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Kazajstán



Kazakh Foreign Minister: Signing of Agreement with EU to provide strong foundation for further deepening of cooperation

On March 2-3, 2015, Kazakhstan's delegation headed by Foreign Minister Erlan Idrissov conducted a visit to Brussels to take part in the 14th meeting of the "Kazakhstan - European Union" Cooperation Council, which is a leading body on bilateral cooperation with Europe. Edgars Rinkēvičs, Foreign Minister of Latvia, which holds the EU presidency till July 2015, headed the European Union's delegation.

During the meeting, the parties discussed a wide range of bilateral cooperation, including politics, economy, trade and investment, scientific and technological cooperation, consular and legal issues, relations between Central Asia and the EU, and exchanged opinions on topical issues of the international agenda.

Minister Idrissov stressed that the successful completion of negotiations on the new Agreement on Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation and on accession to the WTO during the visit of the Head of State to Brussels last year was a landmark moment in the relations between Kazakhstan and the EU. "The visit of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, to Brussels in October 2014 further underlined the importance that we attach to our relations with Europe. We have high hopes that the new Partnership and Cooperation Agreement can be signed within this year. We believe it will bring our bilateral relations to a new level and provide a strong foundation for the further development and pursuit of Kazakhstan and European interests," he said.

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Foreign Minister stressed the importance of further progressive development of the Kazakh-European cooperation, noting with satisfaction the development of trade and investment cooperation with the EU, which is the largest trade and investment partner of Kazakhstan.

The Kazakh Minister urged his European counterparts to carefully examine the prospects opening to European businessmen in the light of the implementation of the New Economic Policy "Nurly Zhol" and called on the European companies to participate in the implementation of the strategic plan to develop transport, industrial, energy infrastructure, as well as in the preparation and holding of the international exhibition EXPO-2017.

A separate topic of the talks was the issue of easing visa regime between Kazakhstan and the EU. The Kazakh Minister stated that the simplification of visa regime would give additional impetus for entrepreneurs and investors and lead to an increase in mutual tourist trips, thus contributing to a direct dialogue between people. He expressed the hope that this issue would be supported by the current chair-state of the EU Council in the light of the discussion of the new EU Strategy for Central Asia.

Mr. Idrissov emphasized that Kazakhstan was interested in further strengthening cooperation with the EU in a regional format and fully supported the development and implementation of the renewed EU Strategy for Central Asia. «We have provided a memo outlining our views of the EU's current strategy and our vision of what an updated document could look like. We believe this document and our proposals give the EU a useful perspective on the region's expectations about the future of the strategy. And we hope it can feed into an updated strategy that will guide a specific program of regional cooperation that meets the interests of all countries in the region and the EU», he said.

The Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan noted the positive results of bilateral "Kazakhstan - EU" expert grounds. "I welcome holding in Dushanbe next week the second meeting of the EU – Central Asia High-Level Security Dialogue – a vital platform that allows us to discuss the pressing issues of security in Central Asia and approaches to addressing our common threats," he said.

Discussing the international situation, Minister Idrissov noted that Kazakhstan had always been in favor of cooperation and the search for mutually beneficial points of contact. "One area where we believe there is an important need and opportunity to build relations is between the EU and the Eurasian Economic Union," he said, underlining that such an initiative of the President of Kazakhstan had met a positive response among the leadership of the leading European countries, including Germany, France and other.

Kazakh Foreign Minister also informed the European colleagues about the upcoming presidential elections in the country. "I would like to take this moment to highlight Kazakhstan's upcoming presidential election, which is scheduled for the 26th of April. We want this election to be open, transparent and democratic elections in our history, conducted accordance with national legislation and the highest international standards. Just last week I sent invitations to a number of international and inter-parliamentary organizations, including the European Parliament. I hope they will be able to participate in the monitoring process and look forward to welcoming a European delegation to Kazakhstan," he said.



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One of the important results of the visit was the signing of agreements between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Benelux countries on exemption from visa requirements for holders of diplomatic passports and on readmission, which is an important component of future negotiations to ease and cancel the visa regime.

