

# Tajikistan Business Enabling Environment/ SME Policy Project Press Review - Issue #30

Dushanbe, 16 March 2007

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1. News directly connected to SME Project

**LAW OF THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN**

*“Sadoi Mardum”, No.28-29, 13 March 2007*

**LAW OF THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN  
“On Adoption and Introduction of Code on Administrative Procedures”**

**Article 1. Code Adoption**

To adopt the Code on Administrative Procedures.

**Article 2. Code Effectiveness**

The given Code will become effective starting from 1 May 2007.

**President  
Republic of Tajikistan**

**E.Rakhmonov  
Dushanbe, 5 March 2007, No.232**

*“Sadoi Mardum”, No.28-29, 13 March 2007*

**LAW OF THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN  
‘On Trade and Service Marks’**

**Article 41.** The Law on Trade marks as of 1992, No.4 is considered as expired.

**Article 42.** Current Law will become effective after the official publishing.

**President  
Republic of Tajikistan**

**E.Rakhmonov  
Dushanbe, 5 March 2007, No.234**

*“Sadoi Mardum”, No.30-31, 15 March 2007*

**LAW OF THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN  
“On Joint –Stock Companies”**

**Article 104.** The Law of RT as of 23 December 1991 ‘On Joint-stock companies’ is considered as expired.

**Article 105.** Current Law will become effective after the official publishing.

**President  
Republic of Tajikistan**

**E.Rakhmonov  
Dushanbe, 5 March 2007, No.237**

## 2. News interesting for Business Environment

### TAJIKISTAN WILL HAVE ITS OWN BAR-CODE

**Dushanbe, “Vecherny Dushanbe”, No.11 (486), 15 March 2007.** Consumers Union of Tajikistan and Non-commercial Union GS1-Tajikistan started activity on establishment and development of bar-code system for goods under joint financial support of Central Asia ‘Fund Eurasia’ and International Trade Center.

Preliminary survey conducted under the project showed that some of our entrepreneurs are using of bar-codes at their goods. However, the bar-codes are only decoration part of packing ordered in China and even entrepreneurs do not know what do the bar-codes mean, said Bahadur Habibov, Chairman of Consumers Union and Project Director.

More than \$18,000 USD are allocated by donors to the Consumers Union under the Program ‘Open Doors’ for training of staff in GS-1 and development of bar-codes for Tajik products and goods. Also business environment actions will be initiated for involving of entrepreneurs to this process.

Association GS1 (from Global Standard -1) unifies more than 115 countries of single goods numeration system. ‘To be a member of this world organization has a profit for Tajikistan from all sides: from one side, we will commit one more requirement to enter World Trade Organization, and from other side this will allow Tajik entrepreneurs to enter foreign market and protect their products, noted Nabisher Juraev, Fund Eurasia specialist.

Involving of entrepreneurs to the project is aimed to make GS- Tajikistan organization more sustainable.

First of all, this is needed for the entrepreneurs as through the bar-code producers can follow the status of their goods, said Habibov.

### BUNDESTAG DELEGATION CONCLUDES ITS VISIT TO TAJIKISTAN BY MEETING IN GERMAN HOUSE IN DUSHANBE

**Dushanbe, March 16, Asia-Plus.** A delegation of Germany’s Bundestag concludes its visit to Tajikistan by a meeting that will be held in the German House in Dushanbe today afternoon.

According to the German Embassy in Dushanbe, Tajik parliamentarians and representatives for European international organizations active in Tajikistan have been invited to this meeting. Stands displaying achievements of development activities of German organizations like the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), the German Development Service (DED) and other non-government actors (e.g. German Agro Action or political foundations) in Tajikistan have been installed in the German House in Dushanbe.

KfW, GTZ, DED and the DAAD jointly settled under one roof in the German House in Dushanbe, which was opened in June 2005.

As one of the main donors of Tajikistan, Germany actively supports development processes in the country to combat poverty in the country and to promote security and stability in the region. In this framework, Germany supports the democratization process, the rule of law and civil competition. Additionally, the main objectives of the German engagement are the support for socially and ecologically sound reforms of the economy as well as the assurance of basic social services. Some 50 different German state-run and non-government organizations currently operate in Tajikistan.

Germany has provided assistance to Tajikistan in an amount of more than 100 million euros since 1992, when diplomatic relations between the two countries were established.

### NINE NEWSPAPERS NOT BROUGHT OUT TODAY BECAUSE OF POWER SHORTAGES

**Dushanbe, March 16, Asia-Plus.** The next editions of a number of Dushanbe newspapers have not been brought out following strict power limitations introduced in some areas of Dushanbe.

