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AGREEMENT BETWEEN KYRGYZSTAN AND TURKEY ON VISA ISSUES HAS BEEN RATIFIED



President of Kyrgyzstan Sooronbai Jeenbekov approved the law "On ratification of the Additional Protocol to the Agreement between the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Government of the Republic of Turkey on mutual travel of citizens of two countries, which was announced on 26 April 2011.

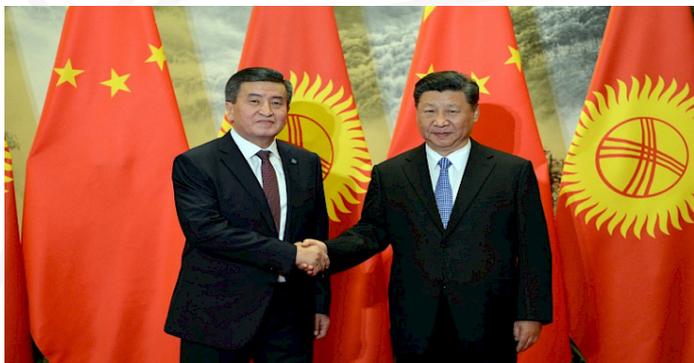
The law was adopted by the Kyrgyz Assembly on November 27, 2019. The law states that, The Additional Protocol includes the conditions for the two countries. Officials appointed by state institutions in the fields of religion and education to be exempt from the obligation to obtain work

permits. The law comes into force after 10 days of its date of official publication.

The purpose of the Additional Protocol to the above Agreement is to simplify the conditions of stay of citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Turkey on the territory of two states. In particular, the protocol also allows Kyrgyz citizens who wish to receive medical services or stay in Turkey for more than three months to be exempt from the payment of residence permits.

President Ceenbekov instructed the Foreign Ministry of Kyrgyzstan to inform the Turkish side about the approval.

THE TRADE TURNOVER OF CHINA AND KYRGYZSTAN HAS GROWN 150 TIMES



“Kyrgyzstan and China are geographically close and they have the same development goals”, Chinese ambassador Yue Bin announced this on special instructions from the Chinese Foreign Ministry in Kyrgyzstan, at a press conference on December 6.

“January 5, 2020, we will celebrate the 28th anniversary of diplomatic relations,” he said. Also recalled that in June last year, the head of the Kyrgyz Republic Sooronbai Jeenbekov paid a first visit to China. In April, at the Belt and Road Initiative Forum, the presidents met again, and then at the SCO summit.

He added that more than 160 countries have signed documents with China under the “Belt and Road

Initiative” framework. At the same time, direct investments by Chinese companies in countries that joined the Belt and Road Initiative amounted to \$ 90 billion over 6 years. Annual growth is 5.2%. Over 9 months, investments in 56 countries of the world reached \$ 11.5 billion.

He noted that, “The potential of trade and economic cooperation with an eye on agriculture is being released. In 2018, trade between the Kyrgyz Republic and China amounted to \$ 5.6 billion, which is 150 times more than at the beginning of the relationship. Over the first 9 months, trade increased by 6% to \$ 4.4 billion. For many years, China has retained the status of Kyrgyzstan’s largest trading partner. Cherry, mountain honey, dairy products, beans and wheat from the Kyrgyz Republic appeared on the Chinese markets. Deliveries of Kyrgyz beef to the Chinese market are gradually moving forward”.

China’s total investment in Kyrgyzstan amounts to 3 billion US dollars, he added and recalled that in the Kyrgyz Republic, with the help of Chinese companies, projects like the Datka-Kemin power transmission line, a hospital in Osh, and the North-South highway have been and are being implemented. “The construction of the Datka-Kemin power transmission line has ended the insufficiency of electricity in Kyrgyzstan forever,” he said.

According to him, Chinese enterprises in general have created more than 10 thousand jobs in Kyrgyzstan.

THE FOREIGN TRADE TURNOVER OF KYRGYZSTAN EXCEEDED TO \$ 5.6 BILLION

In period of January-October 2019, Kyrgyzstan’s foreign trade turnover amounted more than \$ 5.6 billion, and compared with same period of last year, decreased by 2.1%.

This was announced by the head of the department of summary work and dissemination of statistical information of the National Statistical Committee Chinar Turdubaev during a press conference in Bishkek, on December 11. According to her, country’s exports increased by 14.1%, while imports decreased by 7.2%. “The increase in exports is due to a 1.6-fold increase in gold exports, whose share in the total volume of exports increased from 30.4% to 41.8% compared to January-November 2018,”. The supply of ceramic products increased by 1.7 %, fruits and nuts - 39.1%, meat -by 2.1%, tobacco and tobacco products - by 2.1%, dried leguminous vegetables - by 2%, ores precious metals - by 17.6%.



