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President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov delivers a speech at the ceremony of launching construction of East-West gas pipeline

(the 31st of May, 2010)

Dear friends,
Dear oil and gas industry workers,

I would like to heartily congratulate you on launching the construction of the East-West gas pipeline!

The construction without outside help of the gas pipeline that stretches nearly a thousand kilometres will go down in history of the modern Turkmen state as an epoch-making event.

As is known, the 2011-2030 National Social and Economic Development Programme of Turkmenistan was approved unanimously and adopted during the recent meeting of the Elders' Council in Dashoguz.

The National Programme sets the high objectives for the further development of the national economy. We must create the conditions conducive to implementing the National Programme and ensure the progress of the country, considerably strengthen the foundation of the energy sector as a jump-start for further development of the strategic sectors of the economy. Today, we need natural gas not only to export it to other countries but also meet the domestic needs.

We are planning to build many factories, plants, power stations and other enterprises, and a number of facilities will be constructed in the Avaza national tourism zone.

At present, we need a substantial amount of natural gas to develop the power industry.

In this sector the large-scale projects for modernization of gas turbine power plants and construction of new power plants have been launched in this sector, new power transmission lines and dozens of power distribution units are under construction. In the capital and other towns and settlements throughout the country electric power supply and illumination systems are reconstructed.

We will need much natural gas to implement the power industry development programme that will ensure export of substantial volumes of electric power.

An amount of gas will be required to launch new projects for modernization and further development of the oil and gas and chemical sectors of the national economy.

The start of construction of the East-West gas pipeline will be an important step to ensure the success of the energy strategy of Turkmenistan that profoundly contributes to building the system of global energy security.

The gas pipeline with the capacity of 30 billion cubic metres will cross the territories of Mary, Ahal and Balkan Velayats.

The East-West gas pipeline will ensure natural gas supplies from the largest gas deposits of Southern Yoloten-Osman to the western regions of the country.

Seven gas-compressor stations will be built to ensure effective and uninterrupted operation of the new gas pipeline.

An approximate cost of the pipeline is over US\$ 2 billion. At the design stage the necessary work was carried out to ensure the reliability and environmental safety of the gas pipeline.

The construction of such a large-scale facility without outside help proves that Turkmenistan is an economically strong state, that our specialists are professionals, and that we make considerable progress in development.

The construction of the East-West gas pipeline is a vivid illustration of multilateral effective energy cooperation opening up the vast opportunities for full-blown extension of energy supply system and development of gas deposits. The implementation of this project will provide an opportunity to create many new jobs.

Above all, once the construction of the gas pipeline is completed, we will build the pipeline network that will enable to supply substantial amounts of natural gas to any region of the country in a timely and promptly manner.

The construction of this gas pipeline is not only the economically sound project for the country but also an event of paramount political and economic significance, and a vivid illustration that the ultimate goal, that is the implementation of our fundamental principle "a state for the people", can be achieved with the political will and balanced approach available.

We are building an economically strong state with a steadily improving society. In this state the freedom of the individual, creative spirit, scientific and technological achievements will be harmoniously combined with spiritual perfection and developed culture, the guarantees of the high social and economic standards of life to people and environmental responsibility.

We have set the ambitious goals to ourselves, and I firmly believe that we will achieve them without fail.

Dear friends,

I would like to heartily congratulate you on launching the construction of the East-West pipeline!

I would like to wish wellbeing, peace, happiness and prosperity to all of you and the beloved people of Turkmenistan and every success in implementing this large-scale project and achieving great labour victories to oil and gas industry workers and specialists who will build the gas pipeline!

http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/_en/?idr=4&id=100601a

President of Turkmenistan receives the top managers of Bouygues

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov received Olivier Bouygues, President of the SCDM Company, Appointed Managing Director of Bouygues and Director General of Bouygues Turkmen Michelle Osh. Thanking for the opportunity of a personal meeting the top managers of the well-known French company, which was one of Turkmenistan's long-term dependable business partners, expressed satisfaction with an opportunity to discuss the prospects for mutually advantageous cooperation that had resulted in implementing dozens of important joint project in the country with the leader of the Turkmen state. The guests emphasized that the Bouygues Company was very proud of its active contribution to implementing the large-scale urban development programme launched on the initiative of the Turkmen leader and hoped sincerely for continuation of traditional cooperation built on a mutually advantageous and long-term basis.

