Green Central Asia - Weekly Newsletter

featuring the Central Asian Republics and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Period:	26/03/2022-02/04/2022

Content:

Climate Change and Environment……3

Uzhydromet allocates almost 2.5 billion soums to reduce negative effects of climate change;

Green Sukuk to Help Uzbekistan Achieve Sustainable Development Goals and Address Climate Change Issues;

Prospects for implementation of bilateral Kyrgyz-German technical projects discussed in Berlin;

Tajik Delegation Attends Meetings of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity;

Another tree planting campaign to make Ashgabat more green;

The ecology of the Aidar-Arnasay lake system will be regularly monitored;

403.35 hectares of forest to be planted in Kyrgyzstan in spring;

Head of the OSCE Center in Ashgabat spoke about cooperation to improve the investment climate;

Kyrgyz FM meets in Berlin with executive director of NABU;

The head of SPE told how to prevent global warming with carbon prices;

Islamic finance: "Green Sukuk" for green projects;

Water Resources……..7

The 9th World Water Forum has completed its work;

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IWMI organizes workshop to discuss collaborative approaches for exploring water-energy-food futures in Amudarya Basin;

Delegation of Kyrgyzstan takes part in 9th World Water Forum in Dakar;

Construction of the reservoir continues;

Energy Sector……8

The First Public Private Partnership connects GBAO to the national electricity grid;

OGT-2022 International Investment Forum to launch in Ashgabat;

Trans-Caspian connector – an opportunity to ensure global energy security;

Natalya German noted the role of Turkmenistan in ensuring regional energy security;

Kyrgyz FM takes part in opening of Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue Conference;

ADB supports energy projects that boost regional cooperation;

Chinese company to build 500 MW hydropower plant in Issyk-Kul;

Center for Hydrogen Energy Established at Turkmen University at the International University of Oil and Gas;

Supporting sustainable energy will remain priority for Turkmenistan for next 30 years;

OGT 2022: forum results and global energy market trends;

Afghanistan's multilateral relationship with CA countries..11

Muzaffar Ashuriyon: Tajikistan, Always Stood for a Comprehensive Peaceful Solution to the Afghan Problem;

The 3rd meeting of the foreign ministers of Afghanistan's neighboring countries issues a Joint statement;

Kazakhstan participates in int'l donor conference on Afghanistan under auspices of UN;

Taliban resume work on regional energy projects;

Cooperation between Central Asian countries……13

Kyrgyz Parliament speaker meets with Kazakh counterpart;

Kazakh president expected to visit Kyrgyzstan in May 2022;

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Uzbekistan signs agreements worth $7.8 billion during Tashkent Investment Forum;

Kyrgyzstan, Germany discuss possibilities of organizing high level mutual visits this year;

Akylbek Zhaparov, Abdulla Aripov discuss cooperation prospects;

Akylbek Zhaparov : Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan aim to bring volume of bilateral trade to USD 2B;

Climate Change and Environment

Uzhydromet allocates almost 2.5 billion soums to reduce negative effects of climate change 28/03/2022

The Hydrometeorological Research Institute has funded three projects worth 2.4 billion soums aimed at reducing the negative effects of climate change and mitigating its consequences. This was announced today, March 28, at an AIMC press conference with the participation of Uzhydromet officials on the results of work done in 2021.

It was noted that new geoportals monitoring.meteo.uz and data.meteo.uz have been launched to monitor air quality in settlements and visualize hydrometeorological data.

Read more: here

Green Sukuk to Help Uzbekistan Achieve Sustainable Development Goals and Address Climate Change Issues 29/03/2022

Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com) -- On 25 March, a webinar titled: “Sukuk as a promising alternative source of financing for companies and banks of Uzbekistan” was jointly organized by UNDP, the Ministry of Finance, Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD), and Ansher Capital LLC. The event served as a convenient platform for discussing ongoing activities related to the introduction of Islamic finance instruments and determining the vector of further work.

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Prospects for implementation of bilateral Kyrgyz-German technical projects discussed in Berlin 29/03/2022

Bishkek, March 29, 2022 / Kabar /. As part of the visit of Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyzstan Ruslan Kazakbaev to the Federal Republic of Germany, a meeting was held with State Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Economics and Climate Protection

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Franziska Brantner.