According to the state-run printer Sharqi Ozod, which is also situated in the area affected by the introduced electricity supplies restrictions, said that the next editions of the following newspapers were not published in time: Jumhuriyat (Tajik-language official paper of the government); Khalq Ovozi (Uzbek-language official paper of the government); Millat and supplement to it Beduni Siyosat (Out of Politics); Boju Khiroj (official paper of the tax com-

mittee); Nigoh; Zamondosh (Uzbek-language independent weekly); Omuzgor and Bomdod (the Qurghon Teppa independent weekly).

According to the source, the editions were published only yesterday evening.

We will recall that power limitations were imposed on some areas of the Tajik capital on March 14.

## **JV APRELEVKA TO RESUME DEVELOPMENT OF THE IKKIJELON DEPOSIT**

**Dushanbe, March 15, Asia-Plus.** Tajik-Canadian gold mining joint venture Aprelevka intends to have resumed mining and processing of ores at the Ikkijelon deposit in northern Tajikistan this year, the JV financial director Mirzo Sharipov said.

According to him, the company is currently engaged in mining and processing of ores at Aprelevka, Kyzyl-Cheku, Burgunda, and other small deposits in the Sughd province.

Sharipov said that a decision to resume development of the Ikkijelon deposit had been made after exploring its gold and silver reserves. "The company, through development of this deposit, intends to increase production of precious metals by 5 percent and increase the production of gold to 500 kilograms per year," the company official said, noting that Aprelevka last year produced 485 kilograms of gold.

Azim Ibrohim, the head of Tajikistan's Main Geology Directorate, said in an interview with Asia-Plus that mining of ores at the Ikkijelon deposit had started in the Soviet time already. The mining of the deposit was suspended in the early Nineties, according to him.

According to specialists from the Tajik geology directorate, the gold and silver reserves of the Ikkijelon deposit are estimated at 3.5 tons and 7.5 tons respectively.

The Tajik-Canadian gold-mining joint venture Aprelevka was established in the Sughd province of Tajikistan in 1995. Dore alloy is the finished product of this enterprise. Tajikistan owns 51 percent of the shares and the Canadian company Gulf International Minerals assumes the 49% ownership interest in the joint-stock company Aprelevka. 60 percent of the company's product goes to replenishing Tajikistan's golden reserves.

The last year's modernization of the JV gold-extracting factory has enabled the company to increase its annual productivity from 180,000 tons of ore to 300,000 tons.

Tajikistan is rich in mineral deposits. According to the Ministry of Energy and Industries (MoEI), Tajikistan has 28 known gold deposits containing an estimated 429.3 tons of gold. The country produces just over 3 t of gold each year, most of which comes from the Jilau deposit operated by the Zeravshan Gold Company (ZGC), which is a joint venture with Avocet Mining PLC. The third gold producer is JV Darvaz that produces gold from its alluvial operation at the Yakhsuo deposit, located in Khatlon province in southern Tajikistan. It reportedly has proven reserves of around 25 tons of gold. As far as silver deposits are concerned, the total silver reserves in Tajikistan are estimated at 60,000 tons.

## **TAJIKISTAN INTRODUCES RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTS OF POULTRY**

**Dushanbe, March 15, Asia-Plus.** Tajikistan has introduced restrictions on imports of chickens and other birds and poultry from the countries, where an outbreak of bird flu was registered, Tajik veterinary service chief Mullojon Amirbekov said.

According to him, these measures have been introduced to help prevent the spread of bird flu in the country.

"Since the beginning of the month, the country's veterinary service jointly with Tajik customs officers has tightened border control of imports of chickens and other birds," said Amirbekov, "Restrictions has been effective since March 1 and may possibly last through April."

In the meantime, according to the Tajik customs service, veterinary and customs control will pay a special attention to poultry coming from Russia, where the outbreak of avian influenza was registered recently.

"Besides Russia and some CIS states, Turkey, Japan, China, Thailand, Iran and Pakistan have also been included on a "blacklist," a source at the customs service said.

According to the veterinary service, Tajikistan last year imported 6,840 tons of chicken hams, 2,2349,6 tons of chicken sausages, 3,736 tons of chicken forcemeat, and 930 tons of chicken meat. The main trading partners to Tajikistan imports of chicken products were the United States, Canada, Iran and Russia.

In the meantime, Russia's food safety watchdog Rosselkhoznadzor claims that Tajikistan's restriction measures are irrational, as they include poultry from all Russian territory and not from those regions where bird flu cases have been registered. RIA Novosti quoted the Aleskey Aleskeyenko, a spokesman for Rosselkhoznadzor, as saying that it is highly unusual because Russia is a large country, and the restrictions have embraced the entire country, which is not quite rational. He also said the imposed restrictions will not affect Russia, as the country is not a large poultry exporter.

