



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

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INVESTMENT

Minimal size of foreign stake in joint stock companies set in Uzbekistan

The Government of Uzbekistan set the minimal size of foreign share on the joint stock companies.

The Cabinet of Ministers issues a resolution “On additional measures on attraction of forging investors in joint stock companies” on 21 December.

According to the document, share of foreign investors in joint stock companies should make up at least 15%.

The resolution underlined joint stock companies, which has no foreign investors in the charter capital at the size of at least 15%, should comply with the terms of the resolution by 1 July 2016.

The document said that enterprises, working in production and processing of primary strategic raw materials, natural monopolies and suppliers of socially important goods and services on regulated prices are exceptions.

The joint stock companies, which do not comply with the terms of the resolution, should be reorganized into other organizational forms and will lose tax preferences.

The joint stock companies, share of foreign investors in which makes up from 15 to 33%, will receive tax holidays on income of legal entities, property, accomplishment and development of social infrastructure, single tax payment, mandatory payments to Republican Road Fund.

Foreign investors, possessing share in joint stock companies, are exempted from payment of taxes for received dividends till 1 January 2020.

Joint stock companies with foreign investments are exempt from state fees in applying to the courts with a claim for violation of their rights and legitimate interests with their subsequent recovery from the convicted in line with the relevant court decision.

(Source: UzDaily.com)

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Presented a project of the first Uzbek-Korean Technopark

A delegation of the Korea Institute of Textile Technology has presented a detailed project on construction of the first Uzbek-Korean Technopark in Tashkent, which would significantly increase the export capacity of the industry.

Light industry of Uzbekistan is represented by a wide export line ranging from yarn to finished garments and knitwear. The first export supplies started in 1994. Those days, the export volumes of textile, garment and knitwear products amounted to \$8 million. According to estimates, they will exceed \$1 billion in 2015, five percent up from 2014.

To date, the supply of semi-finished and other textile articles has increased by 10%, and supply of those with high added value – by 19%. Light industry companies have started exporting new kinds of products, including modal and mixed yarn, new types of finished garments.

China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkey and certain European Union countries have been major importers of the Uzbek light industry. Enterprises of the industry have been exporting their products to a total of 45 countries, with branches in ten countries. They have facilitated direct business contacts with textile associations and leading companies in Belgium, Britain, Germany, India, Italy, Malaysia, Singapore, Switzerland, South Korea and other countries.

The project of a unique Uzbek-Korean Technopark promises to mark a new stage in the development of the sector. According to the Director of the Korea Institute of Textile Technology Park Yong-hwan, a project cost totals \$15 million.

“These funds will be invested in construction and installation works, in the purchase and installation of manufacturing equipment, and training maintenance staff of the technology park. I think that joint work will strengthen cooperation between Uzbek and Korean specialists,” he said.

The Korean side has presented the preliminary plan for the high-tech three-and five-storey office buildings, and a separate two-storey building with a basement part for the pilot production, equipped with solar panels. The park’s total area covers more than 10,000 square meters.

According to the scheme, the territory of more than 4,000 square meters will be occupied by classrooms, conference rooms, exhibition halls, laboratories, offices, a greenhouse and other facilities. The experimental science lab will be located on more than 1.500 square meters, occupied by weaving, knitting, dyeing and finishing, sewing equipment.

The main objective of the project - the transfer of technological know-how and conduct research in the field of materials, dyeing and finishing plants, new kinds of fabrics and clothing, the development of promising technological areas, including in the field of alternative energy sources.

“To date, the Uzbek and Korean side ends with a discussion of some details of the feasibility study of the project. Construction and installation work will be launched in March 2016, and the project is scheduled for completion in 2017,” said in an interview with the head of the Uzbekistan Today “O’zbekyengilsanoat” Sardor Odinayev.

The project’s key objective comes to the transfer of technological know-how and research in the field of material study, dyeing and finishing plants, new kinds of fabrics and clothing, development of promising technological areas, including alternative energy sources.

“The Uzbek and Korean sides are currently finalizing the details of the project’s feasibility study. Construction and installation works will be launched in March 2016, and the project is scheduled for completion in 2017,” said Sardor Odinayev, the head of O’zbekyengilsanoat Company, in an interview with Uzbekistan Today.

