



EMBAJADA  
DE ESPAÑA

OFICINA ECONÓMICA  
Y COMERCIAL DE ESPAÑA  
ALMATY

## REVISTA DE PRENSA

23 de febrero de 2015

### Kazajstán



#### **Italy's Tenaris to build a pipe plant in Kazakhstan**

ASTANA (TCA) – Tenaris, an Italian manufacturer of seamless and welded steel pipe products, will build a new pipe plant in the Aktau Seaport special economic zone in northwestern Kazakhstan.

Last week, the Ministry of Investments and Development of Kazakhstan hosted a meeting with the heads of Tenaris to discuss the company's investments in Kazakhstan, the ministry's press service said.

To support local operations as part of cooperation within the Karachaganak oil and gas project, Tenaris will invest US \$40 million to build a new, state-of-the-art premium threading facility with a production capacity of 45,000 tons per year in Aktau.

Construction of the plant is planned to start in March and completion for the beginning of next year. The new plant will employ nearly 90 people when operational (90 percent will be local staff).

Last year Tenaris entered into a long-term agreement with KPO (Karachaganak Petroleum Operating B.V.) for the supply of OCTG, TenarisHydril premium connections and field services for the oil and gas company's developments in the Karachaganak field, which occupies more than 280 square kilometers of northwest



Kazakhstan and has reserves of more than 2.4 billion barrels of condensate and 16 trillion cubic feet of gas. Partners of the Karachaganak venture are BG Group, ENI, Chevron, Lukoil and KazMunayGas.

“Tenaris is committed to providing KPO with customized and reliable supply solutions to support their specific challenges,” the Italian company quoted Michele Della Briotta, Tenaris Area Manager for Eastern Europe, as saying last July. “As part of our dedication to Kazakhstan and its energy industry, we will employ local people and promote knowledge transfer.”

Tenaris is an Italian manufacturer and supplier of seamless and welded steel pipe products and provider of pipe handling, stocking, and distribution services to the oil and gas, energy, and mechanical industries.

Tenaris has maintained a presence in Kazakhstan for 10 years and has a commercial office in Atyrau and a service center in Aksai.

Fuente: Timesca

### **KazTransGas and Gazprom subsidiary to produce coalbed methane**

ASTANA (TCA) — Kazakhstan’s gas production and transportation company KazTransGas and Gazprom Dobycha Kuznetsk, a subsidiary of Russian gas giant Gazprom, have signed a memorandum of cooperation in exploration and production of coalbed methane in Kazakhstan, KazTransGas said.

The document provides for development of more effective technologies of coalbed production — from geological prospecting to commercial use. To achieve the goals of the project, the parties would exchange information, create joint ventures, and implement a pilot project for exploration and production of coalbed methane.

“Coalbed methane is an innovation direction in hydrocarbon production, and a non-traditional energy source whose forecasted reserves allow considering it as an alternative component of Kazakhstan’s fuel and energy base. The study of this issue is important and in future it may become an alternative option for gasification of central and northern regions of Kazakhstan,” the Kazakh company said in a press release.

KazTransGas was established in 2000 for corporate management of gas exploration, production, transportation, and distribution assets. KazTransGas is the national operator of the natural gas sector in Kazakhstan, and has successful experience in gasification of the country’s regions. KazTransGas includes companies and organizations involved in the production and distribution of natural gas in the country.

Gazprom Dobycha Kuznetsk is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Russian gas monopoly Gazprom. The company specializes in exploration and production of coalbed methane and other hydrocarbons.



Coalbed methane (CBM or coal-bed methane) is a form of natural gas extracted from coal beds. In recent decades it has become an important source of energy in the United States, Canada, Australia, and other countries.

Fuente: Timesca

### **S&P lowers Samruk-Energy ratings to 'BB/B/kzA+', outlook stable**

ALMATY. Feb 20 (Interfax-Kazakhstan) - Standard & Poor's Ratings Services lowered its long-term corporate credit rating on Kazakhstan-based energy group Samruk-Energy JSC to 'BB' from 'BB+' and the Kazakhstan national scale rating to 'kzA+' from 'kzAA-', the agency said in a statement.

The outlook is stable. At the same time, the 'B' short-term corporate credit rating was affirmed, the agency said. S&P also lowered the issue rating on the group's US\$500 million senior unsecured notes due 2017 to 'BB' from 'BB+'. The recovery rating on the notes remains unchanged at '4', according to the statement.

That rating action is in line with our methodology for government-related entities (GREs) and follows our lowering of the sovereign rating on Kazakhstan by one notch. It also reflects our view that there is a high likelihood that Kazakhstan's government would provide timely and sufficient extraordinary financial support to Samruk-Energy in the event of financial distress. This is underpinned by the group's market position, which consolidates 47% of installed power generation capacity in the country. The rating also reflects our assessment of the group's stand-alone credit profile (SACP) at 'b+', based on our view of its business risk profile as "weak" and its financial risk profile as "aggressive," according to the ratings agency.

"If we revised the likelihood of extraordinary state support to "moderately high," it would also lead us to lower our rating on Samruk-Energy, if the SACP and sovereign ratings remain unchanged. Such a revision might stem from a demonstrated weaker willingness of the government to provide financial support to the group, a revision of government strategies regarding development of the private sector, or enhanced privatization above our expectations during the "People's IPO," the rating agency said.

"If we revised up our assessment of Samruk-Energy's SACP to 'bb-', and the group's credit metrics sustainably improved to a level commensurate with a "significant" financial risk profile, including debt to EBITDA of 3x-4x and FFO to debt in the 20%-30% range, it could trigger an upgrade of Samruk-Energy. We think that these factors could occur in case of further conversion of loans to equity, further equity contributions, or lower investments implemented by the group, with Samruk-Energy's liquidity and maturity profiles also remaining adequate," S&P said.

JSC Samruk-Energy, organized in 2007, is part of the National Welfare Fund Samruk-Kazyna. The company specializes in generation, distribution and sales of electricity and heat as well as coal production.



EMBAJADA  
DE ESPAÑA

OFICINA ECONÓMICA  
Y COMERCIAL DE ESPAÑA  
ALMATY

Fuente: Interfax Kazakhstan

### **Nazarbayev urges improvements to civil service efficiency to secure country's growth and stability**

ALMATY. Feb 20 (Interfax-Kazakhstan) - Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev has had a meeting with Chairman of the State Agency for Civil Service and Countering Corruption Kairat Kozhamzharov, the press office of the head of state has said in a statement.

During the meeting Kozhamzharov briefed the president on the Agency's current activity and reported on measures taken for improving professionalism of government employees and enhancing the civil service efficiency, according to the statement issued on Friday.

