



# Green Central Asia - Weekly Newsletter featuring the Central Asian Republics and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

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### **Climate Change and Environment**

# Central Asian Countries Discuss Climate Change in Dushanbe 27/07/2021

**DUSHANBE, 27.07.2021 (NIAT Khovar) –** The two-day fourth Central Asian Conference on Climate Change (CACCC-2021) is coming to an end in Dushanbe. Due to the pandemic, the conference is being held in a mixed format — online and offline.

The main theme of the conference is the integration of efforts of the region's countries to prevent an increase in the average global temperature by more than 1.5 ° C.

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# First outcomes of the Central Asia Climate Change Conference 2021 27/07/2021

On July 26-27, 2021, the Fourth Central Asia Climate Change Conference (CACCC-2021) "Regional Cooperation for Climate-Resilient Future" is held in Dushanbe (Tajikistan). The event is organized as a mix of in-person and online meetings. The conference is organized within the framework of the "Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Program for Aral Sea Basin" (CAMP4ASB) project; it is also a continuation of the World Bank's initiative on climate change information exchange in Central Asia, which was launched in 2013. The

regional component CAMP4ASB is implemented by the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) and coordinated by the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (EC IFAS).\

At the first day of CACCC-2021 the opening ceremony and the thematic sessions on climate policy and Role of civil society and climate financing were conducted. The opening ceremony was moderated by Mr Sino Tohirzoda, a representative of Tajikistan, and at this session presentations were made by:

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# Fourth Meeting of Representatives of Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Members of Parliaments of the Central Asian Countries on the Issues of Climate Change 28/07/2021

On July 27, 2021, in Dushanbe the Fourth Meeting of Representatives of Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Members of Parliaments of the Central Asian Countries on the Issues of Climate Change was conducted. This High-level event was organized within the Fourth Central Asian Conference on Climate Change (CACCC-2021) which was held as a mix of online meetings and in-person meeting in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

This dialogue between representatives of MFAs and Parliaments of the Central Asian Countries was organized for the discussion of actual issues of environmental governance in the region and it was initiated by the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) with the support of the European Union in 2016. Since 2019 the issues of climate change are key for agendas of this platform for dialogue. The thematic focus of the Fourth Meeting of MFAs and Parliaments was addressed to order to discuss and exchange views on current issues of implementation of the Paris Agreement with respect to the legislature and strategic planning as well as engagement of the region in the international negotiation process.

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# Ambassador Omuraliev addresses 16th Conference on Ecotourism and Sustainable Tourism in Turkey 29/07/2021

**Bishkek, July 29, 2021**. / **Kabar** / . As part of the work to promote economic diplomacy, Kyrgyzstan's Ambassador to Turkey Kubanychbek Omuraliev attended on July 28-29 the 16th conference on ecotourism and sustainable tourism, organized by the International Ecotourism Society (TIES) and Workshop Travelshop in Tokat, Turkey.

During the opening ceremony, Omuraliev gave a presentation about the state and potential of tourism, including ecotourism in Kyrgyzstan with a demonstration of a video

clip.

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# Issues of resource-saving production practice discussed in Dushanbe 30/07/2021

**Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com)** -- On 27 July 2021, within the framework of the REAP project, funded by the European Union, a workshop was held with the participation of stakeholders on the topic "Implementation of sustainable consumption and production measures in micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs)".

The event was organized within the framework of the "4th Central Asian Conference on Climate Change (CACCC-2021)" taking place these days in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

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# Uzbek Foreign Minister meets with the Chairman of the Assembly of the Global Green Growth Institute 31/07/2021

**Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com) --** On 31 July 2021, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan Abdulaziz Kamilov held talks in Seoul with the Chairman of the Assembly of the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), former Secretary General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon.

The parties emphasized with satisfaction that Uzbekistan became the first member state of the Global Green Growth Institute in the CIS. The first GGGI representative office in Central Asia was opened in Tashkent. More than ten joint activities have been implemented. In this regard, the prospects for the further development of cooperation between Uzbekistan and GGGI in a number of areas were discussed, including mitigation of the consequences of global climate change, the introduction of green economy technologies, the development of renewable and hydrogen energy.

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# Uzbekistan to host the meeting of heads of environmental ministries of SCO in 2022 31/07/2021

**Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com)** -- Dushanbe hosted the Second Meeting of the Heads of Ministries and Agencies of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Member States responsible for environmental protection issues.