Fuente: Ministry of Foreign affairs Republic of Kazakhstan

EU values Kazakhstan as trusted energy partner

The European Union spoke of Kazakhstan Tuesday as a “trusted” partner as well as a supplier of energy, at a time of tense relations with Russia because of its role in the crisis in eastern Ukraine, a country through which most of Russia’s gas for the EU arrives.

The EU appreciates “Kazakhstan’s importance as a trusted energy partner... in particular as a supplier of oil,” Latvian Foreign Minister Edgars Rinkevics, whose country has the bloc’s rotating presidency, told a press conference.

The EU and Kazakhstan held a meeting Tuesday of the partnership’s council chaired by Rinkevics and Kazakh Foreign Minister Erlan Idrissov.

After the meeting, Idrissov told the press conference that his European partners “appreciated the proactive role” of his country in trying to pacify the situation in Ukraine.

He also said that trade between the EU and Kazakhstan is “very significant,” bearing in mind that the European Union is the leading foreign investor in the Central Asian country.

In that context, the Europeans said they support Kazakhstan becoming a member of the World Trade Organization.

The two representatives agreed on “the importance of continuing to promote the defense of human rights and the reform of judiciary power.”

The Latvian minister thanked Kazakhstan for its role in implementing the EU’s strategy for Central Asia. Rinkevics and Idrissov stressed the importance of cooperation in that region as an “efficient way to prevent conflicts.”

The European Union and Kazakhstan also spoke in favor of ratifying “as soon as possible” the new expanded partnership accord they signed in January, according to the Latin American Herald Tribune.

Fuente:Newsline Kz



Kazakhstan plans to become a world leader in nuclear fuel supplies

ASTANA (TCA) — Kazakhstan's state atomic company Kazatomprom is aimed at occupying a leading position as the world's nuclear fuel supplier, the company's head, Nurlan Kapparov, said during his meeting with Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev yesterday.

According to the presidential press service, Kapparov informed the president about Kazatomprom's revised development strategy, saying that today Kazakhstan accounts for almost 40 percent of the world's uranium production. Now the company plans to become a world leader in nuclear fuel supplies.

President Nazarbayev emphasized that the uranium industry is among key industries in Kazakhstan, pointing out the necessity of effective control over uranium production and the importance of joint projects with foreign companies.

According to Kazatomprom, Kazakhstan has maintained its leading position as the world's largest uranium producer. At year-end 2014 uranium production in Kazakhstan amounted to 22,829 tons which corresponded to the planned figures.

Taking into account the participatory interests in its subsidiary and affiliated enterprises, Kazatomprom produced 13,156 tons of uranium in 2014.

In 2013, Kazakhstan produced 22,548 tons of uranium.

Kazatomprom is the national operator of Kazakhstan for the import and export of uranium, rare metals, nuclear fuel for power plants, special equipment technologies and dual-purpose materials.

According to the World Nuclear Association, Kazakhstan has 12% of the world's uranium resources and an expanding mining sector, producing about 22,550 tons in 2013, and planning for further increase until 2018. In 2009 Kazakhstan became the world's leading uranium producer, with almost 28% of world production, then 33% in 2010, 36% in 2011, 36.5% in 2012, and 38% in 2013. Kazakhstan has a major plant making nuclear fuel pellets and aims eventually to sell value-added fuel rather than just uranium.

Fuente:Timesca



Kazakhstan: transformations to place people at the centre of health services

Kazakhstan has embarked on a long-term reform process to strengthen its health system and tackle the challenges the country is facing related to the rise of NCDs, the geographical and socio-demographic health inequalities, and the organizational barriers within the health system, to name but a few.

In building capacity to support this reform, the WHO Regional Office for Europe developed the first 'Flagship course on transforming health services delivery to be fit for purpose for the 21st century', which took place in Almaty from 10 to 14 February. During the very active and inter-active discussions and group works the participants succinctly identified some of the key challenges to be addressed in the country context: strengthening professional, communication and management skills of health professionals; using the recently introduced electronic health records as the basis for improved health services delivery and planning to meet the needs of people and communities; and involving patients, families and communities much more actively through public information campaigns, shared-decision making, or patient education institutions.

