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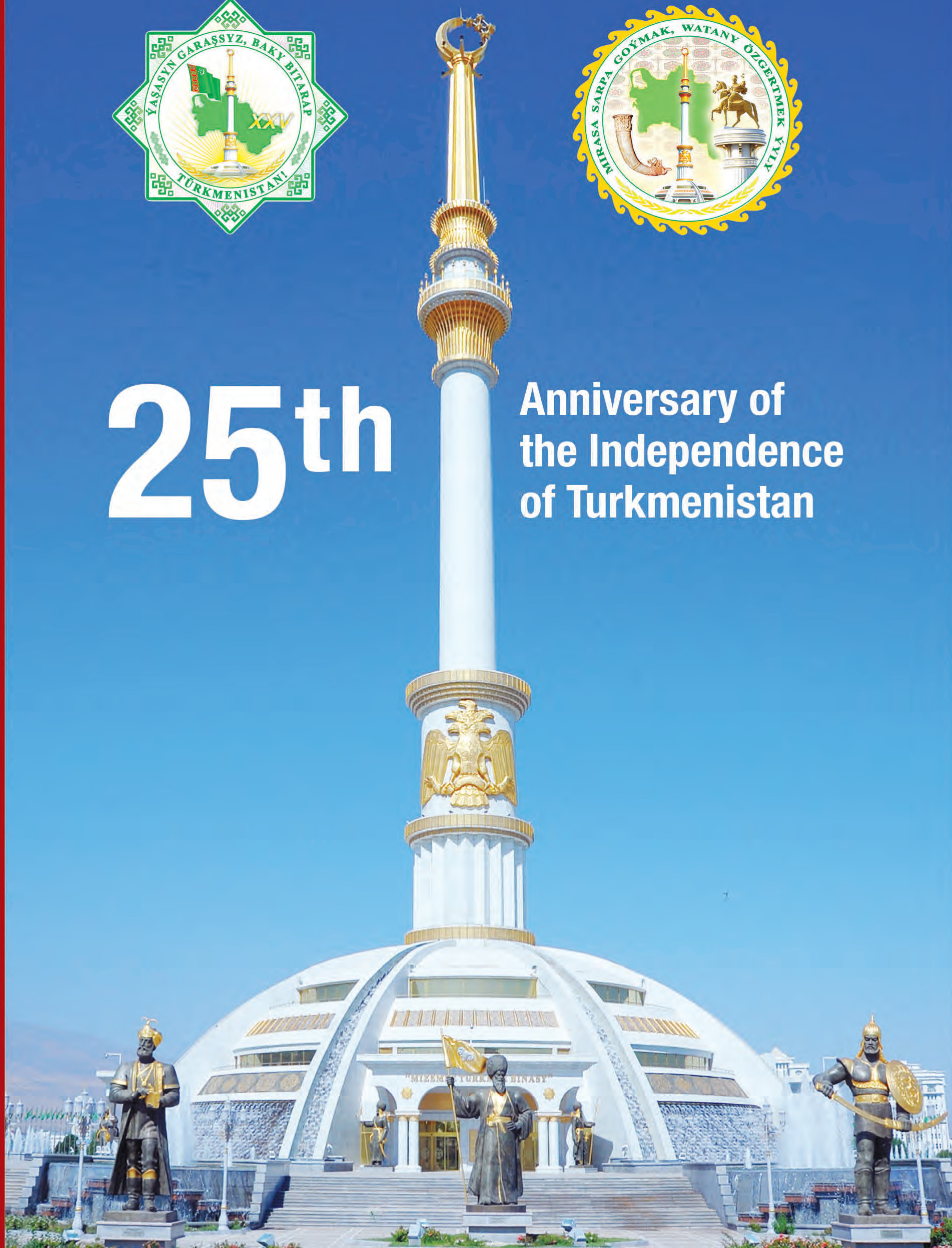
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25th

Anniversary of the Independence of Turkmenistan





H.E. Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov
President of Turkmenistan



STATE EMBLEM OF TURKMENISTAN



STATE FLAG OF TURKMENISTAN

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM OF TURKMENISTAN

I am ready to give life for native hearth,
The spirit of ancestors descendants
are famous for.

My land is sacred. My flag flies in the world
A symbol of the great neutral country flies.

Refrain:

The great creation of people,
Native land, sovereign state,
Turkmenistan, light and song of soul,
Long live and prosper for ever and ever!

My nation is united and is veins of tribes
Ancestor's blood, undying flows,
Storms and misfortunes of times are
not dreadful for us,
Let us increase fame and honour!

Refrain:

The great creation of people,
Native land, sovereign state,
Turkmenistan, light and song of soul,
Long live and prosper for ever and ever!



2016

**25th ANNIVERSARY OF THE
INDEPENDENCE OF TURKMENISTAN**



2016
THE YEAR OF RESPECT FOR HERITAGE,
REFORMATION OF MOTHERLAND

Contents



- 08 25 Years of Independence of Turkmenistan: the way of progress, peace and sustainable development**
- 10 President of Turkmenistan Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov: Gwadar port - the best access to markets of South-East Asia**
- 16 Turkmenistan and Pakistan pursuing enhanced regional connectivity**
- 20 Further developing parliamentary relations between Turkmenistan and Pakistan**
- 22 Turkmenistan and Pakistan freindly ties are remarkable**
- 23 TAPI partnership are highly essential for the promotion of peace in the region**
- 24 Turkmenistan is an Independent and Neutral State**
- 34 New edition of the Constitution of Turkmenistan was adopted during the session of the Council of the Elders**
- 40 Turkmenistan emphasized on world leaders**
- 44 President of Turkmenistan inaugurates new Ashgabat International Airport**
- 48 International Media Forum dedicated to the Global Conference on Sustainable Transport in Ashgabat**
- 52 Development of the sphere of transport in Turkmenistan**
- 56 Adoption of Short & Long Terms Economic Policies**
- 58 Turkmenistan's Socio-Economic Transformation**
- 60 2017 Asian Games in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan**
- 64 An International Sports Media Forum in Turkmenistan**
- 66 Turkmen Akhal-Teke horse: A one can dream to ride**
- 70 Avaza modern resort area**
- 74 State Program for the development of cultural sphere in Turkmenistan for 2012-2016**

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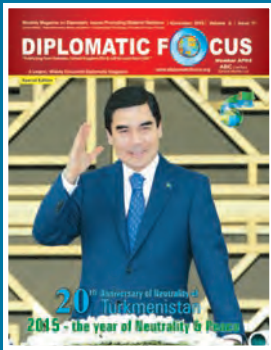
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Our previous Issues



Mian Fazal Elahi



Pakistan-Central Asia relations are based on geographical proximity, common history, religion, culture, traditions, values and destiny. Pakistan and these states can work together in matters of security, stability and development of the region. The Central Asian states want to expand trade ties with Pakistan and develop new infrastructure and Turkmenistan is also one of them. They can collaborate in numerous areas, such as scientific and technical fields, banking, insurance, information technology, pharmaceutical industry and tourism.

Turkmenistan and Pakistan are part of the The Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation, or CAREC, Program is a partnership of 10 countries with a vision i.e. Good Neighbors, Good Partners, and Good Prospects. Turkmenistan has a leading role in peace initiatives, harmony, development, sustainable energy mix, and conflict resolution due to its iconic policy of "Permanent Neutrality" that is appreciated worldwide and adopted by the UN General Assembly through a resolution on December 12, 1995. Turkmenistan is bridging the South Asia, Central Asia, Europe and other countries due to its strategic location. Turkmenistan's vast energy resources are very important for the whole region. These resources and strategic location of the country can play a pivotal role in the growth of economic activities in the region. TAPI is one of the great step that had been taken by the four nations i.e. Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India. Turkmenistan is considering the best among the regional countries because of its resilient banking system, financial transparency and unmatched social development. This special status of the country an example for many others to solve their problems, manage and utilize resources, achieve the goals in high favor of their people and become a role model for others through following Turkmen's model.

[Signature]

Important Announcement

It has been announced for the general information that Mr. Mian Assad Ullah has been appointed as Editor In Chief of the Monthly "Diplomatic Focus" for the UK/EU Edition. He is entitled to participate official /non-officials diplomatic engagements, events, national days, social evenings/gatherings, press conferences/interviews and can be contacted for all kinds of stuff including articles, supplements and advertisements etc). It is requested to all Diplomatic missions and government high officials of UK, please contact with Mr. Mian Assad Ullah on His mailing address, 4 Ipswich Road, SW17 9RH, London. Cell number: +44-7961005954/ 2087694850, Email: uk.diplomaticfocus@gmail.com, assadmian1@gmail.com



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25 Years of Independence of Turkmenistan: the way of progress, peace and sustainable development

25 years of independent development of Turkmenistan noted the impressive achievements in all spheres of public life and society. It is not only material symbols of progress, but also drastic changes in the level and quality of life of the people.

Celebrating its 25th independence anniversary, Turkmenistan - one of major energy exporting countries - is making efforts toward creating stable systems to carry energy to world markets. It is currently developing effective partner relationships in general energy markets and providing supply security for intercontinental pipeline structures.

Turkmenistan is working economically and politically on a large energy project that extends beyond the boundaries of the region. This project concerns the construction of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) natural gas pipeline that will help develop the national economies of participating countries and reinforce political stability for the region. According to Turkmen representatives, the implementation of this project is vital for

the improvement of the general situation in Central and South Asia, which will instill new meaning and importance to the geopolitical and economic events of the region.

Implementation of these important projects will raise the quality of economic and trade cooperation between Central Asian countries and neighboring regions, provide strong support to the development of relations between regional players in the long-term and to form the base of the geopolitical area, merging the Central Asian, Caspian, Black Sea, Baltic, Middle Eastern and South Asian regions. Meanwhile, independence is precious for each Turkmenistan citizen. According to President of Turkmenistan Honorable Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, the independence of Turkmenistan and the dreams of the Turkmen people have been realized.

The shining star of Central Asia, Turkmenistan announced its independency on October 27, 1991. The Turkmen nation determined its own fate and achieved liberty as well as political

and economic independence by peaceful means within the framework of national and international law. Twenty-five years have passed since that date; nevertheless, the importance of the initial years of independence cannot be denied. Turkmenistan's first steps on its path to liberty have been full of success. These successes help to demonstrate the value of this country and determine its socio-economic vision. President of Turkmenistan Honorable Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov is also an innovative politician. His state perception and current policy geared toward education were continuously prepared in view of prior plans for the development of the country and requirements of that time. These are based upon the historical experience of Turkmen people and their very rich cultural heritage, which is being enriched with the modern tools of world civilization.

The strategic targets of the Turkmen leader are strengthening the economic power of the state and ensuring its security, raising the financial wealth of the people, arranging



intellectual and spiritual events for the public and increasing the international prestige of the country. President of Turkmenistan Honorable Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov's internal and foreign policy are directed at totally developing the country, promoting it economically and culturally as well as integrate it into the new world system.

The international prestige of Turkmenistan further increased when the Permanent Neutrality-Law status was approved on December 12, 1995, by a special Resolution of United Nations General Assembly with

international organizations, namely the U.N., European Union, Organization for Security and Co-operation (OSCE) in Europe, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and others give special meaning to Turkmenistan's foreign political strategy.

Special importance for the establishment of human capital is the development of such priority areas as health and education, in modernization of which serve international standards. Considering the health of the nation as the country's wealth, the leadership of Turkmenistan pays constant attention to the



the support of the 185 countries that were members at the time. According to the accepted resolution, U.N. member states are called to respect and support this legal position of Turkmenistan and to respect Turkmenistan's independence, liberty and territorial integrity.

On June 3, 2015, a decree regarding the "Permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan" was adopted by the U.N. by consensus of the 193 member states at the 69th Session of the U.N. General Assembly, which was a first in the last 20 years. Rapid improvement and strengthening of bilateral relations with different countries and

legal, material-technical, scientific, provisions with cadres of the national health system. At the same time the development of other areas of public policy is supported by the course of steadily boosting the welfare and improvement of social conditions of the population to a wide initiation to the sport and a healthy lifestyle, uncompromising fight with smoking and drug trafficking.

Only in recent years, the legal framework of the national health system was filled up with the Law of Turkmenistan "On Health Protection of citizens", "On ensuring food

safety and quality", "On protection of the health of citizens from exposure to tobacco smoke and the consequences of tobacco consumption", "On the drug provision". The general principle of development of Turkmen medicine, as stressed by President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov is not the fragmentary update its individual components, but in systemic, a comprehensive modernization with an emphasis on long-term programs and proactive measures. An innovative model of health care development consider close coordination of diagnostic, medical institutions and medical science, planning of research, depending on the health care needs, as well as targeted training professionals able to ensure the practical application of scientific achievements.

Moreover, 2016 was declared "The year of respect for heritage and the reformation of the motherland." Cultural values of Turkmen people include countless wealth that are carefully preserved and passed down through generations. Turkmen culture, keeping millenniums in its memory, all creative experience and traditions are open system and participate in world cultural process.

The Head of the State pays great attention to succession of best traditions of national culture. The country undertakes large-scale work for preservation, comprehensive study and propaganda in the world of architectural monuments and non-material heritage, which became integral part of universal possession. Owing to personal attention and support of Leader of the Nation Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, all conditions for fruitful activity of specialists in this sphere are created.

In this context, special attention is paid to improvement of legal and regulatory base. The law on "Protection of national Historical and Cultural Heritage", providing the right of Turkmen people on protection and development of its cultural and national originality, traditional environment, reliable protection of information sources on origin and development of the culture, was adopted. Corresponding to international law standards, this legislative act is based on conceptual provisions of the UNESCO Convention on protection of world natural and cultural heritage, which Turkmenistan has joined. In the last year, the Law on "Protection of National Non-material Cultural Heritage", regulating relations in this field and aimed at realization of the rights of citizens of the country on access to this objects and obligations of every person to take care for their preservation, came into power.

The centuries-old cultural and spiritual treasures of the Turkmen nation has had a positive influence on the rising the prestige of Turkmenistan worldwide. In this regard, the development of its national culture draws special interest. The number of cultural events organized at the international level is increasing each day.



President Mamnoon Hussain shaking hands with the President of Turkmenistan Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.

President of Turkmenistan Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov: Gwadar port - the best access to the markets of South-East Asia

The President of Turkmenistan, H.E. Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, paid an official visit to Pakistan at the invitation of the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif. He was accompanied by Ministers and senior officials of the Government of Turkmenistan as well as a group of leading businessmen.

21 gun salute was presented to the visiting president as Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif

welcomed him at the Nur Khan Airbase. Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Tariq Fatemi, and Mayor of Islamabad Sheikh Ansar Aziz, along with several other officials were present at the occasion.

Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and President of Turkmenistan Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov reached at Government House Murree to discuss the regional connectivity projects.

Both the leaders were briefed on regional connectivity projects by Minister for Planning and Development Mr. Ahsan Iqbal and Chairman NHA Mr. Shahid Ashraf Tarar.

Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and President of Turkmenistan Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov were briefed about the proposed road projects to connect CARs with Pakistan under the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Programme.



President Mamnoon Hussain conferring the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science on President of Turkmenistan Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov in a special convocation ceremony at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.

Pakistan, China and Central Asian states are part of CAREC Program. The CAREC Program is a partnership of 10 countries and 6 multilateral development partners to promote regional development through cooperation to achieve accelerated economic growth and poverty reduction.

A detailed presentation was given to both the leaders on different options of connectivity routes with CARs. The proposed routes include roads from Gwadar with Termez via Quetta, Kandhar, Herat and Mazar Sharif. Another road is proposed to be constructed from Karachi to Tashkent via Torkhum, Kabul, Kunduz and Dushanbe. Third proposed route is Gwadar to Ashgabat, a road to be built via Quetta, Kandhar and Herat. Lastly, route to connect Gwadar with Tejen via Zahidan and Mashhad (Iran).

H.E. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, the President of Turkmenistan visited Pakistan and had many meaningful meetings with Primer and President of Pakistan. During these high level meetings, Pakistan and Turkmenistan decided to improve connectivity by establishing communication corridors that would be befitting to tapping the potential

of trade, economic cooperation, people-to-people contacts and tourism between the two countries in the days to come.

