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Kazajstán



International treaty on navigation in EEU to be prepared until the 2015 end

The international treaty on navigation in the Euroasian Economic Union will be prepared until the end of 2015, the director of the department of transport and infrastructure of the Euroasian Economic Commission Yerzhan Nurakhmetov said, BelTA reported.

Yerzhan Nurakhmetov noted that one of the key activities of EEU is formation of a common market of transport services and uniform transport space. Formation of a common market of transport services is liberalization of access to this market of services, establishment of uniform approaches to competition development, formation of the unified tariff policy, elimination of not physical barriers. Until the end of 2016 the document on the main directions and stages of realization of the coordinated transport policy.

In the field of the motor transport, the head of states - members of the union by July 1, 2015 will accept the program of stage-by-stage liberalization of performance by carriers of coasting automobile transportation of goods for the period from 2016 to 2025, with definition of degree and conditions of this liberalization. The draft of the program is approved on March 10 by EEC Board and will be brought on the next meeting of Council of the commission.

Fuente:BNNews



Kaz-ir Agro LLP plans to start producing safflower oil in Kostanai region

KOSTANAI. March 13 (Interfax-Kazakhstan) – Kazakh-Iranian JV Kaz-ir Agro plans to start cultivating safflowers and producing safflower oil in the village of Vogogradkoye in Zhitikara district, Kostanai region, the press office of the regional administration has told Interfax-Kazakhstan.

About 300 million tenge will be required for the project, the company has 50 million tenge and plans to borrow the rest of funding according to preliminary estimates, the administration said.

The plant's design capacity is to be 7 tonnes a day with 40 staff. Kaz-ir Agro intends to bid for a land plot in the district later this month.

Kaz-ir Agro LLP specializes in the cultivation of safflowers, production and processing of safflower oil and oilcakes, owns an oil processing shop, grain storage facility and agricultural machinery in Zhambyl region in an area of 8 hectares. It also owns 2,500 hectares of land for planting.

Fuente: Interfax Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan implements project on exploration of deep-laying oil-bearing horizons

ASTANA. KAZINFORM - The Government of Kazakhstan works on expansion of the resource base of the oil sector. The state support of local manufacturers will continue to be rendered.

At the international geological exploration forum, which was held in Astana, First Deputy Minister of Energy Uzakbai Karabalin informed that Kazakhstan would begin implementation of the biggest oil project "Eurasia" in the Caspian Lowland with the total cost of 500 billion US dollars.

According to him, so far, oil has been produced in Kazakhstan mainly at the deposits of the Caspian Lowland where about 75-80% of the country's hydrocarbon resources are concentrated. It is expected that the production volume will decrease at Tengiz and Karachaganak deposits in 15-20 years. However, it is possible to make up for that by means of exploration of deep-laying oil-bearing horizons.

According to the results of the comprehensive analysis, the deep-laying resources of the Caspian Lowland totaling about 67 billion tons of fuel oil equivalent and 27 billion of extracted fuel. It means that the recourse base of the oil can be increased three times.

Implementation of "Eurasia" project will allow Kazakhstan to accumulate the best world practices of the hydrocarbon geology and geophysics and give a new impetus for the growth of Kazakhstan high technologies and development of top specialists for the sector.

According to U. Karabalin, the system of online monitoring over oil production will be launched since 2017.



Minister of Investment and Development of Kazakhstan Asset Issekeshv informed that KZT 3 billion 260 million would be allocated for exploration of oil deposits in 2015.

As it was informed earlier, taking into account the growing pressure on the market of Kazakhstan from Russian companies, the Government of Kazakhstan plans to increase the state support of poultry farming in the country. The subsidies will be allocated for cheapening of the feed stuff.

The 16th congress of the ruling Nur Otan Party was held in Astana last week, where President Nursultan Nazarbayev set a number of new tasks. The majority of them regard improvement of the state management system. Institutional reforms required for strengthening of the statehood are about expanding accounting practices of the heads of state agencies and ensuring transparency of made decisions.

Citizens should be actively involved in the decision-making process of all levels through the mechanisms of open government. The role of public councils functioning within the state bodies and administrations will be strengthened.

Besides, the mechanism when civil society is involved in distribution of budget funds in the regions will be introduced. The law will have the norms giving people more rights to appeal the actions of the civil servants.

Upon completion of the institutional reforms, the authorities of the president, government and the parliament will be redistributed.

