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28th

Anniversary of the Independence of Turkmenistan





H.E. Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov
President of Turkmenistan

Contents



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- 05 Foreign policy of Turkmenistan, Peace-making activity for the Sustainable Development Goals
- 10 Priorities of Turkmenistan at the 74th session of the United Nation General Assembly
- 15 Priorities of international cooperation in Caspian Sea
- 22 Chairmanship Declaration on the results of the First Caspian Economic Forum
- 24 Innovations and motor exhibitions
- 27 Turkmenistan receives UNICEF's award letter for sustaining high immunization rates
- 28 International Neutrality Day
- 31 Meeting on the results of presenting on implementing the SDGs in Turkmenistan the voluntary national review
- 33 State visit of President of the Republic of Korea to Turkmenistan
- 37 Kiyarly Polymer Plant – strong assurance of dynamic economic growth
- 39 Turkmenistan contributes to the development of the international energy market by diversification of its natural gas export routes
- 42 Turkmenistan's Energy policy
- 44 Launch of new industrial innovative complex
- 48 What is Avaza National Tourist zone?
- 51 Speech by President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov at the meeting at the Academy of sciences of Turkmenistan
- 56 National Treasure
- 59 The tour of "Galkynysh" Horse Group was held in China
- 60 Basis of Transport Policy of Turkmenistan
- 66 For the sake of the happy future: Healthy society, perfect Law
- 70 Paradise embosomed in mountains
- 73 Turkmen Athletes Triumphs
- 74 Protection and study of cultural heritage of Turkmenistan: International scientific cooperation
- 78 Witness of four Millennia
- 82 Turkmen Musicians' Prowess Wins Praise in Wagner's Home Country
- 84 Turkmen Cuisine Dograma and Ishlekli

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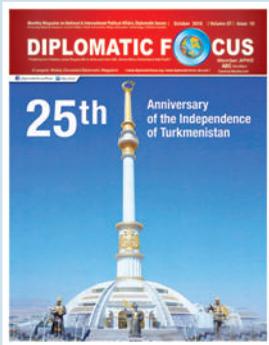
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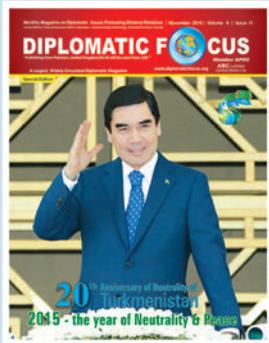
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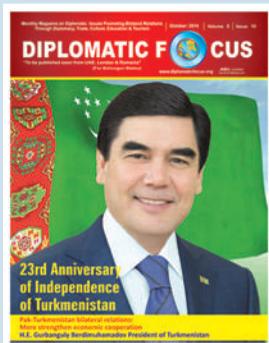
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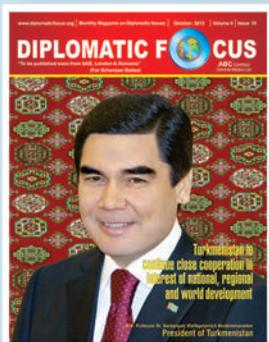
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Mian Fazal Elahi

Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with Turkmenistan and both the countries support each other at the international forums. Pakistan and Turkmenistan enjoy close, cordial relations marked by trust and understanding. These ties are characterized by mutual respect, shared perceptions and common desire to promote peace, stability and development in the region.

The relationship between South Asia and Central Asia is not new but rather historical. It is a centuries-old rich legacy and a celebrated heritage that represents productive religious, political, cultural, ethnic and commercial exchanges between the two regions. Together with religious, political, cultural and ethnic ties, however, the two regions also strengthened commercial ties or trading networks, particularly with the emergence of the Silk Route. This route boosted tremendously the economic activities between the two regions as the merchants from South Asia established their outposts and stations in various parts of Central Asia. Besides, the people of both regions were actively involved in conducting bilateral trade and for this purpose Afghanistan was used as a connecting point.

Pakistan has finalized land routes (since January 2016) designed to provide access to Central Asian states, such as Turkmenistan to Pakistan. Both Turkmenistan and Pakistan are members of the Economic Cooperation Organization. The Turkmenistan government plans to build transport and energy corridor between Pakistan and Turkmenistan and wants to lay an optic fiber network parallel to Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline. It is worth mentioning that earlier Pakistan and Turkmenistan also established a joint working group to finalize negotiations on electricity transmission line from Turkmenistan to Pakistan via Afghanistan. TAPI gas pipeline project aims to bring natural gas from the Gylkynish gas field in Turkmenistan to Afghanistan, Pakistan and India. From Turkmenistan through Afghanistan and Pakistan to the border of India the gas pipeline of length of 1634 km will be laid, by this pipeline within 30 years of exploitation 33 billion m3 a year will be delivered. It will assist the development of regional countries, their socio-economic growth, and energy security.

Regional connectivity is the key pillar of Turkmenistan foreign policy. Turkmenistan plays a role of bridge for regional connectivity and this thing only became possible because of its relations with the countries are remarkable due to its leading role in peace initiatives, harmony, development, and conflict resolution due to its iconic policy of "Positive Neutrality" that is appreciated worldwide and adopted by UN resolution which was adopted twice in 1995 and 2015 respectively. Turkmenistan is also becoming one of the prominent countries of central Asia because of vision of regional connectivity.

The articles, columns, Opinions are published in Magazine in good faith. However, the contents of these writings may not necessarily match the views of the Editor/Publisher/Organization.



Mian Assad ullah

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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28th Anniversary of the Independence of Turkmenistan





Foreign policy of Turkmenistan

Peace-making activity for the Sustainable Development Goals

Turkmenistan pursues foreign policy based on the principles of positive neutrality, peace-loving, open doors, good neighbourliness and equal beneficial cooperation with all interested foreign partners. Developing fruitful relations on the government level, Turkmenistan demonstrates invariable commitment to constructive dialog in multilateral format.

At the extended session of the Cabinet of Ministers dedicated to the outcomes of the first half of the year on July 5, the President stated an active character of cooperation with the UN, OSCE, EU, SCO, CIS and other competent organizations on current subjects of international agenda, having set specific objectives for coming period including to the Foreign Ministry.

In this regards, efficient old cooperation of Turkmenistan with the United Nations Organization, which is built on the principles of strategic partnership and which has received new content at modern stage, is worth to be mentioned.

At present time, Turkmenistan is a member of number of structural divisions of the United Nations, under which it carries out its activity. Regional US Office for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia in Turkmen capital is a visual symbol of successful bilateral cooperation aimed at long-term future.

Partnership with other big international and regional organizations is also developed steadily. For example, the Secretaries General of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the World Customs Organization, International Energy Charter, high-rank representatives of other competent structures have visited Turkmenistan this year.

Steadfast dynamics is inherent to the dialog with the European Union, which is indicated by dozens of completed and ongoing joint projects and programmes in various spheres. It is remarkable that recently the Mejlis (Parliament) and the Foreign Ministry of Turkmenistan hosted the meetings with the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Vice President of European Commission Federica Mogherini.

The Head of the EU diplomacy highlighted that European Union highly appreciates and supports international initiatives of Turkmen leader, which are aimed at the development of balanced solution of current problems, which

raise the concern of entire world community, at creation of optimum conditions for sustainable development in regional and global scale.

The signing ceremony of the Agreement between the Government of Turkmenistan





and the European Union, European Atomic Energy Society (Euratom) on Privileges and Immunities of the European Union Delegation in Turkmenistan has been signed during the meeting in the Foreign Ministry.

Partnership under the Commonwealth of Independent States also meets the priorities of national foreign strategy. Chairing the CIS in 2019, Turkmenistan approaches this mission with full responsibility trying to support comprehensively to the strengthening of friendship and good neighbourliness, which unite the nations of the Commonwealth's countries and standing for further activation of fruitful cooperation in broad range of directions.

This is visually indicated by the outcomes of the session of the Council of the CIS Heads of the Governments, which was held under the chairing of Turkmenistan in the Commonwealth,

in Ashgabat in the end of May. In the autumn, Turkmen capital will host the session of the Heads of the CIS states, preparation to which is carried out on high organizational level.

Subjects related to Caspian region also occupy an important place in foreign policy of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov. Taking steadfast measures for expansion of beneficial cooperation, maximum use of versatile potential of Caspian Sea, Turkmenistan as Neutral country comprehensively supports the strengthening of the status of the sea of peace, friendship and harmony.

In this aspect, the importance of the first Caspian Economic Forum initiated by the Head of the State, which was held in Avaza National tourist zone on August 11-12, 2019, is worth to be mentioned.

International media forum, which was held in Ashgabat on June 29 with participation of representative of big foreign media – news agencies, TV channels, newspapers and magazines from different countries, was dedicated to this remarkable event. It was mentioned that international platform of the first Caspian Economic Forum has valuable significance for further development of cooperation not only for the coastal states but also for all interested parties.

President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov also highlights increased role of such direction as energy, transport and water diplomacy in the context of the key vectors of foreign course of Turkmenistan in modern realities.

Having colossal reserves of hydrocarbons and trying to use these natural resources for the common sake, Turkmenistan makes significant contribution to the formation of global architectures of energy security as an integral part of sustainable development.

Standing for development of beneficial international cooperation in this important sphere, which is based on the balance of interests of all participants, and regularly making specific proposals, Turkmen State implements an integrated strategy aimed at the modernization and diversification of national fuel and energy complex, carries out large-scale projects for creation of multidimensional export infrastructure of its energy carriers. Turkmenistan – China transnational gas line, which embodies the idea of revival of the Silk Road in new merit, is a visual example in this case.

Construction of Turkmenistan – Afghanistan – Pakistan – India (TAPI) gas pipeline is another example. President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov highlights that new energy main, which will provide long-term supplies of gas to biggest countries of Southeast Asia, will give strong impulse to economic development of the region, will support the solution of objectives of social and humanitarian character, strengthening of peace and stability.

It is remarkable that this year, the supply of Turkmen gas to the Russian Federation has resumed after commercial break. Relative contract has been signed under existing Intergovernmental Agreement between Turkmenistan and Russian Federation on cooperation in gas sphere until 2028.

X International Turkmen Gas Congress (TGC-2019), which was held in Avaza National tourist zone in May, became an open ground for discussion of condition and perspectives of development of the world gas industry, current subjects of productive partnership in this direction. Throughout several years, this



specialized forum supports the stimulation of beneficial cooperation in fuel and energy sphere and development of new vectors of this cooperation.

Together with expansion of production volumes of hydrocarbons and diversification of their supplies to the world markets, Turkmenistan pays great attention to opening of scientifically grounded high technological processing facilities oriented to the production of competitive ready-made commodities, which meet international standards. Broad perspectives for efficient cooperation with foreign partners, for realization of new investment projects are also opened in this field.

Construction of unique industrial complex – the plant for production of eco-friendly synthetic fuel, gasoline, from natural gas, which was recently opened with participation of Head of the State Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, is an actual measure in this direction.

In addition, Turkmenistan expands the cooperation with foreign partners in energy sphere and in the increment of the export volumes of electrical energy. Construction of Turkmenistan – Afghanistan – Pakistan (TAP) along TAPI gas pipeline is one of the examples in this sphere.

In addition to power supply to infrastructural facilities of the gas main, future power line will give an opportunity to deliver electricity to Pakistan and other countries of South Asia by transit via Afghanistan.

Fibre optic line will be laid along the same route, which in addition to the development of information and communication network between three states, will also serve to the activation of regional integration processes.

Such new direction as transport diplomacy is asserted stronger in global cooperation. Turkmenistan has initiated profile multilateral dialog under the UN and other international organizations in this sphere.

Approaching this subject with full responsibility, Turkmenistan made number of proposals for the last several years, which received full support of the world community. Unanimous adoption of Turkmen projects by the Resolution of the UN General Assembly on cooperation in sustainable transport, which was co-authored by dozens of states, is an evidence to this.

Targeted work for modernization of existing and construction of new modern roads including highways connecting all regions of the country with further entry to neighbouring states, railways as well as relative engineering and technical facilities, is carried out in Turkmenistan.

International Airports of Ashgabat, Turkmenbashi, Mary, Turkmenabat and Dashoguz are integral links of national transport and logistic system. National aviation fleet is regularly supplemented with new world famous Boeing aircrafts. The geography of the flights made by Turkmen airlines is expanded, for example, the first Ashgabat – Tokyo – Ashgabat flight was made in the end of June.

In this context, great attention is also paid to the development of national fleet and all relative infrastructure. Construction of International Seaport in Turkmenbashi, which was put into operation in May 2018, is an important component of this area. The Head of the State notes that it opens huge opportunities for optimization of transport routes in Eurasian space and new strategic perspective is given to interregional and intercontinental relations.

Taking into account what was said above, realization of the projects for formation of regional and transcontinental transport system receives special importance. Combined transit and transport routes in the North – South and West – East directions are to play an important role in this case. It includes perspective Afghanistan – Turkmenistan – Azerbaijan – Georgia – Turkey (Lapis Lazuli) corridor, which unite the countries of the Middle East, Southeast and Central Asia and Caucasus with the entry to Europe and Uzbekistan – Turkmenistan – Iran – Oman corridor giving Central Asia countries the opportunity to entry Persian Gulf region.

Taking an active position in international cooperation as one of priority vectors of its foreign policy, Turkmenistan also considers the water diplomacy.

Initiatives made by Turkmen leader at the sessions of the UN General Assembly and other big forums are aimed at the activation of regional and interregional dialog in entire spectrum of water range of problems. In particular, Head of the State spoke of the reasonability of creation of new political and diplomatic form of multilateral communication in this direction as well as made a proposal on development of the United Nations Water Strategy at the VII World Water Forum in Daegu (The Republic of Korea) in 2015.

Regarding direct cooperation between the countries of Central Asia in water and ecological issues, Turkmenistan invariably stands for their solution based on universal standards of international law, taking into account the interests of all countries of the region and with participation of international organizations.



Implementing national plans in different branches, Turkmenistan invariably co-relate them with ecological component of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular, with rational water management. The country has gained significant experience of implementation of water saving technologies in irrigated farming, construction and operation of hydro technical facilities, water management objects; the General Programme for provision

of the population with pure drinking water is implemented.

Grandiose project, to completion of which Head of the state Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov pays special attention, is aimed at the fulfilment of the utmost objectives in this sphere. This is the construction of Altyn Asyr Turkmen Lake in the heart of the Karakum Desert.

Construction of complex hydro technical system gives opportunity to solve successfully current

ecological, economic and social issues including the improvement of soil condition of the fields, protection of soil from degradation, return of thousands of hectares of lands flooded by drainage waters into operation, growing of salt resistant agricultural crops in the area of the main and additional collectors, flooding of the pastures, development of fishery, making of reserve of water resources.

It can be stated with confidence that this unique facility works for improvement of life quality of people both in Turkmenistan and in entire Central Asian region serving the provision of ecological prosperity.

Continuing the subject, it is worth mentioning an activity of Turkmenistan in International Fund for Saving of Aral Sea. Being a chairing country of the IFAS in 2017 – 2019, Turkmen State demonstrates the most serious approach the fulfilment of this important mission, which is indicated by special Concept.

President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov highlights that it is obvious that currency of the issues of Aral problems goes far beyond Central Asia. It provides the necessity of establishment of solid foundation for systematic interstate cooperation in active collaboration with competent international organizations, especially with the UN.

Steadfast measures taken by Turkmenistan in this direction find wide support of the world community. As it is known, the UN General Assembly has unanimously adopted the Resolution on Cooperation between the United Nations Organization and International Fund for Saving of Aral Sea, which was initiated by Turkmen side. Turkmenistan has also made proposal on development of the UN Special Programme for Aral Sea, which include the plans of stabilization of the situation Aral Sea basin.

In its turn, Turkmenistan comprehensively supports the expansion of productive cooperation for solution of such important subjects as the improvement of ecological, social, economic and humanitarian situation of Aral Sea region, rational use of water resources, protection and health improvement of environment, adaptation to the climate change, which is very important not only regional but also in global scale.

At the same time, actual measures are taken for combating of desertification, improvement of soil conditions of lands. The country has developed and implements the complex of large-scale measures including for tree plantation, creation of forests, which acts as protection filters from dust storms and wind. Green zones, which are planted along irrigation canals and other water reserves, support the



reinforcement of the banks and keep the water in land.

Therefore, Turkmenistan also demonstrate the intent to continue promoting the idea of water diplomacy, which is very urgent, first, in the context of the achievements of the Sustainable Development Goals.

At the same time, strengthening and expansion of fruitful relations with other states of the world including our close neighbours are integral components of foreign strategy of Turkmenistan.

In this aspect, the key role is given to the visits and high-level talks. For example, official visit of President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Mohammad Ashraf Ghani to Turkmenistan took place in February. High-level meeting in Ashgabat, which resulted in signing of number of bilateral documents, became another actual measure in the development of traditional interstate dialog, which has trustful character, which is provided by old friendship, fraternity and good neighbourliness, historical spiritual and cultural relations uniting our nations.

Big perspectives are opened today for expansion of beneficial cooperation with the Middle East countries. In this aspect, the efficiency of the talks between President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov and the King of Bahrain Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa, who paid the

state visit to our country, in March this year, is worth to be mentioned.

It is remarkable that package of bilateral final documents aimed at further development of productive partnership has also included the memorandums and agreements signed during Turkmen – Bahraini business forum held in Ashgabat of the threshold of the high-level meeting.

In the last several years, relations with the states of Asian Pacific region where constructive cooperation with the Republic of Korea is a visual example, have received new dynamics and content.

In this regard, the activity of leading Korean companies in Turkmen market, which recommended themselves as reliable partners and actively participate in realization of the projects for construction and modernization of refining and petrochemical complexes, is very indicative. It includes gas processing plant at Galkynysh Field and polymeric plant in Kiyarly settlement, Balkan Velayat.

The course toward multidimensional cooperation taken by both countries received its confirmation during the state visit of President of the Republic of Korea Moon Jae-in to Turkmenistan in April. Agreements related to priority directions of cooperation and significant package of documents, which

supplemented legal and regulatory framework of Turkmen – Korean dialog, were the results of high-level talks.

Working visit of the Leader of the Nation to the Republic of Tatarstan, with which Turkmenistan established close trade, economic, humanitarian and cultural cooperation, was held on June 23. Direct bilateral relations are important component of traditionally friendly, strategic Turkmen – Russian partnership.

It was indicated by the talks between Presidents Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov and Rustam Minnikhanov in Kazan, which resulted in signing of number of documents, which are to support the implementation of existing considerable potential of cooperation in different spheres. By the way, this is the second meeting of the Head of the Turkmenistan with the Head of Tatarstan, which has visited Ashgabat in the end of April where he took part in the events dedicated to National Turkmen Horse Celebration.

Therefore, successfully implementing constructive foreign strategy, Turkmenistan makes significant input to the provision of peace and progress and achievement of global Sustainable Development Goals.





Priorities of Turkmenistan

at the 74th session of the United Nation General Assembly



Preamble

Turkmenistan, as a member of the United Nations, sees it as a universal international body endowed with a mandate from the international community to preserve and strengthen international peace and security and ensure the sustainable development of all states and peoples.

In this regard, during the 74th session of the UN General Assembly, Turkmenistan, together with other member states of the United Nations, will take a number of concrete practical steps aimed at strengthening the UN's leading and coordinating role in international affairs.

In doing so, Turkmenistan will be guided by the norms and principles of the United Nations Charter, its fundamental conventions and other international acts, adhere to the status of permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan

recognized by the UN, and advocate for solving international issues only by peaceful political and diplomatic means and methods.

In order to implement the UN global strategies, concepts, programs and projects, Turkmenistan will use as much as possible its membership in the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the Trade and Development Council of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and the Executive Council of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), Executive Committee of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UN Commission on Social Development, UN Commission on Population and Development and other United Nations entities.

During the 74th session of the UN General Assembly, Turkmenistan will continue to work on the practical implementation of

international initiatives and proposals of the President of Turkmenistan on international and regional issues.

Neutrality

The status of permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan, recognized by the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly of December 12, 1995 and again supported by the resolution of the UN General Assembly of June 3, 2015 is the basis of the country's foreign policy, its approaches to the development of international cooperation.

The neutrality of Turkmenistan and its basic characteristics such as: peacefulness, active peacemaking, non-participation in military conflicts, alliances and treaties, non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, respect for their sovereignty and territorial integrity - confirm their compliance



with the national interests of the country, the long-term goals of the international community, the principles of the UN Charter, criteria for a constructive, balanced approach to ensuring international stability and security.

The conformity of the goals of foreign policy of Turkmenistan with the goals and objective requirements of the global development predetermines the nature and direction of wide opportunities to unleash the potential of neutrality of Turkmenistan in the context of multilateral efforts to maintain peace, security and the development of international partnership.

In 2020, our country will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the international recognition of Turkmenistan as a permanent neutral state.

In this regard, at the 74th session of the UN General Assembly, Turkmenistan will propose to hold an International conference on peace, security and development in Ashgabat in December 2020. We are ready to cooperate with the UN Secretariat, UN member states of the Organization, international structures and all interested parties in organizing and holding this forum.

We also propose to consider the advantages of neutrality as a political and legal category in the activities of the governing bodies of the UN, its commissions and committees.

In the framework of the 74th session, we consider it appropriate to organize, under the auspices of the UN, a broad multilateral dialogue on the practical application of the principles of neutrality in order to prevent conflicts, eliminate their causes and consequences, and resolve humanitarian issues.

Given the potential of neutrality in ensuring peace and security, Turkmenistan at the upcoming session of the General Assembly will put forward an initiative to develop the UN Code of Practice on the effective use of the principles of neutrality in resolving international issues.

Peace and trust. Preventive diplomacy.

Turkmenistan is convinced that peace and trust are the basis for strengthening and further developing the modern architecture of international relations.

The resolutions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, its Security Council, the UN Strategy till 2030 and other multilateral acts consider peace and trust as interrelated categories designed to help create conditions for conflict-free and sustained development. Such an approach strengthens mutual understanding, creates conditions for the recognition of diversity in all its manifestations, and contributes to the achievement of peaceful coexistence.

Turkmenistan is firmly convinced that the United Nations needs to make additional efforts to build a culture of peace and trust.

Guided by this, Turkmenistan proposes to consider and adopt at the 74th session of the UN General Assembly a draft resolution declaring the year of 2021 as the Year of International Peace and Trust.

We look forward to the effective and constructive participation of all UN member states in the implementation of this initiative.

Turkmenistan attached a special role to preventive diplomacy in addressing the tasks of maintaining peace and security and countering new challenges and threats, .

The global peacekeeping agenda today is objectively in demand. There is an obvious need for developing and implementing constructive models of partnership between states on the basis of universally recognized norms of international law, relying on the UN and its experience in resolving crisis situations.

It is important to establish, within the framework of the work of the UN Regional Centers for Preventive Diplomacy, consultative and dialogue mechanisms with the participation of diplomats and experts, designed to help harmonize the approaches of states in regional development issues, to create and use in advance mode a set of political, legal, diplomatic and socio-economic warning instruments and neutralizing regional challenges and threats. It is under the auspices of the UN, as practice shows, that the levers of preventive diplomacy can work effectively and bring real results.

In this regard, Turkmenistan will continue to provide maximum assistance to the work of the UN Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia with headquarters in Ashgabat.

Security and sustainability

Maintaining and strengthening universal peace, stability and security remains the main direction of the international agenda for the foreseeable future. This is due, first of all, to the aggravation of contradictions and increased conflict potential in different regions of the globe, which in turn has an extremely negative impact on the content and orientation of international and interstate relations, and seriously complicates the course of political interaction on the world stage.

