Green Central Asia - Weekly Press Review featuring the Central Asian Republics and Afghanistan

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Climate Change and Environment

The UN General Assembly proclaimed July 12 as International Day for Combating Sand and Dust Storms 11/06/2023

The UN General Assembly has proclaimed July 12 as International Sand and Dust Storm Day, emphasizing the need for global and regional cooperation to combat and mitigate these phenomena.

Read more: here

Map of glaciers in Central Asia to be created by UNESCO 12/06/2023

UNESCO will create maps of glaciers and subglacial lakes in four Central Asian countries by 2025, UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay announced, TASS reports.

She called for the expansion of scientific cooperation in the countries of Central Asia, primarily on issues of transboundary water resources, speaking at the International Astana Forum.

Read more: here

Paris Agreement: within the framework of the Clean Development Mechanism, an exchange of views on cooperation issues takes place 13/06/2023

Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com) -- On 12 June, a meeting was held at the Ministry

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of Economy and Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan with representatives of American companies Gas Green Asia and Ecoeye Co Ltd.

At the event, the areas of cooperation set out in Chapter 6, Article 4 of the Paris Agreement, as well as the issues of transferring projects implemented under the CDM (Clean Development Mechanism) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to the mechanism provided for in Article 6 of the Paris Agreement were discussed with representatives of the company.

Read more: here

Kyrgyzstan plans to ban plastic bags 14/06/2023

Bishkek, **June 14, 2023. / Kabar /.** The transition from plastic bags to paper bags will be phased in Kyrgyzstan, Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers Bakyt Torobaev said.

He said that the Cabinet of Ministers is preparing an appropriate draft resolution and other regulatory legal acts.

Read more: here

Issues of expanding environmental cooperation with UNDP discussed 14/06/2023

Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com) -- Minister of Ecology Aziz Abdukhakimov held a meeting with Director of the Regional Bureau of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) for Europe and the CIS Ivana Zivkovic.

During the meeting, an exchange of views took place on the implementation of joint projects and initiatives in the field of environmental protection in the country, as well as on further strengthening cooperation in promising areas.

Read more: here

World Bank Allocates $2 Million to Support Kazakhstan Resilient Landscapes Restoration Project 15/06/2023

ASTANA – The World Bank has prepared a $2 million grant to support the Kazakhstan Resilient Landscapes Restoration Project, said World Bank Country Manager for Kazakhstan Andrei Mikhnev. International experts addressed ways to support Kazakhstan's efforts to increase resilience to the impacts of climate change during a June 13 workshop, reported the World Bank's press service on June 14.

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Regional Dialogue Opens Strong Commitment to Foster Nature-based Solutions for Resilient Landscapes in Central Asia 15/06/2023

Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com) - The regional dialogue "Scaling-up Nature-based Solutions for Resilient Landscapes in Central Asia" will be held from 15 June to 16 June in Tashkent. It will bring together international and Central Asian distinguished speakers, governmental officials, and conservation experts to address pressing challenges faced by the region's landscapes.

Read more: here

UN chief: World's collective response to climate change 'remains pitiful' 16/06/2023

TORONTO. KAZINFORM - The UN chief cautioned on Thursday that the global response to climate change «remains pitiful,» and emphasized that the world is rapidly heading towards a disaster, Kazinform cites Anadolu Agency.

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JUNE 17 – WORLD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT 16/06/2023

Two-thirds of the territory of Central Asia is arid lands. Due to the high vulnerability of the region to climate change, as well as growing anthropogenic factors, the problem of desertification is not only an environmental, but also an economic and social problem.

In order to raise public awareness of the need for efforts to combat desertification, in 1994 the United Nations declared **June 17 to be "World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought"**. On this day, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) was adopted. The main purpose of it is to create a global partnership to prevent desertification and land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought in affected areas to support poverty reduction and ensure environmental sustainability.

Read more: here

The French Development Agency shows great interest in developing the green economy network of Uzbekistan 17/06/2023

Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com) -- A video conference was held with representatives of the French development agency (The Agence Française de

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Développement, AFD).

The meeting was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change, the Ministry of Energy, the Institute for Macroeconomic and Regional Studies, the Agency for Hydrometeorological Service, the Agency for State Assets Management, and the Agency for Strategic Reforms.