Exchange of Views

The two sides exchanged views on a wide range of bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest. The leaders noted with satisfaction that significant progress was made in recent years on bilateral relations and high-level exchanges between the two countries. The two sides emphasised the importance of timely meetings on established bilateral mechanisms for enhancing cooperation in agreed sectors. They reaffirmed their commitment to sustain the momentum of upward trajectory of bilateral ties.

Meaningful Meetings & Dialogues

During the visit, the Turkmen president had a meeting with President Mamnoon Hussain and held talks with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. During their meeting, the president and the prime minister underlined the significance of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline project and expressed satisfaction with the foundation of the project that was laid in December 2015. The

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif appreciated the initiative by the President of Turkmenistan for implementation of this important project and agreed to take measures for early completion of this important regional energy project.

Strategic Importance of TAPI

For Pakistan, TAPI is not just a gas transit initiative connecting energy-rich Central Asia with energy-starved South Asia, but a mega project of strategic importance that will open doors for greater regional economic collaboration and integration. Moreover, Pakistan will also import one thousand megawatt of electricity from Turkmenistan and the MOU in this regard was signed during his visit to Turkmenistan last year.

Futuristic Predication

It is hoped that regional energy projects would facilitate regional connectivity and contribute to peace, stability and security by creating interdependence in the region. TAPI gas pipeline will generate economic activity, create job opportunities and improve the living standards. It would also help counter-terrorism and enhance regional trade and development.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif meeting with President of Turkmenistan Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov at PM House, Islamabad.

Joint Communiqué

The joint communiqué strongly indicated a strong political will to foster the bilateral relations in terms of greater socio-economic interaction/connectivity, business-to-business coordination, exploration of potential opportunities for joint ventures and foreign direct investments through rigorous commercial diplomacy. It was further agreed to establishing air, road and rail links on a priority basis. The leaders noted that Pakistan and Turkmenistan enjoyed cordial relations, which were characterised by bonds of historical, cultural and religious affinity and mutual respect. "These are rooted deep in the hearts of the people. Both sides attach great importance to the friendship between their people and the need to further strengthen their cooperation.

Turkmenistan is endowed with huge hydrocarbon resources, which can provide energy to Pakistan to meet its needs. Pakistan also supports Turkmenistan's initiative to establish trans-regional energy corridors.

Further Strengthening of Bilateral Economic & Trade Relations

The two countries also agreed to enhance bilateral economic and trade relations. Both sides realised that the volume of trade did not match the goodwill that existed between the two countries. Both countries agreed to take appropriate measures to enhance bilateral trade. The leaders welcomed the initiative of the Pakistan-Turkmenistan Business Forum on the sidelines of the visit. Both sides agreed that such sector based interactions between businessmen of the two countries should be a regular feature to facilitate bilateral trade and investment.

Importance of High-Level Bilateral Political Interaction

The leaders recognised the importance of high-level bilateral political interaction that provides impetus to all areas of bilateral relations. Moreover, both countries agreed to enhance cooperation on international and regional

issues of common interest, and continue coordination within international and regional mechanisms such as the UN, NAM, G-77, ECO and OIC. The two leaders expressed their resolve to work together for regional peace, development and prosperity.

President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov's Vision of Socio-Economic Prosperity

On his part, Pakistani Premier appreciated the visionary leadership and sagacity of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov that brought prosperity and socio-economic development to Turkmenistan. He congratulated Turkmenistan on the 20th anniversary of Turkmenistan's Declaration of Neutrality and reaffirmed Pakistan's full support to this initiative, which contributed to peace and stability in the region. The two sides agreed that bilateral cooperation in all sectors had great potential. They agreed to create conducive conditions and initiate projects for the promotion of infrastructure, agriculture, manufacturing, multimedia technology, banking, environment and energy sectors.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and President of Turkmenistan Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov in a delegation level meeting at the PM House, Islamabad

Regional Connectivity Projects will Prove the Game Changer for the Entire Region

Historic Perspectives

Turkmenistan and Pakistan are two brotherly Muslim countries with unique commonalities of historical and political nature. Turkmenistan and Pakistan have been enjoying excellent economic, social, cultural and political relations since 1991. For the past two decades, Turkmenistan and Pakistan have been developing good diplomatic relations. In October 1994, the Prime Minister, Benazir Bhutto, visited Turkmenistan. Subsequently Nawaz Sharif also visited Turkmenistan in October 1997. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif also attended the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline groundbreaking ceremony on December 13, 2015 in South-eastern Turkmenistan. The recent visit to Pakistan by the President of Turkmenistan will boost bilateral relations between the two.

During this period of 20 years both the countries signed many inter-governmental

agreements to enhance cooperation in the fields of trade, energy, agriculture & livestock, science & technology, education, health, sports and tourism, which will not only further cement Pak-Turkmen relations but will also boost the economy of both the countries. However, economy is not the only aspect of Pak-Turkmen relations. Simultaneously the establishment of political, parliamentary, social and cultural links has been taking place.

Fruitful & Productive Talks

Now, the Turkmen President termed his talks with the prime minister as fruitful and productive saying these will further strengthen the brotherly relations. The Turkmen President said the TAPI gas pipeline project will be implemented at the earliest. It will not only contribute to socio-economic development but also serve a bridge for building friendly relations amongst the regional countries.

Singing of Different Accords & MOUs

Pakistan and Turkmenistan inked eight accords of cooperation, including seven Memorandum of Understanding on energy and financial intelligence and a Programme of Cooperation 2016-2017.

Importance of Economic Corridors

Keeping in view the importance of mega infrastructure and road communication Nawaz Sharif suggested that Pakistan and Turkmenistan can be connected through railway corridor connecting Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Iran. He said the bilateral trade needs to be increased and stressed for facilitating business visas and relaxing visa regime for the further promotion of economic relations.

FPCCI and ECO Chamber of Commerce & Industry appreciated the vision of the government to prioritize trade relations and connectivity in increasing energy and rail and



road links with Central Asian countries which were observed during the recent visit of the President of Turkmenistan to Pakistan along with a large high profile delegation.

Pakistan has a good opportunity to revive the historical trade route by offering central Asian countries the privileges of utilization of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to provide



them shortest access to Middle East, Africa and Far East countries. Moreover, six central Asian states are also the members of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO). Somehow, Turkmenistan could not yet established strong trade relations with ECO member countries including Pakistan. ECO-Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ECO-CCI) is endeavouring to trigger the activities of Chamber of Commerce in Turkmenistan. The challenges between Pakistan and Turkmenistan have now switched into business opportunities and both countries can further strengthen trade and economic relations in the days to come.

Turkmenistan's Oil, Gas and Electricity Supplies

Turkmenistan made considerable progress in various sectors such as modern fuel-energy industry, processing and textile industry, construction industry, agricultural, transportation and field of communication since its inception. The average annual growth of the gross national product since 2000 amounts to 8-10 percent.

Being one of the major energy exporters Turkmenistan is exporting its oil, gas and electricity to Russian Federation, Ukraine, Iran, Afghanistan and Turkey through existing pipelines. Now, the TAPI gas pipeline project 1,814 km long TAPI gas pipeline is expected to transport Turkmen natural gas in the volume of 33 billion cubic meters annually.

It is hoped that the multi-billion gas pipeline project would generate 12,000 jobs in Afghanistan besides providing annual transit fees. The pipeline is 1,814 km long and will be laid from Turkmenistan to Multan ending at Indian city of Fazilka. It will through south Yolotan gas field of Turkmenistan to Harat, Kandhar, Chaman, Quetta, Multan and Northern Indian city Fazilka.

Pakistan welcomed Turkmenistan's offer for export of 1000MW electricity to Pakistan and signing of tripartite MoU during his visit to Turkmenistan last December. He stressed the need for greater cooperation in the fields of trade, energy, agriculture, education, science and technology, infrastructure and transportation. He said Pakistan looked towards Turkmenistan for future energy security and offered Turkmenistan to take advantage of Pakistani ports for its exports and imports.

Nawaz Sharif said that it was his third meeting with the President of Turkmenistan in nine months and said it was reflective of the depth, warmth and cordiality between the two countries. He said the deep seaports provided shortest route to the Arabian Sea to Turkmenistan and other Central Asian States. "We will be happy to see our brothers in Central



Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq called on President of Turkmenistan Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov in Islamabad.

Asia use these facilities,” he maintained. He said regional connectivity was an important pillar of Pakistan’s Vision-2025, aimed at making the country a hub of regional trade and commerce. “We are closely working with Turkmenistan for improving infrastructure development for better regional connectivity,” he added. Pakistan’s Federal Minister for Commerce invited Turkmenistan to join China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and promote its external trade through Arabian Sea by utilizing the Pakistan’s southern port of Gwadar.

“The port of Gwadar can prove very beneficial for all the Central Asian Countries, including Turkmenistan to promote their trade through Arabian Sea in the East.

He enumerated that lack of direct cargo links, safe and direct land routes, knowledge of Pakistani products and visa facilitation were the main hindrances that have been hampering trade growth between the two countries.

Turkmenistan has been developing textile industry with special focus on production of export quality products, adding that currently 80 percent of country’s textile products are exported. Both the countries could cooperate in the sectors of oil and energy, agriculture, mining and technology.

By Mian Fazal Elahi, CEO/Editor/Publisher
Diplomatic Focus

Memorandum of Understanding Signed Between Pakistan & Turkmenistan

The following Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) were signed during the visit:

- Programme of Cooperation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for 2016-2017.
- Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of Finance of Turkmenistan and Financial Monitoring Unit of Islamic Republic of Pakistan concerning cooperation in the exchange of financial intelligence related to money laundering and terrorist financing.
- Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Oil and Gas of Turkmenistan and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on further development of cooperation in the field of Fuel and Energy Sector.
- Memorandum of Understanding between Turkmen State University named after Magtymguly (Turkmenistan) and National University of Modern Languages

(Islamic Republic of Pakistan).

- Memorandum of Understanding between the Centre for Policy Studies, COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (Islamic Republic of Pakistan) and the Institute of International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan.
- Memorandum of Understanding between the Institute of International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan and the Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
- Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation between the International University for the Humanities and Development (Turkmenistan) and Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies (Islamic Republic of Pakistan).
- Memorandum of Understanding between Turkmen State Institute of Economics and Management, (Turkmenistan) and COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (Islamic Republic of Pakistan).



Turkmenistan and Pakistan pursuing enhanced regional connectivity

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has said that Pakistan is pursuing a policy of strong cooperation with regional countries, especially with next-door neighbours, for prosperity and enhanced connectivity.

“Pakistan wants friendly ties with all countries on an equal basis for mutual peace and

prosperity. It desires enhanced dialogue for this purpose,” he said while speaking at a conference in capital of Turkmenistan, where he arrived on a two-day visit on Saturday.

The international conference on ‘Policy of Neutrality: International Cooperation for Peace, Security and Development’ was held

in connection with the 20th anniversary of Turkmenistan’s policy of permanent neutrality.

Dignitaries, including presidents of Turkey, Belarus, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Georgia and Uzbekistan as well as foreign ministers from regional, South Asian and the Gulf states participated in the event.

The prime minister lauded Turkmenistan’s policy of neutrality and urged other countries to have respect for others’ beliefs and cultures, which, he said, is a vital component of neutrality. He said Pakistan has a firm belief that shared prosperity is real prosperity. Describing regional integration and connectivity as the key pillar of his policy, Premier Nawaz cited projects



President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov:
“Today we were participants and witnesses of a historic event. Today marks the start of a project of great scale – the TAPI pipeline”





like CASA-1000, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and road projects with Afghanistan. “These projects are manifestation of our policy to enhance regional connectivity.”

He said the International Road Transports conventions and World Trade Organisation would also help in promoting trade in the landlocked region.

Earlier, Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov welcomed the dignitaries and said his country’s policy of neutrality was beneficial for the whole region as well as the whole world.

President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov highlighted the far-reaching effects of this policy which, he said, helped in disarmament and elimination of weapons of mass destruction.

He also referred to the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline

project as a major energy conduit in the region as part of his country’s ‘grand efforts’ to share abundant natural resources with regional countries. Through this project, Pakistan will be able to import 1,325 mmcf/d gas and ease its own energy deficit.

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov and President of Afghanistan Ashraf Ghani attended the ceremony outside the southeastern Turkmen city of Mary, marking the beginning of work on the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) link.

They were also joined by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Indian Vice President Mohammad Hamid Ansari. Turkmen President has said that Turkmenistan expects the gas link with an annual capacity of 33 billion cubic metres to be completed by the end of 2019.

**Prime Minister
Nawaz Sharif:
“The TAPI gas
pipeline project
will help promote
peace and
trade amongst
the regional
countries”**





Further developing parliamentary relations between Turkmenistan and Pakistan

Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan has said that Pakistan is set to open a new chapter in vibrant Pak-Turkmenistan inter-Parliamentary relations. He was speaking to the Chairperson of Mejlis (Parliament) of Turkmenistan.

He outlined that Pakistan is proud of its brotherly relations with Turkmenistan and added that shared strategic calculations and mutuality of interests have brought the two nations ever closer. The Speaker termed Turkmenistan as “Pakistan’s partners” in its endeavors for the regional peace and prosperity. He said that Pak-

Turkmen cooperation at various multilateral and bilateral forums is highly imperative for achieving shared objectives of regional and global peace. Referring to the repeated meetings of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov during the last 14 months, he added that top leadership of both countries is determined to forge deeper cooperation. Appreciating the repeated meetings of Pak-Turkmen Parliamentary Friendship Group, he urged the need for adding a new vigor to Pak-Turkmenistan inter-Parliamentary ties and exploring

other avenues for furthering people to people contacts between the two brotherly countries.

The Speaker outlined that Turkmenistan’s energy potential may greatly assist in restraining Pakistan’s power shortages and reciprocally Pakistani sea ports as well as expertise in agriculture sector, food processing and textiles will potentially benefit Turkmenistan. Referring to the 8 MoUs signed between the two nations during the visit of Turkmen President to Pakistan in March, 2016, he urged the need for boosting bilateral trade and diversification of economic relations



for mutual prosperity. He remarked that the completion of TAPI Pipeline would open a new chapter of energy cooperation between Asian nations to ease energy deficits in South Asia. Chairperson of the Mejlis of Turkmenistan said that Turkmenistan is determined to foster robust ties with Pakistan through enhanced bilateral and multilateral cooperation. She remarked that Pakistan-Turkmenistan bilateral cooperation will unleash a new wave of connectivity in the region. She added that Turkmenistan consider its partnership with

President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov:
 “TAPI is designed to become a new effective step towards the formation of the modern architecture of global energy security, a powerful driver of economic and social stability in the Asian region”

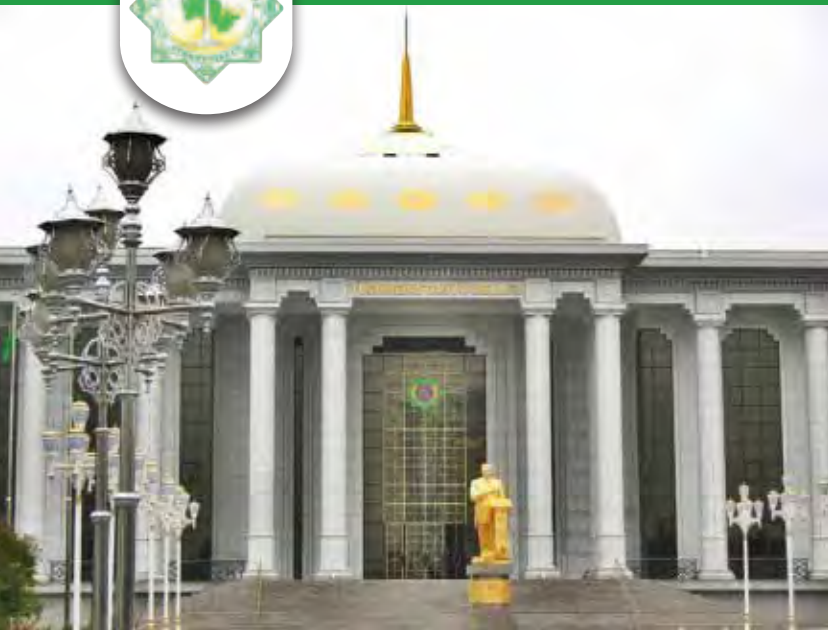
Pakistan highly essential for promoting peace in the region. Chairperson of the Mejlis of Turkmenistan endorsed proposal of Speaker of

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif:
 “The TAPI gas pipeline project will help promote peace and trade amongst the regional countries”

National Assembly of Pakistan for expanding people to people contacts and exchange of Parliamentary delegations. Later on, the Turkmen Speaker also signed the visitor's book along with her comments. The delegation also visited the Solar Power Plant installed in the premises of Parliament to meet the energy requirement of Parliament House.

