



Green Central Asia - Weekly Newsletter

featuring the Central Asian Republics and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

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Climate Change and Environment

Constructive cooperation between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan to

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contribute to solving common problems related to climate change and water scarcity 14/03/2021

Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com) -- Constructive cooperation between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan will contribute to solving common problems related to climate change and water scarcity. This point of view was expressed by the chief researcher of the International Institute of Central Asia Elena Tsai at a video conference on the prospects for mutually beneficial cooperation between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, organized on 13 March by the Institute for Strategic and Interregional Studies under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

According to her, the visit showed that relations between the countries have risen to a new level, especially on issues that have not been resolved for decades. Breakthrough agreements were reached that meet the interests of the Uzbek and Kyrgyz peoples. In particular, the heads of state confirmed their mutual readiness for mutually beneficial cooperation in the field of water use and energy.

Read more: [here](#)

FAO held a webinar on the impact of the pandemic on fisheries in Central Asia 15/03/2021

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations held a webinar, devoted to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on fisheries and aquaculture in Central Asia and the Caucasus.

The webinar allowed the governmental organisations, experts, civil society and the industry to carry out inventory of measures of the reaction undertaken by the sector of fish economy and aquaculture, on the crisis caused by the pandemic, informs the FAO press service.

During the online event the consequences of the pandemic observed in fish economy, aquaculture and in the sphere of food security in the countries of Central Asia and Caucasus were considered. The exchange of the best practices and program measures of reaction to COVID-19, including in the field of actions by industry and government measures undertaken and also the nearest and long-term requirements of sector thereupon were studied.

«Measures on struggle against the virus had serious consequences for international trade; and as fish and fish products are those articles of food which most actively are on sale at the international level influence COVID-19 on industrial aspects and a chain of deliveries of fish remains essential», – noted Haydar Fersoy, senior FAO fisheries and

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aquaculture officer.

Read more: [here](#)

Science, technology and innovation are key to transform agri-food systems in Central Asia 16/03/2021

Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com) -- With focus on science, technology and innovation, Central Asian countries can contribute to agri-food systems transformation and serve as a model for other regions facing similar challenges amid the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond, FAO Director-General QU Dongyu said today at the Third Meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture of Central Asia. The virtual event, hosted by the Government of Kyrgyz Republic, focused on innovations in agri-food systems.

Read more: [here](#)

Turkmenistan prepares the fourth national report on climate change 17/03/2021

Issues of preparation of the Fourth national report of Turkmenistan on climate change and the Biennial report of the country within the Framework Convention on Climate Change, (UN FCCC) were discussed during the last working meeting at national level. These strategic documents are developed for Turkmenistan with support of the UN Development Program (UNDP) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) within the limits of the project "Sustainable Cities in Turkmenistan: Integrated Green Urban Development in Ashgabat and Avaza".

In the session which was held by means of online communication, representatives of various ministries and departments, and also the international organisations working in Turkmenistan took part.

Read more: [here](#)

Kyrgyzstan hosts virtual meeting of Central Asian Ministers of Agriculture 17/03/2021

The virtual event, hosted by the Government of Kyrgyz Republic, focused on innovations in agri-food systems, UN FAO [reported](#).

"The pandemic is giving us a rare opportunity to reset, rethink and redouble our efforts to build forward better and greener, using coordinated approaches that are inclusive, holistic, and coherent," QU Dongyu said alluding to the region's major potential for establishing innovative models for cooperation fostering game-changing solutions to common challenges.

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He stressed the importance of making agri-food systems capable of providing access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food for all, while ensuring environmental sustainability. To this end, he encouraged Ministers to revisit their development strategies with a focus on innovation, policy, investment and infrastructure, including roads, food storage and research facilities. The FAO chief also underscored the need to carry out holistic feasibility studies in order to attract more investment.

Read more: [here](#)

FAO celebrates International Day of Forests in Uzbekistan 19/03/2021

Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com) -- The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 21 March the International Day of Forests in 2012 to celebrate and raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests. Countries are encouraged to undertake local, national and international efforts to organize activities involving forests and trees, such as tree planting campaigns.