Read more: here

Water resources

Resolving Water Scarcity Requires International Cooperation, Public Support and Innovations, Say Experts at AIF 12/06/2023

ASTANA – Solutions to water scarcity, a rising problem around the globe, was the focus of a panel session, Thinking Creatively About the Problem of Water Scarcity, at the Astana International Forum (AIF) on June 9, which brought together experts and thought leaders from various sectors.

Read more: here

Specialists from Central Asia studied new water treatment technologies in South Korea 13/06/2023

Specialists from 5 Central Asian countries got acquainted with advanced water treatment technologies in South Korea. As part of the project, experts representing the water sectors of their countries, including Turkmenistan, visited the city of Cheongju, the capital of North Chungcheong Province, where they visited the local water treatment plant.

Read more: here

UK experiencing 'serious' water supply issues, warn officials 17/06/2023

BIRMINGHAM. KAZINFORM The UK has decided to impose a hosepipe and sprinkler ban on residents of Kent and Sussex, officials announced on Friday.

South East Water said 4,000 customers are without water or have been experiencing low pressure since Monday due to supply issues. The water company said it had no other choice after drinking water demand reached «record levels» in June, similar to last year's drought, Anadolu Agency reports.

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Energy sector

800 delegates from 20 countries will gather the Ashgabat forum on environmental aspects of the development of the fuel and energy sector 12/06/2023

The International Scientific Conference "Energy Prospects, New Technologies and environmental aspects of the development of hydrocarbon deposits" will be held on May 15 and will bring together more than 800 delegates from 20 countries in Ashgabat.

Read more: here

Uzbekistan and Tajikistan launched the construction of two hydroelectric power plants on the Zarafshan River 14/06/2023

Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com) -- Uzbekistan and Tajikistan have begun the first stage of construction of two hydroelectric power stations on the Zarafshan River, RIA Novosti reports.

“Tajikistan and Uzbekistan have started the first stage of construction of two HPPs on the Zerafshan River. The first stage is geological exploration and survey work, which will last at least three months,” said Daler Juma, Minister of Energy and Water Resources of Tajikistan.

Read more: here

Ashgabat hosts events on the eve of the forum on environmental aspects of the development of the fuel and energy sector 14/06/2023

On June 14, two pre-conference events are taking place within the framework of the scientific and practical conference "Energy prospects, new technologies and environmental aspects of the development of hydrocarbon deposits", the organizers of the forum report.

Read more: here

Kyrgyzstan imported third of electricity it consumes 15/06/2023

Kyrgyzstan received 67.8 million kWh of electricity in April 2023 from Russia through the territory of Kazakhstan.

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Heat caused increase in electricity consumption in Uzbekistan by 15%

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15/06/2023

Asharp increase in electricity consumption has been noticed in Uzbekistan. In one day on June 13, 231.7 million kWh of electricity was consumed. A year ago, 202 million kWh of electricity was used on the same day. The growth rate was 14.7%. These figures are a record for June, according to the portal Podrobno.uz.

Read more: here

A conference dedicated to the environmental aspects of the fuel and energy sector has opened in Ashgabat 15/06/2023

A scientific and practical conference "Energy prospects, new technologies and environmental aspects of the development of hydrocarbon deposits" has begun at the Yagshygeldi Kakayev International University of Oil and Gas in Ashgabat, ORIENT correspondent reports.

The event gathered more than 800 delegates from 20 countries. They will discuss the application of new technologies in the fuel and energy sector, the reduction of methane and CO_2 emissions from hydrocarbon production, as well as the possibility of additional environmental financing and initiatives to promote clean energy.

Read more: here

Turkmenistan and Pakistan discussed the implementation of joint projects in energy and communications 16/06/2023

The Coordinator of the Prime Minister of Pakistan for Trade and Industry Rana Ihsan Afzal Khan as part of a business delegation visited the Embassy of Turkmenistan in Islamabad and held a meeting with the Ambassador of Turkmenistan A.Movlamov.

Read more: here

AIIB and IsDB allocate 325 million euros for the construction of a power plant in the Surkhandarya region 16/06/2023

Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com) -- The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) provided loans without a state guarantee in the amount of 325 million euros for the construction of a power plant in Surkhandarya region.

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Afghanistan's multilateral relationship with CA countries

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Afghan ambassador to Tajikistan reacts to reports of Taliban setting fire to his house in Panjshir 13/06/2023

Media reports say the house of Afghanistan's Ambassador to Tajikistan, Mohammad Zahir Aghbar, has been burned down by the Taliban in the Rukhin district of Afghanistan's Panjshir province.