Fuente: KazInform

Afghanistan and Kazakhstan may become new global centers of rare earth metals' production

Posted on March 15, 2015 by Eugene Gerden

REE-Handbook-Praseodymium-Pr-InvestorIntelAfghanistan and Kazakhstan, two countries in Central Asia, may become new global centers of rare earth metals' production during the next several years, according to recent statements of some US and Russian scientists.

In the case of Afghanistan, according to recent studies, conducted by the US Geological Survey (USGS), total value of the country's rare and rare earth metals, is estimated at US\$1 trillion.

In their studies the US geologists used the Soviet maps, which were prepared by Soviet scientists in 1979-1980. At that period of time the USSR had plans for the establishment of its own production of rare earth metals and other mineral deposits in Afghanistan, however, after the pullout of Soviet troops from the territory of the country the Soviet government decided to refuse from further implementation of the project.

Total volume of discovered rare and rare earth reserves in Afghanistan is estimated at more than 1.4 million tonnes, the majority of which are located in the Hanashin district of the Helmand province of the country (Southern Afghanistan).



One of the most valuable metal that was discovered in the country's territory is praseodymium, which a silver metal that is used in the manufacture of specialty glasses and for the improvement of the properties of some alloys.

Among the other discovered rare earth metals are cerium, which is actively used in metallurgy, as well as lanthanum, neodymium, samarium and gadolinium.

In addition, Afghanistan has one of the world's richest lithium reserves, which is located in the Western part of the country.

In addition to rare earth metals, magnetic and gravitational explorations had shown the existence of huge reserves of iron-containing minerals in the country, which are located at a depth of 10 km., as well as rich oil and gas reserves.

Finally, Afghanistan has big coal reserves, which are estimated at 60 million tonnes, as well as of iron ore in the volume of 2.2 billion tonnes, as well as huge reserves of aluminum.

So far, an interest for the production of rare earth metals as well as other mineral deposits in Afghanistan, has already been expressed by the US, Russia, China and India.

In the case of China, the Chinese government has recently signed a 30 years' contract for the production of coal in Afghanistan, while Indian companies are going to develop local iron ore deposits.

At the same time Afghanistan is expected to be not the only country in Central Asia, which may increase the production of rare earth metals in the near future. The same plans has Kazakhstan, a transcontinental country in Central Asia and a former Soviet state

As part of these plans, a new state program has been recently approved by the Kazakh government.

The program is known as on the development and production of rare and rare earth metals in Kazakhstan for the period of 2015-2019, and involves a significant increase of production and development of the country's of rare and REM fields during the next four years.

The program also involves the establishment of a special state reserve of rare an rare earth metals in the country. It is planned that a particular attention will be paid for the production of such metals as beryllium, tantalum, dysprosium and neodymium.

The project is expected to be implemented by a local Ulba Metallurgical Plant, one of the world leaders in terms of production of beryllium, tantalum, and niobium, as well as uranium-based fuel bricks for nuclear power stations.

As part of these plans is also building of a new mine processing complex, (based on the deposits of titanium-zirconium ores Shokash in the Aktobe area of the country), which will have the capacity to process up to 750,000 m3 of ore per year.



Finally, according to plans of the Kazakh government, is the increase of production of REM bulk concentrates in the city of Stepnogorsk up to 3000 tonnes per year.

Fuente: Investors Intel

Organic products market in Kazakhstan exceeds \$500 million

Saturday, 14 March 2015 10:26 Written by TCA

ASTANA (TCA) — The market of organic products in Kazakhstan is estimated at 95 billion tenge (more than US \$500 million), Zhibek Azhibayeva, secretary of the Trade Committee of the Atameken National Chamber of Entrepreneurs of Kazakhstan, told a media briefing on March 12.

She also said that Kazakhstan is introducing an organic products production chain.

In Azhibayeva's words, environmentally-friendly products are related to land certification. In Kazakhstan, in the Kostanai province alone around 150 thousand hectares have been certified as being eco-friendly.

Azhibayeva also said that the Agriculture Ministry of Kazakhstan has drafted a Law "On organic farming", regulating the issues of agricultural machinery, fertilizer, processing, packaging, and eco-friendly packaging.

In the meantime, the OSCE Centre in Astana has taken long-standing efforts to promote green growth and sustainable development principles in Kazakhstan.

