



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
AND DEVELOPMENT



Forum on Developing Sustainable Economic Zones in Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Countries

13-14 September 2022, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (hybrid via [Zoom](#))

With simultaneous interpretation in English, Russian, Mongolian, and Chinese languages

The post-pandemic landscape characterized by changing patterns of international production provides an opportunity to develop economic zones that are aligned with environmental sustainability, economic efficiency, inclusive job creation, and fair labor practices, and are supportive of global and regional collaboration to achieve complementarities. The new model of special economic zones (SEZs) embraces sustainable development goals (SDGs) and targets investments related to these goals - cognizant of their role as instruments for contributing to more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable economies in the countries where they operate.

This model is important for the CAREC region where the effectiveness and usefulness of SEZs are heavily dependent on how well they are incorporated into broader development policies. The 'SDG model zones', as they are called by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, are a way to make SEZs work for the broader goal of achieving sustainable development.

This 1.5-day workshop will share trends and concepts related with the new model of economic zones as well as lessons and best practices on emerging issues and challenges faced by SEZs in CAREC countries and other regions. The workshop also aims to promote dialogue, close collaboration, and networking among CAREC countries and other regions' policymakers and SEZ authorities, and international experts.



13 SEPTEMBER (TUESDAY)

09:00-9:30 Ulaanbaatar time	Registration
09:30-9:50	<p>Welcome Remarks</p> <p>Mr. Khurelbaatar Chimed, Minister of Economy and Development of Mongolia</p> <p>Ms. Emma Fan, Director, Public Management, Financial Sector and Regional Cooperation Division (EAPF), East Asia Department, Asian Development Bank (ADB)</p> <p>Mr. Syed Shakeel Shah, Director, CAREC Institute </p>
<p>Session 1: Advancing a New Generation of Economic Zones for Sustainable Development and the Free Zones of the Future</p> <p>This session will discuss the characteristics and innovative and sustainable practices of the new generation of SEZs in responding to post-pandemic challenges and opportunities (e.g., digitalization, onshoring of production, 'greening' investments).</p>	
09:50-10:25	<p>Presenters:</p> <p>Mr. Samir Hamrouni, Chief Executive Officer, World Free Zones Organization</p> <p>Mr. Jong Woo Kang, Principal Economist, Regional Cooperation and Integration Division, Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department, ADB</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Safdar Parvez, Advisor, East Asia Department, ADB</p>
10:25-10:50	Group photo and coffee break
10:50-11:40	<p>Continuation of Session 1</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <p>Ms. Aradhna Aggarwal, Professor, Department of International Economics and Management, Copenhagen Business School</p> <p>Ms. Melissa Irmen, Chair, National Association of Foreign-Trade Zones (NAFTZ, US) </p> <p>Mr. Srikanth Badiga, Board of Director – Asia, World Free Zones Organization </p>
11:40-12:30	<p>Open Discussions</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Safdar Parvez, Advisor, East Asia Department, Asian Development Bank</p>
12:30-14:00	Lunch



Session 2: Best Practices from New Generation of Economic Zones and Emerging Challenges from Other Countries

The session will highlight economic zones' experience in promoting sustainability and international cooperation to address global challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, climate crisis and disruptions in supply chains.