Additionally, the importance of involving other sectors and stakeholders, such as employers and educators, was highlighted frequently. Ultimately, all of these measures should lead to a change of values and attitudes from the professional and patient side, enabling Kazakhstan to move forward towards people-centred health systems.

The course was complemented by a Senior Policy Seminar that discussed how to improve the performance of services delivery, in particular, quality of care; also in view of implementing a mandatory health insurance and how to reduce unnecessary hospitalizations to improve efficiency by strengthening primary care. The Seminar welcomed by the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Development of Kazakhstan and opened by WHO Regional Director, was chaired by the Director of the Division of Health Systems and Public Health, Dr Hans Kluge. Together, the Flagship course and the Senior Policy Seminar united key stakeholders and providers to discuss the necessary transformations which have to take place in the Kazakhstan health system to place people at the centre of health services.

While the first edition of the Flagship course ended successfully, the opening of the WHO Centre of Excellence for Primary Health Care marks the beginning of a long-term partnership to promote people-centred health services delivery not only in Kazakhstan but in the whole WHO European Region.

Fuente: World Health Organization



Projects worth KZT 18 billion approved by Kazakhstan Development Bank

The Kazakhstan Development Bank (KDB) has approved 13 projects for more than KZT 18 billion under the first tranche of the fund's long-term financing program for the manufacturing sector. The KDB has signed credit agreements with 13 commercial banks to finance large projects such as the reconstruction of the production facility for phosphoric acid, the expansion of the production of polypropylene powder and polypropylene products, agricultural chemicals and the processing of gold ore.

Fuente:Newslne.kz

Kazakhstan attracts nearly 165 bln tenge to EXPO-2017

ASTANA. March 4 (Interfax-Kazakhstan) – JSC National Company Astana EXPO-2017 has attracted to date nearly 165 billion tenge in investments (185.05 tenge/\$1) to the international exhibition EXPO-2017 in Astana, CEO of National Company Astana EXPO-2017 Talgat Yermegiyev has said.

“To date we have had 127 billion tenge in investments attracted. In addition, literally the other day I met a Korean company, which is ready to invest \$200 million, and have already ordered that a contract be concluded [with them],” Yermegiyev told Interfax-Kazakhstan.

At the moment there are three foreign companies, investing in EXPO, there are JVs, but by and large domestic investment prevails, according to him.

Fuente:KazInform

Kazakhstan National Bank developed plan to reduce economy dollarization

The plan was upheld at the Bank's board meeting on 25 February 2015.

Kazakhstan National Bank has come up with a plan for 2015-2016 on reducing dollarization of the economy, Kazpravda.kz reports with reference to the NB press service.

The plan includes three key strategic directions: macroeconomic stability; development of non-cash payments and reducing shadow economy; and precedence of the national currency to the foreign currency.

The first direction in the plan includes measures to diversify the economy and increase the local content in the manufactured goods, works and services.

The second direction specifies measures for the development of non-cash payments.



The third direction is to increase the size of guarantees on the population's deposits in the national currency from 5mn to 10 million tenge, decrease of the interest rates on the deposits in foreign currency down to 3%; also providing the banks with liquidity, recovery of the banking sector, imposing a ban on pricing in foreign currencies, including in conventional units.

Reducing economy dollarization is a lengthy process, achievable through consistent and systematic work, a set of interrelated measures and concerted efforts of not only of the Government and the National Bank, but also of all the economy subjects, the NB report says

Fuente:Kazakhstan Pravda

Kazakhstan Hopes to Boost Food Exports to China

Published by Kseniya Bondal

Amid another financial crisis in the region, Kazakhstan finds itself looking for new markets for its products. According to President Nursultan Nazarbayev, the answer lies with China, as he said at a government meeting in the end of February. But other analysts are a bit more circumspect that this will be feasible.

Kazakhstan's economy was until recently primarily focused on trade with Russian and former Soviet countries markets, but, according to Pavlodar Oblast Mayor Kanat Bozumbayev, who complained to Nazarbayev, Kazakh products can't compete in these markets with Russian goods and moreover, it can't compete with Russian goods even in its own market.

