



## Section 5. Regional Economy

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### KARAKALPAKSTAN — CHINA: PROMISING JOINT PROJECTS

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#### Abstract

The article examines the dynamics of cooperation between the regions and assesses the potential of joint initiatives in various areas such as infrastructure, energy, agriculture, science and ecology. The author discusses the importance of deepening interaction between Karakalpakstan and China to achieve mutual benefit and sustainable development. The article calls for further cooperation and exchange of experience in the implementation of promising projects, taking into account the interests of both sides and the preservation of the region's natural resources.

**Keywords:** *investment, cooperation, agriculture, machinery, infrastructure, business forum*

#### Introduction

Cooperation between regions is of strategic importance in the modern world, especially in the context of economic, scientific and cultural development. In this context, the interaction between Karakalpakstan and China is a vivid example of a dynamic and multifactorial partnership. Both regions have unique opportunities and resources, which, combined, can contribute to the creation of a favorable platform for mutually beneficial development.

In recent years, both sides have shown increasing interest in expanding their interaction in various fields, from economics to cultural exchanges. This interest is based not only on economic and political benefits, but also on the desire to cooperate in addressing

common challenges such as infrastructure development, energy security, and environmental protection.

#### Main part

In today's world, cooperation between countries plays a key role in economic development, social stability, and cultural exchange. Cooperation in the field of agriculture is particularly important, which not only ensures food security, but also contributes to strengthening international relations.

In this context, it is worth highlighting a significant online meeting held at the State Committee of Veterinary and Livestock Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan with a representative of the Chinese company "Tianjin Kaiteng Investment Group Co,

Ltd” and Professor Wang Wenjie. The discussion of a promising project on the creation of an agricultural research and production park in the Republic of Karakalpakstan became an important step in deepening cooperation between Uzbekistan and China.

For these purposes, the necessary land area has been allocated in Kegeyli district, and organizational work is underway to import seeds of fodder crops from China. The project is planned to be fully realized in 2021–2024. Its total cost is 90 million US dollars, more than 450 jobs are planned to be created here. Once the cluster starts working at full capacity, 20,000 cattle, five million Beijing ducks and 500 tons of shrimp will be raised here annually (URL: <https://uza.uz/ru/posts/240683>).

This project is not only aimed at developing the agricultural sector in the region, but also represents a prospect for creating new jobs and increasing agricultural production. The desire to introduce modern technologies and strengthen trade and economic ties confirms the importance of this cooperation for both countries.

Agriculture plays a significant role in the economy of Karakalpakstan, being one of the main pillars of the region’s development. In this context, a group of entrepreneurs from Karakalpakstan participated in the international exhibition of construction technologies, goods and equipment “Constructtech – 2018”, as well as in the Uzbek-Chinese business forum held in Beijing (International Exhibition of Construction Technologies, 2018, <https://uza.uz/posts/132164>).

This event was organized in accordance with the instruction of the President of the country Shavkat Mirziyoyev, who visited Karakalpakstan in December 2017 (Address by President. 2017). The purpose of the trip was to attract foreign investment and develop new projects for agriculture in the region. Cooperation between the Consular Section of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Nukus and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan played an important role in organizing this business trip.

Within the framework of the visit, members of the delegation had an opportunity to

get acquainted with the activities of one of the leading machine-building enterprises of China – “Sany” Corporation, specializing in the production of special construction machinery. This allowed entrepreneurs from Karakalpakstan to gain valuable experience and knowledge about modern technologies that can be applied in agriculture to improve production and increase the efficiency of agricultural work.

Participation of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, in the state visit to Shenzhen on January 25, 2024, was a significant event in the context of the development of economic relations between Uzbekistan and China. During the business program, an important moment was the meeting of the head of the Uzbek state with the chairman of the board of directors of “SANY” company, Xiang Wenbo” (State visit of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. <https://president.uz/ru/lists/view/6992>).

The meeting confirmed the plans of “SANY” company to implement the construction of a wind farm in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, as well as localization of production of components for wind turbines and construction equipment. It is important to note that the head of the Uzbek state instructed to develop a road map to accelerate the implementation of the agreements reached at the meeting.

This step is an important evidence of Karakalpakstan’s aspiration to develop the renewable energy sector and create a favorable investment environment for foreign companies. Cooperation with SANY opens new prospects for the energy infrastructure and economic development of the region, emphasizing the importance of strengthening long-term partnerships between Uzbekistan and China.

The delegation headed by the Chairman of Jokargy Kenes of the Republic of Karakalpakstan A. Orynbayev took part in partnership meetings in the People’s Republic of China on November 23, 2023.

Within the framework of the practical visit of the head of state in October 2023, at the invitation of the President of the People’s Republic of China Xi Jinping, an agreement was reached to adopt a “road map” of joint

projects. The main purpose of the visit was to hold meetings with the heads of major Chinese companies, familiarize with their activities and develop promising cooperation projects.

The members of the delegation for the first time took part in the forum on investment and tourism development within the framework of Karakalpak-Chinese business forum organized at the Embassy of Uzbekistan in Beijing. Meetings with representatives of a number of large companies of China were held at the forum.

Preliminary agreements were reached on organization of marble and gold processing by flotation method with Ji An Tai Technologies, on delivery of passenger transport with Norinco International, on production of equipment for renewable energy with Liaoning Lide Investment Holdings Group Pte. Ltd, as well as on the development of a program to ensure food security in Karakalpakstan with Guangdong Urban & Rural Planning and Design Institute Co. LTD. Also, an agreement worth 1.4 million dollars was signed to expand trade and economic cooperation.

As part of the visit program, Chairman of Jokargy Kenes of the Republic of Karakalpakstan A. Orynbayev and members of the delegation met with Secretary of the Party Committee of Jiangsu Province Xin Changxin to strengthen and develop cooperation.

Detailed information was also provided on the essence and significance of the decrees and resolutions of the head of state on Karakalpakstan, as well as the opportunities created for entrepreneurs.

The guests visited World Group's agricultural machinery manufacturing enterprise in Zhengjiang and familiarized themselves with the products in the exhibition pavilion. At the meeting with the head of the company Zhu Lingzuan, an agreement was reached on

the development of agricultural machinery production in the region, including the Aral Sea region, as well as the establishment of a company for the assembly and maintenance of agricultural machinery in the Republic of Karakalpakstan.

Also fruitful was the meeting with the head of the Board of Directors of Chinese company Jiansu Tiansheng Pharmaceutical Co., LTD Ji Hao, who emphasized the continuation of cooperation and implementation of new projects.

During the visit, meetings of different formats were held with major Chinese businessmen, and cooperation agreements were signed, including four investment agreements totaling \$135.3 million between limited liability companies "Karakalpak sement" and "Shah polan" of Karauzyak district (Visit of the Chairman of Jokargy Kenes. <https://uza.uz/posts/541610>).

### **Conclusion**

The article reviewed promising joint projects between Karakalpakstan and China and identified key areas of cooperation in various fields. Partnership between these regions promises mutual benefits, promoting economic development, cultural exchange and strengthening diplomatic relations. Against the backdrop of dynamic changes in global politics and economy, cooperation between Karakalpakstan and China represents an encouraging prospect for both sides. Support for the introduction of modern technologies, exchange of experience and resources create favorable conditions for the sustainable development of both territories. Thus, the prospects for joint projects between Karakalpakstan and China represent an important element of the global strategy to strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation in the region.

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