The visiting delegation also included Deputy Chairman “Turkmengas” State Concern, Deputy Minister of Energy of Turkmenistan, Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Pakistan and other parliamentarians.





Turkmenistan and Pakistan friendly ties are remarkable

The President Mamnoon Hussain emphasized close collaboration between parliamentarians, parliamentary committees and parliamentary friendship groups of the two countries.

President Mamnoon Hussain said Pakistan greatly values friendly and cooperative relations with Turkmenistan, which have deep roots in common faith, cultural affinities and shared traditions.

The President said this while talking to Chairperson of Mejlis (Parliament) of Turkmenistan who called on him along-with a delegation at the Aiwan-e-Sardar in Islamabad.

Speaker National Assembly was also present during the meeting. The President emphasized close collaboration between parliamentarians, parliamentary committees and parliamentary friendship groups of the two countries.

He also called for regular exchanges of cultural and trade delegations to increase people to people contacts and promote understanding between the people of two brotherly countries.

President Mamnoon Hussain noted that bilateral trade between the two countries was far below the potential and needs to be enhanced. He said the two sides need to organize mutual business trips to further promotion of economic relations.

The President underlined the need to start air flights between the two countries to facilitate the business persons, tourists and people to people contacts. The President noted that Turkmenistan – Afghanistan – Pakistan – India (TAPI) gas pipeline was a flagship project towards efforts for achieving regional energy security and prosperity.

He said Pakistan was committed to timely completion of the TAPI Gas Pipeline project. The President also welcomed Turkmenistan's offer for export of 100 MW of electricity to Pakistan.

The President said that with the completion of CPEC and TAPI projects the whole region would achieve prosperity and underlined the importance of regional connectivity to fully benefit from the emerging opportunities.

Chairperson of Mejlis (Parliament) of Turkmenistan said that her country was keen to forge stronger ties with Pakistan to the benefit of people of both the countries.

She said Turkmenistan was working on laying electricity line along the TAPI Gas Pipeline for providing electricity to regional countries.



TAPI partnership are highly essential for the promotion of peace in the region

Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif said Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline is a flagship project of great significance for both the countries as well as for the whole region. The earliest realization of this Gas Pipeline project would advance the shared goals of energy security and regional prosperity, he said. The Prime Minister said "Apart from helping Pakistan in the fulfillment of its gas requirements, the project will integrate the region economically and politically."

The Prime Minister was talking to Chairperson of the Mejlis of Turkmenistan who along with a delegation called on him at the PM House.

Prime Minister Sharif said that frequent exchanges of parliamentary delegations would prove enormously beneficial for strengthening of democracy in the two brotherly countries.

He further said that Pakistan and Turkmenistan enjoyed friendly relations, but there were huge opportunities to further expand the scope of bilateral relationship, especially the economic ties. "We wish to see close collaboration between our parliamentarians, parliamentary committees and parliamentary friendship groups. I convey my warmest congratulations to President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov and the brotherly people of Turkmenistan on the occasion of 25th anniversary of your country's independence" the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister also conveyed his utmost regards to the President for his good wishes.

Chairperson of the Mejlis of Turkmenistan thanked the Prime Minister for extending warm welcome to the visiting delegation in Pakistan. "Let me convey the most sincere wishes and congratulations of the President Gurbanguly

Berdimuhamedov on your successful surgery", the press release quoted the Chairperson as saying. She further said the President was personally supervising each project to ensure quality and timely completion.

Deputy Chairman of "Turkmengas" State Concern informed the participants of the meeting that the TAPI gas pipeline project would be completed and made operational by December 2019. He further added that 15km pipeline had already been laid while geological and technical work was currently underway for another 80km pipeline.

The meeting was also attended by Sardar Muhammad Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker National Assembly, Tariq Fatemi, Special Assistant to PM on Foreign Affairs, Shakila Luqman MNA and other senior officials.



Turkmenistan is an Independent and Neutral State

On the 27th of October, 1991 the supreme legislative body of the state adopted Constitutional Law “ON Independence and Basics of the State Structure of Turkmenistan”. The Law declared within the territory of the Turkmen SSR an independent democratic state of Turkmenistan. The capital of Turkmenistan is Ashgabat.

Turkmenistan stretches out 1.100 km from the East to the West and 650km from the North to the South, its overall territory is 491.2 thousand square km. Administratively Turkmenistan comprises of five Velayats – Ahal, Balkan, Dashoguz, Lebap and Mary.

Turkmenistan borders with Kazakhstan in the North, Afghanistan and Iran in the South, Uzbekistan in the East, Caspian Sea is in the West. The Waters of Caspian Sea are shared by Iran in the South, Russia in the North, Azerbaijan in the West, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan in the East.

The Garagum Desert takes almost ¼ of the territory of Turkmenistan.

Turkmenistan is a multi-ethnic state, having over 100 ethnic groups inhabit in the country. The majority of population is Turkmen urban population consists of 46.5% the rest 53.3% living in rural areas.

Turkmenistan is a democratic, constitutional and secular state. State governance executed in the form of a Presidential Republic. The state guarantees freedom of religion and worship, and equality before law.

The Head of the state and Executive is the highest official of Turkmenistan – the President of Turkmenistan, who heads the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan (the Government of Turkmenistan). The Constitution of Turkmenistan is based on principles of separation of powers between the legislative, executed and judicial branches, which operate independently, balancing each other.

The backbone of foreign policy of Turkmenistan is permanent and Positive Neutrality. Legal foundation of all is constituted by UN General Assembly Resolution 50/80A, adopted on

December 12, 1995. In accordance of that act the amendments were introduced to the national legislation, on December 27, 1995, the country adopted the law “on amendments and additions to the Constitution of Turkmenistan” and “the Constitutional Law” On the permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan”.

Adoption of the above-mentioned laws reiterated support of the neutral status of the state by the national laws, primarily by the Constitution of the state. The amendments granted that the neutrality of Turkmenistan, recognized by the international community, serves as a basis of its domestic and foreign policy.

The neutrality of Turkmenistan is based on active participation in the world affairs, striving for lasting peace and contributing forward global stability and social prosperity. In this connection the President of Turkmenistan said:” Neutral Turkmenistan is actively conducting the peace-building policy based on three main conditions – reliability, openness



Year of Peace and Neutrality and to host an international conference on the topic of "Policy of Neutrality: International Cooperation for Peace, Security and Development" in December, 2015. The adopted document restated that the status of permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan contributes to the strengthening of peace and security in the region.

Currently Turkmenistan maintains diplomatic relations with over 134 countries, is a member of more than 40 International Organizations and party to more than 40 International Conventions.

Turkmenistan's energy and energy transportation diplomacy have secured several UN General Assembly Resolutions. Successful solution of the issues of uninterrupted supply of energy, the ways and means of delivering them, guaranteeing the rights of all the parts of energy chain-suppliers, transit countries and end users are the core of future global economic stability.

In this concern, by the initiatives of Turkmenistan, the Resolution on reliable and stable Transit of Energy and Its role in Ensuring sustainable Development and International cooperation was adopted by the UN General assembly twice in 2008 and in 2013.

Turkmenistan has abundant natural resources and holds 4th place when it comes to amount of hydrocarbon reserves.

An important aspect of Turkmenistan's energy strategy is the formation of the modern architecture of global energy security through the establishment of multi-vector system of transportation of Turkmen energy resources to world market.

Along with the preserving traditionally strategic partnership in the energy sphere, Turkmenistan has significantly expanded the direct energy dialogue on the European, Asian, Far Eastern and South-Eastern area, established close contacts with lending Oil and Gas companies and reputable financial institutions of the world. The result is a number of major international projects. Currently, gas pipelines, stretching to Russia, Iran, China are operating successfully. Besides, thousands of tons of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) are being exported to various countries.

The operation of Turkmenistan-Kazakhstan-Uzbekistan-China trans-Asian pipelines, Turkmenistan-Iran pipelines in fact, marked the emerging of a radically new fuel and energy infrastructure in Eurasia. Two more large scale projects-Turkmenistan-Uzbekistan-Tajikistan-Kyrgyzstan-China and Turkmenistan-



and security - that facilitates solution of issues at the regional and global levels. Our country continues implementing the policy aimed at strengthening good-neighboring and mutually beneficial relations with various countries of the world".

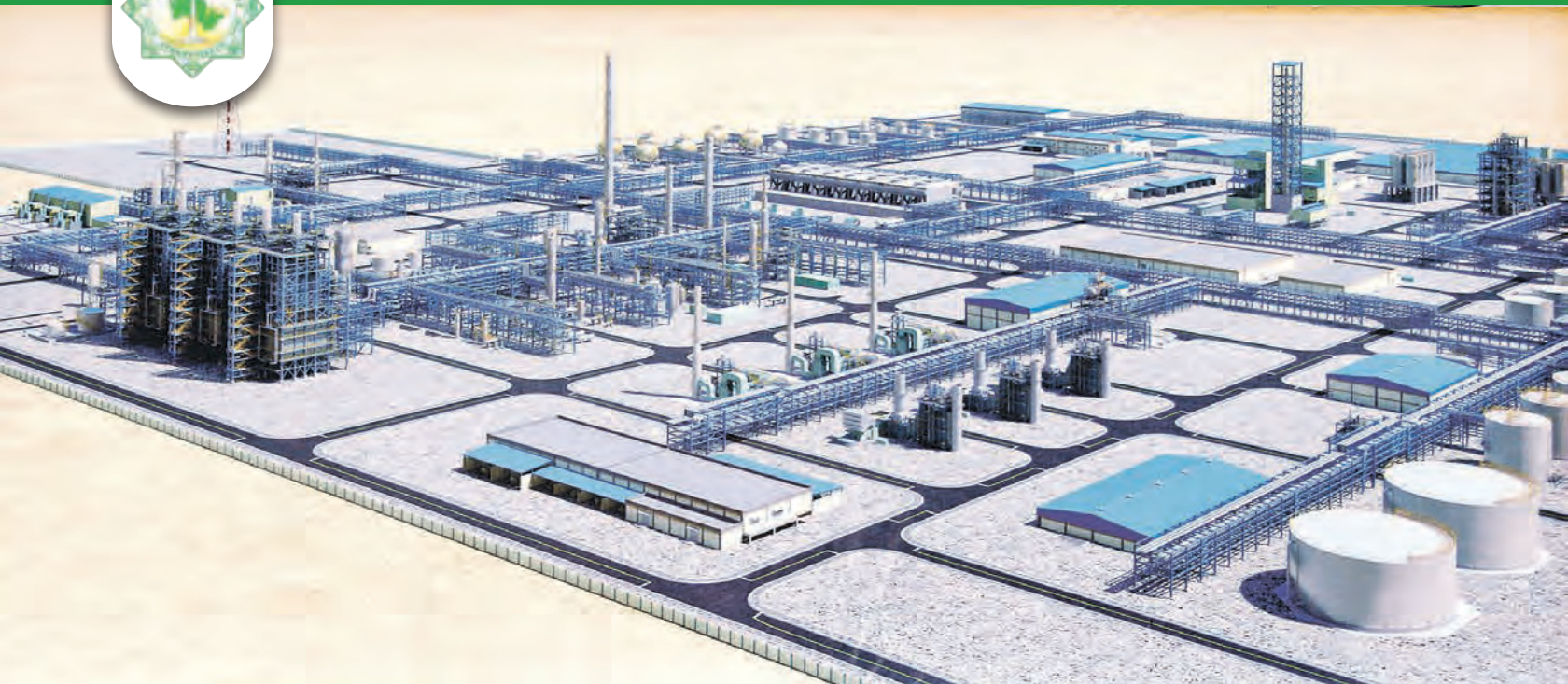
The policy of neutrality of Turkmenistan has been promoting easing of international tension, enhancement of security, positive interstate relations, developing cooperation and preventing conflicts in the region of Central Asia. As an achievement of this, UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia was opened in Ashgabat.

The unanimous adoption of Resolution A/69/4.70 on the Permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan on June 3, 2015 at the 69th

session of the UN General Assembly serves as a strong proof of admission of Turkmenistan's efforts for peace and sustainable economic development.

The document includes three important provisions:

- Reiterate support for the status of permanent neutrality declared by Turkmenistan;
- Calls once again upon State Members of the United Nations Organization to respect and support this status of Turkmenistan and to respect its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity;
- Welcomes the decision of the Government of Turkmenistan to declare 2015 the



Afghanistan-Pakistan-India(TAPI) gas pipelines are under implementation. Also, Trans-Caspian pipeline project in European direction is under discussion.

The start to the construction work on the TAPI gas pipeline was given on December 13, 2015. The resource base for the new energy route will be the Galkynysh gas field in Mary velayat. It has the length of 1,814km and together with ground based infrastructure facilities, the pipeline is to be put into operation in December, 2019.

The TAPI gas pipeline is the first step towards creating a single economic network stretching from the Caspian Sea to the coasts of India. The project is the start of massive regional integration. Along with the route of TAPI, there would be a highway-quality road, the electric power transmission lines and fiber optic link and a railway line will be constructed at a later stage.

And all these would not only contribute to economic growth of the four countries, but also serve as a powerful factor for peace and stability in the region, and most importantly will bring to social and economic recovery of Afghanistan.

Talking about completion of the national East-West gas pipeline project within the territory of Turkmenistan I should notice that it is the backbone of the energy security policy of Turkmenistan, as this gas pipeline connects all the major gas fields of Turkmenistan into a single network. It is 800 km long, passing through challenging terrain from Shatlyk, Mary to Belek, Balkan velayat. This pipeline will enable gas supplies to flow in four directions. Moreover, the design of the pipeline is such that it can provide revers flow in any

direction. Depending on the need it can also be configured to supply gas in two or more directions simultaneously.

As you see in accordance with its gas pipeline strategy Turkmenistan successfully developed a diverse range of export options. This proceeded in step with development of massive gas deposits at the Bagtyyarlyk territory, Galkynysh and Dovletabad gas fields. The combination of these two approaches-pipeline construction and exploitation of hydrocarbon reserves has allowed Turkmenistan to respond more effectively to regional conditions, to global economic crisis, and to shifting patterns of global consumption.

Over the years of independence, the country has built new processing infrastructure in the oil and gas chemical industries new built enterprises of machine construction textile and light industries. The new processing infrastructure has been built in the agricultural sector as well. It is processing almost 100 percent of the agricultural production (primarily cotton as the principal agriculture) thus achieving food self-sufficiency. Energy chemical and textile industries processing of hydrocarbons export of the country's main wealth-gas all this has taken Turkmenistan to the previously unattainable level of economic development. Solvency and reputation of a reliable partner have made the country a welcome counterpart for many foreign companies.





In the world history the Great Silk Road remains as the first transcontinental trade route linking countries and peoples, connecting West and East for the first time. The architecture of the modern geo-economic space is increasingly dominated by harmonious railway, air and road transport lines. If we recall the communication systems and development of a network of pipelines, we will get a picture of the modern international community that is interested in sustainable development of global economic relations. For the solution of the ongoing international problems in the transport systems specific steps need to be taken to achieve harmony in the international transport system, new approaches and understanding of the current state of affairs are needed.

