

# CAREC INSTITUTE PROGRESS REPORT JUNE 2022

Reference Document Virtual Senior Officials' Meeting Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation 28 June 2022

### CAREC Institute Progress Report for 2022

#### Submitted to CAREC Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM)

#### June 2022

#### Governance

- Responding to growing institutional needs, member countries' knowledge expectations, evolving geoeconomics, and the geopolitical landscape, the CI has updated its long-term strategy with an expanded implementation time horizon. During its 12<sup>th</sup> meeting held in December 2021, the GC approved CI's Strategy 2021-2025, "Supporting post-covid recovery in the CAREC region." The revised strategy delineates strategic priorities and identifies measurable output and outcome indicators with means of verification.
- Governing Council (GC) serves as an apex decision-making body for the CI and provides advice and guidance on core organizational matters such as budget, Rolling Operational Plan (ROP), recruitment, management's evaluation etc. The 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the GC is planned to be held in the first/second week of December, tentatively in a physical modality. After taking over CAREC Program's chair from the PRC in November, Georgia will chair the meeting.
- Advisory Council (AC) acts as a sounding board for the CI for new ideas and perspectives on a score of issues, including enhancing operational efficiency, setting strategic priorities, and improving the quality of knowledge output. After three years of its existence, the AC has been revamped by inviting renowned scholars and practitioners from the CAREC region as well as from other regions of the world to capture diverse perspectives. The fourth AC meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 26 in an online modality.
- Cl's first Deputy Director One completed his extended tenure in March 2021, and a new Deputy Director One, Dr. Jingjing Huang, is on board, leading her teams to accomplish organizational goals. Cl's incumbent Director will complete his term in November and the process to recruit his replacement is underway in Tajikistan the alphabetically nominating country.

#### Financial Management

- In order to systematically approach resource mobilization, the CI, with the generous support of the ADB, prepared a Resource Mobilization Strategy (RMS). The second meeting of the Financial Sustainability Working Group (FSWG), held in April, reviewed, discussed, and approved the strategy. Internally, the CI has formed a dedicated task team for implementing the strategy.
- As a trusted partner, the PRC has confirmed the donation at the same level as in 2021, about \$4million. Pakistan's donation transfer amounting to \$100 thousand is on track. Another Pakistan donation of the same amount for 2023 is under review.

#### **CAREC Think Tank Network (CTTN) Activities**

CTTN is a network of over 60 leading think tanks and universities in the CAREC region. The network strives to promote regional knowledge sharing and cooperation. Under the CTTN, CI's flagship think tank development forum is held annually.

 CAREC Institute, as Secretariat of CAREC Think Tank Network (CTTN), joined the South-South Global Thinkers Initiative: the Global Coalition of Think Tanks Networks for South-South Cooperation (SSC). This network of regional think tank networks is jointly hosted by the UN Office of South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

- **CTTN Blog** an interactive knowledge-sharing platform for CTTN members, will be launched during the 6<sup>th</sup> TTF. The blog offers an opportunity for CTTN member think tanks and universities to share their county-specific knowledge focusing on CAREC priority clusters with a larger audience. The blog postings are expected to be in two languages English and Russian, to increase its outreach and scope.
- Sixth Think Tank Development Forum, "Recalibrating Growth Dynamics for Inclusive and Sustainable Economies," is scheduled for 27-28 September in Baku, Azerbaijan (tentatively). TTF is CI's flagship annual event. Starting in 2016, the forum has become an attractive regional gathering of renowned think tanks, universities, government officials, and development partners to deliberate on pressing regional issues.
- CTTN Research Study "Covid-induced inequalities: Digital Access, Health, Education and Women workforce participation" is underway. The first draft has been received. The final paper will be presented at the TTF in September. Commissioned in the context of multifaceted impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, the study captures inequalities in the abovementioned sectors in four CAREC countries.

