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“Moscow-Tashkent” Teleconference: Much To Learn From Each Other

The “Moscow Days in Tashkent” event hosted a Business Conference on trade, economy and investment cooperation issues in the teleconference format. Participants of the discussion also provided their views on business conditions in the capital cities of Russia and Uzbekistan.

The conference was organized by the Department for External Economic and International Relations of Moscow (DEEIR). The teleconference was participated by over 200 businessmen and government officials from Moscow and Tashkent.

In his welcome address to the participants of the meeting Sergei Cheryomin, Head of the Moscow Government Delegation, DEEIR Head stressed that the current relations of Russia and Uzbekistan could be called not only “strategically important and historically successful, but also model relations from the viewpoint of economic relation development dynamics”. He backed up his statement with specific facts: if in 2022 Uzbekistan had the 35th position on the list of key foreign trade partners of the Russian capital, then by results of the first half of 2024 the Central Asian republic climbed to the 13th position. The trade turnover between Moscow and Tashkent over the first six months of this year amounted to about $1,5 billion.

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- The abovementioned numbers are proof of our successful bilateral cooperation not only on interstate, but also on interregional level. The effective cooperation of the two countries has been propelled by the recent visit of the RF President

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Vladimir Putin to Tashkent.

Throughout the year of 2024 Moscow and Tashkent have actively exchanged their delegations. Hokimiyat top officials regularly met with representatives of various departments of the Government of Moscow. The dialog with Uzbek colleagues was primarily supported by lead experts, engaged in urban infrastructure development issues. Guests were provided with illustrative demonstrations of Russia’s achievements in the areas of digitalization, healthcare and education.

- We are hopeful that the solutions, successfully implemented by Moscow and marked with top international rating positions and awards, our extensive urban planning and development policy experience could be relevant for the capital city of Uzbekistan, - emphasized Sergei Cheryomin.

Rashid Tangriev, acting trade representative of Uzbekistan in the RF, took the floor in the Moscow studio.

- Today in the republic, - he said, - there are more than 3 000 successfully operating joint enterprises with Russian capital. A great credit for this goes to the trade representative office of Uzbekistan. First of all, we have managed to set up active operations of our business mission in Russia, we have developed a rather interesting agenda, very important for both countries, both at the federal level and at the level of interregional cooperation. One of the key activity areas of the Uzbekistan trade mission is to engage business community representatives in implementation of various investment projects in the republic.

According to Rashid Tangriev, today Uzbekistan has established about 25 free industrial zones. The trade mission engages not only businesses, but also regional authorities, the government to identify issues, hindering increase of the trade turnover between our countries, all the more so as leaders of Uzbekistan and Russia charged us with specific tasks.

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- In the near term Moscow and Tashkent expect the trade turnover between the two countries to go up to $10 billion. By 2030 we must achieve $30 billion. These goals are ambitious, but quite achievable, - says the trade envoy of Uzbekistan.

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Igor Kamynin, Russia's deputy trade representative in Uzbekistan, was not as optimistic in terms of achievement of prospective goals. Taking the microphone in the Tashkent studio, he said that "it is an extremely hard task" to increase the trade turnover to $30 billion. Getting this done would require the trade turnover to go up 15% annually. By results of seven months of this year Russia and Uzbekistan reached the amount of $8,7 billion, which is good news for experts. Both capitals are hopeful that the trend will be sustainable and by the end of 2024 the growth will reach up to 25%.

The Russian Foreign Trade Academy, according to Kamynin, has analyzed specific issues in all areas of cooperation, and, as experts say, the expected growth is quite feasible. What are possible sources for this?

- Today business demonstrates its commitment to increasing trade turnover growth rates. Thousands of Moscow companies trade with Uzbekistan, more than 800 of these are small and medium businesses. This points to the fact that there is an active process, where not only large companies are growing. Even Russian companies with micro budgets, small numbers of employees can efficiently work with Uzbekistan and achieve larger trade turnover results, - said Tangriev.

Other participants also spoke at the conference, including Vladimir Goncharevich, OZON deputy managing director, Hikmatullo Nasrullaev, Realsoft IT Company CEO, Dildora Atadzhanova, head of Dalatech System company, Inga Batmanova, System Electric director for cooperation with educational institutions, as well as many others.

Yevgeni Dridze, deputy head of the Department for External Economic and International Relations of Moscow, said that such meetings were quite useful: "We often speak of our achievements, which we consider avantgarde, inimitable. There should be an understanding that we are not unique. This is why the essence of what is happening is not only to share your unique experience, but also to absorb it from others".

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The conference hosted a presentation of a few innovative and key urban infrastructure projects, and also featured talks with interested Uzbek partners to share experience and discuss options to improve cooperation between Moscow and Tashkent.

An important addition to the conference agenda was a visit by Russian representatives to the leading technoparks in Uzbekistan – The Center for Innovation, Technology and Strategy (ITSM), IT PARK Uzbekistan, and also INNO Technopark.

During the Moscow Days in Tashkent, Sergey Cheremin, Head of the delegation, Minister of the Government of Moscow, met with Shavkat Umurzakov, the mayor of the capital of Uzbekistan.

The Uzbek side presented Tashkent’s investment potential, including the Yangi Avlod industrial zone and an intellectual transport system project.

Sergey Cheremin, in his turn, spoke about Moscow’s projects in education, healthcare, transport and social sphere projects.

In 2025 authorities of the two capital cities plan to conduct Moscow Days in Tashkent and Tashkent Days in Moscow. Russian and Uzbek businessmen will discuss new results of their cooperation.

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