The Turkmen territory was a strategically important section of the Great Silk Road, and Turkmenistan has not lost its valuable geographical location at the crossroads of major routes of the Eurasian continent. On September 3-4, 2014 Ashgabat hosted the High level international conference "On the Role of Transport and Transit Corridors in Ensuring International Cooperation, stability and sustainable Development" and the Ashgabat Declaration was adopted. At the same year-December 2014-the Resolution "On the Role of Transport and Transit Corridors in Ensuring International Cooperation, stability

and sustainable Development" was adopted by the UN General Assembly at the initiatives of the Turkmen side. In December 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted the same Resolution "On transport issues" for the second time.

The demand for intercontinental transportation in countries of Asia, Indochina, the Middle East and Europe and competition in the market of international transport services necessitate exploring new option for cost-effective transport links between Europe and Asia.

The effective use of existing infrastructure is becoming the dominant principle for the development of integrated transport systems, including railroads, roads, airports, inland waterways, seaports and pipelines.

This is illustrated by the Ashgabat Declaration, the Almaty Declaration and the new UN Program of Action for landlocked Developing countries for the decade 2014-2024 that aim to build up systematic collective efforts to overcome the barriers of transport and trade. Over the past few years Turkmenistan jointly with foreign partners has initiated and implemented major international infrastructure projects, this making a significant contribution to the establishment of a multipurpose transport network at the regional and transcontinental levels. Thousands kilometers of railway lines

and highways have already been built along with necessary infrastructure facilities, and much more will be constructed in the country.

The construction of Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran railway along North-South route is completed and put into operation. The construction of Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Tajikistan railway is underway. The airports in major cities of Turkmenistan have been reconstructed and modernized. In Ashgabat a new international airport complex which will be the largest in central Asia, is under construction.

Furthermore, construction works are going on at the Turkmenbashi International Seaport, Merchant Feet is being modernized; reliable logistics center will be formed. As a result, it is expected that it will be possible to ensure modal redistribution of goods in transits: modal shift from road, sea and air transport to the railways. In particular, Turkmenistan plans to implement projects for construction of an international seaport corresponding to Global Port level, as well as upgrading local modal air terminals capable of receiving all types of aircraft future.

Turkmenistan's economy is one of the fastest growing economies in the world and oriented towards creation of highly effective, diversified, socially sensitive and open market economy.



The motto “State for the People” of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov is reflected in every aspect of the economic policy pursued and activities conducted by the Government of Turkmenistan. These economic policies are implemented through short, medium and long term State Programs of the President of Turkmenistan between 2012 to 2030.

Today national economy of Turkmenistan is represented by agriculture, power, oil and gas, textiles, chemical and petrochemical industries, mechanical engineering and metal works, construction materials manufacturing, light and food, food processing industries, services etc. Today, Turkmenistan is one of the most prosperous countries in Central Asia that shows rapid economic development. Turkmenistan’s GDP has shown a rise above 10% over several years. Capital investments into various sectors of the national economy have grown by 6.2% or TMM 49 billion.

During 25 years of Independence Turkmenistan managed to cope with economic difficulties, to adapt to the new market economy and to begin to build a market-oriented economy. As a result of these measures the country managed to create a foundation for the development of its own diversified processing industry, which allowed to increase exports of traditional commodities, to build the economic foundation for reducing of the dependence of the domestic consumer market on import of goods. Increase in domestic industrial production led to shrinking of imports especially in fertilizers, pharmaceuticals, construction materials, agricultural products, and food stuff. At the same time import of raw materials, machine tools and equipment played a positive role in boosting exports of petroleum products, lubricants, natural gas, wheat, cotton yarns, electric power and others. Turkmenistan selected the true rector of economic development of the country—namely the transformation of Turkmenistan from raw materials outskirts into the country with developed diversified economies.

Private sector plays a special role in the national economy, small and medium enterprises are significantly contributing to annual GDP. The Law “The State supports small and medium-sized businesses” had been adopted, and it was aimed at reducing investment risks and administrative barriers, and at the creation of favorable conditions for development of small and medium sized enterprises as an important part of the market economy.

The most popular forms of support to local businesses extended by the Government of Turkmenistan are favorable credit lines for export of goods and services, investment credits, preferential taxation and export credits insurance. Moreover, the Turkmen Government has allocated for the 2015 more





than USD 100 million for support of private sector, especially for small and medium enterprises to entree the race for imports substitution, creating opportunities to compete in the international markets.

Agriculture is one of the leading sectors of the economy, and today against all odds of climate change and harsh weather conditions, the country became soft-sustainable in food security and cotton harvesting. Especially, it is a noticeable fact that Turkmenistan became for the first time, a net wheat exporter in 2011. Almost 85% of the harvested cotton is processed in the country. Turkmenistan has taken measures to increase production volume of fruits, vegetables and to establish the science-based crop rotation.

Cattle-breeding is also a traditional industry of Turkmenistan. There are bred Karakul sheep, sheep and goats, cattle, horses including the world-famous Akhal-Teke horses, camels. The growth in production of meat, milk, eggs is achieved. It is important that Turkmenistan has approved the programme of development of innovative activity for the next five years. The document was adopted in order to implement the scientific and technological strategy based on large-scale reforms aimed to transform Turkmenistan into a leading industrial power. The main objective of this programme is to bring to a new level the important research directions in the field of science and technology, promote the effective practical implementation of scientific achievements in production, thereby ensure the modernization of the national economy.

On April 28, 2015 the first communications satellite of Turkmenistan Turkmen Alem 52E was launched from the launch site at Cape Canaveral (Florida, USA), it was built at the request of Turkmenistan by French Thales Alenia Space.

By launching its own satellite Turkmenistan joins the list of countries with space research and satellite programme, achieving yet another milestone in overall social and economic development. The Turkmen satellite will provide enhanced digital television broadcasting services, extend digital penetration and promote use of latest information and communication technologies in their day-to-day application in various spheres of life.

By giving priority to the level and quality of education and facilitating participation and involvement of citizens, first of all youth in the main areas of development of world science and technology, natural and social sciences, Turkmen state is making the most promising investment-in people, their creative abilities. This is an investment in the future of the country which guarantees the replenishment

of the most valuable strategic resource of the nation – its intelligence.

Concerning the sphere of education and science it should be noted that Turkmenistan has close and mutual beneficial relations with the leading scientific centres and major research and educational institutions all over the world. Turkmen scientists and specialists and technical exchanges and receive high-quality training at research and training centers abroad.

International scientific and student exchange programs are becoming increasingly important today, thousands of Turkmen students study at the best educational institutions in Europe, America, Asia and the CIS.

In spite of global crises developments, last year Turkmenistan allocated more than 80.1 percent of its budgetary funds for the financing of the social sphere, and it remains a priority this year as well.

Turkmenistan annually increases wages, pensions state benefits and students scholarships by 10 % while entire population enjoys benefits in the form subsidized

natural gas, gasoline, electricity, water and salt. Social security code of Turkmenistan prescribes special benefits for those with disabilities, parents who take care of to dollars orphans and senior citizens.

Healthcare yet another area of special attention – 90% of cost of medicines and medical accessories and 50% of medical services, including annual recreation in sanatoriums are covered by the Government.

Education in Turkmenistan is universal, compulsory and free spanning for 12 years with literacy rate of 100% of population. Every child – first, grader under special scheme of the President at the age 6 is provided with free laptop.

Key objectives of the social strategy implemented in 2015 gave further rises in living standards of the Turkmen people and in order to accomplish these, there is a plan for 2015 to enhance performance in the spheres of healthcare, education, culture, and services rendering. Almost 5 billion Manats





are allocated just for housing improvements of the rural population in the country. Besides, the budget funds will be spend for the construction of hospitals, healthcare houses and medical centers children pre-school institutions and secondary schools, cultural centers. Additionally funds will be connected for the building and reconstruction of several thousand kilometers of water supply systems, wells, sewerage systems, roadway network and electric power supply lines. Accelerated

construction of housing funded by the government and private capital budget will be continued in the cities.

Sports and general physical fitness have become an inalienable part of the healthy lifestyle that the Government of Turkmenistan and personally President Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov advocate and actively promote as an efficient tool against harmful habits, like smoking.

The V Asian Indoor Games and Martial Arts will be held in Ashgabat in 2017. 21 sports are to be included into the programme of these Games. During the construction of the Olympic village, costing about USD 5 billion and with the area of 157 hectares, international standards and requirements have been fully taken into account. In the Olympic village, there are over 30 sports facilities, welfare and cultural facilities, as well as system of software. It is being constructed with the help of British builders and will become one of the biggest sports complexes in Central Asia.

It is worthy of nothing that the forthcoming Games are already facilitating the improvement of infrastructure in the capital city, promoting healthy lifestyles among the population. The youth is being involved into sports activities. The Ashgabat Asian Games are expected to be record-breaking in many indications, its heritage is important for the whole region where the Olympic movement is developing very rapidly. Particularly, they will enhance country's prestige in the world sports and promote of the country's tourist potential.

Turkmenistan is interesting for tourist for several reasons: those, who are fond of antiquity will find unique ancient monuments in the country, those who wish to make themselves healthier, can choose the resorts and sanatoriums with a therapeutic mineral waters and muds. National tourist area "Avaza" on the Caspian Sea coast has comfortable hotels with all necessary





infrastructure facilities, including tennis courts and golf courses.

“Avaza” has a unique engineering plan and architectural solution, including man-made navigative canal which can receive even marine yachts. Moreover there is a possibility to improve one’s health at the sanatorium of the seaside resort, taking bath in radon waters and with the help of therapeutic mud.

Visas for tourists coming to this resort are formalized in the simplified procedure at the place of arrival.

2016, the year of 25 Anniversary of the State Independence, is declared the Year of Reverence for Heritage, Reforms in the Motherland. The link between historical heritage and contemporary progressive reforms is inseparable. Many civilizations and nations that left a deep mark in national mentality, the traditions of farming and

economic management existed on the territory of Turkmenistan in ancient times. The revival of the tremendous historical heritage created by our ancestors over many centuries in combination with modern trends in the development of the society and state is the key to our present and future prosperity.

In ancient times, agriculture was the most important sector of the economy. The international community of history and archaeologists found out that the settlements of the tribes that started to practice crop farming existed at the foothills of the Kopetdag mountains in the 5th millennia B.C. in the territory of Turkmenistan. The grains of wheat that are about 5.000 years old were found in Anau during archaeological excavations, these were the grains of hard white wheat varieties of high quality. That is why Turkmenistan is called the homeland of white wheat, and the Ak Bugday national Museum was opened in Anau during the years of independence. The first irrigation facilities artificial water reservoirs, irrigation canals and ditches appeared in Anau in the 4th millennium BC.

Orchards and vineyards occupied large areas around nearly all major settlements and towns; moreover our ancestors were famous for the cultivation of watermelons and melons.

Cotton growing was widely spread in the Middle Ages; mostly cotton was cultivated on the territory of Merv. Along with crop farming livestock farming was widely spread on the





territory of Turkmenistan, it developed to meet the needs and use means of transportation. In ancient times, the unique species of agricultural crops and animals were created, using the methods of selective breeding. These include white wheat melons, fruit, vine and vegetable crops, the Ahalteke horses, karakul and saraja sheep.

The development of agriculture and the expansion of the range of crops stimulated the development of crafts, especially manufacturing of various agricultural foods. The manufacture of weapons from different metals, including copper, bronze and iron, was widely spread. Construction and architecture the manufacture of buildings materials and ceramics, reached high levels on the territory of Southern Turkmenistan in the Copper Age and Bronze Age. Text manufacturing was highly developed on the territory of ancient Turkmenistan especially in Anau, Parthian, Khorezm and Merv oasis. Cotton and silk fabrics, hand-made carpets and kilims were of high quality.

Foreign trade with India, China, Egypt, the Roman Empire, Arabia, the Volga, the Ural, the Caucasus and Black Sea regions flourished. Iron articles, textiles, silk, cotton, wool, leather and products made of them of them, jewels, art works were involved in ancient trade silk fabrics, iron articles sheep, dins, Akhalteke horses.

Reverence for Heritage, Reforms in the Motherland means maintaining traditions move along the path of innovations. Turkmen farmers, preserving and maintaining the traditions of their ancestors, work hard for developing agriculture. They grow wheat, cotton, different vegetables, fruits, melons, watermelons, grapes. The number of livestock and poultry increased, the production of the main livestock products is rising year by year. The implementation of the complex reforms in the agricultural sector will continue so as to make it a highly profitable sector, using the capacity of the modern agro-industrial sector in fully, enhancing the efficiency of agricultural production.

The industrial sector development strategy aims to promote sustainable innovative development of industrial sectors, in cease and maintain competitiveness of the national economy enhance the export potential, reduce the raw materials export orientation, develop the processing industries. When transiting to industrial innovative development, science and education are considered an essential factor for modernization. In this context, the state science development programme for the period till 2021 will be developed and the training of highly qualified scientific personal will continue.

Relying on the traditions of economic management, Turkmen State is intensifying the reforms in the country to ensure its dynamic social and economic development.

The Nature of Turkmenistan has unique landscapes, wonderful natural monuments, the richest mineral resources. The country has 250 sunny days a year; natural ecosystems of the country are notable for their great diversity.



An essential component of the moral basis of the country's economic policy is positive attitude not only to people but also to the environment and natural resources.

Sharing the global community concerns about environmental issues striving for sustainable economic development, channels considerable volume of investments for the protection of nature introduction of environmentally friendly innovative energy-and-resources-saving technologies into the industry, agriculture and transport. The country takes meaningful actions for the preservation of flora and fauna, sustainable use of land and water resources, consistently implements provisions of the international conventions securing the human right to healthy environment. In spite of the enormous hydro-carbon reserves which the country possesses, it conducts much research and practical work on the development of alternative energy sources and "green economy". As you see, fundamental reforms are taking place in Turkmenistan, they are aimed at strengthening the foundations of independence of the country and enhancing its potential. The reforms allowed ensuring sustainable social and economic development of the country and dramatically improving social and living



conditions of citizens. Turkmenistan put forward and implemented initiatives aimed at ensuring peace, raising the standards of living of the people and improving environment.

The natural and economic potential of the country is used to improve the welfare of

Turkmenistan, strengthen its position in the global market, expand interstate, integration ties and consequently, guarantee the high quality of life and the welfare of the people.

*By Sapar Berdinyyazov
Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of
Turkmenistan*





New edition of the Constitution of Turkmenistan was adopted during the session of the Council of the Elders

The session of the Council of the Elders was held under the leadership of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov in the capital “Ruhyet” Palace on September 14, 2016.

The agenda of national forum included summing up of the outcomes achieved for the period under review, discussion of priority issues of comprehensive development of the country that confidently follows the way of fundamental social, economic and democratic changes and achieved grandiose successes there. The current session of the Council of the Elders was marked by important historical event – the adoption of new edition of the Constitution of Turkmenistan.

Council of Elders was attended by the members of the Government, leaders of Mejlis (Parliament), ministries and branch departments, military and law enforcement agencies, political parties and non-governmental organizations, “hyakims of velayats (chiefs of provinces)”, cities and “etraps (districts)”, deputies of National Parliament, personnel of different branches of national economy, youth among the members of the session, also Ambassadors of Turkmenistan in foreign states and heads of diplomatic representative offices and missions accredited in our country,



representatives of domestic and international mass media among the participants. The elders respected by the people and female representatives of elder generation were honored participants of the forum.

Addressing the participants of the forum, the Head of the State noted that everybody had opportunity to familiarize with agenda, having expressed the interest if anyone have proposals or remarks for the topics and documents of the discussion.

Under unanimous support and full agreement of the participants, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov announced the agenda of the current session of the Council of the Elders of Turkmenistan.

Addressing the participants with policy speech President of Turkmenistan highlighted that it is defined in the Constitutional Law "On Independence and Fundamentals of the State System of Turkmenistan" that Independence of Turkmenistan is declared for the sake of highest values – gaining of true national statehood by

Turkmen people, provision of every person with rights and freedoms regardless of differences in national, race, social origin and believe, guaranteed by the Constitution of Turkmenistan, Universal Declaration on Human Rights and other standards of international law, establishment of human democratic society under the rule of law.