Greeting the French businessmen, Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov said that dynamically developing Turkmenistan, which had turned into a big construction site in recent years, was interested in attracting the best international practices and technologies that foreign companies including Bouygues engaged in construction of a number of important administrative, social and cultural facilities could offer to our country. During the meeting the Turkmen leader and the top managers of the French company considered the progress of construction of facilities in the Turkmen capital and considered the possibilities for collaboration with Bouygues on future construction projects.

In conclusion Olivier Bouygues and Michelle Osh thanked Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov for the confidence granted to Bouygues and assured the Turkmen leader that the company would further meet its partner commitments and implement government contracts in a timely manner.

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Meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers

President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov chaired a meeting of the Cabinet of ministers to review the work done by the ministries and sectoral departments in five months of the current year and the important issues of the national policy. Opening the meeting the Turkmen leader congratulated those present and the people of Turkmenistan on the Textile Workers' Day, which is celebrated in Turkmenistan on the first Sunday of June each year, and wished good health, wellbeing and happiness to everyone and every success in work to workers of the textile industry that played a significant role in the national economy.

The floor was given to Vice Premier T. Japarov who reported on the progress achieved in the national economy in five months of 2010 noting that the reporting period was marked by the high macroeconomic indicators and the stable GDP growth rates.

In January-April, the GDP growth rates rose in the construction sector 2.2 times and made up 158.4 percent in the transport and communications sector, 116.4 percent in the trade sector, 111.9 percent in the services sector and 108.3 percent in the agricultural sector. As compared to the same period of 2009, the volume of investments drawn from all sources of financing increased to 153 percent. In five months of 2010, the revenues of the State Budget were implemented by 104 percent and the expenditures - by 93.9 percent. 65.6 percent of the budgetary funds had been used in the social sphere. Salaries, pensions and allowances were paid in a timely manner. In January-April an average salary increased by 13 percent as

compared to the same period of 2009. As compared to the previous year the retail turnover increased to 116.7 percent in five months of 2010. An increase in foreign turnover was observed in the reporting period. This was achieved through increasing the export of oil products, polypropylene, liquefied gas, iodine, vegetable oil, cotton yarn, cotton fabric and textiles. Expressing satisfaction with the positive dynamics of the social and economic development of the country the President focused on the need for the measures to ensure the intensive economic growth as an essential condition for the success of the reforms programmes. In this regard the Turkmen leader noted that the ultimate goal of ongoing large-scale reforms in the country was to create the worthy conditions of life and constructive labour of the Turkmen people and steadily improve people's welfare.

Vice Premier, Minister of Foreign Affairs R. Meredov reported on the work done to implement the Turkmen leader's foreign policy strategy of independent neutral Turkmenistan, in particular the outcomes of the consultations between the foreign ministries and the talks and meetings held at various levels in five months of this year. In his report the Minister of Foreign Affairs spotlighted the preparations of the political consultations with the delegation from the United States and the Turkmen-American business forum, which would be held in Ashgabat this month.

Showing satisfaction with the report President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov emphasized that the major goal of all bilateral talks held at a regular basis was to bring traditional relationships with all partner-countries to a qualitatively level meeting mutual interests. Focusing on the significance attached to the development of Turkmen-American relations, the Turkmen leader said that the United States of America were viewed as a strategic partner that Turkmenistan intended to develop equal cooperation with on a long-term mutually advantageous basis.

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President of Turkmenistan receives CEO of Italian ENI

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, who was on a working trip to Balkan Velayat, visited the construction sites of buildings and facilities located on the banks of the Avaza River. The Turkmen leader underscored the architectural peculiarities of these facilities that must adorn the river banks and become a model for all newly constructed buildings in the Avaza national tourism zone.

Then President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov received Paolo Scaroni, CEO of the Italian oil and gas company ENI at the Akmaya Entertainment Centre built on a bank of the Avaza River. Expressing gratitude to the Turkmen leader for the opportunity to consider the priority aspects of bilateral cooperation during a personal meeting, the businessmen focused on keen interest showed by the Italian business community in establishing long-term partnership with dynamically developing Turkmenistan.

Taking an opportunity the top manager of the Italian company congratulated the Turkmen leader on launching the construction of the new large gas pipeline - the East-West gas transportation system the construction of which had been recognized as a significant political and economic event. The guest noted that this project was another vivid evidence of the success of the energy strategy of the Turkmen state aimed at diversifying 'blue fuel' supplies to world markets.

Thanking for the kind words, the President emphasized that standing steadfast to the policy of wide international cooperation Turkmenistan attached paramount significance to strengthening and building business relations with the EU member states and the leading European companies on an equal, mutually advantageous basis.

