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Third Regional Central Asian and European Decarbonisation Forum

EVENT SUMMARY REPORT

CO-ORGANISED BY

Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan · GIZ Hydrogen Diplomacy Office Astana (H_2-diplo)
GIZ EURECA · GIZ IKI JET · EBRD

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THE FORUM AT A GLANCE

120+
participants from Central Asia, the South Caucasus, Mongolia, Europe

42%
of participants were women

32
speakers from governments, international organisations, industry and academia

5
panel sessions on security, hydrogen, grids, coal and finance

6
welcoming addresses and keynote speeches

10
key recommendations for policymakers and partners

01
Executive summary



The 3rd Regional Central Asian and European Decarbonisation Forum continued a series of annual policy and industry gatherings co-organised by the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the GIZ Hydrogen Diplomacy Office Astana (H_2-diplo), under the H_2-diplo – Decarbonisation Diplomacy project commissioned by the German Federal Foreign Office and IKI.

The 2026 Forum included three more co-organisers: 1) the “Renewable Energy in Central Asia” (EURECA) project commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and co-financed by the European Union, which focuses on the integration of renewables into the power grids of Central Asia; 2) the Just Energy Transition in Coal Regions (IKI JET) project, commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (BMUKN); and 3) the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

The event brought together more than 120 participants from Central Asia, Azerbaijan, Mongolia and the European Union, representing the public and private sectors, academia, and international organisations. In line with ongoing efforts to promote gender equality in the green energy field, women accounted for 42% of all participants.

Building on the outcomes of the two previous forums, the 2026 Forum explored different aspects of the energy transition and aimed for a pivot from agenda-setting to implementation: translating policy commitments into coordinated regional action, bankable investment projects, and a regional R&D ecosystem.

The Forum helped strengthen dialogue between Central Asian and European partners and identify next steps for cooperation on climate and energy transition.

Key outcomes

SESSION 1	**Energy security and regional cooperation** Participants agreed that energy security and decarbonisation reinforce each other, and that diversifying energy sources, partners and corridors, including the Trans-Caspian Middle Corridor and the Green Energy Corridor with Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan, is a strategic priority for Central Asia and its partners.
SESSION 2A	**Regional hydrogen R&D network** The session confirmed that Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan already have hydrogen laboratories, pilot facilities and research teams, but that these currently work in isolation. Participants called for a regional network that connects research with industry and moves technologies from prototype to practical application.
SESSION 2B	**Regional grid integration** Speakers agreed that Central Asian power systems are physically interconnected and technically compatible. Making full use of them, however, requires better data exchange, regional system planning, common rules for cross-border trade, and more storage and flexibility as the share of renewables grows.
SESSION 3	**Role of coal and just transition** The discussion showed that while coal will remain important within Kazakhstan's energy mix, pathways with more renewables and without new coal would be more economical. It also showed that the health costs of coal are high, and that decarbonising district heating and supporting coal regions must be at the centre of the transition.
SESSION 4	**QaJET and financing the energy transition** QaJET was presented as Kazakhstan's main platform for coordinating investment in 10 GW of new renewable capacity by 2035, together with grids, storage, electrification and renewable heating. Participants agreed that blended finance, de-risking and early planning for workers and communities will be key to its success.

Follow-up actions

1. Following the planned launch of QaJET at COP31 in Antalya, agree on an annual programme of priority projects, including a pilot to convert a coal CHP to renewable heat, with concessional and grant funding mobilised for grids, storage and heating.
2. Establish a regional hydrogen R&D platform and prepare a joint Kazakhstan–Uzbekistan research call on green hydrogen, supported by joint pilot projects such as a hydrogen bus with a refuelling station.
3. Advance data-sharing agreements between national dispatch centres, and continue work on regional system planning, grid codes and training for system operators under EURECA.
4. Continue the dialogue on coal subsidies, district heating and just transition through the discussion formats that IKI-JET will organise in the coming months, and expand public air quality monitoring in coal-dependent cities.
5. Improve the promotion of Kazakhstan's investment climate and the digitisation of its geological data on critical raw materials, in order to attract European and Asian investors into local processing.

02

Welcoming remarks and keynotes



Sanzhar Zharkeshov

Vice Minister of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Vice-Minister Zharkeshov opened the Forum on behalf of the Ministry of Energy and described Kazakhstan's approach to the energy transition as pragmatic and balanced, one in which decarbonisation is increasingly a question of energy security as well as climate policy. He said the Ministry has to balance the energy trilemma of reliable supply, economic competitiveness and lower carbon intensity while electricity demand keeps growing. He noted that Kazakhstan now has about 3.8 GW of renewable capacity and aims to reach a 15% renewable share by 2030 and 50% alternative and renewable energy by 2050. He added that gas-fired generation, including the conversion of Almaty's coal-fired power plants to natural gas, will act as a flexible transitional source that supports the integration of renewables.

He also highlighted regional energy integration and cooperation with Europe. He pointed to the Green Energy Corridor with Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan, the Team Europe Initiative on Water, Energy and Climate, and the Global Gateway as important channels for investment and new technologies. On hydrogen, he said the Hydrogen Energy Concept puts its focus on research, human capital and pilot projects, but the break-even price is still the main barrier. He stressed that closer cooperation between government, business, science and international partners will be key to moving new energy technologies from research into industrial practice.

> ***The Paris Agreement remains an important framework for global climate action, and Kazakhstan remains committed to its climate objectives. At the same time, we believe that the energy transition must reflect the realities of economic development and growing demand for energy.***



Sholpan Shynassylova

Director of the Europe Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan

On behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Shynassylova welcomed participants and pointed to the progress made since the last Forum. This included the launch of the QaJET investment platform with the EBRD at the Regional Ecological Summit in April, and the start of construction of the 1 GW wind power plant with Masdar in the Zhambyl region. She noted that because demand is growing and coal still dominates generation, new renewable capacity must go together with grids, storage and balancing capacity. She added that Kazakhstan remains committed to carbon neutrality by 2060, and that its NDC 3.0 sets more ambitious targets. She also underlined the importance of the Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor and the EU–Kazakhstan roadmap on raw materials, batteries and renewable hydrogen value chains. On this basis, she said, Kazakhstan wants partnerships that bring investment, technology and local value added.

