



Conference

# Promoting Sustainable Development in Central Asia

with the participation of International Organisations and Multilateral Development Banks

The EDB Conference - "Promoting Sustainable Development in Central Asia" is designed as a platform to discuss challenges and opportunities of regional development and to exchange experiences of international organisations and international financial institutions working in Central Asia.

The conference will focus on analysing the global challenges facing the Central Asian region and the EDB member countries. There will be in-depth discussions on transport connectivity in the region, interaction between international and regional climate actors, and scaling up climate finance.

Participants will also learn about best practices of cooperation between international organisations and international financial institutions in the preparation and implementation of investment projects, co-financing, technical assistance and analytical research.

**9:00 AM** Registration and  
**10:00 AM** welcome coffee

**10:00 AM** **Session 1:** Partnerships in Central Asia:  
**12:30 PM** Addressing Global Challenges Through Local Lenses

**1:00 PM** Lunch  
**2:00 PM**

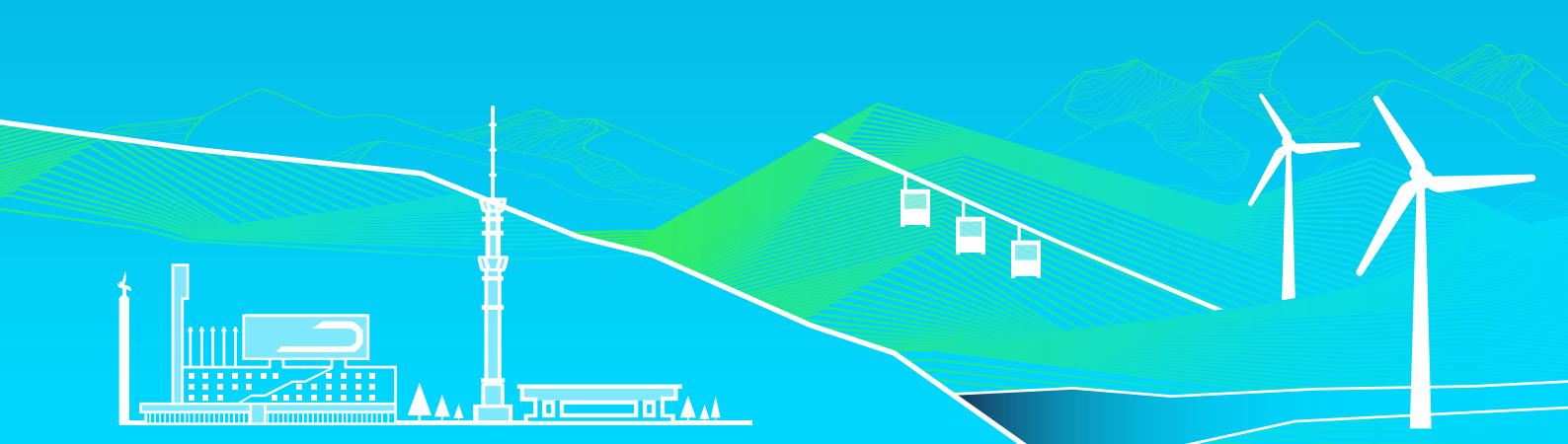
**2:00 PM** **Session 2:** Connectivity  
**3:30 PM** in Central Asia: the MDB Approach

**3:30 PM** Coffee break  
**4:00 PM**

**4:00 PM** **Session 3:**  
**5:30 PM** Scaling-up DFIs funding and co-financing streams in Central Asia: challenges and opportunities

**5:30 PM** **Presentation:** UNFCCC Technology  
**6:00 PM** Mechanism for Climate Impact in Eurasia and Central Asia

**5:30 PM** Buffet reception  
**7:00 PM** and networking



10:00 AM  
12:30 PM

## Session 1: Partnerships in Central Asia: Addressing Global Challenges Through Local Lenses

Globalisation processes present common challenges, yet the world operates in a “glocal” mode, with each region having its specific characteristics. Recognising these specificities is critical to implement effective economic strategies. The session is aimed to discuss several challenges that are global in nature through the local lenses of Central Asia. These challenges include:

- The need for both sustainable and rapid growth to combat poverty. Rapid growth can be achieved by further developing the industrial base, including through industrial cooperation, to secure a more favourable place in the international division of labour and value chains.
- Transport connectivity – all Central Asian countries are land-locked. The Eurasian Transport Network aims to mitigate this structural constraint and establish the Central Asian region as a transport hub.
- The organic and integrated development of the water-energy-food nexus as a foundation for security, peace and development.

