

The unique geographical location of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and its vicinity with countries such as China, India, Iran, Pakistan and Central Asia define its extraordinary geopolitical and economic significance. Afghanistan, which is located in the "Heart of Asia", is a true bridge for the strengthening of beneficial regional economic and trade cooperation in a long-term perspective.

In this regard, a Symposium of Regional Scholars will be organized at the margins of the Fifth Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan, to be held in Dushanbe on 26-27 March 2012. The Symposium is aimed at focusing on the important topic "Afghanistan and Perspectives of Future Regional Economic Cooperation". Active and effective economic and social integration in the region, especially through the establishment of transit corridors and of an integrated energy grid, is one of the key, efficient factors in the rebuilding of Afghanistan's economy and in promoting political and social stability in the country.

During the Symposium three Roundtables on the following themes will be conducted:

1. The role of international and regional integration processes in the social and economic development of Afghanistan.
2. Regional cooperation in the forming of international transit corridors and an integrated energy grid.
3. Regional trade and economic cooperation: current situation and perspectives.

The following issues will be discussed at the Symposium:

Ways to strengthen international and regional integration processes for the economic and social development of Afghanistan;

The coordination of international and regional integration processes among countries and multilateral organizations involved in the economic and social development of Afghanistan;

The strengthening of regional cooperation to form international transit corridors and consideration of joint projects in this field;

The need to establish an integrated energy grid;

Status and perspectives of current regional economic and trade cooperation;

Ways to reduce and eliminate negative impacts of the world financial crisis;

Ways to activate regional economic and trade cooperation among countries and multilateral organizations, etc.



Scholars' Symposium on Afghanistan and Prospects of Regional Economic Cooperation March 26-27, 2012, Dushanbe

26 March, 2012
11.00-13.00
Building #8

Roundtable 1
“The role of international and regional integration processes in the social and economic development of Afghanistan”

Moderator:
Dr. Sham Bathija, Senior Economic Advisor to the President of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.
Rapporteur:
Mr. Istvan Nyitrai, Deputy Head of Mission, Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Tajikistan.

Presentations:

- **Intraregional Integration Processes and Development of Afghanistan**, by Academician Qayumov Nuriddin – Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan.
- **An Afghan Perspective on How to Benefit from Regional Economic Integration**, by Dr. Hamidullah Farooqi - Associate Professor, Faculty of Economics, Kabul University, Afghanistan.
- **The Role of International and Regional Integration Process in the Social and Economic Development of Afghanistan**, by Professor Wang Xu – Center for South Asian Studies, Peking University, China.
- **Requirements for a Regional Integration Process Furthering Afghan Economic Development**, by Mr. Marvin Weinbaum - Professor emeritus of political science at the University of Illinois, USA.

12.50-13.00

Photo session at the entrance of the building #8

12.50-13.00

Lunch (Saodat Tea-House)

26 March, 2012,
15.00 - 18.00
Building #8

Roundtable 2
«Regional cooperation in the forming of international transit corridors and an integrated energy grid»

Moderator:
Mr. Suhrob Sharipov – member of Parliament of the Republic of Tajikistan
Rapporteur:???

Presentations:

- **Role of Afghanistan in the International Transit Corridors and Integrated Power Grid**, by Mr. Mahmoud Saikal – Regional Studies Expert, Afghanistan.
- **Role of Tajikistan in Development of Transit Potential of Afghanistan**, by Professor Boboev Olimjon – Director, Institute of Economy and Demography, Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan.
- **Tajikistan, the Potential Power Supplier for Afghanistan and South-Asia**, by Mr. Inagaki Fumiaki – Senior visiting researcher, Keio institute of SFC, Keio University, Japan.
- **Public-private partnership development in Kazakhstan**, by Mr. Medgat Olzhayev – Department of PPP Development, Kazakhstan Public-Private Partnership Center.
- **Expanding Regional Economic Cooperation: Illusion or Reality?** by Dr. Fardeen Hashemi – Professor, Mashal University, Afghanistan.

27 March, 2012
09.00 - 11.00
Building #8

Roundtable 3
«Regional trade and economic cooperation: current situation and perspectives»

Moderator:
Academician Ilolov Mamadsho, President of Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan.
Rapporteur:
Mr. Nassim Jawad, UN Food and Agricultural organization Coordinator in the Republic of Tajikistan.

Presentations:

- **Regional Trade and Economic Cooperation: Bridging Intraregional Barriers**, by Prof. Martha Olcott – Senior Associate with the Russia and Eurasia Program at the Carnegie Endowment in Washington, USA.
- **The Role of Tourism in Promoting Regional Economic Cooperation**, by Dr. Aziz Ahamad Panjshiri – Professor of Kabul University, Afghanistan.
- **Status and Perspectives of Current Economic and Trade Relations of Afghanistan and Turkey**, by Dr. Sidika Basci – Institute of strategic thinking, Turkey.
- **Issues of Trade Cooperation between Tajikistan and Afghanistan**, by Ms. Karimova Mavzuna – Institute of Economy and Demography, Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan.