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# Knowledge and Capacity Building Pillar

David Kruger

CAREC Unit, ADB



# Direction

“A **knowledge and capacity building pillar** will combine the **research** strengths of our countries and MI partners, greatly increasing our ability to conduct policy **dialogue** and design and implement mutually-beneficial regional initiatives. **Training** will be initiated to form a cadre of officials skilled in regional cooperation processes. Outreach activities will broaden the inclusiveness of the CAREC Program. To coordinate these much-needed research, training, and dialogue activities, we endorse the formation of a **CAREC Institute**, with advisory guidance by eminent persons.”

—*Urumqi Declaration, 2006*

# Direction

- Research networks — region and MIs
- Formation of the CAREC Institute
- Dialogue, outreach, in-country workshops
- Policy briefs, newsletter, web site
- Business development forums and new business concepts (global value chains)
- Capacity building, workshops
- Third-party, honest broker role of MIs
- Eminent persons

— *Comprehensive Action Plan, 2006*

# Direction

- promote research and open discussion
- expand awareness and understanding of regional cooperation, potential benefits, areas of opportunity
- reinforce momentum and create support for regional cooperation

# Ongoing Work

Activities are underway in four areas:

- capacity development program
- small research grants program
- policy briefs series
- outreach

# Capacity Development Program

## Objective:

- a) train senior and mid-level officials involved in regional cooperation in skills needed to identify, plan, and effectively implement mutually beneficial initiatives
- b) deepen understanding of importance of regional cooperation and costs of noncooperation

# Capacity Development Program

- Assessment of Knowledge and Skills Needs
  - ◆ detailed, candid input
- Schedule of Learning Activities
- Launch Activity: *New Ventures in Regional Cooperation*

# Small Research Grants Program

Objective:

- a) stimulate research on issues relevant to regional cooperation and CAREC by researchers from participating countries
- b) support interaction among researchers from CAREC countries and begin development of research networks



# Small Research Grants Program

- Grants of up to \$20,000
- Call for proposals in April 2007
  - ◆ criteria, rules and regulations
- Grants offered by end-August 2007
- Final reports by end-April 2008
- Peer review of final reports
- Publishing based on quality

# Policy Briefs

Objective:

- a) develop concise reports (1,000-3,000 words) capturing key research findings
- b) deliver efficiently to senior CAREC decision-makers

# Policy Briefs

- Four-to-six briefs annually, beginning 2007
- Published in English and Russian
- Two briefs under preparation
  - a) trade barriers in CAREC economies
  - b) accessing global value chains

# Outreach

- Activities since 5th Ministerial Conference
- Strategic Framework of *CAREC Comprehensive Action Plan* published
- CAREC Newsletter published (January)
- Outreach seminars in Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan
- Briefings on Small Research Grants Program in PRC, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan
- Seminar on Implementation Challenges in Joint Customs Control, Risk Management and Post-Entry Audit (CCC)
- In-country discussions in preparation for SOM

# Outreach

Grant agreement with Central Asian Gateway Project:

- a) expand electronic think tank directory
- b) pilot informal forum of think tanks to support regional cooperation efforts
- c) broaden database of statistical information on socio-economic development and cooperation

# Outreach

High-level seminars to:

- Discuss regional cooperation issues
- Raise CAREC profile among key development partners/business community
- United States, Japan, and Europe in 2007
- Senior representatives from CAREC countries
- Local academic, think-tank, government, business community

# Discussion

- Areas for capacity development (not committee level)?
- Areas of focus for small research grants program?
- Topics for policy briefs?
- Target audiences for outreach?