

Case Study // Round Table SDG 12: Successful approaches to delivering on Sustainable Consumption and Production by 2030

International Center for Green Technology and Investment

Kazakhstan

Level: national

Summary

Kazakhstan has committed under the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E) to establish an International Center for Green Technology and Investment in the period 2018–2019. The International Center is expected to cover seven main areas:

- Power sector transformation;
- Sustainable urban development;
- Green business development;
- Transfer and adaptation of green technologies and best practices;
- Development of green funding;
- Development of renewable energy sources;
- Capacity-building for green growth.

The Center will focus its activity on actions to implement the main areas, primarily in the countries of Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan), Iran, Afghanistan, Mongolia and Azerbaijan.

At the same time, the Center will cooperate with industrially developed countries (members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)), the European Union, the United States of America, the Russian Federation, China, India and the countries of Latin America.

The projects run by the Center will involve national holding structures and development institutions, international financial organizations, leading world and Kazakhstani universities and research centres, as well as non-government organizations.

Website: <http://www.greengrowthknowledge.org/big-e/kazakhstan-establish-international-center-green-technology-and-investment>

Situation

The Green Bridge Initiative, acknowledged at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (RIO+20) in 2012, is a multilateral, cross-sectoral and voluntary Partnership Programme that aims at providing a stable and long-term basis for green investment, transfer of new technologies and innovations from developed countries to developing ones. Over six years, 16 countries and 16 NGOs have joined the Green Bridge Partnership Programme and about 60 agreements and memorandums have been concluded in the field of environmental protection, green economy and green technologies.

Future Energy EXPO 2017 demonstrated the economic and environmental feasibility of green technologies. The heritage of EXPO 2017 will be the International Center promoting green growth principles and standards envisaged in Kazakhstan's concept on transitioning to a green economy and will continue the Green Bridge Partnership Program.

Strategy

The International Center will be established as an information, education and capacity-building tool. The following economic sectors are expected to benefit from the activities of the Center: agriculture, forestry and fisheries, power engineering, mining, manufacturing, transport, water, waste management, tourism, housing and construction.

Results and impact

The International Center for Green Technologies and Investment will develop a register of best available technologies, issue expert opinions and/or recommendations for using green technology by actors working in the industrial innovation activities for further implementation of projects.

Maintenance of the register will be one of the measures to stimulate business towards transition to green economy, because it will allow for obtaining a comprehensive environmental permit, in line with permits used by users of natural resources in developed countries. In addition, it will enable to implement green projects, including by attracting investments from international development banks.

Challenges and lessons learned

By successfully achieving these targets, the country will recover its water and land resources by 2030, and its resource productivity will largely be on par with the average indicators of OECD members and other developed countries.

Potential for replication

As a follow up to EXPO-2017, the Center will focus on transferring green technologies, green financing, expertise, monitoring of projects, capacity building and training programmes. International organizations such as UNDP, UNECE, UNEP, OSCE and others have expressed their interest in cooperating on a non-exclusive basis, in areas of common interest related to the Center. Similar centers have been established in other countries (e.g., Japan, Poland, Jordan and Korea) and we want to create a similar center in Kazakhstan as a hub for Central Asia.

The Center aims to reinforce the cooperation among Central Asian countries in ensuring sustainable development with support of key international institutions and the private sector, which will allow for exchanging knowledge and technologies, and transferring them across Central Asia. At the same time, the Center cooperates with industrialized countries of OECD, European Union, United States, Russian Federation, China, India and others.

Contact

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