KYRGYZSTAN WILL EARN MORE THAN \$1.5 BILLION OVER 15 YEARS FROM CASA-1000 PROJECT



Within the framework of the CASA-1000 project, Kyrgyzstan will earn more than \$ 1.5 billion over 15 years. Executive Director for the implementation of projects of the National Electric Network of Kyrgyzstan OJSC Akyzbek Tyumenbayev announced this at a press conference in the Kabar news agency.

It is expected that the Electric Powerplant will earn \$1.2 billion, while the National Electric Networks of Kyrgyzstan - \$ 322 million. The cost of exported electricity will be 5.42 cents per 1 kWh.

Deputy General Director of Electric Powerplant OJSC Ulan Orozoev, added that according to the agreement, Kyrgyzstan has the right to maneuver in conditions of water levels. Thus, as part of the first phase, i.e. at least annually between May and September, Kyrgyzstan should supply

377 million kWh. This is the first level.

“At the second level, we can supply another 800 million kWh. That is, 377 million kWh is mandatory to supply, and if possible we can add another 800 million kWh,” said Orozoev.

According to him, it won't be difficult to supply electricity for Kyrgyzstan during the summer period, because at that time domestic consumption is declining.

Besides, the deputy director general said exporting electricity will be possible on permanent basis because new capacity is being commissioned today.

“A second unit at the Kabmar-Ata HPP-2 project is being commissioned. Also, the rehabilitation of the Toktogul HPP and the increase in its capacity, also At-Bashy HPP. In addition, new types of generation are being considered, which will allow to close our obligations,” he added.

In addition, substitution methods were discussed in an agreement with the Tajik side.

The CASA-1000 project includes four countries: Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The idea of the project is to export electricity from Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to Afghanistan and Pakistan. The total cost of the project is more than \$1 billion, including Kyrgyzstan's share in the amount of \$233 million, Tajikistan - \$314 million, Afghanistan - \$354 million, Pakistan - \$209 million.

FOREIGN TRADE TURNOVER OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS IN KYRGYZSTAN AMOUNTED TO \$ 660.1 MILLION.

Period of January-September 2019, Kyrgyzstan's foreign trade turnover of agricultural products increased by 17.7% compared to the previous year and amounted to \$ 660.1 million. Said, Deputy Minister of Agriculture Zhanybek Kerimaliev in press conference

According to him, exports increased by 24.9% and amounted to \$ 184.8 million. At the same time, imports grew by 9.9% and amounted to 475.4 million dollars.

“However, in January-September 2019, the food and processing industry products were exported in the amount of KGS 12 billion 890 million 300 thousand, which is 27.3% higher than last year. Import of food and processing industry products amounted to KGS 33 billion 162 million 200 thousand. This figure is 9.9% more than in 2018,” said Kerimaliyev.

The head of the export department Nurmamat Mullakeldiev noted that, this year Kyrgyzstan exported vegetables, fruits, milk, meat products worth KGS 6 billion. They were mainly exported to Turkey, Kazakhstan, Russia and Ukraine.



KYRGYZSTAN PROVIDES 5 BILLION SOMS TO THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR OF COUNTRY



“Support for the agricultural sector will contribute directly to regional development.”, Said the Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic, Muhammedkaly Abylgaziev, during a tour

at the greenhouse complex in the village of Aravan district, Osh region.

Abylgaziev added that the more financial support given to farmers by the government, faster the development will be, the government is looking for resources to increase loan support to farmers and firms operating in the field of Agriculture.

According to him, 5 billion soms, received under the Strategic Agreement between the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and Canadian based Centerra Gold Inc., will be used to support the regions and launch new agricultural facilities. This will ensure an increase in the incomes of farmers, the creation of additional jobs and the strengthening of the economic situation of the agriculture sector. The head of government instructed the Ministry of Agriculture to develop an updated project for the development of greenhouses and, together with local governments, to negotiate with business representatives to implement specific projects.

KYRGYZSTAN'S VOLUME OF INVESTMENTS HAS INCREASED BY 67.3% IN 9 MONTHS OF 2019

Last year, the volume of foreign investment was increased by 38%, Kyrgyz President Sooronbai Jeenbekov said at a final press conference at the Ala-Archa state residence on December 25.