According to the press service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyzstan, the sides discussed the prospects for the implementation of bilateral Kyrgyz-German technical projects, as well as plans to increase business cooperation between the countries. The creation of the Kyrgyz-German Business Council chaired by the head of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic Akylbek Zhaparov was noted in a positive way.

Read more: here

Tajik Delegation Attends Meetings of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity 29/03/2022

DUSHANBE, 29.03.2022 (NIAT Khovar) – Officials of the Committee for Environmental Protection of Tajikistan attended the 24th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Issues, the 3rd meeting of the Subsidiary Body for the Implementation of the Convention, and the Working Group of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, which took place from March 14 through March 29 in Geneva.

Read more: here

Another tree planting campaign to make Ashgabat more green 29/03/2022

On March 28-29, 2022, the Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia (CAREC) in cooperation with the European Union (EU) Delegation to Turkmenistan held another tree planting campaign in Ashgabat.

More than 850 tree seedlings were planted along the Karakum River to green the coastal areas and improve the environmental condition. There are sophora, melia poplar, ash, acacia, paulownia, maple, albizia, mulberry and many other spices of trees and shrubs were planted.

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The ecology of the Aidar-Arnasay lake system will be regularly monitored 30/03/2022

Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com) -- Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers “On additional measures to organize the management of the Aidar-Arnasai lake system” was adopted.

The resolution approved the composition of the Republican working group on the effective use of the Aidar-Arnasay lake system, improving the environmental situation, ensuring a stable water level, water supply and reducing mineralization. The working group is tasked

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with:

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403.35 hectares of forest to be planted in Kyrgyzstan in spring 30/03/2022

Bishkek, March 30, 2022 . / Kabar/ . In Kyrgyzstan, 403.35 hectares will be planted in the spring, 64.5 hectares more than planned, the Ministry of Agriculture of the country said.

In order to increase the area, covered by forest, the Forest Service under the "Integrated Management of Forest Ecosystems of the Kyrgyz Republic" WB/GEF project plans to plant 1 thousand 749.5 ha in 13 pilot forestry farms.

Read more: here

Head of the OSCE Center in Ashgabat spoke about cooperation to improve the investment climate 30/03/2022

Creating a favorable investment climate in government and business circles, ensuring environmental protection and energy security are a solid foundation for the sustainable development of the oil and gas sector of Turkmenistan, - said Ambassador, Head of the OSCE Center in Ashgabat John MacGregor, speaking at the plenary session of the international forum "Oil and Gas of Turkmenistan – 2022". The event takes place on March 29-30 at the Yildyz hotel in the capital.

There are numerous OSCE commitments related to elements of economic and environmental security. Good governance at all levels implies a clear, transparent and predictable economic policy framework, legal framework and legislation that ensures business prosperity and investor confidence. After all, it is investments - foreign and domestic - that create the necessary conditions for sustainable and environmentally friendly economic growth, increase employment and improve living standards throughout the OSCE region, the ambassador noted.

Read more: here

Kyrgyz FM meets in Berlin with executive director of NABU 31/03/2022

Bishkek, March 31, 2022 / Kabar /. As part of a visit to Germany, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyzstan Ruslan Kazakbaev met in Berlin with Executive Director of the German Nature Conservation Union (NABU) Life Miller, the press service of the Kyrgyz Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported.

NABU staff made a brief presentation on the activities of the Union, both at the

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international level and directly in Kyrgyzstan. Ruslan Kazakbaev noted that Kyrgyzstan pays special attention to the issues of nature protection, environmental protection, environmental conservation, emphasizing that a set of issues of energy transformation and the development of a green economy was discussed at the ongoing International Conference "Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue".

Read more: here

The head of SPE told how to prevent global warming with carbon prices 01/04/2022

President of the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) Kamel Ben-Nasser, speaking at the international investment forum "Oil and Gas of Turkmenistan-2022", formulated the priority measures necessary to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Among them is the establishment of carbon pricing mechanisms.

The price of carbon (the method that is the most effective way for countries to prevent global warming) is the cost applied to carbon pollution to induce pollutants to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases they emit into the atmosphere: it usually takes the form of either a carbon tax or the requirement to purchase emission permits, commonly known as carbon trading.

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Islamic finance: "Green Sukuk" for green projects 01/04/2022

Representative of the Islamic Development Bank Group Ibrahim Ali Shukri spoke about the investment insurance solutions of the bank, speaking at the session "The role of financial institutions in supporting sustainable energy" of the international forum OGT-2022.