The president drew attention to important objectives set up for the agency to improve the civil service structure and counter corruption.

Nazarbayev emphasized the importance of improving the efficiency of the state bodies for securing Kazakhstan's steady growth and stability.

Fuente: Interfax Kazakhstan

### **Processing enterprises in WKR made products worth 137 billion tenge**

ASTANA. February 22, 2015. BNews.kz

In the West Kazakhstan region, the enterprises of manufacturing industry made production worth 137.7 billion tenges in 2014, BNews.kz correspondent reports.

Labor productivity in this sphere made 32.9 thousand dollars on one person or 115.8% to the level of 2013. Positive rates are noted in mechanical engineering (109%). So, last year the Ural plant "Zenit" is carried out by joint-stock company descent to water of the rocket and artillery ship and two boats for the Border service of Kazakhstan NSC.

On the basis of JSC West Kazakhstan Engineering Company the service center for repair of gas-turbine installations, for service and repair of systems of automatic equipment and management is created. Together



with the American company "LANKAIR" this enterprise construction of the experimental domestic plane from carbon material is finished by the speed of 400-55-km-hour.

JSC Uralskagroremmash produced 110 units of autospecial equipment worth 2.2 billion tenge that is 5% more than a level of 2013.

Fuente: BNews.kz

### **Samruk-Kazyna forecasts profit to grow 4% in 2014**

ASTANA. Feb 20 (Interfax-Kazakhstan) - Samruk-Kazyna plans to see its profit to grow by 4% to 458 billion tenge at the end of 2014, Samruk-Kazyna CEO Umirzak Shukeyev said.

"According to preliminary data, the net income of the group is estimated at 458 billion tenge, the operating profitability (EBITDA margin) at 19.52%," Shukeyev said on Friday.

JSC National Welfare Fund Samruk-Kazyna was established in 2008 as a result of the merger of JSC Kazyna Sustainable Growth Fund and JSC Samruk State Assets Management Holding. The fund controls Kazakhstan's major strategic companies with a total value of over 16 trillion tenge (\$90 billion), including national flag carrier Air Astana, telecoms operator Kazakhtelecom, national company in charge of the uranium industry Kazatomprom, JSC KazMunaiGas, JSC Kazpost etc.

Fuente: Interfax Kazakhstan

### **Samruk-Kazyna still entertains plans to launch Air Kazakhstan in 2015**

ASTANA. Feb 20 (Interfax-Kazakhstan) - Samruk-Kazyna State Fund has not abandoned plans to launch Air Kazakhstan airline in 2015, despite a possible change of supplier, Samruk-Kazyna CEO Umirzak Shukeyev said.

"Nobody cancels these plans, I think that in the middle of this year or in the fall, the company will start operating," Shukeyev said.

"We had a preliminary agreement, but after the situation changed we started a new round of talks and might look for a new supplier of equipment," he added.

Shukeyev stressed that the airlines will service domestic destinations in Kazakhstan.

Air Kazakhstan had been scheduled to offer domestic flight services in early 2015.

Fuente: Interfax Kazakhstan



### **Samruk-Kazyna may raise \$2.5 bln in 2015**

ASTANA. Feb 20 (Interfax-Kazakhstan) - Samruk-Kazyna CEO Umirzak Shukeyev admits a possibility of borrowing \$2.5 billion in the current year.

"We now might have a need to borrow within the range of \$2-\$2.5 billion. We are considering possible borrowing sources. Everything will depend on the conditions. If they are favorable enough, we will go to the global stock markets. However, the situation calls for borrowing in the domestic market that have resources and may offer tenge lending," he said.

He noted that in Samruk-Kazyna debt in foreign currency totals \$37 billion. In 2015, the Holding will need \$4.7 billion to service the debt. In addition, we raise funds to implement our investment projects, so we will have to repay \$1 billion under investment contracts. The entire debt amount remains within the boundaries defined by the Board of Directors," he said.

JSC National Welfare Fund Samruk-Kazyna was established in 2008 as a result of the merger of JSC Kazyna Sustainable Growth Fund and JSC Samruk State Assets Management Holding. The fund controls Kazakhstan's major strategic companies with a total value of over 16 trillion tenge (\$90 billion), including national flag carrier Air Astana, telecoms operator Kazakhtelecom, national company in charge of the uranium industry Kazatomprom, JSC KazMunaiGas, JSC Kazpost etc.

Fuente:Interfax Kazakhstan

### **Baiterek National Holding increases 2014's profit by 4.8%**

ASTANA. Feb 20 (Interfax-Kazakhstan) – Baiterek National Holding expects to earn 30.8 billion tenge of net profit in 2014, a 4.8% increase from 2013.

"Revenues amounted to 170 billion, an increase of 13% compared with 2013 year. (...) At the end of 2014, assets increased by 27% and amounted to 2.37 trillion tenge," the holding said in a statement. (185.05/\$1).

In 2014, the Holding extended loans for the total of 509 billion tenge and expanded the total loan portfolio by 60%. Home loans accounted for 97.8 billion tenge, 60% above 2013.

The allocations from the National Fund helped start up 305 new projects worth 75 billion tenge and support 3,300 companies for the amount of 182.3 billion tenge.

Direct investments in the domestic economy at the end of last year reached 40 billion tenge, which exceeds the 2013's level by 74%.



Baiterek cut capital costs by 25% and general and administrative expenses by 9.8% for 2015.

Baiterek was created in May 2013 to manage the stakes in the national institutes of development and national companies. Baiterek manages 10 national development institutions.

Fuente: Interfax Kazakhstan

### **Kazakhstan Plans to Reorient Export Produce to New Markets**

BY ELMIRA KIRGEEVA in BUSINESS on 23 FEBRUARY

ASTANA – An export policy that provides direction to reorient domestic products to new markets has been developed by the Kazakh Ministry for Investment and Development.

“Despite the reduction in exports based on external factors, exports as a whole and the reduced supply of raw materials, there is a decline in exports of processed goods, but exports of manufactured goods remained at the same level – \$4 billion. As you may recall, in 2010 the export of finished products was \$2 billion and in 2014 it doubled despite serious impacts,” said Minister for Investment and Development Asset Issekeshiev during a Feb. 17 briefing at the Central Communications Service.

Despite the economic challenges more than 770 projects were launched in the framework of the Industrialisation Map programme, of which 15 percent, or more than 100 companies, have begun exporting their products worth \$1 billion, he added.

“It is too early to speak about serious success. There is plenty of work ahead, but still the policy of industrialisation of our President has helped to keep the current volumes, especially of finished products, and to increase exports of products with high added value,” said Issekeshiev.

