



## AGENDA OF THE CAREC INSTITUTE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Theme: COVID-19 and Potential for Economic Recovery in CAREC Region  
4-5 March 2021

Time	SESSIONS
<b>DAY ONE – 04 March 2021</b>	
<b>OPENING SESSION</b> <b>Chair: Dr Ziqian Liang</b> , Deputy Director One, CAREC Institute	
Time (Beijing time) 10.45 – 11.00	Thematic videos to be screened
Time (Beijing time) 11.00 – 11.45	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Opening Remarks (6 mins each). <b>Mr Syed Shakeel Shah</b>, Director, CAREC Institute <b>Dr Tetsushi Sonobe</b>, Dean and CEO, Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) <b>Mr Safdar Parvez</b>, Director, Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination, Central and West Asia Department, Asian Development Bank (ADB)</li><li>2. Introductory Notes of the CAREC Institute Research Conference and Annual Book (7 mins) <b>Dr Qaisar Abbas</b>, Chief of Research Division, CAREC Institute</li><li>3. Keynote address (20 mins) <b>Prof Dr Richard Pomfret</b>, Professor of Economics at the University of Adelaide</li></ol>
Time (Beijing time) 11.45 – 11.55	Short break (10 mins)



**Session one: Digital CAREC and post-COVID-19 economic recovery**  
**Chair: Dr Ziyang David Fan, Head of Digital Trade, World Economic Forum**

<p>Time (Beijing time) 11.55 – 13.45</p>	<p>Introduction and opening remarks by chair</p> <p>1. <i>Digital Transformation in Central Asia: Challenges and Lessons Learned from the Global Pandemic</i> <b>Mr Farrukh Khakimov</b>, Development Strategy Center, Uzbekistan</p> <p><i>Discussant</i> <b>Dr Naoyuki Yoshino</b>, Professor Emeritus-Keio University of Tokyo, Japan</p> <p>2. <i>Improved health conditions and digital transformation: a post-COVID-19 analysis</i> <b>Dr Muhammad Zeshan</b>, Consultant, The World Bank, Islamabad, Pakistan</p> <p><i>Discussant</i> <b>Dr Inez Mikkelsen Lopez</b>, Health Specialist, ADB</p> <p>3. <i>E-commerce Taxation in Central Asia: Current State and Opportunity for Reform</i> <b>Mr Nikolai Milogolov</b>, PhD, Head of Laboratory of Tax Policy Research at the Institute of Applied Economic Research of the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPA), Russia</p> <p><i>Discussant</i> <b>Dr Minsoo Lee</b>, Senior Economist, Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination, Central and West Asia Department, ADB</p> <p>4. <i>Adaptability towards Teleworking Arrangements: Evidence from Pakistan</i> <b>Dr Umer Khalid</b>, Director Research, Policy Research, Innovation, Development and Education (PRIDE), Pakistan</p> <p><i>Discussant</i> <b>Mr Daniel Suryadarma</b>, Research Fellow, ADBI</p>
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	<p>5. Financial Inclusion in the CAREC Region: Promoting Fintech to Meet Underserved Needs in Trade Finance</p> <p><b>Dr Minsoo Lee</b>, Senior Economist, Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination, Central and West Asia Department, ADB</p> <p><i>Discussant</i></p> <p><b>Mr Long Q. Trinh</b>, Project Consultant, ADBI</p> <p>Q&amp;A session (30 mins)</p>
Time (Beijing time) 13.45 – 14.30	Health break (45 mins)
<p><b>Session two: Regional Integration and Macroeconomic Dynamics Beyond COVID-19 Pandemic</b></p> <p><b>Chair: Prof. Dr Saeed Akbar</b>, Chair in Accounting and Finance, and Head of Accounting, Finance and Economics Research Centre, University of Bradford, UK</p>	
Time (Beijing time) 14.30 – 16.05	<p>Introduction and opening remarks by chair</p> <p>1. <i>How Kazakhstan sees ASEAN and its member countries in a post COVID-19 new normal</i></p> <p><b>Dr Alessandro Arduino</b>, Principal research fellow MEI, National University of Singapore</p> <p><b>Dr Paradorn Rangsimaporn</b>, Minister-Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission, Royal Thai Embassy, Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan</p> <p><b>Ms Inkar Aitkuzhina</b>, Database Specialist, Apple South Asia</p> <p><i>Discussant</i></p> <p><b>Dr Dina Azhgaliyeva</b>, Research fellow, ADBI</p> <p>2. <i>Pakistan's economic recovery and development in the post-epidemic era (COVID-19) - to explore the prospects of China-Pakistan energy cooperation</i></p> <p><b>Lv Zhiping</b>, Xinjiang University of Finance and Economics</p> <p><i>Discussant</i></p>



