



UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL PROGRAMME
FOR THE ECONOMIES OF CENTRAL ASIA (SPECA)

2012 SPECA ECONOMIC FORUM

"Strengthening Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Central Asia by
Sharing the Asian Experience"

(Bangkok, Thailand, 27-28 November 2012)

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

27 November 2012

08.30-09.00 Registration of participants

09.00-10.30 Opening session

Opening statements by the Representative of Turkmenistan (the country chairing SPECA),
the Executive Secretary of ESCAP and the Executive Secretary of UNECE

10.30-10.45 Coffee break

10.45-11.45 Opening statements by the Representatives of SPECA member countries

11.45-13.00 First session: Subregional Cooperation for Sustainable and Inclusive
Development in Asia: Successes and Challenges

Keynote statement: "Opportunities and Challenges of Regional Economic
Cooperation: the Experience of ASEAN", the Representative of ASEAN
(tbc)

Keynote statement: "The Long Road towards Regional Economic
Cooperation: the Experience of SAARC", the Representative of SAARC
(tbc)

Statement: The Representative of APEC (tbc)

The keynote speakers will present the history of the Asian regional organizations,
highlight the main drivers and challenges of regional cooperation, overview the
achievements and lessons learned, as well as identify experiences that could be adapted to
the needs of Central Asia.

Questions and remarks by the Representatives of SPECA member countries

13.00-14.30 Lunch break

14.30-15.15 **Second session: SPECA Economies in Asian and Eurasian Regional Cooperation Organizations**

Keynote statement: "Progress Towards the Free Movement of Capital, Goods, Services and Labour in the EurAsEC region", the Representative of EurAsEC (tbc)

Keynote statement: "Policies and measures to strengthen regional economic cooperation and trade in Central Asia", the Representative of UNCTAD (tbc)

Statement: Eurasian Development Bank (tbc)

The speakers will present the overview of history, objectives, areas of activities, successes and challenges of their organizations and highlight its relevance for Central Asian countries.

Questions and remarks by the representatives of SPECA member countries

15.15-15.30 Coffee break

15.30-16.30 **Third session: Economic Integration and Regional Security Cooperation in Central Asia**

Keynote statement: "Regional Economic Cooperation: a Key Contribution to Security and Stability", the Representative of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (tbc)

Statements:

- UNAMA (tbc)
- UNRCCA (tbc)
- CICA (tbc)

Questions and remarks by the representatives of SPECA member countries

16.30-17.45 **Fourth session: Experience of International Financial Institutions in Supporting Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Central Asia**

Keynote statement: "Investment Attractiveness and Economic Growth: the Experience of CAREC", the Representative of the Asian Development Bank (tbc)

The speakers will identify global versus regional and subregional issues, highlight areas that can best be / need to be addressed at the subregional level, review bottlenecks and challenges, identify pragmatic initial steps and how to strengthen political will.

Statements:

- EBRD (tbc)
- IMF (tbc)
- IsDB (tbc)
- UNDP (tbc)
- World Bank (tbc)

Questions and remarks by the representatives of SPECA member countries

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09.00-10.15 Fifth session: The Contribution of SPECA to Regional Economic Cooperation in Central Asia: Adapting the Asian and Eurasian Experience

Introduction of the background study by consultants

The participants/discussants will be invited to overview Asian experiences that could be relevant, the ways of how to adapt them, what could be the role of SPECA and how to create more ownership.

Questions and remarks by the representatives of SPECA member countries

10.15-10.30 Coffee break

10.30-11.30 Continuation of the discussion

Programmes and Activities of ESCAP and UNECE in Support of Integrating SPECA Countries into the Asian and World Economy through Regional Cooperation

Statements: Presentations by ESCAP and UNECE with specific attention to those addressing development needs and challenges in the SPECA region

Questions and remarks by the representatives of SPECA member countries

11.30-12.30 Closing session

Conclusions by the Chair

Statements by Representatives of SPECA member countries

Closing statements by the Representative of Turkmenistan, the Executive Secretary of ESCAP and the Executive Secretary of UNECE.