"The current methods of farming in Kazakhstan are leading to the destruction of natural vegetation that protects the land from erosion and accelerate the process of soil mineralization, which result in drastic decline of its fertility, crops yields and harvest as a whole," Natalia Zarudna, head of the OSCE Centre in Astana, said at last November's OSCE-supported roundtable discussion on green technologies with a focus on organic farming in Astana. "The development of organic farming, the introduction of vermiculture technology and vermicomposting, can contribute to solving the problem. One of the goals of this roundtable discussion is to help consolidate support for organic farming in society."

"Environmentally-friendly economic development, with a focus on high-tech farming and increased agricultural productivity, is one of the main principles of 'green' growth. The national concept of the transition to a green economy as well as a draft law on organic farming creates opportunities for the effective implementation of this principle in Kazakhstan," said Aigul Solovyova, a member of Kazakhstan's Parliament and chairperson of the Coalition Board for Green Economy and G-Global Development.

Fuente: Timesca



Agricultural production doubles in Kazakhstan over five years

Monday, 16 March 2015 10:46 Written by TCA

ASTANA (TCA) – Agricultural production has doubled in Kazakhstan over the last five years, Kazakh media quoted the country's Agriculture Minister Asylzhan Mamytbekov as saying last Friday at the conference "Food Security of Kazakhstan: Development of Agriculture Production and Business".

In Mamytbekov's words, agricultural exports during the past five years have grown 1.6-fold, up to US \$3 billion.

"Investments in fixed capital [in agriculture] have reached \$1 billion, a more than 16-percent growth. It is the highest growth among the economic sectors. Today entrepreneurs are interested in doing business in agriculture," the minister said.

The minister emphasized the necessity of effective use of land resources in Kazakhstan. In his words, only 25 million hectares of the country's total 35 million hectares of arable land are used in Kazakhstan today, and the average wheat yield of 1,140 kilograms per hectare is considered to be a low harvest.

In other news, a Kazakh Parliament member, Rauan Shayekin, told a media briefing last Friday that the government will allocate 500 billion tenge (around \$2.7 billion) to finance agro-industrial enterprises in Kazakhstan.

"As part of this program, government financing covered 292 entities and amounted to 312 billion tenge. Following the head of state's instruction, the amount will be increased to 500 billion tenge," Shayekin said.

In his words, the "Agribusiness 2020" program of agricultural development for 2013-2020 was approved in 2012 and includes all types of government support. In February President Nursultan Nazarbayev instructed the Government to continue implementing this program as part of Kazakhstan's anti-crisis measures, and to increase the funding of agribusiness entities.

Fuente: Timesca

Kazakhstan's mortgage market shifts to Astana

By Elena Kosolapova – Trend:

Kazakhstan's mortgage market is shifting to Astana, Ranking.kz. analytical service said.

"In January, Astana increased the mortgage portfolio by 2.2 billion tenge (185.35 tenge = \$ 1) to 178 billion," the statement says. "The largest regional market – Almaty increased by 400 million tenge."

The total volume of mortgage loans in January increased by 4.6 billion tenge to 916.6 billion.



Besides Astana, the largest increase in mortgage loans was fixed in Aktobe (by 614 million tenge to 47 billion) and Mangistau (by 452 million tenge to 39 billion).

Almaty has the largest volume of mortgage loans - 272 billion tenge. An increase for the month amounted to only 400 million tenge. The regional share reduced to 29.7 percent compared to 31.9 percent in January 2014.

Astana increased its share from 17.8 to 19.4 percent during the year.

In general, megacities concentrate 49.1 percent of the mortgage market (449.4 billion tenge).

Fuente: Trend Az

S&P affirms Kazakhstan ratings at 'BBB/A-2'; outlook remains negative

By Elena Kosolapova – Trend:

Standard & Poor's Ratings Services affirmed its 'BBB' long-term foreign and local currency sovereign credit ratings on the Republic of Kazakhstan, the rating agency reported. The outlook is negative.

At the same time, S&P affirmed the short-term foreign and local currency sovereign credit ratings on Kazakhstan at 'A-2'. The agency also affirmed the Kazakhstan national scale rating at 'kzAA+'.

