

Government of Pakistan
FINANCE DIVISION
(Quality Assurance –I Section)
HRM Wing

C I R C U L A R

Subject: REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS: JOINT CAREC-PRC AND 2ND ASEAN-PRC DIGITAL ECONOMY WORKSHOP, FROM 20 MAY TO 2 JUNE 2024, HANGZHOU, THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (PRC)

The Economic Affairs Division vide its O.M No.10(99) ADB-IV/2024 dated 18th April, 2024 and to states that CAREC Institute is organizing a two-week workshop on the digital economy, jointly hosted by the CAREC Secretariat/ADB, the ADB-PRC Regional Knowledge Sharing Initiative (RKSI), and Zhejiang University. The workshop will be held from 20th May to 2nd June 2024, In Hangzhou, People's Republic of China (PRC). Agenda is attached.

2. Moreover, ADB has requested to nominate one (01) the most suitable candidate from this Division to attend the subject event. The organizers will cover the cost of participation for the nominated representatives, including round-trip airfare (economy class most direct and cost-effective route), hotel accommodation and transportation, as well as daily subsistence allowances.

3. Interested Officers of Finance Division are requested to furnish their nominations duly recommended by the AFS/head of the Wing concerned to QA-I Section by 24.4.2024. The nominations along with designation and complete contact information (postal address, email address, and telephone number and CV) may please be communicated to this Division.

Note:- "In addition to the eligibility criteria specified for a training, all officers who are working on contract basis/fixed pay package or having less than two years continuous government service or less than three months of service in Finance Division or against whom disciplinary proceedings/inquiry is in progress, may need not apply".


(Madiha Rafique)
Section Officer (QA-I)

All Officers (BPS-17 & above), Finance Division, Islamabad
Finance Division U.O F.No.2 (2)/2014-QA-I Islamabad, the 23.4.2024

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Webmaster, with the request to upload the circular for information on Finance Division.

**Joint CAREC-PRC and 2nd ASEAN-PRC Digital Economy Workshop
20 May – 2 June 2024**

DRAFT AGENDA

Day 1	
20 May (Monday)	
Morning	<p>Opening Ceremony</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zhejiang Province (TBC) • Zhejiang University (TBC) • Safdar Parvez, Country Director, PRC Resident Mission, Asian Development Bank (TBC) • Kabir Jurazoda, Director, CAREC Institute • ASEAN Secretariat (TBC) <p>Moderator: Zhejiang University</p>
Morning	<p><i>Practices, Experiences and Challenges in the Development of Digital Economy in Asian, CAREC and ASEAN Economies</i></p> <p>Jong Woo Kang, Director, Research and Development Impact Department, ADB (TBC) Introduction to CAREC Digital Strategy 2030, CWRC ADB (TBC) Analysis of CAREC Digital Gap, CAREC Institute (TBC)</p>
Afternoon	<p>Overview of the Workshop</p> <p>Shuzhong Ma, Dean and Distinguished Qiu Shi Professor of the Institute for Digital Trade Research at Zhejiang University</p>
Afternoon	<p><i>Practice and Pathway in China's Development of Digital Economy</i></p> <p>Yuezhou Cai, Director and Researcher of the Digital Economy Research Office, Institute of Quantitative & Technical Economics at Chinese Academy of Social Sciences</p>
Night	<p>Ice-breaking</p> <p>Participants will introduce themselves, express their expectations on the Workshop and raise their questions concerning digital economy. Participants will be grouped, and each group will prepare for delivering a presentation on Day 12.</p>
Day 2	
21 May (Tuesday)	
Morning	<p>On-site:</p> <p><i>Zhejiang's Information and Communication Infrastructure Construction</i></p>