(Source: «Uzbekistan Today» newspaper)

HEALTH CARE

At the Level of International Standards

Primary health care institutions are planned to reach international standards in the level of their equipment within the framework of “Health-3” project by the year 2018. This will promote improvement in the quality of medical services at rural health units, family polyclinics, central district and municipal out-patient hospitals, as well as hospital care at municipal and district associations.

An Uzbekistan Today reporter talked to the director of “Health-3” project bureau **Valijon Khakimov** on how the plans are being implemented.

“What needs to be done to achieve the targets?”

“It has been envisaged to provide 517 medical establishments with modern medical equipment and equipment for utilization of wastes and furniture. The list has been determined on the basis of time sheet for fitting out medical establishments of the district and municipal levels. This will enable to create conditions for full coverage of rural and urban population with quality medical care at the level of primary out-patient and in-patient establishments.”

“The project was launched in 2012. What has been thus far?”

“172 district and municipal medical associations with a hospital and an out-patient hospital within its structure, 39 central municipal; medical polyclinics and 173 municipal family polyclinics of the Republic have received medical equipment worth \$39,6 million. Including modern roentgenological equipment in a set with digitizers, which provide an opportunity to conduct roentgen diagnostics without x-ray films with the use of computer technologies, Ultra

sound equipment with color scanners, ECG devices, gastro-fiberscopes, monitors for patients and pulse-oximeters.”

“What further deliveries do you expect in the future?”

“We are planning to furnish medical establishments covered by the project, to the amount of \$40 million. These will include X-ray equipment, dental equipment, vehicles for medical establishments located in remote and hard-to-reach areas. We also plan to procure medical and laboratory furniture, sets of instruments, diagnostic and eye-care equipment and computers.”

“The “Health-3” project also addresses personnel issues. The most complicated direction is transition of the primary chain to the principles of general medical practices. How is the work going on in this direction?”

“Training of physicians, sub-district internists and pediatricians of municipal family and multi-profile out-patient hospitals at 10 months long courses has been continued. Upon successful completion of the course and passing exams they get a new speciality “general practitioner”. If in the past the main contingent of the courses were physicians of rural health units, then now physicians of family and multi-disciplinary policlinics constitute the majority of trainees. Thus, in 2015 specialists of urban family out-patient hospitals made up 47.5% of trainees, physicians of central multi-discipline out-patient hospitals – 24.1%, while in September 2015 another 594 sub-district internists and pediatricians were enrolled at these training courses.

“The program of retraining specialists is being updated on an annual basis. Presentations and handouts were revised in 2014 in accordance with the latest achievements of evidence-based medicine. In 2015, the program of the manual was supplemented with materials in compliance with recommendations of the chief specialists of the Ministry of Health.”

“The “Health-3” project takes an active part in shaping the system of continuous education. What has been done in this direction?”

“Short-term workshops have been conducted in nine current trends of general medical practices for chief specialists of district medical associations of Tashkent and Tashkent region and 226 trainers have been trained. Then we started to train family out-patient physicians. Thus, during the 9 months of this year 2480 physicians of rural health units, family and multi-disciplinary out-patient hospitals and 10372 nurses improved the level of their qualification only in the Tashkent region alone.”

“What about training other specialists?”

“For the purpose of rendering efficient medical assistance to children at the level of central district out-patient hospital is was proposed to introduce a strategy of stationary integrated treatment of children’s diseases. For this we had conducted 10 days long workshops for pediatricians of district medical associations of Jizzakh, Navoi, Samarkand and Syrdaryo regions; next on the agenda are trainings for specialists of Namangan, Andijon, Qashqadaryo and Surkhondaryo regions. We also have plans to train nurses of all pediatric wards.

“Brief clinical protocols in four areas: gastroenterology, pulmonology, endocrinology and cardiology have been elaborated for raising the quality of medical services at therapeutical wards under central district hospitals. Workshops have been conducted in training regional trainers, which will in their turn hold short-term seminars for physicians of therapeutical profile in six directions, which will be introduced at central district hospitals following training of medical nurses of therapeutical wards of district medical associations.”

“There is a need for further improvement of healthcare establishments’ management and financing systems for achieve maximum efficiency ...”

