



**THE EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN
TO THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM
MISSIONS TO THE EUROPEAN UNION AND NATO**

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**INFORMATION DIGEST OF
PRESS OF UZBEKISTAN # 253
December 23, 2015**

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ECONOMY

Uzbekistan: leasing to farmers

Leasing ranks among the most effective mechanisms to support farmers' movement and promote modernization of agriculture. An Uzbekistan Today reporter has met with the Deputy Chairman of O'zqishloqho'jalikmashlizing Company, Bakhodir Ruzmetov, to find out about the process of development of the financial mechanism in Uzbekistan.

"Today, our company provides leasing services to more than 37,000 farms, machine and tractor fleets, alternative machine and tractor fleets and enterprises under O'zdonmahsulot and Qishloqhujalikkimyo companies. In particular, over the past decade our company has supplied them with 52,200 items of technical equipment worth more than 1.4 trillion soums (*currency rates of CB RU from 23.12.2015 1\$= 2794.98 soums*).

Stimulation of farms makes the farmers true owners of their land and modern equipment and technologies. They are provided with a range of benefits if they want to lease technical equipment. The annual interest rate for leasing has decreased from 12 to 4.5%. The fact that the lease term is three years and that the equipment is delivered in the shortest possible terms after a deal is reached and advance payment is made is advantageous for farmers.

Each year has been demonstrating the growing need in leasing of equipment, and the expanding range of the machinery. 56 kinds of equipment have been presented this year, against 30 in 2011. In the first nine months of 2015, sales have been dominated by tractors and combines, which accounted for 35-40% and 15-20% of the total supply of agricultural machinery leasing accordingly. During the reported period, 932 tractors have been purchased. The bulk of them was delivered to Khorezm (85), Namangan (71) and Samarkand regions (71).

The number of agricultural machinery and equipment delivered varies as follows: the largest number of machines was purchased in Syrdarya region (415), Samarkand (401) and Kashkadarya (282) regions, while the lowest - in Andijan (163), Navoi (169) and Fergana (173) regions.

The tendency promises to retain until the end of the current year. The development of the production of many types of tractors and combines in Uzbekistan has entailed the decrease in their prices, so the farmers have been purchasing more of them. Tractors and mini-machinery are particularly popular now, so it is easy to lease them on favorable terms.

A dramatic expansion of territories of horticultural farms from 2,800 hectares to 55,800 hectares over the recent years throughout the country is another reason of the growth in supply. As a result, the demand for tractors and other specific types of equipment has increased among the farmers and gardeners. The mini-tractors G38, TT-40 and U62, as well as chemical processing units VP-1M and ORPD-12M rank among the most popular types.

A total of 3,400 units of agricultural machinery worth more than 202.6 billion soums have been leased within the reported period. Leasing deliveries have grown by 20.5% against the last year. The company has delivered 690 items of tractors of various brands, 132 plowing tractors, 30 horticultural and transporting tractors, combine harvesters and about 2,500 items of other types of equipment through the leasing.

(Source: «Uzbekistan Today» newspaper)

Pharmaceutical industry of Uzbekistan to produce medicines worth 670 billion soums in 2015

Pharmaceutical products worth 670 billion soums will have been produced by the end of this year in our country, and the rate of production growth in the sector for 2015 will amount to 122% (currency rates of CB RU from 23.12.2015 1\$= 2794.98 soums).

It was announced during a press conference organized by "Uzpharmsanoat" State Joint Stock Concern.

It should be noted that to date, 1447 medicines in 90 pharmacotherapeutic groups and 30 dosage forms, including antihypertensive agents, antispasmodics, vitamins, biostimulants, analgesics, anesthetics, antibiotics, anti-TB drugs, antiseptics, antiparasitic medicines, vaccines, serums and other drugs have been registered in the republic, which cover 43% of domestic demand.

(Source: UzReport.uz)

SOCIETY

Creating Jobs for Everyone

In 2016, it is planned to employ 992,700 people. Who is to get a job and where? Uzbekistan Today has sought answers to this question at the Ministry of Labor and Social Security of the Population.

“To this end, 397 thousand jobs are going to be created with the implementation of targeted programs directed at setting up new and re-equip and modernize the existing enterprises,” said Erkin Avezov, head of the department for the analysis of employment and labor market regulation. “Another 338 thousand jobs will emerge with the establishment of small businesses, micro firms and the advancement of private entrepreneurship. The development of home-based, family business and craftsmanship will provide with other 143 thousand new jobs. Over 110,000 posts will be instituted owing to the expansion of farming enterprises. Instrumental in this segment of the market will be privileges and preferences as well as lending programs.

“New next year will see a focus on the tour industry,” the specialist insisted. “In this segment, it is planned to create 10 thousand new jobs through the development of eco-tourism and handicrafts in remote areas of the country.

The major part of those who get employed – 511.5 thousand graduates of educational institutions. There are measures to improve the effectiveness and the full implementation of tripartite agreements between employers, graduates of educational institutions and parents. Some steps are taken boost the effectiveness of commissions for employment issues set up under local authorities.

The expert drew attention to the fact that next year will see the scheme, which was actively tested in 2015, designed to engage young people in entrepreneurial activities. It implies holding open days in colleges for starting a business. It gives graduates the opportunity to register a business entity and obtain permits in just an hour.

Particular attention will be paid to the employment of those who have previously lost their jobs and cannot find a new one. The State Fund to Promote Employment will finance training and retraining of more than 20 thousand people with subsequent employment.

(Source: «Uzbekistan Today» newspaper)

SPORT

Uzbekistan national Fudokan karate-do team wins 19 medals at World Cup

2-6 December, Belgrade (Serbia) hosted the Fudokan karate-do World Championship.

This big sporting event brought together on a tatami more than 2,000 athletes from 52 countries of the world.

The Federation Fudokan karate-do of Uzbekistan headed by Shukhrat Anvarov – owner of a 6th Dan black belt is among the participants of the event. Following the results of the championship, 11 athletes in the national team of Uzbekistan won 6 gold, 4 silver and 9 bronze medals.

(Source: UzReport.uz)

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