

Tajikistan Business Enabling Environment/ SME Policy Project Press Review - Issue #44

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IFC PRESS REVIEW

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BY NBT'S RULING CENTRAL ASIAN BANK LIQUIDATED

DUSHANBE, June 28, Asia-Plus - Tajik-Cypriot JV, The Central Asian Bank (CAB), has been self-liquidated following a ruling issued by the Board of the National Bank of Tajikistan (NBT) on June 19, 2007, Asia-Plus has learned from the source at Tajik central bank.

According to the source, CAB has been at the stage of liquidation since 2004 already and the liquidation commission worked at the bank till lately.

"The liquidation of bank is quite a labor-consuming process and during the liquidation period, a bank should fulfill its obligations on paying money to its customers," said the source, "And only after that, the central bank's board issues ruling on self-liquidation of bank."

The source added that banks are liquidated for failing to comply with the National Bank of Tajikistan's requirements, in particular minimum capital requirements, which have been revised upwards to \$5 million.

According to Tajik central bank, four other banks in Tajikistan, including SomonBank, East-Credit-Bank, Ayom Bank, and Olimp Bank – are at the stage of liquidation. Their banking licenses were revoked last year already.

At present nine banks operate in Tajikistan: AgroInvestBank, OryonBank, SohibkorBank, Bank Eskhata, Amonat-Bank (Tajik savings bank), TojikSodirotBank (TSB), Tajikistan Development Bank (TDB), TajPromBank and The First Microfinance Bank of Tajikistan (FMFB-T). Additionally, a branch of Iran's Tejarat Bank and an office of Kazakhstan's TuranAlemBank also function in the country.

MORE THAN 80,000 TAJIK LABOR MIGRANTS LEGALIZED IN RUSSIA, SAYS MOI MIGRATION SERVICE

DUSHANBE, June 28, Asia-Plus - More than 80,000 Tajik nationals have to date been officially allowed to work in the Russian Federation, Asia-Plus has learned at the migration service of the Ministry of Interior (Moi).

The source at the Moi migration service said that Vyacheslav Postavnin, the deputy director of Russia's Federal Migration Service, announced this at a meeting with the Moi migration service chief Ramazon Rahimov in Dushanbe on June 22.

"One of major topics of the meeting was the issue of amnestying more than 50,000 Tajik citizens who had been deported from Russia over the last three years," said the source, "Mr. Postavnin proposed to raise this issue at the next meeting of Tajik and Russian heads of state of Tajikistan that will be held in Dushanbe in the autumn this year."

Tajik nationals deported from Russia for violating Russia's registration procedure requirements (labor migrants are to register within three days of their arrival in Russia) are barred from returning to Russia for five years.

The source added that the two had also discussed issues related to holding of Tajik nationals in temporary isolation centers for foreign citizens in Moscow and other Russian citizens.

"Besides, Rahimov also told Postavnin that the Tajik migration service receives many complaints from Tajik labor migrants about illegal actions of some officers from the Russian law enforcement agencies," the source said, adding that Postavnin promised that they will measures to tackle the problem.

For his part, Postavnin suggested that Tajikistan's state migration should provide assistance to Tajik labor migrants with getting medical certificates, insurance policy, and foreign passports for working in Russia, and organize registration of labor migrant in the close cooperation with Russia's Migration Service, providing exchange of data via Internet.

We will recall that Tajikistan has sought larger quota for Migrants to Russia. Tajik Labor Minister told and Prime Minister Oqil Oqilov told a news conference in Dushanbe on January 22, 2007 that they had dispatched a formal request to Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov seeking the relaxation of restrictions imposed by Russia on migrant workers from Tajikistan. The Tajik government is seeking an increase in the number of work permits for Tajik nationals, and has requested that Russia allow some 200,000 additional Tajik laborers beyond the current limit of 600,000 Tajiks allowed to work in Russia each year. Russia has imposed far stricter immigration regulations this year.

CENTRAL ASIAN EDUCATION AUTHORITIES GATHER IN KAZAKH CAPITAL TO DISCUSS COOPERATION ISSUES

DUSHANBE, June 28, Asia-Plus - The Sixth four-day Central Asian Education Forum opened in the Kazakh capital city of Astana on June 27, according to the ministry of education (MoE).

The forum, being held under the motto of "Education for All", has brought together senior representatives from education systems of all five Central Asia's states, as well as experts from UNSECO, UNICEF, UNDP, the World Bank and other international organizations.

The source at a MoE said that Tajikistan is represented at the forum by Deputy Education Minister, Irina Karimova.

"The forum is discussing issues related to further expansion of cooperation between the Central Asia countries in the field of education and hearing reports on state of education sectors in the countries of the region," the source said, noting that the forum participants are also scheduled to visit a number of educational facilities in Kazakhstan.

The forum will last till June 30.

