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EUROPEAN UNION UPDATED ITS STRATEGY OF INTERACTION WITH CENTRAL ASIA



The European Union presents its vision of partnership with Central Asia and updates the strategy of interaction with the region from 2007. The Joint Communiqué, adopted on May 15 by the European Commission and the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, outlines a new look at strengthening partnerships with five Central Asian countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. This is happening at a key moment for developing Eurasian relations, when some countries of the region are reforming and opening up to the world, and regional cooperation has received a new impetus. EU High Representative Federica Mogherini said: "Central Asia has always been an important region, given its history, culture and the role of the bridge between East and West. Today, on the background of positive internal and regional dynamics, as well as growing global challenges that require strengthening of the partnership, it is becoming increasingly strategic. Persistence and prosperity will be pillars of our cooperation with Central Asia, as well as support for sustainable development and reforms for the

benefit of our citizens." EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development Neven Mimizz added that the European Union is the leading development partner of Central Asia, and the amount of assistance provided to the region for the rule of law, border management, trade facilitation, protection of the environment and water resources for 2014-2020 will exceed 1 billion euros. The joint communique proposes to focus the future efforts of the EU in Central Asia on two aspects:

- Partnership in the name of stability through enhancing the ability of Central Asian countries to overcome internal and external difficulties, as well as to carry out reforms.
- Partnership for prosperity by modernizing the economy, developing sustainable relationships and investing in the younger generation.

At the 15th joint meeting of EU and Central Asian foreign ministers to be held on July 7 in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan), Federica Mogherini and Neven Mimizz plan to officially present the new EU Strategy for Central Asia to their colleagues.

IN THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF 2019, MIGRANTS TRANSFERRED \$ 540.4 MILLION TO KYRGYZSTAN



The amount of remittances to Kyrgyzstan reached \$ 540.4 million, in January-March 2019, according to the announcement of the National Bank of the Kyrgyz Republic. Compared to the first three months of 2018, the figure rose by \$ 34.6 million. In March, migrants transferred \$ 195.8 million to the country. Over the month, the figure rose by \$ 16.4 million. More than 90 percent of remittances accounted for Russia (\$ 530.3 million).

In terms of transfers US is in the second place with \$ 6.6 million. From other countries, another \$ 3.3 million was transferred to Kyrgyzstan.

In January – March 2019, there was an outflow of cash in the amount of \$ 116.5 million. The bulk of the money transferred to Russia \$ 115.6 million. The net inflow of remittances in January-February 2019 to Kyrgyzstan amounted to \$ 423.9 million. At the end of 2018, the amount of remittances to the country amounted to \$ 2 billion 685.3 million. Transfer from Kyrgyzstan to other states was \$ 542.2 million. Net inflow was \$ 2 billion 143.1 million.

THE COST OF LABOR VISAS REDUCED FOR KYRGYZ CITIZENS IN TURKEY

Kyrgyzstan and Turkey agreed on a mutual reduction in the cost of obtaining work visa, according to the Consular Service department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The parties agreed on a mutual reduction in the cost of labor visas from \$ 283 to \$30 for Kyrgyzstanis and from \$ 280 to \$ 30 for Turkish citizens. "A parity reduction in the cost of obtaining labor visas will create favorable conditions for the employment of Kyrgyz citizens in Turkey, which is especially important during the high season of tourism," noted the DCU. Reduced rates of fees for issuing work visas will be effective from May 15, 2019.

An additional protocol was signed on mutual trips of citizens from 26 April 2011. The document provides the release of the payment for residence permit for citizens of Kyrgyzstan who arrive in Turkey to receive medical services in the country for more than three months. Accompanying people are also exempt from the payment. Citizens of both states, arriving by state agencies in the form of religion or education are exempt of work permits.



TAMCHY-TASHKENT AIR TRAFFIC RESUMES

The Embassy of Kyrgyzstan in Tashkent reported on the resumption of Tamchy-Tashkent air traffic.