The minister also stressed that many businesses in the northern areas of the country are focused on the Russian market and that there are now certain difficulties due to the devaluation of the ruble. Yet the government has decided to start the new export policy developed by the ministry.

“We need to look again at reorientation of exports from a shrinking market to new markets such as Central Asia, the Caucasus, Iran and Asia as a whole. Trade missions to Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Turkey and other countries are planned in February, March and April. New offices of the KAZNEX agency for export and investment will be opened in Novosibirsk and Tehran to support exporters on the ground,” said Issekeshiev.

In addition, 20 projects will be introduced in special economic zones (SEZ) this year. Of these, the most interesting is the production of diesel engines in the Astana – New City SEZ. A petrochemical cluster in the Atyrau region is also due to start this year.



“Production of polyethylene film, aromatic hydrocarbons and food film is beginning. In addition, Ataryu will start production of large oil and gas equipment. Also due to start is the construction of the first phase of a gas chemical complex for the production of polypropylene,” said the head of the ministry.

A programme is also continuing with China that has about 40 projects in the works, of which 20 are expected to sign specific agreements in March.

“The total volume of the agreements, which we plan to sign in March, is worth more than \$18 billion. In 2015, the ministry will focus on two main areas and exceptional systemic measures. First, we will continue to negotiate with investors who intend to participate in the implementation of the second five-year plan for the priority sectors of the economy. There are about 100 companies with investments of more than \$40 million. Sixty of them are already working within the framework of the Industrialisation Map. We are planning to sign investment contracts for a new set of preferences with 10 of them,” said Issekeshv.

Fuente: The Astana Times

### **Plant on rice processing to be launched in Kyzylorda region in 2015**

ASTANA. KAZINFORM - KZT 8 bln was allocated from the local budget for development of the agro-industrial complex in Kyzylorda region in 2014. The amount is 47% higher than in 2013. Besides, the total cultivated area made 158.3 thousand ha last year, acting head of the department for of agriculture of the region Talgat Bekishev informed.

"In 2014, we harvested 371 thousand tons of crop, which was 32.7 thousand tons more than in 2013," T. Bekishev said.

It should be noted that 9 investment projects totaling KZT 6.9 billion I the agricultural sector will be implemented during this agricultural season.

"Zhan-Arai" LLP plans to launch a plant on processing of rice with the capacity of 12 tons per hour in 2014, the press service of the regional administration informs.

Fuente: KazInform

### **On the right track**

Proposed Pakistan-Afghanistan rail link is aimed at reviving the old transit and trade routes to create new North-South and East-West connections across Eurasia

With multiple transitions in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region, the visionary functionaries in the regional capitals have started dreaming of revival of the old transit and trade routes to create new North-South and East-West



connections across Eurasia. These visionaries, during the last five years, embarked upon some ambitious, rather cautious, strategies to get their dreams realised and reap ample economic benefits in the fast emerging regional scenario.

To be more specific, the United States — sole super power — and China — soon to be a leading global economy — have launched their own projects to integrate the Afghanistan-Pakistan region with the rest of the world through a more viable maritime and land transit and trade routes.

China, as it has now become the hallmark of President Xi Jinping's accelerant drive in planning, has launched billions dollars projects of "One belt One road, China new Silk Road, and Silk Road Economic Belt (SREB)" to link and integrate South Asia and Central Asia.

Similarly, as envisioned in 2011, the US has also practically started execution of its New Silk Road Initiative as a means for "Afghanistan to integrate further into the region by resuming traditional trading routes and reconstructing significant infrastructure links broken by decades of conflict."

The US thinks it is promoting the New Silk Road Initiative linking Central and South Asia in some key areas. However, the latest heart-warming initiative at least for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Afghanistan came again from China last week when it was quoted on February 10 in Kabul by Afghan Foreign Ministry spokesman, Sirajul Haq Siraj, as promising to help build a hydroelectric power plant in a violent Afghan border in Kunar region, as well as road and rail links to Pakistan.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying also told a daily news briefing in Beijing that "China agreed to support relevant initiatives for projects including the Kunar hydropower plant and strengthening road and rail connections between Afghanistan and Pakistan."

The rail track will help defeat the spectre of terror and extremism in the region by giving youth jobs that would leave no recruits for terror outfits.

This remained a well-received news on this side of the border, more particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, during the last week or so. As put by the president of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KPCCI) Fuad Ishaq, if materialised, the project would revolutionise trade in the region, besides bringing a positive change in the lives of the people on both sides of the troubled border.

Presently, the Peshawar Cantt-Landikotal rail section of about 52 km exists that is just few kilometres off the Afghanistan-Pakistan border. According to the papers provided by Deputy Superintended Peshawar, Ali Muhammad Afridi, it was constructed and opened in 1925. Though there is no regular train service on this section since 1985, the section, because of its great historical significance, still offers attractive train journey through Khyber Steam Safari for tourists. No doubt the section is an engineering marvel and is laid over the most difficult terrain. It has peculiar features like very high banks, huge cuttings, sharp curves, about 126 bridges and 18 tunnels. However, flash floods and heavy rains in 2007 have played havoc with the infrastructure, damaging bridges and embankments of the track. Since then the train service has been suspended on the section.



It has also been pointed out in the papers that the railway track is passing on the Runway of Pakistan Air Force (PAF) Base — Bacha Khan International Airport — near Hashim Killi station, which the PAF authorities have closed by constructing a wall on the Cantt Station end.

The PR requires a tentative amount of Rs427 million to repair the washed away and damaged bridges, retaining walls and embankments, etc, to physically restore even a tourist level service with the capacity of just one and a half passenger bogies on Peshawar Cantt-Landikotal section.

However, former general manager of the Pakistan Railways, Shafiq Ullah Khan, does not buy the idea of extending railway track to Afghanistan, saying the project is facing gigantic engineering, physical and even social and political challenges. The terrain is hard having various social and political sensitivities at both the crossings, he said.

He recalled that they had completed a feasibility report of Gwadar-Turkmenistan route in 2003-04, but there was a hitch on the Afghanistan side. “The Afghans did not like a railroad from Pakistan (Chaman) to pass through Kanadahaar.” Shafiq Ullah, who has also recently conducted feasibility study for the Peshawar Mass Transit Train, said the extension of the existing Peshawar-Landikotal rail track will also require extensive re-tunneling and re-routing. The tunnels on the existing track are low and small constructed only for steam engines, he said, adding that it is a gradient track and a diesel engine even with dynamic brakes could not use it in the present condition.

Furthermore, it could not be used as cargo track as it is passing through the congested, rather slums-like, localities of the city. However, the Motorway-Shalman-Afghanistan seems more feasible in case its construction was technically and financially supported by China.

