With funding from the:

Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space · Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg · CASIB Central Asia Sustainable Innovation Bureau · Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan · AI & Digital Ministry · astana hub · alem.ai · QAIRU

PROGRAMME · 17–18 NOVEMBER 2026 · ASTANA

CASIB Regional Conference on Future-Oriented Research and Innovations

How Research Drives Sustainable Development and Transformation in Central Asia



PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

DAY 1 · 17 NOVEMBER

Conference

Research, solutions and partnerships for sustainable transformation

Alem.AI – Plenary Hall

09:15 – 18:00

DAY 2 · 18 NOVEMBER

Workshop

Transforming Scientific Knowledge into Economic Value

QAIRU, Room 100, 1st floor

09:30 – 12:30

DAY 2 · 18 NOVEMBER

DFG Networking Session

Science Café and Information Seminar

QAIRU – Workshop space

14:00 – 16:00

Day 1 **17 November 2026** | Alem.AI – Plenary Hall

09:15 Registration and Welcome Coffee

10:00

OPENING

Welcome

Moderated by **Dr. Peter Liebelt**, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU) / CASIB

Prof. Dr. Pablo Pirnay-Dummer
Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg

Dr. Heike Renate Peitsch
Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Astana

Daniyar Meirbekov
Ministry of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Renat Yelshibekov
Science Committee of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Patricia Romanowsky
German Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR)

10:30

SESSION 1

Research and Innovation for a Sustainable Future

Moderated by **Dr. Peter Liebelt**, MLU / CASIB

SESSION DESCRIPTION

This session will present research and innovation projects supported by BMFTR and DFG that contribute to sustainable development and climate resilience in Central Asia. The presentations will highlight innovative approaches in agroforestry, crop breeding, soil science, water management, sustainable mobility, and AI-driven urban resilience, demonstrating how international research cooperation can address regional challenges and translate scientific knowledge into practical solutions.

01 **Innovating Agroforestry Value Chains**
Prof. Dr. Dietrich Darr · Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences
SUFACHAIN project · funded by BMFTR

02 **Building a Joint Innovation Platform for Fruit Genetic Resource Conservation and Climate-Resilient Crop Breeding in Central Asia**
Dr. Thomas Wöhner · Julius Kühn-Institute
Project KLINU · funded by BMFTR

03 **Integrating Research Innovation and Capacity Building for a Soil Science Excellence Cluster in Central Asia and Mongolia**
Dr. Olga Shibistova · Leibniz University Hannover
Project ExSOIL · funded by BMFTR

04 **Cross-border analysis of changes in water consumption in agriculture from 1987 to 2025 in the Ili River basin**
Simon Spengler · IAMO
Project TRANSILI · funded by BMFTR

05 **Blue-Green Water Infrastructure for Climate-Resilient Water Management in Kazakhstan**
Dr. Aliya Assubayeva · Nazarbayev University
Funded by DFG

06 **Advancing Research and Innovation for Sustainable Mobility in Uzbekistan**
Dr. Elbek Khodjaniyazov · Urgench State University
RISMUz project · funded by BMFTR

07 **Shaping a Sustainable Future: AI-Driven Urban Resilience and Climate Adaptation in Central Asia**
Prof. Dr. Mehdi Bagheri, Dr. Parya Broomandi · Nazarbayev University
Project NETSTAN · funded by BMFTR

08 **Astana Hub and Alem.ai Ecosystem**
Daniyar Zhumagulov · Astana Hub

11:50 **Q&A**
All speakers

12:00 **Lunch**

13:00 **Alem.ai: Guided Tour and Introduction to the Centre**

14:00

SESSION 2

From Research to Solutions for Sustainable Transformation

Moderated by **Assiya Sagymbay & Raushan Amanzholova**, Representative Office of Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg in Kazakhstan / CASIB

SESSION DESCRIPTION

This session will explore how research, innovation, and international cooperation can be translated into practical solutions for sustainable transformation in Central Asia. Presentations will focus on inclusive climate action, digital monitoring and reporting, energy transition, green and circular economy, sustainable agriculture, and digitalization in healthcare. The session will highlight the role of research institutions, international organizations, and business networks in supporting evidence-based policies and driving sustainable change across the region.