“The ratings on Kazakhstan are supported by the government's net asset position and strong fiscal performance, which follows recent years of fiscal and external surpluses, supported by the country's large natural resource endowment. The ratings remain constrained by our view of Kazakhstan's limited institutional and governance effectiveness, owing to the highly centralized political environment characterized by a lack of clarity about eventual presidential succession. The moderate level of economic development (GDP per

capita is estimated at \$13,000 as of year-end 2014), limited monetary policy flexibility, and the high dependence on the hydrocarbon sector also constrain the ratings,” S&P said.

President Nursultan Nazarbayev announced that he will stand in the April 26, 2015, early presidential election. The rating agency thinks the election, in which the president will very likely be elected for another term, will help maintain near-term political stability. Indeed, Kazakhstan has benefitted from one of the most politically stable environments in the region, S&P said. The renewed mandate for the president is expected to better position the government to implement more difficult economic reforms to offset the sharp economic slowdown.

Kazakhstan's economy depends heavily on the oil sector, according to S&P. It accounts for an estimated 20-30 percent of GDP, over 50 percent of fiscal revenues, and 60 percent of exports. The rating agency expects GDP growth to slow to 1.5 percent in 2015, from 4.3 percent in 2014, primarily due to low oil prices. The agency also expects that further tenge depreciation and inflation will subdue GDP in dollar terms this year. S&P also expects Kazakhstan's oil production will decrease slightly during 2015-2016; it expects output in 2015 of 80.5 million tons, from 81.8 million tons previously. This follows several years of relatively flat oil production, due to delays



at the large offshore Kashagan project. The agency does not foresee any significant production gains from the Kashagan oil field until 2018 and notes that Kashagan has had years of delays and cost overruns.

“When the field will come back on line and reach peak capacity of its first phase of production remains uncertain, but it should eventually increase Kazakhstan's oil output by 20 percent,” S&P said.

S&P also notes that the growth outlook is also dampened by the expected impact on consumer demand--the key growth driver in recent years--from currency devaluation, fiscal consolidation (which will include cuts to current and capital expenditures), lower-than-expected exports of other raw materials, and external factors, such as the recession in Russia.

“Indeed, Kazakhstan is dealing with the double shock of lower oil prices and the recession in Russia,” the agency said.

Kazakh government plans to maintain the maximum limit on the annual transfer from the National Fund of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the central government budget at \$9.2 billion, despite lower oil revenues.

“The drawdown of NFRK funds and repatriating the proceeds will weaken Kazakhstan's international investment position. We expect modest current account deficits over the rating horizon through 2016, at less than 4 percent of GDP in 2015, but we expect reserves to decline only marginally, as they will be supported by financial account inflows from foreign direct investments and the expected repatriation of NFRK assets, as part of government stimulus spending,” the agency said.

S&P believes the National Bank of Kazakhstan (NBK) will face challenging demands on several fronts in 2015. On the one hand, it may be called on to support financial stability in conjunction with the government's efforts to address legacy problem loans in the banking sector. On the other hand, it could have to facilitate an external adjustment through the exchange rate. Similarly, the NBK's policy may be to not counteract the government's counter-cyclical fiscal policy, yet it may also need to keep liquidity conditions tight to support the tenge. That said, the NBK and the president have both recently announced that the exchange rate will remain stable as long as oil prices remain above an annual average price of \$50/barrel.

The negative outlook on the long-term ratings reflects S&P view of increasing risks to Kazakhstan's external, fiscal, and monetary profiles. The agency could consider lowering the long-term ratings if Kazakhstan's external and fiscal positions deteriorate beyond its current expectations, even assuming a recovery in oil prices in 2015-2016. The ratings could also come under pressure if S&P observes a deterioration in monetary policy effectiveness or in reserve levels as the NBK faces its many challenges.

The agency could consider revising the outlook to stable if Kazakhstan's policymaking and institutional frameworks became more transparent and predictable. S&P would also view enhanced implementation of the structural reform and diversification agenda, as well as efforts to increase monetary policy flexibility, as positive for the ratings.

Fuente:Trends Az



CompactGTL to build Kazakhstan GTL plant for Sinopec, Lukoil and KazMunaiGas joint venture

KazakhOil Aktobe, a joint venture company between Lukoil, KazMunaiGas and Sinopec, and CompactGTL have successfully negotiated and agreed all of the commercial terms for the contract which has now been submitted to the respective shareholder boards for approval.

The CompactGTL plant will be located in the Aktobe region of Kazakhstan and will take gas that would otherwise have been flared and convert it into synthetic diesel. Engineering is well advanced and the plant is scheduled to be operational during 2018.