Recognizing the need to strike a critical balance between a rapid transition to a low-carbon economy and maintaining economic prosperity, the Islamic Private Sector Development Corporation (ICIEC) continues to provide insurance for fossil fuel transactions, given the fact that fossil fuels are central to the economy of member countries.

The Islamic Private Sector Development Corporation is a multilateral development financial institution and is part of the Islamic Development Bank Group. The Corporation also plays a large role in facilitating strategic projects that support action to combat

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climate change.

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Water resources

The 9th World Water Forum has completed its work 26/03/2022

On 26 of March 2022, the 9th World Water Forum completed its work in Dakar, Senegal.

The Forum focused on four priorities, including water security and sanitation, water for rural development, cooperation, means and tools, and an international discussion forum to address issues related to water supply, water management, climate change and sanitation.

The Forum was attended by 300,000 participants, including independents, government representatives of Member States, the UN, governmental and non-governmental organizations, academia, the Congress of Financial Institutions, youth representatives and stakeholders.

The Forum also hosted a Ministerial Segment, which resulted in the adoption of the Blue Deal Declaration for water security and sanitation to protect peace and development.

The Executive Committee of IFAS actively participated in the Forum by organizing an exhibition dedicated to the protection of the Aral Sea, a special session entitled "Cooperation of the countries of Central Asia to protect water security in the context of climate research", and also participated in speeches and presentations on various panel and thematic sessions.

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IWMI organizes workshop to discuss collaborative approaches for exploring water-energy-food futures in Amudarya Basin 29/03/2022

The International Water Management Institute (IWMI, Uzbekistan Office) jointly with the University of Manchester organized a workshop under the FutureDams project for government organizations and interested stakeholders working on the interaction of water-energy-food and the environment.

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Delegation of Kyrgyzstan takes part in 9th World Water Forum in Dakar 01/04/2022

Bishkek, April 1, 2022. / Kabar /. A delegation of representatives from state agencies of

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Kyrgyzstan took part in the 9th World Water Forum (Dakar 2022) held on March 21-27 in Dakar, Senegal.

The purpose of the Forum, dedicated to the theme "Water Security for Peace and Development" was to accelerate and effectively implement the global water agenda, which is a prerequisite for achieving sustainable development, especially in countries where water is of vital importance, the press service of the Kyrgyz MFA said.

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Construction of the reservoir continues 02/04/2022

In order to clean the water from the silt coming from the Amy Derya, create a water reserve for the uninterrupted functioning of the Karakum River and provide agricultural land in the Mary, Ahal and Balkan velayats in the southeast of the country, Zeyit has been operating in the past, and since 2006 the reservoir «Garaşsyzlygyň 15 ýyllygy». This large reservoir, the first stage of construction of which was completed in 2015, holds 2.2 billion cubic meters of water and is very significant in providing water to the country's agricultural lands.

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Energy sector

The First Public Private Partnership connects GBAO to the national electricity grid 28/03/2022

For the first time in history, the regional electricity grid in the Gorno Badakhshan Autonomous Region (GBAO) has been connected to Tajikistan's national grid, enabling the entire population of the region to have access to clean and stable electricity year-round, says the press release issued by the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) Resident Office in Tajikistan.

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OGT-2022 International Investment Forum to launch in Ashgabat 28/03/2022

We are only one day away from the beginning of OGT-2022 International Investment Forum. We look forward to welcoming you to the International Investment Forum hosted by State Concerns «Turkmennebit», «Turkmengas», «Turkmenhimiya» and State Corporation «Turkmengeology», in partnership with Turkmen Forum and UK-based GaffneyCline. The event will be held tomorrow (Tuesday 29 March) at the "Yyldyz" hotel in Ashgabat and in Turkmenistan's pavilion at Dubai Expo.

This prestigious event will be carried out both in traditional and online formats. It aims to attract foreign investment to the energy sector of Turkmenistan, and to develop and

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strengthen collaboration between the national energy companies of Turkmenistan and international partners.

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Trans-Caspian connector – an opportunity to ensure global energy security 29/03/2022

The situation in the energy market today forces many countries to reconsider their views on energy security, she said, speaking at **OGT-2022** director of the advisory committee of Trans Caspian Resources Natalie Costello.

Reducing dependence on pipeline gas through LNG and the use of renewable energy sources takes a lot of time. Therefore, the European Union recognized that blue fuel remains one of the main sources of energy until 2040.