Under these conditions, being a responsible member of the international community and relying on its neutral status, Turkmenistan defines as priority areas of practical work on the world stage:

* consistent political and diplomatic opposition to the dissemination and adoption of the “ideology of force” in interstate relations;

* approval of negotiation mechanisms as the only acceptable way to resolve international and local conflicts and contradictions;

* assistance in the establishment of the supremacy of international law and the UN Charter as the basis of the global security architecture, respect for these concepts and their strict adherence to by all states without exception.

To this end, at the 74th session of the General Assembly, Turkmenistan, in close cooperation with UN member states and international institutions, will focus on identifying new approaches to creating a stable and sustainable system of international relations based on universally recognized international norms and rules.

Turkmenistan considers terrorism, cross-border crime, drug and arms trafficking, human trafficking to be serious challenges and threats to international security.

The geography of these phenomena covers large spaces. Extensive human, financial and material resources are involved in them, which objectively affects the decrease in the level of stability in individual states and regions. Turkmenistan considers these phenomena as a real threat to national, regional and international security, the course of interstate cooperation. In these conditions, Turkmenistan is intensifying its partnership with neighboring countries and the international community in order to effectively counter existing challenges and threats.

In close cooperation with specialized UN agencies, primarily the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism, the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, our country will continue to actively participate in the practical implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

In this regard, Turkmenistan, in cooperation with international structures, will focus its efforts on the following priority areas:

* compliance with international conditions for socio-economic development as a method of combating violent extremism;

* eliminating the risk of radicalization leading to violence;

* countering the use of the Internet by terrorists;

* Promoting a comprehensive youth policy through educational and employment opportunities.

The Government of Turkmenistan will also provide comprehensive support for the effective implementation of the Counter-Terrorism Action Plan in Central Asia, the implementation



of the third phase of which was launched at the high-level meeting in April 2018 in Ashgabat.

Turkmenistan considers a consistent disarmament process to be the most important condition for peaceful and constructive development, the formation of a climate of trust, openness and cooperation. Our country proceeds from the belief that a confrontational model based on the constant buildup of arms as an instrument of foreign policy is untenable.

Disarmament issues are a priority for Turkmenistan. At the national level, a number of practical actions are being taken in our country aimed at implementing the UN Treaties and Conventions in the field of disarmament and ensuring the non-proliferation regime.

At the regional level, Turkmenistan is actively involved in the further promotion of the Treaty on the Establishment of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia.

During the 74th session of the General Assembly, we will continue our active cooperation with the IAEA, the Interim Technical Secretariat of the CTBTO Preparatory Commission, and other international organizations providing multilateral cooperation on disarmament issues.

Sustainable development

Turkmenistan, being an active participant in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, together with specialized organizations, agencies and entities of the UN system will continue focused work on the implementation of the UN Agenda 2030. In this regard, we consider the institute of the UN Resident Coordinator established in 2019 in the UN member States, the UN Development Program, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the UN Population Fund, the World Health Organization and other entities as the main partners of our country.

In July 2019, Turkmenistan presented a Voluntary National Review on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at the UN High-Level Political Forum. Based on the results of its review, our country will expand its cooperation with key partners on the implementation of the Strategy 2030.

Taking into account the importance of providing adequate financial resources for projects and programs aimed at achieving the SDGs, Turkmenistan considers it appropriate to consider the possibility of holding the UN Conference on Financing for Development in the near future during the 74th session of the General Assembly.

To this end, it is proposed to create, with the assistance of the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), a

special coordination group whose tasks should include exploring possibilities of organizing such a conference in 2022-2023, determining the venue, drafting the initial draft of the program and agenda.

One of the most important areas of Turkmenistan's activities in the context of the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals in the forthcoming period will be contributing to the efforts of the international community on energy issues.

This is due to the fact that broad and interested interaction in the energy sector is a key factor of the stable and progressive course of world processes in the 21st century. Its new principles should become a basis for the formation of the modern global energy space, and the security and sustainability of energy supplies to world markets will largely determine the overall vector of world development in the long term.

In this regard, Turkmenistan believes that the development of fundamentally new models of interaction designed to turn multilateral energy dialogue into a driving force for the development of the modern world is one of the pressing issues on the global agenda today.

At the same time, the priority task is to ensure comprehensive and indivisible energy security, covering the sphere of energy production, its transportation and final consumption. It is such an integrated approach that underlies the energy policy of Turkmenistan, determines the content and orientation of the proposals and practical actions of our country in this area.

Initiatives put forward by Turkmenistan on the reliability and stability of energy supplies have received wide support from the international community. Evidence of this was the unanimous adoption by the UN General Assembly of Turkmenistan-initiated resolutions of 2008 and 2013, co-sponsored by dozens of states.

Continuing its activity at the UN site, Turkmenistan during the 74th session of the General Assembly intends to submit a draft resolution of the UN General Assembly "Reliable and stable energy transit and its role in ensuring sustainable development and international cooperation", which will include modern ideas aimed at developing international energy partnerships. During the upcoming session, Turkmenistan proposes to discuss with all interested parties the possibility of forming an International Expert Group on the development of modern international legal instruments of the United Nations, designed to ensure compliance with the general principles of doing business in the global energy space.

Turkmenistan views the intensification of international relations in the transport sector as the priority area of its activities in the framework of the 74th session.

The creation of a modern, integrated, balanced and high-tech transport infrastructure is an objective imperative of the time, one of the priority goals of sustainable development. Its implementation meets the strategic interests of the entire international community, is capable of effectively contributing to the strengthening of world economic relations, stimulating investment activity, and efficiently promoting the growth of economic and social indicators on the global, regional and national scales.

Turkmenistan's position in the area of global transport cooperation is based on the need to make it systematic and focused, translate discussion of these issues from the regional platform to the level of the main international forum - the United Nations.

To this end, in recent years, Turkmenistan has put forward for the UN General Assembly's consideration three relevant draft resolutions adopted by consensus in 2014, 2015 and 2017.

Today, the transport agenda is becoming an object of close and keen attention by the expert community. Evidence of this was the success of the first UN Global Conference on Sustainable Transport held in Turkmenistan in November 2016, which culminated in the adoption of the Ashgabat Declaration.

The logical continuation of this process should be the organization in the near future of the Second Global Conference on Sustainable Transport. Our country is ready to take active part in its preparation and conduct.

Taking into consideration the specificities and features of multilateral cooperation in the transport sector for landlocked countries, Turkmenistan proposes to hold in 2020 an International Conference of Ministers of Landlocked Developing Countries. In this regard, our country is ready to consider the possibility of providing the infrastructure of Turkmenistan for organizing this Forum.

In the process of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, Turkmenistan pays special attention to the need to continue a broad dialogue on climate change, environmental protection and the use of water resources.

In its fundamental approaches to the environmental agenda, Turkmenistan proceeds from the idea that at the institutional level today, the main priority is the combination and complementarity of global, regional and national tools for the implementation of the UN multilateral environmental documents.

Accordingly, our country, on the basis of the provisions of the UN General Assembly resolutions "Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea" adopted at the 72nd and 73rd sessions, will continue to arrange extensive consultations at the UN, the subject of which



will be the development of the UN Special Program for the Aral Sea basin countries.

The most important issue is the preservation of the natural resources of the Caspian Sea. The Caspian region is developing rapidly as one of the world's largest hydrocarbon extraction and transportation centers. Under these circumstances, Turkmenistan considers important to solve the common issue - to combine objective economic interests with the need to preserve the biodiversity of the Caspian Sea Basin and to prevent disruption of the ecological balance.

In this regard, at the 74th Session of the General Assembly, Turkmenistan intends to take the initiative in creating a new UN Caspian Ecological Program. The main purpose of it is to monitor the environmental situation in the Caspian Sea and to formulate appropriate recommendations to the countries of the Caspian Sea Basin.

At the same time, we look forward to close cooperation with the UN Environmental Program (UNEP) and other UN Environmental organizations.

During the forthcoming 74th session, Turkmenistan will pursue a work towards reaching a common consensus on resolving issues of preservation and rational use of water resources, both at the global and regional levels.

Forming its approaches to the issues of preservation and rational use of water resources, Turkmenistan approach is based on the fact that these issues cannot be undermined by isolating from global long-term development

plans, strategic goals of environmental and food security, and creation of an integrated system of sustainable energy. In this perspective, the water diplomacy is considered as an integral part of the foreign policy and foreign economic activity of Turkmenistan.

Moreover, as the main goal of water diplomacy Turkmenistan considers the consolidation of international efforts on establishing fair global and regional systems of water consumption and equal access of countries to water resources, which takes into account multilateral interests.

The priority direction of Turkmenistan's water diplomacy is cooperation with the United Nations. In this regard, Turkmenistan proposes to intensify and to specify the work on creation of a specialized international structure on a permanent basis under the UN auspices in the Central Asian region, which would deal with issues of international cooperation in the field of use of water resources.

Water diplomacy of Turkmenistan envisages an active and engaged cooperation with other states, primarily with neighbors, with the aim of coordinating actions in the water and water-energy spheres. In this regard, Turkmenistan sees its primary task in achieving regional consensus on the basis of universally recognized norms of international law, mutual respect and taking into account the interests of all countries in the region and with the participation of international organizations.

One of the main tasks of water diplomacy in Turkmenistan is to initiate a universal political and legal document at the UN level - the UN Water Strategy, which would clearly reflect

the goals, approaches and actions of the international community regarding the preservation and use of the planet's water resources in the long term.

The position of our country on water issues is based on the international commitments, initiatives of Turkmenistan, as well as agreements reached as a result of forums on sustainable development, primarily the UN Conference on Sustainable Development "Rio + 20", the World Water Forum in Daegu (The Republic of Korea).

Final provisions

These priority positions determine the main directions of Turkmenistan's activity within the United Nations during the 74th session of the General Assembly. They cover the most topical directions of international partnership, on which Turkmenistan along with other UN member states, is ready to develop multilateral cooperation. The implementation of the initiatives and proposals of Turkmenistan, presented in these Priority Positions could become an effective factor in strengthening international peace and security, ensuring sustainable development on the planet.

Turkmenistan expresses its readiness for a broad multilateral dialogue on pressing issues of the global agenda, and at the same time will be guided by the high ideals of peace and justice, which constitute the main pillars of the United Nations.

Ministry of foreign affairs of Turkmenistan.





Priorities of international cooperation in Caspian Sea



On 12 August, 2019 the Congress centre of Avaza National tourist zone hosted the First Caspian Economic Forum with participation of President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov.

The agenda of the Forum included broad range of current issues related to the activation of fruitful cooperation of the coastal countries and all interested foreign partners.

It is symbolically that the day of the current forum fell on the Day of Caspian Sea, which is traditionally observed on August 12. Prime Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan Novruz Mamedov, First Vice-president of the Islamic Republic of Iran Eshaq Jahangiri, Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan Askar Mamin, Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Dmitry Medvedev as well as Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan Abdulla Aripov and Prime Minister of the Republic

of Bulgaria Boyko Borisov were among the participants of the forum. President of the Republic of Tatarstan, Russian Federation Rustam Minnikhanov has also taken part in the session of the forum as an honoured guest.

The forum united the delegations from different countries of the world, heads and representatives of competent international organizations including the United Nations and its leading structures, the Commonwealth of Independent States, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Economic Cooperation Organization, International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations, International Road Transport Union and other as well as many big financial and banking structures. Heads of diplomatic missions accredited in Turkmenistan were among the participants.

Members of the Government, heads and representatives of ministries and profile

departments and other relative structures participate in the work of the forum from Turkmen side.

Before proceeding to Congress Center, President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov warmly welcomed the Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Dmitry Medvedev.

Having expressed the gratitude to the President of Turkmenistan for cordial welcome, high-rank guest stated with delight the entry of international relations to new level, having confirmed invariable commitment of Russia to further development of bilateral cooperation. Having noted that new AURUS vehicle of Russian make has been presented at the International Türkmen sährasy – 2019 Motor Review under the First Caspian Economic Forum, the Head of the Government of RF told to Turkmen leader about its main features.



Having familiarized with special features of the vehicle, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov noted that it is necessary to have a talk on procurement of these vehicles for Turkmenistan.

After, the President of Turkmenistan and Prime Minister of the Russian Federation went to the building of the Congress Centre where President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov warmly welcomed high-rank guests who came to the First Caspian Economic Forum.

After traditional photographing at the background of official banner of the forum, the head of Turkmen State and high-rank guests went to the Conference hall and took their honoured places.

Greeting the participants, Head of the State Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov

At the beginning, the floor was given to the President of Turkmenistan. During his

welcoming speech Turkmen leader expressed the gratitude to all, including Prime Ministers of Caspian and other states, representatives from dozens of countries representing the most various spheres of activity – politicians, diplomats, businessmen, ecologists, scientists and journalists for accepting the invitation to take part in the work of the First Caspian Economic Forum.

The Head of Turkmen State said that Caspian Sea is a unique natural complex with its own ecosystem, which requires scientific studies in natural protection sphere. Proposing the idea of Caspian Economic Forum, Turkmenistan took into account all these factors, creation of conditions for joint work by establishment of wide, permanent platform of cooperation with participation of the states, international organizations, business structures and scientific centres.



The President of Turkmenistan noted that various aspects of Caspian agenda would be discussed during coming work. The name of the forum itself, an economic one, understands special emphasis on economic, trade, investment, innovations and technologies subject.

Head of Turkmen State highlighted, that today we have to focus on solution of current practical objectives of common Caspian development, the having outlined the attaching of powerful creative impulses to cooperation in energy sphere among the most important objectives. Big reserves of hydrocarbon materials in Caspian offshore and coastal territories are able to give strong energy impulse for dynamic and qualitative growth of national economies of coastal as well as neighbouring states, to provide the conditions for opening of new production facilities, construction of industrial objects. The energy of Caspian Sea has to become the base for dynamic development of the economy of the region.

The President continued that Caspian Sea is located on the intersection of continental routes. Territory of Caspian states, which are located close to each other, have direct access to South Asia and Asian Pacific in the east, Black and Mediterranean Sea in the west, to Middle and Near East via Iran in the south, to Baltic Sea across Russia and further to the north. Such configuration opens perspectives for creation of stable routes in all main geographic azimuths. However, for their proper operation, Caspian states have to establish good system of transport communication between themselves, to build modern port infrastructure and provide an efficient logistics.

In this context, arrangement of efficient trade relations of Caspian region with external markets receives special importance. The President highlighted his confidence that we have something to offer to the world. These relations have to be stable, free from politicization and unfair competition, to work on clear and transparent principles. In these case, it is necessary to work more actively with the UN Economic Commission for Europe, the UN Economic and Social Committee for Asia and Pacific, the World Trade Organization and other specialized international structures, to perform on their fields from common and agreed positions. It is also appropriate to study positive practice of work of number of regional international organizations like Economic Cooperation Organization, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Commonwealth of Independent States.

President of Turkmenistan noted that rely on science and intellect is a decisive condition of success of economic development of Caspian Sea, its integration into the world economy as competitive and perspective member. Rapid technological breakthrough, which is observed



President of Turkmenistan on the CEF, which would be new format of activation of cooperation between coastal states.

After signing of the Convention on Legal Status of Caspian Sea, the issue of economic development of Caspian region received special currency. Azerbaijan thinks that Caspian Economic Forum will give additional impulse to cooperation in trade, spheres of transport, industry, energy, investments, tourism and other fields.

The Prime Minister of the republic of Azerbaijan defined the creation and development of international and regional transport corridors as one of the main factors, which play an important role in improvement of efficiency of the economy of the region.

Caspian Sea is an important consolidating factor supporting the intensification of the cooperation between coastal states, Mr Novruz Mamedov said, having expressed the confidence that Caspian Economic Forum would be an actual ground for discussion of current issues of the partnership, would open rich potential of the region and would bring the result for common sake.

After, the floor was given to First Vice-president of the Islamic Republic of Iran Eshaq Jahangiri. It was highlighted that August 12 is the Day of Caspian Sea, a remarkable date for all Caspian states. Signing of the Convention on Legal Status of Caspian Sea on that day in 2018 has become an important historical milestone in multilateral relations, strengthening of the partnership between coastal states.

The adoption of the Convention made good perspectives and opportunities for cooperation in all spheres, which are necessary to use, Mr Eshaq Jahangiri said. In this regard, the fact that implementation of different programs and projects would support the realization of economic, trade and production potential of the countries has been noted.

The First Vice-president of the IRI spoke for the expansion of trade and economic relations in the region, which requires an improvement of relative legal bases. At the same time, the willingness of Iran to provide its transport and transit infrastructure to the regions has been confirmed.

Having confirmed the commitment of Iran to development of productive cooperation in trade and economic, industrial and investment spheres especially with the neighbours in Caspian Sea, the First Vice-president of the IRI expressed deep gratitude to the President of Turkmenistan for cordial welcome and invitation to the Forum, which importance goes far beyond the borders of the region.

Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan Askar Mamin who spoke after, expressed the

today, changes usual image of geo-economics, quality and level of management solutions, content of global economic processes. To merge into these trends and, moreover, to influence them in our region are the objective, which has to be thought as one of the priorities of Caspian development.

Turkmen leader highlighted that it is necessary to pay the utmost attention to creation of systematic and technological components, having allocated necessary resources and mobilized intellectual and organizational potential. We have to fill our cooperation with innovative thoughts that these are the one, which would outline the vectors of future development of the region, its economy and social sphere.

As the President of Turkmenistan mentioned that, as the first step it would be appropriate to form up real base ground for technological and innovative start, having proposed to establish an international innovative and technological centre, which could be referred as to Caspian Innovative City.

President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov highlighted that all our activity in Caspian Sea has to be based on scientific studies and followed by technological developments. He also spoke for the necessity of foundation of Digital Economy cluster under Caspian Innovative City. This is important as a groundwork for the future, which provides digitization of activity of the main spheres of economy of Caspian states.

Special role is given to science and to protection of ecological balance of Caspian Sea, to unique bio diversity of sea. In this regards, the Head of the State noted that Turkmen side stand for establishment of new Caspian ecological programme as a complex of natural protection

measures aimed at protection and rational use of rich natural resources of Caspian Sea. At the same time, this Programme could be able to monitor ecological situation in Caspian Sea and to make special recommendations to the Governments of coastal states.

Addressing the participants, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov noted that speaking of the future of Caspian Sea, Turkmenistan sees it in the context of the future of entire planet and coordinates its work with the activity of the United Nations for fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals. We see Caspian Sea, both in geographic as well as social and economic aspect, as one of the directions of the UN Strategy until 2030. Stability of the economy, energy security, ecological balance are the foundations of common Caspian home, the head of the State highlighted.

We would like to see Caspian Sea as a space of cooperation, development, prosperity, free of conflicts and confrontations, place of unification of the energy of the states, international organizations, business, scientific and technological potentials. This is us who outline strategic perspective calling it a model of future for Caspian Sea, the Head of the State said.

The speech of the President of Turkmenistan has been listened with keen interest and attention and welcomed by loud applause.

After, the floor was given to high-rank guests – heads of the delegations of Caspian states.

In his speech, Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan Novruz Mamedov expressed deep gratitude to Turkmen leader for hospitality and high level of organization of the First Caspian Economic Forum. It was highlighted that Azerbaijan welcomes the initiative of the





gratitude to Turkmen leader for the hospitality and highlighted that significant and not yet implemented potential of Caspian region gives broad opportunities for activation of efficient cooperation in perspective directions. For this purpose, high-rank guest made a proposal on taking of number of joint measures in trade and economic and investment spheres, transport section, energy and ecological areas.

Speaking of the first direction, Mr Askar Mamin noted that economic development is closely related to the expansion of investment potential. In this case, the states of the region would be able to become a point of attraction of foreign investments. It is necessary to focus the efforts on creation of favourable ecosystem and to organize permanent exchange of best practices, to activate work for provision of financial services. In this regard, Kazakhstan side proposes to use the capabilities of Astana International Financial Centre.

At the same time, joint work of five coastal states is required for qualitative provision of transport services, attraction of direct foreign investments, mechanisms of government and private partnership and implementation of new technologies. In this regard, it is suggested to take necessary measures, which would support the development of Caspian international corridors and transformation of the region into big transport and logistic centre.

High-rank guest has also outlined tourism industry among priority vectors of cooperation. Having highlighted the subject of the

partnership in energy sector, Mr Askar Mamin made proposal on consolidation of efforts for efficient implementation of available potential including for use of alternative sources of energy as well as for development of coordinated policy and strategy in this sphere. High-ranking guest has also spoken for the improvement of ecological collaboration under strategic initiative of sustainable Caspian Sea.

After, the floor was given to Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Dmitry Medvedev. The Head of the Government of the RF highlighted that the Forum has special objective to supplement multilevel system of cooperation under Caspian Five with efficient and timely mechanism of business, trade and economic partnership, to strengthen important political solutions with specific beneficial projects including with participation of the third countries. This is a reason why guests and heads of the Governments representing other states participate in the forum as Caspian region has to be fully open for economic cooperation. Balanced internationally recognized legal base has already been formed for its development.

The high-rank guest said that Caspian region has always been the intersection of geopolitical and economic interests of many leading states, political and business circles, different ethnic groups and confessions and recently, has become one of the main regions of global policy. First of all, it is provided by its natural resources. Together with the countries of the Persian Gulf it forms so-called energy ellipse, which contain

more than 70 percent of the world reserves of oil and 40 percent of natural gas. For Caspian states, this is a strategic advantage and one of the most important direction of cooperation.

Optimal transport infrastructure, high technology and safe production facilities, stimulating measures for investors, unique tourist production, this is the way Caspian region of XXI century has to look like. In this context, Prime Minister of Russian Federation confirmed the willingness of Russia to joint work in these directions.

Speaking of transport infrastructure, Caspian region is indeed an intersection of the world communications. Reliable and profitable transcontinental routes are very important for international trade, formation of big regional markets, - high-rank guest highlighted. Many things have been done for the last few years for development of transport and logistic potential of the region. The work on the project of five-side Agreement on Cooperation in the sphere of maritime transport is carried out. Its purpose is to create unified and competitive conditions of transit across Caspian Sea, Dmitry Medvedev said, having noted Russia pays special attention to this subject.

Having stopped at the second direction of cooperation – the development of resource sectors, which have to become new points of growth in Caspian region, Russian Prime Minister stated the presence of wide





opportunities of Caspian states for this, which is indicated by the Exhibition of innovative technologies held under the forum.

Continuing his speech, Mr. Medvedev has focused on such important component of cooperation as ecology. The Prime Minister of the RF informed that Russia takes active measures for protection of biological resources Caspian Sea.

Having highlighted tourism sphere, which turns into one of the most important branches of global economy high-ranking guest highlighted that beautiful nature, richest history and culture, all of these allow Caspian region to take a deserving place among the most popular tourist directions. In the end of his speech, having highlighted consolidating factor of Caspian Sea for Europe and Asia, five Caspian states, their partners and people who live on its coasts, high-ranking guest invited everybody to Astrakhan where it is planned to hold the second Caspian Economic Forum.

After, the President of Turkmenistan and high ranking guest answered the questions.

One of the questions addressed to Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan Novruz Mammedov was about the cooperation in Caspian – Black Sea line and further measures for bringing the partnership in this direction to practical implementation.

Answering the question, the Head of the Government of neighbouring state highlighted its currency and importance, having expressed the opinion that all what was said has a

purpose to develop such cooperation. In this aspect, the First Caspian Forum is the first step in this direction. The high-rank guest noted that there was an idea at one of his meeting with President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov that it is necessary to make a bridge across Caspian Sea and after that everything would be good.

As it is known the Day of Caspian Sea is observed on August 12 every year. This is a day when the Framework Convention of Protection of Marine Environment of Caspian Sea, which was signed in Tehran on November 4, 2003, has entered into force. In this regard, the next question related to the main objectives of Caspian countries in ecological sphere was addressed to First Vice-president of the Islamic Republic of Iran Eshaq Jahangiri.

Answering the question, the Head of the IRI delegation highlighted that ecology of Caspian Sea, protection of its flora and fauna are very important subject, which Caspian states have to pay great attention.