### Progress of the Chief Economist Team (CET)

The CAREC Institute's Chief Economist Team is focused on macro-economic analysis and the understanding of current and emerging socio-economic trends in the region. The CAREC Institute's Chief Economist Team successfully performed the following activities:

- Established the CI Quarterly Economic Monitor (QEM) in three languages as a well-received product; contributed QEM pieces/breakdowns in English and Chinese to CI Weibo microblog
- Leading an important cross divisional project, one of the deliverable for this year's Ministerial Conference, titled "CAREC Post-Pandemic Framework for Green, Sustainable and Inclusive Recovery".
- Updated the CAREC Regional Integration Index (CRII) and published the related report
- Published more than 10 Economic Briefs, with a strong focus on COVID-19, and recent ones on Afghanistan and inflation threats
- Organized a public opinion poll on "Public attitudes towards COVID-19 vaccination" and coauthored the related report
- Initiated together with SPD a joint research project of four CAREC Think Tanks about inequality in four CAREC countries (Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Uzbekistan)
- Contributed to reviewing papers for CTTN grants and VFP
- Participated as speakers in several conferences and webinars, including the CAREC Think Tank Forum and the CI research conference, and co-organized and spoke at "CAREC Chai" webinars
- Co-authored a chapter titled "Enhancing connectivity and trade between CAREC countries and the World," published in a book by ADBI on the Transcaspian Corridor
- Co-authored a research paper, podcast, and blog on household energy use in Central Asia
- Assisted management for event interventions for IFF meetings in Beijing and the SCO 20 Years Conference in Shanghai.

#### **Progress on Research Activities**

Having continued the research work started in 2021, CI research in 2022 covers the reflections of the currently ongoing COVID-19 outbreak on priority clusters of the CAREC 2030 Strategy and includes a few new initiatives. Hence, for the next two years, the CI's research focus areas span from digital trade and trade integration, financial stability, transport corridors, logistics infrastructure, water, and energy to post-COVID-19 economic recovery. In 2021, the CI aimed to realize **six research studies** and organize **one research conference**. The details of this plan are highlighted in the table below.

Ν		Description	Status
1	Fintech for Regional Cooperation in the CAREC Region.	In the proposed research, the study will provide an in- depth understanding of progress made on fintech by CAREC countries through an indicator system based on four major areas: finance, technology, capability (involving regulation and ecosystem), and regional cooperation. Legal issues, institutional arrangement and regulatory frameworks, and digital adoption strategies in CAREC countries will be examined. A separate study, Fintech for Regional Cooperation: Lessons from Other Regions, will discuss the kinds of fintech innovations benchmark regions have been carrying out in the context of regional cooperation and how they can be effectively applied in CAREC-specific circumstances and challenges. The study will highlight fintech-related issues, such as cross-border payments and settlements, financial regulation and supervision, as well as private sector development and regional integration and cooperation. Lastly, a policy report, Fintech, and Capital Markets Development and Integration in the CAREC Region, will seek to identify the potential role fintech plays in promoting regional cooperation on capital markets development and innovation.	In progress, due to complete in December 2022.
2	Free Trade Agreement (FTAs/RTAs) in the CAREC Region (Phase I)	The research will highlight the status of CAREC regional integration, potential challenges to it, and the way forward. The project is to be implemented in partnership with ADB.	In progress, due to complete in December 2022
3	Digital FDI, Regulations, Policies, and Enabling Factors of Investment in Digital Economy (Phase 2)	The project is financed by IsDB and aims to develop a policy framework to maximize FDI inflows in digital sectors of the CAREC region.	In progress, due to be complete in August 2022
4	Water Infrastructure in Central Asia: Promoting Sustainable Financing and	The overall objective of this activity is to promote sustainable financing of the water infrastructure in irrigated agriculture of Central Asia to promote food security and the economic wellbeing of the region.	In progress, due to complete September 2022

