

**20th CAREC Ministerial Conference,
17 November 2021 (Virtual Format)**

CAREC Institute's Statement

The CAREC Institute (CI) remains committed to supporting the CAREC Program by providing demand-driven knowledge services for effective regional cooperation.

This year, the CI has adopted a new institutional Strategy for 2021-2025 in line with the emerging needs to adapt quickly to the post-COVID business environment and geopolitical developments in the region, which necessitates innovative, technology-intensive approaches to knowledge services. The CI has achieved progress in all areas of its activities in 2021. Macro-economic analysis, periodic regional integration reports, and the latest economic data have been well received by stakeholders. Particularly, CI's COVID response has been acknowledged by Think Tanks and Civil Society Programs of the University of Pennsylvania. The research portfolio has expanded to cover more areas in all clusters of the CAREC Program by expanding its in-house research capacity and by leveraging partnerships with ADB/ADBI, UNESCAP, UNICEF, Islamic Development Bank, World Economic Forum, TRACECA, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics and China City Development Alliance.

Capacity building function has been completely transformed by leveraging ICT-based E-learning Platform, which has dramatically increased the scale and coverage of capacity-building interventions. The outreach function has also improved substantially, with knowledge products and e-newsletters reaching over 3,000 stakeholders monthly in English, Russian and Chinese languages. The CI rigorously utilizes popular social media platforms, and over 20 CI topics and events were covered in around 70 media outlets in 10 countries in three languages in 2021.

The CI continues to provide a regional knowledge platform for regional think tanks and researchers through its annual flagship think tanks development forum and annual research conference. This year's CAREC Think Tanks Development Forum will soon bring over 100 regional institutions, think tanks, universities to discuss the roles of economic corridors in regional growth.

CI will continue to align its activities with new CAREC initiatives and strategies as approved by the ministers.