

**Preparatory Meeting of the
Central – South Asia Regional Business Roundtable (RBR)**
Shayr Ballroom, Hyatt Regency, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic
3-4 November 2005

Agenda

Roundtable Objectives: The basic proposed objectives of the Central-South Asia RBR are to: (a) enhance business inputs into CAREC and other regional cooperation programs; (b) facilitate regional trade and investment; and (c) build private sector networks. The RBR Preparatory Meeting, endorsed by the Senior Officials of CAREC and supported by the ADB, brings together business sector participants from each RBR economy, as well as participants from the public sector and multilateral agencies, to forge the future directions—including operational modalities and practical activities—for the Central – South Asia RBR.

3 November (Thursday)

08:30-09:00 Registration

09:00-09:30 Opening Session

09:00-09:10 **Opening Remarks** by Mr. Sabyrbek Moldokulov, First Deputy Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism, Kyrgyz Republic

09:10-09:20 **Welcoming Remarks** by RBR Meeting Co-Chairs

- Mr. Djoomart Otorbaev, Executive Director of the Kyrgyz Investment Roundtable
- Mr. Robert Bestani, Director General of the Private Sector Operations Department, ADB

09:20-10:00 **An Overview of Selected Regional Programs**

- **The Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Initiative (CAREC)**, Mr. Craig Steffensen, Head, CAREC Unit, Operations Coordination Division, ECRD, ADB
- **The Central and South Asia Transport and Trade Forum (CSATTF)**, Ms. Hyunjung Lee, Economist, Operations Coordination Division, South Asia Department, ADB
- **The Silk Road Regional Programme**, Mr. Wojciech Hubner, Chief Technical Adviser, Silk Road Regional Programme, UNDP

10:00-10:30 **Outline of the Structure and Modalities of the Meeting** (presentation by RBR Meeting Co-Chairs/Meeting Coordinators (Mr. Peter Brimble and Mr. David Oldfield, Asia Policy Research) followed by discussion)

10:30-11:00 Networking Break with Coffee and Tea

- 11:00-12:00 Session 1: The Vision, Objectives, and Proposed Terms of Reference of the RBR** (presentation by RBR Meeting Co-Chairs/Meeting Coordinators followed by open discussion)
- 12:00-12:30 Session 2: The Substantive Activities of the RBR** [including a discussion of both sectoral activities (i.e., energy, transport, trade facilitation) and functional activities (i.e., strengthening the business sector in RBR economies, promoting public-private sector dialogue, building better public sector responsiveness to the business community in RBR economies, improving availability of public sector information to business, etc.)].
- 12:30-13:30 Lunch Break at Crostini Restaurant, Hyatt Regency Hotel
- 13:30-14:30 Session 2: The Substantive Activities of the RBR (continued)**
- 14:30-16:00 Session 3: The Structure and Mechanisms of the RBR** (including size, members, meetings, future options on sub-committees and working groups, the secretariat function for the RBR as a whole and the specific sub-committees and working groups, communications, etc.).
- 16:00-16:30 Networking Break with Coffee and Tea
- 16:30-17:30 Session 4: The Required Commitments and Organizational Changes to support the RBR** [including possible institutional changes required in the donors or policy institutions (i.e., the formation of special units on partnerships with the business community, and creation of “secretariats” for various functions) and those required in the business community (i.e., links with other regional business groupings and national chambers of commerce, etc.)]
- 19:00-20:30 Dinner hosted by the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic** at the Time Out Café, transportation provided.

Evening Sessions: Supporting team and Meeting Coordinators to begin preparation of write-up of the draft Strategic Action Plan for RBR based on discussions during the Day 1 Sessions.

4 November (Friday)

- 09:00-10:00 Session 5: Introduction to Breakout Groups on Substantive Areas** (Special presentations on the substantive areas, perceptions and questions from the business participants, and a brief introduction by the RBR Meeting Co-Chairs for the Breakout Group Sessions)

Special Presentations:

- **Central Asia: Mapping Future Prospects**, Mr. Ganeshan Wignaraja, Senior Economist, Operations Coordination Division, East and Central Asia Department, ADB
- **Business Implications of the World Bank's REEPS (Regional Energy Export Potential Study)**, Mr. Simon Kenny, Regional Program Coordinator, Central Asia Regional Office, The World Bank

10:00-10:15 Networking Break with Coffee and Tea

10:15-12:15 Session 6: Breakout Groups on Substantive Areas (to discuss concrete and practical next steps for activities of the RBR in the main areas. Chaired by a selected business participant, and with the resource person kicking off the sessions with a focused presentation providing insights and guidelines on the substantive area and the potential for business involvement in that area)

Breakout Group 1: Energy

Chair: Selected Business Participant

Resource Person: Mr. Daniel Berg, Head of Office, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

Venue: Shayr Ballroom (one side)

Breakout Group 2: Transport

Chair: Selected Business Participant

Resource Person: Mr. Nigel Rayner, Director, Transport and Communications Division, East and Central Asia Department, ADB

Venue: Shayr Ballroom (one side)

Breakout Group 3: Trade Facilitation and Related Issues

Chair: Selected Business Participant

Resource Person: Jeffrey Liang, Principal Trade Economist, Governance, Finance and Trade Division, East and Central Asia Department, ADB

Venue: Akyn Room

12:15-13:30 Lunch Break at Crostini Restaurant, Hyatt Regency Hotel

13:30-14:40 Session 7: Presentation of Key Elements of the Breakout Group Discussions (by selected representatives from each breakout group, with each presentation of around 10-15 minutes followed by discussion)

Energy

Transport

Trade Facilitation and Related Issues

14:40-15:10 **Special Presentation: *Business Opportunities and Challenges of Economic Integration within Eurasia*** by Mr. Johannes Linn, Lead Author, UNDP Central Asia Human Development Report, and formerly World Bank Vice President for Central Asia

15:10-15:30 Networking Break with Coffee and Tea

Note: The RBR Preparatory Meeting is then joined by senior representatives from the multilateral institutions and possibly from among the Ministers attending the CAREC Ministerial Conference immediately following the RBR Preparatory Meeting.

15:30-16:30 Session 8: Discussion and Agreement on the Draft Strategic Action Plan for RBR (presentation by RBR Meeting Co-Chairs/Meeting Coordinators followed by discussions, with comments and interaction from the senior representatives from the MIs and possibly from among the CAREC Ministers)

16:30-17:30 Session 9: Closing Statements by Country Delegations (by alphabetical order - 5 minutes each)

17:30-17:45 Concluding Session by the RBR Meeting Co-Chairs:

- Mr. Robert Bestani, Director General of the Private Sector Operations Department, ADB
- Mr. Djoomart Otorbaev, Executive Director of the Kyrgyz Investment Roundtable

1930 – 2100 Cocktails, hosted by Mr. Robert Bestani, Director General of the Private Sector Operations Department, ADB at Shayr Ballroom Hyatt Regency Hotel