Table 1. List of research projects of CAREC Institu	ıte
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	Private Capital Participation	The project's specific objective is to map out current water infrastructure financing and identify the potential for increased private financing of the water sector. Moreover, the project will target evidence-based solutions and recommendations on exploration for additional private funding through elements of PPP, privatization, and outsourcing of public services in the water sector using best practices from other countries.	
5	analysis of selected CAREC transport corridors' Corridor Performance Measurement and Monitoring and Time Release Study results	The project will synthesize comparative cost and time delays of selected CAREC transport corridors at Border Crossing Points (BCPs) and investigate the cost and time delays' impact on trade facilitation. It will also synthesize and project the correlation between cost and time delays' at BCPs.	In progress, due to be completed in December 2022
6	Building Robust Public Health Systems for Regional Integration – Lessons for the CAREC region	The ongoing global pandemic has exposed CAREC healthcare systems and clearly demonstrated the need for regional cooperation. This project study will analyze the health systems of CAREC member countries by identifying opportunities for regional collaboration to draw on the best expertise available and aim at implementing the CAREC Health Strategy 2030 by breaking new ground for building robust public health systems and advancing regional health cooperation in the CAREC region.	Moved to Work Plan 2023.
7	CAREC Institute Annual Research Conference titled " RESILIENCE AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN TIMES OF HIGH UNCERTAINTY	The conference aims to catalyze research and capacity building collaboration for producing cutting-edge research products that will keep CAREC economies in the forefront of sustainable development and economic integration. The conference will identify means to revisit and rethink of past, current and future of the CAREC region from intellectual and economic development perspectives. As an outcome, the flagship product <b>"CAREC Institute Annual Book"</b> will be published in December 2022.	In progress, due to complete December 2022

RD also provided inputs for ministerial deliverable, "CAREC Post-Pandemic Framework for Green, Sustainable and Inclusive Recovery"

In addition, the research division constantly publishes individual research papers<sup>1</sup> and collaborates with other divisions in supervising research under CI Visiting Fellow Program (VFP) and the CTTN Grants Program<sup>2</sup>. Moreover, the CI has succeeded in mobilizing external funding as well. This has been realized in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), Islamic Development Bank (IsDB),

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> For more details about the individual research papers, please see the annex 3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> For more details about the projects within this initiative, please see the annex 1.

and Civil Aviation Authority China (CAAC), who have provided financial support for the implementation of joint projects.

While the research activities for the second Visiting Fellows Programme batch are still ongoing, the **five research works are finalized** under the first batch and **one research paper** under the second batch of the VFP 2021, detailed as below:

- Comparing Regional Integration for Sustainable Development in ASEAN and CAREC Economics: Lessons for CAREC Region. The paper suggested that facilitation of movement of people, substantial regulatory cooperation in digital trade, trade in information and communications technology goods, and development of e-commerce platforms are essential for sustainable development in the CAREC region.
- COVID-19 Pandemic and Impact of Environmental Regulations on Pollutive Industrial Trade: CAREC vs. OECD regions: 2006-2020. This study examined the impact of environmental regulations on trade competitiveness for CAREC countries, and their bilateral export flows with environmentally stringent OECD countries in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. This research finds vivid evidence of the CAREC region becoming a pollution haven for most pollutive exports to OECD countries. The study recommends the CAREC region ensure that the 2030 sustainable development agenda aligns the ambitious and speedy environmental regulations compliance targets with greener industrial production and trade.
- The work Services Gravity in the CAREC Region aims to investigate the gravity of trade in services in the CAREC region by providing suggestive evidence of the great potential of trade in services arrangements between the countries. The research applied the modified Gravity Trade Model to investigate the impact of service flows on the potential bilateral destination-product trade to highlight the effective trade between member countries. The results suggest that the higher flow of trade in services increases the product trade positively.
- Fostering Prosperity in Ferghana Valley through Economic Development, Cross Border Trade, and Investment. This research looked at the FV as a high-risk and high opportunity area, which deserves serious in-depth research and analysis. The author made a case for the positive transformation of a largely agriculture-oriented, isolated, and fragmented region into the center of regional growth and prosperity for entire Central Asia. The current momentum of open trade and market reforms in centrally located Uzbekistan is highly conducive to materializing this optimistic scenario.
- Human Capital Development and Regional Cooperation and Integration in the CAREC Region: Lessons from ASEAN. Using four indices, namely, the Human Development Index (HDI), Human Capital Index (HCI), the CAREC Regional Integration Index (CRII), and the Asia Pacific Regional Integration Index (ACRII), this research work aims to investigate the relationship between investments in health and education and regional cooperation and integration outcomes through a comparative study of the performance of countries in the CAREC and ASEAN subregions.

