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

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Climate Change and Environment

Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan join the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa

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and Eurasia 12/02/2024

Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com) – Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan have joined the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia.

The signing ceremony took place during the CMS COP14 session "Transboundary and regional cooperation on the conservation of migratory species in Central Asia."

Read more: here

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONAL CLIMATE NETWORK OF UZBEKISTAN DISCUSSED IN CAREC 13/02/2024

The first training on the development of the National Climate Network of Uzbekistan took place in the office of the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) in the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Reportedly, the Climate Network (CN) of Uzbekistan is an informal voluntary association of representatives of non-governmental non-commercial organizations and civil society institutions established to exchange information and discuss environmental and climate policies and the development of public climate action.

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Tajikistan and the Global Environment Facility Will Develop Cooperation 14/02/2024

DUSHANBE, 14.02.2024 (NIAT Khovar) – On the sidelines of the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP14), on February 12, the Chairman of the Committee for Environmental Protection of Tajikistan Bahodur Sheralizoda met with the Director of the Global Environment Facility Carlos Manuel Rodriguez.

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The Global Partnership for Environmental Connectivity project has been launched in Uzbekistan 14/02/2024

Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com) -- As part of the CMS COP14, held in Samarkand, an event was held dedicated to the launch of a new project of the Global Partnership for

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Environmental Connectivity (GPEC).

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The GEF will allocate US$26 million in grants to strengthen cooperation between Central Asian countries in the field of ecosystem restoration 14/02/2024

Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com) -- On 13 February, Minister of Ecology, Environmental Protection, and Climate Change, Aziz Abdukhakimov, met with the head of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Carlos Rodriguez.

The Minister congratulated the head of the GEF on successfully holding the 66th meeting of the Global Environment Facility Council in Washington (USA) in early February this year and expressed appreciation for the cooperation in developing regional projects.

Read more: here

Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan to cooperate in preservation of Ustyurt Plateau wildlife 14/02/2024

On the sidelines of the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (COP14) in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan signed a memorandum of cooperation in the field of preserving the wildlife of the Ustyurt Plateau, Kazinform News Agency correspondent reports.

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First Green University opened in Uzbekistan 14/02/2024

Yzbekistan has opened its first Central Asian Green University dedicated to environmental studies and climate change, the Ministry of Ecology of Uzbekistan announsed.

Located in the Tashkent region, the university is a state higher education institution organized on the principle of the Hub-and-Spoke model.

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30 artificial glaciers created in Kyrgyzstan 15/02/2024

Kyrgyzstan plans to construct four artificial ice reservoirs in the Batken and Leilek districts of the Batken regio in 2024.

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According to the data from the Association "Kyrgyz Jaiyty," 30 artificial ice reservoirs have been created in various regions of the country.

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LAKE ZHYLTYRBAS IS INCLUDED IN THE LIST OF WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE 15/02/2024

Lake Zhyltyrbas on the territory of the Republic of Karakalpakstan is included in the list of wetlands of international importance protected by the Ramsar Convention. This lake is the fifth natural heritage site from Uzbekistan included in the Ramsar list.

Now the total number of wetlands of international importance in Uzbekistan has reached five, and the area of these territories is 674.4 thousand hectares. These are the Dengizkul lakes (2001), the Arnasai lake system (2008), the Tudakul and Kuymazar reservoirs (2020), the unique Sudochie lake system (2023), as well as Lake Zhyltyrbas (2024).

Read more: here

Tajikistan and Uzbekistan Discuss the Creation of Transboundary Protected Areas 15/02/2024

DUSHANBE, 15.02.2024 (NIAT Khovar) – On the sidelines of the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP14), on February 13, the Chairman of the Committee for Environmental Protection of Tajikistan Bahodur Sheralizoda met with the Minister of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change of Uzbekistan Aziz Abdukhakimov.

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Measures to reduce methane emissions in Central Asia will be considered in Geneva as part of the GFM 2024 15/02/2024

The upcoming Global Methane Forum in Geneva in March this year and the holding of a round table within its framework to discuss measures to reduce methane emissions in Central Asia were discussed at a meeting on Thursday by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan Mahri Bashimova and Director of the Sustainable Energy Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Dario Liguti.

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UK Government establishes int'l fund to address climate change in Central Asia 16/02/2024

Kazakh Water Resources and Irrigation Minister Nurzhan Nurzhigitov met with the British delegation led by Ambassador to Kazakhstan Kathy Leach, Kazinform News Agency learnt from the Ministry's press service.

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Water resources

Tajikistan Receives $2.7 Billion in Foreign Investment in 2023 14/02/2024

DUSHANBE, 14.02.2024 (NIAT Khovar) – In 2023, Tajikistan received $2.7 billion of foreign capital, which is $113.6 million, or 4.4 percent, more than in 2022. It was stated on February 13 by the Chairman of the State Committee for Investments and State Property Management Sulton Rahimzoda during a press conference.

Read more: here

Uzbekistan seeks to introduce new technologies to improve irrigation of agricultural lands 14/02/2024

CABAR.asia says Uzbekistan is striving to introduce new technologies for irrigating farmland by providing subsidies and tax incentives to farmers. However, many farmers still use old irrigation methods of watering for fear of failure.