But instead of addressing the low production quality issue, Kazakhstan decided to seek new markets, namely by trying to boost its exports to China.

The only thing Kazakh producers can offer Chinese market could be organic produce, says juice company Raimbek Holding President Raimbek Batalov.

"China is right now in the process of urbanization, and the volumes of its agricultural production aren't large enough to cover the needs of the population. Plus, on the other hand, China is developing a strong middle class that can afford to buy organic food of better quality for a higher price. Kazakhstan in turn is known for its flavorful, good quality produce. But I'm afraid flavorful isn't enough to sustain our businesses. Right now tenge's rate in comparison to dollar and euro isn't stable, and this is certainly not helping to sustain our businesses," he adds.

Any production business needs stable raw materials and raw produce stocks, but in Kazakhstan these are mostly imported, he adds, and therefore Kazakh production is largely connected to the rate of the US dollar. As a result local business owners can't really predict an inputs policy, as they never know if they will make profit or not. Instead of targeting China, Kazakhstan should look at Tajik, Iranian and Pakistani markets, says co-founder of the Eastern Delight rakhat-lukum company Zhanargul Baimagambetova. She, however, says there are two



problems here: the banking system in Kazakhstan has very high credit rates, starting from 15% and higher, and also even those trade financing options are offered to large businesses, not small and medium ones.

“Historically in Kazakhstan banks don’t like dealing with produce companies, even large ones, because most of them don’t have a strong credit history. During the crisis specifically many produce companies weren’t able to make payments on time, and now they are on the so called black list. In Germany banks help any company that survived the crisis, but in Kazakhstan they want us to make competing products, but don’t support us when it comes to business,” she adds.

She also mentioned that Kazakh products only have the Eurasian Union quality certification, which costs about US \$400. “But if we want to have international certificates, we need to install really expensive equipment, which costs thousands of dollars. This means small businesses are out of the game,” she says.

Eurasia Bank credit specialist Dmitry Zhukov says currently Kazakhstan started buying a lot of Chinese products, and there are no indications that, on the contrary, Chinese will be interested in Kazakh products.

“Our businesses receive credits at 20% when abroad businesses get about 2%, so they can invest into quality a lot more than us,” he concluded.

Fuente:Silkroad Reporters

Construction of meat processing plant worth \$25 mln planned in Semei for 2017

SEMEI. March 5 (Interfax-Kazakhstan) – Construction of a meat processing plant worth \$25 million (4.5 billion tenge) is planned in the city of Semei in East-Kazakhstan region for 2017, Ali Zhylykybayev, deputy CEO for Zvezda Agro Amir LLP, has said.

This would be a major meat processing plant with an end-to-end waste free processing scheme, Zhylykybayev said.

Zvezda Agro Amir LLP is working on a construction design for the plant to be built using Iranian investment. The plant would process beef and mutton with an annual capacity of 7,000 tonnes of tinned meat and 7,000 tonnes of sausages with 250 staff.

At this stage the company got a land plot of 68 hectares while the project design and estimates are being devised. The start of construction is planned for the 2nd quarter of this year.

The company plans to ship meat products domestically and internationally – livestock is to be bought locally as well as in Russia and Mongolia.

A specialist commission from Indonesia is to be invited for issuing an international Halal certificate upon completion of the project, according to the deputy CEO.



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In addition, the company plans to build a grain elevator and a milk plant for a total of \$45 million in Zharma and other rural districts of the region, according to the deputy CEO.

Fuente: Interfax Kazakhstan

DaewooBusKazakhstan starts assembling buses running on gas in Semei

SEMEI. March 5 (Interfax-Kazakhstan) – DaewooBusKazakhstan based in Semei (East Kazakhstan) starts production of buses running on natural gas, the chairman of the supervisory board of DaewooBusKazakhstan and SemAZ General Director Asemkan Duskuzhanov said.

"A few days ago the first gas buses rolled off the assembly line. The market demanded that we started assembling buses running on gas, so we decided to provide public transport companies with domestically-produced vehicles," Duskuzhanov told Interfax-Kazakhstan.

According to the head of the company, first ten buses will be shipped to Almaty.

Earlier, Kazakhstan bought gas buses from China, now the local content is above 30%.