The theme of the International Day of Forests for 2021 is "Forest restoration: a path to recovery and well-being." The restoration and sustainable management of forests help address the climate-change and biodiversity crises. It also produces goods and services for sustainable development, fostering an economic activity that creates jobs and improves lives. This year's theme fits into the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030), a call for the protection and revival of ecosystems around the world.

Read more: [here](#)

The president of Turkmenistan familiarized with development of subsidiary farms of law enforcement bodies 19/03/2021

The system of departmental agriculture of military and law enforcement bodies of Turkmenistan became today a subject of especially steadfast attention of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov during a working trip to Akhal region. The head of the state also examined in a place readiness for the nationwide tree planting campaign starting on Saturday, March 20.

Heads of law enforcement bodies of the country reported the president on activity of subsidiary farms, plans on their expansion and material support modernisation.

Read more: [here](#)

III Meeting of MFA Representatives and Parliamentarians of Central Asian countries: Climate Change in Focus 19/03/2021

March 17, 2021 – an online meeting on climate change issues was held with the participation of Central Asian States Ministries of Foreign Affairs and parliamentarians.

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arliamentarians, representatives of Ministries of Foreign Affairs, environmental ministries, and departments of the CA countries together with representatives of embassies and international organizations discussed achieved results in the implementation of their state obligations under the Paris Agreement.

At the meeting, Senior Environmental Specialist of the World Bank, Mr. John Bryant Collier noticed the WB's contribution to the formation of dialogue with each Central Asian country in strengthening cooperation to respond to climate change and to build a long-term strategy for economic development under climate change conditions.

Chairman of the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, Mr. Sulton Rakhimzoda emphasized the importance of cooperation between the countries of Central Asia and called it a key element in the implementation of adaptation measures to mitigate climate change.

Read more: [here](#)

Water resources

Tajikistan Plans New Fishing Tourism Routes 13/03/2021

DUSHANBE, 13.03.2021 (NIAT Khovar) – New routes for fishing tourism will be created in Tajikistan in collaboration with fish-breeding enterprises and farms. This was stated at a forum organized by the Committee for Tourism Development.

The forum was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Committee for Environmental Protection, Institute of Tourism, Entrepreneurship and Service, and more than 20 fish farms and 30 domestic travel agencies.

Read more: [here](#)

Kubatbek Rakhimov: Signing of the Agreement in the field of energy between Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan opens up new prospects for bilateral cooperation 16/03/2021

Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com) -- Ex-adviser to the Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan, expert on economics and transport Kubatbek Rakhimov shared such an assessment of Uzbek-Kyrgyz cooperation at a video conference on the prospects for cooperation between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, organized on 13 March by the Institute for Strategic and Interregional Studies under the President Republic of Uzbekistan.

The Kyrgyz analyst believes that the signing of the Agreement in the field of energy between the relevant departments of the two countries opens up completely new prospects for the implementation of joint projects in this area. According to the expert,

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against the background of an increase in coal production in Kyrgyzstan by 4 times over the past 10 years, it is necessary to consider the issue of joint construction of thermal power plants (TPP) in Kyrgyzstan. This, according to K. Rakhimov, will provide water to Uzbekistan during the growing season and electricity to Kyrgyzstan in winter.

Read more: [here](#)

American experts to assess the integrity and safety of the dams 16/03/2021

Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com) -- A group of American experts to monitor the safe operation of hydraulic structures has arrived in Uzbekistan, Duniyo news agency reported.

According to the Embassy of Uzbekistan, within the framework of agreements reached with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), American experts with many years of practical experience in monitoring the safe operation of hydraulic structures, from 15 to 28 March, jointly with representatives of the Ministry of Water Resources, JSC "Uzbekgidroenergo", the State Inspection "Gosvodkhoznadzor" and other structures will inspect the Gissarak and Tupalang dams located in Kashkadarya and Surkhandarya regions.

Read more: [here](#)

Drinking water supply to improve in Jizzak regions 17/03/2021

Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com) -- As a result of the implementation of the project "Improving the drinking water supply system of Jizzakh region through the use of water from the Zarafshan River", the centralized drinking water supply will be improved for 600,000 residents of Bakhmal, Galyaara, Sharaf-Rashidov, Dustlik, Pakhtakor, Mirzachul districts Jizzakh region and the city of Jizzakh.