“Yes Peshawar is the sole and major feasible option for the project. Historically, Peshawar was one of the 25 main trading and cultural centres on the ancient Silk Road. Other cities included Astana and Almaty (Kazakhstan), Bishkek and Osh (Kyrgyzstan), Dushanbe (Tajikistan), Ashgabat (Turkmenistan), Bukhara, Kokand, Samarkand and Tashkand (Uzbekistan), Kabul and Mazar-e-Sharif (Afghanistan), Hohhot, Lanzhou, Urumqi, Yinchuan (China), Mashhad, Nishapur, and Tus (Iran), Ulaabaatar (Mongolia), Peshawar and Gilgit (Pakistan), Novosibirsk and Omsk (Russia) and Leh in India,” says Muhammad Ishaq, member Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment and Trade (KPBOIT).

“It will be a typical Chinese enterprise. Only Chinese, who have built the Qinghai-Tibet railway track quite literally on the roof of the world — at an average elevation of 4,500m above sea level — can do massive re-tunneling and re-routing through the hard terrain of Khyber Pass in Spin Ghar (Safard K?h) Range,” Ishaq maintained.

He said that the “Chinese Grand Strategy” to revive the old Silk Road had both overland and maritime routes, but Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is still the best option for the overland link to Central Asia. It is best located to connect



landlocked west of China, which the Chinese planners want to develop, to the Central Asia and Eastern Europe. It also represents the culmination of the long-held Chinese dream of connecting to the Central Asia.

Ishaq said the US has already provided technical support to expand the Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTTA) 2010 to integrate China, India, Pakistan and Afghanistan through trade routes. There exists a \$10 billion market for Pakistani goods in Central Asian Republics (CARs), Iran and Afghanistan which needs to be exploited through inexpensive and safe transportation, he said.

Further supporting the idea, Director Afghanistan Pakistan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (APJCCI), and Chairman of the All Pakistan Customs Clearing Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chapter, Ziaul Sarhadi said it was already planned that a rail track would snake along the Motorway (MI) and then Northern Bypass to cross into Afghanistan through Mulagori and Shalman areas in Pakistan and Lalpura valley in Nagrahar province to reach its capital Jalalabad. He said through Chaman rail section only 50 per cent of the Afghan transit trade was being carried out, while the rest of the transit goods are being transported through Peshawar railways section.

Ziaul Haq maintained that from 2005 to 2014, the Pakistan Railways continued earning Rs1 billion every year as freight charges on GITA (Goods in Transition for Afghanistan).

Fuad Ishaq, who was jubilant over the news of rail link between the two countries, said the government should seriously take up the Shalman rail link matter with both China and Afghanistan as it is not only feasible, but it would also prove to be economic spine for the inter-dependent region. It will help defeat the spectre of terror and extremism in the region by giving youth jobs that would leave no recruits for terror outfits.

It will also enable Pakistan to have access to the repository of vast energy resources such as oil, gas, and hydropower in CARs and meet its growing demand for inexpensive, efficient, and reliable energy, besides revolutionising transportation in the region, he concluded.

Fuente: The news on Sunday

### **Reality and myths of the Putin Doctrine in the post-Soviet space**

The Eurasian Economic Union will attempt to become Russia's main lever of integration and influence in the post-Soviet space. Russia, though, is not yet ready for a radical revision of the boundaries of the former Soviet Union.

A statue of Lenin is painted in the colors of Ukraine's national flag in Velyka Novosilka, Ukraine, Thursday, Feb. 19, 2015, near the border between Russia backed rebels and Ukrainian held territories, on the Ukrainian side.



In early February Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a law ratifying the cancellation of activity of the Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEC) that included former Soviet republics. Starting this year, the community and all its agencies will effectively stop functioning.

However, Russia's next intergration project — the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU), whose boundaries will mimic precisely those of the old “integration core” of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) of late 1990s — seems to be reaching another milestone. In early February, it was announced that another former Soviet republic, Kyrgyzstan, will join EEU.

Throughout the remaining strip of CIS, the confrontation (that reached its apex in the armed conflict in southeastern Ukraine) is becoming more acute. The question is arising as to the practicality (or impracticability) of radically redrawing the borders of the former Soviet Union.

Contrary to popular belief, the tenets of the “Putin Doctrine” were laid down in the mid-1990s. What was the last attempt to frame a common program for the development of the Commonwealth is the Chisinau summit of CIS leaders in Moldova on March 28, 1997. Roughly since the fall of 1997, the CIS has turned into a nominal structure, along the lines of the British Commonwealth.

Russia's three policies for the post-Soviet space

Throughout the 2000s Moscow effectively pursued three different policies with respect to the post-Soviet space. First of all, it sought to consolidate the “first group” of countries. Steps in this direction were the establishment of the Eurasian Economic Community in 2002 and the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) in 2003 — two new and properly functioning unions in the economic and military-political sphere.

Encouraged by its initial integration successes, the Russian government embarked on a more ambitious plan. On Feb. 15, 2004, the EurAsEC countries signed a plan to create a Common Economic Space (CES), which was joined as an associate member by Ukraine at the initiative of then Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych. It was under this project that the Kremlin offered its support to Viktor Yanukovych during the 2004 presidential campaign, believing the real objective of the Orange Revolution to be the derailment of the CES.

The failure of the CES plan piqued Moscow, causing it to reach two unpleasant conclusions. First, the Kremlin suspected that the West would muster whatever forces it can to block Russia's integration projects in the CIS. Second, the obstacle to integration in the post-Soviet space is none other than Kiev. Russia needed a few years to revive the CES plan in truncated form as the Customs Union project.

As for the “second group” of countries, Russia sought to normalize relations as much as possible and bring them closer to the “integration core.” Moscow's biggest success in this regard was the collapse of the U.S.-Uzbek partnership in the early 2000s, culminating in Tashkent's accession to the CSTO. On the back of some concessions, Russia also managed to set up an energy partnership with Turkmenistan in 2003. Less auspicious were relations with Armenia, which in 2004 tried to construct an independent dialogue with NATO.



Moscow's ties with the "third group" of countries (Azerbaijan, Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova) were ambiguous. In 2001 Azerbaijan normalized relations with Russia, becoming one of the "balancer" countries.

In Ukraine, the Kremlin managed to establish contacts with the opposition Party of the Regions and the government of Yulia Tymoshenko. As for the Moldovan vector, Russia used its role as mediator in the Transnistrian conflict to restrain Chisinau from both forceful measures against Tiraspol and excessive rapprochement with Bucharest. Only with Georgia was the antagonism so deep that the two sides came to blows, in August 2008 during what is known as the "Five-Day War."

The main intrigue lay elsewhere. In aligning relations with the "third group" of countries, the Kremlin believed it faced opposition from the United States and the European Union.

