

**MINUTES**  
**OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE SAUDI -KYRGYZ JOINT COMMITTEE**  
**(Riyadh, 15 – 16 Jumada II, 1438H corresponding to 14 – 15 March 2017)**

**Introduction**

In accordance with Article 8 of the General Cooperation Agreement between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Kyrgyz Republic, signed on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2014, in Bishkek," a Joint Saudi-Kyrgyz Committee is formed, and based on the very good relations between the two countries;

The First Session of the Saudi - Kyrgyz Joint committee (hereinafter referred to as "the Committee") took place in Riyadh on 14 – 15 March 2017, corresponding to 15 – 16 Jumada II 1438H.

The Saudi delegation was headed by H.E. Eng. Abdulrahman A. Alfadley, Saudi Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture, and the Kyrgyz sided was headed by H.E. Mr. Zhamshitbek Kalilov, Kyrgyz Minister of Transport and Roads.

The Members of both delegations are listed in Annexes 1 and 2.

H.E. Eng. Abdulrahman A. Alfadley delivered an opening speech at the inauguration of the First meeting where he welcomed Minister Kalilov and the accompanying delegation. His Excellency stated that the Joint Commission will widen the horizons of cooperation between both countries across various fields.

H.E. Mr. Zhamshitbek Kalilov also delivered a speech thanking the Saudi Government for its hosting, warm reception and hospitality and pointed out that there are many opportunities for further cooperation between the two countries.

Both sides held a series of comprehensive and constructive meetings in the spirit of mutual understanding and cooperation between the two countries and proposed the following recommendations:

**Commercial and Investment Cooperation**

- 1) Both sides shared the information on the current situation of commercial and investment cooperation between the two countries and emphasized the need to further develop this relation through increasing bilateral trade and investment in both countries.
- 2) The two sides agreed to urge businessmen of both countries to intensify mutual visits to get acquainted with the investment and trade opportunities and make use of the available investment opportunities in particular the industrial opportunities of comparative advantage.
- 3) The two sides agreed to hold commercial and industrial seminars, conferences and trade and exchange economic missions for more cooperation.
- 4) The Kyrgyz side noted the Saudi request to ensure availability of data and information relating to potential investment and commercial opportunities for Saudi private sector to invest in Kyrgyzstan and both sides emphasized the importance of exchange of information in this respect.



- 5) The Saudi side requested to strengthen cooperation with the Kyrgyz Chambers of Commerce, and strive to organize joint events for the introduction of the Saudi Export Program services in order to contribute to the trade exchange between the two countries.

#### **Finance**

- 6) The Kyrgyz side expressed its appreciation for the assistance provided by the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) in the economic development of the Kyrgyz Republic and proposed to consider the possibility of easing the conditions of funding from SFD by providing the development loans with more favorable terms and grants.
- 7) The Saud Fund for Development currently funds two projects in Kyrgyzstan, approved three soft loans to contribute in development projects in Kyrgyzstan. The Kyrgyz side requested that SFD would later contribute in a number of projects in various sectors including agriculture, health, irrigation and roads.
- 8) The Kyrgyz side suggested that SFD, being a part of the Coordination Group, would discuss the possibility of financing "Reconstruction of Balkchy – Ananyevo - Karalol road, 104-220" project, and participate in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Round Table of the Coordination Group.
- 9) The Kyrgyz side also requested the SFD would study the possibility of funding the railway project "Balykchy – Kochkor – Kara – Keche" and the CASA 1000 project (Central Asia – South Asia 1000MW).
- 10) Both sides decided agreed to further discuss future funds provided by SFD through direct negotiations between the two sides.
- 11) Both sides agreed on the following:
  - Consider exchange of credit information and reports pertaining to banks in accordance with national laws of both states.
  - Acquaint the Kyrgyz banks with the funding facilities offered by the Saudi Export Program to Foreign Banks as well as studying cooperation mechanism in the Marketing Credit Facilities Program.
- 12) The Saudi side noted the Kyrgyz desire to consider signing a Memorandum between the National Bank of the Kyrgyz Republic (NBKR) and the Saudi authority in the field of banking supervision and regulation.
- 13) The Saudi side noted the Kyrgyz request to consider the possibility of the participation of Saudi financial institutions in the capital of commercial banks and financial institutions of the Kyrgyz Republic.
- 14) The Saudi side noted the Kyrgyz request to organize technical training in the field of Islamic banks regulation, and to interact and share the experience in the field of banking supervision and regulation.

