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ADB CAREC CSPPF-KDI GKEDC
Korea Outreach and Business Engagement Seminar

ADB-KDI GKEDC 중앙아시아 CSPPF 아웃리치 세미나

CAREC Investment Opportunities



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Transforming CAREC Corridors into Economic Corridors

Multi-Sector Finance for 2026–2030

\$10 Billion+

ADB committed finance
envelope through 2030

~40 Projects

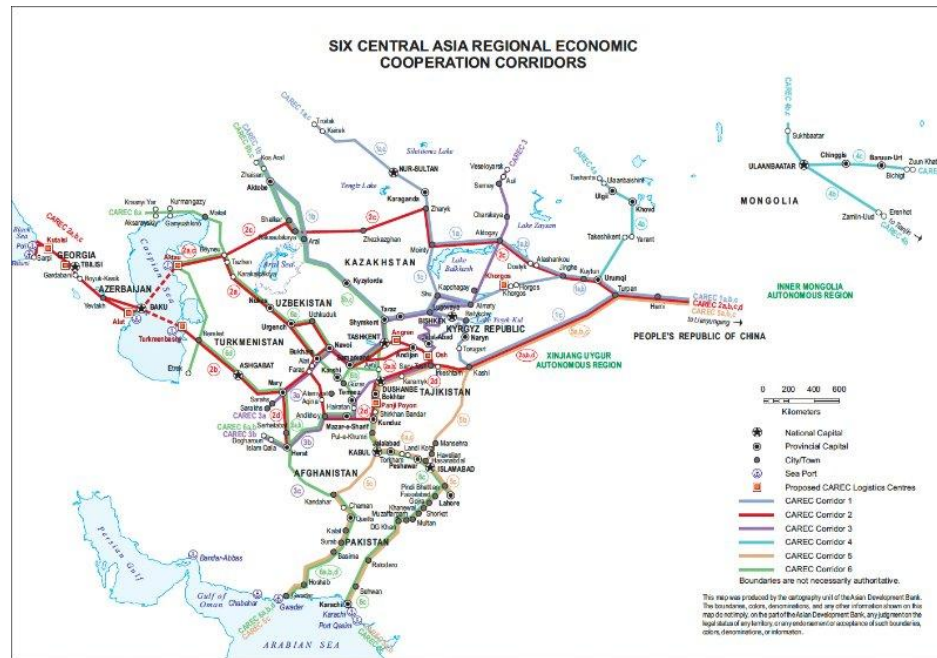
Pipeline operations across
CAREC member countries

6 Corridors

Spanning 11 countries
from East Asia to Europe

Investment Themes

- Economic Corridor Development (~\$3.4B)
- Digital Connectivity & Transformation (~\$500M)
- BUILD Facility for Border Modernization (~\$400M)



Strategic Vision

- Moving beyond transit corridors to integrated economic corridors with multi-sector investments in transport, energy, trade, digital, tourism, and agriculture
- Leveraging 10+ years of Almaty-Bishkek Economic Corridor experience to scale the economic corridor model across all 6 CAREC corridors
- Anchored in CAREC 2030 Strategy and ADB's Operational Approach for Revitalizing RCI (March 2026)

