

TURKMEN WEEKLY ENERGY REVIEW (TWER)

Issue : 5 (25) Date : 12.02.2010

TWER by turkmenlawyer@hotmail.com

Contents :

- ❖ Building long-term cooperation
- ❖ Telephone conversation between leaders of Turkmenistan and Tajikistan
- ❖ President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov completes official visit to the United Arab Emirates
- ❖ Enhancing export potential of textile industry
- ❖ President of Turkmenistan receives CEO of DAS Holding Company
- ❖ President of Turkmenistan receives CEO of Petrofac
- ❖ President of Turkmenistan receives Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi
- ❖ President of Turkmenistan receives top manager of International Petroleum Investment Company
- ❖ President of Turkmenistan receives Minister of State for External Affairs of the Republic of India
- ❖ Turkmenistan-India: new step towards long-term cooperation
- ❖ New stage in education and science reform
- ❖ Picture of the Week

Building long-term cooperation

Turkmenistan-United Arab Emirates: top level talks in Abu Dhabi

On February 9, President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov arrived on the two-day official visit to the United Arab Emirates. This visit was paid on the invitation of the leadership of the UAE and would become a new step to further develop intergovernmental relationships on a firm basis of the mutual goodwill and the traditional ties of friendship and fraternity between the two peoples.

President of the United Arab Emirates His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan came to the Al-Amiri Airport decorated with the national flags of the two friendly states to meet the distinguished Turkmen guest. The leader of the UAE cordially, fraternally greeted the Turkmen leader. Other official persons of the UAE greeted the President of Turkmenistan at the airport.

His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan invited the leader of the Turkmen state to enter the VIP Hall where the leaders of the two countries had the first conversation over a cup of tea. Expressing satisfaction with an opportunity to discuss the priority issues of mutually advantageous cooperation during a new meeting, the leaders of Turkmenistan and the UAE underscored the mutual commitment to the constructive, fruitful dialogue in mutual interests.

From the airport the Presidents' corteges headed for the Mushrif Palace where the official ceremony of greeting the honorary Turkmen guest took place.

Upon concluding the official greeting ceremony His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan invited the President of Turkmenistan to enter the Palace. There, in the Reception Hall the bilateral top level talks were held with the participation of the government delegations.

Heartily greeting the Turkmen leader the President of the UAE emphasized that this visit was viewed in his country as an important event in the history of bilateral relations, a new illustration of enhancement and development of interstate contacts. His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan noted that the achievements and accomplishments of the fraternal people of Turkmenistan on the path of fundamental progressive reforms implemented on the initiative and under the leadership of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov were enthusiastically welcomed in the United Arab Emirates.

Reaffirming the readiness of the United Arab Emirates to expand mutually advantageous cooperation which had the impressive multi-aspect potential, the leader of the UAE expressed belief that this potential would be more actively implemented in the near future. In this regard His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan highly evaluated the role of the policy of openness and wide international cooperation pursued by President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov in creating the conditions in Turkmenistan conducive to enhancing effective business contacts and the favourable investment climate, in particular. The President of the UAE stated that the United Arab Emirates welcomed and supported Turkmenistan's constructive international initiatives which had earned the country and its leader the high prestige on the world arena.

Stating that the business circles of the UAE as well as many countries across the world showed intense interest in expanding on the very promising Turkmen market, the President of the United Arab Emirates noted that this interest was illustrated by the success of the International Investment Forum of Turkmenistan, which had taken place in Abu Dhabi on the eve of the Turkmen leader's

President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov invited the President of the United Arab Emirates to pay a visit to Turkmenistan. The invitation was accepted with gratitude. The dates of the visit would be adjusted through diplomatic channels.

Wishing good health and every success in his important work to the President of the UAE, Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov addressed the wishes of peace, wellbeing and prosperity to the people of the friendly country.

Then the leaders of Turkmenistan and the United Arab Emirates held the one to one talks. In the friendly and constructive atmosphere the Presidents discussed the progress in implementing the agreements, exchanged views on the prospects for development of bilateral cooperation and the particular regional and international political issues of mutual interest.

The leaders of two countries reaffirmed the readiness of Turkmenistan and the United Arab Emirates to further the full-scale intergovernmental dialogue on the basis of equality, mutual respect and benefit in compliance with modern realities. Calling for further enhancing trade and economic partnership which had the profound potential, the Presidents also underscored the importance to strengthen and expand humanitarian contacts as a critical aspect of relationships between Turkmenistan and the United Arab Emirates.

http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/_en/?idr=4&id=100210a

Telephone conversation between leaders of Turkmenistan and Tajikistan

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov had a telephone conversation with President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon yesterday.