The CEO of ENI confirmed the company's willingness to expand on the very promising Turkmen market noting that great attention of the European business community to rapidly developing Turkmenistan was based on flourishing economic relations as well as the open door policy pursued by the Turkmen leader and the favourable investment climate in the country. The leader of the Turkmen state Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov noted that implementing the comprehensive programme for modernization of the fuel and energy sector and the strategy for diversifying transit of Turkmen energy to world markets, Turkmenistan relied on the use of scientific and technological advances through fostering cooperation with foreign companies including Italian ENI. Thanking the Turkmen leader for a constructive, businesslike approach to cooperation, Paolo Scaroni emphasized that ENI was very proud of the confidence granted to the company and would further demonstrate a responsible attitude to collaboration in the projects offered by Turkmenistan.

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President of Turkmenistan receives top manager of Thales International

During the working trip to Balkan Velayat President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov visited the facilities built in the Avaza national tourism zone on the Caspian seashore by this summer holiday season that had started to receive numerous holidaymakers and guests from different countries of the world. Then the President of Turkmenistan received Blaise Jaeger, Executive Vice President Thales International in the Tolkun Centre built on the bank of the Avaza River.

Greeting the representative of the French company, Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov said that implementing the strategy of large-scale social and economic reforms Turkmenistan relied on applying scientific and technological advances in which Thales International had succeeded. The Vice President of the French company expressed an interest in expanding traditional cooperation with Turkmenistan where large-scale reforms and reform programmes were successfully implemented. Expressing sincere admiration with large-scale construction launched on the Caspian seashore, the guest expressed belief that the first-class seaside resort created on the initiative of the Turkmen leader would have a bright future. After the guest found out that the Haitian children were spending the summer holidays on the Turkmen seashore at the invitation of the President of Turkmenistan, Blaise Jaeger emphasized that this was a noble, humane act towards the children who had survived the terrible earthquake.

The guest said that he was greatly impressed by the international airport in Turkmenbashi town that had been equipped in active collaboration with the Thales International Company. During the meeting the sides expressed views on the prospects for long-term cooperation in compliance with the development priorities of the Turkmen state, Blaise Jaeger thanked the Turkmen leader for the opportunity of a personal meeting and said that Thales International was very proud of cooperating with Turkmenistan and would spare no effort to justify the confidence granted. Upon concluding the meeting, Precedent Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov made an excursion round the Tolkun Centre to see the conditions and quality of services offered to visitors.

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President of Turkmenistan President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov reviews progress of construction in Avaza national tourism zone

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov is on the working visit to Balkan Velayat.

As was reported, two days ago the Turkmen leader attended the ceremony of opening two children's recreation centres on the Caspian seashore in the Avaza national tourism zone and held a series of the bilateral meetings. It is deeply symbolic that the architectural premieres including two children's health improvement and recreation centres in Geokdere and the Ene Myakhri Centre in Balkanabat took place to mark to the International Children's Day. As is known, creating the conditions for a happy life of the younger generation was an invariable priority of the Turkmen leader's policy.

It should be noted that first holidaymakers at the wonderful health improvement centres Dayanc and Arzuw built on the Caspian seashore were participants of III International Children's Art Festival "Avaza - the Land of Friendship", which had brought together hundreds of young artists from about 20 countries of the world. During the visit to Balkan Velayat President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov travelled on board of the Galkynys yacht around the seashore of the maritime town to see the progress of construction of new facilities in the Avaza national tourism zone.

The Chairperson of the Mejlis and the Vice Premiers greeted the Turkmen leader on the board of the sea liner. Congratulating heartily the Turkmen leader on the recent remarkable events, those present wished the President good health, inexhaustible energy and new outstanding accomplishments in his very important activity for the benefit of the Motherland and the Turkmen people. Thanking for the kind words the President emphasized that the concern for people's welfare and the increase of the standards of living of citizens of Turkmenistan was the ultimate goal of ongoing reforms in the country that was embodied in the fundamental principle of the epoch of new Revival "a state for the people". That was illustrated by the recent building premieres.

Avaza - the new world-class seaside resort, which is being created on the Caspian coast on the initiative of the Turkmen leader, takes real shape. This unprecedented innovation investment project that drew a wide response in the business and political circles all over the world embodies the epoch of new Revival. Having fostered the development of tourism industry in Turkmenistan, the Avaza project is deeply symbolical for combining several components of the prosperity of the country - active and efficient use of abundant natural resources, the climatic conditions and favourable location on major transit and transportation route, diversification of the national economy and mutually economic cooperation. A number of the fashionable hotels including Watanci, Hazyna, Carlak, Nebitci, Kerwen, Kuwwat have been opened on the Caspian seashore. The gas turbine power plant, desalination unit and the international airport in Turkmenbashi town that is the gateway to the Avaza national tourism zone and one of the largest transit and transportation centre of the region replenished seaside infrastructure this April.