After, President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov answered the question about the differences between the policy of Turkmenistan on restoration of the Silk Road and the belt and Road Initiative project implemented by the Government of China, which are obviously based on common historical base.

The Head of the State noted that the Silk Road was a historically transcontinental route in all ages. Following this, we started to restore the

Silk Road, Turkmen leader said, having noted that in his speech, he highlighted that it is necessary to modernize relative infrastructure in the context of modern realities.

Regarding the project of Chinese partners Belt and Road Initiative and policy of Turkmenistan on restoration of the Silk Road, these two economic strategies are required as they are to serve to prosperity and wealth of the nations of all our countries, the President noted.

The next question was addressed to Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Dmitry Medvedev. Historically, Caspian Sea played special role for Russia. Mainly, it was Caspian Sea where the establishment of Russian as a great Eurasian power has been going on. Today, this role is also important. In this regard, the issue was related to the evaluation of perspectives of Russian part of Caspian Sea.

Volga River and Caspian Sea are important arteries of Russia's life and that is why, great attention is paid to this subject, Mr Dmitry Medvedev said. The programme of ecological improvement of Volga River, which is aimed at protection of its importance as a transport route and unique eco-basin, is under implementation. Of course, we hope that our efforts will be our contribution to total collection of Caspian development.

After, Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan Askar Mamin answered the question about the work for practical implementation of the Convention on Legal Status of Caspian Sea adopted in 2018.



The Head of the Government of Kazakhstan noted that indeed, signing of the above-mentioned Convention was held in Aktau one year ago. The work on Convention lasted for almost 25 years. At present time, Prime Minister Askar Mamin noted, ratification of the basic documents by all states is under completion. Three countries – Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan, have already ratified it. According to the Prime Minister of the RF, Russian plans to ratify the convention in this year. We also expect relative solutions of these issue from our Iranian friends, high-rank guest said.

At the same time, it was highlighted that the First Caspian Economic Forum and events under its framework are already practical implementation of the agreements.

After, the President of Turkmenistan and high-ranking guests left the hall.

After, the First Caspian Economic Forum continued its work in the format of plenary session.

It started from the event that became the evidence of international recognition of the merits of Turkmenistan in such important sphere as modern world development as ecology and environment protection.

Unique event – ecological lesson with participation of 3,000 people organized by the Government of Turkmenistan, was held in Turkmenbashi on August 8. It was by right entered to the Guinness Record Book as the

most mass event of ecological and educational direction.

In this regard, representative of the Guinness World Records Sheida Subashi Gemicci awarded the Certificate of the “Biggest Lesson of Ecology was given by the Government of Turkmenistan in Turkmenbashi on August 8, 2019”.

After, plenary session was continued by the speeches of its participants, which included the United Nations Deputy Secretary General, Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Europe Olga Algayerova, Chairman of the Executive Committee – Executive Secretary of the Commonwealth of Independent States Sergey Lebedev, Secretary General of Shanghai Cooperation Organization Vladimir Norov, Secretary General of the Economic Cooperation Organization Hadi Soleymanpur, President of International Federation of Freight Forwarding Associations Babar Badat, President of the International Road Transport Union Umberto de Pretto, Deputy General Director of the UNESCO, Executive Secretary of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanography Committee Vladimir Ryabinin as well as Deputy Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic Zamirbek Askarov, Acting Governor of Astrakhan Region, Russian Federation Igor Babushkin, Acting Head of the Kalmyk Republic, Russian Federation Batu Hasikov, Deputy Head of the State Energy Department of the People's Republic Of China Li Fangrong.

Practical importance of the First Caspian Economic Forum, which is to make solid foundation for development of broad international cooperation in Caspian basin, to become an efficient ground for discussion of joint projects and programme has been highlighted. As a fact, this is about the formation of integrated strategy of cooperation with participation of the states, international organizations, business structures and scientific circles.

During plenary session, priority directions of beneficial partnership including trade and economicsphere, transport and communication sector, energy, industry, business relations were the subjects of interested discussion. It was noted that strategic importance of Caspian Sea and this region in regional, interregional and global geopolitical processes, its role as an important transit, transport and logistic hub provide the necessity of activation of productive cooperation on long-term basis.

In the afternoon, the First Caspian Economic Forum was continued in the format of topical sessions “Trade and Economic Cooperation in Caspian Region”, “Energy Potential of Caspian Sea”, “Development of Industry in Caspian Region”, “Green Economy for Caspian Sea”, Cooperation in the Sphere of Scientific Studies in Caspian Sea”.





Chairmanship Declaration on the results of the First Caspian Economic Forum



On August 11-12, 2019, the First Caspian Economic Forum was held in Turkmenbashi city, Turkmenistan.

Various international events were organized in the framework of the Forum, on the outcomes of which the following was stated:

The role of the Convention on the Legal Status of the Caspian Sea signed by the Heads of States of Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and Turkmenistan on the results of the Fifth Caspian Summit held in the city of Aktau, Kazakhstan on August 12, 2019 which creates the conditions for the advancement of cooperation between the Caspian region to a qualitatively new partnership level was underlined;

Recognized that the Agreement between the Governments of the Caspian Littoral States on Trade-Economic Cooperation and

the Agreement between the Caspian Littoral States on Cooperation in the field of Transport contribute to further strengthening and development of collaboration between the littoral states in the economic sphere;

Noted that the Caspian Economic Forum platform can become a vital form of cooperation aimed at providing economic growth in the region and beyond its borders;

The necessity of increasing the potential in the area of trade and investment policy, as well as easing the trade process and export supplies potential for the benefit of trade and investments in the Caspian region is highlighted;

It is recognized that the countries of the Caspian region and all the stakeholders, including the private sector, associations and academic circles can maintain active dialogue

on the issues of leading practice and measures related to the implementation of goals for ensuring development of economic contacts;

The significance of active participation and assistance on the part of international and financial institutions in the development of international economic cooperation in the Caspian was stated;

The need to unite the efforts for the attainment of considerable potential of the Caspian littoral states' economic sectors was accepted;

Based on the above-mentioned, the implementation of the following actions is recommended:

1. Take the necessary steps for the enhancement of attractiveness of the Caspian littoral states' economies with the aim of further active integration of the Caspian region in the international economic space.



2. Encourage the attraction of investments and stimulate innovations in the energy, industry, transport, trade and other spheres of the Caspian littoral states' economies.

3. Ensure further strengthening of regional cooperation in such areas as social and economic development, environment protection, science and innovations, exchange of economic information.

4. Strengthen cooperation and coordination between the Caspian region and the United Nations' system, including the regional UN commissions.

5. Hold the Caspian Economic Forums on regular basis in the littoral cities of the Caspian states.

The participants of the Forum expressed gratitude to the Government of Turkmenistan for high-level organization of the First Caspian Economic Forum and hospitality shown.

Turkmenbashi city, Turkmenistan
August 12, 2019





Innovations and motor exhibitions

President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov and members of the First Caspian Economic Forum visited International Exhibition of Innovative Technologies and Türkmen sährasy-2019 motor review.

Large-scale exposition was located at the territory of Turkmenbashi International Port. Performance of the folk band forestalled the tour around the exposition.

After, the President of Turkmenistan and heads of the governments went to see the review of innovative technologies, which became an efficient ground for exchange of ideas, proposals, establishment of business contacts and partnership.

Having highly appreciated the organization of exhibition, the guests noted the expansion, complexity and comprehensiveness of highlighting of current directions of cooperation of Caspian states, which were discussed at the representative forum in Avaza.

57 foreign and 62 local exhibitors were represented at grandiose review, which idea is a sustainable development of the economy and society through science and technologies.

The biggest area was allocated to Turkmenistan exhibition hall, which visually demonstrates the success and achievements of all branches. Special interest was raised by one of the most





remarkable exhibits – architectural model of Ashgabat city, which strikes the imagination with its sizes.

Turkmen leader introduced his companions with this project, having made a tour around the streets, squares and parks of Ashgabat city, having told about its buildings and facilities, their purpose, distinguishing features of planning and design.

Besides Turkmen exhibition hall, the Head of the State and his guest looked around the expositions of Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan and Russian Federation where high technological goods and services of innovative facilities, models of national scientific and technical infrastructure, inventions and development of research and construction centre, industrial projects have been presented.

The President of Turkmenistan and heads of the delegations have also visited International motor show where they would be able to see the legends and novelties of the world motor industry.

The displays of Russian vehicle producers attracted the attention with high profile Aurus car, which white version has been appreciated by the Head of the State before the session of the First Caspian Economic Service.

Parade Aurus Senat convertible was a star of motor show, however, there were other interesting exhibits from Russian automobile industry.

For example, KamAZ presented its unmanned electrical bus, which is designated for 6 seats and 6 standing places. The shuttle bus, equipped with 5G modems stops and drop off passengers by the request and its sensors send real-time information about the parameters of movement and modes of work of units and aggregates.

Special place in the exhibition was given to Mini, the famous brand of economy cars designed in Great Britain by British Motor Corporation in 1958. It was produced by different holdings; BMW Concern was the last one. For Turkmen citizens, the vehicle is famous with another legend, which became another grandiose project of Amul – Hazar 2018 International Rally.

Also, during the tour around the exposition, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov and heads of Caspian states looked around the models illustrating the development of Uzbek and Iranian automobile industry.

In the end of the visit to the exhibition, small aircrafts and helicopters from the designers and producers of the Republic of Tatarstan have been presented to the attention of Turkmen leader and guests.





President of Turkmenistan

and Heads of Government of Caspian Forum Participating Countries Attend Festive Concert as Guests of Honor

On August 12, 2019, the Avaza National Tourist Zone has hosted a gala concert featuring Turkmen and foreign artists. The grand event was a rousing finale to the First Caspian Economic Forum.

President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, the heads of government participating in the Forum and numerous foreign visitors attended the spectacular performance as the guests of honor.

Famous folk and pop singers and musicians demonstrated their musical prowess one after another. Turkmen and foreign artists took turns to perform on stage.

The audience applauded and cheered loudly, welcoming Russian pop singers, who had participated in many prestigious international music festivals and competitions – Honored Artist of the Russian Federation Zara, Sergey Lazarev, Nyusha, and Olga Shultays, better known as V'OLGA.

The concert also featured well-known pop singer, musician and Honored Artist of the Republic of Azerbaijan Rashad Ilyasov and his fellow countrywoman, singer Samira Efendieva. Accomplished singer Adilkhan Makin, whose fame has spread far beyond his native country and young singer Aygerim Altynbek



represented Kazakhstan. Majid Akhshabi and Hamed Mahzarnia were pop singers from Iran. The Astrakhan State Song and Dance Ensemble delighted the audience with its lively and energetic songs and dances.

The crowning moment of the concert came with the ancient dance Kushtdepdi performed by Dekhistan Folk Group and our foreign guests, who appeared on the stage dressed in Turkmen national costumes. The festive evening of music culminated in a dazzling fireworks display.





TURKMENISTAN RECEIVES UNICEF'S AWARD LETTER FOR SUSTAINING HIGH IMMUNIZATION RATES

Turkmenistan's achievements in immunization have received high recognition by UNICEF. On the 29th of July, 2019, at the international health conference, UNICEF Representative in Turkmenistan Ms. Christine Weigand presented an award letter to the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry for sustaining high immunization rates through the government-financed National Immunization Programme.

"We congratulate Turkmenistan on this milestone. We look forward to continuing our long-standing and fruitful partnership for the health, nutrition and well-being of Turkmenistan's children," said UNICEF Representative while presenting the award letter to Turkmenistan's Minister of Health and Medical Industry Mr. Nurmuhamet Amanepesov.

"Immunization is one of Turkmenistan's key public health strategies to prevent diseases. We have sustained universal coverage throughout these years thanks to our partnership with UNICEF and WHO, as well as trained frontline health workers who immunize children, family doctors and public health education through media," said Mr.N.Amanepesov.

Since 2001, the Government of Turkmenistan has been fully funding the procurement of all vaccines and vaccine related supplies and equipment through UNICEF. The Government also ensured the necessary infrastructure and human resources for maintaining high vaccination rates. For the period of 2016-2020 the Government allocated more than 40 million US dollars to ensure full coverage against major vaccine-preventable diseases. Recently, the Government has allocated additional 17 million US dollars for the procurement of three more vaccines against rotavirus, pneumococcal disease and Hepatitis A.





INTERNATIONAL Neutrality Day

Neutrality of Turkmenistan is a greatest heritage recognized by the world community. This is a doctrine promoting peaceful coexistence and friendship, humanity

and goodwill, cooperation and progress.

Legal Neutral status of Turkmenistan, which was recognized twice by the United Nations, improves international

authority of Turkmenistan as a country consolidating the efforts for strengthening of universal peace and solidarity, establishing the relations based on understanding and



trust. Today, the world community appreciates the tremendous input of Turkmen state to the establishment of peace, friendship and solidarity between the nations.

Having strong creative potential, power and deep belief in the future, Turkmenistan achieved great success in its home and foreign policy. Guided by political slogan “State for Human!”, Turkmen state carries out large-scale activity, which is to provide international recognition to Turkmenistan as to dynamically developing country with progressive political, economic, cultural and humanitarian structure. Promoting high rates of important reforms, Turkmenistan gradually enhances social and living level of our people.

Construction of transnational gas pipeline Turkmenistan – Afghanistan – Pakistan – India, electric transmission line project Turkmenistan – Afghanistan – Pakistan, transport and transit corridors and highways based on advanced technologies, major industrial, social and cultural facilities, modern residential units, villages and settlements provides stable economic

development and strengthening of the sovereignty of Turkmenistan.

These are the Independence and Neutrality, which the guarantee of immense success. This is Turkmenistan’s precious heritage, owing to which the nation gained peaceful, happy, wealthy and prosperous life.

Following the main provisions and goals of positive Neutrality, which is recognized by the world community and enforced for a life time by the Constitution of Turkmenistan, Turkmen nation steadily improve international authority of the country. Turkmen State intensifies the collaboration with the United Nations Organizations, European Union, Commonwealth of Independent States, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Non-Alignment Movement, Islamic Cooperation Organization and other international structures. Turkmenistan strengthens political, economic and cultural relations with different world countries and consolidates the efforts in provision of peace and harmony, internal development and national

interests in the world.

Owing to this, in 2018 Neutral Turkmen State was elected as the members of Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe and the United Nations Social Council for 2019 – 2021. The UN General Assembly adopted the Resolutions initiated by Turkmenistan on Support of International efforts in Afghanistan and on Cooperation between the United Nations and International Fund for Saving of Aral Sea. June 3 was announced the World Bicycle Day.

Mass cycling and field and track race, International rally Amul – Hazar 2018 along the Silk Road as well as the World Weightlifting Championship were held in Turkmenistan. Therefore, the image of Turkmen’s independent state as a country of inspiration and progress, sports and health was recognized throughout the world. All this success are the results of the Independence and the policy of Neutrality.







MEETING ON THE RESULTS OF PRESENTING THE VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW ON IMPLEMENTING THE SDGS IN TURKMENISTAN

On the 24th of July 2019, a working meeting was held in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan dedicated to the preliminary outcomes of the visit of the delegation of Turkmenistan to New York on July 16-20, 2019, during which the presentation of the Voluntary National Review on implementing the SDGs in Turkmenistan took place.

The heads and staff members of the MFA of Turkmenistan participated to the meeting. During the working session, the preliminary results of the presentation of the Voluntary National Review during the High-Level Political Forum held under the auspices of ECOSOC in the UN headquarters were discussed. The presentation received high appraisal of the member states.

The attendees of the session were steadily informed with the presentation process of the Voluntary National Review which has focused on the achievements of Turkmenistan in the

implementation of SDGs and their application to the national programmes. The exemplary model of Turkmenistan in the integration of the SDGs to the development of the whole socio-economic foundation of the country was noted. Special attention was paid to the programmes and projects of Turkmenistan in the area of developing transport, energy and ecology.

It was also underlined that the SDGs are fully adjusted to the national policy and currently 84 percent of the SDGs tasks are reflected in the national and sectorial programmes of the country.

During the speeches, further steps of Turkmenistan on raising the awareness of the society and involving various layers of the population in practical implementation of the SDGs were noted. It is worthwhile to note that Turkmenistan expressed openness in the process of implementing the main strategy of the United Nations – Agenda 2030.

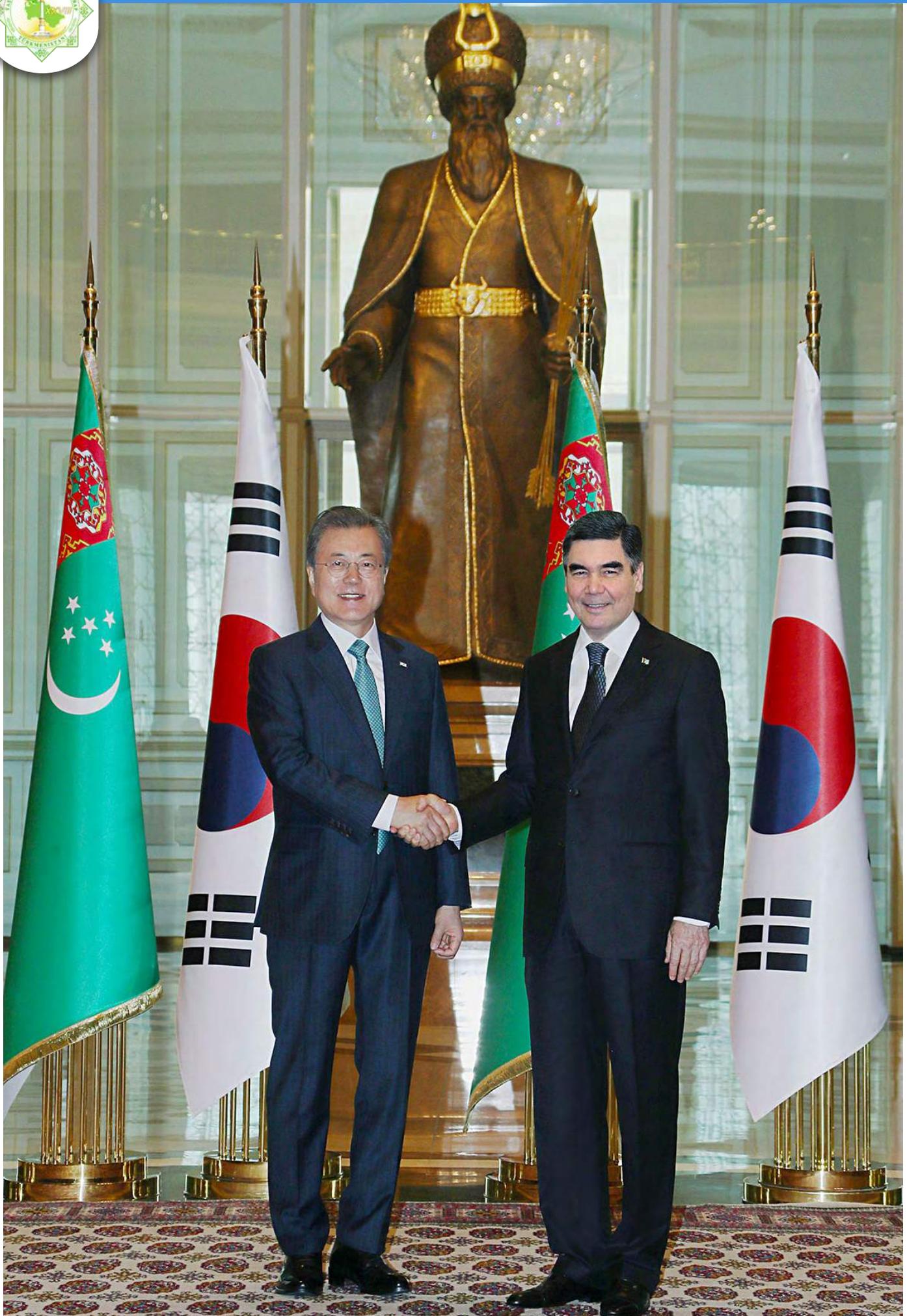
Turkmenistan has adopted all 17 Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the 148 targets out of 169 according to their suitability for the country and its people.

It was also noted that during the visit, the Turkmen delegation has held a number of important meetings with the high-level representatives of the UN and its specialized agencies, as well as organized the side events related to the cooperation of the UN with the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea in accordance with the Resolution on “Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea” that was adopted by the UN General Assembly in May of current year.

It is vital to note that the final outcomes of the presentation of the Voluntary National Review of Turkmenistan will be regarded during the next meeting of the Interdepartmental Coordinative Working Group on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the country.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS







State visit of President of the Republic of Korea to Turkmenistan

The state visit paid by President of the Republic of Korea Moon Jae-in to Turkmenistan on 16-17 April, 2019 was the most important event of the spring part of the political season. Land of the Morning Calm, as Koreans themselves call their Fatherland, has long had

a strong interest in developing a technological and political partnership with Turkmenistan. This was clearly evidenced by the Korean president's visit to Ashgabat, where President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov and President of the Republic of Korea Moon Jae-in held talks.

As part of the one-on-one meeting followed by the talks with participation of the two delegations, the heads of state discussed the pace of development of the Turkmen-Korean cooperation in the political sphere, in the framework of international organizations, as well as in the trade-



economic and cultural-humanitarian spheres.

The talks focused on cooperation in the energy and transport-communications sectors. In this regard, the Turkmen leader noted that Turkmenistan has an abundance of natural resources, growing industrial and transport infrastructure and an agricultural sector, while the Republic of Korea has modern technologies and production facilities. According to Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, Turkmenistan is counting on mutually beneficial cooperation with the Korean businesses, including construction of new industrial facilities using advanced and environmentally friendly technologies.

The leading Korean companies implementing projects on construction and modernization of oil refining and gas chemical complexes were cited as an example of the efficient joint work. Such projects include the construction of a gas processing plant

at the Galkynysh (Revival) field and a gas chemical complex for production of polymers in the village of Kiyarly on the Turkmen coast of the Caspian Sea. In this regard, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov suggested that the sides should look into the possibility of implementing joint energy projects in Turkmenistan in the near future.

The talks between the two delegations concluded with the ceremony of signing bilateral documents. The sides signed the Agreement on the abolition of visa requirements for holders of diplomatic, official and special passports and the Agreement on cooperation in the cultural and humanitarian sphere.

The sides also signed the Program of Economic Cooperation between the two countries for 2019-2022; the Plan for implementation of cooperation in exchanging of medical workers, pharmaceuticals and medical equipment; the Protocol on amendments to the Convention on

avoidance of double taxation and prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income; as well as the Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of information and communication technologies.

To the applause of the signing ceremony participants, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov and President Moon Jae-in signed a Joint Statement of Turkmenistan and the Republic of Korea. After the signing ceremony, the Presidents of Turkmenistan and the Republic of Korea made statements for press.

In the second half of the day, the President of the Republic of Korea visited the village of Kipchak near Ashgabat, where he paid tribute to the memory of the first President of Turkmenistan, Saparmurad Niyazov. He laid flowers at the Mausoleum and viewed the Turkmenbashi Spiritual Mosque. Then, the distinguished guest laid flowers at the Monument to Independence of Turkmenistan and



planted a tree in the alley of honored guests.

On the last day of his state visit to Turkmenistan, President of the Republic of Korea Moon Jae-in and President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov visited Balkan province, where they viewed a polymer plant in the village of Kiyany on the Turkmen coast of the Caspian Sea.

This plant for production of polyethylene and polypropylene was built by South Korean companies LG International and Hyundai Engineering in cooperation with Japanese company TOYO Engineering on the orders of State Concern “Trkmengaz.”

The heads of Turkmenistan and the Republic of Korea met with the staff of the polymer plant, as well as builders who took part in the construction of this gas-chemical complex.

As Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov noted in his speech, the Korean companies have been making a significant contribution to the development of the chemical and energy industry of Turkmenistan over many years now. The launch of the

gas-chemical complex for production of polyethylene and polypropylene is evidence of close cooperation and friendship between Turkmenistan and the Republic of Korea.

“The promising Turkmen market will be happy to welcome representatives of Korean business, big companies that build facilities using the most advanced technologies, taking into account the environmental component, train qualified personnel and demonstrate interest in effective, sustained and long-term partnership,” the President of Turkmenistan said.

In his turn, the President of the Republic of Korea noted that the consortium of Hyundai Engineering and LG International successfully implemented a number of projects in Turkmenistan, helping to establish trusting relations between the business structures of the two states. According to the South Korean leader, this is only the beginning of bilateral economic cooperation, the full potential of which will be realized through the diversification of the gas and chemical industry of Turkmenistan

and establishment of industries that manufacture high added-value products.

Addressing the meeting participants, the distinguished guest stressed that their efforts and work would be remembered as a great achievement in the history of friendship and prosperity of the two states.

The Presidents of Turkmenistan and the Republic of Korea joined the staff of the plant for a group photo for memory of their visit. Then, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov and President Moon Jae-in viewed the major technological installations and engineering facilities of the plant and a pavilion exhibiting polymer products manufactured in Turkmenistan.

Later, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov and President Moon Jae-in visited the national tourist zone “Avaza” and the Turkmenbashi International Sea Port. Upon completion of his state visit, the South Korean leader left home.





28th Anniversary of the Independence of Turkmenistan





Kiyanly Polymer Plant – strong assurance of dynamic economic growth

Turkmenistan has the diversified, multifunctional economy presented by enterprises of power industry, oil and gas production, oil-processing, chemical and petrochemical field, mechanical engineering and metal-processing, objects for producing building materials, light and food industry.

One of the main aspects of stable growth of the energy sector of Turkmenistan is development of different fields of chemical and petrochemical industries, including the use of resources of already developed fields and industrial development of new deposits of chemical raw stock.

Kiyanly Gas Chemical Complex for production of polyethylene and polypropylene, which was launched last year, is a great example of implementing of national programme on development of petro-chemical sector.

This major investment project worth over 3.4 billion US dollars was implemented by TurkmenGas State Concern together with foreign partners, Korea's LG International Corp and Hyundai Engineering, and Japan's TOYO Engineering Corporation. The trilateral contract was signed during the official visit by President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov to Japan in 2013.

The production capacity of the new complex was designed to process 5 billion cubic meters of natural gas per year, thus allowing for the production of 381 thousand tons of high-density polyethylene, 81 thousand tons of polypropylene and other valuable products, as well as for the obtaining of up to 4.5 billion cubic meters of marketable gas that will be distributed to gas pipeline systems and used as a fuel.

The plant is provided with the modern equipment purchased in Japan, the Republic of Korea, the USA, the UK, Belgium, Germany, Denmark and other European countries. It has four main technological facilities: for gas separation, for ethane processing and for polyethylene and polypropylene production. All technological processes are automated and function under centralized control.

The advanced engineering solutions were used at installation of auxiliary systems for extraction and demineralization of seawater, for recovery, treatment and reuse of industrial waters, for steam, air and nitrogen production,





for fire safety etc. The gas-turbine generator provides the uninterrupted supply of energy to the complex. Warehouses were built to store chemical reagents and finished polymer products.

The polymers are produced at the Kiyarly Gas Chemical Complex with the cutting-edge technology which is distinctive in that it uses unique schemes for deep cleaning of the original raw materials from all kinds of impurities. More precisely, the gas separation facility uses the COREFLUX™ technology for effective extraction of methane and ethane from natural gas, and the technology that is widely used throughout the world to purify raw materials from the so-called acid gases and mercury. The ethane facility allows for the processing of 685 thousand tons of hydrocarbons per year.

The plant will launch the production of high-density polyethylene, a new product for Turkmenistan. It will be obtained through low-pressure polymerization of ethylene with the Innovene™S technology, one of the top three most widespread solutions in global oil and gas chemical industry. The license is granted by INEOS Technologies (UK), one of the largest international corporations that comprises chemical enterprises purchased from such giants as BP, ICI and BASF. This is the first Innovene™S license from INEOS Technologies in Central Asia.

The project for the construction of the Kiyarly Gas Chemical Complex received the TXF Award (UK) as one of the best ECA-backed projects in Europe and Eurasia in 2014.

The total value of loan agreements signed by the State Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs of Turkmenistan with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, the Export-Import Bank of Korea and the syndicate of participating financial institutions of Japan, Germany, France, Korea, China, Italy, Austria and Switzerland to finance the project exceeds 2.5 billion US dollars.

The launch of this enormous enterprise which is equipped with latest technology will satisfy requests on the world market in oil and gas sector, also would support the improvement of positions of Turkmenistan at the world market of polymeric products as well. The construction of this plant is another step towards making Turkmenistan highly industrialized state.

This facility would make significant input to the current achievements of the country and would serve for many years to future generations.



Turkmenistan

contributes to the development of the international energy market by diversification of its natural gas export routes



An implementation of the gas pipeline Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) will demonstrate the success of its steps. Increasing of supply of Turkmen energy carriers, also by the development of transport system, is an essential part of energy strategy of Turkmenistan. There the substantial investment programs are realized, and in this regard the TAPI project holds leading position. It is well-known, that in 2013 the governments of Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India decided on acceleration of rates of work were delegated to state gas companies - Turkmengas, Afghan Gas Enterprises, Inter State Gas Systems (Private) Limited and GAIL (India) Limited.

From Turkmenistan through Afghanistan and Pakistan to the border of India the gas pipeline of length of 1634 km will be laid, by this pipeline within 30 years of exploitation 33 billion m³ a year will be delivered. It will assist





the development of regional countries, their socio-economic growth, and energy security.

The active phase of implementation of the TAPI project began in 2010, after signing in Ashgabat a quadripartite intergovernmental agreement for this project. Then, from 2012 to 2016, the legal framework of the project was consistently supplemented with Agreements on the natural gas purchase and sale with all participants, joint-stock and Investment Agreements.

In October 2016, the Government of Turkmenistan and the Islamic Development Bank signed the Agreement on the financing of the project of construction of the Turkmen part of the TAPI pipeline. The document provides the allocation of credit in the amount of 700 million U.S. dollars.

In November last year, a regular meeting of the intergovernmental Turkmen-Saudi Commission on trade and economic cooperation with the participation of heads of industry and energy, as well as large companies of Saudi Arabia was held in Riyadh. During the meeting, the sides discussed issues of trade, economic and investment cooperation, including the fuel and energy sector and reached specific agreements in some areas. In particular, the State Concern "Turkmengas" signed a contract with "Global Pipe Company" for the supply in 2018 of a large batch of pipe products intended for the construction of TAPI.



As we know, the construction of TAPI was started in December of 2015 in Mary region. The festive event of laying the first symbolic “golden unit” of the new gas pipeline was attended by the Presidents of Turkmenistan and Afghanistan, representatives of the government of Pakistan and India. Laying of the 214 km long part of the gas pipeline through the territory of our country is conducted by the State Concern “Turkmengas” and planned to be finished at the end of 2018.

The main source of the TAPI gas super huge gas field “Galkynysh”

From this affluent area, the SC “Turkmengas” in partnership with foreign companies will deliver the “blue fuel” by the mean of TAPI gas pipeline.

The countries involved in implementation of the project will get not only economic profits and eco-pure gas and its products.

Realization of the TAPI will contribute to the development of the economy, solving of social issues, strengthening of peace and stability in the region. In this regard, the success of the project is significant not just for regional countries, but for the whole world.

One of the significant and long-term partners in the project is the Asian Development Bank. The Asian Development Bank is one of the first organizations joining the project and up till now comprehensively assisted the “TAPI Pipeline Company Limited” by financing on favorable conditions. For example, the shareholders of the “TAPI Pipeline Company Limited” consortium conducts the investment in the Afghan part of the gas pipeline on the base of Agreement between the government

of Afghanistan and the Asian Development Bank.

817 km of fiber optic cable will be laid in Afghanistan with 100 Gb/s speed with the capacity to increase it to 6 Tb/s.

A fiber optic cable is a network cable that contains strands of glass fiber inside an insulated casing. They are designed for long distance, very high performance data networking, and telecommunications.

The laying of fiber-optic cable facility of the Turkmenistan - Afghanistan - Pakistan - India (TAPI) currently is one of the most critical projects. This project is implemented by the

Ministry of Communication of Turkmenistan. Thus from the border of Turkmenistan to the border of Afghanistan and Pakistan 1635 kilometers of a fiber-optic line will be laid. The fiber-optic facility will conduct the monitoring of gas pipeline and provides the data of Europe, Asia and south-east Asia with the 100 Gb/s speed with the ability to increase it to 6 Tb/s. Implementation of the project will allow Turkmenistan to exchange data with countries of Europe, Asia and Southeast Asia, and in the future under-take the significant part of the data traffic.





Turkmenistan's Energy policy

Turkmenistan energetic policy is aimed to enlargement of producing of electricity and volumes of its export, increasing the quality of supplies, growth of people's prosperity and housing conditions. Today in the frames of Conception of development of the electro-energetic sphere of Turkmenistan for 2013-2020 some gas-electric turbine stations were constructed.

Known as rich in energy carriers and reliable partner Turkmenistan continues to increase the number of countries and companies partners in the sphere of Energy Power Plants. Mainly the most perspective directions of partnership in this sphere are South and South-East neighboring countries, which are interested in Turkmen energy carriers. Thus again the project of gas pipeline Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India plays a significant role. This pipeline is attended by the electric line of 500 kVolt, which will deliver electric energy to the rate Turkmenistan - Afghanistan -Pakistan and will promote the execution of the policy of policy of diversification.

Turkmenistan and Afghanistan expand the partnership in the sphere of energetics. For





ages, the people of Afghanistan get Turkmen electric energy for light conditions. For export, the electrical power to Afghanistan, Turkmenistan has built the small electric station of the capacity of 500 kVolt and string the electric system lines. New 500 kVolt Turkmenistan -Afghanistan-Pakistan electric line will not only provide the TAPI gas pipeline and its facilities with electric energy, but it will also allow to export energy through through Afghanistan and Pakistan to South-East Asian countries.

Turkmenistan pays great attention to the fair, equal partnership with companies and other countries. In this regard in Ashgabat in December on 31, 2017 bilateral Memorandum of understanding between Energetics Ministry of Turkmenistan and “Çalyk Holding A.S.” on implementation of the project of electric line Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan was signed. It aims for the beneficial, safe, legal and productive partnership in the work on this project.

Turkmenistan in large scales contributes to the development of the international partnership in sphere of energetics, provides supportive measures to world energy security

The world energetics affects the economy of every country. Nowadays cheap and trusted energy sources provide states with the opportunity for rapid growth and for their people - to get welfare and prosperity. For these purposes, the UN adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Energy Development. According to this document countries should reinforce efforts in partner work of international and legal organizations in a sphere of energetics, development of international energetic partnership, stable, steady and versatile supplies of energy.

Turkmenistan makes every effort to execute the Agenda. Turkmenistan in large scales contributes to the development of the international partnership in sphere of energetics, provides supportive measures to world energy security, enforced events to implementation of the steps aimed to support steady and uninterrupted supply of energy.





Launch of new industrial innovative complex



On 28 June, 2019, Honourable President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov took part in the opening ceremony of new super modern industrial complex – the plant for production of gasoline from natural gas, which was built in Ahal Velayat (province), Turkmenistan.

New industrial complex was built by joint efforts of the State Concern Turkmengaz and Consortium of Kawasaki Heavy Industries Ltd. (Japan) and Rönesans Endüstri Tesisleri İnşaat Sanayi ve Ticaret A.Ş. (Turkey). It is worth reminding that relative Agreement has been signed during official visit of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov to Japan in September 2013. The ground breaking ceremony of facility took place on August 2014 with the participation of the Head of the State. The GTG (gas to gasoline) project is based on TIGAS technology developed by Danish Haldor Torsoe, which allows making high quality gasoline in combination with highly efficient catalysts with less energy consumption and minimum impact on environment.

600,000 tons of eco-friendly synthetic gasoline ECO – 93, which meet EURO – 5 standard, as well as 115,000 tons of liquefied gas from associated products and 12,000 tons of treated sulphur-free diesel fuel will be produced by the facility every year.

Synthetic gasoline is not only competitive alternative to tradition gasoline, which is produced by oil refining, but also new type of energy carrier. It can be used as vehicle fuel without any alteration of the engine as well as for blending with gasoline fractions received during oil refining, which gives opportunity to

produce wide range of eco-friendly fuel.

Among the participants there were gathered heads of the ministries and profile departments of Turkmenistan, public organizations, diplomatic mission and representatives accredited in Turkmenistan, foreign companies, representatives of national and foreign mass media.

President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov addressed the participants of the event with the speech, in the beginning of which he congratulated everybody on the put into operation of the plant for production of gasoline from natural gas.

The Head of Turkmen State noted that open door policy of Neutral Turkmenistan makes the basis of entire system of international relations of the country. This system outlines the main directions of trade and economic partnership, scientific, technological and investment relations.

Speaking of what stimulates foreign companies to make big investments to the realization of large-scale infrastructural projects in Turkmenistan, the President of Turkmenistan emphasized that naturally, they are attracted by economic benefit as Turkmenistan has huge reserves of natural resources. We do not limit ourselves by fact that efficient use of natural resources allows improving economic potential of the country and enhancing life level of the nations but also turn them into the factor of solution of numerous global issues, the President said.

In addition to huge reserves of natural resources, making of all cycles of production

of commodities with high added value supports the region of Turkmenistan to become attractive as perspective sale markets for foreign business, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov continued.

This is indicated by the fact that Turkmenistan has managed to achieve the highest indicator of the GDP in Central Asia. Turkmenistan actively integrates to the system of the world economic relations including by making transit and transport corridors and new directions of innovative and industrial development.

At present time, the world experiences the fourth industrial revolution. Turkmenistan also participates in this sharing the technologies and know-hows, opening scientifically based production facilities and implementing advanced systems to all branches of economy and digitizing these systems, the Head of the State noted. Flow of foreign investments, high technologies and management solutions create the conditions for rapid achievement of economic growth allowing us using of material resources wider.

The stage of industrialization of the country, market and structural reforms, diversification of processing branches starts with the transfer to digital economy. Therefore, the role of Turkmenistan, as a big exporter of the goods from textile to petrochemical production, is growing.

After, video demonstrated on display in 360 degrees format and allowing to have visual image of the potential of oil and gas sphere of Turkmenistan has been offered to the participants of the event. The video gives opportunity to make some kind of trip



to the history starting from the times of the Silk Road, to know modern achievements of national fuel and energy complex, which include an efficient development of hydrocarbon resources of the country, establishment of powerful industrial infrastructure including the construction of new industrial facility in Ahal Velayat.

After, the floor was given to foreign guests. State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan Yoshihiko Isozaki was speaking first and having highlighted that it is great honour for him to participate in current ceremony, read out congratulation message of Prime Minister Sinzo Abe, who on behalf of Japanese Government addressed the Head of Turkmen State with sincere congratulations on successful completion of construction of synthetic gasoline plant.

In this regard, the confidence that new petrochemical complex, which was built under the cooperation with Japanese companies, would support further development of industrial sector of Turkmenistan and enhancement of life level of people has been expressed.

It was mentioned in the message that commitment of the sides to comprehensive strengthening of partnership, which has gained new dynamics in its development, which is reflected in implementation of numerous joint economic projects was confirmed in 2013, during high level meeting in the framework of the official visit of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov to Japan. Mutual visits on high level in 2015 gave strong impulse and more specific content to fruitful interstate cooperation. These facts are visual evidence of the progress of Turkmen – Japanese cooperation.

Turkmenistan, located on Caspian coast and having rich natural resources, plays the key role in stable development of the Central Asian region and is the main partner of Japan. Prime Minister Sinzo Abe noted in his message that he was glad that his country make big contribution to the efforts for diversification of the industry and realization of export capabilities of Turkmenistan.

The Head of the government of friendly state expressed the confidence that Turkmen – Japanese relations have big potential for further active development as well as confirmed the willingness of Japan to deep intensification of traditional bilateral relations.

In the end of the message, Prime Minister Sinzo Abe expressed the gratitude to all who was involved in construction of new plant and wished strong health and success in work to the participants of the ceremony and happiness and prosperity to people of Turkmenistan.

Director of Foreign Affairs Department of Liberal Democratic Party of Japan, Head of



the Secretariat of the Parliamentary League of Japanese – Turkmen Friendship Matsushita Shinpei warmly congratulated President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov and all participants on successful completion of construction of petrochemical complex and putting of it into operation.

Having highlighted that it is great honour for him to take part in current event, the guest expressed the confidence that new plant, which is a symbol of beneficial economic cooperation between Turkmenistan and Japan, would make significant contribution to the development of Turkmen economy.

At the same time, it was mentioned that number of important large-scale infrastructural projects are among bilateral partnership. New facility for production of gasoline from natural gas is one of wonderful examples in this case. Mr. Matsushita Shinpei highlighted that he is proud that advanced Japanese technologies supports steadfast development of industrial complex of Turkmenistan.

The event was continued by the award ceremony of prestige certificates to the synthetic gasoline plant.

In this regard, the floor was given to official representatives of the Guinness World Records Mrs. Sheida Subashi Gemic, who expressed congratulations to President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov and Turkmen people on the opening of unique industrial facility, which is the first facility of the kind in the world.

In ceremonial atmosphere, Mrs. Subashi Gemic presented the Certificate of the First World Plant for Gas Production from Natural Gas under the applause of the participants.

Mrs. Piya Scambelluri, the Coordinator of European Region of the Environmental Protection Fund of the United States of America was the next to speak. Having expressed deep gratitude on behalf of the Fund to the President of Turkmenistan for the invitation to take part in the opening ceremony of new technological and eco-friendly plant, the guest highlighted that it is great pleasure for her.

There many reasons, which make the opening

of this facility that has no analogues to be such important event. The main of the reasons is an ecological component of this project and care of our future, - Mrs Piya Scambelluri said. Use of unique technologies for waste disposal makes this industrial giant to be the most environmentally plant in the world, which in its turn serves as a model for other countries.

While being the leader in the sphere of protection of public health from ecological threats, the Fund advocates the conviction that thoughtful and wise planning and design, application of latest technologies make possible an economic development during provision of public health and environment protection for better future.

Having expressed sincere gratitude to the Head of the state for such example, Mrs. Piya Scambelluri has handed over the Environmentally Friendly Certificate and relative sign in the ceremonial atmosphere.

After, the floor was given to the Head of Energy Department of Swiss Federal Technology University Mr. Urs Weidman.

This project is visual example of implementation of innovative technologies for other countries as well as indicates far-seeing approach of Turkmen leader to solution of ecological issues. Continuing the subject, Mr. Urs Weidman noted that this unparalleled project is an important milestone in development of national economy on one hand and real investment to the infrastructure of entire Eurasian continent on another hand.

New facility is very important for future development. It also give new opportunity to Turkmenistan in economic aspect, in the context of expansion of business partnership with neighbouring countries in the sphere of energy industry, the guest said.

Having finished his speech, Mr. Urs Weidman has presented the Certificate and Sign of Innovative Technologies.

Summing up the results of the ceremony and addressing the participants, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov highlighted that opening of synthetic gasoline plant is the event



of big significance not only for Turkmenistan but also for entire region.

After, the President made an entry in the Book of Honoured Guests. Following Turkmen leader, Japanese guests have also left notes in the Book.

From Mizan Business Centre of the capital, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov went to the plant for production of synthetic gasoline from natural gas, which is located in Ahal velayat.

Upon arrival, the President was warmly greeted by the members of the Government, Hyakim of Ahal Velayat as well as leader of Japanese delegation who came to Turkmenistan.

The moment came and the President of Turkmenistan cut symbolical ribbon opening new important industrial facility under loud applause of the participants.

Head of the State Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov went to administration building of the plant where the director of the facility introduce new complex to the President. Video about the specific features of the plant, all cycles of production process of deep processing of gas and making new production was demonstrated on the display.

The process of turning gas into liquid fuel required the construction of entire train of technological units for deep cleaning of natural gas, synthesis of gas and methanol as well as production and enrichment of gasoline.

Synthetic fuel produced by the facility is distinguished by ideal ecological characteristics. It does not have neither sulphur components, nor nitrogen organic compounds, which are harmful for environment. The main production of the plant, ECO – 93 gasoline, is stored in three 18,000 cubic meter tanks, in which special equipment works for provision of its quality.

Liquefied gas, which is associated product, goes to round-shaped 2,000 cubic meter tank while desulphurized diesel fuel to 360 cubic meter

tank.

All tanks are equipped with proper fire protection devices. The system of shipment of ready-made production includes loading terminals for loading of gasoline to railway tanks and road tankers as well as for loading of unconditional gasoline, desulphurized diesel fuel and liquefied gas to tanker trucks.

According to the specification, the infrastructure of the plant has number of other units including reception and treatment unit of water, which is used in production process.

The facility also has two outdoor water cooling facilities, one of which is used for the gas processing and gasoline production units while another for auxiliary facilities.

Air separation units is provided with equipment from the world famous companies Air Liquide from France and MAN Turbo from Germany. Atmospheric air is purified by special filters and compressors; afterwards it is compressed in steam generator and its pressure is increased to medium level.

Steam generating units is provided with three steam boilers, which produce 400 tons of steam per hour, which is distributed by the pipelines.

System of uninterrupted power supply of the facility is also available. It has steam power generator producing 38 Mega Watt of electricity per hour. In addition, it has auxiliary generator with 2,500 KWatt production output, which is activated in automatic mode.

All gas and liquid wastes are sent to flare system, for safe operation of which medium pressure steam conductor is available. The facility for treatment of technological condensate is also available.

Waste water treatment units operates taking into account the requirements of ecological safety. It provided with modern profile equipment including by special filters, oil catchers, systems of water softeners and

mixture separation.

Having studied production cycle of the plant, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov congratulated the management and personnel on the opening of new petrochemical complex.

After the President gave start to the shipment of the first batch of new production to local consumers and for export. At this moment, special vehicles with the load of ECO – 93 gasoline, which would be delivered to gas stations of the capital and velayats, started driving off.

At the same time, shipment of eco-friendly fuel to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan started by the railway. In addition, big volume of liquefied gas has been sent by special vehicles to neighbouring country.

Shipment of big volume of production of new complex on behalf of Turkmen nation as humanitarian aid to neighbouring state on the day of remarkable event has enhanced the significance of current event.

Having wished success in work to personnel of new facility, the Head of the State gave the keys from new vehicles to the team of industrial complex.

After, the Head of the State went to the 4th gas station of the capital where the President was warmly greeted by the participants of the opening ceremony of new plant and foreign partners who took part in the construction.

First fuelling of the vehicle of Turkmen leader with eco-friendly synthetic ECO-93 gasoline, which meets EURO 5 standard, took place. The President of Turkmenistan paid by bank card for the fuel.

Expert of the Centre of Criminal Studies of the Ministry of Interior and specialist of the General State Service Turkmenstandartlary made quality and chemical composition tests of fuel.

After certain procedures, the specialist of the Ministry of Interior informed that ECO – 93 vehicle gasoline, which was produced at new plant, meets the fifth level by its chemical composition and ecological standards, which are set for environmental protection.

On the same day, Mizan Business Centre of the capital hosted the briefing dedicated to the opening of new petrochemical complex in Ahal, where heads of number of profile state structures of Turkmenistan and famous foreign companies, which were involved in realization of this important infrastructural project.



WHAT IS AVAZA NATIONAL TOURIST ZONE?

In June 2009, the opening ceremony of the first facilities of the Avaza National Tourist Zone took place on the Caspian coast. The “Avaza” project initiated by President of Turkmenistan occupies a special place in the strategic plans of the country over the next decade and, therefore, is dedicated to accumulate all of the most advanced achievements of world architecture, engineering, technical design and creative ideas.