Prospects for the creation of a special SCO working group, the adoption of an Action Plan for the practical implementation of the Cooperation Concept in the Environmental

Protection of SCO Member States for 2022-2024 and other issues on the agenda were discussed at the meeting.

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# High-level segment of CACCC-2021 was conducted on July 27 31/07/2021

On July 27, 2021 at the second day of the Fourth Central Asia Climate Change Conference (CACCC-2021) "Regional Cooperation for Climate-Resilient Future" the Highlevel segment with the participation of heads of the national environmental authorities of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan as well as Deputy Prime Minister of the Reupblic of Tajikistan. The High-level segment was conducted the first time in the history of Central Asian climate change conferences.

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#### Water resources

# Hydraulic unit for Toktogul HPP delivered from China to Kyrgyzstan 27/07/2021

**Bishkek, July 27, 2021**. / **Kabar** / . A new hydraulic unit for Toktogul hydropower plant (HPP), which is being replaced as part of the Rehabilitation of Toktogul HPP Phase 2 Project, has arrived in Kyrgyzstan and is already on its way to the hydro plant itself.

The press service of the JSC National Electric Grid of Kyrgyzstan reported that replacement of hydraulic units will increase reliability of the flagship of the Kyrgyz energy system.

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# EUROPEAN UNION LAUNCHES THE PROJECT TO SUPPORT WATER, ENERGY AND FOOD SECURITY IN TAJIKISTAN 28/07/2021

TAJIKISTAN – The first working meeting on the implementation of the demonstration project on pumping stations of Tajikistan took place in Dushanbe today within the framework of the European Union (EU) project «Nexus Dialogue in Central Asia". The demonstration project aims to ensure water, energy and food security through improved control and monitoring of electricity consumption in the Golodnostep Pumping Station (GPS) in Sughd Region using energy-saving technologies and innovative solutions.

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# FM Muhriddin Meets Swiss Special Envoy for Water in Central Asia 30/07/2021

**DUSHANBE**, **30.07.2021 (NIAT Khovar)** – Yesterday, the Minister of Foreign Affairs Sirojiddin Muhriddin received the Swiss Special Envoy for Water in Central Asia Gyu Bonvin.

The parties discussed the implementation of joint projects.

They exchanged views on the level of regional cooperation within the framework of the Swiss water diplomacy, as well as the preparation of the two sides for holding international high-level water events.

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# VEB.RF to finance projects on modernization of 95 pumping stations in Uzbekistan 01/08/2021

**Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com)** -- The State Development Corporation of the Russian Federation VEB.RF will finance projects to modernize 95 pumping stations in Uzbekistan worth 213.5 million euros.

President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev signed a resolution "On measures to implement projects to modernize 95 pumping stations in Bukhara, Navoi, Kashkadarya, Samarkand and Surkhandarya regions with the participation of the State Development Corporation of the Russian Federation VEB.RF".

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### Water and energy cooperation in the Amudarya River Basin 01/08/2021

Turkmenistan places a high priority on water and energy issues in its state policy and diplomacy, while closely cooperating with neighboring countries and international organizations on energy security and sustainable water resources management. A telling example is our country's participation in the EU-funded Central Asia Dialogue Project: Fostering Water, Energy and Food Security and Multi-Sector Investment (WEF Nexus), implemented by the Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia (CAREC). It is part of the Global Nexus Dialogues Program carried out in five regions of the world and funded by the European Union (EU) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

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### **Energy sector**

### Kazakhstan and Eni to develop alternative energy sources 26/07/2021

NUR-SULTAN. KAZINFORM - Prime Minister Askar Mamin met with Claudio Descalzi, Chief Executive Officer of Eni, Kazinform has learnt from primeminister.kz.

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# Will Turkmenistan become a serious gas player in Europe? 30/07/2021

Such question is given by the author of the publication under the same name at OilPrice.com, noting that from the Caspian states this country has the greatest stocks of natural gas, and recently Ashkhabad and Baku have signed the agreement on joint development of the common gas field.

«Turkmenistan takes the fourth place in the world by gas reserves - 19,5 trillion cubic metre that makes up 10 % from universal stocks. Its structure includes one of the largest gas deposits in the world - Galkynysh with volume of 2,8 trillion cubic metre», - expert Vanand Meliksetian writes.