A total of \$ 577 million investments received over the 9 months of 2019, its a increased of 67.3% compared to the same period of 2018. According to him, 61% of investments came in most of regions of the country. President Ceenbekov also listed several activities aimed to improve the investment climate in the country, such as, a newly established investments shall not be controlled during the first two years. The introduction of a business ombudsman institute for protecting the rights of entrepreneurs, An information system for electronic registration of legal entities and an electronic notary project has been launched, Within the framework of the project on fiscalization of tax



procedures, an electronic patent, an electronic invoice, and online cash registers have been introduced. Enterprises involved in the import of technological equipment are exempted from customs duties.

NEW FLIGHTS TO OPEN BETWEEN KAZAKHSTAN AND POLAND

In the January-September period of 2019, container transportation between Kazakhstan and Turkey, compared to the same period of 2018 (2.2 thousand TEU) increased by 69%, was 5.4 thousand TEU.

According to information from Haberler.com, in the statement made by Kazakhstan State Railways (KTJ), it was emphasized that the transportation and freight transportation sector between the two countries is developing and it was stated that container transportation in the first nine months of this year was 5.4 thousand TEU and increased by 69 percent compared to the same period of the previous year.

In the statement indicated that the studies related to the implementation of new logistics services have been made stated that alternative container transportation service was started on the Shian-Istanbul-Prague route jointly with the railway institutions of Kazakhstan, China, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey in October 2019.



KAZAKHSTAN EXPORTED 65.7 MILLION TONS OF OIL IN 11 MONTHS



Deputy Minister of Energy of Kazakhstan Aset Magaulov, spoke at a press conference that, The country exported 65.7 million tons of oil in the 11 months of 2019.

He also stated that, total oil produced by country is 82.5 million tons during this period, "It is expected that this number will increase up to 90.5 million tons before the end of this year." Magaulov said that 60 percent of the country's oil was produced at the Tengiz, Kashagan and Karachaganak fields. From these fields, from January to November, 50.1 million tons of oil was produced. Approximately 70.5 million tons of oil exports took place this year, During this period, 15.7 million tons of oil were refined, and by the end of the year this figure estimated to 17 million tons. Kazakhstan aims to bring oil production to 100 million tons by 2023.

KAZAKHSTAN'S REPUBLICAN BUDGET NET INCOME AMOUNTED TO OVER 6 TRILLION TENGE IN 2019

In 11 months of 2019, net income of the republican budget in Kazakhstan made more than 6 trillion tenge, This was announced by the First Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan - Minister of Finance Alikhan Smailov at Government meeting.

"In 11 months, the state budget collected 8 trillion 514 billion tenge in revenues. The state budget revenues are 101.3% over the target, the republican budget by 100.3% and local budgets by 104.1 %. Net revenues of the republican budget amount to 6 trillion 219 billion tenge," Smailov stated.

He noted that, compared with the same period in 2018, state budget revenues had grown by 1 trillion 129 billion tenge, the republican - by 965 billion tenge and local budgets - by 165 billion tenge.

"The growth rate of income was chiefly provided by the following taxes: VAT on domestic goods, corporate income tax, as well as taxes on international trade and foreign operations. The increase in tax revenues, along with the improvement of tax and customs administration, is also



affected by an increase in the production of goods and services in January-October 2019 compared with the same period last year in the following sectors of the economy: construction - 112.7%, trade - 107.5%, transport - 105.6%, communications - 104.5%, industry - 103.5%" Smailov added.

FOREIGN TRADE TURNOVER BETWEEN KAZAKHSTAN AND TURKEY INCREASED BY 54%.



The volume of foreign trade between Kazakhstan and Turkey reached \$ 2.5 billion in the first 10 months of 2019, an increase of 54% compared with the same period of 2018.

The Statistics Committee of the Ministry of Economy of Kazakhstan shared the economic data of 2019 with the citizens, according to the announced data, Period of January-October 2019 the volume of foreign trade between two countries increased by 54% (\$899.9 million) compared to the same period of 2018 and reached the level of 2 billion 554 million 421 thousand dollars.

Exports from Kazakhstan to Turkey was recorded as 1 billion 878 million dollars. And imports was 676 million 401 thousand dollars.

Kazakhstan exports wheat, copper, natural gas, petroleum, aluminum and zinc to Turkey, meanwhile imports electricity-hardware, machinery, textiles and furniture from Turkey.

