrova	ADB Regional Head, Regional Cooperation and Integration	Philippines
37	Martin Sommerseth Jaer	Finance Specialist (Energy)	Philippines
38	Joonho Hwang	Director	Philippines
39	Serik Zharkinbayev	Energy Specialist	Philippines
40	Nodira Odinaeva	RCC	Tajikistan
41	Rustam Aminjanov	NFPA	Tajikistan
42	Aidana Berdybekova	RCC	Kyrgyzstan
43	Meder Turgunbekov	NFPA	Kyrgyzstan
44	Ekaterine Koroshinadze	RCC	Georgia
45	Mohammad Ali	NFPA	Pakistan
46	Bujinkham Erdenebaatar	RCC	Mongolia
47	Diyar Tassym	NFPA	Kazakhstan
48	Guldana Sadykova	RCC	Kazakhstan
49	Bekzhan Mukatov		Kazakhstan
50	Durdy Ilamanov	NFPA	Turkmenistan
51	Laifei Xiong	RCC	PRC
52	Nadir Safaev	NFPA	Uzbekistan
53	Ashraf Kuliyeu	NFPA	Azerbaijan