This announcement follows the signing of a breakthrough memorandum with the Ministry of Oil and Gas of the Republic of Kazakhstan in March 2014 for development of the world's first small scale GTL plant. This latest development is another significant milestone in introducing CompactGTL's new and innovative technology into the region to address the issue of gas flaring and to produce fuel for local consumption.

Kazakhstan offers considerable potential for CompactGTL's proven small-scale GTL technology. The country is a major producer of oil and is also one of the leaders globally in seeking to use new technology to bring environmental benefits to the country.

The new GTL plant will contribute to president Nazarbayev's "Kazakhstan 2050 Strategy", which aims to generate new sources of economic growth, by creating a local high technology industry that processes associated gas to produce fuels for local consumption.

The agreement was signed at the 3rd Caspian Corridor Conference at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in London, and the signing ceremony was overseen by CompactGTL chairman Tony Hayward.

CompactGTL chief executive officer, Edmund Buckley, said: "This is a major milestone for CompactGTL. The agreement is a key step towards the commercialisation of this groundbreaking project, and demonstrates industry confidence in CompactGTL's technology and people. We look forward to continuing to work alongside our partners in Kazakhstan to deliver the world's first small scale GTL plant."

Fuente: Oilandgastechology.net

Freight turnover up 15.5% in Kazakhstan in January-February

ALMATY. March 13 (Interfax-Kazakhstan) – In January-February 2015, the freight turnover in Kazakhstan totaled 78.472 billion tonne-km compared with January-February 2014 or an increase of 15.5%, the Statistics Committee of the National Economy Ministry said.



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In the reporting month, rail transportation rose by 27.1% to 35.937 billion tonne-km, road transportation rose by 1.8% to 22.575 billion tonne-km, sea transportation fell by 12.9% to 3.672 million tonne-km, air transportation decreased by 27.5% to 6.1 million tonne-km.

In January-February 2015, oil pipeline transportation was up 14.7% to 19.585 billion tonne-km, passenger traffic increased in the reporting period by 2.9% year-on-year to 40.023 billion passenger-kilometers.

The population of Kazakhstan is over 17.4 million people.

Fuente: Interfax Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan's foreign trade surplus narrows 60% in Jan

ALMATY. March 13 (Interfax-Kazakhstan) – The foreign trade surplus of Kazakhstan totaled \$2.1 billion in January 2015 or a drop of 60% compared with the same month last year, the Statistics Committee of the National Economy Ministry said.

The country's foreign trade turnover fell in the reporting month by 28.9% year-on-year to \$7.5 billion, including exports of \$4.8 billion (down 39.2%) and imports of \$2.7 billion (up 1.8%).

The value of export operations with the states participating in the Eurasian Economic Union--Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan-- amounted to \$256.7 million or a decrease of 41.2%, and imports to \$1.013 billion (an increase of 7.8%).

The main buyers of Kazakhstan-made products were Italy (19.5% of all exports), the Netherlands (11.1%) and China (10.5%).

The main exporters to Kazakhstan were Russia (35.6% of all Kazakhstan's imports in the reporting period), China (16.3%), and the U.S. (6.7%).

Fuente: Interfax Kazakhstan



Kirguistán



Kyrgyzstan developing transportation system

BISHKEK (TCA) — Passenger transportation grows 10% per year on average in Kyrgyzstan while the roads are getting worse due to increasing loads and technical obsolescence. As a result of underfunding, about 200 kilometers of roads are falling into disrepair annually, so the country has to increase its road capacity.

Kyrgyzstan is a mountainous country, and 95% of cargo and 97% of passengers are transported by motor transport here. The development of road transportation remains one of the main tools in solving economic and social problems in the country.

To attract investment in transport, a National electronic system of charging tolls for freight vehicles on public roads has been drafted. According to the Transport Ministry, the introduction of such tolls by the state will help reconstruct, maintain and service roads without additional financial resources from other sources.

Transport independence

With the construction of a bypass road in the Batken province in the south, Kyrgyzstan can achieve transport independence. The only way from Isfana to the Leilek district passes through Tajikistan. The World Bank allocated a \$45 million preferential loan including \$8.2 million in grants. The construction of a 12 km bypass road will start in the autumn of 2015.