SOLAR POWER PLANT LAUNCHED IN KAZAKHSTAN

Solar power plant with capacity of 50 megawatts was commissioned in the Shieli district of the Kyzylorda region, which is one of the most expensive green economy projects in southern Kazakhstan, the Sputnik agency reports.

“The cost of the project ‘Baikonur Solar Power Plant’ is 23 billion tenge (\$1-383,95 tenge). The area of the new facility is 150 hectares,”. A solar power plant consists of approximately 150 thousand photovoltaic panels, 14 central inverter power plants and one substation. Which is also creates jobs in the region.

Governor of the Kyzylorda region Kuanyshbek Iskakov noted that, “the launch of the power plant is a huge step in the direction of increasing the share of renewable energy sources in the country, switching to green technologies. I am sure that in the future the region’s inhabitants will develop the level of consumption from alternative energy sources”.

Earlier it was reported that wind and solar power plants built in the Almaty region are now working in test mode. A five megawatt wind farm is located near the village of Nurly, Enbekshikazakh District. It consists of two wind power



plants of 2.5 megawatts each. One megawatt solar power station is located in the territory of the special economic zone “Park of Innovative Technologies”. Electricity produced by using poly and single-crystal solar panels.

THE PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF THE YEAR IN THE AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY OF KAZAKHSTAN



The Association of Automobile Industry Enterprises of Kazakhstan “KazAvtoProm”, informed about the statistical information on the automobile sector for the first 11 months of 2019, reports Kazpravda.kz .

According to the results of the reporting period, 45 208 vehicles (including cars, trucks, buses, private vehicles

and trailers) worth of 312.5 billion tenge were produced in Kazakhstan.

During the first 11 months of 2019, 6,255 units of vehicles rolled off the assembly lines of Kazakhstani enterprises, which is 88.6% higher than the result of 2018 (3,316 units). The top five most popular brands of passenger cars of Kazakhstan assembly were Lada (13,463 units), Hyundai (13,051 units), KIA (3,173 units), Ravon (2,476 units) and JAC (957 units).In addition, local production brands such as Skoda (923 units), Chevrolet (738 units), UAZ (395 units) and Peugeot (37 units) also found their place on the list.

KazAvtoProm Strategic Planning Director Artur Miskaryan said, “The high demand for Kazakhstan-made cars this year once again proved the growing competitiveness and wide potential for the development of the industry. In 2019, the pre-crisis level was overcome, According to our estimates, vehicle production will be close to 50 thousand. the auto industry showed growth of 64%, which makes this industry the fastest growing in the country’s economy. The contribution of the car industry to GDP reached 312.5 billion tenge.

INDUSTRIAL GAS PRODUCTION INAUGURATE AT TAJIBAY SQUARE IN TURKMENISTAN

Natural gas production has been began in the newly opened Tajibay gas field, in the south of the Lebap province of Turkmenistan.

The Lebap gas production department (Lebapgazodobycha) has already produced 10 millions of cubic meters of natural gas from the first production field, Reports turkmenistan's online publication 'The Golden Age'.

The daily production capacity of the field is more than 450 thousand cubic meters . At the same time, three more natural gas wells will be drilled to increase production.

The new Tajibay field is located in in an area close to the Malay natural gas field in eastern Turkmenistan., which has been used on an industrial basis for more than 20 years. It is expected that gas production at the field will increase significantly due to the commissioning of new wells.

Recall, The Turkmenistan Geological administration (Turkmengeologiya) found gas at the Tajibay field in May this year . Turkmenistan is 4th in the world in terms of natural gas reserves. The rich natural reserves of oil and gas, consequently generates large revenues from oil



products exports, has been able to close its foreign debt and increase its annual budget.

The biggest importer of turkmen gas is China . In April2019, after a three-year hiatus, Russian-based gas company 'Gazprom' was again suiting for turkmen natural gas.

5,000 TURKMEN CITIZENS GET WORK PERMITS IN TURKEY THIS YEAR



Turkey's Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Services issued 113,134 foreigners work permits for 10 months of this year, of which 5,000 were citizens of Turkmenistan. This was reported by Azatlyk Radio with reference to the Hurriyet newspaper.

Among the all foreign workers, Most permits were received by Kyrgyz citizens - 10,000, Ukrainians - 6,000, and Turkmen - 5,000. Also, a week ago, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism in Turkey announced that 25,224 Turkmen tourists visited Turkey in October, and 256 thousand in a year. This is 20% increases from previous year.