According to the diplomatic mission, together with Uzbekistan Airlines, flights on this route in the summer season are planned to be opened. The first flight between Tashkent-Tamchy-Tashkent will be made on June 27, 2019 and planes will fly on this route every Thursday until September 6. Earlier it was reported that before the opening of the air service, they will conduct an orientation flight for the journalists of the two countries. Flights along the route Tashkent-Tamchy were made in 2018 in the summer, but because there were few passengers, the flights did not pay off, and therefore in mid-July it was decided to be suspended. It was noted that the opening of the air route on the route Tashkent-Tamchy contributes to attracting tourists from Uzbekistan to Lake Issyk-Kul.



TURKISH COMPANY PLANS TO OPEN GEOTHERMAL FACILITIES IN KYRGYZSTAN



The Turkish company Dogan Geothermal Group and Kyrgyzstan State Committee on Industry, Energy and Mining signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the development and use of geothermal resources.

The signing ceremony on May 22 was attended by Kubanychbek Nurmatov, parliamentary deputy from

Kyrgyzstan Party, Kyrgyzstan Party Secretary Expert Zamirbek Imanbekov, Bishkek thermal power plant 1 Bishkekteploset Open Joint Stock Company President Erkin Abmusikov and employees of Industry, Energy and Mining State Committee.

According to the document, the parties, in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding, aim to discuss cooperation in the development and use of geothermal resources in Kyrgyzstan, the production of pre-insulated pipes for the supply of hot and cold water, heating of residential buildings, heating of geothermal buildings and introducing the best practices. If the Turkish side applies a project for the production of pre-insulated pipes for hot and cold water supply in Kyrgyzstan, the heating of residential buildings, the development and use of geothermal resources, the State Committee on Industrial, Energy and Mining shall will provide assistance on the competence of its implementation complying with the existing legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic. Both parties accpet to respect the confidentiality of documents and other information obtained directly or indirectly from other parties within the framework of this Memorandum of Understanding or other agreements made under this Agreement.

KAZAKHSTAN RESUMES TRANSIT OF TURKMEN GAS TO RUSSIA



The press service of KTG reports that national operator KazTransGaz JSC resumed transit of Turkmen commercial gas through the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Russian Federation via the main gas pipeline Central Asia – Center, KazTransGas was able to resume transit

through its gas pipeline system in record time. Thanks to modern technologies and modernization of the major gas pipeline to Europe, Central Asia – Center, the transportation of Turkmen gas was launched within a short period of time. The volume of Turkmen gas transportation to the Russian Federation via the Central Asia – Center gas pipeline is 15 million cubic meters per day. Since the beginning of the resumption of transit through the territory of Kazakhstan, more than 220 million cubic meters of gas have been transported.

The transit of Turkmen gas through the gas transportation system of Kazakhstan was suspended in 2016. At the beginning of 2019, Turkmenistan and the Russian Federation reached an agreement on the resumption of gas supplies within the framework of the current intergovernmental Agreement on cooperation in the gas sector until 2028. This made it possible to restore mutually beneficial cooperation in the gas sector to three states. In recent years, Kazakhstan's gas industry has undergone a large-scale modernization and, according to experts, the company "KazTransGas" has become the most important and technologically most powerful operator of gas flows in Central Asia.

KAZAKHSTAN WILL ALLOCATE 1.9 BILLION TENGE TO REPAIR THE “WESTERN EUROPE - WESTERN CHINA” HIGHWAY

The Khabar 24 TV channel reported that in Zhambyl Oblast, the repair of the Western Europe-Western China Highway has started.

About 1.9 billion tenge (\$ 4,956,000) was allocated for these purposes from the republican budget. Work will be carried out on the route Almaty-Tashkent-Termez. Three bridges are also in need of reconstruction. Experts associate the poor condition of the section of the international corridor with the increase in cargo traffic.

Western Europe - Western China project was implemented in 2009-2015. At that time, the number of transpassing cars was about 6 to 7 thousand per day. Now it has increased up to 9 thousand. “We have more heavy trucks and because of that more problems are arising” said Nurbol Mynzhasarov, Director of the Regional Branch of JSC NC Kavtozhol.



