

**Speech of Davaadorj Ganbold,
Former First Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia
Chair of CTTN Advisory Panel**

*Dear Shakeel Shah, Director of CAREC Institute,
Dear Esteemed Participants,*

It is my pleasure to be here and I am very satisfied with proceedings of the Fourth CAREC Think Tank Forum!

Yesterday, we had our first Advisory Panel Meeting of CAREC Think Tanks Network with selected regional think tanks from each CAREC member countries. In my capacity of Chair of the Advisory Panel, I am delighted to present you outcomes of our very insightful and productive deliberation, we had yesterday.

The Advisory Panel has discussed major topics how to strengthen our CAREC Think Tank Network, CAREC Think Tank Forum, Research Grants Program, Visiting Fellows Program and Think Tanks Talks Series.

To activate the CAREC Think Tank Network, we recommend conducting needs assessment survey among all think tanks to know what research and capacity needs of CAREC Think Tank Network members are. CTTN will ask annual research programs from CTTN members, play “mix and match” role among our members, share and link common research agendas. We will effectively use social media and online platforms to promote CTTN, share, exchange and disseminate the regional knowledge.

We will explore avenues to compile and publish bi-annual or quarterly CTTN journal of policy papers and promote as much as possible research and study outcomes of our CTTN members. We will further support engagement of our think tanks in high-level economic forums, dialogues and discussions to increase their exposure and visibility.

We also aim to support more joint and regional studies and trainings, considering healthy balance of regional and national interests. At the same time members of Advisory Panel discussed an importance of strengthening solid partnerships within countries, for example in way engaging different think tanks in a specific country under one research.

In terms of the CAREC Think Tanks Development Forum, we really experience good progress in terms of its organization, contents and outcomes. It was recommended, in the forthcoming forums we may have exhibitions by member think tanks, where they can present their researches and publications. In addition to our main partner - ADB, in future, we may bring donors and CAREC regional development partners, who support think tanks in their capacity, research and funding.

We had very good start of CTTN Research Grants Program this year and in future we expect more active engagement and interesting proposals from CTTN members. We really wish these studies can solve problems, touch specific policy issues that our Governments and decision-makers are facing. We should think how outcomes and recommendations of these research studies can be pragmatic and implementable to benefit lives of our people.

We recommended, it is important to exchange professionals from CTTN members with CAREC Institute and among CTTN through visiting fellows program, internship program and talk series planned by CTTN and its Secretariat – CAREC Institute.

Finally, let me extend my gratitude to CAREC Institute and Asian Development Bank for supporting the CAREC Think Tank Network.

Thank you for very much!