She said that as CBAM enters its definitive phase, Kazakhstan is working to decarbonise industry and strengthen its emissions monitoring and verification, and is also in dialogue with the EU on its methane regulation. She welcomed the World Bank programme approved in January 2026 to establish Central Asia's first regional electricity market. On hydrogen, she noted that the updated concept extends the horizon to 2040 and pays more attention to domestic use in refining, ammonia, transport and storage. She added that a proposed regional hydrogen R&D network could connect Kazakh research with centres in neighbouring countries and Europe.

> ***We remain a reliable energy partner for Europe. At the same time, our cooperation is expanding into renewable energy, critical raw materials, hydrogen, processing, and new technologies.***



Aleška Simkić

Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Kazakhstan

Ambassador Simkić opened the Forum by thanking the Ministry of Energy, the GIZ Hydrogen Diplomacy Office and the organisers, noting that over the past two years the Forum has become a valuable platform for exchange between Central Asia and Europe. She stressed that at a time of geopolitical uncertainty and disrupted transport and energy corridors, energy security and decarbonisation reinforce each other rather than compete. She said that Kazakhstan's multi-vector approach, strong resource base and location between Europe and Asia make it a key partner in building diversified and resilient energy connections, as the growing importance of the Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor shows. She reaffirmed the EU's commitment to the European Green Deal, with a 55% emissions cut by 2030 and climate neutrality by 2050, and noted that this is close to Kazakhstan's own 2060 carbon neutrality goal.

She underlined that the countries of Central Asia share common challenges, such as growing demand, ageing infrastructure and investment needs, and that answering them will depend on regional cooperation through better grid connections, electricity trade, clearer certification standards and stronger investment frameworks. She welcomed Kazakhstan's adoption of NDC 3.0 and said the EU stands ready to support this process through Global Gateway, EU member states and financial partners such as the EBRD and EIB, including through the EU co-financed EURECA project on integrating renewables into Central Asian power systems. She expressed hope that the Forum would lead to concrete partnerships, bankable projects and practical solutions.

> ***Energy security and decarbonisation should not be seen as competing priorities. On the contrary, they increasingly reinforce one another.***



Ullrich Kinne

Chargé d'affaires a.i., Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Republic of Kazakhstan

Mr. Kinne welcomed participants on behalf of the German government, which supports the Forum via its commissioning of H2-diplo. He announced that Germany has extended the H_2-diplo project and its regional office in Astana for another three years, which shows its commitment to green hydrogen in Kazakhstan and the region. He said the Forum has grown from a discussion about the potential of green hydrogen into an exchange on how to actually implement the energy transition. He then set out Germany's wider support: 20 million euros for the just energy transition in the Karaganda region, 20 million euros for a UNDP carbon pricing project, and KfW's work to mobilise 1 billion euros for the 1 GW wind power plant in Zhambyl.

He stressed that climate mitigation remains the priority. He said a stronger emissions trading system in Kazakhstan would make renewable energy more competitive, reduce the need for external financing and, together with cooperation under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, open new opportunities for climate finance. He said this would allow Kazakhstan to create strong momentum towards a low-carbon and eventually zero-carbon future for the region, and that Germany supports these efforts.

> ***The German government has decided to extend the H_2-diplo project and the regional office in Astana for another 3 years. This demonstrates Germany's unwavering commitment and trust in the future of green hydrogen in Kazakhstan and the region.***



Alimzhan Turar

Director, Renewable Energy Department, Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan

KEYNOTE · Kazakhstan's Hydrogen Policy

Mr. Turar gave an overview of renewable energy development in Kazakhstan. The country now has 172 renewable energy facilities with about 3.9 GW of installed capacity, out of about 23 GW in the whole system. He said the share of renewables in generation reached the 7% target by the end of 2025 and rose to 8.1% in the first half of 2026. He called the auction mechanism, used since 2018, the main driver of this growth: about 7 GW have been auctioned, around 260 companies from 14 countries have taken part, and prices have fallen every year. He added that 98 projects with about 3.6 GW are now under implementation and another 1.1 GW was auctioned this year. Large projects under intergovernmental agreements with TotalEnergies, Masdar, China Energy and China Power are also moving forward. Kazakhstan plans to commission at least 8.4 GW of new renewable capacity by 2035, to reach a 15% renewable share by 2030, and to reach 50% renewable and low-carbon energy by 2050. He said all of this will be done while taking into account the needs of the grid, storage and reliable supply.

On hydrogen, he described it as a natural continuation of low-carbon development and a possible new export-oriented industry. He mentioned technical support from GIZ and dena, and the large-scale Hyrasia One project in the Mangystau region, which is being developed by a German company and has a potential of up to 2 million tonnes of green hydrogen per year. He also pointed to domestic steps: a hydrogen atlas, a pilot electrolyser plant, a specialised laboratory, and a new hydrogen competence centre at Al-Farabi Kazakh National University opened with Shanghai Jiao Tong University and China Energy. He added that cooperation with the Republic of Korea is developing. He linked the development of hydrogen to Kazakhstan's NDC 3.0 and to preparing for the EU's CBAM, and noted that the updated Hydrogen Concept, prepared with GIZ support, now runs to 2040 with concrete action plans. He named the next priorities as improving regulation, testing technologies, building domestic expertise, and creating financial and investment mechanisms, all of which need close coordination between government, business, academia and international partners.

> ***…Kazakhstan's goal is to create the necessary conditions for the establishment of a competitive, sustainable hydrogen industry synchronised with national energy development priorities and international climate obligations.***



Leo Goebel

Officer, Energy Diplomacy, Federal Foreign Office of Germany

KEYNOTE · Geopolitics of the Energy Transition and the Role of Green Hydrogen

Mr. Goebel spoke about the geopolitics of the energy transition from Germany's point of view. He noted that recent energy crises, from Germany's costly break from Russian gas to the 2026 LNG disruption, show that heavy dependence on one supplier remains a serious risk. For this reason, Germany now sees the energy transition not only as a climate question but also as a question of security and competitiveness, and green hydrogen brings all three together. Germany's strategy is to electrify whatever it can, but hard-to-electrify sectors such as steel, chemicals and refining will need green hydrogen. After the early hype, when only a small share of announced projects actually went ahead, he said the sector is now moving into implementation with a more realistic view.