Heartily greeting each other the two leaders expressed profound satisfaction with the dynamics of interstate relations, which based on the firm foundation of friendship and good neighbourliness had been brought up to a qualitatively new level.

Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov and Emomali Rahmon discussed the priority aspects of Turkmen-Tajik cooperation in the context the agreements reached upon the results of the bilateral meetings and top level talks and exchanged views on the important regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Focusing on the existing opportunities to intensify further the intergovernmental dialogue, the sides reaffirmed the mutual willingness to strengthen fruitful cooperation in all fields.

President Emomali Rahmon invited the Turkmen leader to pay a state visit to Tajikistan in the second half of March. The invitation was accepted with gratitude. The dates of the visit will be adjusted through diplomatic channels.

In conclusion the leaders of Turkmenistan and Tajikistan expressed belief that friendly and fraternal relations between the two countries would be further strengthened and exchanged the wishes of good health and every success and peace, happiness and wellbeing to the peoples.

http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/_en/?idr=1&id=100212a

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov completes official visit to the United Arab Emirates

During the official visit to United Arab Emirates President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov visited Dubai - the largest commercial, financial and tourist centre of the Middle East, where he visited one of its main landmarks - the famous Burj Khalifa.

It should be noted that the sincere, profound respect showed in the United Arab Emirates for Turkmenistan and the Turkmen people was evidenced by the very friendly atmosphere created for President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov during his visit to the country. This was vividly illustrated by the fact, which was immediately reported in detail by the UAE's mass media that the Gold Cup of Turkmenistan - the honorary prize established by the UAE had been competed for during the prestigious horse races in Abu Dhabi a day before. In the early morning the President of Turkmenistan walked along quay of Abu Dhabi, from where he had a splendid view of the Persian Gulf. As an ardent advocate and supporter of the healthy lifestyle and sport, the Turkmen leader never moves from his principles and sets a personal example to compatriots.

In the morning the Turkmen leader visited one of the largest mosques in the world - the Sheikh Zayed Mosque in Abu Dhabi, near which the founder and first President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan is buried. Then the Turkmen leader left for Dubai from the Al-Amiri Airport of the capital of United Arab Emirates. Vice-President of the UAE, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum heartily greeted the Turkmen leader at the airport of this largest city, the administrative center of the Dubai Emirate. Cordially greeting the honorary guest he emphasized that he was glad to receive President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov - the leader of the state, to relationships with which the United Arab Emirates attached great importance.

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, accompanied by Vice-President of the UAE, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum left the airport for the Burj Khalifa.

On the way the leader of the Turkmen state could see the landmarks of Dubai - one of the largest commercial, financial and tourist centre of the region. Burj Khalifa is one of its symbols. Then Vice-President of the UAE, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum invited the honorary Turkmen guest to visit the Khalifa Tower. The official persons of the friendly country noted proudly that President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov became the first leader of the foreign country to visit the Tower. Then Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov and Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum held the one to one talks. Underscoring the existing opportunities to intensify effective economic and business cooperation, the sides expressed belief that the traditionally friendly and constructive dialogue between Turkmenistan and the United Arab Emirates enhanced and filled with a new content with every passing year would maintained successfully.

Vice-President of the UAE, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum gave an official dinner in honour of the distinguished guest from Turkmenistan. Upon concluding the official dinner the cortege with President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov accompanied by Vice-President of the UAE, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum headed for the Dubai International Airport where the official farewell ceremony was held.

The high-ranking officials of the Mejlis, cabinet members greeted the Turkmen leader at the Ashgabat International Airport and congratulated him on the success of the official visit to the United Arab Emirates.

http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/_en/?idr=1&id=100211a

Enhancing export potential of textile industry

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov attends ceremony of putting cotton spinning mill into operation in Dashoguz

The ceremony of putting a cotton spinning mill into operation that continued the parade of the building and industrial premiers to mark National Flag Day took place in the administrative centre of the northern region of the country - Dashoguz Velayat. President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, who had arrived in the region before leaving on an official visit for the United Arab Emirates, attended the ceremony.