CAREC Corridor 2

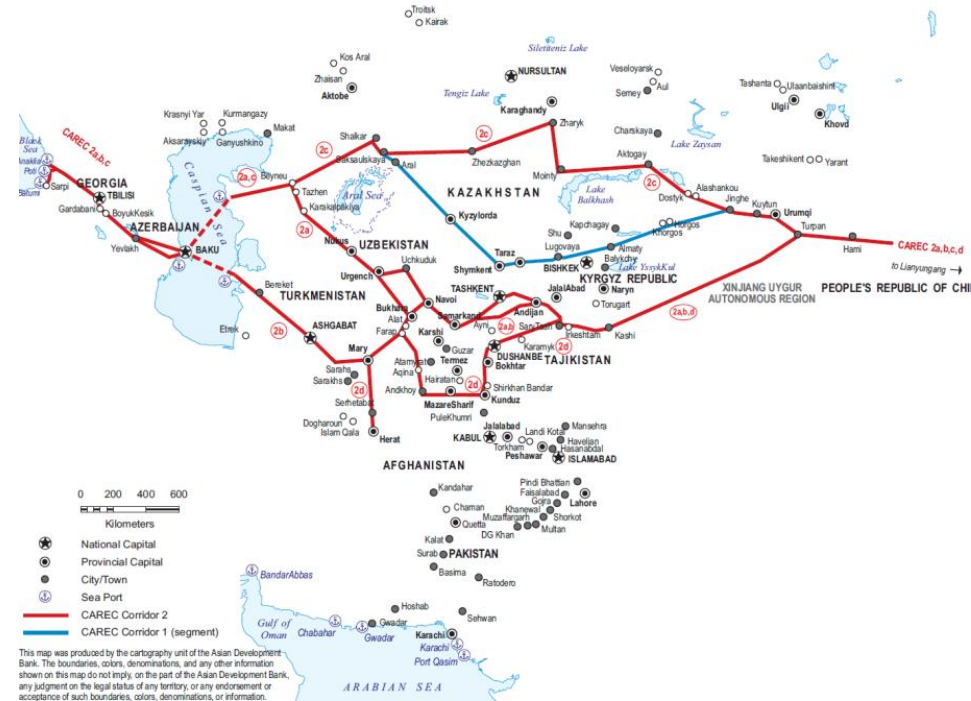
Indicative \$3.7 billion for 18 projects (2025–2028)

Transport & Logistics

- Railway sector reforms and upgrades (AZE, GEO, TKM, UZB)
- Road rehabilitation and modernization (KAZ, UZB)
- Port capacity development and multimodal connections (AZE, GEO, KAZ, TKM)

Border Infrastructure

- Joint border crossing points (AZE–GEO)
- Digital solutions in queue management (KGZ–UZB)



Strategic Projects

- Azerbaijan Railways Digital Transformation (\$47M, 2025)
- Batumi-Sarpi Road Project, Georgia (\$360M, 2025)
- CAREC Corridor 2 Resilience & Modernization, UZB (\$233M, 2025)

Cross-Sector Integration

- Agribusiness, manufacturing, tourism, clean energy
- New economic nodes along secondary cities and border areas
- Coordinated investments across transport, logistics, energy, digital

Corridor 2 largely coincides with the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route (Middle Corridor), a critical link for Eurasian supply chain diversification

Almaty–Bishkek Economic Corridor (ABEC)

CAREC's First Pilot Economic Corridor — 10+ Years of Results

Approved Projects (Kyrgyz Republic)

- Strengthening Health Security (\$30M)
- Climate-Resilient Agricultural Value Chain (\$40M)
- Issyk-Kul Environmental Mgmt & Sustainable Tourism (\$56M)
- Regional Improvement of Border Services (\$30.7M)
- Bishkek Energy Efficiency & Clean Heating (\$8M)

Ongoing Initiatives

- Almaty–Issyk-Kul Alternative Road PPP
- ABEC Electric Bus Project (pilot intercity EV)
- ABEC STREAM (transboundary river management)
- ABEC Trade and Logistics Center (Uzyganash)



Tourism & Standards

- Harmonized Accommodation Classification System (KGZ, March 2025)
- ABEC Tourism Master Plan Green Update (2026)

Replication Model

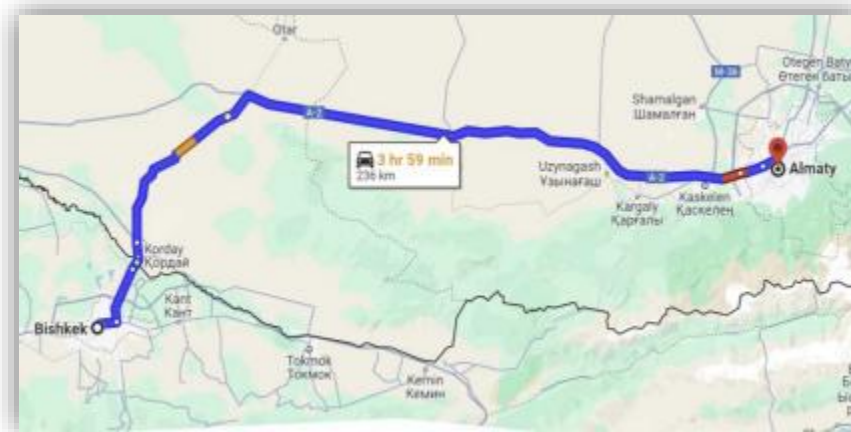
- ABEC serves as the model for scaling economic corridor development across all 6 CAREC corridors
- Future corridors: Shymkent–Tashkent–Khujand (STK), Corridor 2 segments
- Recognized as emerging transformative initiative under ADB's RCI Operational Approach (March 2026)