He described a multipolar hydrogen market in which each region has its own advantages. Central Asia has large renewable potential, critical raw materials and a strategic position on trade routes to Europe. He said Germany will produce part of its hydrogen at home but will have to import a significant share, and it wants to build diversified partnerships from the start in order to avoid single dependencies. For this reason, Germany has more than 50 international hydrogen partnerships and is looking at several supply routes, including the Trans-Caspian Middle Corridor and the Black Sea. He called Kazakhstan a prime partner, both for hydrogen and for critical raw materials. He closed by describing the role of H_2-diplo as bridging the implementation gap by turning political dialogue into strategies, roadmaps and technical advice.

> ***We are trying to build diversified, resilient partnerships from the very get-go. … Kazakhstan and other Central Asian countries will play a very important role.***

03
Panel sessions

Five panel sessions examined the main pathways of the energy transition in Central Asia: energy security in a volatile geopolitical environment, regional cooperation on hydrogen research and on grid integration, the future role of coal, and the financing of the transition through QaJET.

PANEL SESSION 1

Energy Security in Volatile Geopolitics



MODERATOR

Hendrik Meller, Programme Director, H_2-diplo (GIZ)

SPEAKERS

- **Sanzhar Zharkeshov**, Vice Minister, Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- **Aleška Simkić**, EU Ambassador to the Republic of Kazakhstan
- **Orkhan Zeynalov**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- **Gu Kyoyoung**, 1st Secretary, Head of Economic Department, Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Kazakhstan

Summary

Session 1 looked at how countries in Central Asia and the South Caucasus, together with partners in Europe and Asia, are responding to energy security challenges at a time of geopolitical volatility and disrupted supply routes. The speakers agreed that energy security and the energy transition are now closely linked, and that diversifying energy sources, partners and transport corridors, including the Middle Corridor, has become a strategic priority for the whole region. The discussion showed that interest in the region as a stable partner is growing, but that turning this into real projects will require long-term investment in infrastructure, aligned regulation and standards, and a better investment climate.

Key highlights

Sanzhar Zharkeshov

Vice Minister Zharkeshov said that recent geopolitical turbulence has shown the risk of relying on single routes, while it has also strengthened Kazakhstan's position as a stable partner and raised investor interest in its energy sector. He explained that Kazakhstan is strengthening its energy security by diversifying routes, developing nuclear power and requiring battery storage for all new renewable projects. He emphasised that Kazakhstan should integrate hydrogen into existing and emerging industrial value chains to create higher-value products.

Aleška Simkić

Ambassador Simkić stressed that energy security and the energy transition cannot be separated, and she argued that countries must invest now for long-term benefits, even where projects are not yet commercially viable. On critical raw materials, she called for modern geological data, a better investment climate and more business-to-business contacts, with processing done locally. She presented CBAM and a stronger emissions trading system as opportunities for innovation.

Orkhan Zeynalov

Deputy Minister Zeynalov said that Azerbaijan kept its oil and gas supplies uninterrupted during the recent crisis, which proves the reliability of the Middle Corridor. He outlined plans for 8 GW of renewable capacity by 2032, much of it for export through the Caspian – Black Sea – Europe and Kazakhstan – Uzbekistan – Azerbaijan green energy corridors. He noted that Azerbaijan has postponed large-scale hydrogen until around 2035 because the business case is not yet there.

Gu Kyoyoung

Mr. Gu said that Korea sees Kazakhstan not only as a resource supplier but as a partner to build with, process with and connect with. He presented YPP's planned green hydrogen and ammonia complex in East Kazakhstan, for which transport to Korea is the main challenge. He called for aligned certification standards, stable transport routes and secured buyers before construction begins.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Energy security has become a main driver of the energy transition, and diversifying sources, partners and corridors is now a strategic priority for the whole region.
- The Middle Corridor and new cross-border power links are moving from concept to concrete projects, but port and rail capacity is already under pressure.
- Green hydrogen has strong potential in Kazakhstan, but given the high costs and uncertain offtake, domestic use in hard-to-abate industries should be explored alongside exports.
- Partners expect Kazakhstan to move from raw material exports to local processing, which depends on a better investment climate and access to geological data.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Invest in cross-border grids, interconnectors, ports and rail now, because infrastructure has long lead times and the lack of it is the biggest risk.
2. Align regulation and transmission system operator rules across the corridor countries, with technical assistance from the EU.
3. Develop common certification standards for clean hydrogen and ammonia, and cooperate at government level on stable transport routes.
4. Digitise Soviet-era geological data and promote Kazakhstan's investment climate more actively among European businesses.
5. Strengthen carbon pricing and use long-term financing from the EBRD, EIB and other institutions to make strategic projects viable.

PANEL SESSION 2A

Building a Regional H_2 R&D Network



MODERATOR

Nurbek Yessetov, Advisor, H_2-diplo Kazakhstan (GIZ)

SPEAKERS

- **Konstantin Brosch**, Project Lead, dena (keynote presentation)
- **Marco Castagnini**, CEO, Green Spark
- **Dr. Nurxat Nuraje**, Professor, Head of RE Lab, Nazarbayev University
- **Dr. Jasurjon Akhatov**, Head of the Laboratory of Solar Thermal and Energy Systems, Physical-Technical Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan
- **Dr. Bakyt Khaniyev**, Director of the China–Kazakhstan Innovation Center for Hydrogen Energy Technologies, a Sectoral Center of Technological Competences of the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University
- **Dr. Dinmukhambet Baimbetov**, Head of the Energy Department, Yessenov University

Summary

Session 2A looked at how research institutions, industry and government in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan can work together to move hydrogen technologies from the laboratory into real applications. A keynote on Germany's hydrogen "Living Labs" (Reallabore) opened the discussion. Speakers from universities, research centres and industry then agreed that the region already has good infrastructure and teams, but that research is still fragmented and too far removed from industrial needs. They called for a regional research network, joint pilot projects and funding instruments that can carry technologies from prototype to commercial use.

Key highlights

Konstantin Brosch

Mr. Brosch presented dena's experience with the Reallabore of the energy transition (2022–2026). In this programme, a research consortium worked alongside eight industrial flagship projects in Germany to test hydrogen at scale and share the lessons openly, including the failures. He noted that green hydrogen costs in Germany still exceed €9/kg, mainly because of strict European RFNBO rules and higher capital costs, and that demand has appeared only where regulation creates it. For the region, he advised starting with trusted

research institutions that industry is willing to share data with, working in regional clusters, and having a partner that links the work to policymakers.