UZBEKISTAN BEGAN TO USE THE KAZAKH PORT OF AKTAU FOR TRANSIT

Ten platforms departed from the Kazakhstani port of Aktau by a container block train, which housed 20 twenty-foot containers owned by the JSC Uzbekistan Temir Yollari, on May 13.

The Uzbekistan Temir Yollari press service reported that the first transit container cargo shipped to Uzbekistan became a promising outcome of the fruitful cooperation between the railway administrations of Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, China, Iran and Turkmenistan on the development of cargo transportation along the Trans-Caspian international transport route.

Imported goods in containers are delivered to logistics centers, where the paperwork, customs control are completed, and then they reach their destination.



INDIAN INVESTORS WILL BUILD SKI RESORT IN THE TURKESTAN REGION



The Press Service of the Akimat of Turkestan Region reported that Deputy Akim of the Turkestan Region Meirzhan Myrzaliyev met with the Chairman of the Board

Binod Chaudhary and Executive Director Varun Chaudhary of the transnational company Chaudhary Group (CG Global) in Almaty. Representatives of the company Chaudhary Group (CG Global) expressed their intention to implement a number of projects in the Turkestan region. In particular, investors discussed the possibility of building a ski resort, including the necessary infrastructure and a hotel.

To implement this project, the company plans to use foreign experience, as well as to attract specialists from Spain, Switzerland, as partners. Additionally, the guests intend to purchase a hotel, expand noodle production, and create a Food Park in the region.

During the meeting, the representatives of the Chaudhary Group (CG Global) discussed the details of the upcoming visit to the Turkestan Region, and in particular to the industrial zone in the Kazygurt District.

As part of the trip, investors from India will inquire about the construction of the instant noodle plant.

The launch of the plant is scheduled for July 1, 2019. The investment cost of the project is \$ 15 million. Products will be exported to neighboring countries such as Russia, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan.

EUROPEAN UNION ALLOCATES GRANT TO ENHANCE WATER AND ENERGY SECURITY IN CENTRAL ASIA

Today, in the capital of Kazakhstan, Nur-Sultan, the European Union and the World Bank signed an agreement to allocate a new grant of 7 million euros to support measures on strengthening water and energy security in Central Asia.

Effective strategies and investments will cost less than the economic costs of solving problems in the field of water management. According to estimates, annually Kazakhstan loses more than \$ 750 million from an insufficient level of water supply, Kyrgyzstan \$ 120 million, Uzbekistan \$ 650 million, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan more than \$ 300 million. The entire region of Central Asia loses up to \$ 2 billion from the insufficient level of water supply.

EU Ambassador to Kazakhstan Sven-Olov Karlsson declared: "Since in Central Asia water and energy resources are inextricably linked, joint management of these resources is essential for the sustainable development of the region, poverty reduction and resilience to climate change. Through its contribution to CAWEP, the European



Union contributes to raising the level of regional dialogue and cooperation of countries on water and energy security issues, which will help them to improve conditions for sustainable investment and socio-economic development".

MEMBERS OF THE TURKIC COUNCIL ESTABLISHED JOINT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY



The Charter of the Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) of Turkic-speaking countries was signed in the city of Nur-Sultan.

According to the Press Service of the CCI, the document signing ceremony was held in the framework of the XII.

Astana Economic Forum in Nur-Sultan. The charter was signed by the Vice-President of the CCI Nurlan Musuraliev from the Kyrgyz side. The signing ceremony was attended by the Secretary General of the Cooperation Council of Turkic-Speaking States Baghdad Amreyev, the Head of the Association of Chambers of Commerce and Stock Exchange of Turkey (TOBB) Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu, the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Askar Mamin, the Chairman of the Board of the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs of Kazakhstan Atameken Ablay Myrzahmetov.

The creation of a joint CCI will open up new opportunities for increasing trade turnover between the countries of the Turkic Council. The development of the document was carried out for a long time, it was necessary to take into account the economic components of each country. Currently, 152 million people live in Turkic countries, and this is a huge potential, the total GDP of which is more than \$ 1 trillion," the Press Service of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry informed.

\$ 1.1 BILLION IS INVESTED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF A GREENHOUSE COMPLEX IN THE TURKESTAN REGION BY THE RUSSIAN ECO-CULTURE.