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# Employment of smart technologies to protect oil and gas infrastructure 30/07/2021

The OSCE Center in Ashgabat organized a two-day online seminar on the protection of oil and gas infrastructure from natural and man-made disasters, according to the organization's website.

During the trainings, an overview of advanced approaches in promoting environmental safety in the mining industry was made and international experience in ensuring cybersecurity was presented.

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# Kazakh ambassador, Indian Atomic Energy Department Chairman meet 31/07/2021

MUMBAI. KAZINFORM - Kazakhstan's Ambassador to India Nurlan Zhalgasbayev met with Kamlesh Nilkanth Vyas, Chairman of the Department of Atomic Energy of India (DAE), Kazinform cites the official website of the Kazakh Foreign Ministry.

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# Stone City Energy to build a new thermal power plant in Surkhandarya region 01/08/2021

**Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com) -** The Dutch company Stone City Energy will build a new thermal power plant (TPP) in the Surkhandarya region. The project cost is US\$1.2 billion.

President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev signed a resolution "On measures to organize the construction of a combined cycle power plant with a capacity of 1500-1600 MW in Surkhandarya region."

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### Afghanistan's multilateral relationship with CA countries

# FM Muhriddin: To Date, Tajikistan Has Not Received Requests to Provide a Platform For Conducting Inter-Afghan Negotiations 26/07/2021

**DUSHANBE**, **27.07.2021** (**NIAT Khovar**) – To date, Tajikistan has not received requests to provide a platform for conducting inter-Afghan negotiations. This was said today the Minister of Foreign Affairs Sirojiddin Muhriddin at a press conference in Dushanbe. According to him, the process of negotiations on a peaceful settlement in Afghanistan should be monitored with all seriousness.

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# Ismatulla Irgashev meets with Russian Ambassador to discuss current situation in Afghanistan 27/07/2021

**Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com)** -- On 27 July 2021, Special Representative of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Afghanistan Ismatulla Irgashev held a meeting with the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation, Oleg Malginov, the Uzbek Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The parties exchanged views on the current situation in Afghanistan and the efforts of the international community, as well as the two countries to enhance cooperation in the Afghan direction.

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# SCO Defense Ministers Concerned About the Rapid Deterioration of the Situation in Afghanistan 29/07/2021

**DUSHANBE**, **29.07.2021** (**NIAT Khovar**) – Yesterday, the SCO Defense Ministers exchanged views on international and regional security, and noted the high level of mutual understanding between the SCO member states.

The meeting was attended by the defense ministers of India Rajnat Singh, Kazakhstan Nurlan Yermekbayev, China Wei Fenghe, Kyrgyzstan Taalaibek Omuraliev, Pakistan Parvez Khattak, Russia Sergei Shoigu, Uzbekistan Bakhodir Kurbanov, Tajikistan Sherali Mirzo, Belarus Viktor Khrenin, and the Director of the Executive Committee of the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure Jumakhon Giyosov.

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# Turkmenistan on the list of the ten largest trading partners of Afghanistan 30/07/2021

National Statistics and Information Agency of Afghanistan (NSIA) has published the data according to which in the first quarter 2021 Turkmenistan was included into number of the ten largest trading partners of IRA, <u>as writes</u> TORC.

About 70 % of the goods imported from Turkmenistan are production of the oil and gas complex. Its total cost has made up about 64 million US dollars.

In particular, for January - March, 2021 from Turkmenistan to IRA about 8 thousand tons of gasoline A-80 and more than 45 thousand tons of automobile gasoline of other marks, and also about 40 thousand tons of liquefied gas have been delivered.

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# Treasure of the Kushan Kingdom: an edition dedicated to the cultural heritage of Uzbekistan and Afghanistan is planned 02/08/2021

**Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com)** -- One of the largest and most expensive treasures in the history of mankind, the Kushan gold, was found on the territory of Afghanistan. Today it is kept in the collection of the National Museum.

During the upcoming negotiations with Dr. Rahimi, the World Society for the Study, Preservation and Popularization of the Cultural Heritage of Uzbekistan plans to reach an agreement on the publication of a book-album dedicated to such artifacts from Afghanistan, which are our common cultural heritage, such as the gold of the Kushan kings.

