



BASIC THEMES OF THIS RELEASE:

- Monitoring of implementation of decision of the 6th and 7th sessions of the Consultative Council on Improvement of Investment Climate under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan
- Meeting of the Secretariats of the Consultative Councils at the seminar "Interaction of regional platforms for public-private dialogue in the Republic of Tajikistan"
- Forum: "Free economic zones of Tajikistan: development prospects " in Sughd region

Business – association news:

- GBAO business needs in investment
- National Association of Business Women of Tajikistan: Supporting Women's Entrepreneurship

MONITORING OF IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS OF 6TH AND 7TH SESSIONS OF THE CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL ON IMPROVEMENT OF INVESTMENT CLIMATE UNDER THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN

In pursuance of the decisions of the 6th and 7th meetings of the Consultative Council on Improvement of Investment Climate under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, several Resolutions of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, aimed at improving the investment climate in the country, strengthening of export potential of fruits and vegetables and improvement of the government machinery through information and communication technologies have been developed by State Committee on Investments and State Property Management of the Republic of Tajikistan in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Consultative Council and other authorized government agencies.

Under execution of decisions of the 6th meeting of the Consultative Council the following Resolutions of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan have been adopted: "On approval of the State program on strengthening the export potential of fruits and vegetables for 2010 - 2012", dated December 3, 2010., "On further events of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan on implementation of information and communication technologies for improvement of the government administration" dated December 3, 2010.

For implementation purposes of adopted State Program on strengthening the export potential of fruits and vegetables for 2010 – 2012, the Working Group from among representatives of ministries and agencies, business associations and donor



organizations was established at the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade. The working group has already held several meetings and developed a cost estimate for implementation of events provided for the Program.

With the view of enhancement of legal and economic knowledge of entrepreneurs, the Secretariat of the Consultative Council in conjunction with business associations and donor organizations will conduct regular trainings and seminars in the cities and districts of Sughd and Khatlon regions.

For implementation purposes of decisions of the 7th meeting of the Consultative Council, the Agency for Construction and Architecture of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan has developed a "Program for improving the investment climate in the construction industry for 2011-2012" which was adopted by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan.

In accordance with the protocol decision of the 7th meeting of the Consultative Council of the Chairman of Sughd and Khatlon regions, as well as Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast the Consultative Councils were established on improving the investment and entrepreneurship climate. The establishment of such body of the Chairman of Dushanbe is in the stage of consideration.

The Working Group on developing a new Tax Code with the participation of representatives of public authorities, private sector and international organizations has been established at the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Tajikistan. At present the Working Group has already conducted several sessions. According to working plan, the new draft Tax Code should be developed by April 2012.

The Working Group of the State Committee on Investments and State Property Management of the Republic of Tajikistan has been also established for developing a draft Law of RT "On public-private partnership" with the participation of public authorities, private sector and international organizations.

**MEETING OF THE SECRETARIATS OF CONSULTATIVE COUNCILS AT
THE SEMINAR: "INTERACTION OF REGIONAL PLATFORMS FOR PUBLIC –
PRIVATE DIALOGUE IN THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN"**

A seminar on the subject: "Interaction of regional platforms for public-private dialogue in the Republic of Tajikistan has been held in the State Committee on Investments and State Property Management of the Republic of Tajikistan on



September 16, 2011. The seminar was held with the participation of representatives of public authorities, private sector and development partners.

The specific of the seminar was that the representatives of national level of the Secretariat of the Consultative Council on improving the investment climate of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan not only attended in it, but also regional - the Secretariat of the Consultative Council on improving the investment and business climate of the Chairman of Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region, the Secretariat of Consultative Council on improving the investment climate of the Chairman of Sughd region, the Secretariat of the Regional Consultative Council on improving business environment and investment climate of the Chairman of Khatlon region, as well as, the Secretariat of the Consultative Council of the Chairman of Dushanbe is in the process of formation now.

