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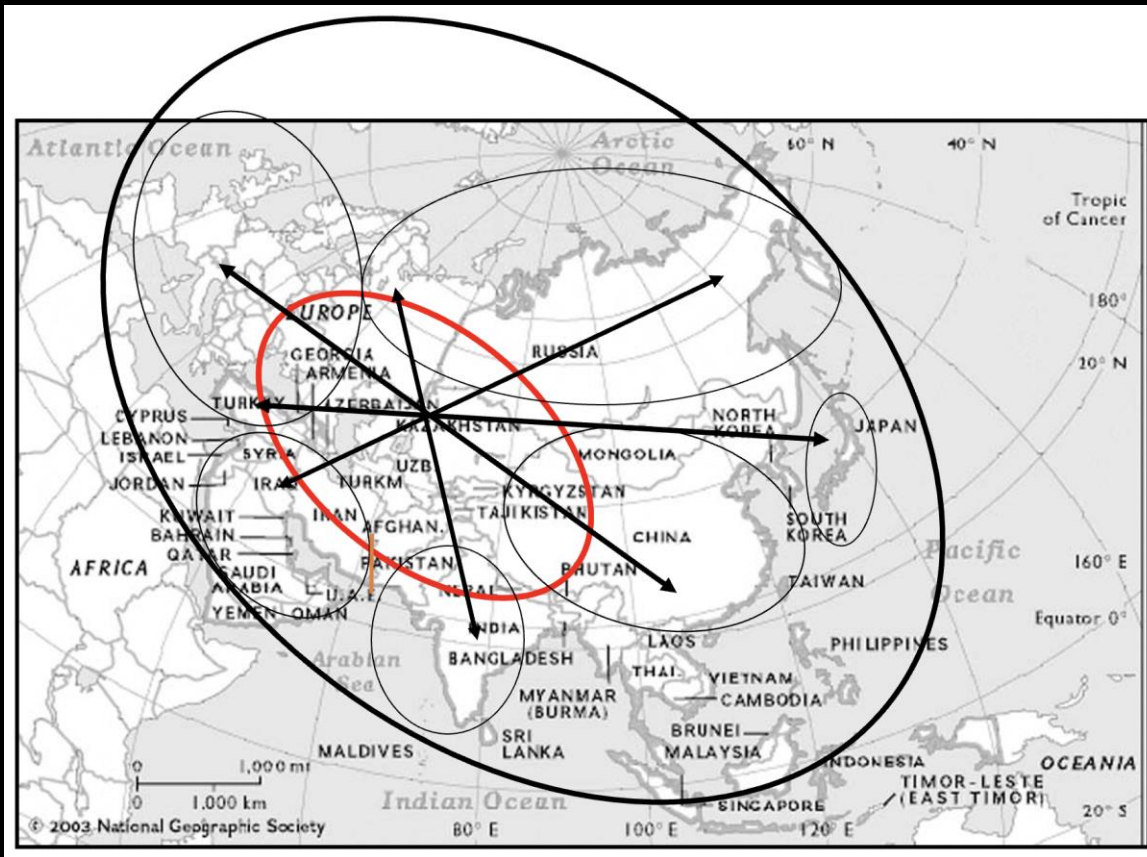
Improving Connectivity and Sustainability for Transport, Transit And Trade in Central Asia

2021 SPECA ECONOMIC FORUM

Sustainable Transport and Trade for a Green and Inclusive Economy after the Pandemic

Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 17-18 November 2021

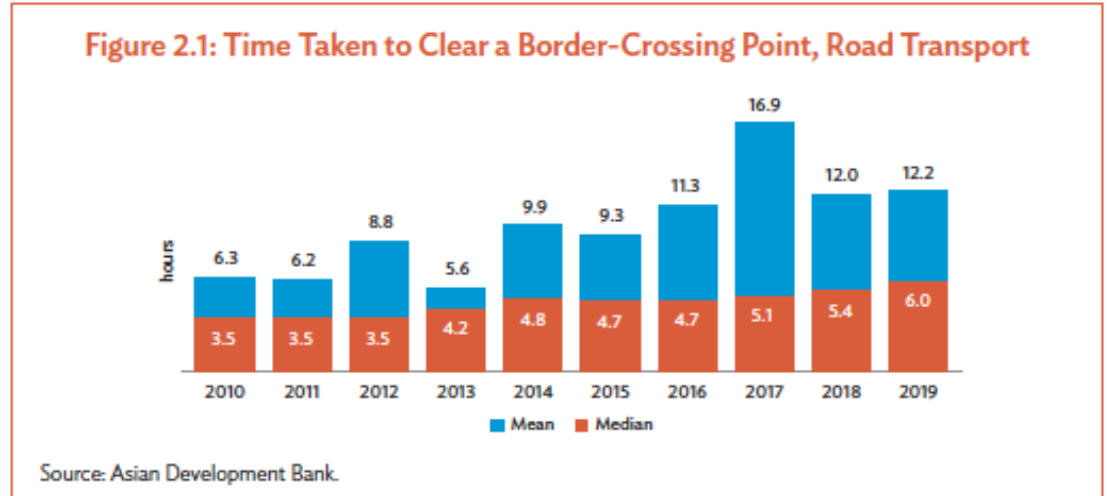
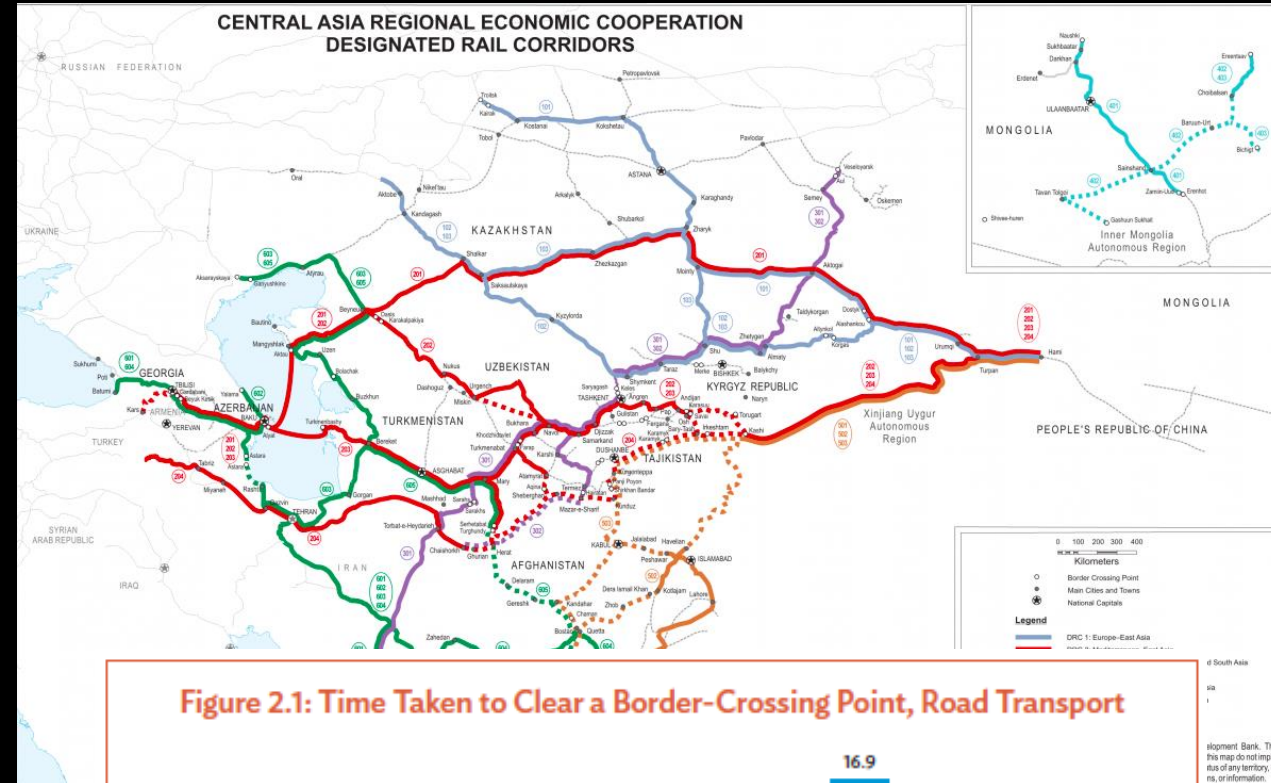
CENTRAL ASIA AND THE SOUTH CAUCASUS LIE AT THE HEART OF EURO-ASIA



- Landlocked v land-linked
- Potentially linked to some of the largest economies of the world
- China, India, Russia and the EU account for 37 percent of world GDP

MAIN OBSTACLES TO CONNECTIVITY

- **Border barriers**
 - Speed and costs at borders along the CAREC transport corridors have not improved overall (exc. railways speed)
 - Waiting time on roads has doubled
- **Weaknesses in trade and transport facilitation behind the borders**
 - Poor scores in logistics capacity,
 - Weak operations and maintenance of physical infrastructure and
 - Poor penetration of broadband connectivity
 - High energy intensity of transport
- **Political instability and conflict**
- **COVID disruptions**



Source: <https://www.carecprogram.org/uploads/carec-cpmm-annual-report-2019.pdf>

OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUILDING BACK BETTER FOR CONNECTIVITY

- Uzbekistan opening up and reforms
- Collaborative spirit among countries (5 Presidents' meeting August 2021)
- Investments in improved transport infrastructure
- Limited impact of global supply chain disruptions
 - Improved competitiveness of land-based transit across Euro-Asia
- Recognition of importance of internet connectivity

PRIORITY ACTIONS TO STRENGTHEN CONNECTIVITY

1. Control COVID through widespread vaccinations
2. Reduce barriers at the border and strengthen behind the border trade and transit facilitation
3. Improve digital connectivity, including digital trade and transport connectivity
4. Pay more attention to infrastructure operations and maintenance (O&M).
5. Carefully management the transition to a green economy
6. Peaceful coexistence among countries and domestic political stability
7. More and more effective cooperation and coordination among the regional organizations and among bilateral and multilateral international financiers