In the morning the President's plane landed at the airport in Dashoguz where the local high-ranking officials, the elders and mullahs heartily greeted the Turkmen leader with bread and salt and bouquets of flowers. The prayers for eternal welfare and prosperity of the Motherland and every success in all noble undertakings and deeds of the President for the happiness of the Turkmen people were offered up.

Heartily greeting all those present the national leader talked to the elders about the everyday concerns and life of the people of Dashoguz. During a sincere conversation the elders thanked Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov for his unceasing concern for a happy life of the native people and the wellbeing of the Motherland.

The cotton spinning mill amounted to US\$ 66.54 million is built in the southwest of the administrative centre of the region on the bank of the Shawat canal by the Cotam Enterprises LTD at the request of the Ministry of Textile Industry of Turkmenistan. Then the President of Turkmenistan addressed the participants congratulating them on the remarkable event. Addressing those present the Turkmen leader said that having entered a new stage of economic development Turkmenistan was turning into an active producer and exporter of finished products. These positive changes were considerably obvious in textile industry, which increased its percentage share in GDP. Abundant natural resources opened up the vast opportunities for intensive development of this sector of Turkmen economy. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov said that today Turkmenistan exported over 70 percent of textile products meeting international quality standards - cotton yarn, fabric, knitwear and ready-made garments to the United States of America, the Russian Federation, the European countries, China, Turkey and others.

Focusing on further intensification of the development of textile industry the Turkmen leader said that the development programme for the period till 2020 were aimed at increasing the volume of investments in this sector up to US\$ 2 billion a year, constructing large-scale processing plants in each cotton growing region of the country and taking other measures that would enable to create about 20,000 new jobs.

Each year the mill will produce over 16,600 tons of ginned cotton and produce 14,500 tons of high-quality Ring cotton yarn of different colours, which is in great demand on world markets. Its annual output will amount to US 24.7 million. Focusing on the importance of the mill for the intensive development of Dashoguz Velayat that was rich in the sacred places and famous for diligent labourers, Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov said that large-scale construction of buildings and facilities had been launched to further enhance the economic potential and improve the social and living conditions in the northern region of our Motherland.

<http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/en/?idr=1&id=100210e>

President of Turkmenistan receives CEO of DAS Holding Company

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, who was on an official visit to the United Arab Emirates, received CEO of the International Investment Company DAS Holding Khalid Deemas Al Suwaidi. The meeting was held at the Turkmen leader's residence at the Qasr Al-Emarat Hotel.

Thanking for the opportunity of a personal meeting the businessman informed of the company's intense interest in establishing business cooperation with Turkmenistan as a very promising and dependable partner.

Noting that Turkmenistan in its turn was interested in developing collaboration with the leading companies of the UAE, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov focused on the existence of vast opportunities for effective partnership in various fields.

In this context the sides exchanged views on the prospects for mutually advantageous cooperation. The CEO of DAS Holding LLC briefed the leader of the Turkmen state on the activities of DAS Holding - the conglomeration of the daughter companies operating in various sectors. The President of Turkmenistan and his guest discussed the opportunities for implementation of investment projects in such sectors of the national economy as construction, transport, tourism and high technology. The CEO of DAS Holding put forward the concrete proposals on mutually advantageous partnership on the implementation of the ongoing large-scale projects in Turkmenistan.

Welcoming such a businesslike, active approach to cooperation Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov informed of Turkmenistan's willingness to review the company's proposals on cooperation. Expressing gratitude to the Turkmen leader for the opportunity to discuss the priority aspects of further cooperation during the personal meeting Mr. Khalid Deemas Al Suwaidi reaffirmed the readiness of one of the largest companies of the UAE to place its expertise and potential at the service of Turkmenistan.

http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/_en/?idr=1&id=100210d

President of Turkmenistan receives CEO of Petrofac

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, who was on an official visit to the United Arab Emirates, received CEO of Petrofac International (UAE) LLC Mr. Maroun Semaan. The meeting was held at the Turkmen leader's residence at the Qasr Al-Emarat Hotel.

Greeting the Turkmen leader and congratulating on the success of the top level talks the businessmen emphasized that Turkmenistan aroused keen interest among the business circles of the Arab world including the UAE. Mr. Maroun Semaan noted that this interest was conditioned particularly by the favourable investment climate and the large-scale reforms launched in the country that opened up the vast opportunities for cooperation. In this regard the CEO of Petrofac International (UAE) LLC expressed sincere gratitude to President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov for the confidence granted to the company to collaborate on the development of the largest hydrocarbon deposit in Turkmenistan Southern Yoloten.

