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Kazakhstan



Kazakhstan's entry into WTO discussed in Washington

The latest round in a series of the bilateral negotiations with the U.S. regarding Kazakhstan's entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO) took place in Washington on July 12-20.

Kazakh delegation was led by Vice Minister of Industry and Trade and special representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan at the negotiations on the WTO's accession Ms. Z. Aitzhanova.

Within the frame of the bilateral talks the sides touched upon a wide range of issues including the conditions of access of the most prioritized industrial and agricultural products for the United States to the Kazakh market, the protection of the intellectual property rights, the observance of the commercial rights of the importers, the marking and registration of the genetically modified production, etc.

The bilateral negotiations were of a constructive character. Following the results of the talks the number of the unresolved problems connected with Kazakhstan's accession to the WTO has considerably narrowed. - *Source: Kazinform*

Inflation growth in 1H 2007 decreased by 0.8 % in Kazakhstan

Growth of inflation in H1 2007 has decreased by 0.8 % in comparison with the similar period in 2006.

According to the Vice Minister of Economy and Budgetary Planning B. Saparbayev, the main contribution to inflationary processes was due

to articles of food (54.5 %). The rise in prices on meat products made 19.4 %, vegetables - 11 %. Contribution of non-food products to inflation growth reached 17 %, clothes and footwear - 10.5 %.

"Growth of inflationary processes is influenced by the rates of growth of monetary mass and volume of given credits, which has grown by almost twice as much," he noted. - *Source: Kazakhstan Today; Edited by: usapec.kz*

Kyrgyzstan



Kyrgyz farmers and vets learn to care of domestic animals

Farmers and vets of Kyrgyzstan study the newest technology of looking after domestic animals. Training was held for these purposes in frames of the Kyrgyz Agro-Input Enterprise Development Project (KAED/IFDC) funded by USAID.

Cattle-breeders studied the usage of modern methods in veterinary. Dr. Eran Raizman – Professor of Purdue University (U.S.) was invited to hold the training. - *Source: Kyrgyz National News Agency*

Tajikistan



Inflation rate January-June stands at 3.5%

Tajikistan's gross domestic product (GDP) rose 7.3% in the first half of 2007, reaching 4.788 billion somonis. Over the first six months of this year, the GDP growth has amounted to 1.264 billion somonis, with a 9% increase in the industrial sector and a 6.5% in the agrarian sector.

Tajik central bank head noted that inflation rate for the first six months of 2007 had stood at 3.5%, which is 3.1% lower than in the same period of last year.

Since the beginning of the year, prices of products of the food industry have increased on average 2.6%, while non-foodstuffs have risen in cost by 1.9%, and paid services rendered to the population have risen in cost by 10.8%.

The average weighted USD rate has risen 0.4%, reaching 3.4394 somonis, while in January-June 2006, it was 3.4265

The deficit of Tajikistan's foreign trade turnover rose 64.1% in the first half of 2007, reaching \$76.6 million or 12.9% of GDP. Exports of goods in the past six months have risen 17.8% and imports of goods into the country have risen 28.3%. - *Source: AsiaPlus Agency*

Uzbekistan



Uzbekistan's GDP grows 9.7% in 1H07



Gross domestic product (GDP) in energy-rich Uzbekistan grew 9.7% in January-June 2007. Industrial production in Uzbekistan, which has estimated natural gas reserves of over 6.25 trillion cubic meters and produces 60 billion cubic meters of natural gas annually, grew 11.6% while agricultural output expanded 5.5%.

Exports grew 39%, with non-raw material commodities accounting for 70% of the export structure. And foreign trade surplus stood at \$1.7 billion. The state budget posted a surplus of 1.9% of GDP and inflation stayed within the projected figure of 2.7% in the reporting period. - *Source: RIA Novosti; Edited by: usapeec.kz*

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