UZBEKISTAN BEGAN IMPORTING ELECTRICITY FROM TURKMENISTAN



The import of electricity from Turkmenistan to Uzbekistan has begun on December 1, Sputnik news correspondents reports. Uzbekistan National Power Networks Joint

Stock Company of the Ministry of Energy of Uzbekistan concluded an agreement with Turkmenenergo State Electric Energy Corporation of the Ministry of Energy of Turkmenistan on the purchase of electricity in 2019-2020 winter periods. "Starting from December 1 of this year, in accordance with the joint Uzbek-Turkmen agreement, the supply of electricity from Turkmenistan has begun," the Uzbek network operator said in a Telegram channel.

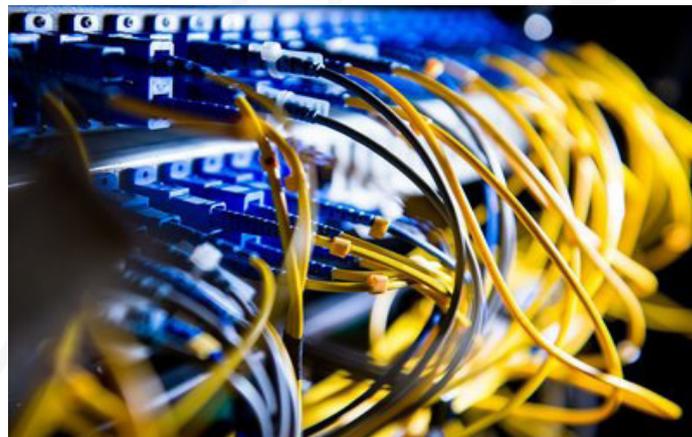
The figures for energy imports in the early days of the winter season have already become known. So, on December 1, 14.9 million kWh of electricity was imported from Turkmenistan to Uzbekistan, and on December 2, 15.4 million kWh. According to the company, energy supplies are carried out in accordance with the schedule and volumes that were approved by the agreement. At the same time, the total supply volumes were not disclosed. It is specified that the parties reached a final agreement only last week.

TURKMEN-AZERBAIJANI AGREEMENT SIGNED ON CONSTRUCTION OF FIBER-OPTIC COMMUNICATION LINES ALONG THE BOTTOM OF CASPIAN SEA

Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan have agreed to build Trans-Caspian Fiber Optic - a fiber-optic communication line between the two countries along the bottom of the Caspian Sea. The parties signed the agreement within the framework of the 12th Turkmentel-2019 telecommunications exhibition. The cable will run from Siyazan to Turkmenbashi. Azerbaijan's AzerTelecom and Turkmenistan's Turkmentelecom are the telecommunication operators of the project. The implementation of this project will strengthen the partnership in improving telecommunication transit routes between Asia and Europe.

At present, Turkmenistan has five international joints of the main fiber-optic communication lines laid throughout the country - Ashgabat - Badzhigiran (Iran), Serhetabat - Herat (Afghanistan), Imamnazar - Akina (Afghanistan), Turkmenabat - Bukhara (Uzbekistan) and Garabogaz - Fetisov (Kazakhstan).

The presence of high-tech systems in the field of telecommunications is an integral factor in the country's



socio-economic development and successful international cooperation, which necessitates further modernization and the active involvement of new equipment, and innovative technologies in this industry.

THE NEW BATCH OF KAMAZ VEHICLES ARRIVED IN TURKMENISTAN

The new batch of KAMAZ vehicles arrived at the Turkmenbashi International Sea Port on a ferry, reports “Turkmenistan: Golden Age” website.

It consists of 110 vehicles. These are heavy-duty dump trucks, shift trucks, gas tankers, mixer trucks and other types of equipment that will be involved in the leading sectors of the economy of our country.

The recipient of the new automotive equipment are the Ministry of Construction and Architecture, the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection, Turkmenensagat and Turkmenaragatnashik agencies of the Ministry of Industry and Communication, the State Committee for Water Resources, the State Corporation Turkmengeology, State Turkmenchemistry concern, Turkmenbashi complex of oil refineries and others.

According to existing agreements, Turkmenistan will purchase about 2,000 units of KAMAZ vehicles. Deliveries are carried out in stages. In particular, in 2019, within the framework of the agreement, two hundred heavy vehicles were received from Russian partners at the disposal of the Turkmenavtoulaglari agency of the Ministry of Industry and Communication in 2019. Twenty more units of special equipment will arrive By the end of this year.

