



CAREC Regional Workshop
Promoting Cooperation in Higher Education and Skills Development in CAREC Countries

27–28 March 2019
Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

AGENDA

Day 1: Wednesday 27 March 2019

08:30–09:00 Registration

09:00–09:10 **Welcome Remarks**

Government representative from Kyrgyz Republic

09:10–09:20 **Opening Remarks**

Ms. Candice McDeigan, Country Director, Kyrgyz Republic Resident Mission, ADB

09:20–09:30 **Overview of ADB's Operations on Skills and Education**

Ms. Rie Hiraoka, Director, Social Sector Division, CWRD, ADB

09:30–09:40 **Introduction to the Agenda**

Mr. Safdar Parvez, Director, Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination Division, Central and West Asia Department (CWRD), ADB

09:40–11:00 **Session 1: A Regional Approach to Education and Skills Development for CAREC**

Moderator: Government representative from Kyrgyz Republic

- *"Draft Scoping Study on Enhancing Regional Cooperation in Education and Skills under CAREC"* – Presentation by Mr. Robert Wihtol, Education Specialist, ADB Consultant (15-20 min.)

Open discussion (60 min.)

11:00–11:30 Coffee/Tea break and group photo

11:30–12:30 **Session 2: Enhancing Regional Labor Markets and Skills Development**

Moderator: Mr. Sohail Naqvi, Rector, University of Central Asia

- *"Possible approaches to harmonization: skills standards, certification, and labor-market information"* – Presentation by ADB (CWSS representative) (15 min.)
- Presentation by PRC government representative (15 min.)

Open discussion (30 min.)

12:30–13:45 Lunch



13:45–15:15 **Session 2 (continued)**

Moderator: Mr. Jouko Sarvi, Lead Education Specialist, Social Sector Division, CWRD, ADB

- Presentation by ETF representative (15 min.)
- Presentation by World Bank representative (15 min.)

Open discussion (60 min.)

15:15–15:45 Coffee/Tea break

15:45–17:00 **Session 2 (continued)**

Moderator: TBD

- *Good Jobs for Inclusive Growth in Central Asia and the South Caucasus* – Presentation by Mr. Giovanni Capannelli, Country Director, Kazakhstan Resident Mission, ADB (15min.)
- Panel discussion on *“Intra-regional migration and labor movement: challenges and opportunities”* (30 min.)
Panelists: Representative from labor-exporting country (KGZ)
Representative from labor-exporting country (PAK)
Representative from labor-importing country (KAZ)
Representative from ILO
Representative from IOM

Day 2: Thursday 28 March 2019

09:00–09:10 Remarks by Dr. Shamsh Kassim-Lakha, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, University of Central Asia and AKDN Representative, Kyrgyz Republic on promoting regional cooperation in skills development and higher education in Central Asia

09:10–10:20 **Session 3: Higher Education Challenges in the CAREC Region**

Moderator: Ms. Rie Hiraoka, Director, Social Sector Division, CWRD, ADB

- *Presentation by University of Central Asia* – Presentation by Mr. Sohail Naqvi (15 min.)
- Panel discussion on *“Challenges to Academic Mobility between CAREC Countries and Beyond”* (30 min.)
Panelists: Faculty member / student representative (PRC)
Faculty member / student representative (UZB)
Faculty member / student representative (MON)
Faculty member / student representative (TKM)
Faculty member / student representative (AFG)

Q&A (25 min.)

10:20–10:45 Coffee/Tea break



10:45–12:00 **Session 4: Harmonizing Higher Education Quality and Standards**

Moderator: Mr. Robert Wihtol, Education Specialist, ADB Consultant

- *“The Bologna Process Approach to Harmonization of Higher Education Standards”* – Presentation by Mr. Reijo Aholainen (15 min.)
- *“Panel Discussion: Lessons learnt from accession to the Bologna Process and challenges in acceding”* (30 min.)

Panelists: Representative from country that has joined Bologna (AZE)
Representative from country that has joined Bologna (GEO)
Representative from country that aspires to join Bologna (KGZ)
Representative from country that aspires to join Bologna (TAJ)

Q&A (30 min.)

12:00–12:30 **Session 5: Wrap-up and next steps**

Ms. Rie Hiraoka, Director, Social Sector Division, CWRD, ADB

Mr. Safdar Parvez, Director, Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination Division, CWRD, ADB

12:30–14:00 Lunch