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Offshore production infrastructure developed

The preparations for construction of the new oil pipeline that will connect the deposits of Jeytun and Jigalbek on the Caspian seashore with coastal infrastructure are carried out in the vicinities of Hazar town

As is known, development of abundant hydrocarbon resources of the Caspian Sea rightfully put on the list of the world's largest oil and gas reserves is a strategic aspect of the programme for development of the fuel and energy sector of Turkmenistan. 'Black gold' extraction in the Turkmen offshore and coastal zone is expected to substantially increase in the next decades. Today, the world leading companies operate in the Turkmen sector of the Caspian Sea in accordance with the production sharing agreement. These include Dragon Oil (UAE) that has been developing the fields on the Cheleken contractual territory since 1999. The steady oil production growth achieved in particular through exploring new wells has entailed the necessity of modernization of the fuel transportation system and other infrastructure facilities.

The length of the new pipeline is 40 kilometres long, of them 29 kilometres will be laid in the seabed at a depth of 30 metres. At present the specialists are completing the preparations of high-test pipes 18, 20 and 30 inch in diameter. The widest flue pipes will be used for building the oil pipeline from Jeytun to coastal infrastructure facilities, flue pipes of the middle and smaller diameter will be used for building girths between offshore production platforms in the Cheleken contractual territory. Other infrastructure facilities including are under construction on the Caspian coast. Among them are machining workshops for repairing vehicles, lifting devices, tractors and oil equipment.

It is planned to build a mechanical workshop for renewing drilling pumps, hoists, crown blocks and other equipment, aggregates and units used for producing and transporting hydrocarbons. The desalination unit with the capacity of 1,500 cubic metres that will supply water to production facilities and local population will be put into operation there. At present, this equipment is tested. The water reservoirs in the town are ready to receive water from the desalination unit.

The training center that will ensure professional and advanced training of the company personnel including crane operators, drill-operators, well operators and service technicians will be opened in Hazar in the near future. The new building with the total area of over 500 square meters includes 15 classrooms supplied with demonstration stands and training aids.

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Turkmenistan's textile industry: high quality and advanced technologies

Large-scale economic reforms are carried out in the country and advanced technologies and innovations are applied in the Turkmen economy in the epoch of new Revival and great changes. In modern Turkmenistan a particular role is assigned to the textile industry that has made a breakthrough in recent years and become a leading export-oriented sector of the national economy - Turkmenistan exports over 70 % of domestically manufactured textile goods. In his welcoming statement to participants of the International Exhibition on the Key Trends in Development of Textile Industry of Turkmenistan and the economic forum to mark the Textile Worker's Day President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov noted Turkmen textiles were in great demand on world markets that testified to competitiveness of our high quality goods labelled "made in Turkmenistan". The Turkmen leader stated that textile industry workers considerably contributed to enhancing the economic strength of the country.

A high demand for Turkmen textiles on world markets is conditioned by the high quality of our products, an effect of the efforts to strengthen the image of the country and increase customers' confidence. The leading textile enterprises of Turkmenistan have the ISO certificates that enable textile enterprises to effectively operate on foreign markets including ISO 9001 and 9002 "Production Management and Quality Control System", OHSAS 18001 Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems and WRAP (Worldwide Responsible Apparel Production). Oerlikon Schlafhorst awarded the Belcoro Quality Certificate to the cotton spinning mill in Abadan for the high quality of its cotton yarn. The certificates guarantee consumers all over the world that products meet the universally recognized technological and quality standards. The giants of our textile industry meet the strict environmental standards and have the certificates ISO-14001 "Environmental Management System". Our country gains the reputation as a reliable producer, and the world-renowned companies seek cooperation with the Turkmen textile enterprises. Such well-known brands as Calvin Klein, Sara Lee, Casual Wear, Ikea and others place orders in our country. High-quality ready-made garments with the logotypes of the world-famous firms manufactured in our company are known to consumers and find a ready market in Europe and America.

With growing competition on world markets advanced technologies guaranteeing the high quality of products help to strengthen the positions on the world market. Dozens of enterprises supplied with state-of-the-art equipment manufactured the leading companies of Japan and the West European countries such as Rieter (Switzerland), Trutzschler and Schlafhorst (Germany), Marzoli (Italy), Juki (Japan) operating in the country lay the foundation of the domestic textile industry. These enterprises increase in number with every passing year due to the task-oriented policy pursued by President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov to raise the production potential of the processing industry of Turkmenistan. The cotton spinning mill with the capacity of 17,700 tons of cotton yarn a year was put into operation in Lebap Velayat, and the new factory producing medicinal and cosmetic cotton operates in Ashgabat.