The Russian agro-industrial holding Ekokultura plans to build a large greenhouse complex in the Turkestan region. This was reported by the press service of the regional akim. According to the ministry, they intend to build a greenhouse complex in the Keles district of the Turkestan region on an area of 500 hectares. The total cost of the project is \$ 1.1 billion. "This project will be implemented in the period from 2019 to 2025 as part of a memorandum of understanding, signed between the akimat of Turkestan region and the Russian company Ekokultura. The largest in the country. The products will be exported to the CIS countries and Europe. In the greenhouse complex they intend to grow cucumbers and tomatoes. Eco-Culture is a group of companies from the Russian Federation. It cooperates with professional greenhouse plants in Russia, Kazakhstan and Ukraine. Main activities are the sale and introduction of micro fertilizers plant nutrition technology.



UZBEKISTAN RANKED FIRST IN THE WORLD IN GOLD SALE



In the first quarter of this year, Uzbekistan became the world leader in the sale of gold. This is stated in the report of the World Gold Council.

The report says that Uzbekistan sold 6 tons and 200 kg of gold from January to March.

The second place in January-March sales, was taken by Mongolia, which exported 3.4 tons of gold, and the third place was taken by Tajikistan, which sold 1 ton. Russia, the world's largest importer of gold. According to the report, the Central Bank of Russia acquired 55.3 tons of gold in the three months of 2019. The second and third places are occupied by Turkey (40 tons) and China (33 tons). In April, the Central Bank of Uzbekistan announced that it plans to export 80 tons of gold to foreign countries by 2019, which is 10 tons more than in the previous year. According to the Central Bank, the state treasury will receive \$ 3.4 billion from 80 tons of gold exports.

SUPPORT FOR WATER TO UZBEKISTAN BY EUROPEAN BANK

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) will allocate \$ 300 million for the modernization of the drinking water system of Uzbekistan.

According to a statement from the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade of Uzbekistan, Minister Sardor Umrzakov met with EBRD President Suma Chakrabati within the scope of the annual meeting of the EBRD in Sarajevo and discussed bilateral co-operation issues.

According to the statement, Umrzakov and Chakrabati signed a memorandum on the financing of the project, which foresees the modernization of the drinking water system in Uzbekistan.

The memorandum envisions the modernization of EBRD's drinking water systems in remote areas of Uzbekistan.

Chakrabati made a statement following the signing ceremony, recalling that in the last two years important economic and structural changes were made in Uzbekistan, and that the cooperation between Uzbekistan and the bank has progressed significantly.

They also discussed issues related to the International Investment Forum foreseen by the Uzbekistan government in Tashkent in the fall.



Earlier, the Asian Development Bank had decided to allocate \$ 105.3 million for the modernization of the drinking water system in Uzbekistan.

The project will provide access to drinking water for 200,000 people near Tashkent.

Most of these systems are obsolete because they were constructed long time ago, during the Soviet period.

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK APPROVED A LOAN FOR UZBEKISTAN



The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$ 170 million loan to improve the locomotive park of Uzbekistan through the purchase of 24 ultra-modern electric locomotives.

New locomotives will improve the efficiency of the railway system, offering cleaner, more reliable and efficient passenger and freight services.

ADB reported on May that the project will provide 24 electric locomotives, 16 of which were optimized for freight trains and 8 for passenger trains. These locomotives will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 900,000 tons per year, as well as air pollution at the local level. The Uzbekistan Locomotive Depot in Tashkent will also be modernized to meet the requirements of the new rolling stock. The state joint stock railway company Uzbekistan Railroads is implementing a long-term development strategy in order to meet the country's transportation needs. The total cost of the project is \$ 218.3 million, while the government of Uzbekistan provides \$ 48.3 million. It is expected that the project will be completed by June 2025.

TRADE BETWEEN TURKEY AND UZBEKISTAN INCREASED BY 26.1% TURKEY IS UZBEKISTAN'S 5TH TRADING PARTNER



For the first 4 months of this year, the trade turnover between Turkey and Uzbekistan increased by 26.1% and amounted to 730.6 million dollars.