TAJIK PRESIDENT, EU SPECIAL ENVOY TO CENTRAL ASIA DISCUSS COOPERATION ISSUES

DUSHANBE, June 26, Asia-Plus - On Monday June 25, President Emomali Rahmon met with visiting European Union Special Representative to Central Asia Pierre Morel.

According to presidential press service, their talks focused on state and prospects of further expansion of cooperation between Tajikistan and the European Union.

In the course of the talks Mr. Morel noted that Tajikistan had made a considerable progress in strengthening of peace, stability, creation of favorable conditions for economic development and establishment of civil society, presidential press service said.

The EU special envoy to Central Asia also noted that work on the new strategy of the European Union strategy for Central Asia is nearing completion and it will be signed in the presence of the Central Asian foreign ministers before the end of the current month, according to presidential press service.

TEN YEARS OF PEACE-BUILDING IN TAJIKISTAN FOCUS OF OSCE MAGAZINE

DUSHANBE, June 26, Asia-Plus - OSCE website - Tajikistan's impressive record in building peace and democratic institutions over the past decade, with the support of the OSCE and other international partners, is the focus of the latest issue of the OSCE Magazine.

Ten years ago this month, one of the most tragic conflicts in Central Asia ended when Tajik authorities and the United Tajik Opposition signed the "General Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and National Reconciliation". Lasting from 1992 to 1997, Tajikistan's civil war led to an estimated 100,000 deaths.

"The signing of the accord in Moscow on 27 June 1997 after 16 rounds of negotiations over three years was a major unifying act and truly one of the greatest moments in our history," writes Nuriddin T. Shamsov, Tajikistan's Ambassador to the OSCE, in a message introducing the Magazine.

"The OSCE was a guarantor of our Peace Agreement, and its advice, assistance and commitment made it possible for us to move on from post-conflict rehabilitation to sustainable peace." Today, the OSCE presence in Tajikistan is the Organization's longest-running operation in Central Asia and the largest in terms of staff, most of whom are Tajik nationals.

In a series of articles, OSCE experts share behind-the-scenes accounts of activities aimed at managing Tajikistan's porous borders with Afghanistan and China in the Pamir Mountains, ridding the country of thousands of anti-personnel mines, and destroying or ensuring the safe storage of small arms, light weapons and conventional ammunition.

Reflecting the OSCE's countrywide engagement, the Magazine carries contributions from OSCE staff who face special challenges in their day-to-day work in some of Tajikistan's most isolated areas. An article takes a close look at women as heads of households and victims of domestic violence and how they are being given a new lease on life by a large network of OSCE-supported women's resource centres.

As part of its special coverage on Tajikistan, the Magazine examines the relationship between Central Asia and the OSCE, including the significance of the visit of the Spanish Chairman-in-Office to all five Central Asian countries, a regional co-operation project to improve water management and an ambitious programme to boost the transport and trading systems in landlocked countries.

OSCE CENTER IN DUSHANBE HOLDS MEETING TO STRENGTHEN ANTI-CORRUPTION EFFORTS

DUSHANBE, June 25, Asia-Plus - On Saturday June 23, OSCE Center in Dushanbe held a meeting to strengthen anti-corruption efforts.

The meeting discussed issues how to strengthen Tajikistan's efforts to combat and prevent corruption.

Aleksandr Sodiqov, Senior Press and Public Information Assistant, the OSCE Center in Dushanbe, said that participants had discussed anti-corruption legislation and mechanisms, as well as preventive measures and the prosecution of corruption-related crimes.

"The OSCE sees the struggle against corruption as an integral part of its work to support security and stability in its participating states, as well as promoting economic well-being through a healthy business and investment climate," said Bess Brown, Economic Officer of the OSCE Center.

She added that the Center plans to support a new state agency that promotes financial control and fights corruption as it develops a program to work effectively.

The meeting, which was part of an OSCE-supported project to develop dialogue between the authorities and civil society, brought together some 70 government officials, representatives of political parties, media and national minorities and members of international and national non-governmental organizations, Sodiqov said.

US COMPANY TO INVEST \$10 MILLION IN PROSPECTING FOR NEW GAS FIELDS IN KHATLON

KULOBO, June 25, Asia-Plus - Issues related to exploration of reserves of new gas fields in the east of Khatlon province were major topics of a June 25 meeting of Kulob mayor Homid Abdulloyev with visiting top manager of US Ketri (phonetically spelled) Petroleum David Robertson.

Suhrobsho Farrukhsho, a spokesman for the Kulob mayor, said that the mentioned company intends to invest 10 million US dollars in prospecting for new gas fields and rehabilitating the existing gas fields in the Danghara, Baljuvon, Farkhor and Vose districts.

According to him, the main work will start in August with repairing borehole # 20 at the Khoja Sartez deposit in Vose.

Besides, the sides also considered the possibility of investment by this company in construction of small thermal electric power station running on natural gas, the spokesman said.



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Federal Department of Economic Affairs FDEA
State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO

With best wishes,
Tajikistan SME Public Relations/Communication Department