Marco Castagnini

Mr. Castagnini said that price and business opportunity are what matter for industry. He argued that a hydrogen economy in Kazakhstan needs an initial public "spark" and should start with a local market, not with exports. He described Green Spark's pilot projects with KazMunayGas Engineering in Aksai and Atyrau, for which the results were made public. He named decarbonising the oil and gas sector and petrochemicals as the quickest wins, and proposed a joint hydrogen bus pilot to show people that hydrogen is not science fiction.

Dr. Nurxat Nuraje

Professor Nuraje explained that Nazarbayev University's Renewable Energy Lab is now moving from building research infrastructure to technology transfer. Its focus is electrolyser efficiency, integration with variable solar and wind power, and partnerships with industry. He named three main barriers to commercialisation: risk aversion in industry, the lack of intermediate facilities for scaling up and testing, and the absence of high-risk seed funding. He urged students to "write dissertations on the ground, not on paper".

Dr. Jasurjon Akhatov

Dr. Akhatov said that Central Asian countries talk a lot about integrating education, research and industry but still work separately. He called for one integrated regional platform where all countries share their results and test technologies together. He explained that in Uzbekistan, rapid solar growth has already overloaded the grid, which makes hydrogen interesting as a form of energy storage. He also argued that the region should localise the production of electrolyser components using its own critical raw materials, and proposed a joint Uzbekistan–Kazakhstan research call on green hydrogen as a first step.

Dr. Bakyt Khaniyev

Dr. Khaniyev presented the China–Kazakhstan Innovation Center for Hydrogen Energy Technologies, which opened in April 2026 at Al-Farabi Kazakh National University with Shanghai Jiao Tong University and China Energy. He sees the centre as a bridge between the state's strategic goals, science and industry. He said Kazakhstan does not need to localise the whole hydrogen value chain: scientific research can be done together with foreign universities, while large projects should be developed with international companies. He called for a single network of university research centres that share infrastructure, and for joint and double-degree programmes to train young specialists.

Dr. Dinmukhambet Baimbetov

Dr. Baimbetov explained that Yessenov University in Aktau is building a hydrogen laboratory and the cooperation with the Hyrasia One project in Mangystau. The laboratory will have PEM and AEM electrolysers, fuel cells, storage and 100 kW of solar and wind power, and a 1 MW station is also under construction. It will work on production, storage in organic liquid carriers, catalysts and desalination. He stressed that the main goal is to train specialists for the region, not only hydrogen engineers but also chemists, ecologists and desalination experts. This, he said, will determine how much knowledge and added value stays in Kazakhstan.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The region is not starting from zero. Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan already have hydrogen laboratories, pilot electrolysers and research teams, but these work in isolation and are not yet connected into a regional network.
- The main gap is between research and industry. Most results stay at the prototype or patent stage because industry is risk-averse, there are no intermediate scaling facilities, and there is no high-risk funding for new technologies.
- Green hydrogen is not yet commercially viable for export, so the most realistic first steps are domestic uses in oil and gas and petrochemicals, together with demonstration projects that make hydrogen visible to the public.
- Training people is a strategic priority, because large projects such as Hyrasia One will need a wide range of specialists, and graduates need real projects to work on.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Create a regional hydrogen R&D platform for Central Asia where universities and research centres share results, infrastructure and testing facilities.
2. Launch joint research calls, starting with an Uzbekistan–Kazakhstan call on green hydrogen, which would fund projects combining research and industrial partners.
3. Build intermediate scaling and testing infrastructure, and introduce high-risk seed funding that helps technologies move from prototype to commercial use.
4. Implement joint demonstration projects, such as a hydrogen bus with a refuelling station, to build public and industry confidence in hydrogen.
5. Expand joint and double-degree programmes with international universities to train specialists for the hydrogen sector and related fields.

PANEL SESSION 2B

Regional Grid Integration



MODERATOR

Zhaksylyk Tokayev, Energy Expert

SPEAKERS

- **Kanat Ayapbergenov**, Managing Director, KEGOC
- **Ahmed Badr**, Director, Project Facilitation and Support, IRENA
- **Thierry Plaisant**, CEO, TotalEnergies Renewables
- **Sven Ernedal**, Programme Manager, EURECA, GIZ
- **Jan Sedlacek**, Legal advisor System Operations, Legal Section, ENTSO-E

Summary

Session 2B, co-organised by the GIZ EURECA project, looked at what still prevents Central Asia from making full use of its existing electricity interconnections, and at how the region can move towards a more integrated power system as the share of renewables grows. Speakers from system operators, an investor, IRENA, ENTSO-E and the EURECA project agreed that the region has a strong technical base from its shared past. They noted, however, that ageing infrastructure, limited data exchange, planning that is mainly national, and unclear market rules still hold integration back. They also stressed that new infrastructure, energy storage, common rules and joint financing need to develop together.



SESSION MILESTONE · MOU SIGNING

Memorandum of Cooperation between the Kazakhstan Electricity Association and EURECA

The session also featured the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation between the Kazakhstan Electricity Association and the EURECA project, formalising their partnership in support of regional electricity cooperation and the integration of renewable energy.

Key highlights

Kanat Ayapbergenov

Mr. Ayapbergenov said that KEGOC is working with all neighbouring countries to strengthen regional cooperation, but that ageing infrastructure and the fast growth of renewables create new requirements for transmission, flexibility and coordination. He noted that Central Asian power systems are already technically compatible because of their common Soviet-era origins, but that further integration needs clearer market rules, price formation and mechanisms for balancing renewables. He outlined KEGOC's response: a pipeline of about 1.8 GW of battery storage, stronger North–South and other transmission corridors, better forecasting, and future grid-forming requirements for renewable projects.

Sven Ernedal

Mr. Ernedal highlighted the rapid growth in electricity demand in all five Central Asian countries. He named the limited availability and exchange of up-to-date system data, and the fact that countries still plan their power systems mainly on a national basis, as key constraints. He presented EURECA's support for data-sharing agreements between CDC Energia and national dispatch centres, for CDC Energia as a regional training hub, for grid codes and long-term regional planning, and for a consortium of Central Asian universities. As priorities for the region, he named regional system planning and modelling, capacity building for system operators, long-term cooperation between stakeholders, and joint financing approaches.