THE RUSSIAN LEADERSHIP BELIEVED THAT NATO WAS EXPANDING ITS INFLUENCE IN GEORGIA, MOLDOVA AND UKRAINE AND SAW THIS PERCEIVED INVOLVEMENT AS CROSSING A RED LINE.

The Russian leadership believed that NATO was expanding its influence in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine and saw this perceived involvement as crossing a red line.

Even worse for the Kremlin was the EU's Eastern Partnership, launched in 2009, officially a purely economic concept, that aims at intergrating six post-Soviet countries — Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine — in Europe's economic space.

First, the conclusion of free trade agreements with the EU thwarted the accession of new countries to the Customs Union. Second, the implementation of association agreements required the establishment of a full-fledged border with the Customs Union. Third, the program exacerbated the problem of the status of "unrecognized states" that might not wish to sign association agreements with the EU. Brussels' policy was seen in Moscow as an attempt to draw a new dividing line across the Baltic-Black Sea region (BBSR).

The "small" and "large" Eurasian Union

Having returned to the Kremlin in May 2012, Putin launched the Eurasian Union project. At first glance, it seemed to be a matter of transforming the Customs Union and/or the EurAsEC into a more integrated association. In practice, however, the Kremlin tried to effect an expanded version of the Eurasian Union by admitting a number of "second group" countries.

First of all, Russian diplomacy tried to involve Uzbekistan. However, back in October 2011, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Uzbek President Islam Karimov had agreed to resume the U.S.-Uzbek military partnership. Perhaps it was then that Uzbekistan decided to pull out of the CSTO.

The Eurasian Union project also failed to entice Azerbaijan. On July 3, 2012, the head of the Azerbaijani State Customs Committee, Aydin Aliyev, stated that his country had no plans to join the Customs Union.

Ukraine also expressed no desire to partake in the new association. And much to Moscow's consternation, Kiev continued its association agreement talks with the EU. True, this balancing act ended sorely for the administration of Viktor Yanukovych, who was overthrown by the Euromaidan protests in Kiev.



These processes produced a mixed outcome. Russia forged ahead with a Eurasian Union with Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Armenia, plus Tajikistan as a potential future candidate. Yet this "first group" of countries represented the traditional integration core of the CIS, meaning that Russia's outstretched hand to the "second" and "third" groups had been declined.

There is another, deeper problem. Within the framework of the Customs Union there operated a single customs tariff. The creation of the EurAsEC placed a question mark over it. Perhaps it will be replicated within the Eurasian Union. Or perhaps the fate of the single tariff will become a subject of the negotiations. That could wipe out the progress of integration made so far.

The Ukraine challenge

The Kremlin felt no sympathy for Ukraine after 23 years of the policy which it sees as anti-Russian.

**RUSSIA TOOK STEPS THAT IT BELIEVED WOULD BLOCK THE EXPANSION OF NATO AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP**

Even less sympathetic was Russia's view of the new Ukrainian government with its openly slogans condemning the Kremlin's policy toward Kiev. But of far greater concern to Moscow was the preservation of Ukraine's neutral status. In fact, Russia took steps that it believed would block the expansion of NATO and the implementation of the Eastern Partnership.

After the incorporation of Crimea to Russia, some experts expressed doubts about Ukraine's ability to survive in its present capacity. Yet, by the middle of May, Kiev had been able to suppress the protest movements in Zaporozhye, Kharkov and Odessa, limiting the rebellion to the Donets Basin (Donbas).

The ensuing military operation that summer against rebels in Eastern Ukraine did not lead to protests in Ukraine. The loss of Crimea and two-thirds of Donbas proved not to be critical for Ukrainian statehood. In April 2014 Ukrainian society became consolidated on the bedrock of anti-Kremlin sentiment.

However, there was nothing particularly new about this state of affairs for the Putin administration. Since its establishment in 1991 the Ukrainian government had built its identity on what the Kremlin experts describe as an anti-Russian foundation. Russia's priorities in respect of its neighbor remain non-membership of NATO and security guarantees for the Russian-speaking population.

The so-called Novorossiya project (or "New Russia" that comprises Eastern Ukraine) was a disappointment for Russia. Novorossiya has stood its ground, but that fact does not resolve the key issues for Russia: Moscow has no land corridor to Crimea or strong partner in eastern Ukraine. Russia is essentially absorbing yet another "unrecognized state" into its political dominion. For a full-fledged Novorossiya to emerge it must be joined theoretically by at least one or two other Ukrainian regions, otherwise Eastern Europe will see the appearance of another "frozen conflict." Coming up with a compromise



Moscow faces three identifiable tasks in the near future: consolidate Customs Union policy and protocol within the Eurasian Economic Union; oppose the struggle against the pro-Russian elites in Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan and (to a lesser extent) Turkmenistan; and maintain the neutral status of Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia, including through the use of “frozen conflicts.”

**THE KREMLIN’S DECISION TO REFRAIN FROM A HARSH RESPONSE TO SANCTIONS CLEARLY PROVES THAT RUSSIA IS NOT READY FOR A RADICAL REVISION OF THE BOUNDARIES OF THE FORMER SOVIET UNION**

The Putin administration is not banking on the concept of the “Russian world.” The Kremlin’s decision to refrain from a harsh response to sanctions clearly proves that Russia is not ready for a radical revision of the boundaries of the former Soviet Union. Another matter is how to bring NATO into talks on preserving a “buffer zone.” Here, it seems, the Kremlin would be a willing party to any agreement.

Building relations with “second group” countries is becoming far more important for Moscow. Over the coming years that policy is set to be the most far ranging in the post-Soviet space. Meanwhile, the Ukrainian conflict looks destined to become a diplomatic bargaining chip between Moscow and Washington.

Fuente: Russia-direct

### **Kazakhstan’s sovereign wealth fund to optimize its costs**

ASTANA (TCA) — Kazakhstan’s Sovereign Wealth Fund Samruk-Kazyna in 2014 commissioned 13 projects worth US \$2.9 billion and created more than 5.6 thousand temporary and 1.2 thousand permanent jobs, the Fund’s CEO Umirzak Shukeyev said last Friday while reporting on measures to implement the head of state's instructions and Nurly Zhol program, and on the Fund’s financial results for the past year.

Samruk-Kazyna group of companies closed the year 2014 fairly well, Shukeyev said. According to preliminary data, the net income of the group was estimated at 458 billion tenge, the Fund said in a press release.

The Fund has developed a set of measures in line with the President's instructions, including optimization of its costs by 337 billion tenge or 7%.

Investment costs will be optimized by 18%, but will not affect the large-scale projects SPFIID-2, Nurly Zhol program, and EXPO-2017 facilities in Astana.