Turkmenistan is one of the large and stable markets for



KAMAZ products. Over the period 2008-2018, over 9,000 units of KAMAZ trucks and special vehicles were delivered to Turkmenistan. These trucks and special equipment are widely used in various sectors of the local economy, and a KAMAZ dealer network has been established and operating in cities of Ashgabat, Balkanabat, Mary and Turkmenabat. KAMAZ is one of the world’s leading manufacturers of heavy trucks and diesel engines. The main production is located in the city of Naberezhnye Chelny (Tatarstan, Russia).

TURKMENISTAN TO LAUNCH BUILT-IN IP TUNERS TVS



TVs with built-in IP tuners will soon be launched in Turkmenistan. This was reported at a meeting of the Cabinet Ministry on december 15.

In particular, it was noted that the “Aydin Gijler” Economic Society plans to launch production of smart TVs with screen sizes of 32”, 42”, and 55” inches. All TVs will be equipped with built-in IP tuners based on software developed by the Center for Young Scientists of the Institute of Telecommunications and Informatics. In order to ensure the high quality of these products, a number of specialists of Aydin Gijler have got suitable training abroad, reports the State News Agency of Turkmenistan .

President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov approved the idea of producing domestic smart TVs, and stressed that Turkmenistan has good anticipation for the development of modern industries, including in the electronic industry, for the creation of joint ventures. and noted that domestic private sector should be more actively involved in this area.

EXPORTS FROM TURKMENISTAN TO UZBEKISTAN INCREASED BY 90%

For the January-November 2019, the trade turnover between Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan grew by almost 90% compared to the same period in 2018 and amounted to US \$ 457.8 million, according to the latest edition of the foreign trade report of the Uzbek State Committee on statistics.

According to the Turkmen publication 'Orient', there is a positive balance in favor of Turkmenistan in the trade between the two neighboring countries. During the reported period, Turkmen goods and services were exported to the Republic of Uzbekistan in the amount of US \$ 374.1 million, and imports are estimated at US \$ 83.7 million.

The volume of Turkmen products exported to the Uzbek market increased by US \$ 280.2 million and US \$ 174.1 million in 2017 and 2018 on year-over-year basis correspondingly.

According to the report, The Uzbek commodity and services import to Turkmenistan almost doubled from US \$ 43.8 million (2018) to US \$ 83.7 million. Turkmenistan entered the top ten foreign trade partners of Tashkent and the top twenty partner countries for the import of goods and services.

Uzbekistan exports to Turkmenistan such items as vehicles,



mineral fertilizers, fruit and vegetable products, construction materials, electrical and mechanical equipment, metal products and services in various fields. Meanwhile imports petroleum products, petrochemical products, propylene polymers, cotton yarn, and sheet glass from Turkmenistan. By 2020, countries intend to bring mutual trade up to \$ 500 million. And judging by the latest statistics, these plans in the foreseeable future are not only feasible, but can be exceeded.

TAJIKISTAN PLANS TO EXPORT ALUMINUM WORTH OF \$ 402.2 MILLION IN 2020.



Tajikistan plans to export primary aluminum worth of \$ 402.2 million next year and import \$ 360.8 million worth of alumina, the Tajik Telegraph Agency (TajikTA) reports. According to the forecast of the main macroeconomic indicators of the Republic of Tajikistan for 2018-2020, Alumina is projected to import of 440 thousand tons, and cost of \$ 360.8 million, meanwhile the export of primary aluminum (raw materials) will be 260 thousand tons in the amount of \$ 400.2 million in 2020.

Note that in mid-February this year, The head of the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, Negmatullo Hikmatullozoda, said at a press conference, that in 2019, Tajikistan plans to increase primary aluminum production by 1.6 times, which is estimated up to 149 thousand tons. Compared to the same time of 2018, it was about 96 thousand tons.

EU ALLOCATES € 20 MILLION TO BUILD SEBZOR HYDROELECTRIC STATION IN TAJIKISTAN



The EU Ambassador Ms. Marilyn Josefson and KfW office Dushanbe Director - Dr. Andreas Schneider signed a Contribution Agreement for financing construction of a small hydropower plant Sebzor in Roshtqala district of Mountainous Badakhshan Autonomous Province (GBO).

The committed funds of 20 million Euros come as a contribution to 17 million Euros allocated for this project earlier by the German Government to Tajikistan during the intergovernmental negotiations in 2018.

With this agreement signed the total financing for construction of the project will make 37 million Euros.

In her speech, Ambassador Josefson emphasized the social and environmental importance of the project which will also have a potential to supply reliable energy to settlements in Badakhshan province of Afghanistan.