Thierry Plaisant

Mr. Plaisant said that battery storage reduces project and system risks and makes renewable projects more attractive to investors, especially under long-term contracts. He gave an update on the Mirny wind project, which KMG, Samruk-Kazyna and TotalEnergies are developing: after preparation since 2021, the conditions for financing were fulfilled by April 2026. The project includes battery storage that will be managed by KEGOC. It also builds local capacity, with only about 10% of its roughly 80 staff being expatriates, and with training programmes run together with Nazarbayev University and Satbayev University.

Jan Sedlacek

Mr. Sedlacek explained that European electricity integration developed step by step over about seven decades. He added that the recent synchronisation of Ukraine and Moldova shows how the process can speed up under exceptional circumstances. He stressed that infrastructure and rules must develop together, because physical interconnections deliver their full benefit only when market and operational rules allow generation and demand to be balanced across borders. He suggested that Central Asia could follow Europe's approach of first understanding each national system in detail and then combining these assessments into a regional picture, with a regional market that complements national markets.

Ahmed Badr

Mr. Badr presented examples of regional integration from the Gulf, South Asia, East Africa, Southeast Asia and Latin America. These show that geographical proximity and complementary resources create a strong basis for cooperation, with benefits such as economic optimisation and better integration of renewables and storage. He said that financing responsibilities should reflect how the benefits are shared, and suggested consortium-based structures backed by guarantees from the participating countries. Using the example of a geothermal project in the Dominican Republic, he noted that regional projects fail without reliable demand, institutional arrangements and political commitment, even when the resources and technology are available.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Central Asia is physically interconnected and technically compatible, but ageing infrastructure, limited data exchange and planning that is mainly national prevent the region from using these connections to their full potential.
- The fast growth of renewables makes system flexibility essential. Battery storage, grid-forming technologies and better forecasting are becoming standard parts of new projects.
- Infrastructure and rules must develop together. Common market rules, price formation and balancing mechanisms are needed for interconnections to deliver real benefits.
- Regional integration is a long-term process that needs sustained political commitment, reliable demand and financing structures that share both risks and benefits among countries.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Improve the exchange of system data between national dispatch centres and CDC Energia through data-sharing agreements and common cross-border data protocols.
2. Develop regional system planning and modelling that complements national plans, starting from a detailed understanding of each national system.
3. Agree common rules for cross-border electricity trade, price formation and the balancing of renewables, and harmonise grid codes, including grid-forming requirements.
4. Scale up battery storage and transmission corridors and strengthen the capacity of system operators through regional training.
5. Develop joint financing structures for regional projects, such as consortia backed by guarantees from the participating countries, together with a clear pipeline of regional projects.

PANEL SESSION 3

IKI-JET: The Role of Coal in Kazakhstan’s Decarbonisation



MODERATOR

Johannes Lohmeyer, Advisor, GIZ

SPEAKERS

- **Tsenguun Saruulsaikhan**, Member of Parliament of Mongolia
- **Berik Zarlyk**, Head of Unit, Department of Electric Power Development, Ministry of Energy of Kazakhstan
- **Dr. Tatiana Lanshina**, Project Lead Power System Transformation, Agora Energiewende
- **Zhuldyz Saulebekova**, CEO, Almaty Air Initiative
- **Kenzhekhan Abuov**, Senior Project Officer, ADB

Summary

Session 3, co-organised by the IKI-JET project, looked at the future role of coal in Kazakhstan's decarbonisation pathway and at options for an energy system that is secure, affordable and sustainable. Speakers from Kazakhstan, Mongolia and international organisations discussed the planned expansion of coal capacity, the particular challenge of decarbonising district heating, and the high hidden costs of coal for public health. They agreed that moving away from coal will require not only new technologies but also fair tariffs, independent regulation, transparent data on air quality, and a just transition for coal-dependent communities.

Key highlights

Dr. Tatiana Lanshina

Dr. Lanshina explained that Kazakhstan has almost 14 GW of coal-fired capacity with an average age of over 50 years, and that coal provides about 80% of district heat. Under the current approved plans, coal capacity would grow to more than 21 GW by 2035. Agora's modelling shows that these plans are the most expensive scenario, while a cost-optimised scenario would build no new coal plants and a scenario with about 35% renewables would also cost much less. She noted that new coal plants emit only 15–20% less CO_2 than old ones. For heating, the way forward is to separate heat from power production and use heat pumps, geothermal and electrified heating, which already work well in cold countries such as Norway, Finland and Sweden.

Tsenguun Saruulsaikhan

Ms. Saruulsaikhan explained that Mongolia depends on ageing coal plants for 82% of its electricity and imports about 21% of its power. The state owns 91% of generation, and tariffs are set politically below cost, which has led to underinvestment, winter blackouts and corruption. She is working on a law to make the energy regulator independent, and she pointed to Kazakhstan's long-term ceiling tariffs as a good example for investors. Drawing on the IKI-JET work in Nalaikh district, she stressed that a transition succeeds only when communities can see a future for their jobs, and that energy efficiency, insulation and a change in people's mindset are as important as changing the fuel.

Berik Zarlyk

Mr. Zarlyk said that renewables reached 7% of generation in 2025 and the target is 15% by 2030, but that the energy transition also includes gas, nuclear, low-carbon heating, storage and building efficiency. He acknowledged that coal will keep its role, given Kazakhstan's reserves of about 33 billion tonnes, but said that Almaty's CHP-2 and CHP-3 are being switched to gas. He explained that under the 2024 law on heat supply, akimats must develop heat supply schemes that include alternative sources. At the same time, he stressed that technologies such as heat pumps need large investment, so they must be introduced with households' ability to pay tariffs in mind.

Zhuldyz Saulebekova

Ms. Saulebekova stressed that air pollution is a "here and now" problem. It causes about 14,000 premature deaths a year in Kazakhstan, around 2,000 of them in Almaty, and costs the country about USD 10 billion a year according to the World Bank. She named coal as the single most important source, noting that Almaty's two CHPs burn over 3.5 million tonnes a year of high-ash Ekibastuz coal, and that switching CHP-2 to gas will cut its emissions twelvefold. She called for climate and clean-air policies to be linked through co-benefits, for much wider public air quality monitoring beyond Almaty, for subsidies to help households switch away from coal stoves, and for modern filtration at coal plants that continue to operate.

