

CAREC Disaster Risk Engagement Event

Istanbul, 28 – 30 November 2022

14:00pm-14:40pm (Manila time), 28 November 2022 (Day 1)

Opening Remarks - Lyaziza Sabyrova,

Director, Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination Division,
Central and West Asia Department,
Asian Development Bank

Distinguished participants from CAREC countries, development partners, and colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

A very good morning from Manila!

On behalf of the CAREC Secretariat in ADB, I am honored to welcome you all to this CAREC Disaster Risk Engagement Event. This is the first time that you are meeting physically under this technical assistance project “Developing a Disaster Risk Transfer Facility in the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Region”. Some of you, like me, are only being able to participate virtually, but we are now able to leverage the technology skills that we have gained over the pandemic to conduct such events in a hybrid format.

We have worked hard over the first phase of this project to bring together the available data and information, and to build the models required to analyze and better understand the nature and extent of the potential socioeconomic impact of earthquakes, floods and infectious diseases. It is time to come together and discuss possible options to cooperate regionally and mitigate such disaster risks.

Recent events in the CAREC countries, including the devastating floods in Pakistan, have reminded us again of the vulnerability of the region, its people, especially the most vulnerable households farmers and micro, small- and medium-sized enterprises, and eventually the governments’ fiscal budget that have already been heavily affected by the COVID-19 pandemic crisis.

The frequency and severity of the socioeconomic damages due to disaster events are expected to further increase with climate change and continued economic development. As we have witnessed, globalized flows of people and goods reduce an individual government’s ability to respond to an infectious disease outbreak on its own.

The CAREC region's sustainable and resilient development requires robust policies and actions for macroeconomic stability, public health resilience, and a disaster risk management.

Following the onset of a disaster event, government response needs to be able to access immediate financing for delivering effective emergency relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction. Regional cooperation can help to get better prepared and build risk-informed decision-making capacity to implement innovative disaster risk financing solutions strengthening physical and financial resilience and so more efficiently manage the economic impact of disaster events.

I would like to thank my colleagues Mr. Junkyu Lee, Chief Financial Sector, Ms. Rie Hiraoka, Director Social Sector Division, Central West Asia Regional Department, and their teams for

organizing this important Engagement Event. And the WTW team leading the consultant consortium for their technical expertise and support.

This Engagement Event is an important and timely opportunity to bring together representatives of the Ministry of Emergency Management, the Ministry of Finance as well as the Ministry of Health. It contributes to the broad mission of the CAREC 2030 Strategy endorsed at the 16th Ministerial Conference in 2017 to connect people, policies, and projects for shared and sustainable development regionally. It also constitutes a practical follow-up to respond to the initiatives discussed at the June 2022 Senior Officials' Meeting, to promote green and resilient development across the region, as well as to the CAREC High-Level Session on "Regional Cooperation for Green and Resilient Development" recently held during this year's 55th ADB Annual General Meeting.

And I am grateful to the Government of Mexico, to the African Risk Capacity (ARC) and to the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF) for their support and preparedness to share with the CAREC member countries their experience in setting up regional disaster risk management and financing solutions.

Last but not least, I would like to express my thanks for the cooperation with other Development Partners, such as the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), the World Bank, the World Health Organization (WHO), and The Global Fund as we want to work together and coordinate our initiatives in this region.

The program over the next three days, will allow you to ask questions related to the analytical work done so far and to identify areas where you can contribute and enhance the results perhaps providing data and information not yet captured. You will get the opportunity to learn from other regions experience and to test tools that can be further developed and help you in your decision-making process. And your active contribution will be required to discuss concrete options of risk transfer structures to the international private sector (re)insurance and capital market for earthquake and flood risk, as well as to discuss the possibility to establish a regional Infectious Disease Risk Financing Framework.

I would like to conclude by wishing you a very successful Engagement Event with interesting and fruitful interactions!

And I am now honored to hand over to Mr. Zhiyong Fang, Director General, Department of Disaster Relief and Material Support, Ministry of Emergency Management, People's Republic of China, to share with us his Opening Remarks.

Thank you. (Word count: 796, about 7- 8 minutes)