Dr. Schneider mentioned that the project will improve generation and supply of clean energy in Roshtqala district as well as in the GBO. Besides, he noted that the project is a very good example of coordination among Development Partners and the Government of Tajikistan.

The project foresees construction of the Sebzor hydropower plant on the Shokhdara River with an estimated generation capacity of 74.5 million kWh per year.

The project shall be financed through state-owned German Development bank – KfW. The executing agency for the project is Pamir Energy company, who operates the energy system of VMKB on the basis of a concession agreement with the Government of Tajikistan.

MAJOR HARVESTING OF COTTON AND GRAIN WERE DONE IN TAJIKISTAN

According to the press center of the Ministry of Agriculture of Tajikistan, almost 400 thousand tons of cotton and 858.4 thousand tons of grain crops were harvested this year, reported by the Tajik Telegraph Agency (TajikTA) on Friday. "This year, cotton was sown on an area of 185 thousand 670 hectares, as of November 25, 398 thousand 380 tons of cotton were harvested in the country, the Ministry of Agriculture reports.

According to the source, the collection of raw cotton exceeds by 110 thousand 434 tons than the collection of last year. It is noted that the yield of this crop per hectare averaged 2.2 tonne.

In addition, according to the latest information from the Ministry of Agriculture of Tajikistan, as of November 22, 2019 approximately 858.4 thousand tons of grain harvest was announced. It is stated that the total grain harvest rate in 2019 is 148 thousand 408 tons more than the harvest rate in 2018. For the harvest of autumn 2020 grains, 109



thousand 103 hectares of cultivation area was reported. Thus, 70% of the 2020 grain harvest plan has already been implemented.

UZBEKISTAN WILL ATTRACT TOURISTS WITH JAPANESE HOTELS

The Japanese travel company HIS Holdings plans to build hotels in the Japanese architectural style in Tashkent and Samarkand. In addition, the holding wants to open an office in Uzbekistan in order to ensure the growth of tourist flow. This was reported to Centralasia.news.

Meeting was held within the framework of the visit of the Uzbek delegation to the Land of the Rising Sun, headed by the head of the Ministry of Investments and Foreign Trade Sardor Umarzakov, with Japanese businessmen. HIS Holding Chairman of the Board of Directors, Hideo Savada, announced the implementation of joint projects in the hotel service industry, in particular, the construction of modern Japanese-style hotels in Tashkent and Samarkand was a key moment.

Agreements stated that, in the first quarter of 2020, Japanese architects and construction divisions will begin construction of a hotel in the capital of Uzbekistan. A similar plan will be later implemented in Samarkand. Hideo Savada announced the opening of a branch of the company in



Uzbekistan. This step is aimed at developing tourism in the republic, attracting travelers from around the world and creating tourist routes.

UZBEKISTAN ATTRACTED \$ 20.7 BILLION OF INVESTMENTS IN 2019



Uzbekistan attracted \$ 20.7 billion in investments in 2019, reports Uzbek Telegraph Agency (UzTAG).

Deputy Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade of Uzbekistan, Badriddin Abidov said that "In Uzbekistan, there are practically no problems associated with financing projects by foreign investors. This year, until December 9, investors invested \$ 20.7 billion for various projects in Uzbekistan. In 2018, this figure was \$ 15 billion.

He added that according to the results of studies it was established that foreign investors have concerns about land, tax and regulatory authorities.

"The budget for financing projects under the state guarantee last year amounted to about \$ 2 billion. This year, this figure reached almost \$ 3 billion," the deputy minister said.

In addition, he emphasized that by the end of 2019 about 22 thousand new jobs will be created. At the beginning of the year it was estimated to 11 thousand.

TEHRAN EXPRESSED INCLINATION TOWARDS OPENING A SEA GATES FOR UZBEKISTAN

Iran is ready to play the role of a transit country, For connecting Uzbekistan with the countries of North Africa, discoveries in sea, construction of rail and roads in the North-South transport corridor.

This was stated by the Iranian Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade of Iran Reza Rahmani at a meeting with the Uzbek Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade Sardor Umurzakov in Tashkent.

According to Rahmani, Iran may open a transit corridor for Uzbekistan for unlimited transportation of goods from North Africa and the Persian Gulf countries. The Iranian minister said that Tashkent and Tehran could sign preferential trade tariffs and use the local currency for financial transactions. During the meeting, the parties discussed issues of expanding mutual trade and attracting Iranian investments in the Uzbek economy in agriculture, fisheries and construction. In addition, the parties discussed specific proposals to facilitate the conditions for mutual trade by ensuring mutual recognition of phytosanitary control requirements.



