



3rd Almaty
Energy Forum

Session 1 – Unlocking Central Asia’s Critical Raw Materials Potential: Challenges and Opportunities



7 November 2023
10:00 – 11:45 (UTC/GMT +6 hours)
Independence Hall

BACKGROUND

Critical minerals as resources are essential to the economy and whose supply may be disrupted. Today, many critical minerals are metals central to high-tech sectors defining, thus, global energy transition and meeting the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Critical raw materials (CRMs) include rare earth metals (REMs) and other metals such as lithium, indium, tellurium, gallium, and platinum group elements.

These CRMs are all essential for global development, and the demand for them has increased in recent years with the spread of high-tech devices for personal and commercial use, such as wind turbines, solar panels and electronics such as smartphones and tablets. Furthermore, future high technology depends on other ‘magical’ qualities of the REMs, defining the development of superconductivity, cryogenics, non-silicon electronics, etc.

Among the UNECE member States, the current geopolitical tensions, environmental impacts, market distortions, and technological changes make Central Asia more prominent on the world’s agenda and turn this previously ‘invisible’ region into a global promise. However, the following pivotal questions will be addressed in this session:

- providing sustainable development for Central Asia
- securing access to the region’s CRMs via creating value-added technology chains, developing basic research and human capital, and
- adopting the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) and the United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS) with a particular emphasis on the importance of social value added in the regional perspective.

For more information about the event please visit

<https://unece.org/>

AGENDA

10:00	Presentation 1
10:10	Harnessing the Potential of Critical Raw Materials for Low Carbon Energy in Central Asia with UNFC and UNRMS Harikrishnan Tulsidas, Economic Affairs Officer, Sustainable Energy Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
10:10	Presentation 2
10:20	Diagnosing the Vital Signs: A Health Checklist for Sustainability of Critical Raw Material Development Matthew Wittenstein, Chief of Section, Energy Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP)
10:20	Presentation 3
10:30	'De'-Granding Challenges and Enabling Development Pathways Dr. Siddharth S Saxena, Cambridge Central Asia Forum & Cavendish Laboratory, University of Cambridge, UK. and British Management University, Tashkent, Uzbekistan
10:30	Presentation 4
10:40	Sustainable Resource Management: The situation in Central Asia Viktor Babashev, Vice-Chair (Kazakhstan), UNECE Expert Group on Resource Management
10:40	Panel discussion
11:30	How to unlock Central Asia's critical raw materials potential? Moderator: Chokan Laumulin, Professor, KBTU and Vice Chair, UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy Panelists <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yerlan Akbarov, Chairman, Geology Committee, Ministry of Industry and Construction, Kazakhstan• Vera Bratkova, Head, ICE-SRM, Moscow• Geroi Zholtaev, Director, Institute of Geological Sciences, Almaty, Kazakhstan• Arkady Rogalsky, Counselor, State Enterprise Kyrgyzgeology, Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Safety, Kyrgyzstan• Yerlan Galiyev, Chairman, National Geology Service, Kazakhstan• Georgyi Freiman, General Manager, Chairman EC of PONEN• Yerlik Karazhan, CEO, ESGQ Rating Agency
11:30	Wrap up