Year after year, all new facilities supplement the infrastructure of a modern international-class seaside resort. It offers high-quality hotels, children’s health resorts, cottage villages, health and recreation centers. Particular attention was paid to the creation of a full-scale recreation and entertainment complex





– the construction of a water park, yacht and sports clubs, restaurants, campgrounds, all sorts of attractions, shopping centers. Today, navigable river runs 7 kilometers through the whole territory of the resort. On both sides of the hydraulic structure landscaped recreation area will be extended, sports and canoeing, sailing regattas will take place there.

The boundaries of the tourist zone have been expanded; its area has increased to five thousand acres. In the third phase of the project there will be a kind of Turkmen “Las Vegas” with numerous casinos and other entertainment centers.

In addition, Avaza began to play the role of a major business, cultural and sports center, where top-level meetings, representative international forums and creative festivals take place. In addition to exhibitions and conferences, it is important to highlight major events like the 10th International Gas Congress held on May 21-22, 2019, as well as the first Caspian Economic Forum held on August 12, 2019.

A new airport in the city of Turkmenbashi had been commissioned; active works are being implemented on the construction of the highways to Avaza, on the construction of a powerful gas turbine power plant, desalination plant, sewage treatment plants and water supply network system. Turkmenbashi city will become one of the largest transportation centers on the railway transport corridor “North-South,” which is designed as the shortest route to tie the states of Europe and South Asia. The new seaport is awarded with the award from the international consulting company “PricewaterhouseCoopers” and the German logistics and transport company “Hamburger Hafen und Logistik AG” (HHLA), a certificate from the container terminal manager in the port of Hamburg, and the Dutch ports of “Zeeland Seaports”.

The port is also included in the Guinness Book of Records as the largest port below sea level. The collection of world records noted in the same category - “the largest artificial island below sea level” - an artificial bird island constructed during the construction of the port in order to protect the avifauna.

As Esteemed President of Turkmenistan noted at one of the expanded meetings of the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan, effective steps should be taken to reduce the state’s share in the economy and expand its private sector. To this end, the Head of the State informed that it was decided to delegate Avaza National tourist zone complex to the management of entrepreneurs.







SPEECH BY PRESIDENT GURBANGULY BERDIMUHAMEDOV AT THE MEETING AT THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF TURKMENISTAN

Dear members of the Cabinet of Ministers!

Dear scientists, professors and teachers!

Dear leaders!

As you know, the development of human society is directly related to science and education. As in the developed countries of the world, in our independent Neutral country, science and education are the key means of building the capacity and capabilities of our state, the driving force of society.

The outstanding successes achieved in the dynamically and harmoniously developing economy of the Homeland, the great achievements it has gained, the systematic strengthening of its role in the world community are inseparably linked with these spheres.

The long-term target state programs for the socio-economic development of the country that we have adopted, fundamental transformations, first of all, are based on a solid scientific base and educational potential of society.

Science and education are our wealth, consolidating society for achieving great goals, increasing the potential of our independent state. We are successfully implementing reforms aimed at bringing the domestic scientific and educational sphere to the level of developed countries of the world. In recent years we have radically strengthened the material and technical base of science and education.

As you know, on May 14, 2010, at the meeting of the Council of Elders, as a priority, we proclaimed the reform of science and education systems, including academic, higher, secondary vocational and secondary schools.

To implement these tasks, we have allocated about 16 billion US dollars to strengthen the material and technical base of science and education systems. They built 623 facilities equipped with modern



equipment and technology. These facilities include preschool institutions, schools, colleges, institutes and universities, including the modern Technology Centre.

As part of the scientific and technical transformations governing the legal, economic and organizational relations in the field of science, we have fundamentally strengthened the material and technical base of research institutions and higher educational institutions of the country. We have also identified key areas and objectives of science, approved the

relevant regulations, special Program and Regulations and adopted the Law "On State Science and Technology Policy."

Such urgent tasks as the development of the basic sciences, the enhancement of scientific and technological potential, the formation of a new generation of scientists, the involvement of young people in scientific activities are reflected in the Law of Turkmenistan "On the legal status of scientist."

The construction of the Technology Centre in the city of Ashgabat has led to





scientific research in industrial-innovative and information-technological areas of scientific research.

To this end, we opened the Oguz Khan University of Engineering and Technology. In this school, a lot of work is being done to train highly qualified engineers and future scientists in such important areas as the technology of new materials, nano-materials, chemical technologies, mechatronics, robotics and innovation.

We also strengthen cooperation with the UN, other large international organizations, foreign countries in the field of science, education and innovative technologies, which further enhances the credibility of our independent state in the international scientific and educational space.

The funds we invest in the field of science and education are already yielding positive results. Modern cities are growing before our eyes. Using the latest achievements of science and technology, we build powerful factories and plants and successfully implement environmental and international projects. We create environmentally friendly waste-free

production and economic clusters, which are concentrated in advanced scientific experience and modern technology.

Dear friends!

As you know, new technologies form the basis of the development of the world economy. So we are successfully implementing government programs to create the electronic industry, manufacture import-substituting products and increase exports.

Currently, as a result of the use of the most advanced equipment in our country, a widespread communication system is functioning. The launch of our national artificial satellite “Turkmen Alem 52°E” into orbit opened up possibilities for this. Soon we will put into orbit the second artificial satellite.

Information and communication system, computer technology all over the world are the most dynamically developing areas. High-tech industries, theoretical and practical knowledge, information technologies directly affect the output of the world economy to a qualitatively new level.

Therefore, in state policy we attach great importance to the digitization of the economy. In order to transit to a digital economy, we are improving computer systems and modern means of communication, automating production, creating information systems and introducing electronic document management, thereby further strengthening our economy.

To this end, in the future we envisage the development and implementation of projects in the field of information technology, organization of marketing and consulting services. We intend to increase the number of information technology centres in this area, as well as educational institutions for the training of specialists for the digital economy.

Dear friends!

New branch structures with modern technologies are being created in our country. In such conditions, the importance of the most relevant areas of science, generating new ideas and solutions, based on a completely new technique and technology, is rather increasing.



received a high award as an environmentally friendly product.

At the UN Conference on Sustainable Development “Rio+20”, at the T World Water Forum, held in the city of Taegu in the Republic of Korea, and at the meetings of the heads of states of the Aral and Caspian countries, we proposed the world community our initiatives on effective and rational water use for the benefit of humanity, and, in general, on water diplomacy.

In addition, at the United Nations World “Rio+20” Conference, we proposed to develop a special program for the Aral Sea. As a result, the Resolution “Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Fund for the Aral Sea Saving” was adopted.

In August of this year we are holding the 1st Caspian Economic Forum. At the forum we will draw the attention of the international community to the work carried out by us in the main areas of our water diplomacy. We will also outline our new initiatives on trade and economic cooperation, development of multimodal transport corridors in the Caspian region.

The widespread introduction of advanced scientific and technological progress, innovative technologies in modern urban planning, in laying roads and pipelines contribute to the creation of a unique architectural appearance of our cities and villages.

The scientific foundations of the use of mineral waters, curative mud, medicinal

We are making great strides in the energy sector, in industrial production and fuel economy, in the field of chemical technology, in the production of new competitive products, in new production technologies and in energy saving. I would like to note with pride that all this not only meets our national interests, but also contributes to the solution of the most important issues related to the development of the countries and peoples of the region.

The adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of the Resolution we initiated on ensuring the security of energy transit is a clear indication of the triumph of our energy diplomacy in the world. We will continue to create all the necessary conditions for a scientifically based continuation of work in this area.

Our Motherland possesses not only natural resources, but also rich biological diversity. A thorough study of the issues of agriculture, medicine, the medicinal and food industry, the development of molecular biology, genetics, bioengineering, biomedicine and the training of specialists in these areas are also extremely important for the economy of our country.

Carrying out the selection of crops, animals, the creation of new varieties, hybrids using modern biotechnology methods, establishing the production of various food products and medicines are an integral part of our future economic development.

Effective research works are being carried out to create new seeds of highly productive agricultural crops adapted to the soil and

climatic conditions of our country, to preserve the valuable species of the flora and fauna of the Karakum Desert and the Caspian Sea, to determine how to use in agriculture of the Turkmen Lake “Altyn Asyr” and its collector-drainage systems, as well as adjacent territories, which has a positive effect on the ecological situation in the region.

As a result of field research carried out on an artificial island near the Turkmenbashi International Seaport, it was established that an ecological system was formed there, where all favourable conditions exist for flora and fauna, including the habitat of water birds.

More recently, we have laid the foundation for a new modern village in the region of the Turkmen Lake “Altyn Asyr”. I would also like to note that vegetables and fruits grown on the Turkmen soil at the last international exhibition held on May 29-30 in India





plants of the Turkmen land, which heal from many diseases, are being developed. The production of high-quality medicines from local raw materials is being established.

Purposeful and thorough development of medical sciences indicates the introduction of scientific achievements into production. In the near future, we will adopt an appropriate program in digital medicine, which will give a new impetus to large-scale work in this area. Dear friends!

Education plays an important role in the successful implementation of programs of socio-economic, cultural, humanitarian, socio-political reforms aimed at the prosperity of our independent Homeland.

Therefore, in our state policy we attach great importance to the potential of education in terms of creating the necessary conditions for the successive transfer of all sectors of the national economy and public life to a digital system.

It is known that the primary task facing the sphere of education is the upbringing of an educated younger generation with a broad outlook, dedicated to the Motherland, the people and the great values of the ancestors. Therefore, through education, we transform our cultural and spiritual life, comprehensively strengthen the position of our independent state in the world and build our great future with a solid foundation.

As is known, in this area, first of all, we carry out our state policy based on the interests of people, society and state, national and universal values, on humane traditions.

We successfully implement national programs, concepts and large-scale transformations.

At the state level, we attach particular importance to consistent modernization, improving structure and management, increasing efficiency, and strengthening the material, technical and legal base of the education sector as an integral part of our economy.

Dear participants of the meeting!

Here I would like to draw your attention to another circumstance. As you know, our era is the era of the triumph of



knowledge, technology, intellectual and creative means. Speaking about this, I want to note that in dozens of countries in Asia, Europe, America, including our independent state, special importance is attached to the training of highly qualified specialists and the creation of modern educational institutions. This activity is aimed at consistently building up human potential based on modern technologies, digital knowledge and best practices, in general, on the innovative development of education.

Proceeding from these goals, in 2019, proclaimed as “Turkmenistan is the Homeland of Prosperity”, we transferred some research institutes of the Academy of Sciences of Turkmenistan to higher educational institutions to further strengthen the interrelationship of education and science, to stimulate students work under the guidance of experienced professors and teachers, targeting research and design, pilot work on the most important areas of the country’s economy, and in particular, to strengthen the role of science in our society.

Moreover, in the future, in order to strengthen the interrelationship of research institutes with higher educational institutions, the integrated management of research projects aimed at solving the most important issues of economic sectors, we will continue to expand the net-work of research and production centres in higher education institutions.

For in-depth familiarization, on a scientifically-methodical basis, of students with our international initiatives on energy, transport and water resources, put forward at the platforms of international and interregional organizations, their widespread publicity, especially among young people, to ensure a creative approach to research work by young scientists, we will create educational and methodological centres in higher educational institutions. Dear friends!

As a result of radical reforms in the system of national education, today our happy young people receive education in selected specialties. Taking into account the modern conditions and development prospects of our independent state, we consistently increase the number of students admitted to study in secondary vocational and higher educational institutions.

Given the development of economic sectors on a scientific basis, only in recent years we have opened several new higher educational institutions. They train technologists, engineers, economists, lawyers and diplomats. In higher educational institutions new disciplines are also opened.

In addition, we created conditions for training our students in the most prestigious leading foreign universities. Abroad, young people receive education on the basis of intergovernmental agreements, agreements on the preparation of popular



In our country, we look with great confidence into the great future of science and education. For this we have specific programs and plans and great potential. All this is an excellent opportunity for the further prosperity of our state. Dear friends!

Science is the power of the state. Therefore, we are doing a lot of work aimed at ensuring the dynamic development of our independent state, increasing its competitiveness on the political, economic and cultural arena of the world.

Guided by the tasks of training specialists who are well versed in the achievements of scientific and technological progress, new technologies and innovations, we make capital investments in these areas.

Modernizing the structure, management and legal base of the science system in accordance with the requirements of the time, we are successfully carrying out fundamental scientific and technical reforms. We create all the necessary conditions for the training of highly qualified engineers who are able to deeply master modern knowledge and science.

Using the possibilities of science in the interests of peace and friendship, Turkmenistan systematically strengthens and will continue to strengthen cooperation with major international organizations in the field of science, technology and innovative technologies. Dear friends!

The rank of a scientist is a high rank. Being a scientist and achieving concrete results also matters for the future of our country. To be a scientist and to put into practice the achievements of science means to contribute to the further advancement of independent, constantly neutral Turkmenistan, going forward with the swiftness of a horse.

Dear scientists! Dear friends!

Once again, with all my heart, I congratulate you on the Day of Science! I wish you all good health, family well-being, great success in your work aimed at the further prosperity of our sovereign Homeland!

specialists for the sectors of our economy.

Dear participants of the meeting!

In order to stimulate the pursuit of science for schoolchildren, discover, develop and encourage their talent, specialized schools of foreign languages, precise, natural, humanitarian, music, military, sports and children's art schools operate in our country. We are working to expand the network of such specialized schools and have opened higher educational institutions where education is in foreign languages.

Our talented schoolchildren, student youth, participating in subject competitions held at the state and international level, achieve remarkable results and increase the authority of our country. I am convinced that our youth will use their scientific and engineering ideas, industrial and innovative, information and technological research to strengthen the scientific and technological base of our state. In order to achieve great success for our happy youth in the world of creativity, we will make all the necessary efforts in the future to increase the authority and glory of our Homeland!

The introduction of digital media, advanced computer and multimedia equipment to the education sector, the transfer of secondary schools to 12-year education gives a new impetus to a targeted increase in the educational level of our society, the development of young people's skills in the basics of knowledge, mental and physical

labour and the identification of their aspirations and interests, the ability to find their place in life and consciously choose a profession. We recently approved an improved twelve-year study plan, approved the Regulations on state preschool institutions and public educational institutions. This is an important step in the improvement of the national education sphere.

Dear members of the Cabinet of Ministers!

Dear scientists, professors and teachers!

Time does not stand still, time flies. Therefore, our sovereign Motherland must confidently move forward - in the new technological epoch through progressive development and large-scale transformations. In the coming years, the education system in the world will survive a revolution, during which a number of professions will disappear, new subjects will appear, and social networks can replace traditional teaching formats. Currently, the economy is moving into the era of digital transformation. Skills that have become routine today already in many countries does technology.

Dear friends!

Dear members of the Cabinet of Ministers!

Dear scientists, professors and teachers!

Today we had a very fruitful meeting. The decisions adopted and the proposals put forward will form the basis for the further reform of the national system of science and education.



NATIONAL TREASURE

The national holiday of Turkmenistan - Turkmen Horse Day - was celebrated in Ashgabat at the International Fair and XI International Scientific Conference titled "Turkmen Horses and the World Art of Horse Breeding".

This year's thematic exhibition and scientific conference brought together representatives of 50 leading companies from more than 20 countries, such as Russia, Germany, Great Britain, Uruguay, Georgia, the Czech Republic, Belarus, Turkey, Canada, France, Iran, China, Ukraine, Spain, Italy, the UAE, Pakistan, India and others.

Turkmenistan's ministries, departments and entrepreneurs, as well as foreign guests representing national equestrian associations and clubs presented their achievements at the colorfully decorated exhibition pavilions. Specialized construction companies, manufacturers of equipment and products for horse breeding, training institutions and sports organizations, veterinary clinics, advertising agencies, art shops and photo studios also presented their capacities at the exhibition.

A great number of pavilions featured the veterinary medicine, including special medical equipment, a wide range of medical products





and services for treatment and rehabilitation of horses.

Foreign exhibitors demonstrated high achievements in manufacturing equestrian sport equipment, clothing and accessories for riders, as well as video equipment to monitor stables.

The XI International Scientific Conference “Turkmen Horses and World Art of Horse Breeding” took place in the conference hall of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Turkmenistan in the afternoon. It saw the participation of more than 160 famous Turkmen and foreign hippologists, horse breeders, historians, ethnographers and other specialists.

Speaking at the plenary sessions, the conference participants noted that the Akhal-Teke horse is not only a gift of nature but also a product of the Turkmen people’s art of breeding. They also noted the importance of the forum as a platform for exchange of experiences in the field of horse breeding, new scientific research and discoveries in this field.

Other than that, as part of the celebration of Turkmen Horse Day, the International Association of Akhal-Teke Horse Breeding held its 9th meeting in Ashgabat. It was attended by the President of Turkmenistan, President of the International Association of Akhal-Teke Horse Breeding Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov.

The meeting discussed issues related to the worldwide development of Akhal-Teke horse breeding and equestrian sport and the work on the popularization of this breed of horse in the world, especially in the regions where the association has its branches.

Speaking at the meeting, Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov noted that the association membership currently accounts for 147 legal entities and individuals from 32 countries, and their number is growing every year, reflecting the increasing scope of cooperation. According to the Turkmen leader, the annual celebration of the Turkmen horse in the last week of April is evidence of the Turkmen people’s deep respect for their beloved horses and unsurpassed art of their breeding.

Then, there was held a ceremony to confer awards on the best Turkmen and foreign horse breeders for their great contribution to the development of Akhal-Teke horse breeding and its popularization in the world. By the presidential decree, they were awarded the honorary title of Honored Horse Breeder of Turkmenistan. In conclusion, the Turkmen leader invited all the guests to take part in numerous events held throughout the country on the occasion of Turkmen Horse Day.

Turkmen Horse Day was celebrated on a large scale countrywide. The chief events of the holiday took place at the Akhal-teke International Equestrian Complex with



28th Anniversary of the Independence of Turkmenistan

participation of President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov. President of the Republic of Tatarstan of the Russian Federation Rustam Minnikhanov, who arrived in Ashgabat to participate in the celebrations, was the guest of honor of the festive events. In total, there were held seven racing rounds for various distances, with 12 racers participating in each round.

On behalf of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, winners of the festive races, as well as winners of the 60-kilometer marathon and show jumping competitions held earlier were awarded cash and valuable prizes at a festive ceremony.

Winners of the marathon and show jumping were awarded cash prizes worth USD 20 000 each.

Winners of six races received cash prizes worth USD 20 000 each from various departments of Turkmenistan. The winner of the seventh race for the main prize established by the President of Turkmenistan received USD 30.000.





On June 29, 2019 the opening ceremony of the tour of “Galkynysh” horse group took place in northeastern Jilin Province (Changchun).

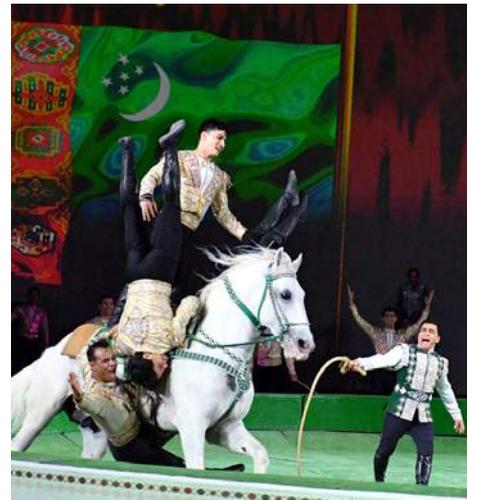
The opening ceremony was attended by Mr. Lanjun, Chairman of the Council for the Development of National Trade of China, party and economic leaders at various levels of Jilin Province, heads of the organizing tour company Jilin Shengshi Totem Horse Calche Co. Ltd., representatives of the Federation of Entrepreneurs, art workers, actors, employees of the Foreign Affairs Office, the Commerce Department and other state institutions of Jilin Province, as well as Turkmen students studying in Changchun City.

The ceremony participants took part in the demonstration of Akhal-Teke horses, improvised horse riding and demonstration performances.

On July 1, the opening ceremony of the exhibition of the famous Chinese amateur artist Lee Furong, dedicated to the Turkmen horses, took place. The exhibition featured more than 50 paintings and famous statements about Akhal-Teke horses written in calligraphic style.



THE TOUR OF “GALKYNYSH” HORSE GROUP WAS HELD IN CHINA





BASES OF THE TRANSPORT

POLICY OF TURKMENISTAN



The development of the transport sector is becoming one of the priority aspects in the modern history of the country.

Esteemed President puts forward transport initiatives that are mutually beneficial in international relations and are historically significant for the future of mankind. The large-scale activities carried out in this area are consistent and effective. Turkmenistan, located at the crossroads of transcontinental routes of strategic importance, takes an active part in the revival of the Great Silk Road in a new format.

The initiatives of the National Leader to strengthen the new area in international relations - transport diplomacy, are recognized by the world community. This serves as a clear confirmation that Turkmenistan, acting as a connecting hub between the continents, is the author of constructive initiatives of universal significance. In this context, the Resolution “Strengthening the links between all modes of transport to achieve Sustainable Development Goals”, adopted at the initiative of Turkmenistan by the United Nations General Assembly on December 20, 2017 is an international legal document of great significance.

As a result of the constructive policy of the Head of State being implemented in the sphere of transport and transit corridors, Turkmenistan forms a multimodal logistic system of regional importance. A clear evidence of this is the signing of the relevant Ashgabat Agreement on the creation of the Central Asia – Middle East transport and transit corridor, the Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran railway, the railway and road bridges across the Amu Darya, the International Sea Port in Turkmenbashi, the start of the construction of the gas pipeline Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India, the construction and commissioning of a number of other large objects.

The start of construction of the Ashgabat-Turkmenabat high-speed motorway on January 24, 2019, which became an event of historic significance, is another confirmation of the fact that Turkmenistan is at a new level in the development of the transport sector. It should be emphasized that the construction of this complex object is entrusted to Turkmen entrepreneurs. In the future, the commissioning of this road will allow an increase in the volume of cargo transported throughout the country and speed up transport links. In this context, it is important to note the presence of great opportunities that will open up for the development of relations with neighbouring Uzbekistan in the field of transport. Connecting the high-speed road leading to the centre of the western region of the country by the Ashgabat-Turkmenbashi highway will open the exit of trucks to the International Sea Port in the Caspian Sea and from there via sea routes to the Caucasus, Europe, southern regions of Russia, northern Iran, the Persian and Oman gulfs.

In order to support the targeted and wise policy of Turkmenistan, carried out under the leadership of esteemed President in the field of international transport diplomacy, and strengthen its legal





framework, with the active participation of relevant ministries and branch departments in the Mejlis of Turkmenistan, a draft Law of Turkmenistan “On the Principles of Transport Policy of Turkmenistan”, which was unanimously adopted by deputies, was developed.

The Law, which defines the basis of the state policy in the field of transport and regulation, management of transport activities in Turkmenistan specifies the main objectives of the transport policy of Turkmenistan.

The main tasks were identified. They include: the involvement of the transport system of Turkmenistan in international transport cooperation; specific projects and plans aimed at its development and expansion; creation of integrated multi-modal transport and transit systems and corridors through the effective use

of the transit opportunities of Turkmenistan; construction of trunk pipelines in new directions to increase the output of energy resources to foreign markets through diversification; establishment and development of cooperation with foreign countries and international organizations to ensure the provision of safe, affordable, reliable, environmentally friendly, and weather-resistant transport services; implementation of international legal documents adopted in the field of transport and others. The main principles of the transport policy of Turkmenistan are security, reliability, accessibility, environmental cleanliness, diversification of traffic flows, international cooperation and others.

The law defines the priority vectors of the transport policy in the field of ensuring the national security of Turkmenistan: the

creation of conditions to meet the needs of sustainable economic development; increase of competitiveness of transit capacities, transportation of population, cargo and baggage by road, rail, air, sea and river transport, as well as related services; formation and development of transport infrastructure.

