

Provisional Agenda
Senior Officials' Meeting on Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation

26–27 April 2005
Auditorium Zone A, ADB Headquarters
Manila, Philippines

25 April (Monday)

1800-1930 Welcome cocktails hosted by Mr. Craig Steffensen, Head, Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Unit, ADB
Venue: Santan Room, 1st Floor Garden Wing, Edsa Shangri-La Hotel

26 April (Tuesday)

0830-0900 Registration

0900-0930 Opening session

0900-0930 Welcome/introductory remarks by Mr. H.S. Rao, Director General, ECRD, ADB

**0930-1440 Session 1: Update on work plan and activities in priority areas
(Status report by MIs and comments by country delegations)**

0930-1010 Energy: Status report by Mr. Simon Kenny, Regional Program Coordinator, Central Asia Country Unit, World Bank

1010-1030 Coffee break

1030-1110 Trade facilitation: Status report by Ms. Avonechith Siackhachanh, Director, Governance, Finance & Trade Division, ECRD, ADB

1110-1150 Trade policy: Status report by Mr. John Wakeman-Linn, Middle East and Central Asia Department, IMF

1200-1400 Lunch – Hosted by Mr. H. Satish Rao, Director General, ECRD, ADB
Venue: Private Dining Room 1, ADB

1400-1440 Transport: Status report by Mr. Nigel Rayner, Director, Transport & Communications Division, ECRD, ADB

1440-1830 Session 2: Strategic issues

1440-1455 Report on MI Coordination by Ms. Rika Ishii, Principal Economist, Office of the Chief Economist, EBRD

1455-1525 Report on consultations with governments on key issues facing CAREC by Mr. Craig Steffensen, Head, CAREC Unit, ADB

Issues to be discussed include the following:

1. *Geographic Scope/Participation*: whether to expand CAREC to include Russia and Afghanistan.
2. *Program Scope*: whether to expand the sector scope of the Program at this time.
3. *Treatment of Policy Agenda*: how and at what pace should CAREC expand its policy-level focus.
4. *Positioning CAREC*: how to position CAREC with respect to the other regional institutions and initiatives to generate synergy, strengthen CAREC, and reduce unproductive competition/duplication.
5. *Strengthening Effectiveness and Results-Based Orientation*: what additional steps can be taken (i) to strengthen the operational effectiveness of the Overall Institutional Framework (OIF); and (ii) to focus CAREC activities more on expected results.
6. *Promoting Private Sector Participation*: whether a "private sector strategy" note should be prepared for the 4th Ministerial Conference that identifies options for engaging the private sector in CAREC, including how private sector participation may be accommodated within the framework of the OIF.

1525-1545 Coffee break

1545-1830 Discussions

1930-2130 Dinner - Hosted by Mr. Joseph Eichenberger, Vice President, Operations Group 2, ADB
Venue: Santan Room, 1st Floor Garden Wing, Edsa Shangri-La Hotel

27 April (Wednesday)**0900-1100 Session 3: Strengthening regional cooperation through development of a comprehensive action plan, performance indicators, and capacity building**

- 0900-0930 Presentation on development of comprehensive action plan/performance indicators for CAREC by Mr. David Husband and Mr. George Abonyi, Senior Advisors, CAREC
- 0930-1000 Presentation on capacity building for regional cooperation; initiation of institutional review by Mr. David Husband and Mr. George Abonyi, Senior Advisors, CAREC
- 1000-1020 Coffee Break
- 1020-1050 Discussions
- 1050-1120 Presentation on the development of a regional business roundtable by Mr. Peter Brimble, Private Sector Specialist, CAREC
- 1120-1150 Discussions
- 1200-1400 Lunch
Venue: Private Dining Rooms 2-4, ADB

1400-1540 Session 4: Other issues

- 1400-1420 Update on the Central Asia human development report and Silk Road Regional Program by Mr. Wojciech Hubner, Chief Technical Advisor, Silk Road Regional Programme, UNDP
- 1420-1440 Arrangements for the September SOM and the 4th Ministerial Conference
- 1440-1540 Comments on the draft Summary of Proceedings by country delegations (AZE, PRC, KAZ, KGZ, MON, TAJ, UZB – in alphabetic order)

1540-1600 Closing session

- 1540-1600 Wrap-up and closing remarks by Mr. H. Satish Rao, Director General, ECRD, ADB