Measures to support the business will be strengthened taking into account the President's instructions. In 2014, under the Program to promote the modernization of existing and creation of new productions 13 projects were approved with a total cost of 20.7 billion tenge.



Until 2020 Samruk-Kazyna plans to sell 106 assets.

The economic effect of the transformation program for Samruk-Kazyna group of companies in the next few years is estimated at 100 billion tenge annually.

Joint Stock Company Sovereign Wealth Fund Samruk-Kazyna was founded by decree of President of Kazakhstan in 2008 in order to enhance the competitiveness and sustainability of Kazakhstan's economy and prevent any potential negative impact of changes in the world markets on the country's economic growth. The key purpose of Samruk-Kazyna is to manage shares (interests) of national development institutions, national companies, and other legal entities it owns to maximize their long-term value and competitiveness in the world markets.

Fuente: Timesca

### **Kazakhstan to present the project of TCO expansion**

ASTANA. February 23, 2015. BNews.kz

Minister of Energy Vladimir Shkolnik presented the project of future LLP "Tengizchevroil" expansion during the press conference in CCS. According to Minister, the cost of facilities expansion will be 14 bn dollars at the same time 20,000 jobs are planned to be created, BNews.kz reports.

"The project for the future expansion of Tengizchevroil "- the final decision of this project on financing the project of future LLP "Tengizchevroil " expansion will be made till the end of 2015. Currently, TCO plans to develop the production within the large-scale project management with surface pressure of the project of future expansion, " he said.

According to Minister, under this plan a new system of well production collection, high-pressure facilities of infrastructure support facilities is supposed to be build.

"The project includes construction of a new plant on oil refining with 12 mn tons per year capacity and reinjection of sour gas for 9,4 bn cubic meters in a year.

Tengiz field implementation will bring the annual oil production of TCO from 26.5 mn tonnes to 38.6 mn tonnes per year, " said Vladimir Shkolni.

Fuente: Bnews.kz



EMBAJADA  
DE ESPAÑA

OFICINA ECONÓMICA  
Y COMERCIAL DE ESPAÑA  
ALMATY

## Kirguistán



### **Kyrgyzstan intends to seek permission from Customs Union on duty-free importation of drugs for next five years**

Kyrgyzstan intends to seek permission from the Customs Union on the duty-free importation of drugs for the next five years, the government's office reported to 24.kg news agency.

According to it, it is supposed that from January 2016 the market medicines of the CU countries will be united. Members of the Eurasian Commission are engaged in the development of the rules of its regulation.

"Department of Drug Supply, Ministry of Economy and the business community have developed a list of preferences for drugs coming from third countries outside the Customs Union. It is proposed that all kinds of drugs are not dutiable. Currently we are negotiating. If Kyrgyzstan will receive these preferences, they will be valid for five years," the Cabinet noted.

Recall, civic activists have repeatedly expressed that the CU can painfully affect the pharmaceutical market in Kyrgyzstan.

Fuente: 24.kg news agency



## **Kyrgyzstan's mining industry cannot develop without investment**

BISHKEK (TCA) — In recent years the Kyrgyz Government has talked much about improving the investment climate in the country, but in reality the situation is deteriorating, said Economy Minister Temir Sariyev at a meeting with the heads of government bodies and the business community.

Kyrgyzstan has significant potential for the development of the mining industry but it cannot fully realize its opportunities. Meanwhile, investors will come to the country if they are confident in the safety of their investments.

According to the National Statistics Committee of Kyrgyzstan, in the first 9 months of 2014 foreign direct investment in the mining sector was \$1.7 million, or 0.39% of total FDI (\$443.3 million). In 2014, FDI in the mining sector decreased by 90.5% compared to the same period in 2013 (\$18.6 million).

Over the past decade, the largest FDI volume in the mining industry was achieved in 2007 (\$54.6 million).

No significant progress has been achieved over the past 20 years, concluded the Minister. The meeting participants discussed the main problems of the mining industry.

### **Conflicts with local population**

Conflicts of interest between investors and local communities are becoming a real threat to the development of the mining industry and the economy as a whole in Kyrgyzstan.

In the last decade, the number of social conflicts between local communities and companies conducting exploration and mining has increased. The conflicts now occur in almost all regions, are well organized, and often acts of violence occur. As a rule, the local population demand to terminate mining companies' operations.

The key problem is the lack of balance between the interests of the state, investors and the local population, Sariyev said. To solve the problem, the state has to develop appropriate rules as part of legislation and create state institutions to supervise the implementation of laws.

The new Law "On Subsoil" provides a balance of interests of all three parties — the state, investors and the local community. A separate tender commission will be established for each deposit to conduct tenders and auctions for licenses. Representatives of local government will be included in the commissions.

The law also provides a "social package" which requires that an investor should promote the development of the local community and the region including employment, education and infrastructure.



Additional payments will be allocated to local budgets. Part of the money from auctions, fee for holding licenses and 50% of the royalties will be allocated to the local budgets. Besides, 2% of the revenues of mining companies, as non-tax payments, will remain in the local budgets. They also receive land tax, land rent, property tax, and income tax.

The Economy Ministry proposed to introduce a “local supply” principle, according to which mining companies will buy some of the goods and services produced by local suppliers.

### **Legal regulation**

According to the State Agency for Geology and Mineral Resources, 1,268 licenses were valid at the end of 2014 in the country, including 176 licenses for gold, 76 for metals, 224 for coal, and 56 for oil and gas deposits.

Of 242 licenses issued in the first 9 months of 2014, more than 95% were issued with violation of the terms of licenses. As a result, some mining companies are waiting for the renewal of their licenses for 1.5 years.

Changes to the Administrative Responsibility Code will be made to establish responsibility of officials for failure of the terms, renewal of licenses, and violation of terms of consideration of geological reports.

The Economy Ministry has initiated an amendment to the Law "On Subsoil", according to which if a licensee submits an application for the renewal of a license on subsoil use or a progress report within the prescribed period, then, despite the expiry of the license, it remains valid as long as there is no decision on its renewal.

### **Unjustified inspections**

Illegal checks by law enforcement and other government agencies have become more frequent in the mining sector.

Meanwhile, only two public bodies – the State Inspectorate for Environmental and Technical Security and the State Agency for Geology and Mineral Resources – have the right to inspect the mining companies for compliance with subsoil standards.

Actions of public authorities that carry out inspections with violations of the legislation deteriorate the investment attractiveness of the country.

### **Land transformation**

Participants discussed the problems that lead to delays in the commissioning of mining facilities. Many mining companies which received licenses for subsoil use cannot obtain rights for land plots within months or even



years. Therefore, they cannot proceed with the development of mineral deposits, and in many cases they had to refuse from licenses or were denied a license due to the fact that they did not get a land plot.