Read more: [here](#)

Energy sector

Projects implemented in Kashkadarya region and the electric power industry were considered 15/03/2021

Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com) -- On 15 March, President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev got acquainted with the presentation of investment projects that are planned to be implemented in Kashkadarya region and the electric power industry.

Kashkadarya region has a high potential in all sectors. The region possesses the necessary raw materials and infrastructure for industry, water and land resources and experience for agriculture. In this regard, the main "points of growth" of the region are the textile industry, the building materials industry, the chemical and food industries, tourism,

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viticulture, horticulture and animal husbandry.

Read more: [here](#)

Bishkek hosts a meeting of the Ministers of Energy of Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan 16/03/2021

Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com) -- During the state visit of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Japarov to the Republic of Uzbekistan on 11-12 March, an agreement was reached on the further development of bilateral cooperation, including on the joint implementation of the investment project "Kambarata HPP-1" in the Kyrgyz Republic.

On 13 March, a working group headed by the Minister of Energy of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Minister of Energy and Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic met in Bishkek.

Read more: [here](#)

New appointment in the structure of the Ministry of Energy of Uzbekistan 16/03/2021

Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com) -- Sardor Isakulov has been appointed acting head of the Central Dispatch Department of the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Uzbekistan. This was reported by the press service of the Ministry of Energy.

Prior to that, Sardor Isakulov worked as a chief specialist of the Department for the Development of Electric Grids, International Ratings and Indices of the Ministry of Energy.

Read more: [here](#)

USAID supports the modernization of Uzbekistan's energy sector 16/03/201

Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com) -- Representatives from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) participated in the opening of a Modern Communications Room at the Ministry of Innovative Development of Uzbekistan. This unique venue, established with support from USAID, will serve as a meeting space for both virtual and in-person conferences, workshops, and other occasions.

"This Modern Communications Room supports crucial work being performed by our Uzbek and regional partners to modernize the energy sector and meet the country's ambitious clean energy goals, and will strengthen the partnership between the U.S. Government and Uzbekistan to increase the country's energy security," said Scott Hedlund, USAID Uzbekistan Economic Growth Office Director.

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Read more: [here](#)

Afghanistan's multilateral relationship with CA countries

The Afghani LNG-traders are in the lead for purchases at the Turkmen stock exchange 15/03/2021

The second March week of the auctions at the State Commodity and Raw materials Exchange of Turkmenistan has come to the end with a total amount of export transactions more than 38 million US dollars.

All sales have been made in group "petrochemistry" where it included liquefied natural gas which basic buyer recently is Afghanistan. It has bought 14 thousand tons of LNG and also 5 thousand tons of engine oil.

Traders from Russia, Switzerland and Turkey have made contracts on polypropylene. In total 1500 tons of the granulated polymer combining excellent processing and mechanical properties were realised.

Great Britain, Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates have bought in Turkmenistan diesel fuel, bitumen and aviation kerosene.

Read more: [here](#)

Tajikistan, US and Afghanistan Hold Trilateral Meeting 18/03/2021

DUSHANBE, 18.03.2021 (NIAT Khovar) – Yesterday, Tajikistan, the United States and Afghanistan held an online trilateral meeting at a ministerial level.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Foreign Affairs Sirojiddin Muhridin, the Foreign Minister of Afghanistan Muhammad Hanif Atmar, and the US Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs David Hale.

The parties expressed their readiness for partnership and cooperation to promote lasting peace, security and economic development.

They also discussed issues of cooperation between the three countries in politics, security, economy, energy, and human resources development.

The officials emphasized that the issues of jointly combating terrorism, extremism, illicit drug trafficking and strengthening the border are important areas of cooperation between the parties.

The parties stated that they will continue cooperation in overcoming the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Read more: [here](#)

Special envoy of Uzbek President holds talks with the Minister of

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Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan 19/03/2021

Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com) -- On 18 March 2021, the Special Representative of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Afghanistan Ismatulla Irgashev held talks with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Hanif Atmar in Kabul.