The state sovereignty literally created opportunity to revive national spiritual and material values, which go down to the depth of thousands of years. President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov continued, thoroughly thought and well-grounded programmes, aimed at social and economic development of the sovereign Motherland, improvement of well-being of the native people, were successfully realized. National model of competitive economy was created and successfully functions; food independence and security of the country were provided. The structures of the state power and management, meeting the targets and goals of the epoch, were established.

The Head of the State highlighted that while being a new factor in international legislative practice, the Turkmen neutrality offered the world community a new, more optimum method of change of the global paradigm of development, having become the basis for the concept of cooperation and achievements of universal peace.

Mentioning the importance of additional adoption of the Resolution on permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov said that it became another bright evidence of high international authority of our country, efficiency of its foreign policy course based on the principles of positive neutrality, peace loving, good neighbourhood and broad international cooperation meeting common interests. This fact for one more time demonstrated comprehensive support of the status of permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan by the United Nations. Peace, security and progress are the key conceptions, which already for the quarter of the century characterize the foreign policy doctrine of Independent Turkmenistan,



25th Anniversary of the Independence of Turkmenistan

- the Leader of the Nation emphasized.

Today, Neutral Turkmenistan occupies deserving position among developing countries, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov said, having highlighted that steadfast internal and foreign policy, aimed at support of close relations with the countries and peoples of the world based on the principles of friendship and good neighbourhood, entirely corresponds with national traditions formed during the centuries.

In continuation of the speech, the Head of the State gave number of examples of great successes, achieved in economy of the country for the years of independence.

The Leader of the Nation noted that the deserving estimate of scope and scale of conducted work could be made relying on these facts. Thus, for the past quarter of century, more than 144 billion of US dollars of investments, sent to main production funds of the country, were drawn. 544 facilities of production and non-production purposes were built and brought into operation. More than 35 million of square meters of housing were put into exploitation. Today, provision of any person in our country with living area is 23.2 square meters, what exceeds twice the same indicator of 1991.

The President of Turkmenistan stated with delight that domestic industrial sphere is being

developed with high rates and noted that the volume of industrial productions for the period under review increased in more than 7 times. Owing to radical economic reforms, new branches producing competitive high quality goods from local natural and other resources were established.

Accumulation of production potential of industrial sector, stipulating application of innovative technologies and diversification of branch infrastructure was called by the President of Turkmenistan among the achievements. Our country turned into industrial developed states from generally agrarian country for the years of independence.

Open door policy taken by Turkmenistan allowed achieving positive dynamics of the growth in foreign policy relations, - the Leader of the Nation continued, having mentioned that the volume of external turnover increased more than 8 times comparing with 1995. Our country established trade relations with more than 100 countries of the planet.

"Steadily implementing the strategy of diversification of energy supplies, our country together with its partners realized number of large pipeline projects in the east and south directions recently." - President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov continued.

The Leader of the Nation said that large work for provision of local market with domestic production was made for the years of sovereign development, having also noted that

new production potential was established for this period in the country. Domestic industrial branch was formed and firmly set.

The President of Turkmenistan mentioned that owing to implementation of lease relations, improvement of facilities and equipment base of farmers' associations, the abundance of markets with food products were reached.

The Head of the State said that considerable achievements are present in transport, communication broadcasting and information spheres, having highlighted that the year of 2015 would forever enters glorious history of the sovereign Motherland as a year when first national satellite was launched into space.

Speaking of steady development of medium and small business, private entrepreneurship the Leader of the Nation stated with delight that nowadays, the share of non-governmental sector of economy in the structure of the gross domestic product without fuel and energy complex is 68 percent. Total number of enterprises of non-governmental sector of economy of our country is 25 thousand.

The development of science and technologies are widely implemented in production. New enterprises for production of environmentally friendly goods are being established.

Consolidation of relations between our independent neutral state with foreign countries and international organizations also makes positive influence at the growth





of economy, - President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov said, having highlighted that support of mutually beneficial friendly relations in different spheres is the key vector of foreign policy of our country taken for the interests of national, regional and global development.

The partnership with the countries of Asian Pacific Region, Middle and South East, Europe and America as well as with competent international and regional organizations like the UN, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States is being consolidated.

Estimating the successes of internal and foreign policy achieved for 25 years of independence, rapid progress of national economy and social life, the Head of the State declared with pride that we established comprehensively developed, democratic and constitutional society. Our sovereign country has achieved and continues to achieve high results in all spheres of life.

Having continued his speech, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov mentioned that constitutional reforms undertaken in our country are the core of work for legislative transformations during new stage of development of the state.

Having dwelt on main provisions of new edition of the Constitution presented for review by

the participants of the Council of the Elders, the Head of Turkmenistan noted that new Constitutive Document of our state includes 28 new Articles, 107 Articles, which were amended and annexed and one new Chapter.

The President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov said that provisions on independence, permanent neutrality and legislation, temporal and democratic character of our State as well as other fundamental provisions of the Main Law would remain unchanged.

Our country is the only state that reflected the Resolution of the United Nations Organization in its Constitution. We were guided by the target to consolidate the importance of legal status of neutrality of our state in the Main Law as well as to attach special meaning to the historical Resolution on permanent neutrality of our country, which was repeatedly adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, - the Turkmen Leader said.

Having noted that following this, the decision to reflect the legal status of neutrality in new separate chapter of new edition of the Constitution of Turkmenistan was made, the Head of the State highlighted that this proposal was completely approved during national review.

Having noted the suitability of the session of Mejlis and review of the Articles of the

Main Law approved by the participants of the Council of the Elders, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov said that adoption of the Constitutional Law of Turkmenistan on appointment of new edition of the Constitution of Turkmenistan would become remarkable date in the history of our independent state and native people.

2017 is a year of large historical events in our country, the Leader of the Nation highlighted, having defined the exclusive importance of the elections of the President of Turkmenistan. The Presidential elections would demonstrate social and political activity and maturity of our citizens, their understanding of greatest importance of elections in definitions of the future of the country, - the Head of the State declared.

The election campaign will be held in the next year in the atmosphere of high civil activity of all Turkmenistan people. Three political parties, which, besides the Democratic Party of Turkmenistan, are the Party of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs and the Agrarian Party, will participate in the elections.

In continuation of the speech, the Leader of the Nation stressed the attention on main vectors of economic development, which will





be accounted in the draft of the State budget of Turkmenistan for 2017.

The main directions of the state policy of Turkmenistan are provision of prosperous life of the population, protection of rights and interests of the citizens, - the Leader of the Nation highlighted, having pointed that in 2017 as well as in other years, the social policy has to be oriented to improvement of well-being of the people. At the same time, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov noted that establishment of conditions for development of human potential based of improvement of efficiency of spheres of public health, education, culture and other social services is the main target.

President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov noted that the volume of capital investments from all sources of financing would be increased in 2017, more than half of it will be allocated for construction of industrial facilities. Part of the means will be assigned for construction of non-industrial objects. In this relation, the Head of the State quoted specific figures.

Considerable part of the investments will be assigned for development of the production of such items of hydrocarbon resources as polyethylene, polypropylene, high-octane petroleum. Large volume of the investments is planned to allocate for construction of

Turkmenistan – Afghanistan – Pakistan – India gas main. Great attention in investment programme for 2017 is also paid to development of transport and communication complex, the Leader of the Nation said, having mentioned the construction of high-speed autobahn Ashgabat – Turkmenbashi as one of the most important in this sphere, which would allow national economy to integrate into the world economy system and increase the volumes of free convertible foreign currency.

After, Leader of the Nation Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov offered to discuss the subjects of the agenda of the national forum, having given the floor to the participants.

Summing up the results of discussion, the President of Turkmenistan noted that new edition of the Constitution of Turkmenistan was completely approved during current review and that proposals of its adoption during the current session of the Council of the Elders were received.

In this relation, the Head of the State gave floor to Chairperson of Mejlis of Turkmenistan A. Nurberdiyeva.

The Leader of the National Parliament mentioned that successful work of Constitutional Committee for improvement of

the Main Law of the country was carried out during two years under the leadership of the Head of the Nation. The draft of new edition of the Constitution of Turkmenistan was brought out for wide national discussion. First draft of the project, which was published later in domestic mass media, was presented during the Council of the Elders on September 10 of the last year in Turkmenbashi.

It was highlighted that publication of the projects according to the proposal of the Head of the State brought positive result. Number of related suggestions and remarks sent to the Constitutional Committee, Mejlis and state bodies is counted by thousands. In this relation, the Chairperson of National Parliament informed that all of these remarks and suggestions were studied and discussed in details. By the result of hard work, many of received suggestions were accounted in the final version of the Main Law of the country.

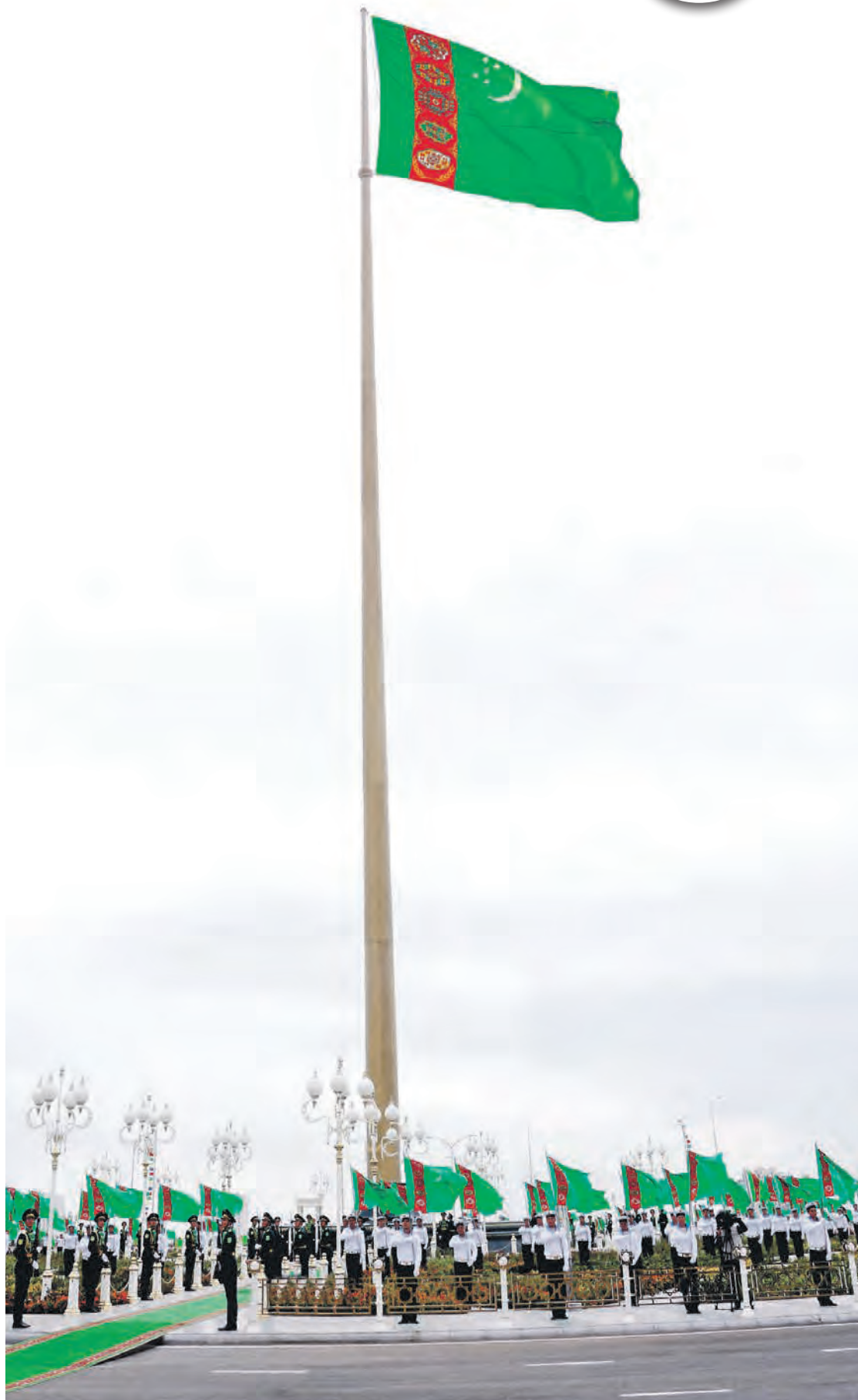
The Constitutional Committee had a target to bring the standards of the Constitution in accordance with provisions of and norms of international documents, which member is Turkmenistan as well as study and account of advanced international practice of constitutional development. In this context, it was mentioned that foreign and international



experts, representatives of competent international organizations took active part in the work for improvement of the Main Law together with national specialists.

It is logical that the draft of new edition of the Constitution was prepared in cooperation with accounts of suggestions of the experts of the UN, OSCE, German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) and other international organizations, which are long-term partners of Turkmenistan. Special mention was made that according to universally recognized legal norms and standards of the world practice, new edition of the Main Law of Turkmenistan stipulates the position of Authorized Representative for Human Rights. The rules, regulating the subjects of the state construction, were considerably amended. Particularly, taking into account the principle of division of the state power into three branches – legislative, executive and judicial, the structure of new edition of the Constitution was changed. Addressing the Head of the State, A. Nurberiyeva mentioned that regular session of Mejlis of Turkmenistan of the fifth convocation started its work on September 12. For two days, Parliamentarians discussed the projects of new legislative acts as well as new edition of the Main Law of the country. In this relation, the Chairperson of National Parliament asked the permission of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov to continue the work the session of Mejlis during the Council of the Elders and to conduct voting for adoption of new edition of the Constitution of Turkmenistan. Draft of the Constitutional Law of Turkmenistan on “Adoption of the Constitution of Turkmenistan in New Edition” was brought for vote among the deputies of National Parliament. The project was adopted by a solid vote. Having cordially congratulated the leader of the Nation and all Turkmen people on adoption of new Constitution of Turkmenistan, the Head of Mejlis on behalf of the Deputies of the country asked the Head of the State to sign the above-mentioned Constitutional Law.

The Leader of the Nation in ceremonial atmosphere cordially congratulated the participants and people of the country on adoption of renewed Constitution, which absorbed international and national democratic practices and met the common rules and principle of international law.





Turkmenistan

emphasized on world leaders

to adhere to and collectively advance the principles of United Nations Charter, international conventions and agreements aimed at resolving conflicts

Most recently Turkmenistan rigorously participated in the 71th session of the UN General Assembly.

The Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan highlighted that Turkmenistan emphasized on world leaders to adhere to and collectively advance the principles of United Nations Charter, international conventions and agreements aimed at resolving conflicts because of the escalation of conflict in different parts of the world, increased militarization and disrespect of international law.

He focused to have objectively increasingly closer and more coordinated interaction of States and major international organizations for the sake of achieving the common goal ensuring international peace and security and preserving legal and institutional frameworks that form the foundation of today's world order.

During his remarkable speech, he rightly pinpointed threats to peace and stability that now transcend national borders, political and ideological doctrines, and terrorism alike which falls outside the notions of human morality, are now undermining the entire system of world order, its principles, values and foundations.

The Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan advocated Turkmenistan's different initiatives to tackle these fatal threats to human survival on this planet and pledged a universal response to it.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan successfully showcased policy statements of his country on different issues not confined to peace and security, implementation of Sustainable Development Goals, resolution of climate change, and problems of migrants, refugees and stateless persons. He also projected Turkmenistan's government goals,

targets of SDGs. On its part, Turkmenistan under the visionary leadership of its President H.E. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov has surpassed all the regional countries to adopt and implement SDGs in its true letters and spirits in the country. It has already adopted the global indicators which will be utilized in developing and implementing state programs of social and economic development.