Read more: here

Kazakh farmers to pay more for water overuse 15/02/2024

Nurzhan Nurzhigitov, Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation, proposes to raise tariffs for agricultural producers for overuse of irrigation water by 20% or 50%. He said it today at a roundtable meeting in the Majilis, Kazinform News Agency reports.

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Kazakhstan looking for efficient methods of water resources utilization in Hungary 15/02/2024

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Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Hungary Zhanibek Abdrashov visited the owned state company “Budapest Sewage Works” to establish cooperation with the Hungarian side in the water sector, Kazinform News Agency has learnt from the press service of the Kazakh Foreign Ministry.

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The President of Turkmenistan pointed out the importance of rational use of water in agriculture 16/02/2024

At a meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers on Friday, President Serdar Berdimuhamedov, after hearing the report of Deputy Prime Minister for Agriculture Tangryguly Atahalliyev on the results of the work of the supervised departments in January, again raised the topic of the importance of rational use of water in agriculture. In this context, the head of state pointed out to the Deputy Prime Minister the tasks of modernizing water supply systems.

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Water security issues discussed at Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers 16/02/2024

Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Uzbekistan Beibut Atamkulov visited one of the oldest universities in Uzbekistan, the Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers (TIIAME), where he met with Rector Bahodir Mirzayev, faculty and students, the press service of the Kazakh Foreign Ministry reported.

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Energy sector

The first 2,000 Green Energy certificates were issued for electricity produced from renewable energy sources 13/02/2024

Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com) -- As part of the phased implementation of the “Green Energy” certificate system confirming the use of renewable energy sources for electricity production, the first generating facilities were registered in Uzbekistan.

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Most likely external investors of the Rogun HPP identified in Tajikistan

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15/02/2024

The head of the Committee for Investments and State Property Management of Tajikistan, Sultan Rahimzoda, identified the government's development partners interested in financing the completion of the Rogun Hydroelectric Power Station (HPS), Asia Plus reports.

He named the following organizations as such partners: the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, the OPEC Fund, and the Saudi Development Fund.

Read more: here

Afghanistan's multilateral relationship with CA countries

Turkmenistan and Afghanistan discussed financial, trade and tax issues 14/02/2024

In the Ministry of Finance of Afghanistan, the first round of negotiations took place between representatives of the financial sectors of Afghanistan and Turkmenistan, Eurasia today reports.

Read more: here

Afghanistan and Turkmenistan negotiates economic cooperation 16/02/2024

Afghanistan and Turkmenistan have reached a preliminary agreement on taxation aimed at increasing investments, developing cooperation, and optimizing national and international trade, reports Orient.

According to the Afghan Ministry of Finance, the initial consultations between the department and the Turkmenistan delegation took place in Kabul, and another meeting of high-ranking representatives of tax authorities from both countries will be held in the near future.

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Afghan map: heads of Security Councils of 8 countries discuss security in region in Bishkek 16/02/2024

President of Kyrgyzstan, Sadyr Japarov, met with representatives from Kyrgyzstan, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, China, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan in Bishkek, who participated

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in the sixth meeting of the regional dialogue of Security Council Secretaries/Advisors on Afghanistan, the press service of the President of Kyrgyzstan reports.

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Tajikistan's position towards Afghanistan remains unchanged 16/02/2024

Tajikistan's principled and constructive position towards Afghanistan, based on supporting the creation of an inclusive government with the participation of representatives of all nationalities and political groups in Afghanistan, drawing the attention and actions of the international community to address the tragic situation in the country, and adopting an effective and non-discriminatory approach to counterterrorism, remains unchanged. This was announced during a press conference by the head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan, Sirojiddin Muhriddin, Avesta reports.

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Cooperation between Central Asian countries

Tashkent Hosts the Tajik-Uzbek Ministerial Political Consultations

DUSHANBE, 14.02.2024 (NIAT Khovar) – On February 13, the next round of Tajik-Uzbek political consultations took place in Tashkent.
The delegations of the parties were headed by the Deputy Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan Sodik Imomi and Rakhmatulla Nurimbetov.

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Paths to stability in Central Asia in current geopolitical conditions - round table discussion 15/02/2024

International terrorism and the Afghan factor, water problems, and the escalating confrontation between global power centers – all these factors pose a serious threat to the security and stability of Central Asia.

According to experts, the only way to overcome the current threats in the region is through cooperation with each other, as well as with strategic partners and allies, primarily within such regional alliances as the CSTO and SCO. This was discussed during a roundtable titled "Threats and Risks of 2024: Who Can Guarantee Stability in Central Asia amid Geopolitical Turbulence," *organized by the Center for Expert Initiatives "Oy Ordo."*

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A new border crossing point will open between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan 15/02/2024

Construction of a new border crossing point «Uchkurgon» has begun in Uchkurgan district of Namangan region (Uzbekistan), which will connect the republic with Kyrgyzstan. This is reported by the National News Agency of Uzbekistan.

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