

International transportation projects with Kazakhstan's participation

In today's global conditions transport and logistics network plays a key role in industrial development of state.

Kazakhstan, being at the joint of international transport corridors, has sufficient transport and logistics network. Thanks to its location, our country is attractive for international community to work out joint infrastructure project.

Thus, North-South transport corridor from Aktau through the Caspian Sea to Iran and the Arabian Sea creates good opportunities.

North-South transportation project assumes railways and another forms of communication from Europe through Russia, Azerbaijan and Iran to India and South Asian countries. Kazakhstan is interested in creating of system of warehouses and distribution services in Aktau in order to transform it into major hub for transportation of goods between Kazakhstan and South Asia, as well as the Persian Gulf. Indian companies also may be interested in participating in this project.

According to experts' opinion if India facilitate its positions in the Central Asian and the Caspian regions current global actors (Russia, China, the USA and the EU) will no longer feel their exclusivity, finding that Kazakhstan and other countries of the region have serious alternative - growing India. However they also will not object to this, because, first of all, their interaction with India much stronger than Kazakhstan-India cooperation, and secondly strengthening of partnership between Kazakhstan and India in some cases can be useful and beneficial for global actors.

That's why in such situation it's very important for our countries to find a solution to the problem of the legal status of the Caspian Sea as one of the conditions for regional transport and logistics system security.

Another promising project involves the creation of road transport corridor India - Pakistan - China - Kazakhstan.

At the present time one of the large-scale transportation projects - construction of the Turkmenistan-Kazakhstan section of the railway route Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran - has been implemented. This presents a great opportunity in the context of optimization of traffic flows in Eurasia. The project give to European countries the way from ports on the Baltic Sea to the commodity markets of the Middle East and states of the Indian Ocean, significantly reducing the distance and underway time.

It also provides prospects for connecting to the transport infrastructure to the south and east with access to powerful economic centers such as India, China, Pakistan, Asia-Pacific which means creating a new, more ambitious format of cooperation, showing an example of a truly innovative thinking in the global geo-economics, strategic vision of its development prospects.

It also addresses a problem of transit of Indian goods through Iran. However, this way has its own difficulties; I mean Western countries' embargo against Iran.

Of course, taking into account the current international situation Kazakhstan could initiate a discussion of this problem and possible solutions with all interested parties through diplomatic and other channels (including such mechanisms as the SCO, the CICA and etc.).