#### **Labour and Civil Service**

- 15) The Saudi side expressed its desire to negotiate signing an agreement between the two countries in the field of labour force.
- 16) The Kyrgyz side requested to share the experience on social security and pension systems in Saudi Arabia, the current state and development prospects as well as to share experience on the formation of budget revenues of the pension system in Saudi Arabia.
- 17) The Saudi side noted the Kyrgyz desire to sign a bilateral agreement on cooperation in the field of state pension social insurance between the two sides.



## Health

- 18) Both sides agreed to cooperate in the field of epidemiological surveillance and control of infectious diseases during Hajj season, as well as adherence to health requirements issued by the Ministry of Health to all travellers for Hajj and Umrah.
- 19) The Saudi side requested the Kyrgyz side that a team of medicals should accompany pilgrims during Hajj season.
- 20) The Kyrgyz side asserted the need for close cooperation between the Parties in the health sector through the promotion of infrastructure investment projects, including projects on a grant basis and in the framework of public-private partnership.

## Environment, Water, Agriculture and Food Security:

- 21) Both sides requested to explore the possibility of exporting agricultural products (fruits, vegetables, frozen meat, dried fruit, honey) to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and study the possibility of investment in the production of green feed, grain and agricultural products used in the production of processed feed like (barley, corn, soybeans, cottonseed) ..etc. and other products used for compound feed.
- 22) The Kyrgyz side proposed to discuss the establishment of logistics center for processing of meat products in the territory of Chui Oblast of the Kyrgyz Republic for export to Saudi Arabia with the cooperation of the private sector.
- 23) Both sides agreed to exchange expertise in the field of animal production and strategies to enhance animal breed.
- 24) Both sides expressed interest to cooperate in the field of training relating to new laboratory techniques for the diagnosis of animal and poultry diseases.
- 25) Both sides will cooperate on issues related to the management and assessment of environmental effects as well as develop and update environmental standards and procedures.
- 26) Both sides agreed to cooperate in the field of control and observation of water and air quality.
- 27) The Kyrgyz side expressed its desire to study the possibility to cooperate in the field of aquaculture with attraction of Saudi investments as well as to cooperate in the field of livestock breeding (sheep and goat) i.e. the development of a pilot project on a grant basis in Kyrgyz Republic.
- 28) Both sides agreed to share the experience between the national plant protection services.
- 29) The Kyrgyz side expressed its desire to study the possibility of creating joint ventures for processing of agricultural products on the basis of existing and construction of new facilities in the Kyrgyz Republic with the cooperation of the private sector.
- 30) The Kyrgyz side requested to cooperate in the field of investigating the conditions of food processing enterprises in the Kyrgyz Republic.
- 31) For the purposes of cooperation in the field of "Halal industry" the Kyrgyz side requested to consider the possibility of:
  - Assistance in the development of the regulatory framework for halal standards and exchange of experiences on the implementation of regulations and standards of the halal industry.
  - The conclusion of an Agreement on cooperation in the halal industry between the Ministry of Economy of the Kyrgyz Republic and the competent authority of the Saudi Arabia. The Kyrgyz side sent a copy of the agreement to the Saudi side.



- The joint investment with the Saudi Party in poultry farms for the production of halal products.

### **Standards, Metrology and Quality**

32) Both sides agreed to discuss signing a Technical Cooperation Program (TCP) in the field of standardization, metrology and quality assessment between the Center for Standardization and Metrology under the Ministry of Economy of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Standards, Metrology and Quality (SASO) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Kyrgyz side sent a copy of the TCP to the Saudi side.

### **Energy, Industry and Mineral Resources**

33) Both sides agreed to:

- Exchange of expertise and experience in the field of electric energy.
- Discuss obstacles hindering the flow of products between the two countries.
- For more cooperation, hold commercial, industrial and development of renewable energy seminars and conferences.
- Consider the possibility of exchange of experience in the field of geology and mining.
- Study the possibility of familiarization of experts from the Kyrgyz Republic with the innovative methods of geological and mining operations using modern technologies.

### **Aviation:**

34) Both sides agreed to urge the national carriers in both countries to study the feasibility of flying direct flights between the two countries.

35) Both sides agreed to resume transportation of Kyrgyz pilgrims based on the Hajj instructions governing the carriage of pilgrims by air, which is annually published.

### **Education**

36) Both sides highlighted the necessity to encourage cooperation in the fields of education and scientific research, in particular applied fields between universities and research centers.

37) The two sides agreed to cooperate in the fields of mutual interest and coordinate between education authorities in the two countries, through exchange of visits of education officials, as well as exchange of expertise between education institutes in scientific, technical and administrative fields between education institutes in the two countries.