Kenzhekhan Abuov

Mr. Abuov explained that ADB supported the Ministry of Energy in developing the 2024 law on heat supply, which opens the way for renewables in heating. Under ADB's Energy Transition Mechanism, it is now preparing feasibility studies for pilot projects in South Kazakhstan and in Ust-Kamenogorsk. Based on a study visit to Finland, where coal's share of heating fell from about 90% to under 15%, he highlighted linking heat and power systems through heat pumps and thermal storage, including sand batteries, as affordable solutions suited to Kazakhstan's climate. He stressed that social tariffs and smooth transition plans for coal regions must be part of any coal phase-down.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Coal will remain central to Kazakhstan's energy system for years to come, and current plans foresee an expansion of coal capacity by 2035. However, modelling shows that a pathway with more renewables and no new coal would be cheaper.
- Heating is the hardest part of the transition, because most district heat comes from coal CHPs. Decarbonising it means separating heat from power and using heat pumps, thermal storage and efficiency measures, which have proven to work in cold climates.
- The real cost of coal is much higher than its price, because of the health damage and economic losses from air pollution, which fall mainly on low-income households.
- Tariffs kept below cost and a lack of independent regulation hold back investment and energy efficiency, as the experience of Mongolia clearly shows.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Review the planned expansion of coal capacity in light of least-cost scenarios, and give priority to renewables, storage and system flexibility.
2. Use the new heat supply schemes to plan the move of CHPs and district heating to alternative sources, drawing on Finland's experience with heat pumps and thermal storage.
3. Expand public air quality monitoring in coal-dependent cities such as Karaganda, Ekibastuz and Astana, and link climate policy with clean-air policy to capture co-benefits.
4. Introduce targeted subsidies to help households replace coal stoves, and require modern filtration at coal plants that remain in operation.
5. Build predictable, cost-reflective tariffs with protection for vulnerable households, supported by an independent regulator, and prepare just transition plans for coal regions.

PANEL SESSION 4

QaJET Roadmap with EBRD: Financing the Energy Transition



MODERATOR

Maira Karassayeva, Principal, Regional Policy and Strategy, EBRD

SPEAKERS

- **Baltugan Tazhmakina**, Deputy Director, Department of Renewable Energy, Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- **Yerlan Ramazanov**, Deputy Head for Kazakhstan Energy, Regional Head of Energy Eurasia, EBRD
- **Dr. Ahmed Badr**, Director, Project Facilitation and Support, IRENA
- **Merey Sabitov**, Head of the National Power Grid Development Department, KEGOC
- **Dina Zhanadil**, Managing Director, Development Bank of Kazakhstan
- **Hayley Sharp**, Regional Development Director, Central Asia, British Embassy Tashkent (online)
- **Philipp Munzinger**, Head of the Technical Support Unit, Mitigation Action Facility (online)

Summary

Session 4, co-organised by EBRD, presented the Kazakhstan Just Energy Transition Investment Platform (QaJET) and discussed how the platform can help mobilise and coordinate investment for the country's energy transition. EBRD is supporting the Government of Kazakhstan in developing QaJET and coordinating its implementation with national and international partners. QaJET aims to support the deployment of at least 10 GW of new renewable capacity by 2035, alongside investments in grid modernisation, energy storage, electrification of end users, and a renewable-based heating pilot project. The platform is planned to be launched at COP31 in Antalya in November. Speakers from government, the grid operator, development banks and international partners agreed that de-risking private investment, blended and concessional finance, and early planning for workers and communities will be key to turning the platform into real projects.

Key highlights

Baltugan Tazhmakina

Ms. Tazhmakina said that Kazakhstan's energy transition goes well beyond individual renewable projects: it also covers grid modernisation, storage, balancing capacity and industrial decarbonisation, all of which require significant investment and close cooperation between the state and the private sector. She stressed

that the Ministry wants the transition to follow just transition principles, with predictable conditions for investors and fair outcomes for consumers and regions. She presented QaJET, which the Ministry is developing with the EBRD, as a tool to coordinate government, investors and development partners around priority projects.

Yerlan Ramazanov

Mr. Ramazanov highlighted the scale of Kazakhstan's energy transition challenge, with close to 70% of the country's power generation still based on coal and noted that the transition will require significant investment in renewable energy, electricity networks, energy storage, electrification, and industrial decarbonisation. He described QaJET as a platform designed to help Kazakhstan move from strategy to delivery by providing investors with greater clarity and predictability, coordinating support from development partners, and mobilising private investment at scale. He also pointed to early examples of this approach in practice, including EBRD financing for the Mirny Wind and Battery Storage Project and the Alatau Zharyk Grid Reinforcement Project. He welcomed the growing coalition of partners supporting QaJET, including the ADB, the Development Bank of Kazakhstan, the Powering Past Coal Alliance, and the UK, and highlighted the importance of continued cooperation as the platform moves towards its planned launch at COP31.

Maira Karassayeva

Ms. Karassayeva explained that QaJET is structured around three main components: renewable energy generation, grid modernisation, and end-user electrification, complemented by cross-cutting work on the just transition and a renewable-based heating pilot. She noted that QaJET's ambition to support the deployment of 10 GW of new renewable capacity by 2035 goes beyond the Ministry's currently approved 8.4 GW. She also highlighted the scale of investment required for grid modernisation, estimated at around USD 5 billion for KEGOC and USD 2.5 billion for distribution companies. Mobilising investment at this scale will require concessional and grant financing to help de-risk projects and crowd in private investment. She also referred to a planned pilot to convert a CHP plant in a northern city to renewable-based heating, including measures to support affected coal workers, such as early retirement options.

Ahmed Badr

Mr. Badr presented IRENA's support to Central Asia through the APRECA initiative. He noted that new renewable energy projects in the region should increasingly be combined with utility-scale battery storage and that power systems need to move towards grid-forming technologies. He pointed to the Energy Transition Accelerator Financing (ETAF) platform with the EBRD as a way to link national priorities with bankable projects. He noted that Kazakhstan has a unique opportunity, with political will, the readiness of development banks to provide financing, and a strong transition strategy coming together.