Another alternative North-South 423-km road will be built in three stages. The first 154 km road section will go from the Jalal Abad province in the south to the Naryn province in the north. The second 90 km section includes building of a 700-meter tunnel. The third 183 km section will connect the city of Balykchy (Issyk-Kul province) with the Naryn province. China is financing the first phase of the road construction.



Kyrgyzstan-China railway

The Minister of Transport and Communications of Kyrgyzstan, Kalykbek Sultanov, recently visited China to discuss the Kyrgyzstan-China railway project. Kyrgyzstan proposed to build a railway on a concession basis. The Kyrgyz side offered to provide land, while the China would fund the project. Currently, Chinese experts are studying this issue, and in the near future the second round of negotiations will be held.

The railroad will go from China to Kyrgyzstan, then to Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, and on to Iran, Turkey and Eastern Europe.

According to Minister Sultanov, the Chinese side has no objection to the track gauge of the new railway meet the standards of post-Soviet countries. In Kyrgyzstan, as in all CIS countries, the railway gauge is 1,520 millimeters, while in China it is narrower. China previously insisted on the European standard gauge of 1,435 millimeters.

Rail transport is an important mode of long-distance transportation in China. The country has 112,000 kilometers of railways, including 16,000 kilometers of high-speed rail, the longest in the world. Almost all rail operations are handled by a state-owned company, the China Railway Corporation.

The Kyrgyzstan-China railway project has been noticeably changed to shorten the length of tunnels. In 2012, the project planned a 430-kilometer road. Since 2012, the Kyrgyz Ministry of Transport has improved the feasibility study to reduce the costs. The first version included 100 kilometers of tunnels and 60 kilometers of bridges. Tunnels are expensive, and one kilometer of tunnel would cost about \$35 million. The new draft project includes 30 kilometers of tunnels while the length of the railroad has been increased by 40 kilometers. More villages will be covered by the railroad. By September, it is planned to complete the new feasibility study.

Creation of the Silk Road Economic Belt is one of the most ambitious China's transport projects. This idea was first suggested by Chinese President Xi Jinping in September 2013 during his visit to Kazakhstan. The Silk Road Economic Belt will run east to west across 18 European and Asian countries with a total population of about three billion.

Chinese companies are also in talks with Uzbekistan on cooperation in the railway industry. The Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran route will not only significantly shorten the route from Central Asia to Europe, but will also strengthen the regional railway system and open opportunities for the construction of new railway lines.

Commenting on the idea of the Silk Road Economic Belt, Xi Jinping assured that China does not seek to dominate the region. However, some experts believe that the Central Asian railway system, developed with the active participation of China, will weaken Russia's position in the region. However, prospects for Russian-Chinese railway cooperation look promising.

Last year, the Russian Ministry of Transport and China Railway Construction Corporation signed a memorandum of understanding in the field of high-speed railway construction. According to the document, a high-speed Eurasian transport corridor Moscow-Beijing will be constructed. The railroad will go through Kazakhstan.



Cost of diesel fuel continues to grow

Cost of diesel fuel in Kyrgyzstan continues to grow, the Association of Oil Traders of Kyrgyzstan reported.

According to it, from March 14 the price of diesel has risen by 1 som - up to 36.5-39 soms. Gasoline prices remained at the same level.

"Increasing cost of diesel fuel is caused by the sharp rise in wholesale prices for Russian refineries by 17-20 percent. Also influenced by fluctuations in the dollar in foreign exchange markets of Kyrgyzstan and Russia," the Association noted.

Fuente: <http://www.eng.24.kg/>

Migrant workers to be given preferences after Kyrgyzstan's accession to agreement on Eurasian Economic Union

Migrant workers will be given preferences after Kyrgyzstan's accession to the agreement on the Eurasian Economic Union, the Ministry of Labour, Migration and Youth of the Kyrgyz Republic reported.

According to it, a migrant's labor activity is exercised by him in the State where he works (in particular, the countries of the Customs Union), in accordance with the laws of the host country on the basis of an employment contract.

For the conclusion of the employment contract a worker provides to an employer the documents stipulated by the state of employment, as well as documents, confirming the legality of migrants' staying in the country.

As for Russia, after the entry into force of the agreement on Kyrgyzstan's accession to the Eurasian Economic Union a migrant workers will be provided with the following preferences: activities related to the involvement of migrant workers by employers of the Russian Federation without restrictions for the protection of the national labor market; they don't need a permit to carry out their activities in the territory of the Russian Federation; worker and his family members are exempt from registration (registration at the place of residence) in the authorized bodies of the Russian Federation within 30 days from the date of entry into the territory of Russia.