Turkey became the 5th largest trading partner of Uzbekistan. According to the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Turkey's share in Uzbekistan's foreign trade was 5.8%.

In the first four months of this year largest trading partners of Uzbekistan were China, Russia, Kazakhstan and South Korea.

In the related period, Uzbekistan's exports to Turkey were \$ 347.1 million and imports were \$ 383.5 million.

The largest trading partner of Uzbekistan was China with a share of 20.3% in the foreign trade turnover and \$ 2.552 billion.

China is followed by Russia with its share of 15.9% and \$ 1.998 billion and Kazakhstan is in the third place with 8.4% (1.54 billion).

Last year, the trade turnover between Turkey and Uzbekistan grew by 39.9% to 2.171 billion dollars.

VOLKSWAGEN CARS WILL BE PRODUCED IN UZBEKISTAN

Uzbekistan will produce cars in cooperation with the German company Volkswagen.

According to the Press Service of the president of Uzbekistan, on May 28, German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier signed a number of agreements with the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

Additionally, the parties signed agreements on the exchange and protection of information, cooperation in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation to climate change, cooperation between the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan and German companies Integra GmbH and Vamed Engineering GmbH on the establishment of a Center for Nuclear Medicine and Radiation therapy in Tashkent.

On May 29, the President of Germany and his wife will meet students of Urgench State University and visited the historic city of Khiva.



As reported, the trade turnover between the two countries in 2018 increased by more than 770 million dollars, which is 25% more than in the previous year.

German President Steinmeier arrived on an official visit to Uzbekistan on May 27.

A NEW RAILWAY STATION BETWEEN UZBEKISTAN AND TURKMENISTAN



A new railway station is opened between Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

The new railway station, Surhanabad, was commissioned in order to increase the volume of traffic between Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, to carry out large-scale transit cargo transportation, maintenance and repair of railway cars on the border between the two countries.

The press service of Uzbekistan Railways reported that it was especially noted at the opening ceremony that this new station will play the role of a “new gate” connecting the two countries. Until today, transit traffic in southern Uzbekistan

was carried out through the Boldir Station, which is located on the territory of Turkmenistan. Now, export-import cargo transportation operations will run at the new station.

All conditions are prepared here, including implementation of customs and other types of control on the railway section crossing the state border. The Surkhanabad Station will play an important role in increasing the trade turnover and export-import services between the two countries.

Additionally, the company noted that the station aims to support and develop small businesses and private entrepreneurship.

THE 10TH INTERNATIONAL GAS CONGRESS OF TURKMENISTAN TGC 2019 IS OPENED IN AVAZA



Government delegations of a number of foreign countries, representatives of large energy companies, international financial institutions, diplomatic circles, expert community, media gathered on the 10th International Gas Congress of Turkmenistan, which was opened in the Avaza National

Tourist Zone, on May 21.

It was organized by the Turkmengas State Concern and the Turkmen Forum Company.

The forum’s agenda includes such topics as the prospects for the development of the global gas market, the role of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline in ensuring peace and stability in the region, diversification of export routes for Turkmen natural gas, conditions and opportunities created in Turkmenistan for the development of gas-chemical and gas production, gas processing industry, as well as for investments, gas monetization, cooperation under production sharing agreements and others.

Special attention will be paid to issues related to the practical implementation of the initiatives of the President of Turkmenistan in the creation of international transport corridors and environmental protection and international cooperation in the oil and gas sector.

PRESIDENTS OF TURKMENISTAN AND RUSSIA NOTED THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMANITARIAN COOPERATION OF THE CIS COUNTRIES

The President of Russia Vladimir Putin and the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov stressed the importance of developing humanitarian cooperation in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) at the opening ceremony of the XIV Forum of CIS Creative and Scientific Intelligentsia in Ashgabat, on May 15.

Vladimir Putin said: "Humanitarian cooperation has traditionally been one of the most important areas of partnership in the Commonwealth," reports TASS .

Putin expressed confidence that "the work of the forum will further enhance the integration processes in the Commonwealth space". For his part, Berdimukhamedov noted that the successes achieved by countries in the fields of culture, art, literature and science serve to strengthen the relations of friendship and fraternity, and the ascension of friendly relations to a new level is the duty of creative and scientific figures.