It is indeed a "road-map" to achieve the desired goals/targets of social development in the country. The government of Turkmenistan has already initiated diversified but integrated reforms/policies to gear-up the SDGs in the country. It is about to achieve sustainable socio-economic development. It speaks about "qualitative life". It stands for empowerment of women. It fosters social development. It provides basic necessities of life. It cares about education, clean drinking water, health and the last but not the least, shelter.



The delegation of Turkmenistan also held meetings with the UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Mr. Jeffrey Feltman and the UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Mr. Wu Hongbo. Matters of mutual cooperation and further strengthening of scope of coordination with special reference to the upcoming "Global Conference on Sustainable Transport System" to be held on November 26-27, 2016 in Ashgabat were thoroughly discussed. Moreover, joint activities on strengthening regional security and other important issues of partnership had also been tabled and thoroughly discussed.

In his address, he also highlighted the importance of the Paris Agreement on climate change and suggested that a special conference, under the auspices of the UN, that will be dedicated to measures for improving environmental situation in Central Asia be held next year.

He further noted that in after assuming the chair of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, Turkmenistan will discuss with other regional countries and UN agencies means to advance the agenda.

On the final days of its visit, the Turkmen delegation held meetings with the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, President of the General Assembly Peter Thomson, Under-Secretary-General Gyan Chandra Acharya, Executive Director of the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations Jean-Paul Laborde.

In these meaningful meetings, the significance of Turkmenistan's peace-building initiatives, and its commitment to the effective and practical implementation of "Sustainable Development Goals" in the context of preparations for the first Global Conference on Sustainable Transport have been noted.

Turkmenistan has excelled in pace of development in the region. It has the best social development model in the region. Due to its gradual reforms its national economy has achieved new targets of prosperity and sustainability. It values its people as real "strategic assets" due to which is now rated as one of the fastest growing, prosperous and peace-loving nations of the world. Its global partnership with so many international forums and organizations has already paved the way of greater economic integration and regional connectivity. The 71th session of the UN General Assembly clearly shows Turkmenistan's overall socio-economic development along with a strong political will to achieve, maintain and sustain pace of socio-economic development in the country.

Turkmenistan is peace loving country and its "neutrality status" was again highly appreciated during the 71th UN General Assembly Session. It's diversified but integrated initiatives and concrete actions for achieving desired goals of peace, security and progress was widely

acknowledged. Modernization of the economy and transformation of Turkmenistan into industrialized developed countries the active integration into the world economy is an economic miracle.

Its consistent consolidation of international efforts to address the key issues of the global agenda, the approval of the UN leading role in the preservation and strengthening of world peace, stability and security, the full realization of the stated agenda of sustainable development up to 2030, the steady implementation by member states of their commitments to ensure sustainable development in the light of the agreements reached at the relevant conferences is the resultant of its close liaison with so many global organizations through global partnership.

Priority position of Turkmenistan in the 71st session of the UN General Assembly reflected the inviolability of the basic foundations of its foreign policy, according to which, Turkmenistan will continue to strictly follow the principles of neutrality, non-interference, guided by a strong commitment to a peaceful, political means to resolve conflicts and contradictions.

Turkmenistan is a full member of the Executive Board of UNESCO, as well as a number of specialized agencies of the United Nations, such as Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the UN Commission on Economic and Social Council, the Governing Council of the United Nations on Human Settlements Programme, the Commission on Population and Development, the Executives Board for Coordination of the United Nations framework on gender equality and the empowerment of women, the UN Commission for social development, the United Nations Commission on science and technology for development. Its unique contribution and participation in so many associated organizations

of the UN was highly recognized during the 71th UN General Assembly Session.

It projected and defined the consistent work on implementation of international initiatives of President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov on global and regional issues. Priority positions reflected their strategic directions, covering the promotion of peace and security, strengthening the partnership for sustainable development, increasing international cooperation in the transport and energy sectors, to develop and implement effective solutions to the issues of environmental and disaster risk reduction.

Concluding Remarks

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov is the leader of the 21st century who has the strategic vision. Adoption and implementation of SDGs in Turkmenistan has already set a new direction and road-map of socio-economic development in the country. Turkmenistan stands for peace, development, security, global partnership and sustained pursuits of economic development which it reflected in the 71th UN General Assembly Session.

The foreign minister reaffirmed Turkmenistan's commitment to continue to cooperate with the UN and active involvement in and support for its political and diplomatic efforts to preserve and strengthen global security and in implementing its programmes in the economic, social, environmental, humanitarian and other areas.

*By Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan
Daily LEAD Pakistan*







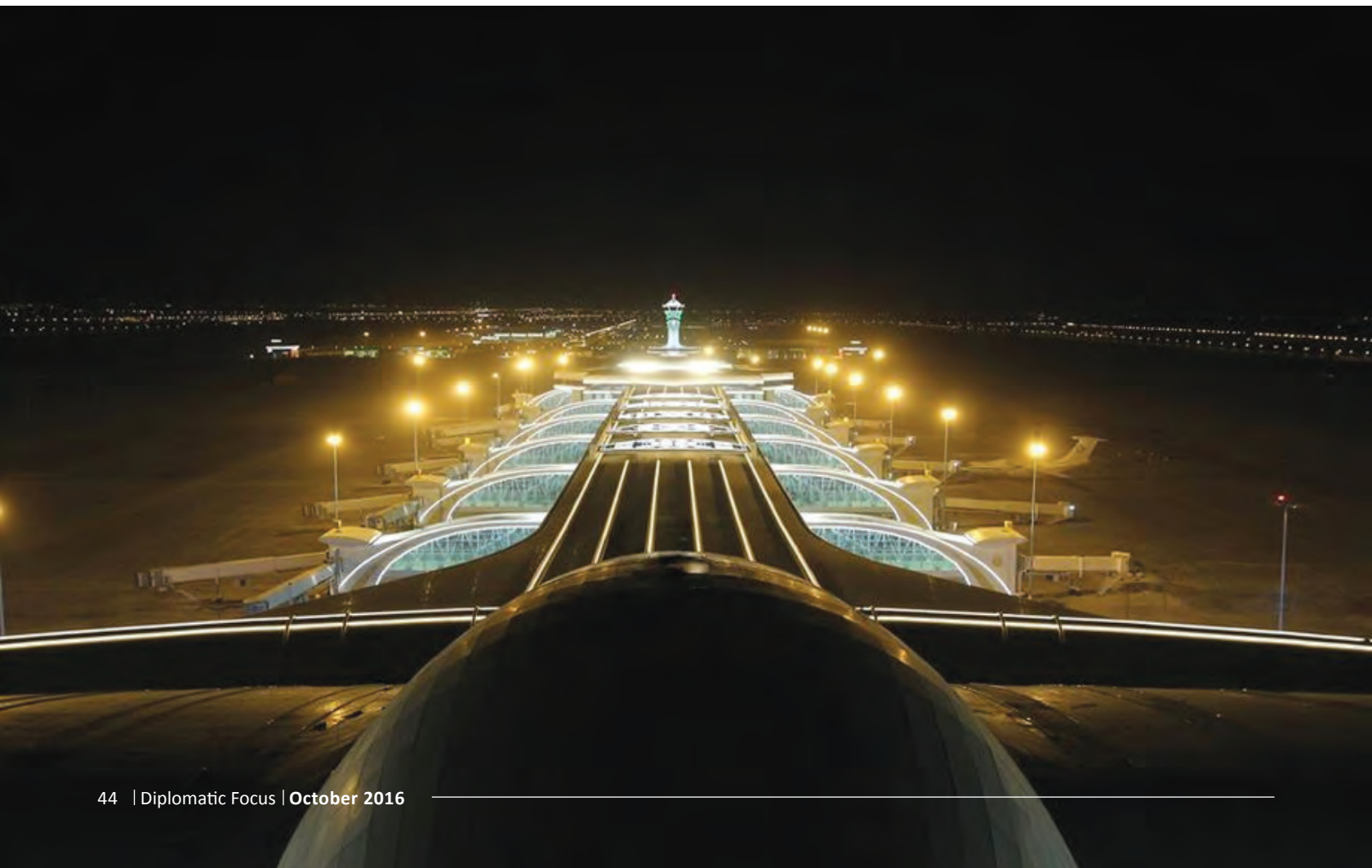


President of Turkmenistan inaugurates new Ashgabat International Airport

On September 17, 2016 in Ashgabat, Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov participated in the solemn ceremony of the inauguration of the complex of the new International Airport, designed to become the main “air gates” of Turkmenistan.

The opening ceremony was attended by the representatives of a number of international and regional organizations such as the International Air Transport Association, the Interstate Aviation Committee, the International Road Transport Union, and the International Organization for Migration, the Olympic Council of Asia, Oceania National

Olympic Committees and others. Also the top managers of such large air companies as «Boeing», «Airbus», also leaders and representatives of the airlines and aeronautical services from about 25 countries participated at the opening ceremony.





The International Airport, put into exploitation in Ashgabat and being the largest in the Central Asia, occupies almost 1200 hectares and includes more than 100 facilities.

Total area of the main building of the terminal with capacity of 14 million passengers per year is more than 190 thousand meters. Together with second terminal for 3 million passengers, the modern airport will be able to serve more than 17 million passengers per year or around 2 thousand passengers per hour. More than 200 thousand tons of cargo will be able to transit via cargo terminal.

New airport has two airstrips with all necessary infrastructure and total length of 3800 meters. Air traffic control service is provided with super modern navigation equipment. The Airport is able to receive airplanes of any types and cargo capacity providing the service at international level.

The Leader of the Nation noted the symbolism of the date of putting new capital airport into exploitation – exactly one year until the beginning of V Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games. It is personnel of national aviation service, who will be the first to meet numerous guests of our country, participants and spectators of the Games.

Under preparation to the Games, which will be held in 2017, the number of flights including for passengers from Asian region is planned to be increased during Asian Games.

Foreign guests made speeches during opening ceremony of International Airport. There is official representative of the World Guinness Book Jack Brockbank, who brought World Guinness Book certificate for Ashgabat International Airport for the biggest (705 square meters) ornaments image, which decorated main passenger terminal.

President of «International Property Awards» and founder of «International Property & Travel» Stuart Shield brought another good news. He declared on decision of «International Property & Travel» magazine to award this unordinary facility with «Construction Excellence Award» that recognize outstanding architectural concept, quality of project planning and construction of this large and complicated object.

Mr. Shield said that for already 26 years he awards prizes for the best construction projects of the world but new airport complex of Ashgabat made special unforgettable expression by its unusual original design.

Executive Director of «Business Initiative Directions» (BID) Farank Calvin presented «International Star Award for Quality» prize.

The representative of BID characterized main advantages of the airport complex, for which it was awarded with prize for quality. They are an unusual look in the shape of a bird spreading its wings, advanced technologies and finally, an inspiring beauty. Daring and outstanding design in the sphere of civil construction remarkably distinguishes it from other airports of the world brings it to the first scene as one of the most harmonic combinations of non-standard form and maximum functionality.

Dr. Ralph Gaffal, the Managing Director of Munich International Airport, who was consultant during preparation for the opening of new Ashgabat Airport, organization of management systems and service of passengers and cargo processing, presented International Quality Management Certificate.

Indeed, Ashgabat International Airport impresses not only by its sizes, design and scope. There are many things inside unusual construction to enjoy. At the same time, its space is organized very simply, clear and informative for every passenger from the total count, it is to remind that the capacity is 14



12

Çağalar 405-408
Restoranlar we Kafeler
Food Court
Çağalar Oýun Meýdançasy
Children's Playground

Türkmenistan Airlines
Ashgabat
International Airport

Türkmenistan Airlines
Ashgabat
International Airport

Biznes Klas Zaly
Business Class Lounge
Internet Kafe
Internet Cafe
Hajathanalar
Toilets



million people per year, feels attention and benevolence of personnel. Simple interface is being achieved by displays, fluorescent and other pointers, advertising and information boards and stands, monitors, where passengers are able to receive necessary information including those who arrived for the first time to Ashgabat.

New systems and complexes of equipment are implemented at the check-in and departure sections in Ashgabat Airport. Passenger will be able to check-in or at least do the part of the process himself. This is so called electronic airport system, which main part is self-check-in. Its implementation will allow reducing the queues for regular check-in stands.

Number of passport control stands is reduced by new e-gates. Duty-free shops, 27 food shops with 3 of them in business-lunch format, are located in sector of International flights. Besides, there are children playgrounds with toys and amusements for little passengers. Cafes with menus for kids are located next to them. There are also all conditions for disabled





people at the airport. Well-thought layout of the territory allows fast and easy orientation in necessary direction using 53 elevators or 41 automatic escalators and 18 moving walkways of 400 meters of total length.

The President of Turkmenistan went up to the third floor where wide panorama of the flight field is opened. At the same time, new «Boeing 737-800», purchased for national fleet, has landed. After, the air harbor of the capital started receiving the flights of foreign airlines.

There are also hotel rooms at the third floor of the terminal. Crew members and transit passengers will be able to use comfort and functional rooms for short stay, enjoying excellent service, cleanness and cosiness.

Passenger telescopic gangways for boarding (unboarding) directly from the terminal to plane are used at the gates of new capital airport.

After, the Head of the State, went to the second floor of the terminal, at arrival zone, where first international flights passengers from different countries were coming out.

The President of Turkmenistan welcomed passengers and crewmembers of the planes of foreign airlines from Iran, Afghanistan, Turkey, Qatar and Russia. The guests shared exiting impressions of huge white falcon seen from the height and grandiosity of the airport complex of our capital. The Head of the State went to departure zone, where students departing

by the flight Ashgabat – Peking for study in universities of the People's Republic of China as well as their parents gathered.

President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, having expressed his interest in professions chosen by boys and girls, fatherly blessed them for gaining most modern knowledge in order to, upon their return back home as highly qualified specialists, they would make

considerable contribution in prosperity of the Motherland. Having given the guidance to be purposeful in study and life, the Leader of the Nation wished students a good flight.

Before leaving the building of the main passenger terminal, the Leader of the Nation inspected the conditions made in CIP and VIP zones, paid attention to professional innovative system of life support of the airport.





DURNUKLY ULAG ULGAMY BOYUNÇA BIRINJI AHLUMUMY
MASLAHATYNA BAGYŞLANAN MEDIA-FORUM
Aşgabat şäheri, 2016-njy ýylyň 16-njy sentyabry

MEDIA FORUM DEDICATED TO THE FIRST
GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT
Ashgabat, 16 September 2016



International Media Forum dedicated to the Global Conference on Sustainable Transport in Ashgabat

On September 16, 2016 Ashgabat hosted an international media forum organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, dedicated to the first Global Conference on the Sustainable Transport.

The forum gathered leaders and representatives of leading international organizations and structures including the UN European

Commission for Economy (the UNECE), the UN Economic and Social Committee for Asia and Pacific (the UNESCAP), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (the OSCE), the Economic Cooperation Organization (the ECO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Road Transport Union (IRTU) and others as well as representatives of international news agencies, TV and radio

channels in the Turkmen capital. The Turkmen side was represented by the heads and representatives on number of ministries and branch departments and other related agencies.

Being full-fledged member of international system of cargo traffic, Turkmenistan provides reliable transport and transit connection throughout its territory. Great attention is





paid to development of all types of transport including automobile, railroad, air and maritime. New airport are being built, railways and autobahns are being laid; grandiose by its scale and importance Turkmenbashi Sea Port and bridges connecting Turkmenistan with neighbouring countries are under construction; maritime, air fleets and railroad park are being regularly supplemented with new means. At the same time, our country develops international cooperation in transport sphere, initiates the establishment of interstate transport corridors, becoming important link of transcontinental routes.

As is known, constructive initiatives of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov for establishment of diversified combined transport infrastructure in North – South and East – West directions, which is summoned to promote intensification of international partnership in regional and global scale, received wide support of the world community.

Speaking at the opening of current media forum, Andrey Vasilyev, the Deputy Executive Secretary of the UN European Commission for Economy





highlighted timeliness and actuality of the coming conference in the context of development of optimal solution of transport issues in the interests of peoples of the region and the world.