Merey Sabitov

Mr. Sabitov noted that while building a wind or solar plant takes two to three years, integrating new renewable capacity into the grid while maintaining system stability is the greater challenge. Renewables accounted for 6% of generation in 2025, above the 5% target, and reached 8% in the first half of 2026, while around 12 GW of new renewable capacity is expected by 2035. He outlined four priorities for KEGOC. The first is the development of new transmission lines, including connecting the western zone to the unified grid by 2027, reinforcing the southern grid, and building a 1,000 km north-south HVDC line that would roughly double transit capacity to around 2,000 MW. The other three priorities are system flexibility, including around 1.8 GW of planned battery storage; digital grid management; and forward-looking grid planning, including 6,000–7,000 km of new lines by 2035.

Dina Zhanadil

Ms. Zhanadil noted that the Development Bank of Kazakhstan has already financed around a quarter of the country's renewable energy capacity and was recently accredited by the Green Climate Fund. She described QaJET as a platform that can bring together the Government, international financial institutions, and the private sector within a common framework. She noted that the Bank can act as a catalyst by combining its own resources with international and climate finance through blended finance structures to scale up green projects.

Hayley Sharp

Ms. Sharp shared the UK's experience, noting that the country closed its last coal-fired power plant in 2024 and that, by then, its emissions were 53% below 1990 levels, while its economy had grown by almost 80%. She also reflected on the experience of rapid coal mine closures in the 1980s and 1990s, which resulted in the loss of more than 190,000 jobs and contributed to long-term regional inequality. She highlighted four key elements of a just transition: planning around people and places, long-term policy clarity, sequencing the transition so that new industries develop before old ones decline, and making skills and regional development central to the process rather than an afterthought. She also welcomed the Powering Past Coal Alliance's support for QaJET.

Philipp Munzinger

Mr. Munzinger explained that the Mitigation Action Facility (MAF) combines technical and financial cooperation, using grants and concessional instruments to create a business case where one does not yet exist. He noted that strong projects require clear institutional ownership, enabling policy conditions, a credible financing pathway, and a mechanism for scaling up beyond the pilot stage. As an example, he presented MAF's pilot on reactive power compensation in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, which aims to demonstrate how the technology can reduce grid losses and costs and translate the results into standards and bankable business models.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- QaJET is being developed as a collaborative platform to align national priorities, mobilise public and private finance, and coordinate support for Kazakhstan’s energy transition. Its priorities include the deployment of an additional 10 GW of renewable capacity by 2035, grid and storage infrastructure, a renewable-based heating pilot, and just transition support. The platform is planned for launch at COP31.
- Grid modernisation and storage will be critical to integrating additional renewable capacity. Priority investments include transmission network reinforcement and expansion, new connections for renewable capacity, storage, digital control systems, and measures to strengthen climate resilience.
- Mobilising private investment at scale will require an enabling policy and regulatory environment, concessional finance and technical assistance to help prepare and de-risk investments and demonstrate new approaches.
- Just transition considerations need to be integrated from the outset, with a focus on regions and communities most exposed to the impacts of decarbonisation, including through reskilling and upskilling, economic diversification, and targeted support for affected workers and communities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Use QaJET to develop and coordinate a clear pipeline of priority investments, providing greater visibility for government, investors, development partners and donors.
2. Mobilise concessional finance, grants and technical assistance for priority investments in renewable energy, grid and storage infrastructure, and renewable-based heating, alongside public and private financing.
3. Prioritise implementation of grid modernisation and expansion investments to ensure that transmission infrastructure, storage and system flexibility can support the planned scale-up of renewable capacity.
4. Develop a renewable-based heating pilot to demonstrate a potential pathway for phasing out coal-based district heating, combining renewable and waste-heat solutions with district heating network modernisation.
5. Integrate just transition considerations into QaJET from the outset, including workforce reskilling and upskilling, support for vulnerable regions and communities, and measures to promote economic diversification.

04
Closing remarks

The Forum closed with remarks from the Ministry of Energy of Kazakhstan, the German Federal Foreign Office and the H_2-diplo project. The speakers thanked participants and partners and brought together the main messages of the day: energy security and the energy transition are closely linked, regional cooperation must become more practical, and the role of coal will need to evolve through a just transition. Above all, they said that the focus must now move from ambition to implementation, with progress measured by concrete projects on the way to COP31 and beyond.



Alimzhan Turar

Director, Renewable Energy Department, Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Mr. Turar thanked participants for the open exchange of views and expressed hope that the discussions would lead to practical solutions based on the experience shared at the Forum. He stressed that energy security and the development of renewable energy require regional integration, and that all countries clearly understand this need while pursuing their own national goals.



Leo Goebel

Officer, Energy Diplomacy, Federal Foreign Office of Germany

Mr. Goebel thanked the Ministry of Energy for hosting the Forum and said he would take many insights back to Berlin to inform Germany's policy and its engagement with Central Asia. He highlighted the regional character of the Forum and the value of learning from each other's experiences. He reaffirmed that Germany remains firmly committed to the energy transition and green hydrogen, and that it is actively seeking partnerships in the region.



Olivia de Vesci

Head of H_2-diplo Kazakhstan, GIZ

Ms. de Vesci said that while earlier editions of the Forum helped to establish a dialogue, this year's central question was how to move from ambition to implementation. She summarised four themes of the day. The first was that the energy transition cannot be separated from energy security, and no single technology will deliver both. The second was that regional cooperation in electricity trade and in research must become more practical. The third was that the role of coal must evolve through a just transition that considers workers and regions. The fourth was that none of this will happen without investment, which is where platforms such as QaJET come in. She called for future progress to be measured by what has actually been implemented.

05
Conclusion and recommendations

The 3rd Regional Central Asian and European Decarbonisation Forum showed that the dialogue built up over the first two editions has become a shared understanding among governments, international partners, financial institutions, industry and academia, and that the central question is now how to move from agenda-setting to implementation. With the adoption of NDC 3.0, the new roadmap to carbon neutrality by 2060 and the updated Hydrogen Concept to 2040, Kazakhstan has the strategic framework it needs. However, progress will increasingly be measured by concrete projects, investment decisions and results on the ground, so on the way to COP31 partners are invited to focus on turning commitments into a pipeline of projects that can be implemented and financed.

