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# **Session 6: Special Projects/ Regional Public Goods**

**Research Networks and Capacity Building:  
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# Rationales and Merits of the Initiative

## Rationales:

- CAREC ' strong contribution to understanding and networking of sector experts/officials
- Knowledge/capacity building one of four pillars of the CAREC Program
- Merits:
  - Combining the research and technical skills of eight countries and six MIs
  - Structured support to enhance the capacity of CAREC countries to engage effectively in regional cooperation
  - More systematic research work and training program
  - Greater opportunity to mobilize more resources from donor community and development partners

# The CAREC Institute

Primary functions:

- Research/dialogue/training
- Top quality research and information needed; important to mobilize regional expertise
- Well-structured workshops/ knowledge forums needed for building interest/ consensus
- Need for cadre of middle and senior-level officials required skilled in expertise related to regional cooperation/integration

# Research Networks

- Development of research/analysis networks in the region (building on Central Asian Gateway Project)
- Linkages to external experts and institutions
- Goal: strengthening policy discussion in Central Asia regarding key areas of regional cooperation
- Support CAREC ' s sector committees and proposed Strategic Management and Priorities Subcommittee

# Dialogue

Sharing information/research:

- Need to make information/research accessible to key decision makers/stakeholders
- Outreach activities critical:
  - workshops/knowledge forums; in-country seminars
  - well-focused policy/research briefs
  - media involvement

# Training/Capacity Building

Need for capacity building common message of in-country workshops:

- approximately \$1 million available for capacity building
- planned use of funds:
  - support for domestic advisors to National Focal Points
  - training workshops/study tours
  - training courses for middle/senior level officials re regional cooperation expertise

# The Training Module

Drawing on the experience of the Phnom Penh Plan, GMS Program:

- Since inception in 2003, Plan has benefited over 700 GMS officials; wide variety of learning programs
- Initial funding of about \$1.2 million, now an additional \$4 million has been mobilized from donor community
- CAREC Program has similar potential to mobilize funds
- PRC willing to commit funds in support of training program for CAREC
- Need to structure training according to interests/needs of CAREC countries