Speaking of importance of transport and transit corridors presenting complicated system and uniting transport networks of different countries, the guest mentioned their role in regional and international integration, consolidation of stability and mutually beneficial cooperation. The necessity

of consolidation of all efforts in the context of accumulation of constructive cooperation in transit and transport sector as one of the important factors of economic progress and sustainable development was highlighted.

Solution of these issues meets the interests of future generations and is summoned to serve for the sake of people. In this context, the importance of joint and steadfast work in this direction was emphasized. Under this activity, the important role belongs to "Eurasian Transport Lines" (EATL) project,

which completion will have great significance for the whole region and for integration of the countries into global economy, especially for the developing states, which have no access to sea. In this context, the necessity of improvement of borders management and provision of security was highlighted.

The Deputy Executive Secretary of the UNECE expressed his confidence that the First Global Conference for Sustainable Transport System planned in Ashgabat would become an open ground for active and efficient exchange of opinions on cooperation in transport sphere.

Representatives of number of leading international organizations like the International Road Transport Union, the International Maritime Organization, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and other stressed the attention that transport is a key factor in promotion of the sustainable economic development and plays leading role in trade, which is important element of accumulation of positive cooperation between countries, what, in its turn, serves to consolidation of regional security.

Speaking of topicality of partnership in this sphere, the participants of the media forum emphasized the importance of such aspects as provision of efficient transport communications, optimization of border crossing procedure and work of relative services, organization and management of trans boundary transport traffics, etc. In this regard, the necessity of further improvement of legal and regulation base in transport





sphere and activation of cooperation under international organizations in this field, what would serve to achievement of economic growth and sustainable development, were mentioned.

The conduct of the First Global Conference for Sustainable Transport System in Ashgabat is not occasional as the country, located at the intersection of main transport and transit routes in Eurasian region, is the important transport, transit and communication hub. Turkmenistan makes considerable contribution into development of economic interstate and interregional relations as well as into intensification of transit of cargo and passenger traffic. Large-scale and grandiose projects, aimed at complex modernization and development of transport infrastructure of the state, undertaken by the initiative of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov,

brought Turkmenistan to the leading position in the region.

After the ceremonial opening, the media forum was continued in the format of topical sessions, where range of actual issues, particularly, establishment of modern legal base of cooperation in transport sector, accumulation of mutually beneficial relations in this sphere in Eurasian continent and other were discussed.

Interested exchange of opinions on perspectives of development of transit, increase of volume of cargo traffic in the region also took place. Noting considerable role of Turkmenistan in accumulation of scale of transits in the regions, the participants were unanimous in their opinions about huge perspectives, which open in relation with radical reconstruction and development of transport networks of the country, further intensification of constructive

international partnership. During the meeting, the participants discussed in details the agenda of the coming Conference as well as a number of organizational and protocol subjects. The wide spectrums of topical issues were suggested to be included into the programme of the forum. There are sustainable transport and environmental change, energy and transport, urban transport system and road and transport communication between cities and villages, investments to transport branch and its financing, international cooperation in transport sphere and its legal bases, development of versatile transport corridors and their infrastructure, traffic safety and others among them. Executive summary is planned to be developed and adopt by the outcomes of the forum.

Special attention of experts during current sessions was paid to the role of mass media in coverage of the work of Conference in modern age of digital information technologies. Opening opportunities for operative broadcasting of the information as well as change of traditional role of news agencies with account of growing importance of social media were also reviewed.

Thus, actuality of the First Global Conference for Sustainable Transport System is confirmed by the time itself and is bright evidence of relevance of creative initiatives of President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov.





Development of the sphere of transport in Turkmenistan

This year Turkmenistan is celebrating the 25th anniversary of sacred Independence. During this period Turkmenistan gained great achievements in all spheres of life of the state and society. Since independence Turkmenistan has implemented a range of reforms, large-scale programs and projects of international significance, which increased the authority of Turkmenistan in the international arena. Being a full-fledged member of the world community, Turkmenistan regularly sets forth important international initiatives aimed at addressing pressing challenges of present time and contributing to the safeguard of international security and peace. Those important international initiatives include proposals of Turkmenistan aimed at creating stable transit transport systems. Along with energy, food supply and nutrition, water and oceans, the formation of a reliable transport infrastructure will bring great economic and political advantages to states and regions, including landlocked countries.

During his speech at the jubilee session of the UN General Assembly held in September 2015 esteemed President stressed the importance of the Agenda in tackling pressing problems of our time and stated "It is our strong opinion that the new agenda consisting of 17 global goals and 169 tasks reflects main approaches

to solving development problems facing the humankind today. The new agenda is based on the international community's determination to achieve sustainable development in a balanced and integrated manner in its three components – economic, social and environmental."





The importance of transport and mobility in achieving goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development is evident. As pointed out by the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, the global transport strategy of the 21st century is the strategy of the integration breakthrough, united geographical and infrastructural capacity, technical and technological potentials of states and regions. Following this strategy, the country is taking the necessary measures for the implementation of the initiatives put forward by the National Leader. This is evidenced by the organization of the high-level international conference “The Role of Transport and Transit Corridors in Ensuring International Cooperation, Stability and Sustainable Development”, held in Ashgabat in September 2014.

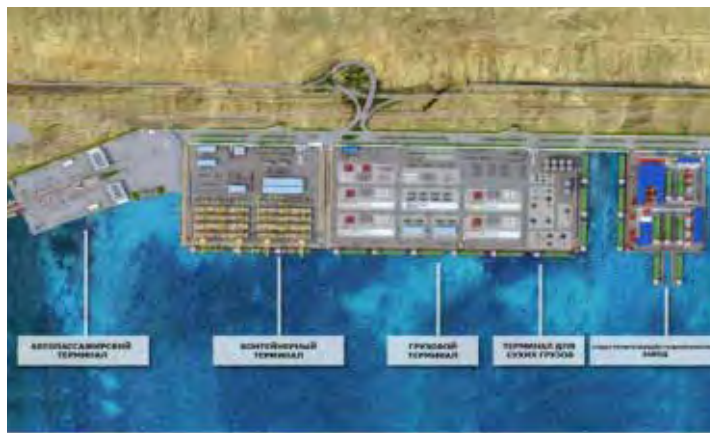
The outcome of the conference was the adoption of the Ashgabat Declaration, which reflected an understanding of the need for an elaboration of criteria of cooperation in this field. The document provides for important new priorities in the work of the Community of Nations and became a basis for the elaboration of the resolution of the UN General Assembly “The role of transport and transit corridors to ensure international cooperation for sustainable development”, adopted on 19 December 2014. Another UN resolution

titled “Towards comprehensive cooperation among all modes of transport for promoting sustainable multi-modal transit corridors” was adopted by the General Assembly on 22 December 2015. These two resolutions indicate and confirm the success of Turkmen diplomacy in the field of transport. Here it is worth noting that the resolutions, initiated by

the President of Turkmenistan, are the first international documents of the United Nations in the field of transport.

The creation of multimodal highways meeting the requirements of time, which is essential for the successful development of our country, is one of the priority areas of the reform policy





pursued by esteemed President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov.

The advantages of the geographic position of Turkmenistan located at the crossroads of the main roads of the continent provide opportunities for all countries of the region to use a multimodal transport system, strategic transit corridors of Eurasia created in our country.

Esteemed President emphasized the need to intensify effective relationship in the sphere of transport with the UN specialized agencies, in particular, the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the International Road Transport Union (IRU). Having established effective cooperation with the mentioned international structures, a proposal was set forth to discuss possibilities for the creation of a Modal Highway for Central Asia with access to Turkey. This shows that Turkmenistan is ready to establish mutually beneficial and effective cooperation with different states of the world and authoritative international organizations in achieving sustainable development goals.

At present, Turkmenistan, as a bridge of the region with favourable conditions for transit corridors, occupies a special place in the world map. The development of the sphere of transport, achievements gained in this

field are due to the effective establishment of international cooperation. The need to create transport diplomacy in Turkmenistan's system of foreign policy tools is specified in the Foreign Policy Concept of Turkmenistan for 2013-2017. Transport diplomacy, in its turn, is aimed at further developing the national transport sphere and reaching its competitiveness. Turkmenistan, playing an active role in international relations in this field, relies on its geographical position as well as rail, air, sea and road transport possibilities in elaborating large projects and implementing them.

The effective initiatives of the Head of State created a basis for the United Nations' decision to hold the first World Conference on sustainable transport system on 26-27 November 2016.

Under globalization process, the significance of international transport and transit corridors in economic, political and social aspects further increases. Since international transit corridors have a direct impact on the development of the country's economy. This is proved by economic indicators. In particular, it is worth noting that at present time the transport sector makes about 6 percent of the world economy. Large-scale projects being currently carried out in the country indicate positive results of regional transformations. In his speech at the conference

held in September of 2014 esteemed President stated that perspective transport relations ensure not only a coordinated system of international and interregional sea, river, auto, rail and air routes, but also the harmonization and effective use of the advantages of each type of transport. The Turkmen Leader also emphasized the geopolitical, geo-economic significance of the proposal on building the extensive complex and combined structure of transport and transit corridors that covers the spaces of continental Eurasia with access to the sea terminals of the Black Sea and Baltic region, South and South-East Asia, the Near East.

It is worth noting that the transport project "Central Asia – the Near East" (Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan-Iran-Oman) is of great significance. Several neighbouring countries have also expressed their interest in joining it.

It is envisaged to increase transit capacity through the railway Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran, which symbolizes the "Golden Link" of the International North-South transport corridor, up to 15 million tons till 2020. It is significant due to the fact that it has an opportunity to intersect with the transcontinental direction China-Central Asia-Caucasus-Europe, which passes along the Caspian Sea. Another important project in this field is the construction of the railway Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Tajikistan.





At present, Turkmenistan is studying new prospects of mutual relations with the countries of the Near East, including countries of the Persian Gulf.

As has been already mentioned, Turkmenistan regularly puts forward proposals on building a multimodal international transport corridor in Eurasia in the platform of international and interregional integration of organizations. In this context, the National Leader can expediently use the geopolitical space of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Community of Independent States, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the intergovernmental group of the Europe-Caucasus-Asia transport corridors (TRACECA).

In 2011 the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov was rewarded the highest award of the IRU – “Grand Prix d’Honneur” – for his contribution to the creation of effective transport system.

Currently, the opportunities of the Caspian Sea transport and transit corridors are essential for the whole world. This is due to the fact that there is a chance for our country to reach the Indian Ocean through the Caspian Sea over the Persian Gulf, and the Atlantic Ocean through the Wolga-Don Canal.

In order to turn the Caspian region into an important transport artery, it is necessary, first of all, to modernize the sea port of Turkmenbashi city. At the initiative of esteemed President, the start-up of the construction of the international sea port of Turkmenbashi city was held on 15 August 2013. The port meeting world standards was constructed by Turkish companies. It complies with “Green Port” international standards. The modern sea port to be equipped with advanced technology will provide access to commodity and raw materials markets of European countries, the Near East and Middle East as well as to reach

countries of the Indian Ocean region. This will make it possible to shorten distance and terms for huge amount of cargos.

The country pays special attention to the civil aviation, which is evidenced by the new international airport in Ashgabat. It was put into operation on the eve of the 25th anniversary of Independence, 17 September 2016. As stated by the President of Turkmenistan at the solemn opening ceremony of the new airport, civil aviation, which connects the regions and help to join international spaces, is an important part of the transport-logistics sphere of the country. The Airpark of the State National Service “Turkmenhowayollary” is provided with airplanes and helicopters produced by leading manufacturers of the world.

The current year 2016 will enter the chronicles of independent Turkmenistan as one of the successful years in the country’s history of foreign policy. As has been already mentioned, this year the Ashgabat International Airport has been commissioned and the First World Forum on Sustainable Transport is to be held

on November 26-27. All this indicates successful development in the field of transport.

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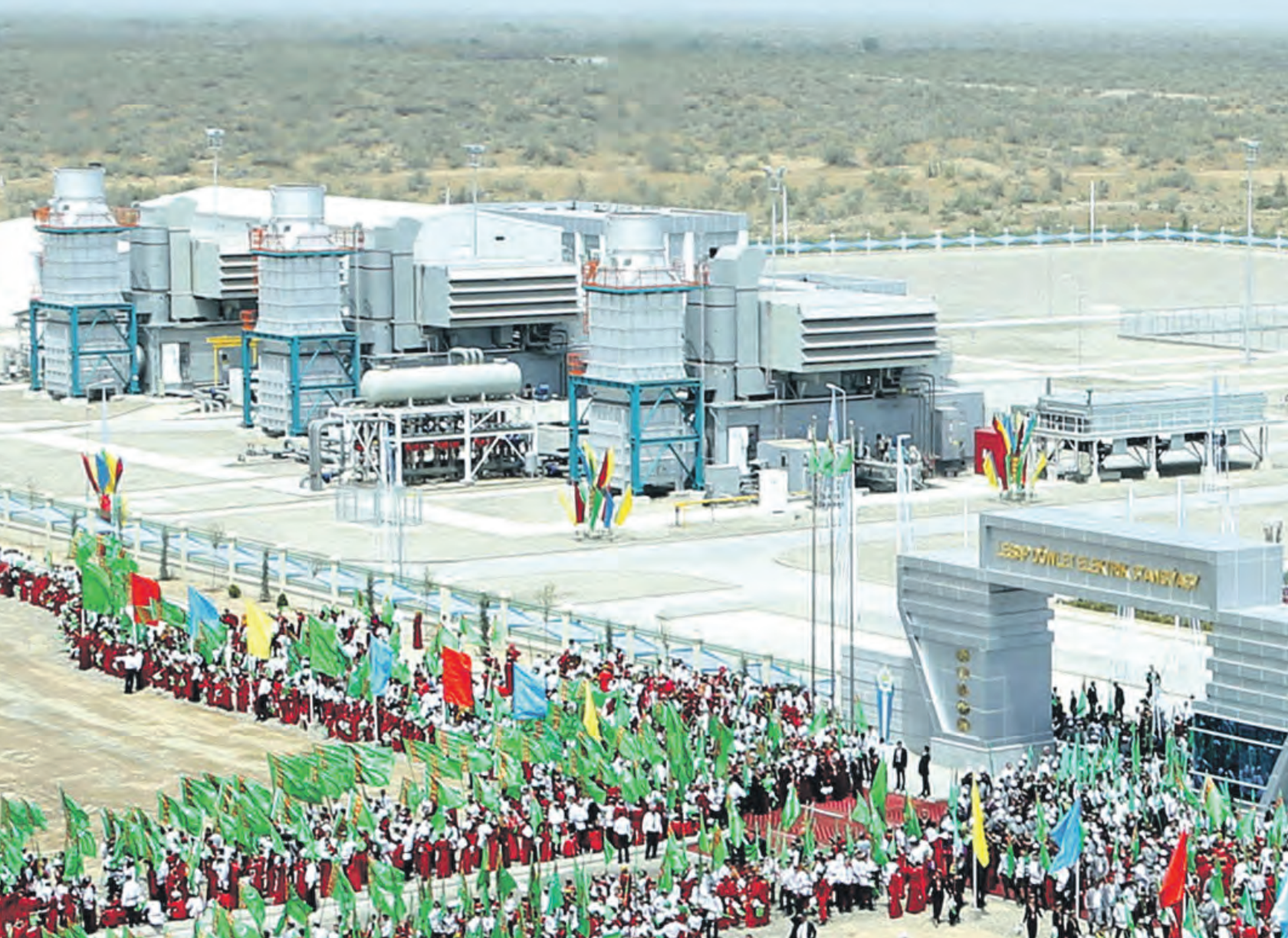


Adoption of Short & Long Terms Economic Policies

Turkmenistan adopted many short and long terms economic policies since its independence. Consistency and sustainability in macro-economic

policies are now paying the dividends. It has now advance fuel energy industry, processing and textile industry, construction, agricultural,

transportation and communications industries. It has expertise to build world class plants, factories, parks zones and luxury residential houses.







