

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this document are those of the author, and do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), its Board of Directors, or the governments they represent. ADB does not guarantee the accuracy of the data included in this document, and accept no responsibility for any consequence of their use. By making any designation or reference to a particular territory or geographical area, or by using the term "country" in this document, ADB does not intend to make any judgments as to the legal or other status of any territory or area.

ADB's Proposed RCI Operational Plan and Promoting Collective Action in CAREC

Arjun Goswami

Technical Advisor (Regional Cooperation and Integration)
Asian Development Bank

Central Asia Think Tank Forum
20 June 2016



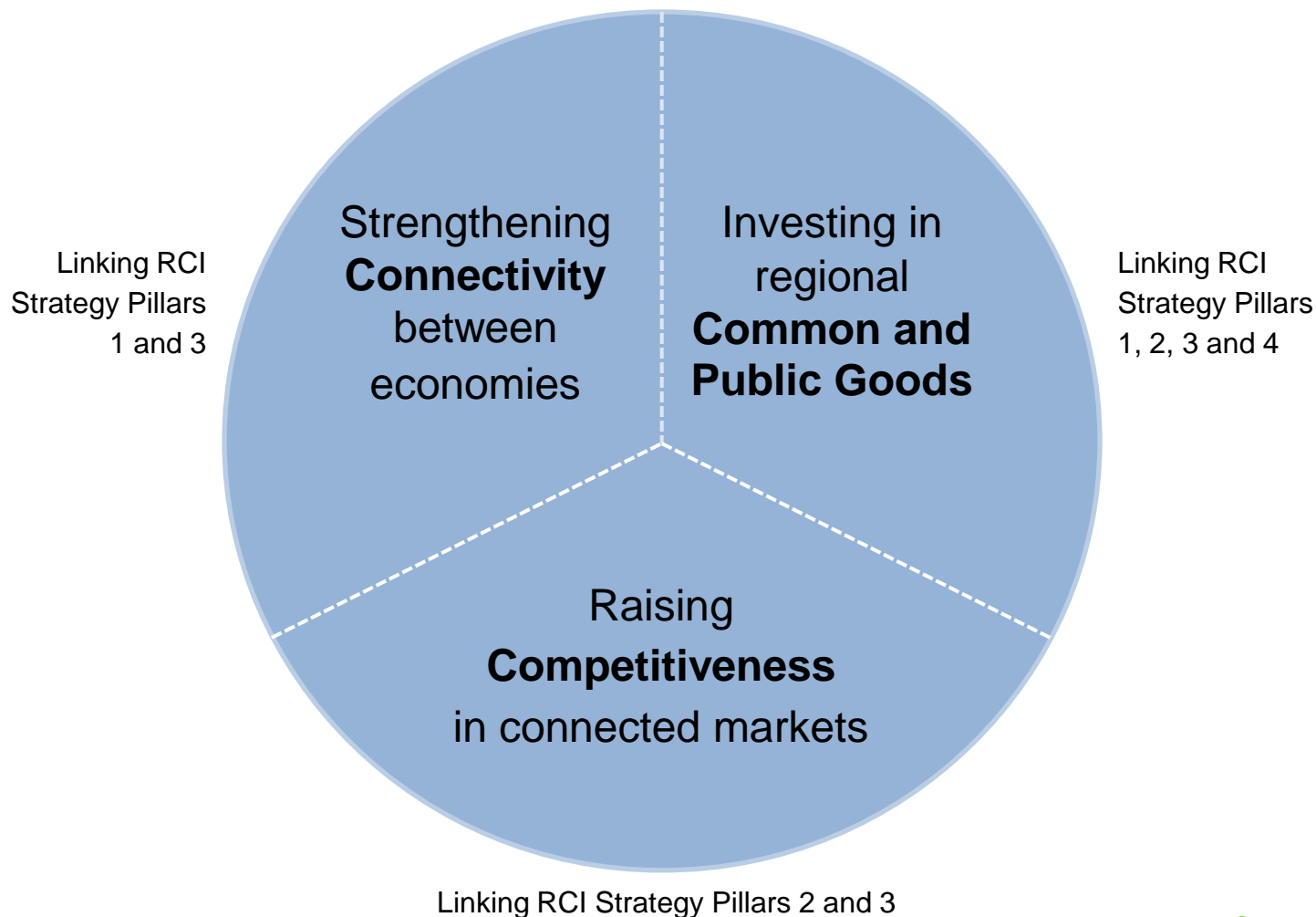
REGIONAL COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION
THEMATIC GROUP



Outline

- The RCI-OP's Operational Directions
- Promoting collective action in CAREC's priority sectors and 2nd tier areas
- CAREC Institute's role in promoting collective action

RCI-OP in the Context of Future Development of the Asia-Pacific Region



Note: The RCI Strategy pillars are: Pillar 1—cross-border infrastructure and related software; Pillar 2—trade and investment cooperation and integration; Pillar 3—monetary and financial cooperation and integration; and Pillar 4—cooperation in regional public goods.