The large textile enterprises including the cotton spinning mills have been put into operation in Dashoguz and Ahal Velayats this year. The factory producing mixed yarn - a new product for Turkmenistan is under constructed in Ruhabat Etrap. Broadening a range of goods and putting modern and competitive enterprises into operation are the important factors for developing the industry. The economic advantages of the state policy in this field is quite obvious - it is more profitable to export ready-made garments with a higher added value, and this is vividly illustrated by the rapid progress of the textile industry that maintains the rate of output growth at around 10% per year for the past decade. In the near future cotton processing enterprises will be built in each etrap cultivating this valuable agricultural crop. These measures are taken to fulfill the main task set to Turkmen textile workers - to process cotton harvests reaped in the country. Foreign companies not only place orders at our enterprises but also make investments in Turkmen textile industry that is one of the most attractive one for foreign investors. US\$ 300 million out of US\$ 1 billion invested in Turkmenistan textile industry are foreign investments. Ythe riches of our country include silk that is widely used in traditional Turkmen costume, and the art of weaving keteni is rightfully an element of the national cultural heritage. Today, the production infrastructure of silk industry has been completely modernized, and the ancient art of weaving keteni has been revived. Turkmen textile industry has the great prospects. By 2020, the investments in this sector of Turkmen economy will have been increased to US\$ 2 billion, and a number of modern textile enterprises will have been put into operation that will create 10,000 new jobs.

<http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/en/?idr=6&id=100607a>

EXCHANGE NEWS

18 transactions were concluded at the State Commodity and Raw Materials Exchange of Turkmenistan last week. The businessmen from Iran, Turkey and the Virgin Islands bought gasoline and aviation kerosene produced at the Turkmenbashi oil refiner. Liquefied gas from the Nayip terminal was the choice of the Afghnai businessmen. The transactions in the foreign currency were concluded for ginned cotton, raw silk, gray knitted cloth, textiles, wadding, gray cloth and yarn and caramel. The buyer-countries: the Republic of Korea, Iran, Turkey, the

UAE, Russia. The transactions concluded in the foreign currency totalled over US\$ 50.654 million. The Turkish businessmen bought gray cloth and chewing gum for deposit manats. The transactions totalled over 816,000 manats.

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Delegation of the Republic of Turkey visits Ashgabat

The Turkish delegation led by the specialists of the Undersecretariat for Foreign Trade is on a visit to Ashgabat. The talks held at the Ministry of Trade and Foreign Economic Relations of Turkmenistan illustrated high interest in intensifying further mutually advantageous Turkmen-Turkish trade and economic cooperation in accordance with the current intergovernmental agreements.

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Ways to update civil procedure law on forum agenda

The conference entitled "The aspects of civil procedure law in Turkmenistan" was conducted in the Turkmen capital. The deputies of the national Parliament participated in the forum organized by the Mejlis of Turkmenistan in collaboration with the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) under the project "Support for Legal and Judicial Reforms in Central Asia" and with the assistance of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan.

The forum agenda focused on the aspects of the civil procedure law and legislation of Turkmenistan. It was noted that the major aspects of the progressive changes taking place in the country on the initiative of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov was the legal reform aimed at updating the regulatory framework and bringing the national legislation in compliance with the constitutional and universally recognized standards. The international experts from Germany presented the thematic reports at the conference. The Turkmen specialists made presentations on the major aspects of the reforms of the Turkmen legislation including civil procedure law. Exchanging views the forum participants underscored the importance and timeliness of modernizing laws and called for maintaining constructive cooperation in this field.

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Member of the European Parliament visits Ashgabat

A member of the European Parliament, Vice-Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Security and Defence Norica Nicolai arrived on a working visit to Turkmenistan.

On the first day of the visit the guest was received at the Mejlis of Turkmenistan and briefed on the activities and role of the national Parliament the context of ongoing democratic

changes. During the meeting the sides exchanged views on the prospects for Turkmenistan-EU fruitful cooperation in the framework of the current and new joint programmes and projects. The ways to further strengthen the ties between the parliaments were also considered.

Bilateral partnership in the priority fields was the focus of the talks held at the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Energy and Industry of Turkmenistan. The meetings were scheduled at the MFA and the other ministries and departments of the country and the Turkmen National Institute for Democracy and Human Rights under the President of Turkmenistan.

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Picture of the Week