## **JAPAN SUPPORTS IMPROVEMENT OF SOCIAL SECTOR IN TAJIKISTAN THROUGH GRANT PACKAGE TOTALING SOME \$613,000**

**Dushanbe, March 15, Asia-Plus.** On March 14, the Embassy of Japan in Dushanbe signed a number of grant-contracts of the Grant Assistance for Grass Roots Human Security Projects of the Government of Japan and extended the grants of totaling some \$613,000 to local public associations and organizations.

The Government of Japan, in particular, provides grants in an amount of \$90,070 each to support the project for enhancing activity of the training and agriculture development center in the Turbat jamoat of Hissor and the projects for construction and further support of activity the training and agriculture development centers in Tavildara, Muminobod and Tojikobod districts.

Besides, the grant of 81,730 is extended to support the project for providing the central hospital of the main border directorate of the State Committee for National Security with medical equipment.

The Government of Japan, through the grant of \$86,634, supports the similar project for the hospital of the Committee for Emergency Situations.

The grant of \$84,314 is extended to support the project aimed at rehabilitation of school # 7 in the northern district of Isfara.

Besides, the grant of \$84,500 is extended to the youth public association Nasimi Kouhsor for implementing the project to renovate the building of the Committee on Youth, Sports and Tourism under the Government of Tajikistan.

Hiroshi Takahashi, Chargé d'Affaires, the Embassy of Japan in Dushanbe, and heads of districts, where the projects will be implemented, inked the grant-contracts.

Under the Grant Assistance for Grass Roots Human Security Projects, the Government of Japan has extended the total grant of US\$12.3 million to more some 200 projects to support a variety of humanitarian and development activities of local governments, local and international NGOs in Tajikistan since 1996.

## **WATER LEVEL IN RESERVOIR OF NORAK HPS DECLINES BELOW CRITICAL POINT**

**Dushanbe, March 14, Asia-Plus.** The water level in the reservoir powering the Norak hydroelectric power station (HPS) has declined below the critical point by one meter, Uktam Umarov, an official with the Barqi Tojik (Tajik electric systems) power holding, said.

According to him, if the water level in the reservoir will continue to decline they will have to switch off the station.

In connection with this, strict electricity supplies limitations were introduced in the republic today, the Barqi Tojik official said. The limitations that also affected some areas of Dushanbe are expected to last until 5:00 p.m. today, according to him.

He also noted that because of cold weather both Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan had failed to supply the projected amount of electricity to Tajikistan. "The situation may change for better is the present warm weather will hold out at least for a week," Umarov said.

To add to the problems facing the Norak HPS, an accident took place at the 500 kV power-transmission line providing electricity supplies from Uzbekistan.

According to the Dushanbe mayor's office, in connection with that accident electricity supplies to some areas of the city were cut off today at 8:00. The supplies will be resumed at 4:00 p.m.

## **MPS ADOPT LAW ON NATIONAL SYMBOLS OF TAJIKISTAN**

**Dushanbe, March 14, Asia-Plus.** Tajik parliament has endorsed a new bill on national symbols of the country.

A regular sitting of the third session of the Majlisi Namoyandagon of the third convocation presided over by Abdulmajid Dostiyev, the first deputy speaker of the Majlisi Namoyandagon, was held on March 14.

Mahmad Rahimov, head of the Majlisi Namoyandagon (MN) Committee on Constitution, Legislation and Human Rights presenting the bill on national symbols of Tajikistan noted that legal status of all national symbols of Tajikistan had previously been regulated by separate laws adopted in different years. "In accordance with requirements of Articles 3 and 57 of the country's Constitution and in connection with changes having taken place in society it is proposed to adopt the single law regulating legal status and procedure of manufacture and use of the national flag and coat of arms, and performance of the national anthem, as well as responsibility of breaking them," Tajik MP said.

The session also endorsed draft resolutions of the Majlisi Namoyandagon on confirmation of the national coat of arms of Tajikistan, national anthem of Tajikistan, and national flag of Tajikistan.

Parliamentarians also approved amendments to the law on the fight against terrorism and the first part of the Civil Code.

## **RUSSIAN-TAJIK JV PLANS TO PROCESS UP TO 50 KILOGRAMS OF GOLD PER YEAR**

**Dushanbe, March 14, Asia-Plus.** Tajik-Russian joint venture Almaz-Asia dealing with production of jewelries has operated in Tajikistan since March 1, 2007, the JV director general Abdulmajid Saidov said.

According to him, the joint venture was launched by a group of Tajik entrepreneurs and Russia's Almaz Holding. "Tajik and Russian sides share equal ownership interest in the company – 50 percent each," Saidov said, noting that the enterprise will use primarily domestic raw materials (gold and silver) to produce jewelries.

Saidov said that the enterprise's output will be quite competitive and intended for domestic market product.

He added that the company has not yet determined its price policy. "Everything depends on the taxation system that is imposed on jewelry producers, and which is quite disputable," Saidov said.