Focusing on Turkmenistan's intention to develop effective cooperation with foreign partners the Turkmen leader noted that Turkmenistan implemented the strategy for technology modernization and development of the fuel and energy sector through adopting advanced technologies, and in this regard the Petrofac's expertise in this field would be quite helpful.

Exchanging views on the prospects for cooperation Mr. Maroun Semaan informed the President of Turkmenistan on the work done by the company under the joint project. Exchanging views on the aspects of further cooperation the CEO of Petrofac International (UAE) LLC underscored the company's intention to establish long-term business contacts with Turkmenistan and put forward the concrete proposals on cooperation.

Welcoming the intention of the partners from the UAE to enhance and expand mutually advantageous cooperation Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov suggested that the company consider an opportunity to collaborate in the ongoing large-scale projects in Turkmenistan.

In conclusion the Arab businessman assured the President of Turkmenistan that the company would take a serious and responsible approach to implementing all its obligations.

http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/_en/?idr=1&id=100210c

President of Turkmenistan receives Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, who was on an official visit to the United Arab Emirates, received Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces General Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. The meeting was held at the Turkmen leader's residence at the Qasr Al-Emarat Hotel.

Greeting the leader of the Turkmen state the honorary guest congratulated President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov on the success of the official visit to the United Arab Emirates and the top level talks noting that the agreements reached in Abu Dhabi would foster the traditional intergovernmental dialogue.

Thanking for the kind words, the Turkmen leader focused with satisfaction on the high dynamics of relationships between Turkmenistan and the United Arab Emirates based on the firm foundation of friendship, mutual understanding and confidence. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov emphasized that Turkmenistan intended to further enhance and develop these constructive relations in the interests of the two fraternal peoples.

http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/_en/?idr=1&id=100210b

President of Turkmenistan receives top manager of International Petroleum Investment Company

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, who was on an official visit to the United Arab Emirates, received Managing Director of the State Investment Company of the United Arab Emirates International Petroleum Investment Company (IPIC) Khadem Al Qubaisi. The meeting was held at the Turkmen leader's residence at the Qasr Al-Emarat Hotel.

Expressing gratitude for the opportunity of a personal meeting Mr. Khadem Al Qubaisi congratulated President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov on the success of the top level meeting. The businessman said that the business circles of the United Arab Emirates sought for wide and close cooperation with Turkmenistan that was conditioned by the profound potential of the Turkmen market and the dynamic economic growth of the country.

Thanking for the kind words President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov focused with satisfaction on the high dynamics of Turkmenistan-UAE relationships based on the traditions of friendship, mutual respect and confidence between the peoples of Turkmenistan and the United Arab Emirates.

During the meeting Mr. Khadem Al Qubaisi briefed the Turkmen leader on the activities of the company, which was founded in 1984 by the Abu Dhabi Emirates Government to invest in the energy, oil and gas other sectors. Reaffirming the IPIC's intense interest in establishing fruitful cooperation, the businessman informed of the company's willingness to collaborate actively on the implementation of the large-scale projects in Turkmenistan.

In this context the President of Turkmenistan and the Managing Director of IPIC exchanged views on the prospects for mutually advantageous cooperation. The priority fields of cooperation included the fuel and energy sector in the light of Turkmenistan's strategy for technology modernization and diversification of the fuel and energy sector.

In conclusion thanking the Turkmen leader for the detailed, serious conversation, Mr. Khadem Al Qubaisi expressed the wishes of every success in the pursuing the innovative policy of the epoch of new Revival and grandiose reforms to the Turkmen leader and peace and wellbeing to the fraternal people of Turkmenistan.

http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/_en/?idr=1&id=100210a

President of Turkmenistan receives Minister of State for External Affairs of the Republic of India

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov received Minister of State for External Affairs Preeti Kaur, who had arrived in Ashgabat leading a representative delegation to participate in a regular meeting of the intergovernmental Turkmen-Indian commission for trade, economic, scientific and technological cooperation.