Tourism & Standards

Harmonized Accommodation Classification System
(approved by KGZ Cabinet, March 2025)

Harmonized professional standards for tourism

ABEC Tourism Master Plan Green Update



Replication Model

ABEC serves as the model for scaling economic corridor development across all 6 CAREC corridors

BUILD Facility: Border Upgrades for Integration, Logistics, and Development

ADB Regional Financing Facility — Up to \$400 Million (Board Approval June 2026)

Hard Infrastructure

- Modern, climate-resilient BCP layouts
- Inspection facilities and access roads
- Energy-efficient systems and equipment

Soft Measures

- Digitalized and harmonized border procedures
- Single-window systems and paperless trade
- Risk-based inspections
- Joint border crossing point models

Catalytic Impact

- Expected to catalyze over 15 corridor-based interventions
- Combined investment volume exceeding \$3 billion through 2030
- Border efficiency keeps pace with large-scale road and rail corridor upgrades

Approach

- Programmatic, corridor-based approach
- Shifts from fragmented, one-off border projects to scalable regional solutions
- Aligned with CAREC corridor priorities
- Early pipeline projects: joint and digitally enabled BCPs expected for approval 2026–2027

Accelerating Digital Connectivity and Transformation

Over \$500 Million in Sovereign and Non-Sovereign Investments

Hard Infrastructure

- Terrestrial fiber networks
- Digital corridor redundancy
- Internet Exchange Points (IXPs)
- Climate-smart data infrastructure

Soft Enablers

- Harmonized digital regulations
- Cross-border data frameworks
- Cybersecurity cooperation
- Digital trade facilitation
- Capacity building for governments and SMEs

Expected Outcomes

- Lower bandwidth costs for landlocked countries
- Faster, more reliable digital services along corridors
- Improved competitiveness for logistics, e-commerce, fintech
- CAREC Digital Corridor through PAK, KGZ, TAJ, KAZ, UZB

Part of the unified CAREC Digital Transformation Agenda to 2030, building on the Asia-Pacific Digital Highway (APDH)

Positions the CAREC Digital Corridor as a core pillar, addressing one of the world's most persistent digital bottlenecks: landlocked economies with limited access to high-capacity, affordable cross-border connectivity

Tourism and Sustainable Development Clusters

Leveraging Silk Road Heritage to Position CAREC as a Global Tourism Corridor

Pipeline Projects

- Develop sustainable infrastructure supporting cross-border services, including medical tourism (PAK).
- Build tourism-focused skills to improve workforce quality and service delivery (KGZ).
- Enhance tourism competitiveness through integrated, multi-sector development (TAJ).
- Promote green, resilient growth via cross-border tourism cooperation (UZB-KGZ).

ABEC Tourism Achievements

- Harmonized Accommodation Classification System approved by KGZ (March 2025)
- Professional standards harmonization for tourism
- ABEC Tourism Master Plan Green Update (2026)
- Issyk-Kul Environmental Management & Sustainable Tourism Project (\$56M)

Key Opportunities and Next Steps

CAREC Business Forum 2026

30 September – 1 October 2026

- Theme: Scaling Up Investment — Driving Infrastructure Transformation
- Showcase bankable, regionally significant projects
- Facilitate PPP and private investment
- Key sectors: energy and interconnectivity, smart transport and logistics, critical minerals

25th CAREC Ministerial Conference

- Signing of CAREC Regional Balancing Market Framework
- Launch of CAREC Digital Transformation Agenda

Investment Opportunities for ROK Partners

- Cross-border infrastructure: roads, railways, ports, BCPs across 6 corridors
- Digital: fiber networks, data infrastructure, e-commerce, fintech
- Tourism: Silk Road heritage clusters, cross-border tourism circuits