The company plans to assembly about 400 gas buses with 25 new buses planned to roll off the line this year.

Daewoo bus line was opened in Kazakhstan in 2007 on the premises of SemAZ in Semei. The founders holding equal shares in DaewooBusKazakhstan LLP are Semipalatinsk car assembly plant and Korean DaewooBusGlobalCorporation.

Fuente:Interfax Kazakhstan

KazTransOil's net profit falls 27% in 2014

ALMATY. March 5 (Interfax-Kazakhstan) – KazTransOil JSC reported a 2014 consolidated net profit of 46.431 billion tenge or down 27% from a year earlier, the Kazakhstan Stock Exchange (KASE) says in a press release.

The company's consolidated operating revenue in 2014 rose 5.2% to make 206.637 billion tenge (up 41%).

The standalone net profit of KazTransOil JSC in the reporting year stood at 57.698 billion tenge or up 11% year-on-year and standalone operating revenue at 186.997 billion tenge or up 7.1% year-on-year.

KazTransOil, a natural monopolist on the market of oil transportation through pipelines, is part of National Company KazMunayGas.

Fuente:Interfax Kazakhstan



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Kaztekhmash to produce first 50 harvesters in 2015

PETROPAVLOVSK. March 4 (Interfax-Kazakhstan) – Engineering Works Kaztekhmash JSC will produce first 50 harvesters this year, North Kazakhstan Region Governor Erik Sultanov said.

"Kaztehmash, a private company, has launched a harvesters production project in Petropavlovsk on the premises of Sevmashzavod, a former engine plant. This year, we will produce 50 harvesters using the technology of the Finnish company Sampo," the governor told a meeting at the regional administration.

He said that all issues relating to the financing of the project had been resolved.

"The first harvester will be released on July 1," Sultanov said.

Fuente:Interfax Kazakhstan



Kirguistán



KTG and Gazprom to boost capacity of the main gas pipeline in Kyrgyzstan

KazTransGas JSC (KTG) and Gazprom OAO say they will increase the capacity of the main gas pipeline passing through Kyrgyzstan, a news statement from the Kazakh firm reports.

"In Astana a meeting was held with representatives from the companies of KazTransGas and Gazprom, which discussed increasing the capacity of the Kyrgyz section of the MGP (the main gas pipeline) the BGR-TBA (Bukhara gas region Tashkent-Bishkek-Almaty) for stable gas supply to consumers of the city of Almaty and Almaty Oblast," a statement issued Tuesday said.

As the statement explained, at the moment the technical condition of the main gas pipeline and gas pumping units at the Sokuluk compressor station, located in Kyrgyzstan, limits the capacity of the MGP BGR-TBA. The capacity of the pipeline at this site is no more than 250 thousand cubic meters per hour, which does not satisfy the growing needs of rapidly developing Almaty and the Almaty Oblast, where gas demand during the peak period is about 450 thousand cm/h.

The two sides have agreed to develop a list of activities and assign turnaround time to increase the capacity of MGP, KazTAG reports.

Fuente:Newsline Kz



Kyrgyzstan Legalizes Use of Firearms for Self-Defense

President of Kyrgyzstan, Almazbek Atambaev has endorsed new amendments to the national criminal code that permit people to use firearms to defend their homes, RFE/RL reports.

A March 4 news statement from the president's office said the amendments allow people to protect their lives, health, and property against intruders with firearms.

Parliament MPs Feliks Kulov, Tatyana Levina, Eristina Kochkarova, Igor Gusarov, and Kanybek Osmonaliev put the amendments up for consideration. All of them are from the Ar-Namys (Dignity) party.

The four deputies claimed the changes to law were required because of what they referred to as "insufficient measures by the government to protect private property" in the country.

Fuente: silkroadreporters

Atambayev: Kyrgyzstan joining EaEU will open up broad prospects

Kyrgyzstan's President Almazbek Atambayev said during a meeting with Tatarstan's President Rustam Minnikhanov that his country's upcoming joining of the Eurasian Economic Union (EaEU) will become an impetus for expanding mutually advantageous cooperation with Russia and its regions.

