

Inclusive & Participatory Programming 2016

CAREC Institute believes in inclusive and participatory approach in designing its work program. The Institute's mission is to develop its work as desired by the member countries.

To determine member countries' needs, the CAREC Institute organized scoping missions to all member countries to conduct a need assessment exercise¹ in 2016.

The missions were led by one person from the management assisted by one staff.

Director Mr. Kubat Umurzakov, visited Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. Mr. Ziqian Liang, Deputy Director One, led the missions to Pakistan, the People's Republic of China (PRC) and Mongolia. Mr. Yergali Dosmugambet, Deputy Director Two, led the missions to Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Azerbaijan.

The scoping missions were found productive and fruitful. The purpose of the missions was advised to the respective governments resulting in well-coordinated substantive meetings.

As per the pre-defined framework of the scoping missions, focus areas and new ideas were discussed at length with relevant government agencies of the respective governments. The views were solicited about research and capacity building needs. The scoping missions returned with a wealth of information about countries' needs. Some needs were cross-cutting across all countries while others were specific to countries. Many new ideas emerged during the discussions. Some of the ideas that applied to all countries were classified as follows:

- 1) Public private partnerships (PPP) for infrastructure
- 2) Small and medium enterprise (SME) development
- 3) Trade policy and review
- 4) Customs harmonization
- 5) Railway development
- 6) Policy framework for transport corridors
- 7) Agricultural development and trade in agricultural products
- 8) Economic diversification prospects and pathways
- 9) Global value chain (GVC) and the regional connectivity
- 10) Analysis of World Trade Organization (WTO) regime benefits and pitfalls
- 11) Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and how each country can be amalgamated in the initiative
- 12) E-commerce and other technologies
- 13) Energy trade and alternative energy as well as energy conservation
- 14) Private sector development

These core thematic topics emerged from the exercise. Moreover, most countries and institutions also agreed to co-host capacity building and other events in their respective countries. These positive suggestions by countries were considered by the Institute and were included in its 2017 work program. This approach has strengthened the CAREC Institute's collaboration with member countries and enhanced its integrative role.

¹ With the exception of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan due to budgetary and security constraints.