### Launch of the MDB Non-Sovereign Financing in Eurasia Database (EDB NSF Database)

Hundreds of projects have been implemented in Central Asia with funding from multilateral development banks and other international financial organisations. The EDB has developed a database of non-sovereign financing by international financial institutions covering eleven Eurasian countries, including all five Central Asian countries (NSF Database). The database is a regularly updated analytical product that aggregates publicly available data on non-sovereign financing in various sectors by key international financial institutions. It identifies the main financing actors, key projects and sectors, and the most common types of financing. This data can be used by MDB project teams in their search for new projects, or for facilitating interaction between project beneficiaries and financing institutions.

### Questions for discussion:

- 1 Which global challenges are currently most relevant to Central Asia? What are the region’s specificities and possible responses to global challenges?
- 2 How is cooperation between multilateral development banks currently evolving in Central Asia? Are there any successful case studies? What opportunities do MDBs see for joint projects in Central Asia?
- 3 How can MDB cooperation be further developed in other key areas, such as capital markets, technical assistance and analysis?
- 4 How can MDBs jointly respond to developing countries’ requests for more financing in local currencies?

2:00 PM

Session 2:

3:30 PM

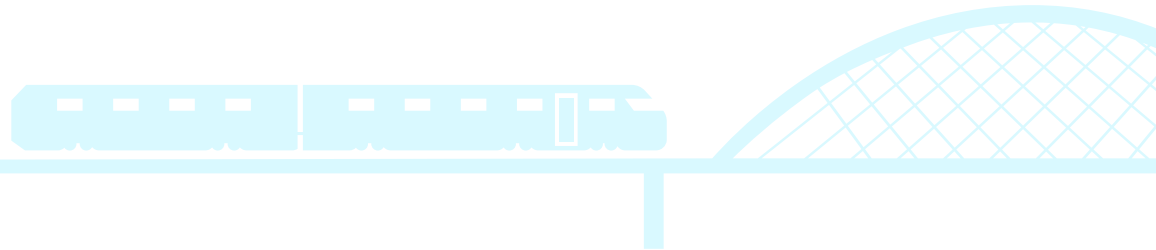
**Transport connectivity in Central Asia: the MDB Approach**

Improved connectivity is a key factor for accelerating socio-economic development, trade and mobility in the landlocked countries of Central Asia. Remoteness from seaports and world markets increases the transport costs of Central Asian exports and imports by an average of 40% compared to coastal developing countries. Transport infrastructure bottlenecks and imperfect rules and procedures (soft infrastructure) further hamper the development of international transport in the Central Asian region. The Eurasian Transport Network aims to improve connectivity in Central Asia by creating synergies between East–West and North–South transport corridors and routes.

Central Asia is implementing transport infrastructure development projects and evaluating initiatives to establish new corridors and routes, all aimed at enhancing regional connectivity and creating new logistics opportunities.

Given the limited investment opportunities in most Central Asian countries, it is essential to leverage funds from the private sector and international institutions, including MDBs, to implement transport projects. Public-private partnership (PPP) initiatives, including cross-border PPPs, hold significant potential.

In addition to transport infrastructure, it is crucial to improve soft infrastructure by harmonising border-crossing procedures and international transport, coordinating the development of transport corridors, and digitising transport documents and procedures.



### Questions for discussion:

- 1 What are the prospects for MDB cooperation in transport infrastructure development projects and initiatives that Central Asian countries focus on?
- 2 How will new corridors, especially longitudinal ones, impact international trade in Central Asia?
- 3 What are the main bottlenecks of transport corridors in Central Asia that hinder transport development? How can governments in the region and MDBs work together to address them?
- 4 How can MDBs contribute to the improvement of soft infrastructure?

4:00 PM

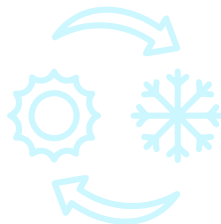
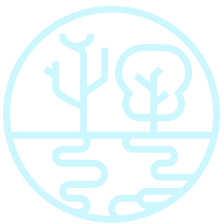
5:30 PM

## Session 3: Scaling-up DFIs funding and co-financing streams in Central Asia: challenges and opportunities

The region is one of the most impacted regions from climate crisis, most often devastating floods and droughts which exacerbates connected development challenges such as food, water and energy security. Central Asian countries have already made significant steps to set their unique locally led climate commitments and low-carbon strategies. However, translating these strategies into a practice is costly. Therefore, each country's ambitious climate goals can only be achieved through joint support from international climate players.

