

---

Draft welcome speech for the webinar on:

**Sharing ADB's Operational Knowledge in the PRC in TVET with CAREC Member Countries**

Mr. Hao Zhang, Deputy Country Director, ADB PRC Resident Mission,  
Dr. Min Tang, Counsellor of the State Council and Vice Chairman of Youcheng Foundation,  
and the Team leader,

Dear presenters, panelists, moderators, and participants,

Good morning or good afternoon, depending on where you are!

On behalf of the CAREC Institute, I welcome you all to this knowledge-sharing event on a subject of immense importance. I thank the ADB PRC Resident Mission for leading the technical assistance on sharing ADB's operational knowledge in the PRC in technical and vocational education and training (TVET) with other CAREC member countries and hosting the webinar, in partnership with CAREC Institute and the ADB–PRC Regional Knowledge Sharing Initiative (RKSII), to introduce the TA research results and facilitate the exchange and sharing of TVET knowledge. And I also congratulate the consultant team for achieving this milestone and sharing with us the PRC best practices and recommendations on TVET.

The CAREC region, as well as the world around it, faces unprecedented challenges. After two years into the COVID-19 pandemic, the region has, by and large, overcome the most obstacle to economic growth posed by the pandemic. However, the downside risks remain and continue to grow. The region's diverging growth and recovery prospects are complicated by rising inflation, heightening food insecurity, shrinking windows for borrowing, and intensifying geopolitical tensions. Under such a context, CAREC member countries are at a crossroads and looking for practical solutions to recover from these multifaceted challenges.

Economic recovery requires a critical mass of skilled technicians in respective fields, where TVET plays an instrumental role. Governments have high expectations of TVET for employment, economic recovery, and national security. But the TVET sector is less developed in CAREC member countries, and the former Soviet countries of the region face many challenges in transforming the TVET system in line with the needs of the labor market. The challenges include mismatches between the skills of graduates from TVET programs and the skills of workers required by employers, the absence of national qualification systems in some countries, and inadequate human and financial resources in the TVET system.

Many CAREC economies are in the middle range or on the lower end of the global distribution in technical and vocational programs for 15-24-year-olds. There are also shortages of technicians and artisans from TVET and higher technical education.

CAREC Institute published the Background Report on the Post-Pandemic Framework for a Green, Sustainable and Inclusive Recovery, which provides background material for the resolution adopted at the 21<sup>st</sup> CAREC Ministerial Conference on 24 November. Both the resolution and the report highlight that TVET is crucial for productivity growth and needs upgrading and funding.

The PRC's government articulates TVET as a tool for tackling economic and social development needs. In response to this need, the ADB and other development partners

---

have supported PRC's education and training sectors for decades and made remarkable achievements. ADB's TVET projects have used innovative approaches, including developing competency-based curricula that meet the skills demand of employers, training vocational instructors and teachers, promoting public-private partnerships and institutional reforms, modernizing and upgrading teaching and learning facilities, reducing dropouts through financial assistance to students from low-income families, and supporting regional cooperation by promoting partnership agreements between TVET institutions and enterprises in the PRC and other countries.

As a knowledge hub for CAREC Program, CAREC Institute plays a crucial role in fulfilling the substantially growing knowledge needs and expectations of member countries and facilitating knowledge-sharing and exchange across the CAREC region. Today's webinar offers such an opportunity, and you will hear PRC's approaches, best practices, and insights from discussants and panelists from CAREC countries. There is no "one-size-fits-all" for TVET. Policymakers, academic societies, and other audiences are expected to be motivated to explore different TVET approaches and develop new pathways of TVET delivery that best suit your country's context.

Let me stop here. I look forward to the deliberations and hearing your views on how we could take the TVET sector forward for shared and sustainable development.

Thank you!