IN DUSHANBE WILL BEGIN TO PRODUCE PRODUCTS OF THE UZBEK COMPANY ARTEL



An investment agreement was signed in Dushanbe between the Government of Tajikistan, Avesto Group LLC and the Uzbek Artel Engineering group LLC, on the construction and operation of a joint venture “Artel Avesto Electronics” for the production of household appliances.

The joint venture Artel Avesto Electronics was created on the basis of the Tajik Avesto Group LLC and the Uzbek company Artel Engineering and Management. Both parties in the joint venture will have equal share in new production. According to the commercial plan, the production of household appliances is planned to be launched in two stages. The first stage will be the production of vacuum cleaners and water heater, and the next stage involves the production of televisions and washing machines.

The amount of investments is \$ 10 million. With the commissioning of the enterprise, around 170 jobs will be created. This project contributes to promote export and import substitution for 2016-2020. It is planned to export the product to Afghanistan in near future.

The products manufactured by the Artel group of companies have entered the Tajikistani market for several years. For this reason, the products manufactured by the company gained great popularity in local markets.

PRESIDENT OF UZBEKISTAN BRINGS INVESTMENT WORTH \$ 3.5 BILLION FROM JAPAN

At official visit of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev to Japan, held meeting with President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Shinichi Kitaoku at the Akasaka residence in Tokyo on December 19.

At the beginning of the meeting, President Mirziyoyev expressed his satisfaction with JICA's activities in Uzbekistan in support of state reforms and programs and its assistance to Uzbekistan over the years.

The meeting drew special attention to support small and medium-sized investment projects, as well as to expand cooperation in the field of Education. Accordingly, a new cooperation agreement was signed between the parties in order to create a clearer roadmap for ensuring timely and high quality implementation of cooperation projects between Uzbekistan and JICA.

As a result, a new long-term co-operation programme in energy, industry, agricultural modernisation, infrastructure, environment, health and other areas, with a total investment



of more than \$ 3.5 billion, was agreed.

To date, the total investment of the projects implemented in the cooperation between Uzbekistan and Japan has exceeded \$ 4 billion.

JAPANESE COMPANIES WILL INVEST \$ 15 MILLION IN THE AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY OF UZBEKISTAN



An Uzbek-Japanese business forum was held in Tokyo, in which representatives of Uzavtosanoat JSC participated along with more than 500 Japanese companies and organizations.

Japanese Isuzu Motors and Itochu Corporation will invest \$ 15 million in the development of the Samarkand Automobile sector, a Podrobno.uz correspondent reports.

Confederation of the Samarkand Automobile Plant with Japanese companies Isuzu Motors and Itochu Corporation began in 2007. This year, mass production of trucks and buses based on the Isuzu chassis and power units began. This partnership allowed the plant to significantly increase production.

As part of the Business Forum, Samarkand car factory attracted \$ 15 million investment from its Japanese partners to implement another project. This investment by Japanese partners is expected to increase the annual production volume of the plant by 5 thousand to 10 thousand units per year (Bus, Truck and Van derivatives) by 2021.

Recall that in January next year, the Samarkand Automobile Plant will begin selling the Isuzu D-Max pickup truck . The price will vary from 270 to 380 million soums. The pick-up capacity is from 865 to 1100 kg.

UZBEKISTAN RAILWAYS TO LAUNCH TRANSIT TRAINS TO AZERBAIJAN AND GEORGIA

The Uzbek Railways company plans to launch transit trains to Azerbaijan and Georgia by the spring of 2020.

The first multilateral meeting of the leaders of railway agencies of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan on the development of the international multimodal route was held in Tashkent

The launch of a test transit container train, as part this project, is scheduled for the first quarter of 2020.

During the meeting, the parties established common transit tariff rates and conditions for the transportation of goods, and discussed the logistics infrastructure and also agreed to create a coordination committee including the heads of railway authorities of the participating countries, chaired by the Ministry of Transport of Uzbekistan.

In December 2017, the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev approved the program of diversification of foreign trade routes for the transportation of goods for period of 2018-2022. It involves transit traffic on the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway line.



The Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway was opened in October 2017 following the Azerbaijani-Georgian-Turkish interstate agreement. At the initial stage, the volume of freight transportation will be at 6.5 million tons of cargo. It is planned to carry up to a million passengers a year.

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