14:00-15:00	<p>Panel 1: <i>Emerging Arrangements on Free Zones Operations</i></p> <p>Presenters:</p> <p>Mr. Simon Sonoo, Vice President, Industrial Parks & Economic Zones, DP World, United Arab Emirates </p> <p>Mr. Eleazar Ricote, Deputy Executive Director, Public Private Partnership Center of the Philippines</p> <p>Mr. Lars Karlsson, Global Head of Trade & Customs Consulting, Maersk </p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Kh.Erdenebulgan, Director General, Border Services Development and Freezone Policy Department, Ministry of Economy and Development</p>
15:00-15:45	<p>Panel 2: <i>Innovation and Technology Zones</i></p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Mr. Seonghwan Kim, Officer of the External Affairs, Incheon Free Economic Zone Authority</p> <p>Mr. Kevin Shakespeare, Director of Strategic Projects and International Development, Institute of Export, United Kingdom </p> <p>Mr. Seung Ahn, Professor, Incheon National University, Republic of Korea </p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Jong Woo Kang, Principal Economist, Regional Cooperation and Integration Division, Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department, ADB</p>
15:45-16:00	<p>Coffee break</p>
16:00-17:10	<p>Panel 3: <i>Ensuring Environmental Sustainability, Safe and Healthy Economic Zones</i></p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Mr. James Zhan, Director, Division on Investment and Enterprise, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Co-Chair Global Alliance of Special Economic Zones (GASEZ) </p> <p>Mr. Husam Abdallah, Chief of Business Development and Strategy, World Free Zones Organization</p> <p>Mr. Najibullah Habib, Senior Health Specialist, Urban and Social Sectors Division, East Asia Department, ADB </p>



	<p>Mr. Ping Yean Cheah, Senior Strategy Officer, Operational Partnerships Department, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank </p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Aradhna Aggarwal, Professor, Department of International Economics and Management, Copenhagen Business School</p>
17:10 -17:20	<p>Wrap Up of Day 1</p> <p>Ms. Dorothea Lazaro, Regional Cooperation Specialist, EAPF, East Asia Department, ADB</p>

14 SEPTEMBER (WEDNESDAY)

Session 3: CAREC Countries Experience in Developing Economic Zones

This session will discuss approaches to promote sustainability and attract investments, including public-private partnerships (PPPs). It will also highlight COVID-19 responses and best practices from bilateral cooperation within the region.

09:00-10:20	<p>Group 1: Agro-industrial Parks, Industrial Parks</p> <p>Azerbaijan: Mr. Samir Mammadov, Senior Specialist, Foreign Relations, Media and Communication Division, Economic Zones Development Agency under the Ministry of Economy</p> <p>Georgia Ms. Tamar Sakheishvili, Chief Investment Officer, Poti Free Industrial Zone, Georgia </p> <p>Pakistan Ms. Suriya Jamal, Director General, Investment Facilitation, Prime Minister Office, Board of Investment</p> <p>Mr. Adil Salahuddin, Chief Commercial Officer, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company, Pakistan</p> <p>Kyrgyz Republic Ms. Svetlana Kazymbekova, Head of Section, Light Industry Division, Ministry of Economy and Commerce</p> <p>Tajikistan Mr. Sharipov Joviddon Aminjonovich, Head of the Department of Organization of Customs Control, Customs Service</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. D. Erdenebayar, Director General, Regional and Industrial Policy Department, Ministry of Economy and Development</p>
10:20-10:40	Coffee break
10:40-11:50	<p>Group 2: Cross-border, Regional Cooperation, Logistics, Transport</p> <p>People's Republic of China Mr. Pan Li, Vice Chairman, China Free Trade Zones and Export Processing Zones Association </p> <p>Kazakhstan</p>

	<p>Mr. Almat Doskaliyev, Head of Special Economic and Industrial Zones Division, Industrial Development Committee, Ministry of Industry and Infrastructural Development</p> <p>Mongolia Mr. B.Anar, Director General, Investment Policy Department, Ministry of Economy and Development, Mongolia</p> <p>Turkmenistan Mr. Baymyrat Yazmyradov, Deputy Head, Property Relations and Business Support Department, Ministry of Finance and Economy</p> <p>Uzbekistan Mr. Mukhridin Abdujalilov, Leading Specialist, Department for Development of Transport Corridors, Ministry for Investments and Foreign Trade</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Emma Fan, Director, EAPF, East Asia Department, ADB</p>
11:50-12:00	<p>Conclusion and Next Steps Mr. Safdar Parvez, Advisor, East Asia Department, ADB</p> <p>Closing Remarks Mr. Kh.Erdenebulgan, Director General, Border Services Development and Freezone Policy Department, Ministry of Economy and Development</p>
12:00-13:30	Lunch and networking

