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CAREC Women’s Business Forum

Date: November 6, 2024

Venue: St. Regis Hotel, Astana | Winter Garden Hall, Level 1

Participants: CAREC Gender and Climate awardees, jury members, guest speakers, development partners, CAREC gender team, ADB, and invited guests.

Time	Item
08:30–15:30	Exhibition to showcase innovative green “eco-ethno” products provided by women-led businesses will be organized in front of the Winter Garden Hall together with the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs of Kazakhstan “Atameken”; the social network throughout the day will provide opportunities for regional networking and collaboration.
08:30–09:00	Registration and Welcome Coffee (<i>coffee available throughout the day</i>)
09:00–09:15	<p>Opening</p> <p><i>Master of Ceremonies:</i> <i>Ms. Ainur Karbozova, Deputy Chairman of the Board at Maqсут Narikbayev University (MNU) for Strategy and Human Development</i></p> <p>Welcoming Remarks by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Ms. Lyaziza Sabyrova, Regional Head, Regional Cooperation and Integration, Central and West Asia Department (CWRD), Asian Development Bank (ADB)</i> <i>Ms. Lazzat Ramazanova, the Deputy Chairperson of the National Commission on Women Affairs, Family and Demographic Policy under the President of Kazakhstan</i> <i>Ms. Elizabeth Santucci, Kazakhstan Country Coordinator, USAID</i>
09:15–09:30	<p>CAREC Women's Business Forum in the context of Climate Change: Objectives and Expectations</p> <p><i>Ms. Zulfia Karimova, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, Regional Cooperation and Integration, CWRD, ADB</i></p>
9:30–10:30	Session 1: Gender–Responsive Climate Actions and Communication Strategies

	<p>The session’s objective is to discuss gender–responsive climate actions and showcase the importance of conveying climate change and gender messages through effective communication strategies.</p> <p>Moderator: <i>Mr. Ramazan Zhampiissov, General Director of EcoSolutions LLP, and Advisor to the General Director of the ECOJER Association, KAZ</i></p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Ms. Danara Saranova, The President of Association of Shymkent Access Alumni (ASAA), Regional Winner 2024</i> 2. <i>Ms. Jianxin (Jane) Zhang, Country Representative, Asia Foundation China Country Office, PRC</i> 3. <i>Ms. Natalia Idrisova, BBC 100 Women 2023 Climate Consultant Trainer on Energy Efficiency, Clean Transportation, Eco-Activism, TAJ</i> 4. <i>Ms. Oktyabrina Tsikoridze, Board Member, Woman and The World, GEO Winner 2024</i>
10:30–11:30	<p>Session 2: Gender Finance in the Climate Change Context</p> <p>This session focuses on the barriers women encounter in accessing finance and developing strategies to enhance financial support for women entrepreneurs, emphasizing the importance of sustainable and green financing in the context of climate change.</p> <p>Moderator: <i>Mr. Kanat Sultanaliev, Executive Director, Tian Shan Policy Center, American University of Central Asia, KGZ</i></p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Mr. Bayarsaikhan Otgonbayar, Chair, Gender Committee of Mongolian Sustainable Finance Association’ and Head of International Banking Department of Trade and Development Bank of Mongolia, MON</i> 2. <i>Ms. Lyazzat Ibragimova, Chair, Housing Construction Savings Bank of Kazakhstan JSC, KAZ</i> 3. <i>Ms. Malika M. Abdulvasieva, Gender and Social development expert, EU/NTU International, Technical Assistance Package for the Sustainable Energy Support Program in Tajikistan, TAJ</i> 4. <i>Ms. Nurzat Abdyrasulova, President, Unison Group, KGZ Winner 2024</i>
11:30–12:30	<p>Group Photo and Lunch</p>
12:30-13:00	<p>Wellness and Surprise</p>
13:00–14:00	<p>Session 3: STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics)</p> <p>This session focuses on empowering women in STEAM fields through technology and innovation, highlighting how these fields can contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p> <p>Moderator: <i>Ms. Samantha Hung, Director, Gender Equality Division, CCSD, ADB</i></p>

	<p>Panelists:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Ms. Jill Tang, Founder of She Rewires and community co-builder, PRC</i> 2. <i>Ms. Kamola Sobirova, Advisor to the Minister of Digital Technologies, Ministry for Development of ITC of the Republic of Uzbekistan, UZB</i> 3. <i>Ms. Leyla Seyidzade, Women in TECH Ambassador for Azerbaijan, AZE</i> 4. <i>Ms. Manzil-e-Maqsood, CEO & Director Education at Oxbridge Innovative Solutions, PAK</i>
14:00–15:00	<p>Session 4: Human Resource Development (Leadership)</p> <p>The session aims to discuss case studies of women-led climate resilience initiatives; strategies to enhance women’s participation in climate decision-making and leadership roles within the CAREC region.</p> <p>Moderator: <i>Ms. Sukhjargalmaa Dugersuren, Head, National Gender Experts’ Group under National Committee on Gender Equality of Mongolia, MON</i></p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Ms. Elmira Farzaliyeva, Founder and CEO, Urban Nature-Based Solutions LLC, AZE Winner 2024</i> 2. <i>Ms. Lola Olimova, a Media and Gender Expert, CABAR Asia, TAJ</i> 3. <i>Ms. Nargis Kasimova, Eco-activist and Head of the Public Association ‘Ecologist’, UZB</i> 4. <i>Ms. Xiaoxiao Xu, Deputy Secretary General, China Association for NGO Cooperation (CANGO), PRC Winner 2024</i>
15:00–15:15	<p>Closing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Event Feedback Survey</i> • <i>Ms. Zulfia Karimova, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, CWRD, ADB</i>
15:15–15:30	<p>Networking Coffee Break</p>