Beyond that, the CI has engaged in **three collaborative research projects** with external partners that have had an investigative look into civil aviation development and digital trade in CAREC countries.

The first one is the **Civil Aviation Development in Kazakhstan and Mongolia** project. This study highlighted the current development status of the civil aviation industry in Kazakhstan and Mongolia and explored the development needs for further improving the air transport conditions. The project provided evidence-based policy suggestions for further strengthening the CAREC regional civil aviation connectivity in the future. Based on this successful collaboration, the CI and CAAC have initiated the second project on **Civil Aviation Development in Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and** 

**Georgia** with the aim to examine the advantages, disadvantages, opportunities, threats, and other factors that the four countries are facing in promoting the development of civil aviation.

The third one is on **Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation in CAREC 2021**, which was completed in partnership with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP). The analysis suggests that implementing 'Digital Trade Facilitation' measures enabling the seamless electronic exchange of trade data and documents across borders could result in a reduction of about 17% in a full implementation scenario. For countries to reap the benefits from digital trade facilitation, the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (CPTA) could support countries by providing a dedicated, inclusive, and capacity-building focused intergovernmental platform.

## **Progress on Capacity Building activities**

The CAREC Institute has fully transitioned into delivering systematic and holistic capacity-building (CB) activities to target participants. Based on its Rolling Operational Plan, the Institute aims to deliver 12 core capacity-building programs annually, each one of which entails a series of extended activities. For instance, the country-specific workshop on Road Safety Engineering for Turkmenistan and the Knowledge Sharing Program on Chinese Best Practice in Cross-Border E-commerce were successfully completed (during the first half of 2022) through as many as 24 separate modules. In 2022 thus far, the Institute has completed nine out of 12 (75%) core CB activities. Five (more than 50%) of the completed ones are research-based. During this reporting period, the Institute convened six additional workshops jointly with developing partners in more pressing areas of regional cooperation. Therefore, some of the planned core workshops were either replaced or postponed to the second half of 2022.

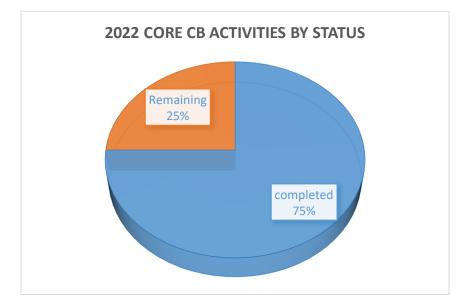


Figure 1. Status of Capacity Building activities of CAREC Institute for 2022

With upgraded E-Learning infrastructure, the Institute has made all the preparation (during the first half of 2022) to apply hybrid CB modalities in the second half of 2022 (details reflected in the annexed presentation's CB slide). In 2022, a mixture of face-to-face, live streaming, and recorded workshops will be offered to target participants – engaging them in a full cycle of capacity development.

Since the last SOM, the CAREC Institute CB approach has gone through a further transformation. It is more resilient, agile, systemized, and diversified to swiftly design and deliver CB programs in various

cascading formats, including training of trainers (ToT). Depending on the thematic area of CB needs, the Institute can transform its approach to quickly respond and offer knowledge services to member countries and all stakeholders in a timely and effective manner. For instance, this year (based on the growing needs), the Institute has launched a series of thematic dialogues in pressing areas of regional cooperation like sustainable water management and governance and poverty reduction during conflicts (i.e., geopolitical conflicts in Ukraine and Afghanistan).

As of now, the Institute designs and delivers CB activities in the form of **workshops**, **conferences**, **policy discussions**, **expert roundtables**, **best practices/knowledge sharing**, **thematic dialogues and CAREC Chai series** to help the target audience acquire crucial knowledge and practical skills. Through diversified formats, targeted capacities are developed in member countries to meet the immediate and pressing needs for enhanced regional cooperation. This way, the Institute is also engaged with national, regional, and international partners and is leading and shaping development discussions in and around the CAREC Program priority clusters. It is in line with the Institute's strategic aspiration of being the knowledge broker in the CAREC region. Hence, the Institute's knowledge services are increasingly diversified and jointly delivered with key implementing partners – optimizing various modalities and leveraging efforts to serve member countries as aptly and effectively as possible.

