



TUESDAY,
SEPT. 19, 2023
12:00 PM (ET)
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CERES Brown Bag Talk

Impact of Globalization in Central Asia: A case study of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan

by Dr. Garima Tomar

Globalisation means free trade, free flow of capital and free movement of people across borders is a continuous process of integration. The post-soviet Central Asia was confronted by many challenges due to globalisation. The region of Central Asia, despite being endowed with abundant natural resources, was among the least globalised regions in the world. Among the Central Asian countries, the two most important and biggest economies are Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan which together account for 81.83 percent of the region's GDP. Despite their shared Soviet legacy, the journey of attaining globalisation has been strikingly different for both these nations. Globalisation can have positive as well as negative effects on a nation, depending on the level of development and the aspects of globalisation that are affecting it. Kazakhstan has utilized the economic aspects of globalisation by focusing on increasing trade, investments and regional integration in the region. On the other hand Uzbekistan has been rather wary and gradual towards opening up its economy, though that has occasionally shielded it from global recession and crises. It is interesting to see how the different approaches have served these two nations in attaining their goals. The aim of this presentation will be to compare, contrast and quantify the impact of the policy initiatives taken by governments and civil bodies of both nations towards liberalization of economy. The impact is then measured through an array of economic and developmental indicators.

Speaker's bio: Dr. Garima Tomar received PhD degree from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India in International Relations. Her research focuses on the economic impact of globalisation on Central Asian region specifically Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. She has published research papers in peer reviewed journals and has presented in conferences in India and Italy. She was also awarded the Erasmus Mundus scholarship in 2019 and studied in Ca Foscari University for one semester. She loves to teach and has taught full time at Masters level. She lives a plastic-free life and delivers lectures on Plastic Pollution & Climate Change to create awareness.