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Natalya German noted the role of Turkmenistan in ensuring regional energy security 29/03/2022

Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Central Asia and Head of the UN Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia Natalya Gherman noted the need to support the active role of Turkmenistan in ensuring regional energy security, speaking at **OGT-2022** in Ashgabat.

She stressed that at the moment humanity is facing instability and is experiencing a crisis of confidence, however, despite the alarming global trends, Central Asia stands out as a region where the principles of peace and security are supported and promoted.

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Kyrgyz FM takes part in opening of Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue Conference 2022 30/03/2022

Bishkek, March 30, 2022 . / Kabar /. Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyzstan Ruslan Kazakbaev took part in the opening of the Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue International Conference in Berlin.

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The foreign minister of Kyrgyzstan attended the conference at the invitation of Vice Chancellor, Federal Minister for Economy Affairs and Climate Action of Germany Robert Habeck and Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany Annalena Berbock, the press service of the Kyrgyz Foreign Ministry said.

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ADB supports energy projects that boost regional cooperation 30/ 03/2022

The role of financial institutions in supporting sustainable energy was considered at a special session of the international forum "Oil and Gas of Turkmenistan-2022" on Wednesday.The forum delegates were presented with the main aspects of the development strategy of Turkmenistan for the next 30 years - until 2052. In this context, attention was paid to mechanisms for investing in the promotion of clean energy, stimulating the contribution of oil and gas companies to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement to curb global warming. The latest trends in the financing of oil and gas projects were also analyzed.

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Chinese company to build 500 MW hydropower plant in Issyk-Kul 31/03/2022

Bishkek, March 31, 2022 . / Kabar /. The Ministry of Energy of Kyrgyzstan has signed an investment agreement with a Chinese state company to build a 500-megawatt hydropower plant, Minister Doskul Bekmurzaev said during a press conference on Thursday.He noted that the facility will be located in Issyk-Kul Oblast.

"Tariffs have already been negotiated with the company. The land issues are being solved now. The Ministry of Energy is doing its best to support investors in the energy sector," the minister added.

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Center for Hydrogen Energy Established at Turkmen University at the International University of Oil and Gas 31/03/2022

Yashgeldy Kakaev, the Center for Hydrogen Energy was created, the rector of the university Bayrammyrat Atamanov said at the Oil and Gas of Turkmenistan investment

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forum (OGT-2022) on Wednesday.

The new structure was created in order to train highly qualified specialists who are versed in hydrogen energy, which is relevant in the light of the approval this year of the "Roadmap for the development of international cooperation of Turkmenistan in the field of hydrogen energy for 2022-2023," Atamanov noted.

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Supporting sustainable energy will remain priority for Turkmenistan for next 30 years 01/04/2022

Bishkek, April 1, 2022 . / Kabar / . An important direction of the economic development of Turkmenistan for the next 30 years will be the support of sustainable energy. This was stated by the Acting Minister of Finance and Economy of the country Muhammetgeldi Serdarov at the international investment forum OGT-2022, ORIENT reported.

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OGT 2022: forum results and global energy market trends 02/04/2022

The international investment forum "Oil and Gas of Turkmenistan-2022", held on March 29-30, made it possible to look into the future from the point of view of experts and market players, scientists, and diplomats. More than 400 delegates took part in discussions held in a hybrid format. 142 companies from 32 countries were represented in its program, which included several thematic sessions, one of which was the direct inclusion of Dubai Expo 2020 in the Ashgabat Dialogue.

What exactly are the opportunities and scenarios for the development of energy for Turkmenistan and the region, the continent, and the whole world? The answers to this question were formulated in the context of integrated security, supply diversification and environmental issues.

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Afghanistan's multilateral relationship with CA countries

Muzaffar Ashuriyon: Tajikistan, Always Stood for a Comprehensive Peaceful Solution to the Afghan Problem 31/03/2022

DUSHANBE, 31.03.2022 (NIAT Khovar) – Today, the delegation of Tajikistan headed by the Minister of Justice Muzaffar Ashuriyon attended the third Foreign Ministers' Meeting among the Neighboring Countries of Afghanistan in Tunxi, China, reports the Ministry of

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Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan.
In his speech, the head of the Tajik delegation noted the common interest in the development of Afghanistan as a politically stable, peaceful and developing state that respects fundamental human rights and freedoms, and is free from terrorism and drug crime.

