



USAPEEC

CENTRAL ASIA NEWS

October 31, 2008



4 - 7 November, 2008

Almaty, Kazakhstan

10 Pavilion, "Atakent" IEC

Dear USAPEEC members!

On November 4 - 7, 2008 the biggest Central Asian Food Show "WorldFood Kazakhstan 2008" will take place in Almaty, Kazakhstan, International Exhibition Centre "Atakent".

USAPEEC has successfully participated in previous WFK food shows and will have a separate pavilion this year also. USAPEEC members are cordially welcome to join us at the USAPEEC lounge.

USAPEEC stand will be located in Pavilion 10, stand number 11.

USAPEEC members interested in participation are encouraged to contact Bella Ablaeva usapeeckz@yahoo.com or bella_usapeec@yahoo.com

Notably, in 2007 the exhibition grew by 30%. 307 direct and extra-mural companies-participants from 27 countries participated in the exhibition. Evaluation of efficiency of the event showed that 56% exhibitors committed sales directly during the work of exhibition, 66% participants set up beneficial contacts with 20-50 companies.

We hope that the exhibition will meet your expectations!

All additional info on the trade show can be found at http://www.worldfood.kz/en/2008/world_food

Kazakhstan



Growth of Kazakhstan's economy for 8 months of 2008 made 105.2 %

Growth of Kazakhstan's economy for 8 months of 2008 has made 105.2 % according to the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan, Karim Masimov.

"In modern conditions it is an optimum growth taking into account that we have set the task of restraining inflation within certain limits. In August 2008 rate of inflation compared to December 2007 made 7.5 %. It is one of the

lowest parameters of inflation among all CIS countries," Karim Masimov stressed.

According to the Prime Minister, International Monetary Fund (IMF) forecasts that Kazakhstan can increase economic growth in 2009.

"Crisis has not caused such damage to our national economy. The situation in the home markets is now stable. International Monetary Fund forecasts that unlike the majority of other countries, Kazakhstan in 2009 can already increase economic growth," Karim Masimov said.

"At the same time September collapse of the world share markets shows that financial crisis

has not reached its peak yet and its new stage has started,” he continued.

“Last decisions of the governments of the western states and Russia connected with September crisis, have confirmed accuracy of the measures accepted by the Government of Kazakhstan one year ago on maintenance of social and economic stability of the country,” he stated.

“The situation is stable and the national economy is under control. World shocks will not cause essential influence on the national economy and well-being of our citizens. The main lesson of the passed stage for us is that in the near future while external conditions will be extremely unstable, we should build economic policy counting on our strengths mobilizing internal resources,” Karim Masimov concluded.
- *Source: Kazakhstan Today*

Kazakhstan managed to defend its interests during negotiations with Australia on country’s WTO accession

During the negotiations with Australia on Kazakhstan’s accession into World Trade Organization (WTO) the country managed to defend its interests, according to the press service of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce of Kazakhstan.

Final round of bilateral negotiations with Australia took place on September 23, during the visit of the Kazakhstan delegation to Canberra.

“The structure of economy of Australia and Kazakhstan is similar. For example, Australia is one of the main suppliers of mineral raw materials, meat and meat products, wool and grain to the world commodity markets,” the Ministry emphasized.

“Taking into account that these goods are sensitive for the economy of Kazakhstan, the reached arrangements by the results of bilateral negotiations completely meet the economic interests of our country,” the Department considered.

In particular, following the results of the negotiations, Kazakhstan has reserved the right to apply customs duties on meat and dairy products at the level that will allow protecting the interests of Kazakhstan’s local producers.

“Considering the fact that Australia is the influential participant of WTO and one of the key negotiators for Kazakhstan, completion of bilateral negotiations is an important step and will have a positive influence on negotiations with other member countries “ the expert from the Kazakh Industry Ministry said.

According to the press service, as of today, Kazakhstan has completed the negotiations with 21 out of 25 countries. - *Source: Kazakhstan Today*

Uzbekistan



Uzbekistan’s GDP increased by 9.4% in January-September 2008

The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Uzbekistan grew by 9.4% in January-September 2008, according to the Press-Service of the Cabinet of Ministers.

The industrial production of Uzbekistan grew by 12.4% and agricultural output rose by 4.1% in the nine months period.

The country increased production of consumer goods by 18.4%; the volume of rendered services grew by 18.5%.

The significant current account balance surplus was achieved in January-September 2008 due to fast growth of exports.

According to the Press-Service the country utilized investments by 22.4% more year-on-year, including foreign direct investments by 33.5%.

Small business contributed 45.3% of the country’s GDP in the nine months of 2008 compared to 43.1% in the same period of 2007.

- *Source: UzReport.com*



Inflation reached 0.7% in September

The consumer price index in Kyrgyzstan rose by 0.7% in September and has reached 15.6% since the beginning of the year, according to the Kyrgyz National Statistics Committee.

The 0.7% inflation rate is the highest for the past three months.

In July the consumer price index decreased by 0.1% (from 15.2 to 15.1%), while in August it decreased by 0.2% (from 15.1 to 14.9%).

In the first half of the year the monthly price growth hit 2.3%, finally reaching 15.2%

The Investment Council's expert under the Kyrgyz President Rafkat Hasanov says deflation may be explained by three main factors: world economic tendency, Government and National Bank's policy and significant cut in prices for horticultural products due to harvest season.

- Source: 24.kg News Agency

Kyrgyzstan joins Asia Cooperation Dialog

Kyrgyzstan has joined international Asia Cooperation Dialog (ACD) Organization according to the press service of the Kyrgyz Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

Meeting of ACD member states' foreign ministers took place in Astana on October 16. The meeting participants unanimously voted for Kyrgyzstan's joining, despite a moratorium for any new members.

Kyrgyzstan is the 31st member of the organization comprising Kazakhstan, Thailand, Russia, India, China, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Japan, Kuwait and many other countries. Tasks of the ACD include poverty reduction, development of energy, transport, finance and economies' integration.

With joining the Asian Cooperation Dialog Kyrgyzstan obtains a right for being involved in political, socio-economical projects and trade, investment and scientific programs of the participating countries.- Source: 24.kg News Agency