CONCEPT NOTE AND AGENDA

BACKGROUND

Finance is key to promoting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Green and sustainability bonds are a key instrument to finance environmentally friendly businesses and projects. The government, public-private partnerships (PPPs) and large private businesses can all tap the bond market. Banks can also refinance loans financing environmentally friendly businesses and projects by either securitizing them or issuing green covered bonds. Thus, loans for smaller businesses can also be indirectly financed with green bonds.

A key challenge in green finance is to ensure that the proceeds are actually used for appropriate environmentally friendly purposes. Auditing and supervision required to do so involves costs, which can reduce the yield on green bonds. It can make the instruments less attractive for investors, defeating the purpose. It is thus essential to recognize the public good nature in green finance and provide policy support to reduce the cost.

The International Capital Market Association (ICMA) provides the Green Bond Principles (GBPs) as a global standard. The Climate Bonds Initiative (CBI) developed the Climate Bonds Standard and provides certification services for green bonds with fees. Many countries around the world, including some CAREC members, are creating national green bond principles that benchmark against the GBPs. Some regional groups of countries are promoting harmonized standards to enhance transparency, consistency, and uniformity in their green bond market.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) developed the ASEAN Green Bond Standards (ASEAN GBS) in collaboration with ICMA. ASEAN members are benchmarking their national standards against it to harmonize them. CAREC can learn from ASEAN’s experience and examine the benefit of developing a common standard for CAREC. Through the process, the members can learn about efforts made by one another and enhance their national standards. Common standards can promote CAREC green bonds as an asset class with transparency, consistency, and uniformity to attract global investments in CAREC. The members can mutually recognize one another’s green bonds and promote cross-border investments within CAREC.

Enabling and promoting cross-border bond investments requires overcoming other hurdles, such as the instruments' credit and currency risks and institutional investors' risk management requirements. Those hurdles can be high, particularly for intra-CAREC cross-border investments. However, it is not impossible to overcome them by starting with sovereign Green bonds. CAREC members can lay the ground for intra-CAREC cross-border investments in Green projects and businesses through mutual recognition.

OBJECTIVES

This regional workshop aims to achieve the following objectives:

- The workshop will enhance participants' understanding of these instruments by providing a comprehensive overview of their structure, benefits, and contribution to SDGs. By examining

ASEAN's experience, participants will gain insights into successful case studies, key lessons learned, and strategies for overcoming market development challenges.

- A strong policy and regulatory framework is essential for fostering a robust green bond market. The workshop will explore ASEAN's regulatory landscape, highlighting the alignment with international standards such as ASEAN GBS and GBP. Participants will also discuss the importance of transparency, compliance, and investor confidence in ensuring the credibility of green and climate bonds.

- Mobilizing private sector investment is key to expanding green finance. The workshop will address strategies to attract institutional investors, mitigate risks, and enhance returns while maintaining transparency and accountability. Best practices for project selection, impact reporting, and verification will be examined to ensure that green and climate bonds effectively contribute to sustainability objectives and prevent greenwashing.

- To support long-term market growth, the workshop will explore emerging innovations such as transition bonds, sustainability-linked bonds, and blended finance mechanisms. Strengthening regional cooperation through capacity-building initiatives, knowledge-sharing, and technical assistance will also be a priority. Finally, discussions will focus on overcoming barriers to green bond issuance and developing a roadmap with policy recommendations to scale up sustainable finance in the CAREC region.

PARTICIPANTS

Government and Regulatory Authorities: Key government participants for the workshop should include three officials from each CAREC country, including officials from **Ministries of Finance** responsible for debt management, fiscal policy, and green finance initiatives; **Central Banks**, focusing on sustainable finance regulations and monetary policy; and **Capital Markets Regulatory Bodies,** responsible for market development, competitiveness, and regulations.

Participation of Other Key Players: In addition to the above participants, the workshop host country's participation will include representatives from the Ministry of Economy and Development, the Financial Regulatory Commission, the Mongolian Stock Exchange, Mongolian Bankers Association, Mongolian Sustainable Finance Association, Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Renewable Energy and Infrastructure Companies, Multilateral Development Banks, Regional and International Climate Finance Organizations, and Think Tanks and Academia focusing their research on sustainable finance, climate policy, and economic development.