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The 3rd meeting of the foreign ministers of Afghanistan's neighboring countries issues a joint statement 01/04/2022

Chaired by Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi the third foreign ministers' meeting among the neighboring countries of Afghanistan took place in Tunxi, east China's Anhui Province on March 31.

According to *Xinhua*, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, Tajik Minister of Justice Muzaffar Ashouriyon, Turkmen Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov and Uzbek Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade Sardor Umurzakov and attended the meeting.

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Kazakhstan participates in int'l donor conference on Afghanistan under auspices of UN 01/04/2022

NUR-SULTAN. KAZINFORM - Ambassador-at-Large of Kazakhstan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs Talgat Kaliyev participated in the international donor conference on Afghanistan held by the UN member states and a number of international organizations, dedicated to overcoming the humanitarian crisis in this country and raising funds to help the Afghan people, Kazinform has learnt from the press service of the Kazakh Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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Taliban resume work on regional energy projects 02/04/2022

Work on the TAPI (Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India) project will resume on the Afghan section of the gas pipeline after the acquisition of land for its construction, a spokesman for the Afghan Ministry of Economy said, TOLOnews reports.

– Our technical team works with the technical team of Turkmenistan. We aim to complete the land acquisition process and resume work on the project, Ahmad Wali Hakmal explained. According to him, the new Taliban government also settled the issues of

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financing the project.

Earlier, in March, the Afghan Foreign Ministry made a statement on TAPI, **announcing** that negotiations on the technical issues of the gas pipeline project had been held, and the project would resume in the spring, and work would soon resume on other joint projects.

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Cooperation between Central Asian countries

Kyrgyz Parliament speaker meets with Kazakh counterpart 28/03/2022

Bishkek, March 28, 2022 . / Kabar /. Within a Solemn Meeting of the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA CIS), dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the organization, Speaker of the Jogorku Kenesh of Kyrgyzstan Talant Mamytov met in Almaty with Chairman of the Kazakh Senate Maulen Ashimbayev.

During the meeting, the sides discussed the development of political-economic and cultural-humanitarian relations between the two countries, as well as expanding inter-parliamentary cooperation.

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Kazakh president expected to visit Kyrgyzstan in May 2022 28/03/2022

Bishkek, March 28, 2022 . / Kabar /. President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev will visit Kyrgyzstan in May 2022. This became known during a meeting of Speaker of the Jogorku Kenesh Talant Mamytov with Chairman of the Senate of the Kazakh Parliament Maulen Ashimbayev in Almaty.

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Uzbekistan signs agreements worth $7.8 billion during Tashkent Investment Forum 28/03/2022

Bishkek, March 28, 2022 . / Kabar / . The 1st Tashkent International Investment Forum ended in Tashkent. The event has become an important event in the business world, bringing together more than 2,000 participants – major investors and high-ranking guests from 56 countries, KunUz reported.

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Kyrgyzstan, Germany discuss possibilities of organizing high level

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mutual visits this year 29/03/2022

Bishkek, March 29, 2022 / Kabar /. As part of a visit to Germany, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyzstan Ruslan Kazakbaev met on March 28 in Berlin with Director of the Department for International Affairs of the Office of the Federal President of Germany Wolfgang Silbermann.

The press service of the Kyrgyz Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that the parties highly appreciated the level of development of Kyrgyz-German relations in the political sphere over the past 30 years since their establishment and exchanged views on priority areas of cooperation between the two countries in bilateral and multilateral formats.

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Akylbek Zhaparov, Abdulla Aripov discuss cooperation prospects 01/04/2022

Bishkek, April 1, 2022 . / Kabar /. Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of Kyrgyzstan Akylbek Zhaparov and Prime Minister of Uzbekistan Abdulla Aripov discussed the state and prospects of bilateral cooperation, the press service of the Cabinet reported.

Read more: here

Akylbek Zhaparov : Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan aim to bring volume of bilateral trade to USD 2B 02/04/2022

Bishkek, April 2, 2022 . / Kabar / . Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of Kyrgyzstan Akylbek Zhaparov took part in the 4th meeting of the enlarged Council of presidential envoys of Kyrgyzstan in border oblasts and heads of border regions of Uzbekistan.

In his speech, Akylbek Zhaparov noted that the meeting of the Council became a good platform for operational solution of emerging issues and urgent tasks of bilateral cooperation between the border regions, the press service of the Cabinet said.

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