

Speech of the Chancellery of the Adviser for Trade and Economic Issues of the Peoples Republic of China

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The third secretary of the Embassy of the Peoples Republic of China in Tajikistan

Dear ladies and gentlemen!

It is a great honor to participate in this international workshop on development of road sector of Tajikistan. I am really happy to listen to your reports and to exchange opinions with you.

From time immemorial, China and Tajikistan have been friendly neighbors. Trade and economic contacts and cooperation are the natural needs of two countries for achieving economic development and providing welfare of people, and serve as an important material basis for strengthening good neighborhood. Last years, owing to joint efforts of the governments and business community of two countries, the Chinese-Tajik economic cooperation has had dynamic development and affluent results, trade between two countries rapidly increases, large technical projects are successfully implemented, technical and economic cooperation continuously extends bringing substantial benefits to the people of two countries.

According to the Chinese Statistics Service, bilateral trade turnover for last 3 years has increased almost in 10 times, and has reached USD 1,5 billion last year. For the first half of the year 2009 the given indicator has increased in 67,7 % in comparison with the similar period of previous year, and has made USD 474 million.

Among all Chinese entities CYAP has the closest economic relationships with Tajikistan. In 2008 commodity turnover between CYAP and Tajikistan has reached USD1,25 billion. For 8 months of the current year this indicator has made USD 240 million. Tajikistan is the third largest foreign trade partner of CYAP, conceding only to Kazakhstan and Kirghizia.

At the same time, technical and economic cooperation between two countries rapidly develops and covers extensive areas, including power and transport infrastructure, mining industry, telecommunication, manufacture of building materials, real estate etc. China Road & Bridge, the Chinese Railway Engineering Company, TBEA, ZTE , Huawei and other leading Chinese companies which also take a powerful place in the international market, actively expand their activity on territory of Tajikistan and contribute to construction and country development.

At present, number of joint projects, including roads rehabilitation, construction of the heat electropower station, development of a lead-zinc deposit, cement manufacture etc. are implemented.

To treat neighbor benevolently and on the partnership basis – is a moral tradition of the Chinese people which passes from father to son. «Mutual benefits and the general development» is the main principle directing external economic policy and activity of the China. Since establishing diplomatic relations, being the good neighbor and the reliable partner, China, in every possible way, supports national construction and economic development of Tajikistan and renders diverse assistance, including grants and concessional loans.

Being at a crossroads connecting Central Asia and the Middle East, Tajikistan possesses great geographical advantages, where transport sector plays very important role in the national economy. But due to the complicated topographical features and low level of a transport infrastructure, its transit capacity is used far not in full volume. Those measures directed to form transport road network and regular communication with neighboring countries, not only go for benefit for improving transport issues situation, but also invaluable contribute for regional trade encouragement, for creating favorable investment climate, for reducing poverty and increasing the status of the country in regional economic cooperation. For this reason the Government of Tajikistan has vigorously set building of a transport infrastructure as one of priorities in its activities and as an access to the country recovery and nation revival.

Help countries accepting the assistance, use the way of independent development- is a principal objective of the Chinese Government in its grant activity. Since 2006, the Chinese Government has rendered to the Government of Tajikistan grants in the amount of 260 million Chinese yuan for implementation of the project for tunnel Shar-Shar construction and its approaches. The Chinese Railway Engineering Corporation has carried out construction of the given project and has put it in operation in August of this year. The President of Tajikistan Mr.E.Rahmon has highly appreciated civil works and called the tunnel "Ozodi". Besides, the Chinese Government has provided concessional loans in total amount of USD 350 million for rehabilitation of a highway "Dushanbe-Chanak" and road section "Dushanbe-Dangara". Company «China Road & Bridge» acts as an executor of these two projects. At present, road rehabilitation "Dushanbe-Chanak" comes to an end and as it is planned to be completely finished in the first half of the next year.

It would be desirable to mention that support rendered by the Chinese party for the Tajikistan transport sector is reflected not only in a financial segment. «The Chinese Railway Engineering Corporation" and "China Road & Bridge» that have been selected to implement aforementioned projects, are the leading Chinese transport and technical companies and represent a highest sector level. The Chinese Government gives a great attention to the comprehensive project implementation process and carries out the overall control over such levels, such as technical standards, quality of facilities, operating safety, procurement, environmental protection, and directs timely efforts for making decisions and the addressing problems arising in the course of project implementation. The Chinese constructors, entertaining a strong sense of responsibility, pride and friendly feelings to the Tajik people, have shown their outstanding expertise and endurance, have overcome all non imaginable

difficulties, and have provided successful and qualitative completion of projects.

Ladies and gentlemen!

History knows that the Silk Road has connected and pull together the Tajik and Chinese people. And at present cooperation in transport sector remains a basis for prosperity of regions and welfare of people. The Chinese Government will support development of the transport sector of Tajikistan as previously, in every possible way, and will continue history of traditional friendship between Chinese and Tajik people.

The Chancellery of the Adviser for Trade and Economic Issues under the Embassy of China's Peoples Republic in Tajikistan is the Permanent Representation accredited by the Ministry of Commerce of the Peoples Republic of China. One of its main responsibilities is to study grant policy in respect of Tajikistan, making proposals on grant projects, and rendering assistance for their implementation. We are ready to strengthen further links and cooperation with the Tajik agencies, including Ministry of Transport and Communications, and international organizations, including Asian Development Bank, for the purpose of joint advancement of the comprehensive development of Tajikistan.

In conclusion, let me express once again the sincere gratitude to the organizer of this Forum.