To overcome the pandemic, the Institute has acquired the agility and resilience needed for an impactful intergovernmental knowledge institution in an increasingly interconnected and vulnerable world. The Institute has strengthened its physical and virtual capabilities to proactively offer support to member countries at any time. The Institute is able to optimize its geographical reach and growing E-Learning capabilities in designing and delivering hybrid and blended learning CB programs to target audiences in the CAREC region and beyond.

The Institute has been able to systematically link its CB activities with its knowledge generation products. Almost all of the Institute's CB activities are based on its own research and delivered by its own experts. The Institute has also started delivering training of trainers' programs to form communities of practice at technical levels. Efforts on this front have produced promising results in the areas of water management, cross-border e-commerce, and road asset management. The Institute is intensifying efforts to cover other CAREC priority clusters, i.e., human development (the Institute is planning to design a flagship CAREC Leadership Program and a practical road safety curriculum).

Optimizing physical and virtual (E-Learning platform) capabilities, the CAREC Institute has been able to offer knowledge support to an increasing number of target audiences. All delivered CB activities since June 2020 are recorded and uploaded to the CAREC Institute E-Learning Platform in the form of digital learning modules (DLMs). The number of target participants and audiences attending CAREC Institute workshops and visiting its E-Learning platform is increasing significantly — in the thousands — as reflected in the annexed presentation CB slide.

As of now, over 50 DLMs have been uploaded on the platform with videos, presentations, and other relevant materials. More than half of the total DLMs (around 30 DLMs) were uploaded during the first half of 2022, attracting as many as 10,000 additional visitors during the period. The Chart below indicates the annual accumulated increase in the number of DLMs, visitors, and visits to the CAREC Institute E-Learning Platform. Besides the increase in statistics, the Institute has expanded the platform's capabilities to provide new forms of intervention. Since March 2022, a "quiz" has been added for each Cross-border E-commerce Training Program session. The Institute has also started exploring activities in other functionalities, such as expert interviews, surveys, etc. Also, the CAREC Institute E-Learning platform is utilized by other partners, including ADB and ADBI.

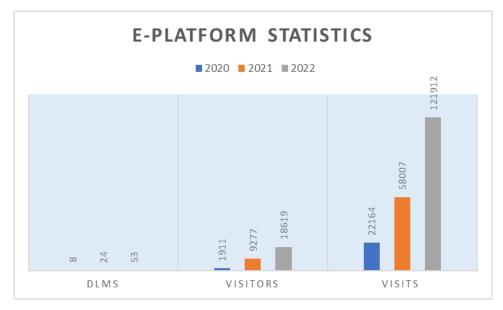


Figure 2. CAREC Institute E-Platform Statistics 2020-2022

In conclusion, the Institute has turned challenges of the Covid19 pandemic into opportunities to achieve major transformational milestones in its CB efforts. The Institute has impactfully intensified CB efforts in quantity and quality to serve all stakeholders under any circumstances. More importantly, the Institute's CB services are impactful and accessible. Target audiences are engaged in a full cycle of capacity development. Also, all activities are strongly interlinked to cascade knowledge and avoid one-event off activities. Every delivered CB activity is being recorded, uploaded, and made accessible to all on the CAREC Institute E-Learning platform. With slowly opening ups and easing of travels in most CAREC member countries, the Institute is prepared and aims to further intensify CB efforts in hybrid modes – continuing with virtual activities while slowly re-starting delivery of physical events in blended formats a combination of face-to-face and virtual attendances.

## Progress on Knowledge Management activities

The KM team continues to promote CI's role as a knowledge hub in 2022 by customizing its knowledge products based on the stakeholder analysis, expanding its dissemination channels, improving the quality of KM products, and synchronizing with research and capacity-building activities.