More than 200 representatives from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Ukraine arrived



in Ashgabat to discuss development of cooperation in the humanitarian fields. The topic of the current forum is: "Common Humanitarian Space of the Commonwealth: Dialogue in the Sphere of Culture, Science, Education". The program of the congress included the ceremony of awarding the winners of the main CIS intergovernmental award "Stars of the Commonwealth", the presentation of the Kazakh city of Shymkent, which was declared as the cultural capital of the Commonwealth for 2020.

NEW SILK ROAD WILL PASS TO EUROPE THROUGH THE CASPIAN



A new sea port was built and commissioned in the Caspian city of Turkmenbashi (formerly Krasnovodsk).

The international forum "The Great Silk Road - Towards New Frontiers of Development" timed to coincide with the opening of the port complex, which was attended by government delegations from the Caspian and Asian countries, international transportation, finance and humanitarian organizations, and world media by the invitation of Turkmenistan.

The Turkmen port complex can become the most important link in the modern system of international sea transportation. It is able to significantly reduce the distances and time on the way to large-scale freight traffic from Asia to Europe, to raise economic and commercial cooperation between the

states of Asia, the Caspian region and European countries to a qualitatively new level. This also includes the Baltic and Scandinavian countries, for which the receipt and shipment of goods to various regions of the world is complicated by long distances and climatic features.

The area of the Turkmenbashi Sea Port covers 152 hectares, the total length of the berths, which can simultaneously receive 17 ships, is more than two kilometers. The port is able to serve 300 thousand passengers and 75 thousand trucks per year. All technological processes are controlled by satellite systems.

Back in 2000, India, Iran and Russia signed an intergovernmental agreement on such a corridor in St. Petersburg. Later, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Oman, Syria and Tajikistan joined the agreement. Turkey, Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan declared their intention of joining as well. With its length of more than 7,000 km the corridor stretches from the port of Mumbai (India) to St. Petersburg and further to the Baltics and Scandinavia. The key idea is to ensure the delivery of goods from the Persian Gulf region and India to Iranian ports in the Caspian Sea. Then, they will be transferred by ferries to the railway network or river-sea vessels on the inland waterways of Russia reaching finally the countries of Eastern, Central and Northern Europe.

TAJIKISTAN DAILY EXPORTS OVER 11 MILLION KWH OF ELECTRICITY



Over 11 million kWh of electricity is exported daily by Tajikistan to neighboring countries.

Avesta reported that most of the supply falls to neighboring Uzbekistan, which is around 6.2 million kWh. It is followed by Afghanistan with 4.5 million kWh. An additional 400

thousand kWh of electricity is exported to Kyrgyzstan. According to Avesta, currently 53-55 million kWh of electricity is produced daily, depending on weather conditions and demand.

Earlier it was reported that Tajikistan plans to increase electricity exports to Afghanistan and Uzbekistan in 2019. At the beginning of this year, national power company of Tajikistan, Barki Tochik, announced that at the peak of electricity production (spring-summer season), the republic could offer Afghanistan and Uzbekistan more electricity than last year.

The Tajik power engineers claim that this year there was plenty of snow in the highlands of the republic. Additionally, the new energy capacities allow Tajikistan to increase electricity production in the spring-summer period.

According to the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources, in 2018 more than 2.4 billion kWh of electricity was exported. Due to these supplies, the republic earned about \$ 77 million.

In 2018, The cost of energy per kilowatt for Afghanistan was 4.11 cents, and for Uzbekistan 2 cents.

TAJIKISTAN AND THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK DISCUSSED BILATERAL COOPERATION

First Deputy Prime Minister of Tajikistan Davlatoli Said held talks with Asian Bank Development (ADB) President Takehiko Nakao on the sidelines of the 52nd annual meeting of ADB, which was on Fiji Island, in May 1- 5. ADB reports the the parties discussed bilateral cooperation, including the implementation of infrastructure projects, in particular the construction of roads, energy projects, tourism development, support to the private sector, climate change issues, as well as the development of ADB's partnership strategy with Tajikistan for the period of 2021-2025.

