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8th ALMATY-BISHKEK ECONOMIC CORRIDOR SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

29 May 2024

Progress of Selected ABEC Projects



Structure

1. 10-Year Anniversary of ABEC
2. Connectivity Working Group Meeting
3. Tourism Working Group Meeting
4. Agribusiness Sector
5. Health Sector
6. Air Quality and Disaster Risk Management
7. ABEC Support



1. Ten-Year Anniversary of ABEC

Memorandum of Understanding between deputy Mayors of Almaty and Bishkek was signed in 2014 at the CAREC Ministerial Conference (MC)

To mark the anniversary, the following activities are planned:

- Coinciding with the CAREC Ministerial Conference in Astana in November, ADB President visits both Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic, with project visits, potentially BCPs
- ABEC Anniversary Video
- ABEC Publication (Master Plan for ABEC Cross Border Connectivity)
- Signing of Intergovernmental Agreement on Accommodation Classification System
- High-level commitment to Almaty-Issyk-Kul Alternative Road

10 YEARS ANNIVERSARY



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2. Connectivity Working Group Meeting

Meeting held on 27 February 2024 in Almaty

Discussed the following topics:

- Almaty-Issyk Kul Road PPP Project
- ABEC Regional Improvement of Border Services Project
- ABEC Cross-Border Connectivity Master Plan
- Concept of Joint Border Crossing Procedures and Infrastructure
- Almaty-Bishkek E-bus Project





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3. Tourism Working Group Meeting

Meeting held on 28 February 2024 in Almaty

Discussed the following topics in line with the ABEC Tourism Master Plan:

- ABEC Joint Accommodation Classification System Agreement
- Tourism Statistics
- Professional Standards Development
- Green Tourism Development
- Issyk-Kul Environmental Management and Sustainable Tourism Development Project





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4. Agribusiness

The Kyrgyz Republic

- Feasibility study for two Kyrgyz wholesale markets and supporting agro-logistic centers finalized in end-2022
- Project Team sees
 - effective measures to increase agricultural production, creation of value chain links, and food safety as a priority and started with upstream support
 - The project was re-titled “Climate-Resilient Agricultural Value Chain Development Sector Project (formerly Modern Agriculture Wholesale Market Development Project),” and approved in December 2023 for \$40 million
 - The project will support initial wholesale market initiatives, when effective

Kazakhstan

- ADB support possible upon request of the government or private investor





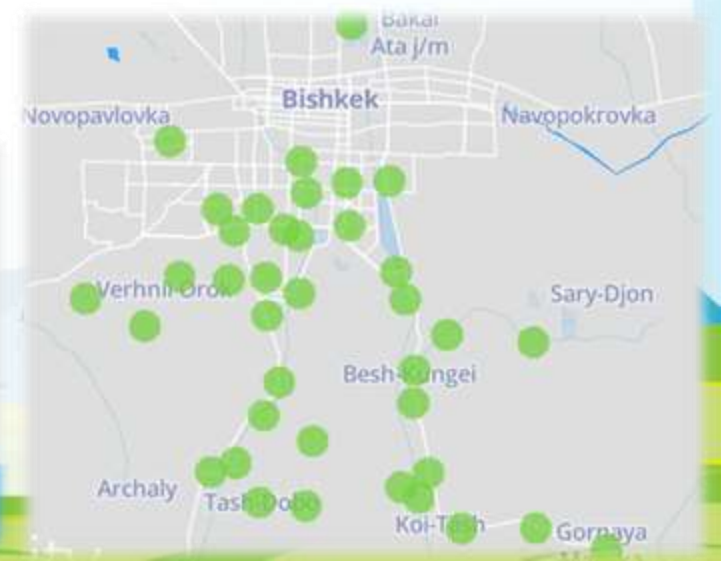
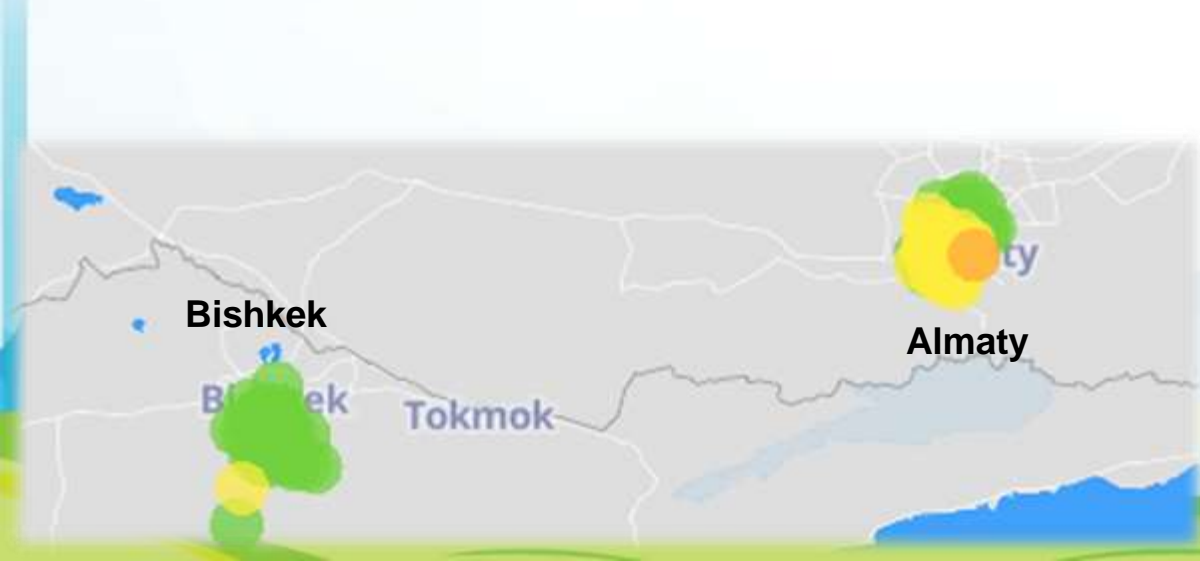
5. Health

- ABEC Action Plan for Development of Reference Laboratories 2022-2024 expires this year
- Kazakhstan: Support for the Scientific and Practical Center for Sanitary and Epidemiological Expertise and Monitoring in Almaty
 - Ventilation Assessment completed
 - Structural Integrity Assessment forthcoming
- The Kyrgyz Republic: Kyrgyz Strengthening Regional Health Security Project (\$30 million) was approved in September 2022 by ADB to:
 - Improve infrastructure and capacity of reference laboratories
 - Cooperate in quality assurance and standardization of reference studies



6. Air Quality and Disaster Risk Management

- 100 Air Quality Sensors report live data
- Clean Air Action Plans prepared for both cities
- ADB continues discussions with Bishkek on further support and relocation of sensors back to polluted areas
- ADB ready to support low emission zones in Almaty
- Disaster Risk Management Team fielded





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7. ABEC Support

- High-Level Support by Kazakh-Kyrgyz Intergovernmental Council and ABEC Subcommittee
- ADB ABEC Support Phase 2 for \$1.9 million and benefitted from ten other ADB grants
- Support from other Development Partners is welcome

10 YEARS



ABEC
Almaty - Bishkek Economic Corridor