“We keep working on the improvement of strategic planning and perfection the financial management system at the healthcare establishments, including those at the primary care, district and regional management levels. We also continue gradual spread of per capita funding for all municipal family out-patient hospitals of the Republic and testing of hospital payment system based on contracts depending on the cost of medical services. An information healthcare

management system is being elaborated in support of testing the system of hospital funding. The program of management training of healthcare establishments directed towards raising the potential of managing medical institutions and their financial systems has been expanding on a stage-by-stage basis.”

(Source: «Uzbekistan Today» newspaper)

CULTURE

Etirof 2015 Award Winners Named

Representing a wide range of areas like culture, arts, sports, journalism and fiction, 23 laureates of this year's Etirof Awards have been announced at the Istiqlol Palace of Arts in Tashkent.

The traditional prize, Etirof (recognition) is awarded by the Center of Culture and Youth Arts under Uzbekistan's Ministry of Culture and Sports in cooperation with social partners. The nominees included representatives of creative professions whose efforts and endeavors help promote national values and enrich the spiritual life of the people, as well as athletes who have achieved remarkable results.

The outgoing year has been generous to our athletes for bright victories. Among the most notable triumphs were the performances at world championships of the taekwondo master Dmitry Shokin and the judoka Diyora Keldiyorova. No one had displayed such splendid outcomes in these sports previously. Hence, it came as little surprise when the two were named winners in the categories “The Athlete of the Year” and “The Queen of Sports of the Year”, respectively. The honorable title “The Paralympic Athlete of the Year” went to Husniddin Norbekov, who earned a license to Brazil in the shot put. The Nukus-based sports mentor Jalol Yusupov was announced the Sports Coach of the Year.

“For me, this year was full of surprises, Jalol Yusupov said. “Of course, I feel confident in my trainees. But I did not expect Turabek Tirkashev to become a world champion. The achievements of my students in international arenas have become the appraisal of my contribution to the development of wrestling.”

The reopening of Alisher Navoi State Academic Grand Theater of Opera and Ballet after reconstruction, construction of a new puppet theater in Andijan, the development of cinema, premieres throughout the year have been in the public spotlight. Therefore, the audience waited for the announcement of winners with great excitement. Shirin Mamatova proved second to no one in the category of opera singers, while Gulbahor Yuldasheva excelled in creating historical personages. The Best Actor and Actress awards went to Feruz Burkhonov of the Uzbek State Musical Theater and Shahlo Temirova of the Uzbek National Academic Drama Theater. In the movie segment, the top prizes went to Yulduz Rajabova, best known for the films *Falling Leaves*, *The Tourist*, *The Blow*, and *Shohruh Nasimov*, the audience favorite from the motion picture *Odnoklassniki.ru* and other works.

Among those who earned the Etirof-2015 award were the sculptor Aslanbek Alnazarov, the craftsman Jasur Jumaev, the dancer Dilorom Madrahimova and the ensemble Oibek and Nigora. The award “For merits in the field of arts” went to Nuriddin Khaidarov.

With great interest the audience followed the awarding of musicians. The composer Oydin Abdullaeva, political parties singers Abdurashid Yuldoshev and Malika Egamberdieva were invited on stage to award the winners. Nuriddin Khamrokulov was recognized as the best among performers in the national style.

Among the honored that evening were colleagues of ours, too. “The producer of youth programs of the year” went to Bakhtiyor Safarov; the luckiest ones among the nominees of radio anchors proved Ibrokhim Akhmedov, and Jamshid Umrzokov of journalists.

(Source: «Uzbekistan Today» newspaper)

SPORT

Ravshan Irmatov named as best referee of 2015

FIFA referee Ravshan Irmatov from Uzbekistan received an award for the best referee at the ceremony Globe Soccer Awards.

The Uzbek referee received the award at the ceremony Globe Soccer Awards in Dubai (the UAE). European Club Association (ECA) nominated the candidates to the awards.

The jury of the award included former players, coaches and football specialists, including former Russia coach Fabio Capello.

Argentina and Barcelona striker Lionel Messi was named as the best player, while agent of Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo, Jorge Mendes, received the award for the best agent.

The best club is Barcelona. Josep Maria Bartomeu of Barcelona was named as the best president.

(Source: UzDaily.com)

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