

Panel Discussion 1:

AI and the Future of Human Capital – Reshaping the Central Asian Economies and Silk Road

- **Overview:** This panel will cover how the introduction of AI is aiding in the advancement of human capital development throughout the economies located along the Silk Road corridor, as well as those of Central Asia in general. This panel will also discuss how government and private organizations can work together to create forward-thinking policies that will allow for inclusive growth from AI technology within the region.
- **SDG Alignment:** The session aligns closely with Sustainable Development Goal 4 on quality education, Goal 8 on decent work and economic growth, and Goal 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure



Objectives: This session will discuss how human resources development, educational systems, and workforce readiness throughout Central Asia and the Silk Road region are being impacted by advancements in artificial intelligence (AI). Participants will evaluate the impact of AI-based reformation and trans-border labor movement in fostering regional collaboration and inclusive economic development.

Panel Discussion 2:

Tourism, Culture, and Soft Connectivity - Hospitality, Heritage, and People-to-People Integration

- **Overview:** This session explores tourism and cultural connectivity as drivers of regional integration and economic diversification.
- **SDG Alignment:** This panel links SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 11(Sustainable Cities and Communities) and SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production)



- **Objectives:** This panel aims to assess tourism-led development, explore sustainable tourism models, and examine cross-border tourism policies

Panel Discussion 3:

Reimagining the Silk Road-Regional Connectivity, Trade Integration, and Central Asia’s Strategic Role

- **Overview:** This flagship panel examines the revival of the Silk Road as a modern framework for trade integration, regional connectivity, and economic cooperation. It brings together policymakers, economists, and regional experts to discuss Central Asia’s evolving role in global and Eurasian value chains.
- **SDG Alignment:** This panel aligns with SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals



- **Objectives:** This panel aims to assess Central Asia’s positioning in global trade, examine cross-border integration mechanisms, and identify policy pathways for Silk Road connectivity.

Panel Discussion 4:

Financial Innovation and Infrastructure Finance Along the Digital Silk Road

- **Overview:** This session focuses on digital finance platforms, financial infrastructure, and innovation ecosystems reshaping cross-border trade and finance in Central Asia-especially Silk Road.

- **SDG Alignment:** This panel connects SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities)



- **Objectives:** The objective of this panel is to examine digital trade and e-commerce, assess FinTech and financial inclusion, innovation, and discuss data governance challenges.

Panel Discussion 5:

Sustainable Growth and Climate Action - Green Economy and Critical Minerals for Inclusive Development

- **Overview:** This panel examines how sustainable growth and climate action can be advanced through green trade/economy and the responsible development of critical minerals, promoting climate-resilient, inclusive, and environmentally sustainable development along the Silk Road.
- **SDG Alignment:** This panel matches SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), and SDG 13 (Climate Action)



- **Objectives:** Examine sustainable trade practices by exploring climate-resilient infrastructure and promoting inclusive, low-carbon growth models along the Silk Road.

Special Session 1:

Innovation, Startups, and the Knowledge Economy for Food Security: Entrepreneurship along the Silk Road

- **Overview:** The session will examine how digital technologies, data analytics, biotechnology, and supply-chain innovation enable entrepreneurs to address food system challenges while generating inclusive economic growth. The discussion will also consider the role of universities, research institutions, agribusinesses, and public-private partnerships in supporting the commercialization of knowledge, scaling agri-tech startups, and integrating food systems into regional and global markets.
- **SDG Alignment:** The session aligns closely with Sustainable Development Goal 2 on zero hunger Goal 8 on decent work and economic growth, Goal 9 on industry, innovation, and infrastructure, and Goal 10 on reduced inequalities.



Objectives: The objectives of this special session are to:

- Examine how knowledge economy-driven entrepreneurship contributes to food security and sustainable agriculture
- Explore the role of agri-tech startups and digital solutions in transforming food value chains
- Assess policy frameworks and financing mechanisms supporting innovation in agriculture and food systems
- Identify pathways for integrating smallholders, rural entrepreneurs, and SMEs into regional and global markets
- Promote cross-border collaboration to strengthen knowledge-driven agri-innovation ecosystems along the Silk Road
- To examine startup ecosystems and innovation financing in Central Asia, identify constraints faced by knowledge-based entrepreneurs, and discuss policy frameworks supporting innovation-led SMEs

Special Session 2:

Academia-Policy-Industry Dialogue from Research to Policy Impact in Central Asia

- **Overview:** This panel bridges academic research with policymaking and industry practice, focusing on research impact and collaboration.
- **SDG Alignment:** This session aligns closely with Sustainable Development Goal 4 (Quality Education), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)



- **Objectives:** This session aims to strengthen research-policy linkages, enhance research impact, and promote international collaboration