The development of a unified infra-structure of the transport system to ensure affordable and secure communication among the regions of the country and foreign countries has been identified as one of the main areas for creating an integrated system of state strategic planning.

In accordance with the Law, the main areas of international cooperation of Turkmenistan in the field of transport are the development of international cooperation in the field of transport and the promotion of Turkmenistan's





interests at the international level, the creation of necessary conditions for the stable realization of transport and transit opportunities of Turkmenistan.

The consistent increase in the level of technical and technological security of the infrastructure of the transport system and vehicles; the creation of a state system of multi-level unified monitoring and security management in the transport system; the development of the infrastructure of the control and supervisory services of the transport system and the improvement of the legal basis of their activities and others are defined by the Law to ensure safety in the transport system.

The main directions of the stable innovative development of the transport system, ensuring effective management of traffic flows and funds are of great importance.

The list of the main vectors also includes the tasks of the environmental cleanliness of the transport system, ensuring the rights of individuals and organizations in the field of public environmental assessment of transport activities and others. These norms are introduced by taking into account the concept put forward by the National Leader on the priority of the careful preservation of the environment for future generations, as well as in the context of acquiring great significance for the practical realization of the constitutional right of every person to an environment that is favourable for life and health, and reliable information about its condition. In addition, the specific objectives and priority areas of the transport policy in relation to the country's regions are aimed to promote the further progressive development of the country's regions.

The Law states that the implementation of the transport policy of Turkmenistan is carried out by taking into account legal, economic, administrative mechanisms and by improving personnel policy and supporting research in the field of transport. Additionally, the bodies that carry out, within their powers, state regulation and management of transport activities, the tasks of transport management are specified.

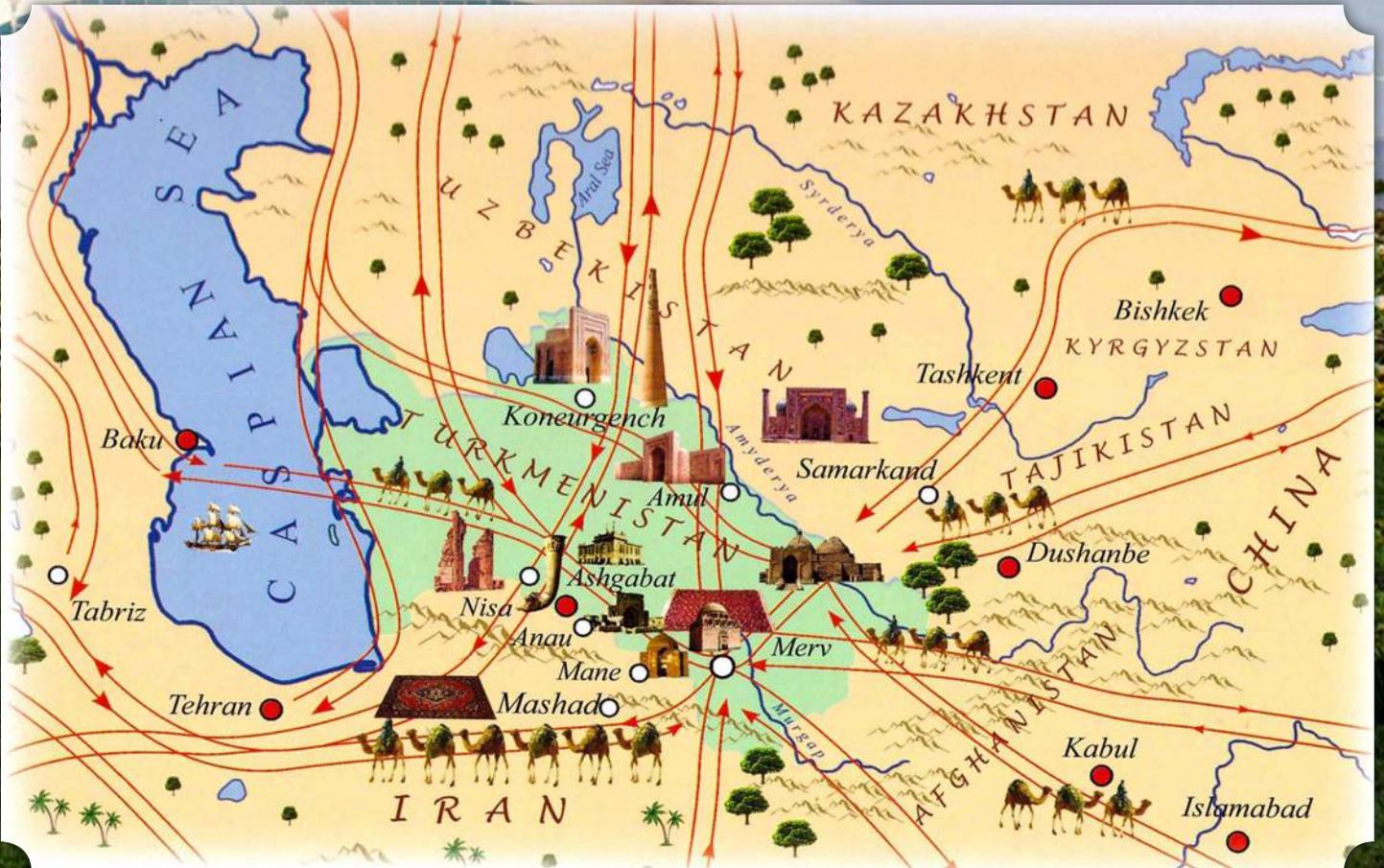
In general, the norms of the aforementioned Law are aimed at the sustainable development of the transport and transit potential of Turkmenistan, the transport and communications complex, which is able at the current level to meet the needs of customers for transport services and, at the same time, to strengthen the legal framework.

Yusupguly YASCHAYEV

Chairman of the Committee
for the Protection of Human Rights and
Freedoms of the Mejlis of Turkmenistan









The state policy pursued by the President of Turkmenistan on the path of comprehensive harmonious development of the state and society, based on the principle of “The state is for people!” is reflected in transformations that cover all regions of the country and are successfully implemented for the good life of the people, in the programs for the trade-economic, transport, scientific-technical, cultural-humanitarian and other areas. Building of modern towns and cities, development of creative and educational potential of society strengthen the political, economic and cultural foundations of the state.

Guided by the principles of peace, good neighbourliness and humanism, Turkmenistan attaches great importance to the development of mutually beneficial cooperation with the states of the world and international organizations. The harmonious and effective functioning of the basic foundations of the country, the in-violability of the well-being of the people are inextricably linked with the professional skills, the level of education and legal awareness of civil service employees and government bodies. At the initiative of the President of Turkmenistan, the Concept of the Development of the Digital Education System, the Concept for the Improvement of Teaching Foreign Languages and others that meet the requirements of the time are being implemented in the country.

Turkmenistan is a democratic, legal state with the status of permanent neutrality. The rule of law has been established on a constitutional basis in the country. In the speech at the meeting with the member of Mejlis (Parliament) of Turkmenistan held on February 7, 2019, the National Leader noted: “At present, in our country the most favourable conditions have been created for the full participation of young people in society and in the socio-economic, political and cultural life of the state. To support it, work should be carried out to make appropriate changes to the current legislation on the upbringing of the younger generation.”

The transformation of the national legislation in accordance with the requirements of time is one of the priorities of state policy. Legislation in force in the country is aimed at establishing social justice and is being improved by taking into account generally accepted norms of international law. Protecting the rights and freedoms of citizens, ensuring equality and observance of existing laws for all are the main principles of democratic and legal society.

FOR THE SAKE OF THE HAPPY FUTURE: HEALTHY SOCIETY, PERFECT LAW



In Turkmenistan man is the highest value of society and the state. Caring for man, his development, health and well-being indicates the moral and spiritual maturity of society.

A special role is given to the care of the state for young people. Article 40 of the Constitution of Turkmenistan establishes: “The state creates conditions for the realization of the rights and freedoms of young people and promotes their comprehensive development.” Currently, under the leadership of the Head of State, all conditions are created for the full participation of young people in the socio-economic, political and cultural life of society of the state; consistent effort is being made to amend the current legislation on state youth policy.

On February 14, 2019, the President of Turkmenistan, at the meeting with representatives of social and political organizations and the cultural sphere, said: “The successes of our state are directly related to the happy life of young people, in which the strength and power of the Homeland, its capabilities, authority and the great future are concentrated. In this regard, the efforts of social organizations, primarily Youth, should be aimed at ensuring the legal and social protection of young people, promoting among them spiritual, moral and cultural values, national traditions and customs.”

Raising young people, who have absorbed the exemplary features of the Turkmen people, is one of the conditions for the prosperity of our Motherland. In this regard, special importance is attached to the moral, spiritual, cultural, physical development of young citizens, training in modern innovative methods and the formation of a healthy lifestyle. The state provides ample opportunities for the education of the comprehensively developed, spiritually perfect, physically strong educated generation with a broad outlook. In this a huge role is played by the Youth Organization of Turkmenistan named after Magtymguly, which coordinates the activities of social associations of the young people of the country. One of the tasks of this organization is to create a powerful youth movement and to contribute to the strengthening of stability, unity and cohesion in society.

The state youth policy, implemented on the basis of adopted and existing national legislation, guarantees the necessary conditions for young people to contribute to the transformations carried out in the interests of the people. The Law of Turkmenistan “On State Youth Policy” provides for the provision of constitutional rights and freedoms of young citizens, the creation of legal, social, economic





and organizational conditions and guarantees for developing and realizing the potential of the youth of the country in the interests of the individual, society and the state, instilling in young citizens a spirit of patriotism, respect for the historical, cultural and spiritual values of the Turkmen people.

The “State Program on Youth Policy for 2015-2020” and the Action Plan for its implementation are designed to ensure the implementation of important tasks in the field of legal, social protection of young people and the promotion of national traditions, to foster civic responsibility, hard work, to coordinate state and public interests, rights and freedoms of young people, priorities, to encourage and support public and personal initiatives, to study the needs of groups of young people.

Today, young people are actively working in government and administration, all sectors of the economy, contributing to the successful implementation of national and state programs.

The President of Turkmenistan pays special attention to the development of the youth scientific movement in the country. Thus, in accordance with the Decree as of 14 August 2015, the Councils of young scientists were established at the scientific and educational institutions, and the Centre for Young Scientists, which is the coordinator of research activities of the country’s youth, was established at the Academy of Sciences of Turkmenistan and the Central Council of the Youth Organization of Turkmenistan named after Magtymguly at the beginning of 2017.



The councils of young scientists and the Centre are designed to contribute to the formation of a new generation of scientists, to attract talented young people to research activities and to stimulate their interest in scientific discoveries.

The development of science is one of the most important components of the activities of the Youth Organization. The state review of scientific works carried out by young researchers, timed to the Day of Science, celebrated annually on June 12, is a good example. The competition of young scientists is held by the Central Council of the Youth Organization together with the Academy of Sciences and helps to identify gifted young people - a new generation of scientists, to stimulate their research activities in various fields of science. The ceremonial presentation of prizes to the winners from the National Leader encourages the labour, scientific and creative initiative of the youth, its active participation in the life of the state and society for the introduction of innovative technologies in the scientific and educational sphere and production.

It is known, to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls is one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Currently, equal opportunities are being created for boys and girls in school, in acquiring a profession, employment, and creativity. The Youth Organization of Turkmenistan named after Magtymguly actively participates in fulfilling the tasks emanating from the “National Action Plan for Gender Equality in Turkmenistan for 2015-2020”, approved by a special decree of the Head of State. The organization successfully works in educational institutions and production teams, contributing to the comprehensive development, professional development and growth of young people.

The Youth Organization closely cooperates with the Union of Women of Turkmenistan in ensuring social equality of men and women, the development of public awareness and its importance in public life, the active participation of women in the development of democratic transformations, socio-political, socio-economic and cultural-humanitarian processes. The representatives of the Youth Organization participate in seminars on gender equality, organized by international experts of UN agencies accredited in Turkmenistan, get acquainted with achievements in the field of gender equality, women’s empowerment in accordance with international norms and principles.

Such popular cultural events as beauty contests, during which not only the appearances of the participants, but also their rich inner world



are evaluated, are widely popular among girls and women. There are also Olympiads and other activities aimed to support the rights and interests of the family, women and children, to form physically and spiritually healthy citizen and to develop their abilities.

In order to expand access to know-ledge about reproductive health among young people between the Central Council of the Youth Organization of Turkmenistan named after Magtymguly and the UNFPA Office in Turkmenistan, an Action Plan for 2018-2019 of the Project “Improving Access to Knowledge of Youth on Reproductive Health through Implementing a National Youth Policy” was adopted and Youth Centres were created in Ashgabat and Mary. They prepare volunteers between the ages of 14 and 25, who regularly conduct school seminars and interactive activities on reproductive health, the prevention of infectious diseases and gender equality among schoolchildren.

The reforms and transformations in which young people participate, following the principles of humanism, goodwill and friendliness, a personal example of the diligence of the President of Turkmenistan, allows the country’s young generation to live happily and safely, to build and create, to look to the future with confidence.

Soltangeldi BABAYEV

Chairman of the Central Council of the Youth Organization of Turkmenistan named after Magtymguly





PARADISE EMBOSOMED IN MOUNTAINS



People who know Turkmenistan only by hearsay associate this country with endless sand dunes of the Karakum desert. The desert naturally occupies a significant part of the country's territory. At the same time, mountains are no less important element of the Turkmen landscape. The mineral wealth of the Kopetdag mountain range, its vast valleys hidden between high ridges, its gorges with rivers and waterfalls buried in the shade of trees, its flora and fauna equal the much more famous conservation areas of the world in terms of their diversity and uniqueness.

One of such amazingly beautiful places is called Berkov. It is located in Bakharden district, two hundred kilometers west of Ashgabat. We set off on a two-day trip before sunrise. The first sun rays hit us in the back when we are halfway to the point of destination. To get there, one first needs to drive through the ancient village of Garry Nohur that retained ancient residential

architecture. The road winds along Arvaz river, then turns into a very picturesque and narrow gorge of Gosha Archa.

Then, our path runs past the shepherd's camp that is located next to a small man-made lake. Behind the lake, the road turns into serpentine and goes up sharply. A little more driving and we reach a flat surface. We see the bottom of a huge basin surrounded by almost vertical cliffs.

The local landscape is extremely beautiful in spring. Bright emerald grass is interspersed with large patches of red poppy. The palette is enriched with dark green crowns of trees against the background of cold blue-gray rocks. Those who come here for the first time immediately begin drawing comparisons, for some reasons, with the famous meadows of the Swiss Alps, even if they saw them only on photographs or TV. A good camera or an artist's easel would be most appropriate tools to capture these beauties.

The basin's bottom in Berkov is speckled with impassable wild gorges, so the landscape resembles in full the name of the area. The interpretation of this toponym can be found in the Explanatory Dictionary of Geographical Names of Turkmenistan by the famous linguist, Professor Soltansha Ataniyazov. Berkov is translated from Turkmen as a difficult-to-pass mountain valley. If you look at it from the height of the nearest rocks, you will see an amazing panorama: a real Eden surrounded by steep cliffs.

Berkov has been known for long. Dmitry Logofet, a Russian general and an outstanding military orientalist, passed through these places and left a detailed description of them in the course of inspection of the southern borders of the Czarist Russia at the beginning of the last century. More than a century has passed since that time. However, when reading his report, one gets an impression that it was written only yesterday. It seems that time has



stopped in these places. The largest number of rare plants of Central Kopetdag listed in the Red Book of Turkmenistan is concentrated in these places, like in a botanical storehouse. Legendary academician Nikolai Vavilov visited Berkov shortly after Logofet. He was struck by the abundance of rare plants that he discovered there.

Turkmen Juniper is the dominant plant among the mountain trees. It grows only at an altitude of over eight hundred meters above the sea level. This large coniferous tree is widespread throughout Kopetdag and endemic, that is, it is found only in this region of the world.

Juniper blooms in mid-April, and it throws out a cloud of pollen at the slightest shaking. Its powder particles are collected by locals and used as a substitute for baby powder. Juniper needles are the strongest natural antiseptic. When going on long hikes, experienced tourists put fresh needles in their shoes to prevent fungus. When distilled in industrial conditions, needles produce an essential oil used in perfumery and medicine. Turkmen have a belief that a night spent under a juniper crown cures diseases and fills a person with energy. In the past, splinters cut from juniper were used as incense, and rural healers treated their patients by fumigating them with smoke emitted by juniper branches. Fresh needles, presoaked in water, are also used in cooking a popular Turkmen dish called Tamdyrlama. They are thrown into the fire to let meat soak up the fragrant smoke from burning needles. Cones (berries) of juniper are a favorite seasoning of hunters and tourists, and they are also used as marinade for meat.

In the past, a lot of trees perished because of fires and unreasonable logging. Juniper was burnt to produce charcoal, and wood was used for construction needs, thus damaging the Kopetdag ecosystem. Nowadays, there is no need to use wood for fuel thanks to the gas pipelines reaching even the farthest villages.

Juniper grows very slowly. So, there are many old trees that are of great valuable. A single juniper and groups of several relatively young trees have an unusual appearance. At a certain height, they all without exception have an ideally even lower edge of the crown, as if an unknown gardener trimmed every juniper tree neatly with his scissors. The secret is simple. In fact, this is the goats' doing, as they graze here in large herds, eating up hanging branches as



far as they can reach.

There are many long-livers among junipers. A giant juniper, the highest in Central Kopetdag, is one of Berkov's main attractions. It is fifteen meters high with its trunk thickness at the base reaching almost two meters! This giant grows near the entrance to the valley and, of course, impresses visitors with its size. An unusual root coming up to the surface looks like a huge fantastic octopus, spreading its tentacles in different directions.

The juniper's roots go far beyond the area of the crown. It is hard to even imagine how many hundreds of years this tree has been standing there, what it has gone through and what events it has seen. It is a living symbol of the Kopetdag forest, and the local nature reserve is tasked to preserve this unique natural monument for future generations. Experts believe that the juniper forest is a water-saving factor in the mountain ecosystem of Turkmenistan, without which other plants of the local flora simply cannot survive.

In the absolute silence of the hollow, a thud sound of the bell is suddenly heard and a black-and-white flock of goats comes out from behind the hill. A flock is normally tended by a boy-shepherd on a donkey with two big dogs accompanying him. They are called Alabai, a Turkmen variety of the Central Asian Shepherd Dog. Such dogs-wolfhounds drive straying goats together in flocks and protect them from predatory animals.

The whole flock goes for daytime milking to Yayla, a summer residence of shepherds, where they carry out seasonal works. A small house with a flat roof stands in the territory of Yayla. As in the old days, it was built of clay, stone and wood. Next to it stand several pens for livestock made of wild stone, as well as vegetable gardens, an orchard and a big artificial lake that feeds from a local spring. A large rural family lives and works here temporarily. They herd their goats in the mountains and milk them together at a certain time. They make butter and cheese of curative goat's milk according to ancient recipes. Stuffed in a goat pelt, it acquires a unique rough taste with the aroma of some unknown herbs. In his spare time, when the flock is resting, a shepherd occupies himself with collecting medicinal plants.

Both the house, the orchard and the man-made lake blend so organically with the environment that one recalls the pastoral paintings by European romantics. Rare tourists visiting these parts of the country are treated to warm goat's milk and almost ripe cheese. One should only thank them and go further. The road is long and difficult. At the end of the journey, it is time to set up a bivouac and rest. We set up tents among juniper trees and cook an unpretentious dinner.

The night creeps in unnoticed. The huge starry sky seems quite close. At such moments, you don't want to talk about anything but just



to remain silent, looking at the stars. Finally, everyone calmed down and fell asleep slowly. Tomorrow will be an interesting day.

The morning is quite cool. While the camp is sleeping, you need to pick dry wood for the fire. I light a campfire and my companions wake up while water starts boiling. It is a pleasure to drink smoke-filled tea with herbal supplements, which, by the way, have been collected right in this place. We finish simple breakfast and prepare for a hike. We make sure that our flasks are filled with water, as we are expected to cover a long distance through several gorges, where no SUV can pass.

Our equipment includes a backpack, binoculars, a penknife and an alpenstock, or a simple long and sturdy stick that helps a lot in climbing and descending.

It is not prudent to walk in large groups in the mountains. The more people you have the more noise they make, and this is not advisable if you want to film the animal world. Two people would be the ideal option, one will also do, but the second one should always stay close, because mountains are insidious and a careless step can always result in a fall or an injury, and in such situations one cannot do alone. You must walk carefully and as quietly as possible, and then you may be lucky enough to see rare wild animals - the true masters of these mountains.

Kopetdag's fauna is extremely diverse, and Berkov is a place where it is represented in full. Leopard is on top of the ecological chain. Turkmens call this animal a snow leopard or

Aladjagaplan. This graceful predator is a very careful and cunning hunter. It is almost impossible to see this predator in the daytime, as it hunts only at dusk and early in the morning. In the afternoon, the beast hides in secluded places, but he is invisibly present throughout our journey. Traces of his cautious paws can be seen on the ground; sometimes we see the trees with vertical scratches on their bark. A leopard sharpens his claws and marks his territory this way. In these mountains, we must behave very carefully, because we are in his realm. The predator hunts on porcupines, wild boars, bezoar goats and mountain sheep - Argali.

Leopard hunting has been banned in Turkmenistan since 1972. It is listed in the Red Book of Turkmenistan as a rare endangered species. Ashgabat naturalist-photographer Sergey Yelagin managed to decoy a leopard in a photo trap a few years ago. Such a picture is a great success and not every nature lover is so lucky. However, each such picture requires tens of kilometers of hiking, knowledge of habits, traces and secret paths of the predator.

Descending into one of the gorges, I suddenly heard a faint rustle - the eyes of an amazing little creature looked at me from a chasm. This was a stone marten. She is nocturnal and almost impossible to see, let alone photograph during the day. I was lucky and I took a few shots. Apparently, she had a hatch nearby and, like any mother, could not abandon her children. A marten has a beautiful dark brown fur. That is why his animal was hunted in the past.

Nowadays, it is also listed in the Red Book of Turkmenistan. A marten is omnivorous. She eats the seeds of juniper, as well as small birds. In addition, she is a big sweet tooth. Raisins, hawthorn, figs and wild rose has long been in her menu. In the old days, hunters used them to set traps for martens.

Kopetdag's flora is also of great interest to local historians. The bulk of plants are medicinal. In Berkov, you can find a huge variety of mountain flowers. Iris with its violet-blue color stands out among them. It grows in whole colonies on the slopes of the mountains. Orchis, a rare flower of the orchid family, hides in the grass near the springs. This flower is listed in the Red Book of Turkmenistan. In folk medicine, a decoction of its root is used to cure liver diseases, stomach ulcers and dysentery.

It is in Berkov that a rare plant called *Fritillaria Raddeana* or Alan in Turkmen can be found in large quantities. In the past, starch was extracted from its bulbs that was added to flour to bake flat cakes. They should be eaten with sour milk.

Walking slightly higher, we meet another rare medicinal plant - *Stachys Lavandulifolia* (Tilkichay) on the stony slopes. Turkmens used an infusion of the plant's inflorescences to cure stomach cramps, while a decoction of herbs was used as an analeptic before childbirth. Crushed Tilkichay was applied on ulcers and wounds. In the past, folk healers (Tebibs) brewed the flowers of *Stachys* as a remedy for heart diseases, especially heart neurosis.

A day has passed. It brought us a variety of new impressions, and it is now time to go home. Leaving our temporary bivouac, we carefully extinguish the fire. Having checked that coals in the fire went completely cold, we cover them with soil. No packages, broken glassware and plastic containers should be left after a tourist trip. We are all responsible for keeping our native land clean and tidy, because it depends on each of us if the surrounding landscape pleases the eye or we turn away from unpleasant sights of garbage dumps poisoning the nature. Saying goodbye to the eternal mountains, we return to the city with the hope of coming back more than once.