Read more: here

Turkmenistan is ready to cooperate with Afghanistan in the agricultural sector 14/06/2023

Turkmenistan's Ambassador to Afghanistan Hoja Ovezov discussed issues of bilateral cooperation between Ashgabat and Kabul in the agricultural sector with Afghan Acting Minister of Agriculture Mavlavi Ataullah Omari, Bakhtar news reports.

The head of the Afghan Ministry said that the government of his country is interested in developing cooperation in the field of agriculture and horticulture with Turkmenistan.

Read more: here

Special Representative of the President of Uzbekistan for Afghanistan met with the Ambassador of Turkiye 15/06/2023

Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com) -- On 15 June 2023, Special Representative of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Afghanistan Ismatulla Irgashev met with Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Turkiye to Uzbekistan Olgan Bekar.

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Cooperation between Central Asian countries

The President of Turkmenistan sent condolences to the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan 11/06/2023

President Serdar Berdimuhamedov sent deep condolences to the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, in connection with the large-scale forest fires that broke out in the Abai region of the country and caused human victims.

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Former President of Kyrgyzstan sentenced to additional 10 years in

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another case 12/06/2023

The Pervomaisky District Court of Bishkek sentenced former President of Kyrgyzstan Kurmanbek Bakiyev to a total of 30 years in prison in a strict regime colony with confiscation of property on the 2013 Kumtor case, the Bishkek District Court said in a press release.

Read more: here

Kazakhstan declares Day of National Mourning for wildfire victims June 12 12/06/2023

ASTANA. KAZINFORM Kazakhstan declared the Day of National Mourning for the Abai region wildfire victims on June 12, Kazinform reports.

The President of Kazakhstan, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, offered his condolences to the families and close of the foresters who died in the devastating wildfires in the Semei ormany nature reserve.

Read more: here

Uzbekistan becomes leader of economic growth in Europe and Central Asia 12/06/2023

GDP growth among 23 economies in Europe and Central Asian region in 2023 will reach maximum values in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan - 5.1% and 6.5%, respectively, Repost.uz reports.

Overall, economic growth in Europe and Central Asian region will increase to 1.4% in 2023, according to a World Bank report.

Read more: here

Uzbekistan and Türkiye offer assistance to Kazakhstan in extinguishing fire 13/06/2023

Uzbekistan and Turkiye expressed their readiness to help Kazakhstan with extinguishing a large forest fire in the Abai region. This was announced at a briefing by the official representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, Aibek Smadiyarov, Zakon.kz reports.

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New round of negotiations between local authorities of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan took place in Batken 14/06/2023

Plenipotentiary Representative of the President in the Batken region Abdikarim Alimbaev met with the chairman of the executive power of the Sughd region of Tajikistan Radzhobboy Ahmadzoda. This was reported by the press service of the Administration of the Batken region of Kyrgyzstan.

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EU-Central Asia high-level political and security dialogue meeting makes another step towards closer ties 14/06/2023

ASTANA. KAZINFORM - The tenth anniversary meeting of the Central Asia-European Union High-level Political and Security Dialogue (HLPSD) took place in the capital of Kazakhstan. Participants agreed that further dynamic development of interregional cooperation would serve mutual interests, Kazinform refers to the press service of the Kazakh MFA.

Read more: here

China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway beneficial for Russia 14/06/2023

It is beneficial for Russia that the new China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway line be launched as soon as possible. Due to it, it will be possible to unload the Trans-Siberian Railway, which is experiencing problems, Sergey Pavlov, deputy director general of the Russian Railways (RZD) said, Podrobno.uz reports.

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Issues of Turkmen-Tajik partnership were discussed 15/06/2023

Today, on June 15, 2023, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan Rashid Meredov met with the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Tajikistan to Turkmenistan Farrukh Homiddin Sharifzoda, who is completing his diplomatic mission in our country.

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Meeting of Turkmen and Kyrgyz entrepreneurs was held in Ashgabat 16/06/2023

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A roundtable meeting was held between the Turkmen and Kyrgyz entrepreneurs in the capital's Chamber of Commerce and Industry. This is reported by the IIC. https://turkmenistaninfo.gov.tm/news/963

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Kazakhstan's role in developing EU-Central Asia cooperation discussed 17/06/2023

BRUSSELS. KAZINFORM The current state and prospects for strengthening the cooperation between Central Asia and European Union and Kazakhstan's contribution to this engagement was discussed in the EU headquarters.

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