During seminar, the representatives of the Secretariats had opportunity to exchange experience with colleagues, described the features of model structures of each Council, shared the achieved results, as well as could get answers on concerned questions. Due to the fact that regional Councils have been formed very recently, they were interested to know a great deal from representatives of the Secretariat of the National Council, and in particular, the main areas of work, organizational practices, and legal aspects of activity of the Investment Council and the Secretariat, the rotation procedure of the members of the Council, the mechanisms and mode of interaction with partners, creation and participation in working groups, order of organization and conduct of meetings of the Council, reform monitoring mechanisms and decisions of the Council, as well as the phases for harmonization of all documents and their implementation. Particular attention was paid to informing community about the activities of the Councils through the mass media and media components. The information about Councils websites, their regular updating process and need was provided by all participants of public-private dialogue in the seminar. The secretariats emphasized the fact of close cooperation with development partner organizations and their providing technical support.

In particular, during presentation the Secretariat of the Consultative Council on improvement of the investment climate of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan had a detailed description of one of the most important components of the work of the Secretariat - monitoring of decision execution of Consultative Council by relevant public authorities. Information on conducted inter-session meetings was provided to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan, which are discussed in detail the results of monitoring.



The Secretariat of the Consultative Council on improvement of the investment climate of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan has suggested the ways for further mutual cooperation with regional Consultative Councils and their Secretariats, through continuous exchange of experiences, information, required documentation, participation in the meetings of the Consultative Councils, proposals, recommendations and questions advanced by regional Councils at the national level, etc.

As a result of seminar, the participants adopted a joint decision on consolidation its activities for strengthening and developing public-private dialogue in the Republic of Tajikistan and improvement of investment and business climate in the country.

FORUM: «FREE ECONOMIC ZONES OF TAJIKISTAN: DEVELOPMENT PROSPECTS» IN SUGHD REGION

Economic Forum on the subject: "Free economic zones of Tajikistan: Development prospects " was held in Kayrakum, Sughd region on September 13-15, 2011.

The organizers of this Forum were the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of the Republic of Tajikistan jointly with the Administration of Free Economic Zone of "Sughd" with the support of the Executive office of public authority of Sughd region, National Bank of Tajikistan and OSCE Office in Tajikistan.

The main purpose of the Forum was to inform public, business, community and scientific circles, as well as foreign investors on the activities and advantages of free economic zones in Tajikistan, development of new ideas and proposals on improvement of regulatory-legal activity of the FEZ, the interaction of the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade and International Organizations on free economic zones, attracting investors and increasing cooperation between investors and the FEZ Administrations.

In addition, the Forum organizers was pursued an object to create favorable conditions for the partnership and the development of relations between the representatives of public authorities, administrations of free economic zones, local and foreign companies, to inform investors about the advantages of free economic zones in the country, to develop proposals for improving the regulatory-legal activity base of FEZ , extension and implementation of mechanisms of public private partnership in Tajikistan. Particular attention was paid to the Russian participants, who had the opportunity to visit enterprises in the territory of free



economic zone "Sughd", to make presentations at round tables, and to have number of talks with Tajik partners on economic cooperation issues, education and innovation projects.

The Forum was attended by about 300 people from 17 countries of the world and 15 international organizations, including representatives from business, academic, social and political circles of the Russian Federation, including the "International Russia" All-Russia People's Front.

As a result of the Forum Mr. Anwar Yakubov, Head of Administration of free economic zone "Sughd" had a meeting with Ms. Tatiana Poloskovoy, Co-chairman of the Moscow regional group of "International Russia" All-Russia People's Front. During the meeting there was reached an agreement on preparation and holding joint theoretical and practical conference in Moscow, "the Tajik diaspora in Russia - economic and cultural potential of the Republic of Tajikistan" in 2012. As well as to organize number of presentations in Russian regions of free economic zones of Tajikistan. In addition, in the near future to the initiative of "International Russia" All-Russia People's Front are expected joining new members from Tajikistan.

GBAO BUSINESS IN INVESTMENTS

Regular meeting of the business club, organized by the Association of entrepreneurs and mountain farmers "Milan-Inter" was held in Khorog. Businessmen, representatives of certain agencies of Aga Khan Foundation and Investments and State Property Office of Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region participated in Business Club.

The subject of conversation was quite topical – to increase the attraction of the investments in business development in GBAO. In this regard, participants discussed the results of the Investment Forum "Pamir-Invest 2011". Ms. Paula Moore, Consultant of GTZ Association, noted that although the Forum was generally held at high level, but the participation of investors has been restricted in it.

At the same time during the Forum number of memorandums of cooperation was signed, and now the Association continues to work with participants on their



positions.