	<p><b>Dr Ghulam Samad</b>, Senior Research Officer, CAREC Institute</p> <p>3. <i>Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Pakistan &amp; Central Bank Response</i>  <b>Mr Muhammad Moaiz Siddiqui</b>, Deputy Director, Financial Stability Department, State Bank of Pakistan</p> <p><i>Discussant</i>  <b>Dr Ulrich Volz</b>, Director of the Centre for Sustainable Finance, SOAS, University of London</p> <p>4. <i>Debt and Debt Sustainability in the CAREC Region</i>  <b>Dr Naseem Faraz</b>, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics</p> <p><i>Discussant</i>  <b>Dr John Beirne</b>, Research Fellow, ADBI</p> <p>Q&amp;A session (30 mins)</p>
16.05 – 16.15	Recap of the first day by <b>Dr Qaisar Abbas</b> , Chief of Research Division, CAREC Institute

## DAY TWO – 5 March 2021

### Session three: Tourism Sector in Times of High Uncertainty Chair: **Dr Qaisar Abbas**, Chief of Research Division, CAREC Institute

Time (Beijing time) 10.45 – 11.00	Thematic videos to be screened
Time (Beijing time) 11.00 – 12.10	<p>Introduction and opening remarks by chair</p> <p>1. <i>COVID-19 Impact on the Sustainable Development of Cities of Central Asia: The Case Study of the Capital City of Afghanistan</i>  <b>Dr Madina Junussova</b>, Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Public Policy and Administration, University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan</p> <p><i>Discussant</i></p>



	<p><b>Mr Ayoob Ayoobi</b>, Chief of Capacity Building Division, CAREC Institute</p> <p><i>2. Recovering from the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Tourism Industry in Selected Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Countries</i></p> <p><b>Dr Nam Foo</b>, Research Associate, School of Business and Law, Edith Cowan University, Perth / Lecturer, Curtin University, Perth, Western Australia</p> <p><i>Discussant</i></p> <p><b>Dr Matthias Helble</b>, Senior Economist, ADB</p> <p><i>3. Network Analysis of Tourism Stocks During COVID-19 Pandemic: An Evidence from CAREC Region</i></p> <p><b>Dr Tahir Mumtaz Awan &amp; Mr Mrestyal Khan</b>, Department of Management Sciences, Comsats University, Pakistan</p> <p><i>Discussant</i></p> <p><b>Mr Sanjay Saxena</b>, Managing Director, Total Synergy Consulting, India</p> <p>Q&amp;A (20 mins)</p>
<p>Time (Beijing time) 12.10 – 12.20</p>	<p>Short break (10 mins)</p>
<p><b>Session four: Industries and Enterprises for Restart and Recovery</b> <b>Chair: Dr Dina Azhgaliyeva</b>, Research Fellow, ADBI</p>	
<p>Time (Beijing time) 12.20 – 14.10</p>	<p>Introduction and opening remarks by chair</p> <p><i>1. Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Small and Medium Enterprises in the CAREC Region</i></p> <p><b>Dr Brendan Duprey</b>, Director of the Sustainable Kazakhstan Research Institute, Narxoz University, Kazakhstan</p> <p><b>Ms Aizhan Salimzhanova</b>, Lecturer, Kazakh-British Technical University, Kazakhstan</p> <p><i>Discussant</i></p>