Operational Direction #1: Strengthening Connectivity between Economies

- Improving cross-border physical connectivity between the region's economies
- Enabling effective use of cross-border physical connectivity
- Helping promote regional financing for cross-border infrastructure

Operational Direction #2: Raising Competitiveness in Connected Markets

- Promoting cross-border economic corridors
- Promoting FDI promotion and facilitation corridors
- Promoting value chains, especially for SMEs
- Promoting regional capital market development
- Promoting cross-border transfer of skills and knowledge

Operational Direction #3: Investing in Regional Common and Public Goods

- Investing in cross-border public health
- Mitigating the risks and impacts of climate change, natural hazards, transboundary pollution, and the need to protect biodiversity
- Strengthening regional cooperation mechanisms

Promoting collective action: CAREC's priority sectors

Trade Facilitation

- CAREC Corridor Performance Measurement and Monitoring (CPMM)
 - Examines the efficiency of the 6 CAREC transport corridors, identifies bottlenecks, and determines course of action to address bottlenecks
 - Carried out in cooperation with the CAREC Federation of Carrier and Forwarder Associations
- CAREC Regional Improvement of Border Services (RIBS)
 - Will develop national single window with regional interoperability
 - Coordinated initiatives by Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Mongolia, and Pakistan

Transport

- Greater Mekong Railway Association
 - Will develop institutional capacity in GMS countries and support railway connectivity and interoperability
 - Established in 2013 by the 6 GMS countries
- Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal Motor Vehicles Agreement
 - Will facilitate passenger and cargo vehicular cross-border traffic to reduce cost and time of transshipment at border crossing in the 4 countries
 - Agreement signed by the 4 countries in June 2015

Energy

- TAPI Natural Gas Pipeline Project
 - Will transport natural gas from Turkmenistan to Afghanistan, Pakistan and India, diversifying Turkmenistan gas exports and providing long-term energy security for buyers
 - Investment agreement between the 4 countries signed in April 2016

Promoting collective action: CAREC's 2nd tier areas

Health

- GMS Health Security Project (proposed)
 - Will improve health of migrants and mobile population through strengthened surveillance of communicable diseases and improved diagnostics and treatment
 - Coordinated initiatives in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar

Agriculture

- GMS Core Agriculture Support Program (CASP) Phase II – Regional TA
 - Will strengthen regional policy framework and capacity for agri-food quality management, establish e-trade of agri-food production of smallholders, and strengthen institutional capacity of the GMS Working Group on Agriculture
 - Implementing the GMS CASP Phase II (2011-2020)

Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change

- Strategic Program for Climate Resilience in the Pacific
 - Will integrate climate change adaptation and related disaster risk reduction into national and local development policies and plans and build Pacific DMCs' capacity to respond to climate change risks
 - Supports the Pacific Regional Strategic Program for Climate Resilience (approved in 2012) implemented through the Council of Regional Organization in the Pacific (CROP)

Finance

- Asian Bond Markets Initiative
 - Develops liquid bond markets in ASEAN+3 countries and enables better utilization of the region's savings for investments
 - Established in 2003 by ASEAN+3 countries

CAREC Institute's role in promoting collective action

- Produce knowledge products on key RCI issues in CAREC, and sectoral and thematic issues with regional significance
 - Develop pilot projects for priority sectors, exploratory work on 2nd tier areas
 - Assess CAREC's role in promoting inter-subregional cooperation given its position as a key link between Asia and Europe
- Cooperate with national research centers, other regional think tanks and educational institutions on specific RCI issues
 - The Asia-Pacific Center for Water Security was established by Tsinghua and Peking universities with ADB to focus on the region's water-food-energy security nexus issues
 - The South Asia Urban K-Hub aims to build the capacity of urban research or training institutions in South Asian countries to provide policymakers with innovative and evidence-based solutions
- Share best practices on RCI through capacity building and learning programs
 - The Urban Knowledge Hub established by ADB and Tongji University in Shanghai, PRC promotes sustainable urban development in the region through dissemination workshops and annual best practice awards
- Organize existing information for wider dissemination, such as through websites and portals
 - The GMS Environment Operations Center runs a dedicated website and online library for resources such as publications, reports, videos, and activities and events of the GMS Core Environment Program

Thank you!