During the opening ceremony of the 52nd Annual Meeting of the ADB Board of Governors on May 3, Takehiko Nakao presented a report on the activities of the bank in 2018. Nakao announced that the volume of loans provided by ADB in 2018 rose to a record \$ 21.6 billion, an increase of almost 10% compared with \$ 19.7 billion 2017.

He reminded the ceremony participants that last July, ADB adopted Strategy 2030, in which the bank declared to work in six priority areas, such as poverty and inequalities,



health and education, gender equality and climate change. According to Takehiko Nakao, in 2018 ADB invested almost \$ 3.6 billion for these purposes.

Tajikistan joined ADB in 1998. So far, the aid approved by ADB to Tajikistan is totally more than \$ 1.7 billion.

THE TAJIK SECTION OF THE PROJECT CASA-1000 WILL BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE END OF 2021

The implementation of the Tajik section of the regional CASA-1000 project is planned to be completed by the end of 2021.

The cost of the Tajik section of this project will be \$ 314 million. These funds will be allocated by international financial institutions, such as the World Bank (WB), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Islamic Development Bank (IDB), the state of UK . In particular, WB will allocate \$ 45 million for the implementation of the Tajik section of this project, \$ 70 million by IDB, and \$ 110 million by EBRD. As part of the Tajik section of the project, 500 kV AC power line and a converter substation at Sangtud will be built. These works will be carried out by the Swedish company ABB and the Indian company Kalpataru Power Transmission Ltd. The Ministry of Energy and Water Resources noted that work on the project has also begun on the territory of other countries participating in the project, that is Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

It was reported that the total cost of the project is more than \$ 1 billion. Project expenses are distributed as follows: Tajikistan \$ 314 million, Kyrgyzstan \$ 209 million, Afghanistan \$ 354 million and Pakistan \$ 209 million. As part of the CASA-1000 project, it is planned to ensure the transit of up to 5 billion kWh of electricity from Kyrgyzstan



and Tajikistan to Pakistan. The share of Tajik electricity exports will be 3 billion kWh of electricity, or 70% of the stipulated volume. It was reported that according to the agreements reached under the project CASA-1000, the export price of electricity will be 9.35 cents per kWh.

Successful implementation of the regional CASA-1000 project can bring Tajikistan an annual income over \$ 150 million.

In addition, the republic will receive income from the transit of Kyrgyz electricity through its territory within the framework of this project.

THE MEETING OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE DIALOGUE “CENTRAL ASIA + JAPAN” WAS HELD IN DUSHANBE



The 7th Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Dialogue “Central Asia + Japan” was held under the chairmanship of Tajikistan in Dushanbe, on May 18.

CA-News reported with reference to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan that the ministers of foreign affairs of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Japan and the Deputy Minister of Turkmenistan attended the 7th Meeting of the Dialogue.

During the meeting, three sessions were held on the following topics: practical cooperation of the member countries of the Dialogue “Central Asia + Japan” in the field of tourism; in the areas of trade, investment and development; regional security and regional cooperation in Central Asia.

In conclusion, the heads of the delegations of the member countries of the Dialogue signed the final document “Joint Statement of the 7th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Dialogue ‘Central Asia + Japan’”.

TAJIKISTAN'S GDP IS OVER \$ 1.8 BILLION



Tajikistan's GDP amounted to 17.9 billion Somoni (\$ 1.9 billion) for the first quarter of 2019.

According to the report of Avesta, The Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of the Republic of Tajikistan declared that GDP growth is more than 7.3% compared with the same period of 2018.

The biggest share in Tajikistan's GDP is in industry with 12.3%. It is folloed by investment funds and construction

with 10.9%, agriculture (hunting and forestry, fishing and fish farming) with 9.5% and general trade with 9.7%.

Since the beginning of 2019, the volume of industrial production, including energy, amounted to more than 7.6 billion somoni (\$ 8 billion). GDP in agriculture amounted to more than 1.9 billion somoni (\$ 2 billion). Tajikistan's GDP is planned to reach 78.2 billion somoni (\$ 8.28 billion) at the end of 2019.

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