



Kazakhstan Country Update #14 January 2007

Kazakhstan Country Updates provide information about recent developments, decisions, and civil society activities related to International Financial Institution (IFI) involvement in Kazakhstan including that of the World Bank (WB), International Finance Corporation (IFC), International Monetary Fund (IMF), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and Asian Development Bank (ADB). If you would like to be included or removed from the distribution list, please email the moderator, George Holliday at gholliday@bicusa.org. Correspondence with BIC may be conducted in Russian.

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I. IFI Project Activities

EBRD to hold board meeting to approve new manufacturing project on January 23

The proposed project will increase paper manufacturing capacity and support a corporate restructuring. As part of the restructuring, the paper-making assets of the JSC "Kazakhstan Kagazy" will be transferred into a new company called "Kagazy Recycling", which will be responsible for developing the Group's paper business. The investment in expanded and new capacity will help satisfy rapidly increasing demand for paper products in the Country, which is presently outpacing supply capability.

- [Project Summary Document, Kazakhstan Kazagy](#) (EBRD website)

ADB considers Second Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project in Kazakhstan

This proposed project asks the ADB for \$50 million loan to improve water supply, sanitation, and waste management in rural Kazakhstan. The ADB plans to review the project for approval in 2008.

- [Project Information Document](#) (ADB website)

EBRD decides against involvement with controversial Sakhalin II project in Russia

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) has decided not to fund the largest oil and gas project in the world, Sakhalin II, on Russia's Far Eastern island after several years of consultations. Also, read earlier events on the development of the project.

- [EBRD withdraws from Sakhalin project](#), January 16, 2007 (BIC website)

- [Russian authorities' complaints jeopardize Sakhalin project](#), October 27, 2006 (BIC website)

II. IFI Consultations and Policy Updates

Kazakhstan and World Bank Sign Memoranda of Understanding

The Republic of Kazakhstan signed two memoranda of understanding with the World Bank on Friday that aim to further modernize the country's economy and strengthen the oversight of its extractive industries revenue. Astana, December 4, 2006

- Press release: [Kazakhstan and World Bank Sign Agreements To Modernize Economy And Increase Revenue Transparency](#) (World Bank website)
- Bank Information Center Update: [Kazakhstan and World Bank Sign Memoranda of Understanding](#) (BIC website)

EBRD approves Kazakhstan Country Strategy November 21, 2006

- [Country Strategy for Kazakhstan, English](#) (EBRD website)
- [Country Strategy for Kazakhstan, Russian- русский](#) (EBRD website)
- [Summary of Public Comments for the country strategy](#) (EBRD website)

The IMF takes a trip to Kazakhstan to assess the country's macroeconomic situation

An IMF mission team visited Kazakhstan during October 16 - 20, 2006 to conduct discussions on the latest macroeconomic situation and policies. The report from the trip can be found on the IMF site.

- [Concluding Statement of the 2006 IMF Mission](#) (IMF site)

ADB opens Consultations on New Energy Policy June 2006

The Asian Development Bank launched consultations for a new energy policy in Manila, the Philippines. These consultations are said to be ongoing.

- [Press release](#), (ADB website)

EBRD Annual Meeting Set for May 20-21 in Kazan, Russia

The EBRD has finalized plans to hold its Annual Meeting in Kazan, Russia. Soon online registration will be available. NGO and press registration is necessary. Follow the progress on the Annual Meeting on the EBRD site.

- [Annual Meeting homepage](#) (EBRD site)

ADB publishes Core Labor Standards Handbook, October 2006

This handbook discusses how to abolish child labor, eliminate discrimination, as well as forced labor, and addresses freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining. It also looks at incorporating core labor standards in country strategies and programs as well as in project design and implementation. The full report can be downloaded from the ADB site.

- [Core Labor Standards Handbook](#) (ADB site)

III. Civil Society Activities

National Budget Group of Azerbaijan travels to Washington, DC and New York

The National Budget Group of Azerbaijan held a press conference at the International Press Center on December 7, 2006 devoted to the results of the study tour to Washington DC and New York. The trip was in part made possible by Revenue Watch Institute, and featured meetings with the World Bank Group and the IMF.

- [Press release](#) (NBG website)

Global Transparency Initiative comments on EBRD draft disclosure procedures

On December 6, 2006, the Global Transparency Initiative (GTI) submitted comments to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) regarding their draft [Public Information Policy: Implementing Procedural Provisions for Information Requests and Appeals](#).

- [GTI comments on EBRD draft of Public Information Policy](#), Bank Information Center Update (BIC website)

BIC's ECA Program releases new publications

BIC offers new publications on transparency: a guide to the policy weaknesses in the IFIs, a public disclosure agreement project, and the Extractive Industries Implementation Status Report.

- [Quick Reference Guide to Extractive Industries' Revenue and Contract Transparency at the International Financial Institutions](#) Bank Information Center, December 2006 (Acrobat pdf 73 KB)
- [Public Disclosure of Legal Agreements in EBRD Extractive Industry Projects](#) Bank Information Center, December 2006 (Acrobat pdf 39 KB)
- [EIR Implementation Status Report: World Bank commitments on Revenue and Contract Transparency](#) Bank Information Center, April 2006 (Acrobat pdf 65 KB)
- [Azerbaijan's Continued Dependence on Oil: Concerns surrounding a decade of IFI lending](#) Bank Information Center (BIC website)

Workshop held on the negative gender impacts of IFI sponsored big oil

The conference was sponsored by Gender Action, Heinrich Böll Foundation North America and Bank Information Center on November 29, 2006 at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington, DC. The speakers presented and commented on the results of a study on two IFI sponsored big oil projects: the BTC Pipeline (Azerbaijan, Georgia) and Sakhalin II (Russia).

- [Boom Time or Blues? The Gender Impacts of Big Oil Projects Financed by International Financial Institutions](#). (Gender Action website, Acrobat pdf)

Oslo conference on the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative held in October 2006

October 19, 2006. More than 100 civil society activists from over 50 countries gathered in Oslo, Norway, called for stronger requirements on disclosure of revenues and contracts in the oil, mining and gas sectors.

- [Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative: Bolder steps needed on EI revenue and contract transparency](#) (BIC website)

Global Transparency Initiative releases report on practical uses of IFI transparency

October 12, 2006. This report deftly monitors and analyses the practical and real-world application of the access to information provisions and participatory decision-making processes at the international financial institutions (IFIs).

- [Global Transparency Initiative: GTI Publishes FOI Testing Report on IFIs.](#)

IV. Additional Resources

Previous Country Updates and related reports can be found on BIC's website on the [Kazakhstan page](#). These reports are available in English and in Russian.

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