	China Mobile (Zhejiang) Innovation Research Institute
Morning	<p><i>China's Information and Communication Infrastructure Construction: History and Experience</i></p> <p>Jun Lei, Senior Project Expert and Senior Engineer of the Smart Home Operations Centre and Integrated Communication Systems Department of China Mobile Ltd</p>
Afternoon	<p><i>The New Generation of Artificial Intelligence: from AlphaGo to ChatGPT and Sora</i></p> <p>Fei Wu, Director and Qiu Shi Distinguished Professor of Institute of Artificial Intelligence at Zhejiang University</p>
Day 3	22 May (Wednesday)
Morning	<p>On-site:</p> <p><i>Metaverse Technology, Digital Collectibles and Global Distribution of Digital Content</i></p> <p>Zhejiang Zoland Animation Co., Ltd.</p>
Afternoon	<p><i>The Application of Metaverse Technology in the Digital Economy Era</i></p> <p>Xuguang Zhang, President of the Zhejiang Association for Science, Technology and Innovation, Distinguished Researcher of the Intelligent Education Research Centre at Zhejiang University</p>
Day 4	23 May (Thursday)
Morning	<p>On-site:</p> <p><i>Cloud Computing: Current Landscape and Future Directions - From Emulation to Innovation</i></p> <p>Alibaba Cloud Computing Co., Ltd. - Hangzhou Branch</p>
Afternoon	<p><i>Intelligent Transformation of Manufacturing Industry</i></p> <p>Wenge Liu, Dean and Professor of the School of International Economics and Politics at Liaoning University</p>
Day 5	24 May (Friday)
Morning	<p>On-site:</p> <p><i>3D+AI Tools for Propelling the Global Fashion Industry's Digital and Innovative Evolution</i></p> <p>Zhejiang Linctex Digital Technology Ltd. (Style3D)</p>

Afternoon	<p>Exemplary Cases of Intelligent System Design</p> <p>Yongchuan Tang, Deputy Director of China Digital Creative Technology Equipment Innovation Industrial Alliance, Professor of the School of Computer Science and Technology at Zhejiang University</p>
Day 6 Daytime	<p>25 May (Saturday)</p> <p>Networking:</p> <p>Enterprise Digital Transformation, Rural Livestream E-commerce and Traditional Culture</p> <p>Zhejiang Toman Intelligent Technology Co., Ltd—Lunch—China Pearls and Jewelry International City—The China Shaoxing Wine Museum—Dinner</p> <p>(Arranged by Shaoxing Council of China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), Shaoxing Chamber of International Commerce and representative enterprises in Shaoxing)</p>
Day 7	<p>26 May (Sunday)</p> <p>Off</p>
Day 8 Morning	<p>27 May (Monday)</p> <p>Constructing Rules for an Opened <u>Global Digital Economy System</u></p> <p>Xianhai Huang, Changjiang Distinguished Professor and Vice President of Zhejiang University</p>
Afternoon	<p>On-site:</p> <p>1. Zhejiang Experience in Global Digital Trade: Foreign Trade Supervision and Government Services</p> <p>Zhejiang Electronic Port Co., Ltd.</p> <p>2. Digital Industry Investment and Live Streaming Economy</p> <p>Bodi Holding Group Co., Ltd</p>
Day 9 Morning	<p>28 May (Tuesday)</p> <p>On-site:</p> <p>Zhejiang's Footprint in E-commerce: A Dive into the Corporate Ecosystem and Development Experiences</p> <p>1688.com and Taobao of Alibaba Group</p>
Afternoon & Night	<p>Networking:</p>

