



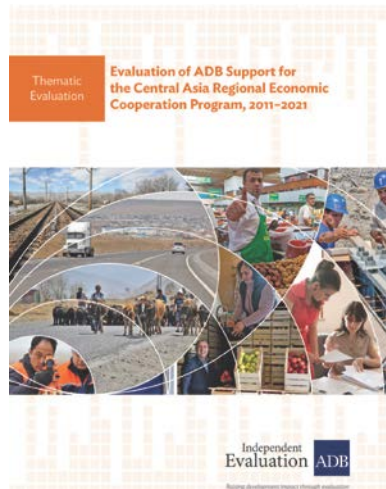
CAREC 2030 Implementation Progress

**22nd CAREC Ministerial Conference
30 November 2023, Tbilisi**



ADB Independent Evaluation of CAREC Program (May 2023)

- CAREC—one of the least integrated in the world—has enormous potential for regional cooperation and to be a land bridge connecting some of the world’s largest economic centers
- CAREC helped improve regional connectivity
- Continuing trade barriers affect overall economic competitiveness
- Delivery of regional public goods at nascent stage

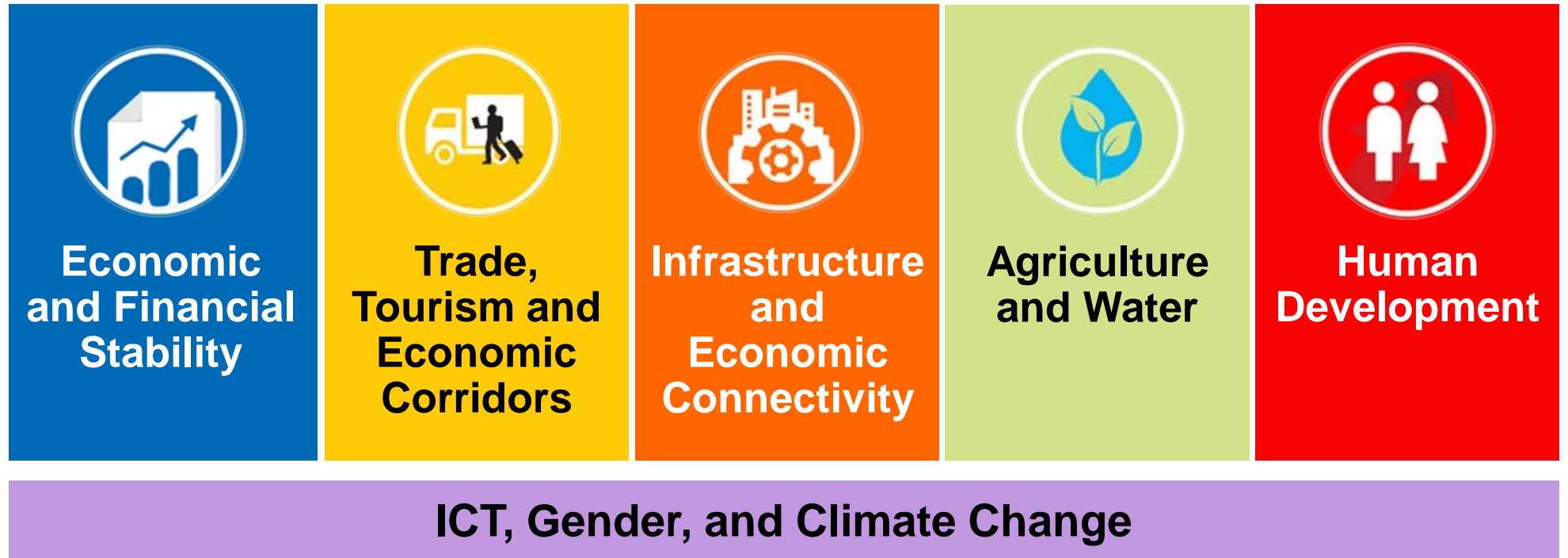


Key Recommendations

- Support for investment climate and trade policy reforms for economic diversification
- Modernize border crossing points and customs processes
- Develop multimodal corridor network
- Enhance climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Improve results monitoring

CAREC 2030 Strategy

2023
Cluster
and Sector
–Specific
Highlights



\$47.27 billion cumulative investments (Oct 2001 to June 2023)

257 projects

70% transport, **20.4%** energy, **4%** trade sector

44% DPs, **35%** ADB, **21%** CAREC DMCs

new investments in health, agriculture and tourism sectors

Sustaining high-level policy dialogues



Economic and
Financial
Stability
Cluster

- *Mobilizing Taxes for Development and Decarbonization in the CAREC Region (14 Feb 2023, Tbilisi)*
- *Climate Change Risks to Financial Stability in the CAREC Region (14 June 2023, Tbilisi)*
- *Capital Markets Regulators' Forum (31 Oct-1 Nov 2023, Almaty)*