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### **Cooperation between Central Asian countries**

### Growth of trade turnover between Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan recorded 27/07/2021

In January-May 2021, the trade turnover between Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan increased by 49% compared to the same period of the last year, finprom.kz site reports.

Despite the restrictions due to the coronavirus pandemic, Turkmen exports to Kazakhstan increased by 80.3% for the indicated time.

Basically, Turkmenistan supplies its neighboring country with agricultural products, including tomatoes and onions. Also it is reported on the export of textiles, polyethylene, lubricating oils and other products of petro and gas chemistry.

The trade turnover of Kazakhstan with the countries of Central Asia as a whole increased by 34.7% and amounted to USD 2.3 billion.

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### President of Tajikistan To Pay a State Visit to Turkmenistan 27/07/2021

**DUSHANBE, 27.07.2021 (NIAT Khovar) –** President Emomali Rahmon will pay a state visit to Turkmenistan on August 4-5. This was announced today at a press conference by the Minister of Foreign Affairs Sirojiddin Muhriddin.

"The Tajik side hopes that this will be a historic visit," said Muhriddin.

He noted that a meeting of the Tajik-Turkmen Intergovernmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation will be held in Dushanbe on July 28-29.

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# Kazakhstan to provide military and technical assistance to Tajikistan 28/07/2021

**Bishkek, July 28, 2021**. **/ Kabar /** By decree issued on July 13, the Government of Tajikistan instructs the country's ambassador to Kazakhstan to sign an agreement on the provision by Kazakhstan's Government of military-and-technical assistance in ensuring

security in Tajikistan's districts bordering Afghanistan, ASIA-Plus reported.

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# German Ambassador Iversen completes her mission in Kyrgyzstan 28/07/2021

**Bishkek, July 28, 2021**. / **Kabar /.** President of Kyrgyzstan Sadyr Zhaparov received on Tuesday Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Kyrgyzstan Monika Iversen due to completion of her diplomatic mission in the country.

The press service of the Kyrgyz president reported that an exchange of views on the priorities of bilateral relations, measures to increase trade and economic, cultural and humanitarian cooperation took place.

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# Development of Turkmen-Tajik partnership discussed in Dushanbe 29/07/2021

Dushanbe hosted the tenth meeting of the Joint Turkmen-Tajik Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation. This was reported by the Foreign Ministry of Turkmenistan. The Turkmen part of the commission was headed by the Minister of Finance and Economy Mukhammetgeldy Serdarov, and the Tajik part - by the Minister of Energy and Water Resources Juma Daler Shofakir.

During the talks, the parties discussed the development of bilateral partnership, in accordance with the decisions of the last meeting of the commission, held in Ashgabat in November 2019.

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# Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan agree more than 40 km of state border 29/07/2021

**Bishkek, July 29, 2021**. / **Kabar** / . Over 40 km of the state border between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan have been agreed upon at the level of working groups, member of the Governmental Commission for border delimitation and demarcation Abdulat Myrzaev said during a session of the Kyrgyz Parliament on Thursday.

According to him, a total of 519 km was agreed at the level of working groups.

"More than 40 km have been agreed upon at the last three meetings. In early August, working groups will meet in Tajikistan. The sections will also be agreed there," the

member of the Commission said.

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# UNDAF Evaluation Report in Tajikistan for 2016-2022 Presented in Dushanbe 29/07/2021

**DUSHANBE**, **29.07.2021 (NIAT Khovar)** – Yesterday, under the co-chairmanship of the Minister of Economic Development and Trade Zavki Zavkizoda and the UN Resident Coordinator in Tajikistan Sezin Sinanoglu, with the participation of heads of ministries and agencies, representatives of UN agencies — members of the UNDAF in Tajikistan, a session of the Joint Steering Committee was held to present the results, conclusions and recommendations of the final evaluation of UNDAF in Tajikistan for 2016-2022.

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# Uzbekistan sends about 200 military personnel to take part in joint exercise in Tajikistan 02/08/2021

**Bishkek, Aug. 2, 2021**. / **Kabar** / . About 200 Uzbek military personnel arrived at the Harb-Maidon training ground to take part in a joint exercise of units of the armed forces of Russia, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, KunUz reported.

The exercise will take place from 5 to 10 August at the Harb-Maidon training ground on the territory of Tajikistan, the Defense Ministry of Russia reported.

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