Expressing gratitude for the opportunity of a personal meeting the distinguished guest conveyed on behalf President of India Pratibha Patil and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh the heartfelt greetings and wishes of peace, welfare and prosperity to Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov and the people of Turkmenistan for. Minister Preeti Kaur said that she was very glad to have an opportunity to visit Ashgabat, the beauty of which had conquered her from the first minutes. Underscoring the effectiveness of the successful intergovernmental relations the guest said that the Turkmen and Indian people were bound with the traditions friendship and age-old historical and cultural affinities. Minister Preeti Kaur said that the glorious pages in the history of India had been written by a great son of the Turkmen people Bayram Khan, whose heritage was profoundly revered and worshipped by the Indian people.

Thanking for the kind words the Turkmen leader expressed the heartfelt wishes to the Government and people of the friendly country. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov said that India remained an important partner of Turkmenistan that paid particular attention to the development of the Turkmen-Indian dialogue based on mutual respect, confidence and positive partnership.

During the meeting the President and his guest exchanged views on a wide range of the issues of bilateral cooperation specifying the priorities at the current stage. In this regard Ms. Preeti Kaur presented the agenda of the third meeting of the Turkmen-Indian intergovernmental commission to the Turkmen leader. Focusing on India's keen interest in expanding fruitful cooperation with Turkmenistan she noted that this was illustrated by the membership of the Indian government delegation, which had arrived in Ashgabat, representing the leading Indian companies.

Discussing the promising fields of partnership the Turkmen leader and his guest specified the trade and economic, energy, tourism sectors and humanitarian cooperation, particularly in

the spheres of education and health care. The focus of the conversation was the ways of cooperation in the information technology sector, where India had made significant progress and stood ready to offer its expertise and innovations of Turkmenistan.

In conclusion the Turkmen leader wished the effective work to the participants of the meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission that was to facilitate the search for the optimal forms and intensify mutually advantageous Turkmen-Indian partnership. The President and the Minister of State for External Affairs of the Republic of India expressed belief that constructive bilateral cooperation, which had the profound potential and vast opportunities for implementation, would be successfully developed further.

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of India to Turkmenistan Mohammad Afzal attended the meeting.

http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/_en/?idr=1&id=100209a

Turkmenistan-India: new step towards long-term cooperation

The third meeting of the intergovernmental Turkmen-Indian commission for trade, economic, scientific and technological cooperation brought together the high-ranking officials and representatives of the sectoral ministries, departments and government agencies in Ashgabat.

The commission was co-chaired by Vice Premier, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan R. Meredov and Minister of State for External Affairs Preneet Kaur. In the opening remarks the heads of the government delegations focused on mutual interest in diversifying mutually advantageous partnership based on the age-old traditions of friendship between the two brotherly peoples and historical and cultural affinities. Underscoring the high dynamics of Turkmen-Indian cooperation at the current stage, the co-chairpersons expressed belief that this meeting would considerably intensify and fill intergovernmental collaboration with a new practical content. In this regard the Minister of State for External Affairs of India informed of the extreme effectiveness of the meeting with President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, during which the priority aspects of Turkmen-Indian partnership had been discussed.

The agenda of the meeting, which was held in the businesslike and lively atmosphere, focused on the ways to intensify and diversify effective trade and economic cooperation. The priority fields of partnership included the fuel and energy, transport and communications, chemical, high technology, tourism sectors. It was noted that the Indian business circles demonstrated the firm intention to establish effective contacts with Turkmen partners in a wide range of sectors. In this regard it was noted in particular that the ongoing project on the creation of Avaza national tourism in Turkmenistan opened up the vast opportunities for joint work.

The focus of discussion was cultural and humanitarian cooperation, particularly in the spheres of education, science and culture as an important factor in strengthening traditional friendship and mutual understanding between the two peoples. On behalf of the Indian delegation, Minister Preneet Kaur expressed sincere gratitude to the President and the Government of Turkmenistan for the heartfelt welcome emphasizing that the work of the Intergovernmental Commission had vividly illustrated the mutual willingness to develop full-scale cooperation in mutual interests. Upon concluding the meeting the sides signed the Protocol that set forth the priority fields of Turkmen-Indian cooperation as well as the concrete steps to boost joint efforts to implement the potential of bilateral partnership. During the meeting the partners signed the Memorandum on the establishment of the Turkmen-Indian Center of Information Technologies between the Government of Turkmenistan and the Government of the Republic of India, which would open up new opportunities to enhance cooperation. The fourth meeting of the intergovernmental Turkmen-Indian commission for trade, economic, scientific and technological cooperation will be held in the capital of India, Delhi.