	<p><i>Digital Transformation, Global FinTech Trends & Opportunities for Emerging Markets</i></p> <p>Shenglin Ben, Dean and Professor of the International Business School, Director of the Fintech Research Institute at Zhejiang University</p> <p><i>Financial Innovation in the Context of Digitalization - Micro Connect: The Wall Street for SMEs</i></p> <p>Zhong Wu, Secretary-General of the Finance Center for South-South Cooperation, Senior Advisor of Micro Connect and Chairman of Hong Kong Oriental Patron Financial Group</p> <p>Dinner</p> <p>(Arranged by Zhejiang University International Business School (ZIBS), the International Campus of Zhejiang University and representative enterprises in Jiaying)</p>
Day 10	29 May (Wednesday)
Morning	<p><i>Pathways of Digital Divide Governance for Older Adults and of Helping Older Adults Integrate into the Digital Society Comprehensively</i></p> <p>Jiehua Lu, Professor of the China Society and Development Research Center and Department of Sociology at Peking University</p>
Afternoon	<p>On-site:</p> <p>1. <i>Evolution towards Intelligent Education Transformation</i></p> <p>Xianghu Future School and Hailiang Limited Co., Ltd.</p> <p>2. <i>Zhejiang's Practice in Building a Digital Society</i></p> <p>Danfeng Future Community, Xixing Sub-district, Binjiang District, Hangzhou</p>
Night	<p>Networking:</p> <p><i>Global Digital Economic Cooperation, Digital Economic Development Opportunities and Digital Technology Solutions</i></p> <p>(Arranged by the World Digital Economy Forum (WDEF), Hangzhou Digital Ecological Building and representative enterprises in the area of digital technology solutions)</p>
Day 11	30 May (Thursday)

Morning	<p><i>Digitalization of Government Services for a Better Business Environment in China: A Case Study on the Reform Experience of Zhejiang Province</i></p> <p>World Bank Expert, Representative Office of the World Bank in China (TBC)</p>
Afternoon	<p>On-site:</p> <p>1. Zhejiang's Practice in Building a Digital Government</p> <p>Hangzhou Urban Brain</p> <p>2. Zhejiang's Practice in Intelligent Industrial Transformation</p> <p>Zhejiang Top Cloud-agri Technology Co., Ltd</p>
Day 12	31 May (Friday)
Morning	<p><i>Experiences and Practices in the Development of Digital Economy in CAREC and ASEAN Economies, Insights from the Workshop and Suggestions</i></p> <p>Group Reviews by the Workshop Participants</p>
Afternoon	<p>Concluding Session and Commencement of the Workshop</p> <p>Sen Gong, Director and Professor of the Centre for International Studies on Development and Governance at Zhejiang and Zhejiang University (CiSDG)</p>
Night	<p>Closing Ceremony</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sen Gong, Director and Professor of the Centre for International Studies on Development and Governance at Zhejiang and Zhejiang University (CiSDG) • ADB-PRC Regional Knowledge Sharing Initiative (RKSII) (TBC) • Kuat Akizhanov, Deputy Director Two, CAREC Institute • ASEAN Secretariat (TBC)
Day 13	1 June (Saturday)
Daytime	<p><i>Digital Economy Field Trip to Yiwu</i></p> <p>Participants will explore the Zhejiang China Commodities City Group Co., Ltd., and other digital economy infrastructure projects. Participants will also explore the eWTP Public Service Platform and the integrated online-offline services of the China Goods digital trade platform to gain insights into the opportunities and challenges that Yiwu's procurement and trade industry faces in the digital era.</p>
Day 14	2 June (Sunday)

Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Institute

ADB CAREC Secretariat

ADB-PRC Regional Knowledge Sharing Initiative (RKSI)

Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, PRC

Zhejiang Provincial Government, PRC

Zhejiang University

Joint CAREC-PRC and 2nd ASEAN-PRC Digital Economy Workshop

Empowering Digital Future

20 May-2 June 2024

Zhejiang, PRC

1. Background

The global economy is changing rapidly. New technologies are emerging that are making our products more resource-efficient, our societies more inclusive, and our environment cleaner. These changes are giving us a chance to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

Digital technologies are at the heart of this transformation. They are already having a big impact on our lives, and their influence is only going to grow. Digital technologies can help us to reduce poverty, improve health care, create jobs, and protect the environment.

