



Bishkek International Energy Forum

Transforming the Energy Sector in the Kyrgyz Republic

Towards an affordable and sustainable energy future

April 8th, 2022

Opening Speech by H.E. Olivier Bangerter, Ambassador of Switzerland to the Kyrgyz Republic

Excellency, Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers, Mr. Akylbek Japarov,
Excellency, Minister of Energy, Mr. Doskul Dokmurzaev,
Excellency, Minister of Economy and Commerce, Mr. Daniyar Amangeldiev

Урматтуу айымдар жана мырзалар,

A sustainable energy supply is essential to the development of a country. I am therefore pleased to be with you for the opening of this forum. We are highly grateful to the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and the World Bank for organizing it, and for all the work that has been going on in the sector.

Kyrgyzstan has many water resources and a huge potential for solar and wind energy. However, water resources also suffer from climate change, as we could see last year in Chui Valley and this year in Toktogul reservoir. This has severe consequences for the energy sector at a time where alternative sources of energy are not yet exploited to the level of their potential. Adapting to global climate challenges means **strengthening energy efficiency, increasing the productivity and developing alternative sources.**

We all know that a key challenge to the energy sector development is its **financial sustainability**. In the view of the heavy indebtedness of the sector, with the peak of the re-payments looming ahead, it is indeed essential to improve the financial standing of the enterprises in the sector, as well as to **ensure both sustainable pricing and social**

protection of the poorer among the population. The commitment expressed regularly by the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic to do just that is inspiring.

Уважаемые гости, уважаемые дамы и господа!

This year Kyrgyzstan and Switzerland celebrate the 30 years of our diplomatic relations; it is a time to celebrate but also to build on what has been achieved. Since the 90s, the Swiss cooperation has supported Kyrgyzstan in the energy sector.

These contributions have been in fields such as reduction of losses in the networks, modernization of the hydropower plant in At-Bashi / Naryn and promoting energy efficiency in public buildings.

Switzerland intends to continue this support by associating with the new World Bank program on energy, in line with the Swiss Cooperation Program 2022-2025 by providing **grant funding**. I insist on the word grant. Switzerland does not want to put a further burden of debt servicing on the government or its partners. The point of our funding is on-granting, not on-lending. This is what Switzerland intends to provide, for the benefit of the government and the population in the Kyrgyz Republic.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Last year, the COP26 Conference on Climate Change in Glasgow was another occasion for world leaders to adopt ambitious commitments. His Excellency president Sadyr Japarov presented very ambitious National Dedicated Commitments. We need such ambitious action to curb the effects of climate change. **Green and sustainable energy is part of what needs to be done.** Switzerland intends to contribute to it by its engagement in this beautiful country.

Чоң рахмат!

Большое спасибо!

Thank you!