To improve the situation, the Ministry has developed a draft resolution to improve the procedure for granting land plots for subsoil use.

Fuente: Timesca

### **Kyrgyzstan develops 8 gold deposits with balance reserves of 139 tons**

20/02/15 14:27, Bishkek – 24.kg news agency, by Tatyana KUDRYAVTSEVA.

Kyrgyzstan develops 8 gold deposits with balance reserves of 139 tons, the Minister of Economy of the KR Temir Sariev said today at a government meeting.

According to him, 200 deposits are developing in Kyrgyzstan. The largest - Kumtor, Solton-Sary, Ishtamberdy, Taldy-Bulak Levoberezhnyi. In this case, the maximum amount of gold mining in the Kyrgyz Republic, recorded in 2008, - 26 tons.

"Antimony and mercury plants don't work at full capacity. The coal mining reduced from 3.1 million tons in 1990 to the lowest point in 2007 - 400,000 tons. The country's need for coal is 2 million tons per year. In 2014, from the mining industry were received \$7 billion 11 million soms of taxes (\$147 million), an increase - 17 percent. When starting all projects revenues would have grown to \$300 million. However, this can be done only when investing. In 2014, for example, investment in the mining sector fell by 90 percent," Temir Sariev said.

Fuente: 24.kg news agency

### **Analysis of Kyrgyzstan agriculture and related processing sectors**

BISHKEK (TCA) — A recent analysis of the Agriculture Ministry of Kyrgyzstan says that the spring field works in the country are conducted behind schedule, and one of the main problems is the lack of fertilizer since to obtain a good harvest, the country needs 200,000 tons of fertilizer while there are only 36,000 tons in the state reserves.

Apparently there is no problem with seeds and fuel, due to a memorandum of cooperation reached by the ministry with the Association of Oil Traders of Kyrgyzstan, according to which farmers can get fuel at below market prices through the Gazprom Neft Asia network.



The agricultural and processing sector provides 16% of the GDP of Kyrgyzstan and more than 30% of employment. However, the country is still heavily dependent on imports of such basic foods like flour, sugar, and vegetable oil.

Due to the deterioration of agricultural machinery and poor infrastructure for the storage and transportation of crop, losses reach 30% in the sector. Only 15-18% of the grown produce is processed and the rest is exported fresh.

### **Working capital and cooperation**

The main problem of processing enterprises is the lack of working capital and the dimension of the farms. So, it is vital to increase processing and reduce food losses in the country.

In 2015, Kyrgyzstan plans to increase agricultural production by 2.5%, which requires consolidating small farms and increasing their area under crops. Today the country has 381,000 farms with about two hectares of land each. It makes it difficult for each existing farm to develop profitable production or to do any processing or contribute in a sizable way to processing industries.

The country agricultural development strategy and related plans for 2013-2017 is far from being reached. The strategic reforms are aimed at consolidation of farms with creation of pilot cooperatives in the regions on the basis of public-private partnerships, but even this objective has not been achieved. According to the Agriculture Ministry, 63 percent of the rural population does not want to unite into cooperatives. According to the ministry, farmers are not ready for it and they are afraid to lose their independence.

Too many mistakes have been made during the years since the country's independence in the agricultural sector, and farmers do not trust the Government. However, sooner or later, agricultural cooperatives or other forms of cooperation should be implemented. The tax issue has also been emphasized since cooperatives should pay higher national and local taxes, while independent farmers enjoy tax benefits. Effective reforms demand to improve the existing mechanisms of taxation.

### **Loans and benefits**

After joining the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU), Kyrgyzstan will be granted a five-year grace period for import of agricultural products from the EEU member countries without paying customs duties. It is also expected that the country may receive significant investment through the Eurasian Development Bank.

In 2015 it is planned to issue loans worth 6 billion soms to the agricultural sector. Terms of the loans to farmers remain the same. Last year, the project "Financing agriculture-2" issued preferential loans to farmers at 5.3 billion soms.



Other sources of finance may come from a 40 million-euro soft loan allocated by Poland for the development of agriculture in Kyrgyzstan. According to the agreement signed by the governments of Kyrgyzstan and Poland, the money will be distributed in three directions. One part of the loan will be allocated for the registration and identification of cattle, the second one for the construction of a modern laboratory, and the third one for concessional loans to farmers for the purchase of agricultural machinery and fertilizer.

## **Pastures**

The total area of pastures is more than 9 million hectares in Kyrgyzstan, and up to 75 percent of this area is degraded. Proper grazing will help improve the condition of pastures, and as a result, to develop animal husbandry and increase meat and milk production and any other type of processing. The task to improve pastures has now been assigned to special committees of pasture users, which will be completely in charge of the management, improvement and rational use of land. These committees are responsible for the condition of pastures in the future five or ten years.

Fuente: Timesca

## **Dollar and ruble in Kyrgyzstan again rises in price**

Today, the exchange offices of the capital and the commercial banks buy US currency at 61.1 soms, sell - 61.3 soms. At the same time in the last 10 days the dollar kept at the level of 60.7-61.1 soms after the intervention of the National Bank.

Earlier, the chairman of the National Bank Tolkunbek Abdygulov said that the National Bank of the Kyrgyz Republic can't accurately predict the growth or decline of the som rate.

Fuente: 24.kg news agency

## **State Geology announces re-auction for two deposits in Talas province**

State Agency on Geology and Mineral Resources announced re-auction for two deposits in Talas province, the department reported.

It is noted that license for development of Aral granodiorite field of Manas region will be put up for the auction. Starting bidding price - \$25,000. Also there will be Kenkol basalt deposit in Talas region. For a license for exploration of this deposit the buyer will have to pay at least \$3,950.

The auction will take place in the building of Talas district administration in Kok-Oi village on March 25, 2015.

Fuente: 24.kg news agency



### **As ruble weakens, Central Asian migrants head back home**

SAINT PETERSBURG: When heavy snowfall hit Russia's second city of Saint Petersburg last month it was nothing unusual, but city officials were overwhelmed and scrambled to find anyone to clear the streets.

As pedestrians slipped and suffered bruises and fractures, exasperated city officials ended up telling residents to go out and shovel the snow themselves. The city was unable to clear the snowdrifts because of an exodus of migrants from Central Asia who normally do such backbreaking work in Russia's largest cities. They have headed back home after Russia's ruble currency plunged in value. "Almost 30 percent of the workers who left to spend New Year's as usual with their families in Uzbekistan or Tajikistan have not come back," said the head of a street cleaning company, who asked not to be named.

The deputy governor of Saint Petersburg, Igor Albin, said recently that the city had lost half the migrant workers who do this type of manual labour.

