

# Silk Roads in the Mountains of Central Asia

## Ancient Routes & Modern Challenges in Times of Global Change

3-4 October 2017 | Serena Hotel, Dushanbe, Tajikistan

### Scope and Aim

The *Silk Roads in the Mountains of Central Asia* workshop organized and hosted by University of Central Asia through its Mountain Societies Research Institute (MSRI) aims to broaden, deepen, and strengthen our understanding of recent and anticipated developments in the context of China's *One Belt, One Road* policy and related initiatives. *Impacts on the mountain regions and societies of Central Asia will be the primary focus of discussions.* Additionally, an inclusive dialogue is deemed to be essential, with participants from a range of countries and academic backgrounds, by including development planners and practitioners as well as natural and social scientists.

The discussions are aiming to assess the current state of knowledge and lead to preliminary identification of agreed priority areas for future transdisciplinary research in Central Asia's mountainous regions. This workshop will thus help to advance *Sustainable Mountain Development* as well as to promote research and action on a range of mountain-specific Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that are likely to be affected by China's engagement in the region.

Through the planned series of talks, roundtables, breakout sessions, and informal exchanges, outputs should include proceedings that summarize presentations, findings, agreed priorities, and emerging partnerships. Some publication options (e.g. articles, policy briefs) also will be discussed.

## AGENDA & SCHEDULE

### Monday, 2 October 2017 (Day 0)

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Arrival of participants at Serena Hotel (all day)

Book Launch: Yuri Badenkov's new book will be presented at the Ismaili Centre Dushanbe, as part of *UCA Public Lecture Series* organized by AKHP. Details in separate announcement. For participants who wish to attend, a minibus will depart Serena Hotel at 3:30pm.

## Tuesday, 3 October 2017 (Day 1)

Time	Activity	Participant
9.00am	Opening and introduction to the workshop	Marc Foggin
9.05am	Welcome Address (with introduction of AKDN and UCA)	Yodgor Faizov
9.15 am	<b>Keynote 1.</b> Building Mountain Resilience through Transboundary Management of Ecosystem Services	<b>Wu Ning</b>
10.00am	Introductions of the participants	Group
10.30am	Coffee break & networking	
11.00am	<b>Keynote 2.</b> Pamirian Crossroads and the New Silk Road Initiative	<b>Hermann Kreutzmann</b>
11:45am	<b>Discussion 1.</b> Stocktaking of current and planned OBOR-related investments/projects in Central Asia, by country and sub-regions	Chaired by Troy Sternberg
12.30pm	<b>Lunch</b>	
2.00pm	Recap of purpose and desired outcomes of workshop: Collaborative outlining of current state of knowledge, regional exchange of ideas and suggestions to maximize benefits, leading to recommended next steps	Marc Foggin
2.15pm	Presentation 1: OBOR scientific cooperation: from perspective of cooperation between Gansu, China, and Central Asian countries	Long Ruijin
2.30pm	Presentation 2: Beyond the Karakoram Range: six decades of road development in Ladakh, impacts on the environment and society	Jonathan Demenge
2.45pm	Coffee break & networking	
3.15pm	Presentation 3: Report by AKRSP in Gilgit, Pakistan on CPEC	Aziz Ali Dad
3.30pm	Presentation 4: Locational Advantage of Gilgit-Baltistan: Special Economic Zones	Babar Aman
3.45pm	Presentation 5: Predicting environmental effects of infrastructure development and land use change in high altitude deserts & steppes	Jerome Mayaud
4.00pm	<b>Discussion 2.</b> How can China's interests and plans in Central Asia, as presented through OBOR, be maximized for sustainable development? How can marginalization of mountain communities in Central Asia be averted, and anticipated benefits of OBOR's shared more widely?	Chaired by Yuri Badenkov and Hermann Kreutzmann
5.00pm	<b>ICIMOD mini-event (1 hour):</b> Long Ruijin and Ismail Muhammad to introduce the Hindu Kush – Karakoram – Pamir Landscape (HKPL) conservation programme, which encompasses six protected areas (PAs) and surrounding regions in four countries. Also an introduction of recently facilitated exchanges with Chinese scholars, related to the OBOR program, together with a discussion about types of opportunities that could be promoted or found between countries, for OBOR related scientific cooperation.	
6.30pm	<b>Supper</b>	
8.00pm	<u>Book launch:</u> "Wakhan Quadrangle: Exploration and Espionage During and After the Great Game" – will be held at Serena Hotel	Hermann Kreutzmann