Allanazar SOPIEV



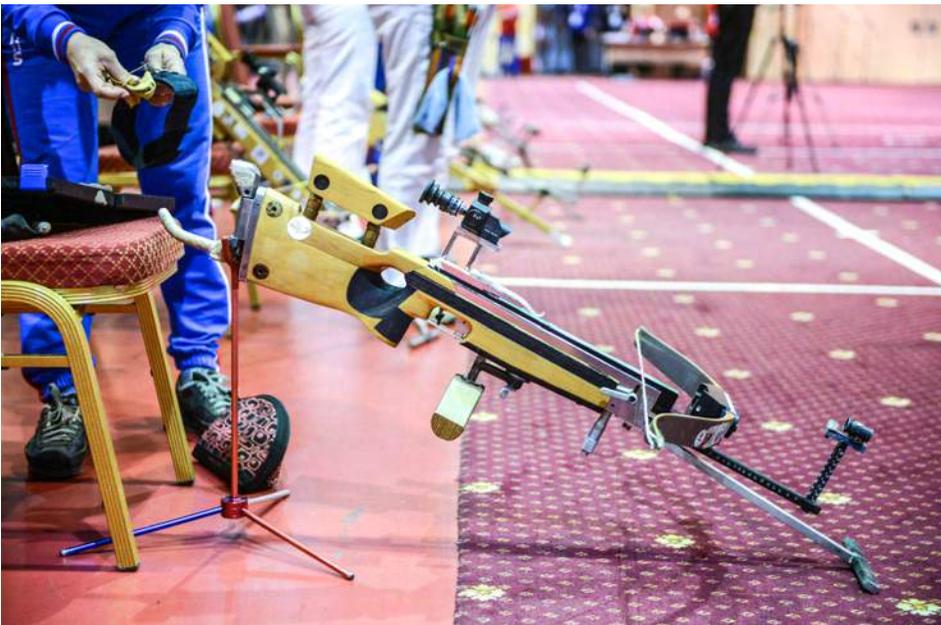
Turkmen Athletes Triumphs



Shakirjan Durdiyev wins gold medal of international track and field tournament in Tashkent

On 17 August, 2019, International track and field tournament Uzbekistan Open Cup has started in Tashkent. It will last for two days.

On the first day of the competitions, representative of our national team, student of Turkmen State Institute of Physical Training and Sports Shakirjan Durdiyev won gold medal. Turkmen athlete has left no chance to the opponents on the distance of 10,000 meters, having covered it in 32 minutes 34 seconds.



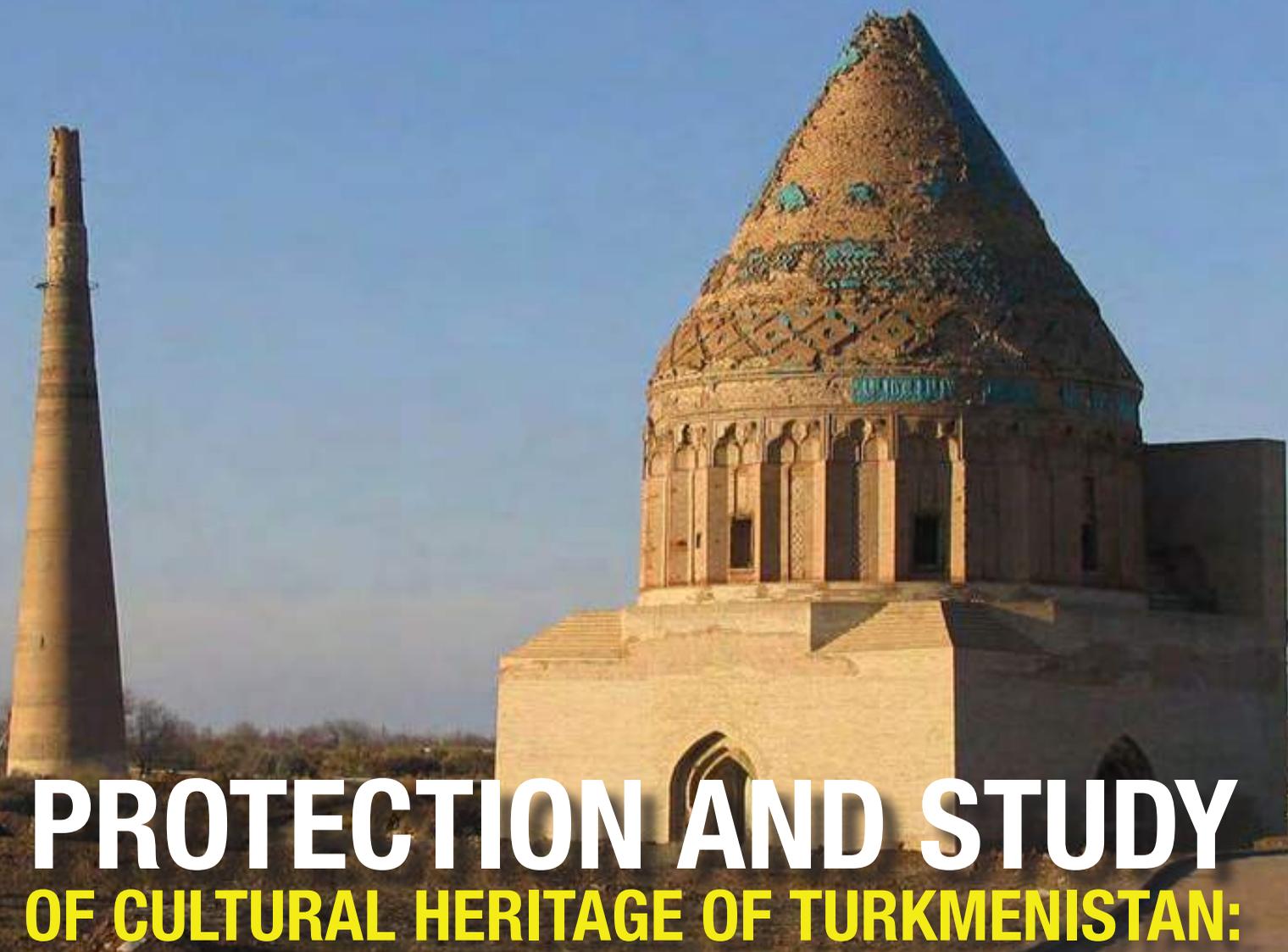
On 17 August, 2019, XX World Crossbow Championship has finished in Ulyanovsk (Russian Federation). It became a record by the number of participants – more than 350 sportsmen took part in it.

35 states of the world have sent their best archers for participation in the tournament, which was held under the aegis of International Archer Union (IAU). Our country was no exception, it was represented at the World championship by Chairman of the Archer Federation of Turkmenistan Vepa Sahedov.

Representative of Turkmen archers gained 1,451 points in discipline Crossbow shooting among sportsmen who started training in 2019.

Performance of Vepa Sahedov at the anniversary 2019 World Championship has resulted in the first place and the title of World Champion.

Turkmen archer is a winner of gold medal of the XX World Crossbow Championship



PROTECTION AND STUDY OF CULTURAL HERITAGE OF TURKMENISTAN: INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

The adoption of the Constitution of Turkmenistan became a basis for the revival of the national heritage. The Basic Law is a guarantee of the peaceful and prosperous life of every citizen of the country, the realization of the hopes and cherished desires of the ancestors. The Constitution defines the state system, the rights and freedoms of the citizen. At the same time, according to Article 9 of the Basic Law, Turkmenistan is a full-fledged subject of the world community and in its foreign policy adheres to the principles of permanent neutrality, non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

From the first days of independence, the state's foreign policy is based on the principles of

good neighbourliness, equality, peacefulness. Today, the main goal of Turkmenistan's foreign policy is to strictly follow international obligations and the principles of international law, to realize the country's geopolitical and geo-economic potential for the benefit of sustainable development.

Turkmenistan attaches particular importance to the development of cooperation in the cultural sphere; mutual relations in this area are considered to be an important mechanism for strengthening peace, mutual understanding and rapprochement among nations. The content of the constitutional norm of Article 15 of the Basic Law, which specifies that the

state promotes the development of international cooperation in the field of culture,

is a reliable foundation in this area.

On February 7, 2019, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov at the meeting with members of the Mejlis (parliament) of Turkmenistan emphasized the importance of the comprehensive development of science and modern culture. The legislators face a task to modernize the legal foundations of science and culture. The National Leader noted, "In this issue, emphasis should be placed on the revival and careful preservation of the cultural heritage of the people, coming from the depths of centuries of spiritual values. We are obliged to take additional legislative measures to promote state development in this area."

Understanding that the protection and study of the world-wide cultural heritage goes beyond



the interests of one state is the cornerstone of the scientific doctrine of esteemed President. Turkmenistan actively participates in the implementation of the principles of protection and use of cultural heritage on the basis of mutually beneficial cooperation with UNESCO. Our country, taking into account the norms of international law, in particular, the conventions of the United Nations (UN), the Organization for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO), agreements within the framework of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), bilateral and multilateral interstate treaties and interdepartmental agreements improves national legislation.

Mutual cooperation in the field of culture is important at the national level, enriched by international cooperation, which stabilizes relations. The study of the literary and cultural heritage, national traditions and customs, the material and spiritual values of the Turkmen people to pass on to the future generation expands the framework of international scientific cooperation. In accordance with Article 6 of the Convention on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, heritage included in the List of World Heritage Sites of UNESCO is universal, for the protection of which the entire international community is obliged to cooperate.

The general principles of the protection of world cultural heritage include: universality, neutrality, distinctive designation, accounting, promotion of cultural heritage, access to cultural heritage, public awareness, restoration and preservation (conservation) of cultural heritage, control over the protection of cultural heritage.

At present, scientific research is particularly active in the framework of a deep study of our history, culture, art, language, literature, popularization in the world and the transfer to another generation of the deep content of the national cultural heritage. Turkmenistan is carrying out the necessary work to strengthen the role of cultural heritage, archaeological, historical and cultural monuments in universal history, further scientific study, collection and preservation of the values of ethnography and folk art.

As part of the State Program for the Scientific Study and Popularization of the National Cultural Heritage in Turkmenistan for 2016-2021,⁴ the State Program for Archaeological Excavations at Historical and Cultural Monuments in Turkmenistan located along the Great Silk Road in 2018-2021, and the scientific study and popularization of the cultural heritage⁵ and as a result of the harmonious joint work of cultural and scientific institutions, research



works, scientific, practical and methodological seminars are organized in the field of collecting, recording, studying and protecting the national intangible cultural heritage.

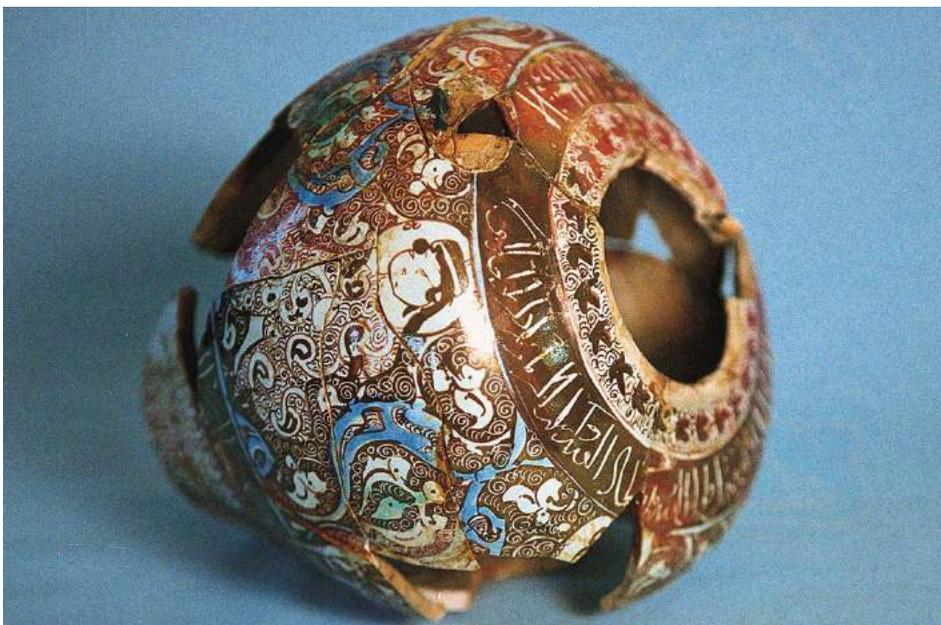
The successful implementation of the above-mentioned state programs will give impetus to the formation of widely-minded and professionally trained scientific staff, the introduction of new and effective methods of conducting scientific research, the development of international cooperation and cultural studies in accordance with international standards.

All the conditions are being created for the excavation of archaeological monuments located in different parts of the country, the organization of ethnographic research works and their popularization by scientists of research institutes of the Academy of Sciences of Turkmenistan, as well as specialists of relevant fields.

The main task in this area was and remains the involvement of well-known scientists in this process in order to establish international scientific cooperation with research centres of foreign countries. The interaction of scientists contributes to the development of science and technology and serves as a bridge between the cultures of nations.

At present, the country is conducting a scientific analysis on the issues of archaeology, architecture, numismatics, ethnography and other areas based on archaeological values that were in the monuments of Turkmenistan of ancient and medieval times. In order to popularize the books of the President of Turkmen Leader “Turkmenistan - Heart of the Great Silk Road” and other works in various areas of cultural heritage, scientific conferences, meetings of scientists and artists, TV and radio programs, and works on the preparation of feature films and documentaries





are organized.

The main areas of the scientific study and popularization of cultural heritage:

- preparation for printing works of classic poets based on handwritten sources, guided by the undertakings of esteemed President on the study of centuries-old historical roots, literary and spiritual values of the people, the rich heritage of scientists and writers;
- determining on a scientific basis the origin, development and role of the Turkmen people in the history of world culture with the help of written monuments, manuscripts on stones, leather, paper, metal, rocks and walls, as well as the preparation and publication of multivolume work about folk art;
- study of the ancient, medieval, new and modern history of Turkmenistan based on historical sources in foreign languages, preparation of a multi-volume publication;
- translation and transfer of the scientific community, the existing ancient and valuable manuscripts in nature, astronomy, geography, medicine, chemistry, biology, and other areas in conjunction with institutes conducting research in the natural sciences, university scientists, etc.

UNESCO plays a pivotal role in the international protection of world heritage. Turkmenistan's accession to UNESCO has opened up new opportunities for entering the international arena to the achievements of our country in the field of culture, science and education.

The active cooperation of Turkmenistan with UNESCO creates the necessary conditions for the implementation of scientific projects, serves as a means of expanding the participation of the Turkmen state in international scientific cooperation and the exchange of scientific information, attracting the intellectual and material and technical potential of other countries, gaining access to the latest scientific methods and their results.

The issues of protection of cultural values are reflected in the Declaration of Principles of International Cultural Cooperation (1966), the Convention on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972), the Convention on the Protection of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003). In November 2017, the Mejlis of Turkmenistan adopted a decree "On Accession to the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, as well as the two Protocols of 1954 and 1999".⁶ The Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (The Hague, 14 May 1954) and the Protocols thereto are to be applied in the event of any hostilities. In order to identify them, the Convention, in addition to the



designation of cultural property with distinctive signs, contains provisions establishing rules for the special protection of cultural property and international control over their protection.

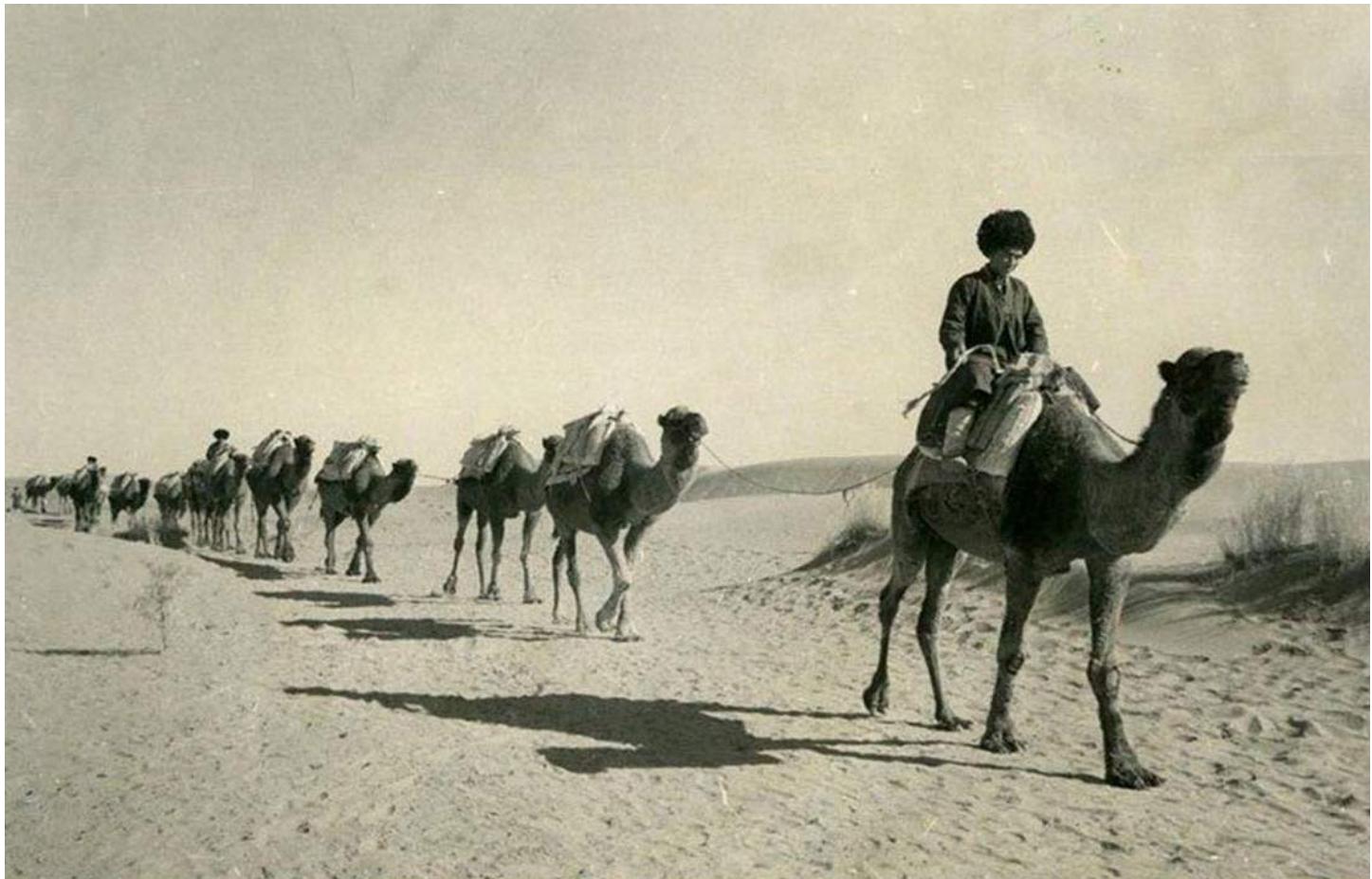
On a scientific basis there is constant and systematic work on the study of the norms of the Conventions and the introduction of their provisions in the national legislation. At the end of last year for the first time a collection was published in the state language, which included these documents. The publication of the thematic compendium and its wide presentation are part of on-going programs in the field of humanitarian law and international obligations of Turkmenistan in this area.

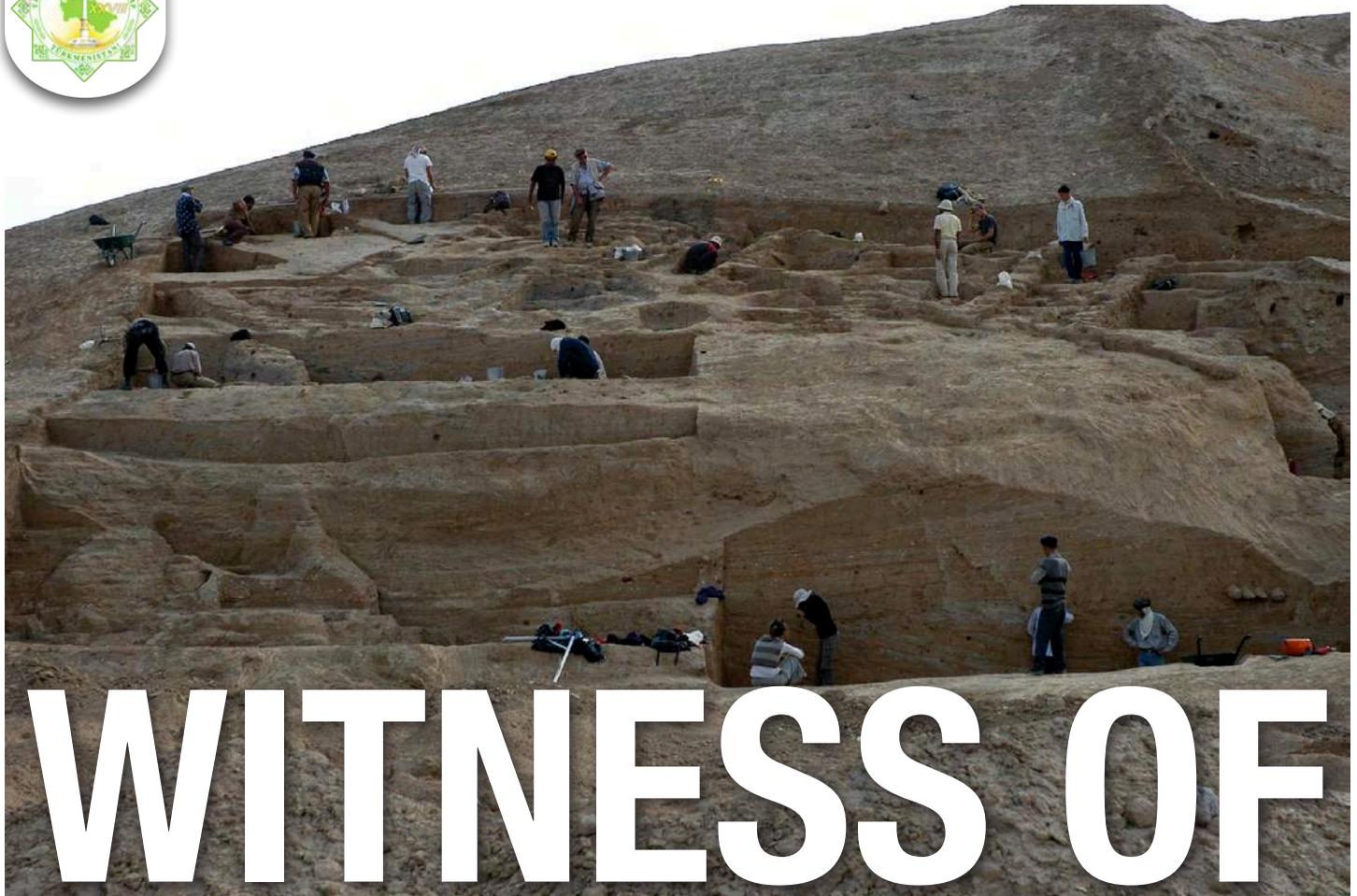
The actualization of the scientific study of cultural heritage and the expansion of cooperation in this field strengthen foundations for the protection and use of cultural heritage for sustainable development.