"Kyrgyzstan pays much attention to the development of relations with its major partner - Russia, including the development of relations with its regions. Joining the Eurasian Economic Union would offer our republic wider and deeper bilateral contacts in various spheres," TASS cited the President.

Minnikhanov stressed the importance of developing bilateral relations. "We can see many mutual interests," he said.

The countries agreed to establish an intergovernmental commission on trade, economic, scientific, technical, cultural and humanitarian cooperation.

Tatarstan's president is now on a two-day working visit to Kyrgyzstan. In Bishkek he has visited the Tatar diaspora, participated in a business forum and met with Prime Minister Dzhoomart Otorbayev.

Annual trade turnover between Kyrgyzstan and Tatarstan is between \$25 and \$50 million.

Fuente: vestnikkavkaza



Volume of sugar beet production in 2014 amounts to over 173,000 tons

Volume of sugar beet production in 2014 amounted to over 173,000 tons, in 2013 - 195,400 tons, chief specialist of the State Agency of antitrust regulation Said Umarbekov said today at a meeting on the situation in the market on the production and processing of sugar beet and approaches to the management of Kaindy-Kant JSC.

As director of the department Bolsunbek Kazakov noted, previously Kyrgyzstan could provide for the needs of the domestic market, but then sugar content of beet fell. "We need to examine why this is so, perhaps, as the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation noted, it is because of poor soil. Previously, beets was very sugary, but now as rubber," Bolsunbek Kazakov said.

"Last year, sugar beet dropped because there was a dry climate, so weather conditions played a major role," a member of the Board of Directors of Kaindy-Kant JSC Duishenkul Mateev said.

Fuente: 24.kg news agency

Dollar reaches 61.6 soms

Dollar in Kyrgyzstan reached 61.6 soms. During the day the US currency has risen by 20 tyiyn.

Today exchangers of the capital buy the dollar at 61.43 (an increase of 10 tyiyn) and sell at 61.6 soms (an increase of 20 tyiyn). In this case, the nominal exchange rate set by the National Bank on March 5 is 61,3796 soms (growth per day 0.07 percent). Relatively stable exchange rate of the ruble - 0.98-1 soms.

Recall, the sharp rise in the dollar was observed in Kyrgyzstan last month, when the US currency has risen by 50 tyiyn - from 61 to 61.5 soms in one day. Then, after the intervention of the National Bank, the rate dropped to 61.2 soms

Fuente: 24.kg news agency

Russia's Recession Prompts Potential Immigration Crisis

It's been more than a few weeks since falling oil prices sent the Russian ruble tumbling to new lows. Inflation in Russia is now over 15% – the first time inflation has hit this level since the 2008 financial crisis – and it's not immediately clear what the consequences of this situation will be, for Russian nationals or for the many migrant workers who hail from Central Asian states.

What is clear, however, is that the downturn in the economy has significantly cut down on new arrivals of migrants. According to The Moscow Times, the number of new arrivals in Moscow from the steppe has dropped as much as 70% in January 2015, compared to arrival numbers last year.

The contraction of the economy might not be the only reason why Central Asian migrants are hesitant to try their luck in Russia. New regulations on migrants – including tests on Russian language, history and legislation, paired with a medical exam – came into force earlier this year. Previously, migrants from Central Asia were able



to enter Russia on an ‘internal passport,’ while those staying to work needed to register with local authorities within three days.

The drop in migrant workers has not gone unnoticed. In St. Petersburg, locals are complaining about the lack of snow-clearing after a particularly harsh storm – a service usually performed by migrants.

However, with inflation decimating migrants’ already meager salaries, many have chosen to return and see what kind of jobs they can pick up in their home countries. Due to the large number of migrants who opt not to formally register under the old rules, ascertaining the exact number of those who have chosen to stay in Russia and those who decide to leave is very difficult. But the severe dropoff in new arrivals is indicative of migrant malaise in the current economic situation.

Given these conditions, there are at least three scenarios which might play out:

1) Those Central Asian migrants – most of which hail from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, and who may together number as many as three million –already in Russia might stay put, on the hope that once oil prices rise, the economy might return to some semblance of normal. But if the economy continues to suffer from sanctions and an overreliance on the energy industry, it’s not implausible to foresee an increasing frustration among Russians, which could lead to an increase in the number of hate crimes perpetrated against migrants.

