

Memorandum of Understanding between Almaty and Bishkek city administrations on the Almaty-Bishkek Economic Corridor Initiative

In accordance with the CAREC 2020 long-term strategy approved by countries of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as CAREC) at the 10th Ministerial Conference, which provides for the development of economic corridors, and with a view to implement initiatives on development of the economic corridor between the cities of Almaty and Bishkek, the city administration (*akimat*) of Almaty in the person of the Deputy Head of City Administration, Mr. Murat Tishbekovich Kudyshev, the attorney-in-fact authorized by the PoA #1-51.1438-и dated October 30, 2014, on the one part, and the city administration of Bishkek in the person of the Acting First Vice Mayor, Mr. Zamirbek Tolobayevich Malabekov, the attorney-in-fact authorized by the PoA #KK01/1184-c dated November 3, 2014, on the other part, hereinafter collectively referred to as the Parties, hereby sign this Memorandum of Understanding as follows:

1. SUBJECT OF MEMORANDUM

The subject of this Memorandum is to combine efforts of the Parties for efficient cooperation to promote Economic Corridor development and increase economic activities aimed at creating jobs, diversifying the economy and promoting sustainable development of the cities of Almaty and Bishkek.

Each of the Parties declares that interaction and cooperation between them shall be on voluntary and transparent basis.

2. OBJECTIVES ACCOMPLISHED UNDER THIS MEMORANDUM

For efficient implementation of the Economic Corridor Development Initiative, the Parties hereby agree to pursue jointly the following objectives:

- facilitation of studies to develop the necessary knowledge base to jointly identify suitable areas for mutual cooperation and coordination, including potential investments in appropriate infrastructure projects;
- provision of a platform for the coordinated planning of strategies, sharing information, experiences and ideas for mutual benefit of both cities through the development of the Almaty-Bishkek Economic Corridor;
- developing innovative solutions and approaches based on the sharing of knowledge and experience towards achieving sustainable growth;
- facilitation of cooperation among government and municipal authorities, business organizations and academic institutions with a view to improve the economic content of the Almaty Bishkek Corridor;
- vigorous promotion of, and participation in, activities of the joint working group for development of the Almaty-Bishkek Economic Corridor;

- coordination of efforts in various facets of economic corridor development, including strategic planning, urban infrastructure; innovation, technology and entrepreneurship, business networking, trade and transport facilitation, as well as analytical work for key economic sectors;

- cooperation in the planning of urban spaces with a view to facilitate possibilities of diversification and growth of economic clusters and promotion of private investment;

- creation of conditions for the improvement of investment climate in the cities of Almaty and Bishkek, development of mechanisms for the development of public-private partnerships in the cities and the area along the Economic Corridor.

3. OUTCOMES OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEMORANDUM

Implementation of this Memorandum shall result in:

- creation of a joint working group for implementation of the initiative for development of the Economic Corridor between the cities of Almaty and Bishkek;

- identification of mutually beneficial strategic priorities and opportunities for the development of sectors and industries of the two cities.

4. FINAL CLAUSES

This Memorandum shall become effective upon signature by the Parties.

This Memorandum may be amended, upon consultation between the Parties, by the signing of relevant protocols, which shall be an integral part thereof and become effective upon signature.

This Memorandum is signed in Russian, Kazakh and Kyrgyz languages, each in duplicate having equal legal force. In case of differences in interpretation of provisions of this Memorandum, the Parties hereto shall refer to the text in Russian.

Signed in the city of Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, on November 6, 2014.

**On behalf of
Almaty City Administration**

**On behalf of
Bishkek City Administration**

**Marat Kudyshev
Deputy Head of
Almaty City Administration**

**Zamirbek Malabekov
Acting First Vice Mayor of
Bishkek City Administration**