"The JV is expected to process up to 50 kilograms of gold per year," said the enterprise director general, "We have already reached an agreement with the joint-stock company Aprelevka engaged in mining and processing of gold in northern Tajikistan on purchasing gold from it at world prices." "If demand for our product increases we will conclude contracts with other gold-mining companies active in Tajikistan as well."

Almaz Holding is a shareholder in Russia's largest jewelry plants. Its president Flun Gumerov is at the same time the general director of the Krasnoselsky Jewelry Factory, with 1,300 employees. Its core business is manufacture of jewelry made of 14 ct and 18 ct gold of different colors, of platinum and high-carat silver. Almaz Holding has more than 80 stores in various regions of Russia.

## **JAPAN'S EMBASSY DONATES TWO MINIVANS EQUIPPED WITH MOTOPUMPS TO CAPITAL FIREFIGHTERS**

**Dushanbe, March 14, Asia-Plus.** Japan's Embassy in Dushanbe today handed over two minivans Gazel equipped with motopumps to the Dushanbe firefighting service.

A ceremony of the handover of the vehicles was attended by representatives from Japan's Embassy, Tajik Ministry of Interior (Mol) and media.

Nazarboy Jangiyev, chief of the Tajik firefighting service, said in an interview with Asia-Plus that Japan's Government is expected to hand over four other such vehicles to Tajik firefighters.

According to him, the Dushanbe firefighting service has 28 fire-engines.

## **FINNISH ENTRE MARKETING LTD SEEKS COOPERATION WITH TAJIK COMPANIES**

**Dushanbe, March 13, Asia-Plus.** Finnish Entre Marketing Ltd has offered Tajikistan to hold a business conference with participation of Finnish and Tajik entrepreneurs.

This was remarked at a meeting of Sharif Saidov, the head of Tajikistan's Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) with visiting senior representative from Entre Marketing Ltd Nicolas Pohjanvirta (phonetically spelled) in Dushanbe on March 12, the CCI press service said.

In the course of the talks Saidov briefed the Entre Marketing Ltd representative on priorities and main directions of development of Tajikistan's economy. He outlines aluminum production, agrarian sector (processing of cotton and other farm products) as areas, in which Tajik and Finnish entrepreneurs could cooperate.

According to the CCI press service, the two agreed that the mentioned issues will be considered at the upcoming business conference, the date of which they will coordinate in the near future.

Entre Marketing's story began in Turku in 1919, when the Finnish Export Association was founded. In 1930's the association began to organize participation to exhibitions for Finnish companies, which at that time started to use exhibitions as a marketing tool. In 1938 the association changed its name into Finnish Foreign Trade Association (FFTA). In the 1970's and 80's, the FFTA developed into a versatile export facilitator. Campaigns were organized for various sectors of industry, and the Export Partner Groups became an important form of co-operation between the FFTA and Finnish business enterprises.

At the beginning of 2002 Finpro's international marketing and marketing communication services were incorporated into Finpro Marketing Ltd. In 2005 the subsidiary changed its name into Entre Marketing Ltd and Finpro sold 30% of the ownership to Entre's key personnel. Today Entre's key personnel owns 40%. Today Entre employs 50 professionals and it serves not only

Finnish but also international companies. The main focus is in exhibition services that we provide around the world, in 25 countries yearly.

## **FARMING UNITS IN KHATLON OWE \$300 MILLION TO CREDITORS, SAYS KHATLON GOVERNOR**

**Qurghon Teppa, March 13, Asia-Plus.** Cotton farmers in the Khatlon province have owed \$300 million to domestic and foreign creditors as of January 1, 2007.

The Khatlon governor Ghaybullo Avzalov remarked this at a meeting in the Kolkhozobod district on March 12.

Avzalov noted that farming units that had failed to fulfill their cotton targets will be broken up. "Some farming units in Khatlon last year reported cotton harvests at the rate from 0.8 to 1.5 tons per hectare, which is unsatisfactory," the governor said.

He added that there were cases when farming units had unregistered areas under cotton. "Heads of such farming units should be dismissed," Avzalov stated.

Iskandar Abdulloyev, deputy chairman of Ismoil Somoni – 21st Century, one of Tajikistan's largest futures companies, telling the meeting noted that their company funds 1,629 dehqan (peasant) farms in the Kolkhozobod, Qumsangir, Pang, Shahritus, Qubodiyon and Nosir Khusrav districts with a total of 48,000 hectares under cotton.

According to him, 1,202 farming units from these districts now owe some 170 million somonis to Ismoil Somoni – 21st Century.

"Last year, the company spent \$31,685,881 for growing cotton that is \$576 per one hectare," Abdulloyev said. He added that despite farmers' debts, the company will deliver 152 various agricultural machines to the province within the next few days.



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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