WORKSHOP AGENDA

18 May 2025	Arrival in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia Venue: Shangri-La Hotel
19 May 2025	**Day 1: Understanding ASEAN's Experience on Green and Sustainability Bonds**
08:30 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:20	**Opening Session** **Welcome Remarks:** Ms. Lyaziza Sabyrova, **Regional Head**, Regional Cooperation, Central and West Asia Department, ADB [prerecorded] **Opening Remarks:** Mr. Mohd Sani Ismail, **Director**, Finance Sector Office, ADB **Opening Remarks:** Mr. Tulga Solongo, **Director General**, Financial Policy Department, Ministry of Finance, **Mongolia**
09:20– 09:30	**Group Photo**
	Session 1: Introduction and Market Overview
09:30 – 10:30	**Introduction to Green and Sustainability Bonds and Market Landscape:** Overview of green and climate bonds: Definitions, principles, and global market trends; the role of green finance in achieving sustainability and climate goals; Different types of green instruments: Green bonds, sustainability-linked bonds, transition bonds **Moderator**: Mr. Mohd Sani Ismail, **Director**, Finance Sector Office, ADB **Lead Speaker:** Mr. Wenhong Xie, **Head of China Program**, Climate Bonds Initiative (CBI), Beijing, the PRC (15 min) **Country Perspectives** 1. Ms. Ninjin Altanbulag. **Deputy Director**, Securities Market Department, Financial Regulatory Commission (FRC), **Mongolia** 2. Ms. Zaura Zhumbayeva, **Head of Securities Issuers Monitoring and Regulation Division,** Agency of the Republic of **Kazakhstan** for Regulation and Development of Financial Market (5-7 min) **Open Discussion and Q&A**
10:30 – 10:45	**Coffee Break**
10:45 – 11:45	**ASEAN Green Bond and Sustainability Market and Good Practices:** Overview of ASEAN's green bond market: Growth, trends, and key players; Case studies from ASEAN countries: Success stories and market development strategies; and Key lessons learned and challenges in scaling green bond issuance

	Moderator: Mr. Noritaka Akamatsu, Consultant, ADB **Lead Speaker:** Mr. Eugene Wong, **CEO**, Sustainable Finance Institute Asia, Malaysia (15 min) **Country Perspectives** 1. Ms. Natia Maisuradze, **Senior Specialist**, Government Securities Division/Public Debt Management Department, Ministry of Finance of **Georgia** (5-7 min) 2. Mr. Sanjarbek Murotov, **Head of the Securities Registration Department**, National Agency for Advanced Projects of the Republic of **Uzbekistan** (5-7 min) **Open Discussion and Q&A**
	Session 2: Regulatory Frameworks and Investor Perspectives
11:45 – 12:45	**Policy and Regulatory Frameworks for Green and Sustainability Bonds:** ASEAN Green and Sustainability Bond Standards vs. International Standards (ICMA, CBI, etc.); National regulatory policies and incentives to encourage issuance; and Ensuring transparency, credibility, and compliance with green finance regulations **Moderator:** Mr. Kelvin Lester K. Lee, **Senior Financial Sector Specialist**, ADB **Lead Speaker:** Mr. Inarno Djajadi, **Chief Executive**, Financial Services Authority, Jakarta, Indonesia (15 min) **Country Perspectives** 1. Ms. Shijun Dong, **Deputy Director**, Corporate Bond Supervision Department, China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC), **the PRC** (5-7 min) 2. Mr. Sajjad Ali, **Additional Director**, Primary Markets Approvals & Developments, Security and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), **Pakistan** (5-7 min) **Open Discussion and Q&A**
12:45– 13:45	**Lunch Break**
14:15 – 15:15	**Mobilizing Private Sector Investment and Institutional Investors:** Understanding investor demand for green and climate bonds; Risk-return considerations and structuring green and sustainability bonds to attract capital; and Role of banks, asset managers, and institutional investors in expanding green bond markets **Moderator:** Mr. Noritaka Akamatsu, Consultant, ADB **Lead Speaker:** Mr. Eugene Wong, **CEO,** Sustainable Finance Institute Asia, Malaysia (15 min) **Country Perspectives** 1. Mr. Meylis Dovletov, **Head of Financial Markets and Insurance Division**, Ministry of Finance and Economy, **Turkmenistan** (5-7 min)

	2. Ms. Murzataeva Ainura Djumashevna, **Deputy Chairman**, Financial Market Regulation and Supervision Services, Ministry of Economy and Commerce, **the Kyrgyz Republic** 3. Mr. Bayanjargal Byambasaikhan– **Vice Chair**, The Business Council of Mongolia (BCM), **Mongolia** (5-7 min) **Open Discussion and Q&A**
15:15 – 15:30	**Coffee Break**
	Session 3: Structuring Green and Sustainability Bonds and Ensuring Impact Integrity
15:30– 16:45	**Green and Sustainability Bond Issuance Process and Project Selection:** Step-by-step guide to structuring and issuing green and sustainability bonds; Project eligibility criteria and aligning with green taxonomies; and Addressing challenges in pipeline development for green projects **Moderator:** Ms. Ainur Zhakupova, **Deputy Director**, External Review, AIFC Green Finance Centre, Astana **Lead Speaker:** Mr. Kosintr Puongsophol, **Senior Financial Sector Specialist**, ERDI, ADB (15 min) **Country Perspectives** 1. Ms. Takhmina Tolibi, **Chief Specialist**, Division of Domestic Debt Management and Analysis, Ministry of Finance, **Tajikistan** (5-7 min) 2. Mr. Arif Jalilov – **Head of Prudential Policy Division**, Capital Markets Activity Policy and Regulation Department, Central Bank, **Azerbaijan** (5-7 min) **Open Discussion and Q&A**
16:45 – 17:00	**Summary of Day 1 and Concluding Remarks** Mr. Khalid Umar, **Regional Cooperation Specialist**, Central and West Asia Department, ADB
18:00 – 19:30	**Welcome Dinner hosted by ADB**
20 May 2025	**Day 2: Technical Implementation, Innovations, and Future Roadmap**
Session 3: **Structuring Green and Sustainability Bonds and Ensuring Impact Integrity**	
09:00 – 10:00	**Ensuring Environmental Integrity and Impact Reporting:** Best practices for impact reporting and verification; Third-party certification and preventing greenwashing; and Case studies of effective monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) frameworks **Moderator:** Mr. Kosintr Puongsophol, **Senior Financial Sector Specialist**, ERDI, ADB **Lead Speaker**: Ms. Ainur Zhakupova, **Deputy Director**, External Review, AIFC Green Finance Centre, Astana, Kazakhstan (15 min) **Country Perspectives**

