



**5th** CAREC Think Tanks  
Development Forum



ECONOMIC CORRIDORS: PATHWAYS TO REGIONAL GROWTH

# CAREC Think Tanks Network (CTTN): Stocktaking and Roadmap

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# Establishment of CTTN

- Leading think tanks from the CAREC member countries agreed to establish the CAREC Think Tanks Network (CTTN) during the second CAREC Think Tanks Development Forum (CTTDF) in Urumqi, People's Republic of China (PRC), in 2017 to provide innovative solutions for promoting economic cooperation by recognizing importance of regional perspectives.
- The “Urumqi Declaration” became the founding document of the CTTN.
- Currently, the network include over 60 think tanks, research institutions, universities and policy centers from CAREC countries.



# CTTN Activities: CAREC Think Tanks Development Forum

The CAREC Think Tanks Development Forum (CTTDF) is organized annually under the auspices of the CTTN. The forum has become an attractive platform for think tanks, academia, private sector and governments from the CAREC region and beyond to exchange views and knowledge on evolving regional and global policy challenges:

- First Forum: “Promoting Economic Cooperation for an Integrated Central Asia”, Almaty, Kazakhstan, June 2016
- Second Forum: “Exploring Knowledge Solutions for Regional Cooperation and Integration”, Urumqi, PRC, September 2017
- Third Forum: “Building Knowledge Corridors along the Silk Road”, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, June 2018
- Fourth Forum: “Trading for Shared Prosperity”, Xi'an, PRC, August 2019



# CTTN Activities: Research Conference and Annual Book

The first CAREC Institute Research Conference titled "COVID-19 and Potential for Economic Recovery" was conducted in March 2021. The Conference's objective is to catalyze Research and capacity-building collaboration for producing cutting-edge research products that will keep CAREC economies at the forefront of sustainable development and economic integration.

The conference activities aim to identify means to revisit and rethink of past, current, and future of the CAREC region from intellectual and economic development perspectives.

The flagship product of the Conference, "CAREC Institute Annual Book," will be published in electronic mode by February 2022.



**Research Conference Report**

**COVID-19 AND POTENTIAL FOR ECONOMIC  
RECOVERY IN THE CAREC REGION**

**March 2021**

# CTTN Activities: Research Grants Program (RGP)

In 2019, the CTTN launched its RGP to support scholars and researchers from CTTN members to produce targeted knowledge products which will add to the body of knowledge on regional cooperation in CAREC. The successful teams produce research paper, policy brief and have opportunities to present in CI and ADB platforms (such as Development Asia) and share outcomes with CAREC policy makers:

2019	2020	2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Assessing participation of CAREC countries in global and regional value chains;</li> <li>(ii) Study of cross-border tourism value chains between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan;</li> <li>(iii) Impact of sanitary, phytosanitary, and quality-related standards on the trade flow between CAREC countries and Georgia;</li> <li>(iv) Opportunities and challenges for agri-food trade between the Kyrgyz Republic and Pakistan;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Exploring exports-driven growth: Learning from Pakistan-China Free Trade Agreement, and</li> <li>(ii) Prospects of tourism sector development in Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic including Almaty-Bishkek Economic Corridor.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Community Entrepreneurship in Central Asia: Learning from the “One Tambon, One Product” Program in the Greater Mekong Subregion</li> <li>(ii) The CAREC and its Neighboring Regions: A diagnostic of the intra-bloc and extra-bloc trade</li> <li>(iii) Trade Efficiency and Influencing Factors in CAREC Region: Based on Stochastic Frontier Gravity Model</li> <li>(iv) Technology gap and productivity spillovers from Chinese outward Foreign Direct Investment</li> </ul>

# CTTN Activities: Webinars, Dialogues and Joint Projects

The CTTN expands its partnership with the global and regional think tank networks and institutions through joint projects:

- ADB-Asian Think Tanks Development Forum in Myanmar in 2019;
- Global Think Tanks Forum in Brazil in 2019;
- Webinar Thinking through the crisis - the Role of Think Tanks in March 2021;
- Piloting CAREC Joint Think Tanks Project identifying inequalities in education, health, digital access and women in workforce – at the discussion/conceptualization stage



CAREC INSTITUTE

CAREC THINK TANKS NETWORK  
VIRTUAL DIALOGUE

**THINKING THROUGH CRISIS –  
THE ROLE OF THINK TANKS**

24 March 2021, 4:00-6:00 P.M. BEIJING/MANILA (GMT +8)  
VIA ZOOM (PRIOR REGISTRATION REQUIRED)

 <b>KHALID UMAR</b> Chief of Strategic Planning Division, CAREC Institute	 <b>Dr. NELLA HENDRIETTY</b> Senior Capacity Building and Training Economist, ADB Institute	 <b>Dr. HANS HOLZHACKER</b> Chief Economist, CAREC Institute	 <b>Dr. BEIJIE TANG</b> Deputy Secretary-General, Center for China and Globalization, FRC
 <b>Dr. ABID QAIYUM SULERI</b> Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Pakistan	 <b>Dr. XIAOJUN GRACE WANG</b> Deputy Director, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation	 <b>Dr. TUVSHINTUGS BATDELGER</b> Executive Director, Economic Research Institute, Mongolia	 <b>NARMINA GASIMOVA</b> Grants and Programs Director, Center for Economic and Social Development, Azerbaijan



# CTTN ROADMAP

The Network will aim to play an active role in idea exchange, network stimulation and knowledge interface through:

Build and Hold Knowledge	Pool Knowledge	Use Knowledge
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research Grants Program</li> <li>• CAREC Research Conference</li> <li>• ADB-CI Fellowship Program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual Think Tank Forum</li> <li>• CTTN Blog</li> <li>• CTTN Depository of Knowledge</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual Think Tank Forum</li> <li>• Think Tank Talk Series</li> <li>• CTTN Policy Dialogue</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In addition to expanding partnership within the region, early next year, the CTTN will join the <b>South-South Global Thinkers platform (<a href="https://www.ssc-globalthinkers.org/">https://www.ssc-globalthinkers.org/</a>) – a network of global networks – as a representative network of CTTN members and</b> develop cooperation with the UN Office on South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC).</li> <li>• Deepen engagement with Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, University of Pennsylvania, and ADB’s Asian Think Tanks Network (ATTN).</li> </ul>		

# For Discussion

- Seeking opinion on the next Forum:
  - In virtual or in-person modality;
  - Any volunteers to partner with the CAREC Institute for the next forum;
  - Other suggestions;
- Improvement in other CTTN activities, for example,
  - Current procedure of the Research Grants Program;
  - Expectations from CTTN members;
- Improvement in engagement of regional think tanks in the Network:
  - How the network members can better engage in CTTN activities;
  - What CTTN members can offer to the Network;



# THANK YOU

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