01 **Bridging the Gap: How the Just Transition Center (JTC) Translates Research into Inclusive Climate Solutions**
Prof. Dr. Christian Tietje · Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg
Funded by EU

02 **Digital MRV as a Catalyst for Central Asia's Green Transformation**
Dr. Bakhyt Yessekina · Scientific and Educational Center "Green Academy", Coordinator of the Green Climate Hub

03 **Supporting Energy Transition for Security and Climate: Insights from the EU for a Green Turkmenistan project**
Dr. Caroline Milow · German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)

04 **Driving Economic Transformation: How German Chamber of Commerce in Central Asia Fosters a Green and Circular Economy Through its Eco-Platform**
Anna Kim · AHK Central Asia

05 **Driving the Circular Shift: Strategic Roadmaps for Sustainable Transformation**
Dr. Sebastian Schmuck · University of Duisburg-Essen

06 **UzFarm Barometer project: a scientific research initiative investigating farmers' decision-making and the adoption of innovative agricultural practices in Uzbekistan**
Dr. Nilufar Rashitova · Westminster International University in Tashkent
Funded by BMFTR

07 **Transformation Processes in Healthcare Systems: The Role of Digitalization and Participatory Research**
Dr. Franziska Fink · KPTG · Centre of Excellence for Participatory Research and Transformation in Healthcare, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg

15:15

Q&A
All speakers

15:30

Coffee Break
Signing Ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding between GIZ and Central Asian Partners

16:00

SESSION 3 · PANEL DISCUSSION

Partners for Progress: Challenges and Opportunities in International Research Alliances

Moderated by **Prof. Dr. Christian Tietje**, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg

SESSION DESCRIPTION

This panel discussion will explore the challenges and opportunities of building international research partnerships and strengthening cooperation between Central Asian and international institutions. Particular attention will be given to opportunities for early-career researchers and young scientists, including access to international research networks, joint projects, funding programmes, academic mobility, and innovation ecosystems. The panellists will discuss how institutional partnerships can create new pathways for young researchers to develop their careers, exchange knowledge, and contribute to addressing regional challenges.

PANELLISTS

Dr. Aliya Sembayeva
Astana Hub

Khamrobek Khudoykuliev
Agency for Innovative Development under the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Dr. Caroline Milow
German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)

Elena Resch
University Alliance Ruhr

Karina Anguelieva
International Science and Technology Center (ISTC)

Dr. Aliya Assubayeva
Nazarbayev University

17:00 Closing Remarks

18:00 Networking Dinner

Day 2 **18 November 2026** | QAIRU – Qazaq AI Research University, Room 100, 1st floor

WORKSHOP

Transforming Scientific Knowledge into Economic Value – Participatory Approaches for Regional Development

09:30

PANEL

Practical experiences on knowledge transfer from science to business

Moderated by **KPTG**, Centre of Excellence for Participatory Research and Transformation in Healthcare, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg

Prof. Patrick Jahn
Centre of Excellence for Participatory Research and Transformation in Healthcare, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg

Anna Kim
Centre for Green Economy, AHK – German Chamber of Commerce in Central Asia

Khamrobek Khudoykuliev
Agency for Innovative Development under the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Dias Kossubayev
Chief Operating Officer, Alem.ai Endowment Fund

Dr. Philipp Schroeder
Nazarbayev University

Elena Resch & Dr. Sebastian Schmuck
University Alliance Ruhr

Dr. Vitaly Kim
Anhalt International University

Oliver Krumpek
Fraunhofer Institute for Production Systems and Design Technology IPK

10:45 — **Flip chart – Session with Coffee Break**
SWOT Analysis on knowledge transfer, moderated by KPTG

11:45 — **Analysis Results: Presentation, Discussion, and Actionable Recommendations**

12:30 — **Closing Remarks**

DFG NETWORKING SESSION · 18 NOVEMBER 2026

Science Café and Information Seminar with the German Research Foundation

QAIRU – Workshop space

14:00 — **Science Café, organised by DFG**
Welcome coffee with opportunity for individual consultations between researchers and funders

14:30 – 16:00

SEMINAR

Information Seminar

Moderated by **DFG**

Welcome and Introduction
Dr. Elisa Braeckevelt (DFG)

DFG's Activities and Funding Opportunities in Central Asia
Mechthild Köhler (DFG)

Lightning Talks: Research Projects
Prof. Dr. Georgiy Kirillin (Leibniz Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries, Germany)

Discussion and Q&A