Also, the period of temporary stay of migrants and their families is specified by the duration of the employment contract; in the event of early termination of the employment contract after 90 days from the date of entry into the territory of the Russian Federation an employee has the right within 15 days to sign a new contract, including with another employer on the terms and conditions stipulated by the legislation of Russia.

According to the FMS as on January 20, 2015, number of Kyrgyzstanis in Russia amounted to 544,956 people, compared with 2014, the number hasn't changed much. It is noted that the mass return of migrants because of the depreciation of the ruble is not observed.



Kyrgyzstan discusses agricultural water use

BISHKEK -- Kyrgyz First Deputy Prime Minister Tayyrbek Sarpashev March 12 convened with 10 district chiefs from throughout Kyrgyzstan to discuss irrigation plans for this year, the government press office announced.

Uzbekistan tries to improve soil

Kyrgyzstan to improve irrigation systems

Sarpashev emphasised the rational use of water and faulted the district chiefs for not being aggressive enough to figure out ways to increase the country's agricultural export potential.

He ordered village governments by March 15 to submit their development plans for the year.

This year the country expects more rain and more irrigation water than it had last year, but 2014 should serve as a lesson, he said. "You must monitor and demand the timely filling in of reservoirs. We must not allow mistakes this year ... and do a good job of cleaning out the irrigation network."

The government this year, as it did last year, intends to provide more than 5 billion KGS (US \$81.1m) in low-interest loans to farmers and to agricultural processing firms, he said.

Farmers may borrow to finance horticulture, animal husbandry and fish farming, he said.

Switzerland helps improve water supply in Tajikistan

DUSHANBE (TCA) — The government of Switzerland will provide a grant worth US \$9 million to improve water supply in Tajikistan, Avesta news agency reported citing the Tajik Finance Ministry.

The grant agreement was signed last Thursday by the Tajik Finance Minister Abdusalom Kurbonov and Peter Mikula, the Country Director of the Swiss Cooperation Office in Tajikistan.

The second phase of a water supply project will provide clean drinking water to about 140,000 people in six cities of the northern Sughd province and the city of Khorog, the capital of the Gorno Badakhshan Autonomous Region (GBAO).

The project includes installation of additional connections, installation of water meters, purchase of operation and repair equipment, construction of new water reservoirs, and improvement of drainage systems.



The total cost of the project is more than \$18 million. A \$9 million grant will be provided by the Swiss government and over \$9 million will be contributed by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

The projects Water Resources Management in Tajikistan, Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation in the Fergana Valley, and Tajikistan Water Supply and Sanitation Project (Phase II) are aimed at strengthening of water resources management, improving food security, reducing risks of natural disasters associated with water, and financing the investment program to improve the health and well-being of rural people through sustainable drinking water supply and sanitation.

The total cost of the projects is 17.5 million Swiss francs on a grant basis: 7.4 million Swiss francs for the Water Resources Management in Tajikistan project, 5 million Swiss francs for the Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation in the Fergana Valley project, and 5.1 million Swiss francs for the Water Supply and Sanitation in Tajikistan (Phase II) project.

The projects are scheduled to complete by 2018.

Fuente: Timesca

QRC signs pacts with Kyrgyz, Tajik charities «Gulf-times»

Qatar Red Crescent (QRC) said yesterday that a delegation from the organisation visited Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan in central Asia to explore co-operation opportunities in humanitarian action, diplomacy, and capacity building.

In a statement released yesterday, Qatar Red Crescent said it signed two memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST) and the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan (RCSK).

The delegation, comprising QRC secretary-general Saleh bin Ali al-Mohannadi and head of QRC international relations and international humanitarian law Dr Fawzi Oussedik, was welcomed warmly by the officials of the host national societies, who showed understanding and openness to co-operation in all humanitarian issues of interest for this important part of Asia.

First, the delegation visited Tajikistan. It was received at the Dushanbe International Airport by RCST leaders, notably Secretary-General Murodali Ruziev.

Over four days, the delegation held meetings with RCST officials, the head of mission of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Minister of Health Salimzoda Nusratullo, and Andrea Paque, head of mission of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

During these meetings, the participants discussed priorities of common humanitarian action, mainly the issues of migration, refugees, health, and disaster preparedness.