The Afghan Foreign Minister highlighted the important role of Uzbekistan in the political settlement of the Afghan conflict, the efforts of our country in the implementation of infrastructure and economic projects in Afghanistan, in particular the construction of the Surkhan-Puli-Khumri power line and the Mazar-i-Sharif-Kabul-Peshawar railway ...

It was emphasized that the leadership of Afghanistan attaches great importance to the above projects, which contribute to the restoration of the country's economy, as well as the further development of regional connectivity.

They also exchanged views on the priority areas of Uzbek-Afghan cooperation in other areas.

Read more: [here](#)

Cooperation between Central Asian countries

Akramjon Nematov: Due to regular political dialogue at the highest level, Uzbek-Kyrgyz relations are experiencing a rapid rise 13/03/2021

Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com) -- The state visit of the President of Kyrgyzstan to Uzbekistan on 11-12 March was rich and fruitful, and its results can be called breakthrough without exaggeration. This point of view was expressed by the first deputy director of the Institute for Strategic and Interregional Studies under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Akramjon Nematov, referring to the participants of the video conference on the prospects for mutually beneficial cooperation between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan.

The expert emphasized that a trusting dialogue was established between the leaders of the two countries, once again at the highest level the political will was confirmed to comprehensively strengthen the centuries-old bonds of friendship and good-neighborliness, to build up the Uzbek-Kyrgyz strategic partnership.

Read more: [here](#)

“Negotiations on the Sokh issue are underway” – Foreign Minister of Kyrgyzstan 13/03/2021

On March 12, the presidents of Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan got acquainted with the

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exhibition of industrial products. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic Ruslan Kazakbayev visited the exhibition and gave an interview to reporters.

The Kyrgyz Foreign Minister praised the bilateral talks and briefed on the issues discussed.

“The leaders of our countries have discussed in detail all the issues of concern to the two countries and peoples. In particular, specific tasks were set to strengthen trade-economic ties, increase trade, accelerate the delimitation and demarcation of borders, expand border checkpoints between Osh, Jalal-Abad, Batken regions and Fergana, Andijan and Namangan regions.

Read more: [here](#)

Uzbekistan, Tajikistan to electrify Bekabad-Kanibadam-Kokand railway 13/03/2021

“The negotiations process is nearing completion and the agreement will be signed in the near future,” Asia-Plus reports citing a source in the State Unitary Enterprise (SUE) Tajik Railways.

The preliminary work for the implementation of this project by specialists of the two countries began last year.

The Tajik Railways SUE stressed that the transition to electric locomotives is in the interests of both parties: carrier costs will be reduced, emissions of harmful substances into the atmosphere from the combustion of diesel fuel will be eliminated, the frequency of train traffic will increase, inflating incomes of the parties.

According to experts, this project was planned back in the Soviet Union. The electrification of this railway section was planned to be carried out in three stages: Tashkent-Bekabad (on the western border of the Sughd region), Bekabad-Kanibadam and Kanibadam-Kokand.

Read more: [here](#)

ISMI: Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan experts discuss prospects for the development of mutually beneficial cooperation 15/03/2021

Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com) -- A videoconference on “Uzbekistan – Kyrgyzstan: prospects for mutually beneficial cooperation” has taken place.

More than 20 scientists and experts from leading research institutes and analytical centers of Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan took part in the virtual dialogue organized by the Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies under the President of the Republic of

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Uzbekistan (ISMI).

The Kyrgyz side was represented by representatives of the National Institute for Strategic Studies, the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Club of Regional Experts “Pikir”, the Cross-Border Research Network of Central Eurasia Public Foundation, the Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University, and the Kyrgyz National University.

Read more: [here](#)

No corridor will be provided to Sokh for Uzbeks – Kyrgyz officials 15/03/2021

The information that a corridor will be opened to the Uzbek enclave of Sokh does not correspond to reality, the Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for the Batken region of Kyrgyzstan [told](#) Vesti.kg.