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WITNESS OF FOUR MILLENNIA

Going by train, bus or car past the Dushak railway station, which is located about half way between Ashgabat and Mary, one should take a closer look at a relatively flat silhouette of the Kopetdag ridge that is interrupted in this place by a wide depression. There is a gorge with its left and right sides bounded by two steep cliffs. That is why not only the village but also the river flowing down from the mountain peaks through this gorge into the valley bear the ancient name of Dushak. In Farsi language, it stands for “two parts”, “two sides” or “two cliffs”. This place is replete with dozens of burial mounds of various sizes. They are concentrated in a comparatively narrow strip of a plateau between the mountain range and the Karakum desert as a reminder of the ancient oasis that once flourished along the banks of Dushak.

The largest hill rises near the modern village, but it is not the main local attraction. Pilgrims come here daily in large groups to visit the neighboring religious complex of Myalik Azhdar (literally - the Dragon Lord) that sprang up around a very long grave hillock that is now covered with marble and surrounded by a garden. There are now new buildings to service





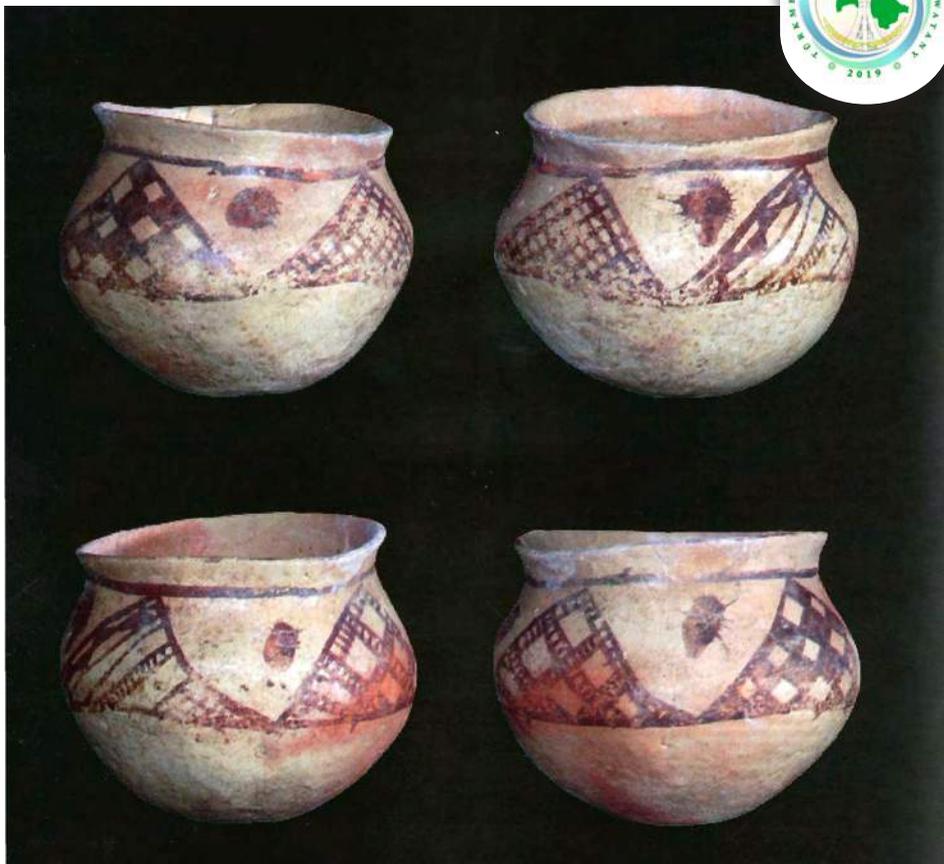
the flow of visitors and a mosque with a high minaret that can be seen from afar.

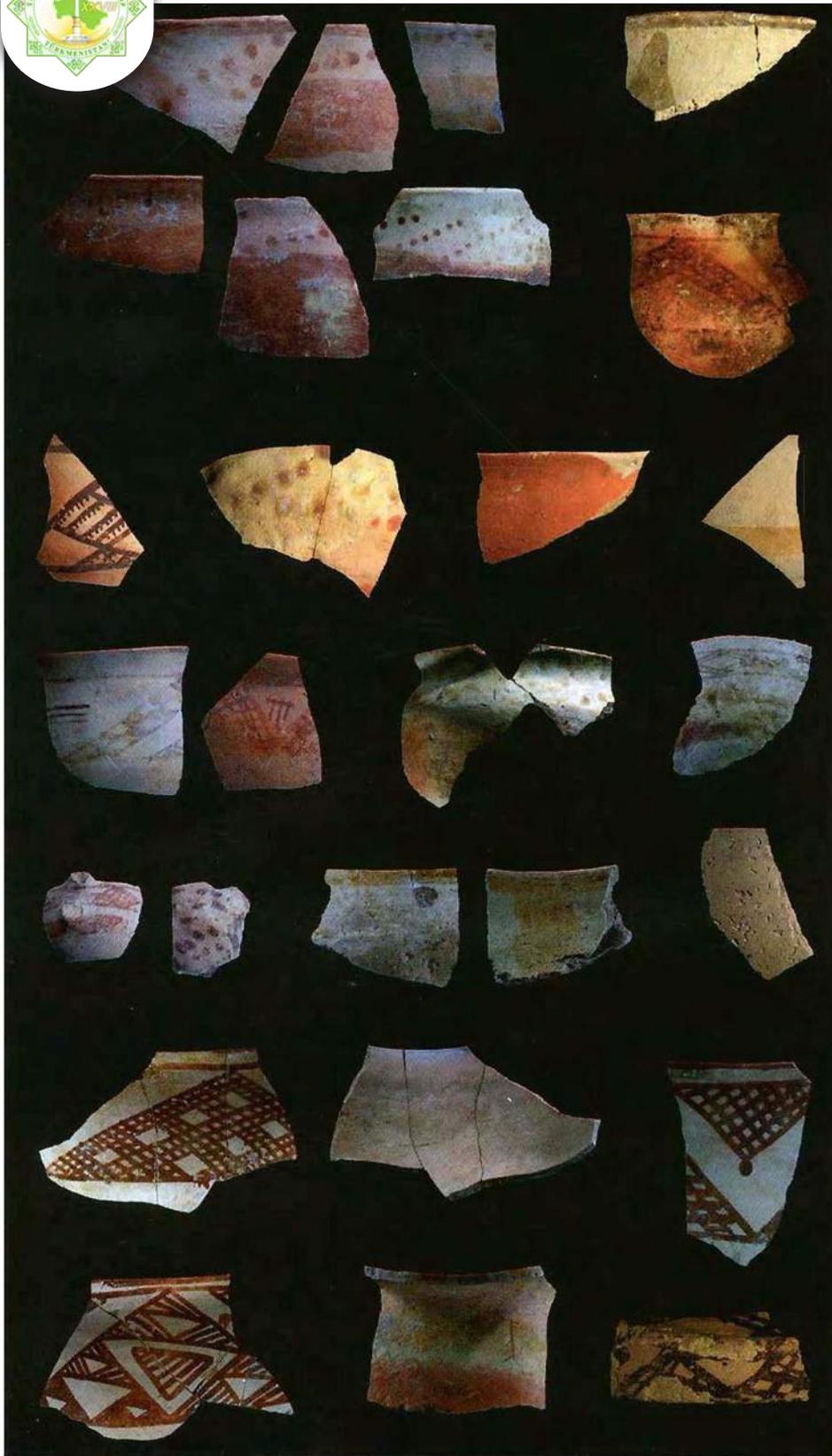
No one knows who was buried in the huge tomb on the edge of a large medieval necropolis. Yet, one thing is clear. Myalik Azhdar, like many other holy places in Turkmenistan and neighboring countries, represents an Islamized pagan shrine. It can't be ruled out that during the rule of Zoroastrianism there was a temple of fire or other ancient cults, as the entire surrounding area is full of swollen ruins. Many traces of old walls, an irrigation network and residential neighborhoods clearly demonstrate the level of urbanization of this area in the unthinkable distant past.

In the 19th century, local Turkmens called their region Etek. According to the Russian sources of that time, this place was called Atek. It is known from the medieval historical chronicles and geographic works that in the pre-Mongol era this place was the center of Hawerland - a rich province located between the modern cities of Kaahka and Serakhs - that was part of the Seljuk state. It was preceded by the Parthian-Sasanian satrapy of Apavarktiken. And what was there before? There are no references in the written sources, but the archaeological excavations of Dushak's fortifications indicate that they were built already in the early Eneolithic, that is, at least six thousand years ago!

Pilgrims heading to the shrine of Myalik Azhdar go around a massive hill with the remains of a very ancient settlement. It existed at the dawn of civilization and served as an unconditional center for the entire region. It is now called Ulug-Depe. It means "Great Hill" in Turkmen language, which matches this description perfectly. It occupies 15 hectares of land, rising above the plain by about 30 meters. From its summit, one can see an impressive panorama of the area spreading around for tens of kilometers. Two nearest settlements of approximately the same age and size - Namazga-Depe and Altyn-Depe - are inferior to it in terms of thickness of the cultural layer, although they occupy a larger area. Ulug-Depe is located exactly in the middle - 45 kilometers in both directions. In contrast to these two much more famous monuments, Ulug-Depe is a long-living settlement. It developed almost continuously for about four thousand years, passed all the stages of the Bronze Age and was abandoned by people only in the Iron Age, shortly before the emergence of the powerful state of Achaemenids in this part of Asia. By that time, Namazga and Altyn had long turned into dead hills.

The honor of scientific discovery of Ulug-Depe belongs to Ashgabat's archaeologist and pioneer Alexander Marushchenko, who was the first to explore it almost 90 years ago, in 1930. There was no opportunity to dig a monument at that time and many specialists followed his steps before the excavations began in 1967. The excavation work was headed by another prominent archaeologist Victor Sarianidi. In four field seasons, he made several deep holes





in various parts of the settlement, establishing its age and cultural affiliation. He did not have the chance to continue the excavations at Ulug-Depe, as he started parallel exploration works in Northern Afghanistan and Mary region of Turkmenistan, where he discovered a previously unknown civilization of the Bronze Age that he called the Bactrian-Margian archeological complex. Yet, the hidden secrets of Ulug-Depe

continued exciting the scientist.

Thirty years later, when the French-Turkmen Archaeological Mission (MAFTUR) was established, Professor Sarianidi recommended that the mission leader and his longtime friend Olivier Leconte get down to exploration of this promising monument in earnest. Taking heed of this recommendation, Professor Leconte began excavations at Ulug-Depe in 2001. Their results

exceeded all expectations. Science got new data on one of the most intriguing episodes of the ancient history of this region, and the collections of Turkmen museums received colorful and expressive exhibits.

In the first decade of work at Ulug-Depe under the leadership of Leconte, the old excavations by the Sarianidi expedition were cleared and a new stratigraphic section was cut at the foot of the hill. A magnetic survey of ten hectares of the upper part of the settlement, carried out in the third season of work, revealed the remains of a large urban settlement of the late iron period, including a strong citadel - a kind of "acropolis", a large storage building and an impressive palace complex. When all this was excavated, it turned out that this quadrate citadel (the length of each side is 40 meters) stood on a platform of mud bricks that hid older buildings on the lower level.

The citadel was well protected by a well-thought-out defense system. There are a lot of holes on the external facades that served as gun-ports for archers. The second wall, the inner one, also with niches and holes, enclosed the "core" of the building that accommodated premises that obviously served as a warehouse of some carefully protected values. The way they were sealed proves that they were kept under strict control by the local administration.

A bypass corridor ran along the outer wall of the citadel. Its roof supported the terrace of the upper floor that stood completely destroyed. The citadel was badly damaged in the fire, but it was repaired later, and its outer walls were painted in bright red. The remains of a number of simple residential buildings were found to the south of the citadel. A fortress wall, more than two meters thick and, probably, of impressive height, was also clearly seen. The gate location was also identified. The major stock of the city was apparently stored in a huge 60-meter long building, consisting of a number of very narrow chambers. All these buildings date back to the late stage of life at Ulug-Depe. They were built around the IX century BC.

French excavations confirmed that of all Central Asian settlements of the ancient farmers Ulug-Depe has the longest history - from the early Aeneolithic to the end of the Iron Age, including, perhaps, the Achaemenid period. The settlement reached its greatest size in the era of early and developed Bronze Age, and from the middle of the second millennium BC its area sharply decreased. At the same time, some individual buildings - small estate fortresses - have been spotted within the radius of up to one kilometer from the foot of the hill, including the territory of the Myalik Azhdar complex.

Eventually, as a result of excavations, in addition to the unearthed architecture, a myriad of artifacts was obtained. They include a variety of pottery, bronze and stone products: grain grinders, mortars, jewelry, seal amulets and their prints on ceramics and clay.



The inhabitants of Ulug-Depe were engaged not only in irrigated agriculture and animal husbandry. Excavations of clay furnaces testify to intensive craft activities, while the discovery of exotic materials such as turquoise and lapis lazuli beads demonstrates connection with very remote regions.

Terracotta figurines, primarily of women, depicting the goddess of fertility, make a special group of finds. There was unearthed even a workshop where these figurines were made in large quantities. As for the everyday crockery, a whole series of pieces of broken crockery and intact painted bowls with the so-called carpet ornament and schematic painting of animals typical of the Eneolithic were found at Ulug-Depe.

According to Julio Bendezu-Sarmiento, the pupil and successor of Professor Leconte to the post of director of MAFTUR, a very rich burial of the Middle Bronze Age (2500-2000 BC) that was excavated in 2014 proved the international importance of this place in prehistoric times. There was found convincing evidence of existence of specialized crafts, such as ceramics, metallurgy and stone-cutting art. Studies of ceramic products revealed important technological changes in the methods of their production, and the discovery of a set of stone vases and cups in this burial was truly sensational.

It was perhaps for the first time in the archaeological practice that such a great number of alabaster vases of various shapes and sizes were found. Such utensils had never been used in everyday life. They had significant value, given the materials from which they were made and difficulties associated with their delivery. Being part of the funeral offerings, they naturally had some purely symbolic meaning.

Alabaster is semitransparent white gypsum with marble streaks that looks like chalcedony onyx. It is difficult to determine the exact nature of the stone used for these vases, as long as there is no physical and chemical analysis of it. However, it can be argued that many of the vessels appear to come from the same source, since the same streaks can be seen on all items. The nearest to Ulug-Depe deposits of such stones are located in Koytendag, in the south-east of Turkmenistan. At the same time, cylindrical cups were among the items that were traded by the Indus civilization. These connections are confirmed by the treasures of Quetta that account for two "bowls" of the same type.

In that period of time, stone and metal items were typical for proto-cities and countries, and an apparently imported painted vase found in the same tomb at Ulug-Depe remains a completely unique discovery in Central Asia. It shows that even such fragile items of great value could also travel long distances. Dr. Bendezu-Sarmiento shared this notion with the staff of the Museum of Fine Arts of Turkmenistan when he turned a collection of unique finds to them



for permanent storage.

Speaking about the research work of the French-Turkmen mission at Ulug-Depe, one cannot but mention the remarkable archaeological base that Professor Leconte built in the village of Dushak and transferred in trust of the State Historical and Cultural Preserve "Abiverd". There were created all necessary conditions for living and laboratory work of expeditions during field seasons. Regular scientific and practical seminars on restoration of the finds are also held there. Along with the specialists of the Preserve, such seminars bring

together restorers from the Ashgabat and Mary museums and subject-related students from the Turkmen State Institute of Culture.

This summer, Olivier Leconte would have turned 70 years old. He did not live to celebrate his anniversary birthday, but he left behind talented students in Turkmenistan and France, who continue the work of his life. The excavations at Ulug-Depe will continue for many more years, and so far no one knows what new surprises the Great Hill will bring in the future.

Ruslan MURADOV



Turkmen Musicians' Prowess Wins Praise in Wagner's Home Country

Turkmen performing artists' concert tour in the Federative Republic of Germany was a big success. The musicians also took part in the 69th International Young Artists Festival in the town of Bayreuth.

The concert repertoire included folk and classical music performed by the Chamber Orchestra led by Rasul Klychev. A photo exhibition showcasing Turkmenistan's achievements was organized during the tour.

The opening ceremony of the festival took place in Bayreuth, the town where two great





composers R. Wagner and F. Liszt had lived. Among those attending the event were representatives of artistic circles from different countries, the media, and scores of residents and visitors to the German town, which is world famous for its annual festival founded by Richard Wagner.

Performances by Turkmen musicians were greeted with enthusiastic applause and drew much interest. The Chamber Orchestra's concert program consisted of a piece of folk music played on national instruments, works by Nury Khalmamedov, Pyotr Tchaikovsky, Astor Piazzolla, and by other world-renowned composers.

While on tour, the musicians from Turkmenistan gave some ten concerts. Each of them was a new significant step towards bringing nations and cultures closer together.

Held before each concert, the exhibition celebrated distinctively Turkmen traditions. The photographs offered visitors the opportunity to learn about present-day Turkmenistan's economic achievements and to see with their own eyes historical and cultural monuments built at different times, including the ones that have made it onto the UNESCO World Heritage List.

The festival culminated in an ambitious international project that saw the Chamber Orchestra of Turkmenistan, a string orchestra from Israel, a brass quintet from Romania, and a jazz trio from Germany jointly perform the works by German composer and violist Rudolf Haken, who had specially created them for the event.





Turkmen Cuisine

Dograma and Ishlekli

Legend about how Turkmen dish Dograma appeared



Many centuries back there was a rich man. He was arranging various kinds of holidays and was always inviting everyone from young to old, rich and poor.

One thing was haunting his mind. His chefs were delivering on beautiful trays best pieces of meat to the rich, and the poor had to be satisfied with broth only, and even the broth was diluted with water.

Once upon a time the rich man invited all his chefs and ordered them during one night to invent such a dish that would equalize everyone in rights. At the break of dawn chefs had to come with ready dish.

Chefs started thinking and trying to figure out. But they could not invent anything and time was passing and not predicting good. But then young cook, youngster from poor family announced that he knows the recipe of the dish. He started cooking it in a few hours. He ordered the women of the village to bake bread “petir”, which was normally baked for

the poor: without yeasts, oil and milk. There was only flour, water and salt. Meanwhile he took out boiled large and steaming pieces of meat from the cooking pot and let them cool down. Then he ordered assistants to slice the meat into very thin pieces, add lot of onion and chop it into tiny pieces.

Others were ordered to separate the meat from bones and tear up the meat into fibers.

Work was going on and bread was brought. The poor started to crumble the goldish bread. It was not easy, because the bread of poor is not soft. By the morning, the golden mound of crumbles was ready. Everybody was looking at the young cook with surprise.

He rolled up his sleeves, put the chopped onion on bread, and started mixing and pressing all in order to make the onion give juice. Then he put pieces of cooked fat oil on bread and again started doing the same procedure. The fat disappeared and dissolved in bread. At the end, he put meat and carefully without

applying pressure mixed with bread and onion. The aroma was incredible. The rich man could not wait and order to know what the dish that his chefs were cooking. The young cook came forward. He took handful of bread and poured aromatic broth on it.

So the most democratic dish in the world – Dograma appeared.





Dograma (Recipe)

Soup with shredded meat and bread

Dograma is a genuine Turkmen dish. You may not find it in cuisines of neighboring countries. But it is truly loved by Turkmen people. This dish is very old and prepared for special occasions – on religious holidays and in observance of various rituals. Dograma requires only fresh mutton/beef, onion and bread.

Ingredients

- * 1,5 kg beef or mutton with bones
- * 5 liter water
- * 2 tbs salt
- * 2 Tomatoes

Onion sliced.

Ground black pepper added when dish ready.



Preparation

1. Boil whole lamb: meat, liver, lungs, kidneys and heart in a large cooking pot. It is very important to add pieces of internal and tail fat. Add salt and tomatoes. Lamb must thoroughly boiled in order to separate meat from bone easily.
2. Ready meat is taken from broth, broth is flowing down and meat is cooling.
3. Further process is preparing Dograma - collective work of all family and invited guests. Bread "petir" is crumbled into small pieces beforehand. Normally, it is done beforehand, in the evening, because the petir is hard to crumble, and if petir is minced with special machine the taste will be lost.
4. Mince onion into tiny pieces and mix with crumbled bread. While mixing press on that mass, same like dough kneading, in order to feed the bread with onion juice. Meat not to be added yet! Wrap it into gauze cloth or tablecloth and let it rest.
5. Separate Boiled mutton from fat. Meat is minced literally into fibers. Fat is to be torn to pieces by hand, put on bread with onion and again mixed thoroughly, in a way that fat is dissolved and soak into the bread. Few ladlefuls of broth can be added, pouring the broth on bread while it is mixed.
6. Mix the meat with bread crumbs and onion, without mashing, then wrap the ready dish with water proof cloth and let it rest for half an hour.
7. Fresh bread is absorbing the aroma of the meat and onion, so that even "dry mixture" will be very tasty.
9. Put dograma in a bowl, then pour hot mutton broth and add black pepper. If properly prepared, the bread crumbs remain whole and it takes sometime to absorb the broth, which is important. Tasty dograma is ready.





Petir (Recipe)

Bread used for preparing dograma

The dough for petir is mixed without yeasts. Bread prepared for dograma is different in shape than common bread prepared for every day

Ingredients

- * 1 tbs salt
- * 600 ml water
- * 1 kg Flour

Preparation

1. Flour has to be sieved, salt added to water, and it is necessary to watch that salt is well dissolved.
2. Add water little by little to flour with normal portions. First the flour is mixed with water and the flour gets incrustated.
3. After that water added and very tough but homogeneous dough is to be kneaded.
4. When the dough is almost ready, set aside for 10 min.
5. Then again, the dough has to be kneaded but without adding water.
6. Divide the dough into few pieces. Knead again and wrap it with dish cloth. After 5 min the dough can be rolled out, giving the shape of flat bread "lepyoshka", but not too thin.
7. This bread is baked in tamdyr (tandoor) - traditional Turkmen oven, but in modern condition bake it at +170° C.
8. The ready bread is rather heavy and not too much soft. If you don't comply with the recipe carefully, the bread will become soggy and will turn into bread mash.





Ishlekli (Recipe)

Meat Pie

This is one of Turkmen national dishes. Very nutritious and tasty pie. It will decorate any holiday and will suit any table. It can be prepared a separate dish for lunch or dinner.

Ingredients

Dough

- * 1 egg
- * 1,5 glass Water or milk
- * Flour - till it comes off hands
- * Pinch of salt

Stuffing

- * 250 mg beef or mutton, preferable chopped into very small pieces by hand (a little chopped tail fat may be added)
- * 1 onion, diced
- * 1 potato (average size, without potato also possible)
- * 0,5 glass of cold water
- * Salt and pepper according to taste
- * Egg for spreading
- * Hot or sweet pepper can be added according to taste, but not too much

Preparation

One of the main features of Ishlekli - no yeasts. Water can be replaced with milk.

Dough

1. Mix all ingredients for dough. Knead the dough, it has to be soft, softer than dumplings.
2. Divide the dough into two pieces and let it rest for ten minutes, cover it with clean table cloth.

Stuffing

3. Minced beef will be best. Perfect variant - do not use mincing machine for meat, meat to be chopped into small pieces by hand. Mutton can be added, it will be even more tastier. There must be tail fat chopped into small pieces.
4. Onion to be cut into cubes. It can be mixed with minced beef or can be placed separately, on top of the minced beef.
5. Potato to be cut into small cubes, but do not mix with minced beef.
6. All ingredients to be slightly salted.

Ishlekli

7. Roll out one part of dough. It must be circle shaped.
8. Put the stuffing from minced beef and sliced vegetables.
9. Roll out the part of dough. Cover the cake with second dough circle and pinch the edges. Pierce the cake from above with fork few times, not to swell. Sprinkle with slightly salty water.
10. Bake in oven heated till +200 C°, 20-25 minutes, till it become golden color. At the end, spread with beaten eggs. Sesame can be added.
11. Ready Ishlekli to be spread with melted butter, cover with food layer and wrap with "sachak" table cloth.
12. Cut pie into portions and serve with salad made of fresh tomatoes.





• VYLBYZ OTELI •