The delegation also made field tours of several humanitarian projects executed by the different branches of RCST, including Children's Cancer Hospital, Disabled Children's Hospital, Psycho-mental Children's Shelter, the in-progress water and sanitation project in Dachak, Social Charitable Fund of Tajikistan, an elementary school established under the Community-Based Institutional Development Programme, and the Migration Training Centre.

In Kyrgyzstan, the delegation met with RCSK deputy director Marat Kachkynbekov, the World Assembly of Muslim Youth in Bishkek, the Mayor of Bishkek, the Deputy Speaker of the Kyrgyz parliament, and Minister of Social Development Bazarbaev Kudaibergen Bazarbaevich.

The visit involved tours of some RCSK projects, the refugee mobile clinic settlement, National Chest Hospital, the project of the Saudi Red Crescent Authority (SRCA), the new facilities at the National Tuberculosis Centre, a hospice, a retirement home, and Children's Crisis Centre.

Fuente: <http://www.eng.24.kg/>

Kyrgyzstan reduces number of licenses for import and export of goods

Kyrgyzstan reduced the number of licenses for import and export of goods, the Department of Information Management of the cabinet reported.

According to it, the number of licensed groups of products for export was reduced from 18 to 6, on import - from 17 to 6. In particular, the licensing of imports of tobacco and tobacco products was canceled.

In order to streamline inter-agency cooperation and eliminate corruption mechanisms, all licenses for the export and import of goods now will be issued by the Ministry of Economy - with the exception of import licenses for ethanol and alcoholic beverages, which will be issued by the State Tax Service.

Fuente: <http://www.eng.24.kg/>



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Tajikistan struggles with currency slump amid Russia crisis

Dushanbe, Tajikistan---Ex-Soviet Tajikistan on Friday scrambled to stave off panic over its tumbling currency as shockwaves from Russia's financial crisis continued to reverberate around the region.

The impoverished Central Asian state's national bank announced tough controls on dollar sales in a bid to shore up its battered national currency the somoni.

Tajikistan's economy is heavily dependent on Russia, with almost half of its gross domestic product (GDP) coming from remittances sent mainly from people working in its former Soviet master.

In recent weeks, long queues have spilled out of exchange bureaus in the capital Dushanbe as people lose faith in the national currency which fell 11 percent against the dollar in 2014 and 4.0 percent since the start of this year, according to official exchange rates.

Based on the dollar's unofficial value, the national currency has lost 10 percent this year.

"The National Bank of Tajikistan has established a ceiling for purchases and sales of foreign currency in cash," bank vice-chairman Jamshed Yusufiyon said, warning of "severe" punishment for any banks violating the order.

Russia's economy has been mauled by a double hit of Western sanctions over Ukraine and tumbling oil prices, with the ruble losing around half of its value last year.

Tajikistan's national bank says the amount of money sent back by its migrant workers shrank by 8.3 percent last year due to the ruble's fall.



The International Monetary Fund warned earlier this year that Russia's economic problems had "seriously weakened the outlook for other economies in the region."

Authorities in former Soviet nations from Belarus to the South Caucasus and Central Asia have become increasingly jittery as their Russia-reliant economies have suffered.

Fuente: thepeninsulaqatar

Envoy Lauds Iran's Key Role in Supplying Power to Tajikistan

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Tajik Ambassador to Tehran on Sunday hailed Iran's active role in the reconstruction and development of Tajikistan, especially in resolving the Central Asian country's power shortage.

"By building two hydroelectric power plants with a capacity of 120 MW in Tajikistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran has removed part of the country's power shortage," Nematollah Emamzadeh said during a visit to Karoon 3 and 4 dams in southwest of Iran.

He said Iran was one of the first countries that stood by Tajikistan and participated in its development.

Earlier in September, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani had officially inaugurated Sangtuda 2 Hydroelectric Power Plant in Tajikistan.

Cooperation between Tehran and Dushanbe would further expand with the inauguration of the second phase of Sangtuda 2 power plant, Emamzadeh added.

The construction of the plant, which is expected to generate 1 billion KW/h of electricity a year, started in March 2007. Iran has invested \$180 million in the plant which will be fully handed over to Tajikistan after being used by Iran for 12.5 years.

Fuente: Tasnimnews