The Forum identified several interlinked pathways for this transition. Energy security and decarbonisation now reinforce each other, which makes diversifying energy sources, partners and corridors, including the Trans-Caspian Middle Corridor and the Green Energy Corridor with Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan, a strategic priority. Regional grid integration is essential for absorbing growing volumes of wind and solar power and requires investment in transmission, storage and grid-forming technologies, as well as common rules for cross-border electricity trade. Green hydrogen was recognised as a long-term opportunity whose business case is not yet proven, so partners recommended starting with domestic applications and pilot projects and connecting the region's research capacity into a regional R&D network. Coal will remain important for some time, but its role must change through a just transition for coal-dependent regions and workers. None of these pathways will be realised without investment, and platforms such as QaJET, together with predictable regulation and blended finance, will be key to mobilising capital at scale.

The Forum also underlined that governance, people and cooperation will decide whether the transition succeeds. Predictable regulation, cost-reflective tariffs that protect vulnerable households, and long-term policy clarity are preconditions for both investor confidence and public trust. Capacity building is needed across all topics, from grid operators and hydrogen specialists to reskilling in coal regions, and cooperation among Central Asian countries and with partners in Europe and Asia should move from principle to practice. Finally, the transition must be inclusive. The strong participation of women as speakers and moderators showed that the expertise is available, and partners are encouraged to integrate gender equality systematically into energy policy, education and just transition measures.

06

Key recommendations

01

Strengthen energy security through diversification

Diversify energy sources, partners and transport corridors to reduce dependence on single routes and suppliers. This means developing the Trans-Caspian Middle Corridor and the Green Energy Corridor, and investing in port, rail and cross-border transmission infrastructure now, since this infrastructure has long lead times.

02

Build an integrated regional power system

Move regional electricity cooperation from principle to practice through data-sharing agreements between national dispatch centres and CDC Energia, regional system planning and modelling, harmonised grid codes, and common rules for cross-border electricity trade, price formation and the balancing of renewables.

03

Make the grid ready for high shares of renewables

Speed up the development of transmission, including the interconnection of Kazakhstan's zones and the north–south HVDC line, and scale up battery storage, grid-forming technologies, digital grid management and forecasting, so that grid readiness keeps pace with the planned expansion of renewable capacity.

04

Plan the power and heat mix on a least-cost basis

Review the planned expansion of coal capacity in light of least-cost scenarios, and give priority to renewables, storage and flexibility. Use the new heat supply schemes to plan the move of CHPs and district heating to heat pumps, thermal storage and other alternative sources, drawing on the experience of Finland and other cold-climate countries.

05

Develop green hydrogen step by step, starting at home

Give priority to domestic applications in hard-to-abate sectors such as refining, ammonia and steel. Develop common certification standards for clean hydrogen and ammonia and prepare export corridors and offtake agreements before large-scale projects.

06

Connect research with industry across the region

Create a regional hydrogen R&D platform with shared infrastructure, launch joint research calls starting with Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, and build intermediate scaling and testing facilities, supported by high-risk seed funding to move technologies from prototype to commercial use.

07

Ensure a just transition for coal regions and people

Prepare just transition plans for coal-dependent regions early, with reskilling, early retirement options, social protection and new economic opportunities that are in place before old industries decline. Expand air quality monitoring and support households in replacing coal stoves, recognising the health costs of coal.

08

Mobilise investment through QaJET and blended finance

Use QaJET as the common framework for an annual pipeline of priority projects, and combine concessional and grant funding with national and private finance for grids, storage and heating. Use demonstration projects and joint financing structures to reduce risks for investors.

09

Strengthen governance and investor confidence

Ensure predictable, cost-reflective tariffs with protection for vulnerable households, independent regulation, long-term policy clarity, a stronger emissions trading system, and better access to geological data on critical raw materials. Promote Kazakhstan's investment climate more actively among European and Asian investors.

10

Invest in people, partnerships and inclusion

Expand capacity building for system operators, joint and double-degree education programmes, and cooperation between government, industry, academia and international partners. Integrate gender equality into energy policy, workforce planning and training, so that women and men benefit equally from the energy transition.

These recommendations are meant to help policymakers, industry and development partners take coherent and coordinated action, so that together they can move the energy transition from plans to implementation, strengthen decarbonisation diplomacy, and build a secure, inclusive and sustainable energy future for Central Asia and its partners.

07
Media gallery

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Azerbaijan





Regional Development
Technical Sup



Closing remarks

Closing remarks

08
About the GIZ projects

H_2-diplo – Decarbonisation Diplomacy

H_2-diplo is an initiative of the Federal Foreign Office with funding from the International Climate Initiative (IKI) to support the German Federal Government's energy and climate foreign policy. In order to limit global warming to 1.5°C, greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced, requiring a move away from fossil fuels such as crude oil, natural gas, or coal. H_2-diplo is working together with partner countries on ways to use green hydrogen to decarbonise and diversify their economies. Green hydrogen produced from renewable energies can play a key role in decarbonising so-called hard-to-abate sectors, such as the production of chemicals or steel. In addition, H_2-diplo addresses geopolitical questions surrounding the international market ramp-up of green hydrogen, such as shifting balances of power on the path to a climate-neutral global economy.

EURECA

The regional project EU4SustainableCentralAsia: “Renewable Energy in Central Asia” (EURECA) is part of the “Green Central Asia” and Team Europe Initiative. It is implemented by GIZ in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan on behalf of the German Government, commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and co-funded by the European Union as part of its Global Gateway strategy.

EURECA’s overarching goal is to improve conditions for integration of renewables into the power grids of Central Asia. The project team and experts advise political decision-makers, electricity grid operators, and state actors in creation of a supportive environment for renewable energy adoption. Advancing renewable energy integration addresses both environmental and socio-economic challenges, contributing to an eco-friendly and resilient future for Central Asia.

IKI JET

The Just Energy Transition in Coal Regions (IKI JET) project supports a just transition away from coal while ensuring inclusive and sustainable economic development and the creation of decent work and social protection in selected coal regions in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. It works directly with coal regions to foster dialogue and inclusive planning around the future of local economies, facilitating the development of credible and locally grounded alternatives to coal-dependent development. By reducing the social and political risks associated with structural change, the programme lays essential preconditions for public and private investment in renewable energy and new economic activities. Key activities include supporting regional dialogue, inclusive planning, and the development of alternative economic opportunities, with a focus on approaches that reflect local needs and priorities.

The project is commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (BMUKN) with funding from the International Climate Initiative (IKI) and co-financing from the European Union. It is implemented by a number of institutions including GIZ, the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), and the International Labour Organisation (ILO), among others.



Thank you!

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