

ALMATY–BISHKEK ECONOMIC CORRIDOR FIRST JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

25–26 September 2017 in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

PROGRAMME AND AGENDA

I. Introduction

The national governments of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic and the two city administrations, with support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), initiated work on the Almaty-Bishkek Corridor Initiative (ABCI) in 2014. Subsequently a Joint Working Group (JWG) consisting of their representatives finalized the ABCI Investment Framework,¹ which provided the conceptual development plan and outlined the policy, institutional, infrastructure and capacity development initiatives that would be needed. The Investment Framework was endorsed by the high-level Steering Committee for ABCI in 2016 and presented to the CAREC Ministerial Conference in 2016. This milestone transformed ABCI into the Almaty-Bishkek Economic Corridor (ABEC).

The Kazakhstan-Kyrgyz Republic intergovernmental council, chaired by the prime ministers of Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic, agreed to the formation of the ABEC Subcommittee in end-2016. The ABEC subcommittee is charged with all aspects of designing and implementing ABEC and nominating representatives to this subcommittee. The first joint preparatory ABEC subcommittee was held on 6 June 2017 in Astana.

The ABEC Subcommittee will hold its first constituting meeting in Bishkek on 25 September 2017 in Bishkek with participation of ADB. These notes and a proposed agenda are intended to assist the preparation of the meeting.

II. Objectives of the Subcommittee Meeting

The first joint ABEC Subcommittee meeting is proposed to have the following three objectives:

- (i) to initiate the work of the ABEC joint subcommittee and set up a work plan for 2017 and 2018;
- (ii) to review the ABEC suggested three-year rolling investment and reform plan that was part of the Aide Memoire of the Preparatory Subcommittee meeting on 6 June 2017 and agree on a sequencing of projects and reforms with the help of subgroups for sectoral work if necessary; and
- (iii) to agree on an outline of the ABEC Implementation Plan.

¹ <http://www.carecprogram.org/uploads/docs/CAREC-Publications/2016-ABCI-Investment-Framework-ru.pdf>

ALMATY–BISHKEK ECONOMIC CORRIDOR

First Joint Subcommittee Meeting

25–26 September 2017, The Orion Hotel, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

AGENDA

25 September 2017, Part I	
08:30–09:00	Registration
09:00–10:30 Session I: Work Plan 2017–2018	
	Chair: Ruslan Dalenov, First Vice Minister, Ministry of National Economy
09:00–09:15	Welcome and Opening Remarks Almaz Sazbakov, Deputy Minister of Economy/CAREC National Focal Point, Kyrgyz Republic
	Candice McDeigan, Country Director, Kyrgyz Republic Resident Mission
09:15–09:20	Introduction to the Agenda Safdar Parvez, Director, Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination Division (CWRC), Central West Asia Department
09:20–10:00	ABEC Subcommittee Workplan and Support—Engaging Stakeholders Input: Pradeep Srivastava, Country Director, ADB Tajikistan Resident Mission
10:00–10:15	Coffee Break and Photo Session
10:15–15:45 Session II: ABEC Projects and Priority Areas—Three-Year Rolling Pipeline	
	Chair: Almaz Sazbakov, Deputy Minister of Economy/CAREC National Focal Point
10:15–13:00	ABEC Suggested Projects i) Introduction, Kristian Rosbach, Economist (Regional Cooperation), CWRC ii) Connection Markets, Oleg Samukhin, Transport Specialist, Communication and Transport Division iii) Agriculture: Samjhana Shrestha, Senior Economist, Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Division iv) Tourism and Urban, Ramola Naik Singru, Senior Urban Development Specialist, Urban Development and Water Division v) Social Sector, Kristian Rosbach, Economist (Regional Cooperation), CWRC
13:00–14:00	ADB-hosted Lunch

14:00–15:30	<p>Presentations on current regional projects and reforms under implementation with relevance to ABEC</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Almaty Akimat 2. Almaty Oblast 3. Zhambyl 4. Chui 5. Bishkek 6. Issyk-Kul
15:30–15:45	Coffee Break
15:45–18:00	Session III: Implementation Plan and Protocol about next steps
	Chair: Almaz Sazbakov, Deputy Minister of Economy/CAREC National Focal Point, Kyrgyz Republic
15:45–16:45	<p>Discussion on the Implementation Plan Input: Saumya Mitra, Consultant</p>
16:45–17:45	Formulation of Protocol with agreed next steps
17.45–18.00	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <p>Ruslan Dalenov, First Vice Minister, Ministry of National Economy</p>
19:00	Dinner
<p>26 September, Part II Informal Sector Discussions/First Sector Subgroup Meeting Based on ABEC Subcommittee Decisions</p>	
08:30–09:00	Registration
09:00–12:00	<p>Discussion on Project and Reform Milestones</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connecting Markets • Agriculture • Tourism and Urban • Social Sectors
12:00–13:00	Lunch
13:00	Departure