Adopting trade reforms and accelerating digital trade



Trade, Tourism and Economic Corridors Cluster

Trade

- Continued support for WTO accession talks and implementation of WTO agreements
- MOU signing for CAREC Advanced Transit System
- CAREC Panel Session on International Value Chains at the Tbilisi Silk Road Forum (Oct 2023)
- Building capacities for National Single Window, digital trade and e-commerce, ePhyto Hub
- Preparation of MON: Border Efficiency for Sustainable Trade project (Dec 2023 approval)
- ADB Study on Diversifying Trade Flows and Transport and Transit Routes (to be finalized in 2024)
- *CAREC Trade Newsletter and Progress in Trade Facilitation in CAREC Countries* widely disseminated
- Over 30 regional and national trade activities



Promoting regional tourism



Trade, Tourism
and Economic
Corridors
Cluster

Tourism



CAREC Tourism Portal consolidates information on tourism attractions in the region and promotes the services of local businesses

www.VisitSilkRoad.org

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- TAJIKISTAN
- TURKMENISTAN
- UZBEKISTAN

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- Culture, Festivals
- Eco-tourism, Nature, Parks, Gardens
- Entertainment
- Monuments, Museums
- Heritage Tourism
- Shopping, Market, Bazaar
- Ski, Hiking, Resorts
- Villages, Culture

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Other initiatives

- Almaty-Bishkek travel bubble, with common health and safety protocols
- Accommodation classification system pilot in ABEC and Pakistan
- Capacity-building and skills development activities

Piloting economic corridor development



Trade, Tourism
and Economic
Corridors
Cluster

Economic
Corridors



Almaty-Bishkek Economic Corridor (ABEC) with transformative regional investment projects underway:

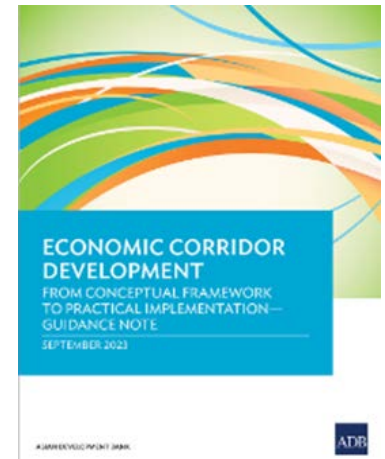
- *Strengthening Regional Health Insurance Project*
- *ABEC Regional Improvement of Border Services Project*
- *Issyk-Kul Lake Environmental Management for Sustainable Tourism Project*



Shymkent-Tashkent-Khujand Economic Corridor (STKEC)

- *Prefeasibility studies on (i) International Center for Industrial Cooperation between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan and (ii) Trade and Logistics Center in Sugd, Tajikistan completed*

Guidance Note on Economic Corridor Development (2023) published in English and Russian



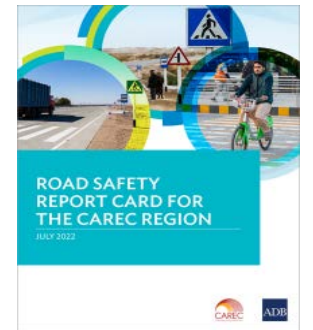
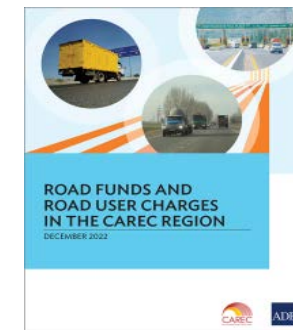
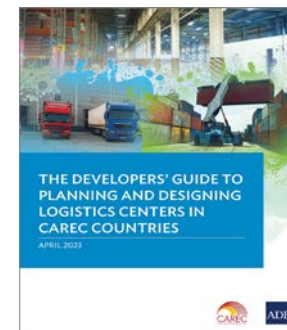
Ensuring connectivity and transport safety



Infrastructure
and Economic
Connectivity

Transport

- Cross-border transport and logistics upgraded in select border crossing points (BCP) in PAK, KGZ, TAJ and MON
- Concept for the Joint BCP Silk Road developed (AZE–GEO)
- Competencies on Road Asset Management Systems and Road Safety supported through manuals, reports and trainings
- 11 national railway assessment including management support
- Prefeasibility studies on block train and ferry services (UZB-TKM)
- Studies on low-cost carrier aviation operations and aviation cargo
- *Developers' Guide to Planning and Designing Logistics Centers in the CAREC Region (April 2023)*



Promoting sustainable regional energy security



Infrastructure
and Economic
Connectivity

Energy



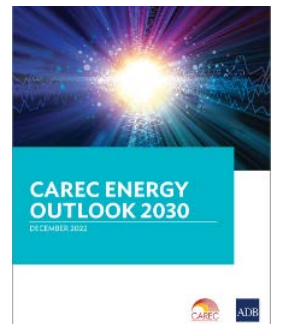
6th Energy Investment Forum:

“Empowering Sustainable Energy Investments”

Tbilisi, 28-29 November 2023

showcasing investment opportunities—from solar, wind and hydro through energy efficiency and sustainable heating solutions—the region has to offer