**Key Knowledge Products.** *E-Newsletter* - The CAREC Institute's newsletter is an important instrument in providing information and knowledge to the public. The newsletter required an improvement as it did not have a unique and distinguishable design, provision of "inside stories" and highlights of "quotations" from presentations and speeches, etc. The KM team has made continuous efforts to improve the quality and content of this product. From April 2022, the CI newsletter has adopted **a new contemporary design with dynamic colors**. From May 2022, the CI Newsletter starts to have a section dedicated to **research digests** of articles published by CI and becomes **available in English, Chinese, and Russian in a single design**. So far, the KM team has produced **five newsletters** in the first half of this year. Totally **36 newsletters** were produced and disseminated during the period from May 2019 to May 2022. It currently reaches more than 3000 stakeholders monthly. The KM team is conducting the Newsletter Satisfaction Survey among its readers to further improve its structure and content. **Knowledge Outreach and Advocacy.** KM team continues to promote CI's knowledge products through the website, social media platforms, Development Asia platform, and the email network in a timely manner. Considering the language demands of member countries and reaching a wider audience, some knowledge products have been produced in multi-languages. So far, **16 publications** have been posted on the website in the first half of this year.

The Development Asia partnership continued with **three more additions** as of May 31, 2022, on the Development Asia platform, amounting to a total of **18 knowledge adaptations with another 6 in the pipeline**. KM team continues to operate the social media platforms, disseminate CI's knowledge of products, events, and news on the social media platforms, and interact with the followers. As of May 31, 2022, with a total of **1328 followers**, CI has made 82 posts on the **LinkedIn account**, viewed by 4,570 people; out of which, 286 clicked to read further, and 127 reacted to the posts. Besides these, with a total of **14733 followers**, CI has made 77 posts and gained 473 followers in the first half of this year on its **Weibo account**. All posts had 84,000 views, 3,100 likes, and comments. Moreover, there are 125 posts made and gained **317 followers** on its **WeChat account**.

**Inter-Division Cooperation.** KM team has adopted a proactive approach to work more closely with other divisions. *Maintaining and Updating Stakeholder List* - KM team has started to build up CI's stakeholder list since its functioning in 2019. The stakeholder list was created and increased from 500 in 2019 to 3000 in 2021. However, the list was not categorized and updated with the latest changes. Therefore, the KM team has made efforts to update the list by working with other divisions. In this way, KM will continue to expand CI's external distribution list and better disseminate CI's knowledge products and events to our target audience. *In-House Design* - KM team has continuously improved the in-house design capacity. The team has completed **nine flyers**, **15 covers**, **and two typesetting designs** for various activities in the first half of this year.

**Wider Dissemination of Key Activities** - The KM team has worked closely with other divisions to disseminate the announcements of CI's workshops, events, seminars, and job vacancies. The announcements were disseminated through multi-platforms and reposted by partner organizations, and the reminder emails were distributed through the email network. The 2<sup>nd</sup> CAREC Chai, the e-commerce training sessions, the water policy dialogue, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> research conference have seen an increase in the number of participants.

KM team had produced **four promotion videos** in three languages for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Research Conference on a cost-effective basis. And the team had engaged with media coordinators to increase media coverage of this flagship event of CI. As a result, this event has been widely **covered by the wellrecognized media outlets in Central Asian countries and Pakistan**.

Due to the Internet access restriction, Google and some popular social media platforms cannot be used in the host city. The KM team has made efforts to address this issue. Apps will be adopted and in place by the end of this June. And in this way, the KM team will better operate its LinkedIn account and set up new social media platforms in the second half of this year. KM produced CI's "Major Publication" booklet, which lists important analytical documents produced by the CAREC Institute. The booklet will be used in CI's external communication with international and national stakeholders.KM produced CI's Factsheet for 2022, containing the essential information about the CAREC Institute and its activities.

#### Project activities:

**Partnership on TVET and WASH-**KMD continued work with external partners on WASH and TVET research projects providing specialist input and proofreading for the Russian translation of the TVET

final report. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the internal ADB review process, more activities are scheduled for the second half of this year.

**CPMM** – KM team continues active engagement in CPMM advocacy through producing CPMM briefs and related PR activities. KM team presented a note with recommendations for improving CPMM briefs to the joint CI-ADB CPMM team. Newly designed and structured CPMM briefs will be shorter and more focused on policy rationale and recommendations. The briefs and executive memos will be produced and disseminated to targeted groups in English and Russian.