**Dr Ranjeeta Mishra**, Project Consultant, ADBI

*2. Analysis of COVID-19 Pandemic's Impacts on Azerbaijan's Oil Industry: Policy Lessons in Hard Times*

**Dr Ulviyye Aydin**, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Manisa Celal Bayar University, Department of Political Science and International Relations, Turkey

*Discussant*

**Dr Kamalbek Karymshakov**, Economist, Chief Economist Group, CAREC Institute

*3. Impact of psychological distress due to COVID-19 risk on bank employees' performance: Moderating effect of e-banking services*

**Mr Waheed Ali**, School of Economics and Finance, Xian Jiaotong University, China

*Discussant*

**Mr Khalid Umar**, Chief of Strategic Planning Division, CAREC Institute

*4. Converging Environmental Necessities and Energy Requirements: Producing Renewable Energy and Hydrogen for Economic Revitalization and Growth in the Post-COVID-19 Pandemic*

**Dr Hooman Peimani**, Affiliated Fellow, International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS) and Energy Programme Asia, Leiden University, the Netherlands

*Discussant*

**Mr Rovshan Mahmudov**, Senior Capacity Building Specialist, CAREC Institute

*5. Impact of COVID-19 on Small and Medium-sized enterprises in Central Asia: Coping Strategies, Government Responses and Policy Options.*

**Dr Falendra Kumar Sudan**, Professor of Economics, University of Jammu, Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir, India

*Discussant*

**Dr Ghulam Samad**, Senior Research Officer, CAREC Institute

Q&A (30 mins)



Time (Beijing time) 14.10 – 14.50	Health break (40 mins)
<b>Special session: Research Partnership Dialogue</b> <b>Chair: Mr Khalid Umar</b> , Chief Strategic Planning Division, CAREC Institute	
Time (Beijing time) 14.50 – 15.50	<p><i>Opening and Setting the Stage by chair</i></p> <p>1. Digital CAREC <b>Dr Matthew Stephenson</b>, Policy and Community Lead for International Trade and Investment, World Economic Forum</p> <p>2. WASH project <b>Mr Dang Haipeng</b>, Chief of Knowledge Management Division, CAREC Institute</p> <p>3. ADBI/CAREC Institute Joint Book on Infrastructure Development in Central Asia <b>Dr Dina Azhgaliyeva</b>, Research Fellow, ADBI</p> <p>4. PIDE/CI partnership on Debt and Financial Sustainability in the CAREC region <b>Dr Durre Nayab</b>, Head of Research, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics</p> <p>5. CAREC Institute's Partnership Matrix presentation <b>Mr Shakhboz Akhmedov</b>, Senior Research Fellow, Knowledge and Research Networking, CAREC Institute</p>
Time (Beijing time) 15.50 – 16.00	Short break (10 mins)



### PANEL DISCUSSION & CLOSING SESSION

**Chair: Dr Iskandar Abdullaev**, Deputy Director Two, CAREC Institute

Time (Beijing time) 16.00 – 17.00	<p><b>PANEL DISCUSSION:</b> Outlook for Research in the CAREC Region in a Post-COVID-19 period</p> <p><b>Dr Lyaziza Sabyrova</b>, Principal Regional Economist, ADB <b>Dr Peter Morgan</b>, Vice-Chair for Research, ADBI <b>Dr Hans Holz hacker</b>, Chief Economist, CAREC Institute <b>Dr Vaqar Ahmed</b>, Joint Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Pakistan</p>
Time (Beijing time) 17.00 – 17.30	<p><b>CLOSING SESSION</b></p> <p>1. Report of the conference and future perspectives <b>Dr Qaisar Abbas</b>, Chief of Research Division, CAREC Institute</p> <p>2. Closing Remarks <b>Mr Syed Shakeel Shah</b>, Director, CAREC Institute</p>