25th Anniversary of the Independence of Turkmenistan

Socio-Economic Transformation of **Turkmenistan**





The strong growth performance, sustained over a decade, helped to lift the country from a low income to an upper middle-income status. GDP per capita rose from US\$970 in 2002 to nearly US\$7,000 in 2013. Living standards of the population have improved, accompanied by massive investment in physical capital. Growth has been driven by natural gas exports, which amount to over 90 percent of exports, with the extractive sector (including refineries) accounting for nearly half of GDP. Now, sustained growth, continued improvement in living standards, an increased role for the private sector and economic diversification have become strategic government priorities for 2030.

In May 2010, the Government of Turkmenistan adopted its National Program for Socio-Economic Development of Turkmenistan for 2011-2030 (NPSD). Its Specific objectives are given below as:

- i. Increasing the private sector's role in the economy by expanding its share in the non-hydrocarbon economy to at least 70 percent
- ii. Reaching a high-income status for the country by 2025
- iii. Ensuring sustainable regional development

by achieving universal access to drinking water in all communities by 2030;

- iv. Closing the development gap between rural and urban areas and ensuring inclusive development throughout the country.
- v. Envisages diversification of the economy and increased competition, and recognizes the importance of further market and institutional reforms. The program also includes privatization of small and medium enterprises (SMEs).





2017 Asian Games in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan





"If countries in the region follow the example of Turkmenistan, Asia will reach a top position in the international sports arena!" This is what foreign visitors said and many journalists wrote in their commentaries on the ceremony of signing the Memorandum on the participation of the countries of Oceania in the 2017 Asian Games, which took place in Ashgabat on November 28.

According to this document, together with 45 National Olympic Committees – members of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA), 17 Oceania National Olympic Committees will participate for the first time in the Asian Games in 2017.

Foreign websites reported that in his speech before the signing ceremony President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov suggested including two other sports – horse riding (show jumping) and Turkmen national wrestling goresh – in the Asian Games programme that consists of 19 sports.

The Russian specialized periodical Championships that cited the opinions of our distinguished guests, who participated in the meeting in the Turkmen capital, is perhaps the most quoted source of such statements.

Commending the preparations for the V Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games that are expected to bring together up to 6,000 athletes from 45 Asian countries and 17 countries of Oceania, President of the Olympic Council of Asia Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah said: "The upcoming Games are quite costly. So, we must thank the President, the Government and the people of Turkmenistan, who are putting forth efforts so that the country will look honourably in the international arena".

"I am amazed, but pleased at the same time to see Ashgabat changing rapidly – changes are taking place before our eyes. It is obvious that the plan presented to the OCA members before construction starts is not only adhered to, but also improved. It cannot but please. About 40 facilities are to be built. By the way,



it will help Turkmenistan put forward a bid to host the 2020 Asian Games," the Russian specialized periodical Championships quotes Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah.

The OCA President also explained why the decision of principle on the inclusion of the

countries of Oceania in the V Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games had been adopted. "Firstly, the countries of South East Asia and Oceania have culture, traditions and customs that are quite similar to one another, and their representatives will therefore have no difficulties in finding a common language to





speaking with one another. Secondly, it is a great opportunity to unite the people in our tough times, setting a good example for youth to follow. And thirdly, it is an incentive for many to develop the sports which are not very popular in their countries and preserve their identity”.

Many periodicals also quoted Robin Mitchell who said: “I am happy with the fact that representatives of modest Oceania will henceforth participate in such major competitions. I believe that this decision will give an impetus to promote sports in some countries. Certainly, we will try to represent our region in a worthy manner. I am not going to predict how many medals we will take away from Turkmenistan in 2017; it is too early to talk about it. For the time being, we all are glad of the fact as it is. As for Ashgabat, it impresses, and it is with great pleasure that I am joining my colleagues in their words for President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov. It is obvious that the President and the Government of Turkmenistan have undertaken much effort



to achieve the goal. However, this is only an intermediate step. The most interesting things are to happen,” President of the Oceania National Olympic Committees concluded.

A two-time Olympic 1500 m champion, a politician and sports figure, President of the National Olympic Committee of Great Britain, Executive Chairman of CSM Strategies, Lord Sebastian Coe highly commended the level of preparations for the V Asian Games in Turkmenistan.

“I, as a member of the London 2012 Organising Committee of the Olympic Games, can state the obvious: the country has done a great deal of work, and Ashgabat is impressive even now. I am talking about not only the city, but also the Olympic Village and sports facilities. They meet the latest requirements, including technological ones. If countries in the region follow the example of Turkmenistan, Asia will soon become a ‘supercontinent’ in the world sports arena. Sport will develop by leaps and bounds thanks to such investments and attitude, no doubt of it,” Lord Sebastian Coe said. “The Turkmen side entrusted the British company CSM with the London 2012 Olympic Games expertise to organize and conduct the international competitions in Ashgabat,” the Chinese News Agency Xinhua reports, noting that Oceania will attend the 2017 Asian Games in Ashgabat, where the Olympic Village is being built to host them.





An International Sports Media Forum in Turkmenistan

On September 20, 2016, the heads of international structures of sports journalism and media representatives, who arrived in Ashgabat at the Sports Media Forum, participated in a ceremony honoring the Turkmen athletes who distinguished themselves at the II World Nomads Games held in Kyrgyzstan. President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov made a speech at the ceremony, who stressed that the development of sports in the country and the strengthening of a healthy lifestyle is one of the main priorities of Turkmenistan's state policy.

The participants of the Media Forum expressed their sincere gratitude to the President of Turkmenistan for his constant attention to the development of sport, to create conditions for fruitful work of journalists and the business community, and congratulated the Turkmen athletes with the achieved success.





Then, in the conference hall of the hotel “Sport”, the opening of the international Sports Media Forum, dedicated to the Day of Asian sports journalists and promotion of V Asian Indoor Games and Martial Arts in 2017 had started.

Conducting a regular Media Forum is a clear confirmation of the desire of our country to open Turkmenistan through sport around the world. The forum is attended by the representatives of foreign mass media, experts from sports sphere from 29 countries, as well as representatives of relevant departments and mass media of Turkmenistan.

At the beginning of the media forum a congratulatory greetings of the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov addressed the participants of the media forum was read out, dedicated to the Day of sports journalists of Asia and V Asian Games.

In the first three sessions of the forum well-known experts, representing the International Sports Press Association (AIPS), the Asian Sports Press Association, Federation of Sports Journalism in a number of countries, the TV channels «Al Jazeera», «Eurasia TV» and other authoritative organizations discussed the role

of the media in the process of preparation and organization of high-level sporting events, as well as the improvement of the efficiency of measures taken together to prepare for the Asian games. Since the beginning of the forum,

effective activity of mass media in sports games, the role of the broadcast coverage of campaigns in the competition. The forum participants showed performances on sports included in the program V Asian Games. On



many participants highlighted in their editions the awarding ceremony of the Turkmen sportsmen; detailed reports on the issues discussed at the forum, and praised the level of preparation of Asian Games-2017. (Refer to Websites «atavatan-turkmenistan.com» and «aipsmedia.com»).

On September 21, during the final, fourth plenary session continued the discussions of questions relating to the organization of

the Day of Asian sports journalists at the media forum an awarding ceremony of journalists for their contribution to the development of sports coverage by the Asian Association of international sports press. The participants of the Media Forum visited the state historical and cultural reserve “Nisa” underground lake “Kov-Ata” and picturesque mountainous township Gokdere.



Turkmen Akhal-Teke horse: A one can dream to ride

Turkmen proverb says,
“When you get up in
the morning you must
greet your father and
your horse”





Experts say that nowhere in the world but in Turkmenistan nature and man's efforts have succeeded in creating such a graceful, exceptional, tireless, sturdy, noble horse as the Akhal Teke. They are not only fast and of great endurance but also of peculiar royal beauty. These horses became one of the most striking illustrations of talent and mastery of Turkmen people. Turkmen are very proud of their horses.

Akhal Teke horses got their name from the Akhal oasis in the center of Turkmenistan, which is historically inhabited by one of the Turkmen tribes – the Teke. Through centuries the Teke were able to keep the purity of their horses, to polish their exterior, develop endless enormous stamina and the ability to withstand the extremeness of temperatures and harsh climate. Akhal Teke horses are notable for their dry constitution and well developed muscles of croup, a much longer neck than other horses, mobile thin ears, very expressive eyes, thin legs with strong sinews, tall and high withers, strong small hoofs and a unique golden-colored coating, possessing a brilliant metallic sheen, outstanding speed and highly developed nervous system.

The origin of Akhal Teke horses stretches back to ancient times. Chinese called them 'Heavenly horses' or Divine Horses. Ancient Greek, Roman, Chinese and Arab chronicles mention the desires to obtain one of these superior horses.

Akhal Teke horses have been immortalized in Turkmen traditional songs, proverbs and poems. Their intelligence, wisdom and attachment to human beings are all legendary. One Turkmen proverb says, "When you get up in the morning you must greet your father and your horse". Turkmen horse-breeders (seys) had a special approach to their horses.

The Akhal Teke is an excellent sport horse. It is perfect in marathon racing; dressage, breaking in and flat race conquer. Nothing can really compare with the experience of horse riding. Each of us, at least once in our lives, has perhaps dreamt of riding a horse. This dream can easily come true in Turkmenistan.









Avaza

A modern resort area



The Avaza national tourism zone is the project of the unprecedented scale and bold concept being implemented on the Caspian seashore on the initiative and under the leadership of President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov. The project combines several key aspects of the economic, social and cultural strategies of Turkmenistan. These include the effective use of abundant natural resources and recreational opportunities as well as the multiplier effect of tourism development. Large-scale work done in recent years has completely changed this region that is taking shape of a modern seaside resort with the tremendous development potential.

In July 2007, President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov signed the Resolution on the establishment of the Avaza national tourism zone to promote tourism, create a favourable investment climate, increase employment opportunities for local specialists and improve the quality of services rendered in Turkmenistan. The development of modern

tourist infrastructure and transport networks was essential to achieving these goals. There are over 30 facilities, including comfortable hotels, recreational centres,

cottage complexes, in Avaza today. In the summer season, Avaza is capable of receiving 7,000 holidaymakers, who enjoy a wide range of services.





The construction of shopping centres, movie theatres, aqua parks, hotels, sports and other facilities for recreation and leisure activities in the seaside resort is accelerated. The most remarkable sights in Avaza include the 7-kilometre navigable river that blends well with the local landscape. Exciting tours along the picturesque river stretching through Avaza are very popular. One of the adornments of the seaside resort is the park ensemble designed in a modern style.

The opening of the yacht club made it possible to provide services and training in windsurfing, sailing and water sports. The intensive development of the leisure and entertainment industry and the improvement of the quality and range of services encourage an influx of tourists to Avaza that continues to increase the capacity of resort infrastructure, seeking to meet the growing demand and the needs of different categories of the population.

The necessary transport, energy, engineering, communications and service infrastructures are being developed to ensure the effective functioning of the tourism industry. The most important transport facilities include two flyovers on the new highway linking the international airport in Turkmenbashi and the Avaza national tourism zone.

To promote health is the major mission of the seaside resort Avaza stipulated by the





25th Anniversary of the Independence of Turkmenistan

unique climate of the maritime region and healing hydromineral resources. State-of-the-art equipment of medical, sports and health improvement units at hotels and recreation centres as well as the development of sports infrastructure serve this purpose. Those who want to improve their health can visit the resort in Mollakara and make a journey to the healing source in Karachagyl. Large-scale tree planting activities, thanks to which manmade evergreen woodlands expand creating a unique microclimate, maintain the health-promoting effects.

Modern tourism infrastructure being created in Avaza lays the foundation for the development of the tourism industry in order to make it an important highly profitable sector of the national economy. Today, Avaza is the venue for regular meetings of government delegations, business forums, art festivals, international exhibitions, conferences and major public events. Avaza has been recognized as a platform for uniting artists and young talents from different countries.

Avaza's development prospects arouse interest of business circles and big business from neighbouring and remote countries.



It is explained by the potential of the region and the conditions of the special economic zone. Investors and businessmen are attracted also by the opportunities to create the major transport hub in Turkmenbashi town for transit flights and

goods and passenger flows from one part of the world to another.

The development concept of Avaza is distinguished for a variety of projects and the architectural design of luxury hotels and





cosy two-storey cottages. The high pace of construction is a striking illustration of a favourable investment climate created in Turkmenistan to facilitate mutually beneficial

international cooperation. The effective measures are taken today to implement the Avaza project till 2020. The impressive changes, which have taken place in recent

years, not only evidence steady economic growth of Turkmenistan, but also illustrate the international recognition of the country as a dependable partner.





State Program for the development of cultural sphere in Turkmenistan for 2012-2016





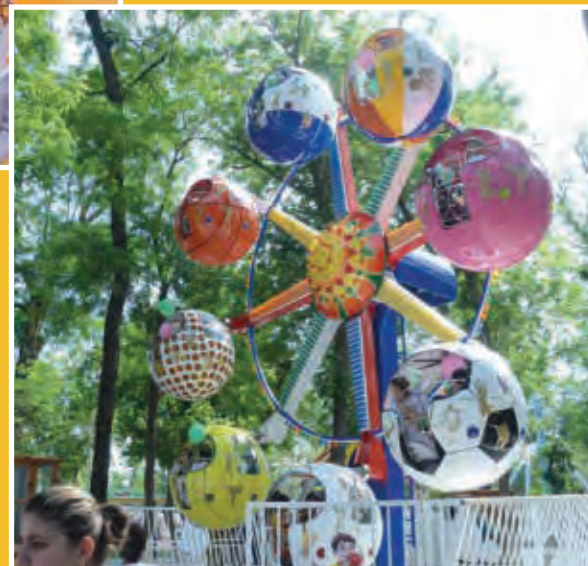
Currently, the activities of the Ministry of Culture of Turkmenistan are aimed at the achievement of goals in accordance with the State Program for the development of cultural sphere in Turkmenistan for 2012-2016, which has a conceptual meaning for the formation of favorable cultural environment, which, in turn, will help to reveal the cultural and spiritual potential of every person, people and the country as a whole.

The state cultural policy will be implemented through popularization activities, various activities of international level. In 2012, a whole range of remarkable events took place in public life of Turkmenistan. There were cultural activities on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations of Turkmenistan with the People's Republic of China, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Republic of Korea, Ukraine, Belarus, and the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The Days of Culture of Islamic Republic of Iran, Belarus, Tatarstan, Turkey in Turkmenistan were held during this period. Days of Turkmen Culture were successfully held in Vienna, the capital of Austria and in Astrakhan, Russian Federation. These are only few remarkable events. Days of Turkmen Cinema took place in Uzbekistan. In the framework of the cultural events the city of Mary was announced as the cultural capital of the Turkic world in 2015. On this occasion, the scientific conference "Ancient Merv is a Center of the World Civilization" and the concert of popular singers from many states were organized. Among recent events, the concert of the culture and art masters of Turkmenistan in Izmir city during the working visit of the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov to the Turkish Republic is worth noting.

Consistent work is being conducted to enlarge the spectrum, improve the quality of the cultural services, widen the coverage over the population, renew the repertoire of the creative collectives, recover museum and library funds and coordinate the activities of the cultural institutions. As of today, there are 11 state theatres, 31 state museums. There are 667 houses of culture in the provinces. Their activities are renewed with new forms and methods.

In particular, special groups were created to render assistance in organizational matters. These groups are designed to ensure the effective work of these institutions and raise professional level of the personnel. This is especially topical on the regional level. These groups visit regions and analyze the work in the cultural sphere. They arrange seminars, give consultations and provide assistance. Pointing to the certain dynamics of cultural processes in the country and a range of key issues that touch goals and priorities of the state policy in culture, modern image of the country in the world arena directly depends on its contribution to common culture.









Heartiest Felicitations to
His Excellency
President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov
and to the People of Turkmenistan
On 25th Anniversary of the Independence
of Turkmenistan



Tabani Global
Bridge between Turkmenistan and Pakistan



Mr. Muhammed Yaqoob Tabani
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ASHGABAT 2017
The V Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games