5 OCTOBER
2022

BISHKEK ECONOMIC FORUM

КЫРГЫЗ РЕСПУБЛИКАСЫНЫН МИНИСТРЛЕР КАБИНЕТИ
КАБИНЕТ МИНИСТРОВ КЫРГЫЗСКОЙ РЕСПУБЛИКИ

WORLD BANK GROUP

A PATH TO RECOVERY, GROWTH, AND OPPORTUNITY IN THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

The Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic and the World Bank Group have convened the inaugural Bishkek Economic Forum to establish a platform for dialogue on priority reforms that have the potential to enhance the Kyrgyz economy's resilience to shocks and bring about transformational changes.

The Forum brings together high-level policymakers and international and domestic experts to discuss pressing economic development issues in the Kyrgyz Republic, international experience and best practice, as well as reforms that can support the Kyrgyz Republic to achieve sustainable growth and lift up people's living standards.

AGENDA

8:00 – 9:00	**Registration of participants, coffee** **Press wall:** Statements to the press and video interviews by select officials of the Cabinet of Ministers and the World Bank Group
9:00 – 9:05	**Welcome speech** *Mr. Naveed Hassan Naqvi, Country Manager for the Kyrgyz Republic, World Bank*
9:05 – 9:30	**Opening remarks** *Mr. Akylbek Zhaparov, Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic* *Mr. Axel van Trotsenburg, Managing Director, IBRD/IDA*
9:30 – 9:45	**Poverty and vulnerability in the Kyrgyz Republic: Trends and challenges** *Mr. Salman Zaidi, Practice Manager, Poverty and Equity, World Bank*
9:45 – 10:00	**Current challenges and development opportunities of the Kyrgyz Republic** *Mr. Almaz Isanov, Head of the Department of Political and Economic Research, Administration of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic*
10:00 – 10:15	**Charting a path to economic recovery and growth: Evidence from the Systematic Country Diagnostic** *Mr. Antonio Nucifora, Practice Manager, Macroeconomics, Trade, and Investment, World Bank*
10:15 – 10:30	**Supporting Kyrgyz Republic's financial and private sector development** *Mr. Ilias Skamnelos, Practice Manager, Finance, Competitiveness and Innovation, World Bank*
10:30 – 11:00	**Coffee break**

11:00 – 12:55 **Panel Discussion: Supporting equitable recovery in the Kyrgyz Republic**

Moderated by Ms. Anna Bjerde, Vice-President for Europe and Central Asia, World Bank

Mr. Axel van Trotsenburg, Managing Director, IBRD/IDA – The World Bank's support to client countries to respond to global and regional challenges

The war in Ukraine, the global risk of rising inflation and a slowing world economy present major external challenges for developing economies, including through higher commodity prices, rising costs of debt and new finance, and economic disruption. How is the World Bank focusing on supporting countries to respond appropriately and remain on track to achieve their development goals?

Mr. Akylbek Zhaparov, Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers – Medium-term Strategy to support economic recovery and poverty reduction trajectory

What are the key priorities and medium-term reform initiatives of the government to raise the Kyrgyz economy's resilience to shocks, facilitate economic recovery, and thus create conditions for robust growth and poverty reduction?

Ms. Ainoura Sagynbaeva, PhD, Chairwoman of Board, Kurak Women's Forum – Current challenges in doing business and reforms needed to facilitate private sector development

What are the main administrative, bureaucratic, and legislative barriers impeding growth and expansion of private sector companies? Are there immediate reform steps to be implemented by the government which are perceived to diminish those barriers?

Mr. Dastan Bekeshev, Member of Jogorku Kenesh, Committee on Budget, Economic and Fiscal Policy – Legal and regulatory reform to facilitate recovery

Underlying all successful economic reform agenda is a robust and equitable legal and judicial framework. What is the scope of core legislative amendments envisaged by the Jogorku Kenesh (Parliament) of the Kyrgyz Republic to facilitate social and economic reforms in the country and what regulatory changes would be needed to stimulate the country's economic recovery?

Mr. Shigeki Maeda, Ambassador of Japan – Attracting Foreign Direct Investment and Promoting Export Industries

In order to expand domestic employment and sustain economic growth, it is essential to attract FDI and promote export industries. Based on the experience of having worked for 38 years at JETRO, a government agency promoting Japanese trade and investment, prior to the current assignment as Ambassador, Mr. Maeda will introduce the prescription for attracting investment and promoting trade.

Mr. Martin Kanz, WDR Deputy Director – Finance for an equitable recovery

This year's World Development Report sets forth a comprehensive framework for designing post-pandemic policies for equitable recovery. Mr. Kanz will share key lessons of relevance to the Kyrgyz Republic from international experience on how the equitable recovery policies have been designed to facilitate the recovery path.

12:55 – 13:15 **Call for action and wrap up**

Mr. Akylbek Zhaparov, Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic

Ms. Tatiana Proskuryakova, Country Director, World Bank