#### New KM Concepts

**Brand Book** - With the increase in the role and activities of the CAREC Institute, its recognition increases. In supporting and making more recognizable Institute's knowledge products, the KM team is working on building its unique and distinguishable brand. Its output materials, including the newsletter, CPMM briefs, presentations, etc. A Concept Note is drafted.

**Communication strategy** - Communication strategy is the choice of the most useful objectives of communication, recognition of a particular brand, and better positioning. So far, the CAREC Institute does not have a communication strategy that could guide its knowledge dissemination, branding, and visibility. Therefore, KMD is working on this. A draft concept is produced for further improvements. The CAREC Secretariat recently launched a survey on the preferences and attitudes on news and information use of CAREC stakeholders and target audience. KM team is involved in the process and will incorporate the observations from this survey when further improving the communication strategy.

# ANNEXES

Annex 1 – Research works under	the CTTN Grants Program
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No	Title	Status
1	Regional Integration through Community Entrepreneurship: Learning from the 'One	In
	Tambon, One Product' Programme In the Greater Mekong Subregion	Publication
		process
2	Multi-Vector Ocean Corridors-Policy Proposals for Development of the Northern	In
	Corridor	Publication
		process
3	Customizing the CAREC corridors: Product Specificity of the intra-bloc and extra-	In
	bloc trade	Publication
		process
4	Trade Potential, Resistance Factors in CAREC and Policy Implications under	In
	RCEP: An Empirical Study Using SFA	Publication
		process
5	Are Productivity Spillovers from Chinese Outward Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)	In
	Contingent on Socio-Economic Characteristics of CAREC Countries? Evidence	Publication
	from Dynamic Endogenous Threshold Model	process

## Annex 3 - Staff Papers

Ν	Author & Title of the Paper	Status
0		
1	Qaisar Abbas. Sustainability challenges in public health sector procurement: An application of interpretative structural modelling <a href="https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0038012121000203?via%3">https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0038012121000203?via%3</a> <a href="https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0038012121000203?via%3">https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0038012121000203?via%3</a> <a href="https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0038012121000203?via%3">https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0038012121000203?via%3</a> <a href="https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0038012121000203?via%3">https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0038012121000203?via%3</a> <a href="https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0038012121000203?via%3">https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0038012121000203?via%3</a>	Publishe d
2	Qaisar Abbas. Exploring a pathway to carbon neutrality via reinforcing environmental performance through green process innovation, environmental orientation and green competitive advantage <u>https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0301479721014456?via%3Dihu</u> <u>b</u>	Publishe d
3	Khalid Umar. Financial Inclusion and Fintech in CAREC: Constraints and Prospects	Publishe
	https://www.carecinstitute.org/publications/working-paper-financial-inclusion-and- fintech-in-carec-constraints-and-prospects/	d
4	Iskandar Abdullaev & Shakhboz Akhmedov. CAREC Corridors: Increased Connectivity and Improved Trade, Chapter 2 of the book: Unlocking Transport Connectivity in the Trans-Caspian Corridor. https://www.adb.org/publications/unlocking-transport-connectivity-trans-caspian- corridor	Publishe d
5	Iskandar Abdullaev, Shakhboz Akhmedov et al., Building a New Sustainable Economy. Investing in Infrastructure for Distribution and Wellbeing <u>https://www.t20italy.org/2021/09/21/building-a-new-sustainable-economy-</u> investing-in-infrastructure-for-distribution-and-well-being/	Publishe d

6	Ghulam Samad, Qaisar Abbas & Iskandar Abdullaev. COVID-19 and micro small medium enterprises in the CAREC region: impacts and coping strategies. Chapter 11 of the book: Intersecting. Volume 02/2021.	
7	Ghulam Samad. Pakistan Trade with Central Asia. Book chapter.	Due Decembe r 2021
8	Iskandar Abdullaev & Shakhboz Akhmedov. Financing Infrastructure in Central Asia: The Water Sector. Book chapter.	Due 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter'2 2