“After the meeting of the heads of state on March 11-12, incorrect information was disseminated on social networks that the Uzbek side would be provided with a corridor to the Sokh district. As a result of the negotiations, it was agreed to resume the operation of the Kaytas checkpoint in the Kadamjay district, Batken region, which was previously closed due to the coronavirus pandemic. Citizens of the neighboring state pass through the checkpoint in the same manner as before. Uzbeks enter Kyrgyzstan through the Kaytas checkpoint and pass through our territory to the Sokh district, and then enter it. Since March last year, citizens of Uzbekistan could get into this area only through the Kadamjay checkpoint,” the Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for the Batken region said.

Read more: [here](#)

Mirziyoyev, Tokayev discuss strengthening multifaceted cooperation between Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan 15/03/2021

During the conversation, the parties discussed topical issues of further strengthening multifaceted cooperation, consolidating relations of friendship, good-neighborliness and strategic partnership between Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, the presidential press service [reported](#).

Special attention was paid to building up cooperation in the economic sphere in order to overcome the negative consequences of the pandemic as soon as possible. This is, first of all, about increasing the volume of mutual trade, promoting joint projects of industrial cooperation within the framework of the adopted “roadmap” and improving transport communications and logistics infrastructure in border areas.

In addition, the importance of continuing active exchanges at the level of governments, interested departments and organizations in the field of healthcare, pharmaceuticals and

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education was noted.

The sides also exchanged views on the international and regional agenda. The schedule of upcoming bilateral and multilateral events was considered.

Read more: [here](#)

Tajikistan and Kazakhstan Hold Intergovernmental Commission Meeting on Economic Cooperation 16/03/2021

DUSHANBE, 16.03.2021 (NIAT Khovar) – Tomorrow, Dushanbe will host a meeting of the Tajik and Kazakh Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation.

The meeting will focus on topical issues of strengthening trade, economic, scientific and cultural cooperation.

The Kazakh delegation headed by Deputy Prime Minister Roman Sklyar arrived in Dushanbe to participate in the meeting.

The holding of the Tajik and Kazakh Investment Forum is also expected in Dushanbe, which will consider important issues of expanding cooperation between the two countries in the field of economy and trade.

Read more: [here](#)

The Central Asian Online Forum on the Role of Women in strengthening peace, trust and security takes place 17/03/2021

Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com) -- On 16 March 2021, a Central Asian online forum was held on the topic: "The role of women in strengthening peace, trust and security."

It was attended by members of parliaments, representatives of governmental and non-governmental structures, as well as experts specializing in gender equality from Central Asian countries.

The event was organized by the OSCE Center in Ashgabat, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, as well as with the support of the Gender Office of the Secretariat and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR).

Read more: [here](#)

Ziyozoda Attends Central Asian Ministers of Agriculture Meeting 17/03/2021

DUSHANBE, 17.03.2021 (NIAT Khovar) – The Minister of Agriculture Sulaimon Ziyozoda attended a videoconference of the Central Asian ministries of agriculture on March 15.

Ziyozoda noted that the agricultural sector is one of the key priorities of the national policy and stressed the importance of promoting the innovative development of agriculture,

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diversifying agricultural production and improving the infrastructure for food production.

Read more: [here](#)

Kazakhstan Interested in Joint Development of Industrial Cooperation with Tajikistan 18/03/2021

DUSHANBE, 18.03.2021 (NIAT Khovar) – A Memorandum of cooperation was signed today in Dushanbe between KazakhExport ESC, Tajik Aluminum Company (TALCO) and the Eurasian Development Bank as part of the 16th meeting of the Tajik and Kazakh Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation.

The document foresees cooperation in the field of industry, including an increase in the volume of exports of calcined petroleum coke, mortar and electrothermal ferrophosphorus from Kazakhstan to Tajikistan for the needs of TALCO using financial and insurance instruments of KazakhExport ESC.

Read more: [here](#)

Tajik and Kyrgyz Governmental Delegations Hold Meeting on Border Delimitation and Demarcation 18/03/2021

DUSHANBE, 18.03.2021 (NIAT Khovar) – On March 16-17, a regular meeting of the Tajik and Kyrgyz governmental delegations on the delimitation and demarcation of the state border was held in Guliston of Sughd region.

The delegations were headed by the Chairman of the State Committee for National Security of Tajikistan Saimumin Yatimov and the Chairman of the State Committee for National Security of the Kyrgyz Republic Kamchibek Tashiev.

Read more: [here](#)

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