

ACTIVITIES OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

June 27

Deputy Speaker of the Jogorku Kenesh (JK) Asiya Sasykbaeva met with a Member of the Japanese House of Representatives Yoshiaki Harada. The meeting was convened to discuss prospects for cooperation, including inter-parliamentary cooperation, between the two countries. Deputy Speaker Sasykbaeva emphasized that President Atambaev's 2013 visit to Japan had opened a new page in the development of bilateral cooperation between the countries, noting that "Kyrgyzstan pays great attention to strengthening international connections with Japan; our relations are improving each year." She emphasized the special role played in Kyrgyzstan by the Japanese Agency for International Cooperation (JICA), which has supported various infrastructure projects. MP Yoshiaki Harada also noted the development of a close relationship between Kyrgyzstan and Japan, highlighting that the two countries share great potential for cooperation, specifically in the areas of energy, industry, food production, and environmental protection. MP Harada also expressed his gratitude for the support provided by Kyrgyzstan in the aftermath of the 2011 earthquake in Japan,

June 29

The JK Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE PA) took part in committee meetings leading up to its 23rd annual plenary session. The annual session, which this year took place in Baku, Azerbaijan, began with opening speeches and remarks delivered by Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, President of the Swiss Confederation and OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Didier Burkhalter, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Ranko Krivokapic, Speaker of the Parliament of Azerbaijan Ogtay Asadov, Speaker of the Russian State Duma Sergey Naryshkin, and Deputy Chair of the Ukrainian Verkhovna Rada Ruslan Koshulynskyi.

On June 29, the Kyrgyzstani delegation, composed of MPs Roza Aknazarova, Omurbek Tekebaev, Chynybay Tursunbekov, Anvar Artykov, and Ulugbek Kochkorov, took part in committee meetings. JK MP Aknazarova currently chairs the OSCE PA Committee on Economic Issues, Science, Technology and Environment. During the committee meeting, she proposed amendments to the Committee Resolution on

climate change, which affects mountains, forests, agriculture, biodiversity, and the incidence of natural disasters and ecosystem damage across the OSCE's area of interest.

MPs Tekebaev and Tursunbekov participated in the session of the Committee on Political Issues and Security and MP Artykov attended the meeting of the Committee on Democracy, Human Rights, and Humanitarian Issues. The committees will continue working until July 2, 2014, when their sessions will be followed by a general plenary session of the OSCE PA.

JK PLENARY SESSIONS

June 30

The JK adopted the bill ratifying the Agreement on agricultural processing equipment in its third reading. Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation Taalaybek Aidaraliev presented the bill "On Ratifying the Agreement between the Kyrgyz Government and the Government of the Republic of Poland on providing an Assistance Loan, signed June 24, 2014, in Bishkek." The Agreement provides an investment loan with a 25-year repayment period at an annual interest rate of 0.15%, with a five-year interest-free grace period. The loan principal will be repaid from April 15, 2019 to October 15, 2039. The Kyrgyz Government will use the borrowed funds to purchase agricultural processing equipment which will subsequently be leased to agricultural enterprises for periods up to seven years. The final interest rate for the recipients will amount to 7% per year. The leasing agreements will require a down payment not less than 15% of the total value of the equipment, but will not require collateral to be pledged. The loan funds will be directed to such areas of agricultural development as cattle identification (16 million Euro), the purchase of agricultural equipment for food processing (22 million Euro), and construction of a food science laboratory (2 million Euro). The bill was adopted in its third reading.

The JK adopted the bill "On Biometric Registration of Kyrgyz Citizens" in its third reading. The bill was presented by the Chair of the JK Committee on Human Rights, Constitutional Legislation and State Structure, MP Natalia Nikitenko. The bill's stated objective is establishment of a database of the biometric data of Kyrgyz citizens in order to compile accurate voter lists. The bill will also build a legal foundation for regulation of inter-departmental relations with regard to the collection, maintenance, use, processing, actualization, and protection of citizens' biometric data. The bill was adopted in its third reading.

The JK discussed the bill "On Amendments and Additions to the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic 'On Customs Tariffs'" in its third reading. MP Mayramkul Tilenchieva reported on the bill, which proposes reducing to zero 48 commodity subheadings, including raw materials used in the production of juices and soft drinks, certain kinds of confectionary fats and oils, fabrics, furniture fitting elements, certain fire-

retardant materials, and raw materials and equipment used for the construction and reconstruction of ferroalloy furnaces. The bill was adopted in its third reading.

The official ceremony closing the Parliament's current session took place at the JK. In compliance with Article 77 of the Constitution and Article 34 of the JK Rules of Procedure, JK Speaker Asylbek Jeenbekov declared the Parliamentary session closed. Before the formal closing, Speaker Jeenbekov reported on the activities of the session. According to him, during the period from September 3, 2013 to June 30, 2014, the JK held 74 plenary sessions and discussed 265 bills. 176 of those bills were adopted by the Parliament and 137 of those were signed by the President. In addition, the Parliament adopted 873 resolutions and 73 protocol requests, all of which concerned urgent issues in Kyrgyzstan. The adopted bills and resolutions included the Military Doctrine, normative and legal documents on border security, development of the state language, construction of strategic roads, modernization of the energy sector, and many others. Speaker Jeenbekov reminded his colleagues that the Kyrgyz Parliament also celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2013. When mentioning the international activities of the Parliament, Speaker Jeenbekov emphasized that the JK has received Partner for Democracy status from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and has conducted successful inter-parliamentary activities within the Commonwealth of Independent States as well as the Eurasian Economic Community.

Speaker Jeenbekov stressed the openness of all JK activity by revealing how the discussions of urgent issues, such as the Kumtor gold mine negotiations, the sale of KyrgyzGaz, and the State Directorate on Reconstructing Osh and Jalal-Abad, have been accessible to the broader public through mass media coverage. Speaker Jeenbekov described the MPs' work in this session as successful and stated that a report on the JK activities would be available online at the official website of the Jogorku Kenesh. Speaker Jeenbekov thanked MPs and staffers of the JK Administration, wished success to the Government in its work, and highlighted that all issues and bills submitted by the Government have been discussed at the Parliament. In his closing remarks, Speaker Jeenbekov greeted all present with the holy month of Ramadan. "May all our positive wishes be fulfilled. I am sure Kyrgyzstan will become a strong and flourishing state, and our people will live in prosperity and harmony. I sincerely believe in this, because our country has great potential," he concluded.

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