MDBs, forefront agents actualising transformation of climate system of developing countries, play a pivotal role in mobilising and relocating climate finance to the regional climate needs. They ensure high environmental measures and social standards in complicated infrastructure projects, channel private sector investments into sustainable climate projects at lowest risk possible. While MDBs are revising their climate finance targets towards more ambitious indicators, Central Asia's share of total climate finance to low- and middle-income countries remains modest (i.e. 4% by 2022).

The session offers an opportunity for participants to share their experiences in supporting climate finance in Central Asia at the institutional or project level.



### Questions for discussion:

- 1 What is the gap between climate needs and actual climate finance that need to be bridged?
- 2 How can climate finance support climate priorities of our client countries? Should we choose between climate mitigation, adaptation or other socio-economic priorities, or try to tackle them all at once?
- 3 To what extent would DFIs/MDB partnerships accelerate the conversion of climate requirements into our operational models?
- 4 What technical assistance, policy reforms or other solutions are needed to build up a strong pipeline of high-quality and bankable climate-positive projects, contributing to the achievement of the climate and sustainability efforts of the region?

We expect the discussion to facilitate exchange of practical ideas and operational actions, attracting private and public investors of climate finance to this region, and how the combined experience and lessons learnt by financial institutions active in this market can contribute to this goal.

5:30 PM  
6:00 PM

## Presentation\*: UNFCCC Technology Mechanism for Climate Impact in Eurasia and Central Asia



Speaker:

**Jeawon Kim**

Capacity Building and Network  
Engagement Specialist, CTCN

**\* the presentation is intended for country delegations but is open to all participants**

Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), implementation arm of the UNFCCC Technology Mechanism, jointly with the Eurasian Development Bank (EDB), will share past, present, and future activities supporting climate action in Eurasian and Central Asian countries.

The session aims to exchange collaboration opportunities among international and regional climate players, thereby fostering a line of thinking of participating audiences on how MDBs could translate global climate policies into climate technology practice using climate finance.

CTCN's presentation will introduce climate policies and technologies that enable climate action addressing the specific challenges of these regions. Following CTCN's mandate to support developing countries in transferring climate technologies and incubating innovations tailored to the local needs on climate action, a detailed overview of its main service to area Technical Assistance (TA) projects will be covered. These TA projects support countries achieve their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement, by facilitating partnerships that unlock funding, capacities, and proven technological solutions. Key service areas of capacity building and collaboration with stakeholders will inspire how climate technology mechanism have been contributing to building local capacities and forming collaboration opportunities.

The presentation will also brief on successful factors in submitting a TA request to the CTCN, for the mechanism to rightfully support the countries' achievement of significant environmental and social benefits, such as renewable energy initiatives, climate-resilient agriculture, and sustainable infrastructure development. Information on key pathways to maximize engagement and impact from countries in the region will allow participants to gain insights into how they can initiate collaborations, raise the visibility of climate challenges, and work towards sustainable solutions with CTCN's support.



As a highlight, the session will also outline the growing collaboration between the CTCN and the EDB, serving as an inspiration for strong cooperation embarked between international organisations, regional MDBs, and National Development Banks with private sector engagement. Specifically, regional MDBs and National Development Banks can engage with countries to identify private sector projects of national interest that align with their decarbonisation goals. This approach ensures that these institutions not only address public-sector climate initiatives, but also foster private sector investments that contribute to the countries' decarbonisation efforts. CTCN will elaborate on various means of facilitating synergies between countries and Multilateral and National Banks, which can help secure technical assistance, investment its, and private sector participation in climate technology research, development, and/or deployment.

### **The session will ultimately:**

- a) Inspire MDBs and other PDBs on ways to operationalize the effort of linking solutions, thus, leading a joint action of the transforming hard-to-abate sectors;
- b) Call for countries from this region to actively engage with opportunities to strengthen their capacity of implementing transformative climate projects across both the public and private sectors, accelerating progress toward their NDC goals.