Migrants from the ex-Soviet states in Central Asia used to flock to Russia to work as street sweepers, gypsy cab drivers or restaurant cleaners. Even the low wages seemed better than conditions back home.

But many are returning to their countries as the Russian economy is choked by crippling Western sanctions over the Ukraine crisis and plunging oil prices. That has caused the ruble to lose half its value against the dollar, hitting migrants' paychecks hard.

- 'No choice but to leave' –

Wielding a shovel in a snowy courtyard, Shavkat Mirzoyev, 47, said he wants to stay on in Saint Petersburg but admitted: "It's getting hard. If the situation gets worse, we'll have no choice but to leave."

Almost three million people from Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan live legally in Russia, while many more are there below the radar of the authorities. They are mostly unskilled workers who are paid off the books.

The money they send to their families back home accounts for up to half their countries' gross domestic product. Galloping inflation in Russia is also eating into how much Central Asian workers can send home, and once the weaker rubles are converted into local currency their remittances are now worth much less.

"For a few months now, I've hardly been able to send anything back to my family," said Sukhrab Turakhonov from Tajikistan, who works as a pizza delivery man.

"I have four children, my eldest daughter is about to get married. We need the money."

The 43-year-old said he will wait another month or two and if nothing changes for the better, he will leave Russia.

"There's no point in working here if that means they can't send money back to their families," said Marina Melnik, who works for an association that helps migrant workers.

She said that out of the current average monthly wage of 30,000 rubles (\$460), migrant workers are no longer able to send more than \$200 home each month.

"It's not worth living a very harsh life in Saint Petersburg for such a meagre sum."



Russia has also increased the burden of red tape and fees, recently introducing a compulsory test on Russian language and history as well as new permits from the migration service. The head of the city government's department for construction, Mikhail Demidenko, said in January that around 20 percent of the migrant labourers working on the site had left due to the weak ruble.

He insisted this was not a problem, however, saying local people would be hired instead, as well as blue-collar workers from Belarus.- 'It's worse back home' –

In Tajikistan, the poorest ex-Soviet country, the authorities confirmed that many migrant workers have returned from Russia.

An immigration service official, Anvar Boboyev, told AFP that the number of Tajiks now leaving to work in Russia is half that of the same period last year. In January 2014, more than 60,000 Tajiks travelled to Russia, while last month it was only around 30,000, he said.

The Tajik government has vowed to create 200,000 jobs this year but experts say it will be far too little to meet the demands of returning migrants. Between 700,000 and one million Tajiks are thought to work in Russia. "Foreign currency earnings are falling and social tensions are rising," said political analyst Saimuddin Dustov. Recently one Tajik man returned from Russia and killed his wife and two children, reportedly after an argument about their lack of money.

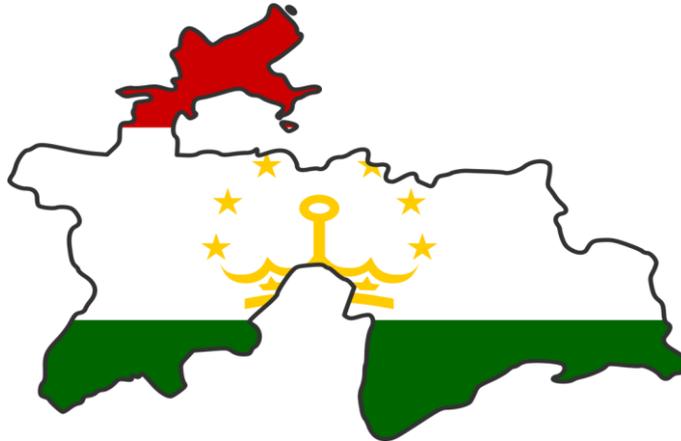
Still, experts predict that Central Asian migrants will opt to stay in Russia or will return there after taking a longer than usual holiday in their home country. "It's only in Russia that I can earn money for my family," said Bakhtior, a Tajik man who was taking a break but plans to return to Russia. He complained that Tajikistan is riddled with nepotism and corruption.

In Saint Petersburg, Mukhabbad Asseyeva, 50, who works as a cleaner in a cafe, agreed. "I can't remember such a hard time. But I don't plan to leave. It's worse back home."

Fuente: Business Record



## Tayikistán



### **Creative industries of Tajikistan in focus of the UNESCO 2005 Convention**

The 3-days training workshop on implementation of Convention 2005 was organized by the UNESCO Cluster Office in Almaty with the support of the National Commission of the Republic of Tajikistan for UNESCO from 16 to 18 February 2015 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

The main objective of the training was awareness rising of the participants and the governmental authorities to the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions that has been ratified by Tajikistan in 2007. In particular, the training fostered activities on the development of the creative industries in the Republic of Tajikistan, as well as strengthened capacities of national experts and representatives of cultural industries.

Participants of the training, representing the Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other governmental authorities, Radio, TV and broadcasting, correspondents and mass communication media, representatives of the Unions of writers, cinematographers, journalists, composers, artists, theatrics, as well as the leading cultural centres, such as “Baktriya” and museums of the country, NGOs in the field of crafts, musicians and dancers have learnt about the main instruments of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions and took part in the practical part designed to teach how-to work with the International Fund for Cultural Diversity in order to implement cultural projects and programmes in Tajikistan aimed at protecting and promoting the diversity of cultural expressions.

Fuente: Unesco



### **Tajikistan ups electricity generation**

DUSHANBE (TCA) — An increase in the water flow in the Vakhsh river has led to increasing electricity generation in Tajikistan, Avesta news agency reported citing the country's Ministry of Energy and Water Resources.

The water level in the Nurek reservoir is currently at 882.2 meters, five meters higher than in the same period last year. The increased water flow in Vakhsh and the high water level in the Nurek reservoir have allowed increasing hydro power generation.

Tajikistan currently produces 48.1 million kWh of electricity per day, 47 million of which goes for domestic consumption, the ministry said.

According to the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, in January 2015 Tajikistan produced almost 1.5 billion kWh of electricity, 4.6 percent more than in December 2014 and 5.1 percent more than in January 2014.

In the meantime, Tajik consumers still experience the electricity consumption limit introduced last October. From February 16, rural population in Tajikistan has electricity for 13 hours per day — from 5 am until 11 am and from 2 pm until 11 pm.

In January 2015 Tajikistan exported almost \$2 million worth of electricity, a 10.8-percent increase on-year.

According to the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources, in 2014 Tajikistan exported more than 1.3 billion kWh of electricity. Most of this power went to Afghanistan.

Around a billion kWh of this volume was exported during the summer season, when Tajikistan's electricity production greatly exceeds domestic consumption.

Fuente: Timesca