http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/_en/?idr=5&id=100209a

New stage in education and science reform

To improve comprehensively the national education system in compliance with modern requirements, promote the development of fundamental science in the country, ensure integrated development of the younger generation of the Turkmen people, train highly qualified local specialists for all sectors of the economy are the key aspects of the education and science reforms launched in Turkmenistan. A new illustration of undoubted topicality of these tasks was the documents signed by President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov during the recent government meeting specifying the concrete measures to create all the conditions conducive to improving the educational process at higher schools in the country and develop the national school of science. These include the Resolution "On the Structure of Higher Educational Establishments of Turkmenistan" and the special Decree approving the quota of admission to the institutions of postgraduate study and doctoral candidacy by branches of science in 2010, the registration of applications for scientific degrees and admission to the institutions of clinical studies.

According to the Ministry of Education of Turkmenistan, the substantial modifications will take place in the structure of the higher educational establishments. Thus, seven faculties and 48 departments will be opened. 268 students will apply for the academic degrees in 2010. 45 people will be admitted to the institutions of postgraduate study, 9 scientists will be admitted to the institutions of doctoral candidacy and 57 health care workers will study at the institutions of clinical studies. The particular measures will be taken to further develop university research, strengthen the material and technical base of educational institutions, introduce advanced technologies in the educational process, widely use scientific and technological advances, develop and use new methodologies to compile textbooks and teaching aids.

The project development activities conducted by the research institutions and the higher schools promote improving the standards of education, forming the scientific outlook and intellectual potential of young scientists. The projects aimed at developing oil and gas industry, the research activities in agriculture, architecture and construction, power industry, medicine and other important spheres of the state and society were specified by the Turkmen leader as the priority topics of the scientific contests in 2010.

It should be noted that focusing on the issues of personnel training President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov underscored the importance of moral education of youth noting that knowledge was dead if it was not correlated with social responsibility of individuals, the historical and national traditions of the people, their moral values. Undoubtedly, the very formulation of all aforesaid tasks speaks much. It will be enough to mention that less than three years have passed since the Turkmen leader launched the fundamental reforms in the sphere of science and education; however, the significant accomplishments enabling to set and fulfill tasks in this field have been achieved.

For example, the specific steps to improve the educational process at the higher educational institutions of Turkmenistan were the Turkmen leader's decisions to extend the period of study at higher schools to five (six) years, decrease the teaching load from 1,250 to 850 hours, revise curricula and plans, introduce 33 new disciplines, increase the number of students admitted each year to higher educational institutions. The network of educational institutions was extended to foster research activities at higher schools through opening the institutions of postgraduate study, doctoral candidacy and clinical studies in the relevant branches of science. Today, 140 people study at the institutions of postgraduate study, 38 - at the institutions of doctoral candidacy and 77 - at the institutions of clinical studies, 302 scientists are nominated for receiving the academic degrees.

International cooperation is actively developing in the field of education. Today, 14,000 Turkmen boys and girls study at the prestigious universities of the world, each year the state sends over 1,300 young people to study abroad. Significant attention is paid to publication of new textbooks and teaching aids. In the past three years over 290 textbooks and teaching aids were published in the country. Put into operation the building of four high schools. Construction of the new buildings of the Turkmen State Medical University in Ashgabat, the Agricultural Institute in Dashoguz and the Turkmen State Energy Institute in Mary is under completion. The buildings of the Turkmen State Institute of Economics and Management, the Faculty of Geography of Magtymguly Turkmen State University, the Institute of International Affairs, the Turkmen Polytechnic Institute are under active construction.

Since 2008, the state-supported scientific projects are implemented on a competitive basis in Turkmenistan that allows Turkmen scientists to conduct research activities aimed at

addressing important issues of social and economic development and developing and introducing advanced technologies in industry. In short, the firm foundation for further advance, implementation of new comprehensive plans aimed at bringing the national education system at a qualitatively new level meeting international standards exists today.

The constructive comments and suggestions put forward by the Turkmen leader during the recent government meeting were the focus of the lively discussions, which were arranged at various educational establishments and departments, research institutes and higher schools across the country. Of course, words must be backed by actions. Therefore, the fulfillment of the specific tasks set by President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov requiring that all participants of this process work hard and use their talent for achieving the common goal - to make our country richer and more beautiful are on the agenda today for the level of development of scientific thought and education is a major indicator of the progress the state and society.

http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/_en/?idr=9&id=100209a

Picture of the Week