Some participants of the Forum have already requested to send them business plans on high-priority directions for the field of economy. Unfortunately, entrepreneurs do not always go deep into the mechanism of working with investors and they are still very weak to make business plans and investment projects up to quality.

Mr. Alibahshev B. , Chairman of the Association "Milan-Inter" said that the main problem of entrepreneurs is that by presenting projects or business plans, they just require immediate results. According to him, first of all, it is necessary to prepare real, the most up-to-date investment projects, convincing investors, and to organize hard work on creating image for your business.

Mr. D. Jumakhon, Representative of the First Microfinance Bank, made a presentation about one of the possibilities of access to investment. He noted that a group of US investors with a focus on socio-economic development, the joint committee on economic development are ready to invest in the projects in Tajikistan. But at the same time they need a guarantee that the received funds will be returned to investors. In this regard, a small working group will be formed for investigation of possibilities for establishing a coordinating mechanism with the legal and economic point of view, as well as the selection and submission of business plans for consideration in the above-mentioned committee. Along with this it is possible to set up a facilitating agency for finding contacts of businessmen and investors in the future, as well as providing investment and control over their use and repayment.

Upon completion of the Business Club the sides expressed satisfaction with past events and came to overall opinion that to attract attention and support of investors in the future it is necessary to integrate the efforts and most important - to achieve business understanding.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BUSINESS WOMEN OF TAJIKISTAN: SUPPORT OF WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP

World experience of woman entrepreneurs has shown that the achievements of women - entrepreneurs deserve the attention and serious consideration. Assistance to women, wishing to do business is one of the main activities of the National Association of Business Women of Tajikistan ("NABWT") from the beginning of its activity. NABWT has an established practice and informing system of its members



about the main events and on the reform process associated with the development of entrepreneurship. There are established channels of communication - regular meetings, round tables, trainings, acting site and information bulletins, through which NABWT regularly informs about the outcome of meetings of the Consultative Council and process of implementation of its decisions. Now NABWT has 1608 members of women entrepreneurs.

NABWT creates all conditions for training women to become entrepreneurs. Holding of trainings, certainly contributes to the formation of women entrepreneurs capable of running their business competently and receive incomes from it. Within a few months of 2011 NABWT held number of professional courses on business development for women:

22 agro-trainings were held in Sughd on a specially designed module "Keeping the family business (or how to turn farmland into a source of income)" for the women of the village, where 378 rural women took part in it from April to June 2011.

Two demo greenhouses – drying rooms were built in Isfara and a model of training on greenhouse business was presented for 28 participants, in July 2011. Two greenhouses on German technology were put into operation for conducting master classes on greenhouse business for women of B. Ghafurob in March of the current year.

Training of Trainers was organized in Khujand in August 8-13, 2011 on the methodology of the MOT with the participation of foreign master trainers under the program: "The woman entrepreneur, score a success," where 28 local business trainers were able to improve their skills.

55 trainings were held under the program: "The woman entrepreneur, score a success", (MOT), where participated 645 women from January to September 2011. Out of them 356 women based on developed business plans received a loan ", for a total of about 280 thousand US dollars from MLO "IMON International".

A professional course on gold-embroidery was held in J. Rasulov district, where 10 women participants attended in it and successfully completed it. At this moment out of 10 women participants 2 of them are working in tailoring shop, 2 women got a job in Lyceum, 6 women are working at home.



A professional course was held in Khujand, Master-class on confectionary on German technology for women owners of confectionery shops, where 12 women participated in June, and 14 women in August 2011.

Professional courses on baking were held for 20 women and girls of Jamoats Voru and Shing of Panjakent city in July of 2011. Business training was held in the same region, where 20 women were trained in September. Here also 25 women and girls are able to attend the courses on baking and sewing curtains in the month of October.

Dear Subscribers!

Should you have proposals for consideration at one of the next meetings of the Council, or comments and suggestions on improvement of the work of the Secretariat and/or Council you can always contact us at amavlonova@investmentcouncil.tj You may also share with us your information, which might be of interest for private sector and investors. We may include it in one of the next Bulletins.

The Secretariat of the Investment Council is grateful for your interest in our Bulletin and your general cooperation.

Sincerely,

Secretariat of the Investment Council on Improvement of Investment Climate under the President of Republic of Tajikistan