

## **Presentation**

### **First Deputy Minister of Transport and Communications of the Kyrgyz Republic Meeting of the Transport Sector Coordinating Committee Almaty, Kazakhstan**

Dear Participants of the Meeting!

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Allow me to express our gratitude to the Asian Development Bank for the provided opportunity to meet here at the meeting of the Transport Sector Coordinating Committee.

Basic condition for development of any country includes availability of developed road and transport systems that are instrumental in providing connection between cities and regions, increasing trade turnover, expanding the area of services and also in active travel of the country's population.

The Kyrgyz Republic has motor, rail, air, electric and water transport means that, in general, cover both the internal and external transport and economy-related communications of the Republic, however, they are in need of radical improvement.

The main purpose of developing transport and communications for the short run includes establishment of the Republic's transport complex complying with the environment of the market economy, communication lines of international importance, enhancement of the existing telecommunication networks, use of international satellite communication systems and on the basis of that to integrate Kyrgyzstan into the world network.

It is important for Kyrgyzstan to efficiently establish external economic relations and the Republic has all the necessary preconditions for its successful establishment. The main preconditions are as follows: the Republic has a convenient geographic location with respect to the countries of the Central Asian region, PRC and other adjoining states with whom it has historically developed economic relations and with whom it is involved

in constructing new railways, and these states are now interested in setting up new transcontinental routes.

Since August of 2003 specialists from China began to develop a feasibility study for construction of railway lines covering China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan. The Report has already been completed. The contents and conclusions of the Report indicate that there is a real need to build the Chinese-Kyrgyz-Uzbek trunk-railway line that will form the southern corridor of the Second Eurasian Continental Link representing the shortest way from East Asia to the countries of Central Asia, Middle East and South Europe and it is of importance in developing economic and trade cooperation as well as for cultural exchange between Europe and Asia. Implementation of the project that involves building of the railway line China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan means a real revival of the Great Silk Road on which the President of the Kyrgyz Republic A.Akaev wrote in his doctrine called "Diplomacy of the Great Silk Road" supported in principal by all the countries of the region.

The next stage of work on the project will include consideration at the joint meeting of experts' group and discussion of the Report based on the feasibility study and also of the Draft agreement on building the Chinese-Kyrgyz-Uzbek railway line and submission of these documents to the governments of the three countries for approval along with seeking for investments in developing a full feasibility study on the project.

During the last few years the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic has been paying a great attention to financing motor roads, involving foreign investors, improving the condition of roads and bringing their quality to international standards and one can't overestimate the assistance of the Asian Development Bank, World Bank, Islamic Development Bank and the Japanese Government provided for addressing this issue.

Phase-I of the "Bishkek-Osh Motor Road Rehabilitation" Project has been completed, completion of Phase-2 is expected soon and implementation of Phase-3 has already started. Bishkek-Osh motor road reconstruction is part of the regional Asian highway Irkeshtam-Sary-Tash-Osh-Bishkek-Kordai (Georgievka of the Kazakh Republic) and it provides a spur to the South in China and to the North in Kazakhstan. Rehabilitation works financed by the ADB are being carried out also in the section of the Bishkek-Georgievka motor road, as for rehabilitation of the Osh-Irkeshtam motor road in addition

to the ADB the most active support is provided by the Government of the People's Republic of China. The Government of the PRC supports the project by providing grants for carrying out the pre-feasibility study on rehabilitation of the Osh-Irkeshtam motor road.

The "Urban Transport" project financed by the World Bank is also being successfully implemented under which project the main streets of Bishkek, Osh and Dzhahalal-Abad are being rehabilitated.

The project on "Reconstruction of By-Pass Roads around the Madaniyat Village" financed by the Islamic Development Bank has been completed and the "Rehabilitation of the Zhambyl-Talas-Susamyr Motor Road" project has started.

Taking this opportunity I would like to express a special gratitude to all the international financial institutions for providing assistance in developing the road industry of our country.

I believe that representatives of the fraternal states will agree that the famous Issyk-Kul lake is one of the most attractive spots for tourism in Kyrgyzstan. With the objective of developing tourist infrastructure there we intend to rehabilitate the ring motor road Balykchy-Karakol-Balykchy with the total the length of 436 km around the Issyk-Kul lake. We need grant funds to develop a feasibility study on this project.

Civil aviation of our Republic is an inseparable part of the uniform transport system. The specific role of civil aviation is determined by its possibility to offer considerably higher, compared to other types of transport, speed in transporting passengers, cargos and mail to big distances.

The Program for Development Civil Aviation of the KR was developed with an intention to further increase the efficiency of air traffic. International airport "Manas" was selected as the main facility to invest into. Reconstruction of the "Manas" international airport will result in increasing traffic flows of aircrafts involving foreign companies and it will lead to intensifying airport activities. In addition, work is being done to implement the project on construction of international transshipment facility in the "Manas" airport, pre-feasibility has been prepared on aircrafts.

By using our own resources last summer we rehabilitated the international airport Issyk-Kul in the Tamchy village and invested into it about 1 mln US dollars. The airport can receive now aircrafts of the "Yak-40" and "AN-24" types. We plan to provide more operating opportunities to modern aircrafts of a higher category through using this facility. Therefore, we seek for cooperation in this issue and we are prepared to consider different forms of investments including the "BOT"- build-operate-transfer system.

The importance of telecommunication systems is rapidly growing in everyday life of our society since the level of the country's overall computerization, defense capacity of the country, further growth of the economy, production sector, science, culture, improvement of social conditions depend on the development of these systems.

Operators and communication services are provided with an opportunity to develop their economic activities independently and now on the territory of the Republic, in parallel with the monopolist enterprise (as the JSC "Kyrgyztelecom"), work operators providing services of mobile, cellular and radio telephone, telegraph communication, personal radio calls, data transfer, dissemination of telecommunication radio programs and others. All types of activities in the area of communications are provided on a competitive basis.

In my presentation I mainly mentioned the most important issues concerning transport and communications based on which it is possible to further expand mutually beneficial cooperation.

Thanks for your attention.