	1. Mr. Najmus Saqib Shabbir, **Additional Director**, SME, Housing & Sustainable Finance Department, State Bank of **Pakistan** (5-7 min) 2. Ms. Nomindari Enkhtur, **CEO**, Mongolian Nature's Legacy Foundation (MNLF), **Mongolia** (5-7 min) **Open Discussion and Q&A**
10:00 – 10:20	**Coffee Break**
10:20 – 11:20	**Innovations in Green Finance and Market Development:** Emerging financial instruments: Sustainability-linked bonds, transition bonds, and blended finance; Role of technology, including blockchain and digital platforms, in green bond issuance; and Expanding the investor base: Retail investors, crowdfunding, and impact investment funds **Moderator:** Mr. Peter Rosenkranz, **Senior Financial Sector Specialist**, SG-FIN, ADB **Lead Speaker**: Ms. Kaveena Maniam, **Assistant General Manager**, Environmental Department, Securities Commission, Malaysia **Country Perspectives** 1. Mr. Xiyang Cai, **Deputy Director**, Research Institute, China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC), **the PRC** (5-7 min) 2. Mr. Anand Enkhbat, **CEO**, Mongolian Sustainable Finance Association, **Mongolia** (5-7 min) **Open Discussion and Q&A**
11:20 – 12:30	**Group Activity**: Interactive session to provide hands-on experience to workshop participants by assigning them real-life scenarios. To facilitate focused and relevant group discussions, participants will be divided into two groups according to their institutional affiliations: **Moderator:** Mr. Khalid Umar, **Regional Cooperation Specialist**, Central and West Asia Department, ADB **Group Brainstorming (20 min)** **Group Presentations (10 min each)** **Group 1: Ministry of Finance**: For participants representing national or sub-national finance ministries, treasury departments, and ministries of economy. **Group 2: Central Banks and Regulators**: For participants from central banks or monetary authorities and regulatory bodies, supervisory agencies. **Open Discussion and Q&A**
12:30 – 13:30	**Lunch Break**
13:30 – 14:00	**Fireside Chat with:** Mr. Inarno Djajadi, **Chief Executive**, Financial Services Authority, Jakarta, Indonesia

	Moderated by: Mr. Eugene Wong, **CEO**, Sustainable Finance Institute Asia, Malaysia
Session 4: **Future Innovations and Roadmap for CAREC**	
14:00 – 15:00	**Overcoming Challenges and Developing a Roadmap for CAREC:** Identifying barriers to green and sustainability bond issuance and strategies to address them; Policy recommendations for strengthening CAREC's green bond market**;** and next steps for fostering regional collaboration and capacity building. **Moderator:** Ms. Matilda Dimovska, **Country Representative**, UNDP, Mongolia **Lead Speaker:** Mr**.** Zhengwei Zhang, **Special Advisor** to ISSB Chair and **Director** of IFRS Office, Beijing, the PRC (15 min) **Country Perspectives** 1. Ms. Assem Kassenova, **Head**, Government Securities Division, State Borrowing Department, Ministry of Finance, **Kazakhstan** (5-7 min) 2. Mr. Amarbayasgalan Batbaatar, **Director**, Financial Market and Insurance Division, Ministry of Finance, **Mongolia**
15:00 – 15:15	**Coffee Break**
15:15 – 16:15	**Mongolian Private Sector Green and Sustainability Bonds Case Studies and Challenges:** Private sector green bond issuance case studies and the regulatory and policy challenges. **Moderator:** Mr. Peter Rosenkranz, **Senior Financial Sector Specialist**, Finance Sector Office, ADB **Speakers:** 1. Ms. Degi Erdenedelger Bavlai, **First Deputy CEO**, Khan Bank, Mongolia (10 min) 2. Mr. Amar Lkhagvasuren, **CEO**, Mongolian Bankers Association (MBA) (10 min) **Open Discussion and Q&A**
16:15 – 16:30	**Next Steps and Concluding Remarks for Days 1&2:** Summary of key takeaways from the workshop; Participant reflections and commitments on future trends in CAREC green finance **Moderator:** Mr. Noritaka Akamatsu, Consultant, ADB **Closing Remarks**: Mr. Mohd Sani Ismail, **Director**, Finance Sector Office, ADB
16:30 – 17:00	**Bilateral Meetings and Networking**
21 May 2025	**Departure**