The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the digital transformation. As we have moved to remote work and online learning, we have become more reliant on digital tools. This has shown us the potential of digital technologies to connect people and businesses, even in the midst of a crisis. We are at a critical juncture in history. We have the opportunity to use digital technologies to build a more sustainable and equitable future.

However, the CAREC region (Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the People's Republic of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan)—with the notable exception of the People's Republic of China (PRC)—has not fully benefited from the digital economy transformation yet. One of the biggest challenges is inadequate digital infrastructure. Many CAREC countries have low levels of internet penetration and connectivity. This makes it difficult for businesses and individuals to access digital services and participate in the digital economy. Another challenge is the lack of clear regulations and policies

governing the digital economy. This can lead to uncertainty and risk for businesses and investors. The CAREC region also faces challenges in terms of digital security, data protection, intellectual property rights, and consumer protection. These challenges need to be addressed in order to create a safe and secure environment for the digital economy.

Aligning with the CAREC Digital Strategy 2030

Recognizing the transformative potential of digital technologies, the CAREC Secretariat supported by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and partnered with the CAREC Institute, and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) prepared the CAREC Digital Strategy 2030. This critical strategy serves as a roadmap for accelerating digital transformation and unlocking the immense potential of the digital economy within the region. This workshop directly aligns with the Strategy's vision and mission, aiming to equip member countries with the knowledge and tools necessary to harness the digital economy's full potential for inclusive economic growth, social well-being, and enhanced regional competitiveness.

As a knowledge arm in the CAREC region, the CAREC Institute, since 2019, in collaboration with the CAREC Secretariat, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Islamic Development Bank, has launched a series of research projects on digitalization in the CAREC region. Based on these research findings, has held a series of activities to engage CAREC policymakers and interested stakeholders in policy dialogues.

The People's Republic of China, ranking the second largest global economy, recognized digital economy as its major growth engine. By 2021, the value of China's digital economy had reached 6.5 trillion US dollars, accounting for nearly 40 percent of its GDP, according to the white paper titled "Jointly Build a Community with a Shared Future in Cyberspace" which was released by the State Council Information Office, PRC.

In light of this, the CAREC Institute will continue its effort to promote digital economy in the CAREC region by collaborating with ADB-PRC Regional Knowledge Sharing Initiative (RKSI), CAREC Secretariat, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, PRC, the Zhejiang Provincial Government, and Zhejiang University and launching a capacity building program to enhance digital economy cooperation and promote digital connectivity.

2. Key Objectives

The primary goal of this seminar is to facilitate participants' understanding of the current status and experiences related to China's digital economy development, encompassing digital trade, digital governance, digital finance, intelligent manufacturing, industrial Internet, and related fields. The seminar seeks to enhance participants' professional knowledge in the digital economy and other pertinent areas, offering substantial support for their future endeavors.

3. Expected Outcomes

The workshop intends to achieve the following set of outcomes:

- Gaining in-depth knowledge of China's digital economy model, focusing on practices, experiences, and challenges, as well as understanding China's approach to information and communication infrastructure development, including historical context, future directions and studying successful applications of digital technologies like Artificial Intelligence, Metaverse, Cloud Computing, and Intelligent Manufacturing.
- Fostering networking and knowledge exchange among policymakers from CAREC and ASEAN countries to identify digital gaps within their respective economies.
- Identifying actionable strategies to bridge these digital divides, aligning with the CAREC Digital Strategy 2030 vision and the CAREC Institute's research findings.
- Supporting countries' policy and regulatory frameworks in alignment with the CAREC Digital Strategy's objectives, such as encouraging investment in digital infrastructure, harmonizing data and digital legislation, and developing digital skills as well as leveraging insights from Chinese experience to attract talent, reduce trade barriers, and establish interoperable digital platforms within the CAREC region.
- Facilitating the creation of a dedicated network for policymakers within the CAREC and ASEAN regions, enabling ongoing communication and knowledge sharing to support regional digital transformation efforts.