- Regional transmission and grid infrastructure and energy efficiency workshops
- Study tour on sustainable energy solutions
- Concept for the Central Asia Transmission Cooperation Association
- CAREC Energy Reform Atlas
- CAREC Energy Outlook 2030 (Dec 2022)





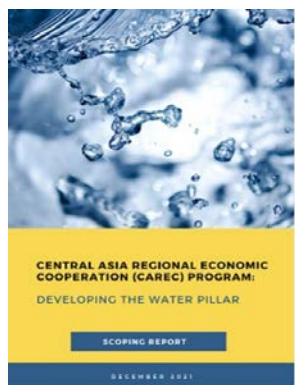
Agriculture and Water Cluster

Achieving food security and safety

- A new regional TA to operationalize the *Cooperation Framework for Agricultural Development and Food Security in the CAREC Region*
- Completed TA to align national food safety regulations with international standards



Managing water resources efficiently



- *CAREC Water Pillar Scoping Study* completed
- Plans for setting up a *Water Pillar Working Group*
- Innovative water–energy nexus modelling
- Climate assessment for Water Pillar, capacity and skills development activities planned

Strengthening health security and resilience



Human
Development
Cluster

- **Regional Health Investment Framework 2022-2027** to guide regional cooperation and support investment country and development partners coordination, includes climate and health actions
- Regional strategy informing national health strategies, data exchange and digitization initiatives
- Series of webinars and repository of training materials



Fostering skills development

- six knowledge products being finalized, with two upcoming regional initiatives to be launched in 2024:
 - *CAREC Regional Skills Development Initiative*
 - *CAREC University Consortium Network*

Mainstreaming gender equity

Cross-cutting Themes

CAREC Gender Award Ceremony celebrating individuals and organizations who have dedicated their time, resources, and talents to effect positive change in gender equity



CAREC Women's Business Forum 2023

strengthening skills through knowledge exchange and networking for various actors and enhance women's economic and social empowerment in CAREC countries

Digital Growth and Literacy of Women (GLOW) Initiative to address digital gender gap

Harnessing innovation and digital ecosystem

Cross-cutting Themes

CAREC Innovation Week and Digital Economy Tour (22-24 November 2023, Hangzhou, PRC) at the sidelines of 2nd Global Digital Trade Expo and launch of Silk Road E-commerce Day

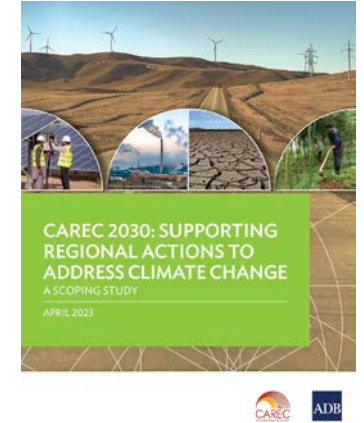


CAREC Startup Ecosystem Development Hub which includes Startup Map, CAREC Innovation Network, Startup Bootcamps (AZE, KAZ, UZB), University Startup Competition and Exchange programs promoting innovation and entrepreneurship

Responding to Climate Change

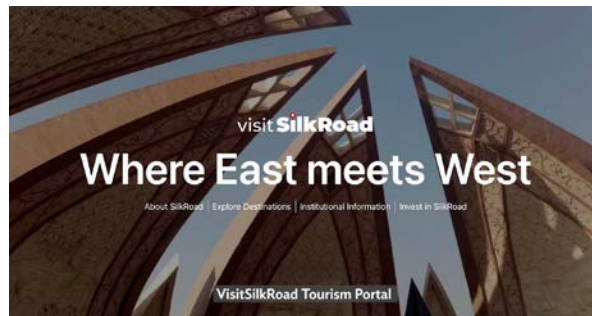
Cross-cutting Themes

- [CAREC 2030: Supporting Regional Actions to Address Climate Change–A Scoping Study](#) published in April 2023 provided the basis for the development of the [Regional Action for Climate Change: A Vision for CAREC](#)
- [Roadmap](#) for a regional risk transfer facility
- Disaster risk profiles and various assessments undertaken, disaster risk management interface prepared
- Report on disaster relief bonds underway



Next Steps

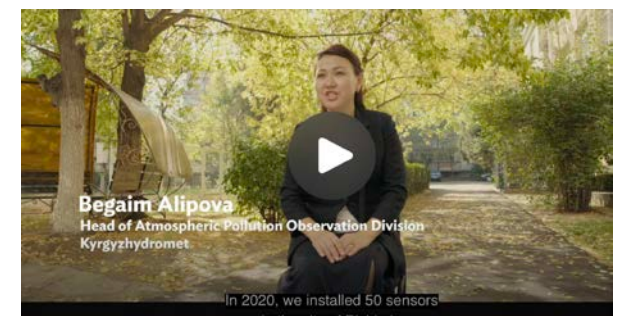
- Action Plan to be developed to implement key recommendations on ADB's Independent Evaluation Report
- Preparatory work for *CAREC 2030 Strategy* Midterm Review in 2024
- Raising the profile of CAREC Program through effective communications



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CAREC Call to Action



ABEC Clean Air Initiative