38) Both sides will encourage cooperation in the fields of scientific research, capacity building of trainers, university publications, books, joint educational programs between universities and research centers and participate in cultural-educational events and scientific workshops, seminars and conferences.

39) The Saudi side noted the Kyrgyz request that research institutes would conduct interactive computer representations of Kyrgyz and Arabic languages.

40) Both sides agreed to consider methods to encourage youth to join technical and vocational training and continuing education.

41) Both sides expressed interest in studying the possibility of creating "Arab Center" at the International University of Kyrgyzstan in Bishkek with the support and assistance of Al-Imam Muhammad Ibn Saud Islamic University in Riyadh.



#### **Information, Culture, Sports, Youth and Tourism:**

42) Both sides agreed to:

- Study cooperation in exchange of news packages between national news agencies of Saudi Arabia and Kyrgyz Republic.
- Discuss cooperation between the two countries in the field of TV and radio transmission.
- Negotiate signing a joint memorandum between both sides in the field of audio-visual products exchange.
- Explore the possibility of officials' mutual visits in official media sector.
- Organize culture days in both countries.
- Participate in books fairs, art festivals, traditional and folklore occasions in both countries.

43) The Kyrgyz side expressed its desire to submit a draft of a memorandum of understanding in the field of printing and publishing information. The Saudi side stated that it will study the memorandum of understanding and respond through diplomatic channels.

44) Both sides exchanged a draft agreement in the field of sports. Negotiations is still undergoing to reach a suitable version for both sides.

45) The Saudi side expressed its desire to negotiate cooperation in the fields of handicrafts and exchange of visits to explore the fields of cooperation in tourism and national heritage.

46) Both sides agreed to hold training camps for national sports in the territories of the two countries.

#### **Religious Affairs**

47) Both sides agreed to work out the following issues of cooperation:

- Exchange of administrative information and technical experience relating to construction and maintenance of mosques.
- Cooperation between research and studies centers involved in contemporary Islamic issues.
- Exchange of information relating to the publication of the Quran.
- Exchange of visits to attend Islamic and cultural occasions held in the two countries as well as exchange of information pertaining to management of Islamic centers abroad.

48) The Kyrgyz side expressed its interest to get acquainted with the processes of registration and dissolution of marriage according to the law and according to Islamic legislations.

#### **Consular Affairs:**

49) The Kyrgyz side requested the Saudi side to study the possibility of reducing the consular fees paid by Kyrgyz citizens upon obtain a visa to Saudi Arabia, since Kyrgyzstan applies a 60 days non-visa regime for Saudis (among other nationalities). This request is for the promotion of investment flow, development of tourism and comprehensive activation of bilateral relations between the two countries.

#### **Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding:**

50) Both sides urge the concerned authorities to take necessary steps to expedite finalizing the following:

- Draft Agreement on the Promotion and Protection of Investment.

- Draft Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Tourism.
- Draft Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation in the field of Prevention and Response to Emergency Situations.
- Draft Agreement for Cooperation in the fields of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries.

**Date and venue of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Joint Committee.**

Both sides agreed to convene the Second Session of the Saudi-Kyrgyz Joint Committee in the Kyrgyzstan at a date to be agreed upon later through diplomatic channels.

The two sides commended the brotherly spirit that prevailed during the meetings of this session in a manner that reflected the depth of the historical relations between the two countries and the strong desire of both countries to develop their cooperation in fields of common interest for the benefit of all. Both sides agreed to develop the role of the joint committee as an effective and important mechanism to expand cooperation across all relevant fields to broader horizons.

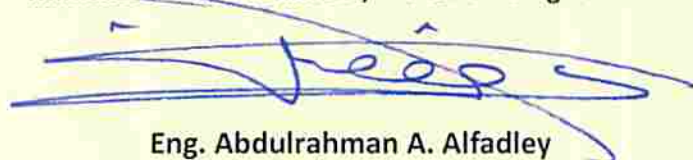
To this effect, both sides further emphasized the importance of continuous follow-up, consultations, and contacts between the concerned ministries and institutions in the two countries via diplomatic channels.

**Signing the Minutes of the Meeting for the 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the Saudi-Kyrgyz Joint Committee.**

Done and signed in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 16 Jumada II, 1438H corresponding to 15th March 2017, in two originals in the Arabic, Russian and English languages, the three texts being equally authentic, in case of disagreement on the interpretation or implementation of these Minutes, the English Language version supersedes the other version.

**For the Saudi Side**

~~Minister~~ of Environment, Water and Agriculture



Eng. Abdulrahman A. Alfadley

**For the Kyrgyz Side**

Minister of Transport and Roads



Mr. Zhamshitbek Kalilov,