## Wednesday, 4 October 2017 (Day 2)

Time	Activity	Participant
9.00am	<b>Keynote 3.</b> The Silk Road in High Asia: Geography, Environment & Sustainability in Altai	<b>Yuri Badenkov</b>
9.45am	Presentation 6: History and prospects for UNESCO's transboundary Greater Altay Biosphere Reserve	Tatyana Yashina
10.00am	Presentation 7: Development of tourism in the transboundary Altai: influence of the project «One belt, one road»	Alexander Dunets
10.15am	Coffee break & networking	
10.45am	<b>Keynote 4.</b> The role of landscape and politics of infrastructure for China's New Silk Road programme in Central Asia	<b>Troy Sternberg</b>
11.30am	Local/national perspectives: What does OBOR mean for 'us' – here in Central Asia? What are the possibilities, what are the challenges? What would we like to see OBOR develop? How to engage w/ China? <i>Hearing from Tajik, Kyrgyz, Afghan, and other voices and perspectives.</i>	'Open floor' for thoughts, inputs and suggestions – from a range of perspectives
12.30pm	<b>Lunch</b>	
2.00pm	<b>Discussion 3.</b> Stock-taking revisited – further additions? Additionally, what gaps identified? What research needs? (and introduction of GCRF)	Chaired by Troy Sternberg
2:30pm	<b>Discussion 4.</b> Anticipated impacts of OBOR in mountains of Central Asia – including policy matters, as well as discussion of governance issues, local and regional economic perspectives and implications, environmental and societal impacts, etc. Three breakout groups.  (A) Transitioning from 'transport routes to 'development corridors' (B) Environmental considerations of infrastructure and land projects (C) Sociocultural impacts of OBOR related projects in mountain regions	Chaired by Marc Foggin and Wu Ning
3.30pm	Feedback Session	Group
4.00pm	Coffee break & networking	
4.30pm	<b>Panel Session:</b> What are some economic/sociocultural/environmental benefits and/or challenges arising from OBOR? What disparities (if any) in local vs regional vs Chinese benefits/challenges? Who wins, who loses?  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tatjana Yashina (Alta, Russia) – <i>integrating culture in development, including opportunities for community-beneficial tourism in OBOR</i></li> <li>- Talantbek Aldashev (Kyrgyzstan) – <i>changing markets and impacts on livestock husbandry sector (i.e. pastoralism and rangelands)</i></li> <li>- Kishwar Abdulalishoev (Tajikistan) – <i>agriculture &amp; food security</i></li> <li>- Aziz Ali Dad (Gilgit-Baltistan) – <i>maximizing economic benefits for communities, moving beyond 'transport routes' to 'development'</i></li> <li>- Wu Ning (China) – <i>environmental challenges, safeguards needed</i></li> </ul>	Chaired by Hermann Kreutzmann
5.30pm	<b>Final discussion:</b> Future directions / Where do we go from here?	Troy Sternberg et al.
6.15pm	Closing remarks and thanks	
6.30pm	- end -	

## Post-conference fieldtrip

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Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> October	Dushanbe – Darvaz
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	Darvaz – Khorog
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> October	Daytrip: Wakhan
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> October	Daytrip: Ghund Valley
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> October	Khorog – Dushanbe

## Conference outputs

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- List of participants w/ contact details – building a network on OBOR in Central Asia
- Conference proceedings, including
  - keynote speeches and presentations
  - list of projects under OBOR in Central Asia, by country and/or type (stock-taking)
  - summary of findings about synergies and opportunities, what OBOR means (e.g.) for AKF and AKAH, and a knowledge gap analysis (i.e. identification of research needs)
  - preliminary outline of anticipated OBOR impacts – economic, social, environmental
- Possibility of a multi-author article based on the workshop, e.g. in Mountain Research and Development (MRD), or maybe even a ‘special issue’ in the Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis (see <https://comparativepolicy.org>)
- Compiled bibliography of OBOR related journal articles, chapters, etc.
- Other suggested publications, e.g. policy briefs
- AOB