2) If significant numbers of migrant workers return to Central Asia looking for work, this could result in additional pressure on governments, in the form of protests and general unrest. The Tajik government has said that it will aim to create 200,000 jobs, but Tajikistan’s migrant workers number somewhere between 700,000 and 1 million. Even if these 200,000 jobs materialize – which is highly unlikely – placating hundreds of thousands more will be difficult in these economies. In Uzbekistan, which is gearing up for a presidential election later this month, the frustrations of jobless workers combined with long-standing resentment towards the dictatorial Islam Karimov could lead to violence.

3) An increase in unemployed, disaffected migrant workers who have left Russia to find work – in Central Asia or elsewhere – could lead to a spike in defections to ISIS. According to a report from RFE/RL earlier this week, members of ISIS have seeped into southern Kyrgyzstan. Kyrgyz authorities arrested dozens in the last two months who are suspected of having traveled to Syria for training and returned with an aim to commit terror acts in the country, while Tajikistan arrested dozens of suspected ISIS recruits in late 2014.

Central Asian migrant workers have never had it easy in Russia, but they performed a number of jobs that the local workforce were unwilling to take, while at the same time providing an importance remittance economy to their home communities. As the migrant flow is halted, some difficult changes are sure to come to the region.

Fuente: Silkroadreporters



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Fuente:Newsline Kz



Tayikistán



Tajikistan, ADB discuss cooperation prospect

DUSHANBE, March 5 (Xinhua) -- Tajik President Emomali Rahmon and Asian Development Bank (ADB) Vice President Wencai Zhang discussed prospects of expanding cooperation between the two sides here on Wednesday.

The pair talked about issues related to supporting socio-economic development in Tajikistan, especially ways of reducing negative impact of external crisis factors, said the presidential press service following their meeting.

The two also exchanged views on a five-year Country Strategy and Program for 2016-2020, which aimed to promote energy, transport infrastructure, access to clean water and social services as well as facilitate reforms and investment in private sectors.

Zhang said the ADB will continue to provide assistance to the Central Asian country so that it can resist external crises' impact. < Rahmon, for his part, thanked the ADB for its support for the construction of a railway connecting Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Turkmenistan.

Tajikistan joined the ADB in 1998, and the partnership between the nation and the bank has been committed to promoting economic and social development, including the improvement of infrastructure, agricultural production, regional trade and cooperation.

So far, the ADB has offered Tajikistan about 1.3 billion U.S. dollars in loans, grants and technical aid, while projects worth 600 million dollars have already been implemented in transport, energy and other areas.

Fuente: Globalpost



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Edgo Energy agrees work programs in Tajikistan

Interpretation of an Edgo Energy 2D seismic survey, acquired in 2011 in the Surkhsimo license, has shown structural upside of the Kyziltumshuk field and a new prospect east of the Kyziltumshuk field.

Edgo Energy is pleased to announce that it has agreed, with the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources in the Republic of Tajikistan, the 2D seismic work programs for its Surkhsimo and Qarordon licenses in the country.

Interpretation of an Edgo Energy 2D seismic survey, acquired in 2011 in the Surkhsimo license, has shown structural upside of the Kyziltumshuk field and a new prospect east of the Kyziltumshuk field.

Later in 2015, Edgo Energy expects to execute an infill 2D seismic survey in Surkhsimo to define a drill target to deeper horizons in the Kyziltumshuk field and further de-risk the identified prospect. In the Qarordon license area the 2D seismic survey objective is to image the large interpreted Karadum structure and deeper horizons for potential drill targets.

Interpretation of well logs in the Kyziltumshuk field has shown significant remaining resources. A feasibility study will be prepared with a view to commercially producing the remaining resources in the developed shallow horizons.

Edgo Energy is currently considering selected approaches by parties interested in farming into these license areas to further develop the Kyziltumshuk field and explore for drill targets at Cretaceous and Jurassic horizons in the interpreted structures in both licenses.

Fuente: Globalpost