Concluding Report with Actionable Recommendations

Aligning with CAREC Digital Strategy 2030, this workshop will improve leadership and governance in the digital economy and highlight the importance of digital skills and competencies. The workshop will conclude with a report that explores key takeaways from China's digital economy model, including its strengths and challenges. The report will also take notes on participants' questions and concerns about digital economy development in their perspective countries and how this workshop could contribute to strengthening universal digital literacy for CAREC participants. Based on these insights and workshop discussions, the report will propose policy recommendations for policymakers in areas like promoting investment in digital infrastructure, harmonizing digital legislation, and developing digital skills. All workshop materials, including presentations, will be available on the CAREC Institute's e-learning platform for continuous access and knowledge sharing.

4. Target Participants

The workshop warmly welcomes talented individuals engaged in digital development from CAREC and ASEAN member states, including representatives from government, industry, and academia. It is expected that participants come from professional backgrounds in digital economy, digital management, and e-governance, and to be experienced in work related to these fields.

5. Workshop Methodology

The content of this workshop, designed by CISDG esteemed teaching faculty, comprises distinguished scholars in China's digital economy, industry leaders of high repute, and

government officials. It encompasses a comprehensive learning approach, incorporating classroom teaching, on-site training, collaborative teamwork, and report preparation. Renowned scholars will guide participants to review the history and experience of China's information and communication infrastructure construction. Experienced project experts will introduce cutting-edge technologies in the world and their potential application to digital economy development. In addition, exceptional digital enterprises and institutions will offer in-depth on-site visits, allowing participants to experience the changes brought about by digital development. Participants will be grouped to discuss digital economy development in their countries, with presentations later in the workshop.

The classroom sessions are conducted at Zhejiang University's Zijingang campus, recognized as one of foremost institutions of higher learning in China.

6. Implementing Partners

- CAREC Institute
- ADB/CAREC Secretariat
- ADB – PRC Regional Knowledge Sharing Initiative (RKSI)
- Center for International Studies on Development and Governance, Zhejiang University (CISDG)

The CAREC Institute, ADB-CAREC Secretariat, RKSI and CISDG will provide financial support and work closely to bring participants to this workshop. CISDG, drawing on its expertise, formulated the workshop curriculum and invited renowned scholars and project experts. The CAREC Institute and RKSI will play a key role in connecting with participants from CAREC and ASEAN countries.

All participants will receive economy-class flights and accommodation. The CISDG will provide the venue for the workshop and all necessary resources to support participants during their stay. Meals will be arranged at the campus canteen. The CAREC Institute will assign a staff member as the coordinator for CAREC participants.

7. Budget Estimate

The workshop involves multiple co-organizers who are committed to close collaboration and shared financial responsibility. Funding is provided by the RKSI, the CAREC Institute, ADB/CAREC Secretariat, and the Zhejiang Provincial Government. Zhejiang University's Center for International Studies on Development and Governance (CISDG) will execute the seminar. Zhejiang University will cover venue costs and speaker honorariums. The CAREC Institute, the CAREC Secretariat, and RKSI will fully cover all relevant expenses for the two nominated government officials from each participating country. These expenses include accommodation, roundtrip economy class airfare, and daily allowances. Additionally, Zhejiang University will provide logistical support, ensuring a smooth arrival for participants. This includes visa assistance and airport-to-hotel transfers.

8. Tentative agenda (attached)

The duration of the workshop is 2 weeks (10 working days), consisting of 84 teaching hours. The schedule includes a half-day opening ceremony and orientation (4 teaching hours), followed by 20 half-day specialized teachings (80 teaching hours). Within the specialized teachings, 56 hours will be conducted in a classroom setting (70%), and 24 hours will be provided through on-site teaching (30%). Morning classes will run from 8:30- 11:30, afternoon classes will run from 13:30-16:30, and evening classes will run from 18:30-20:30 daily.