

SCO

ANNEX GUIDE

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PERMANENT MEMBERS

1. CHINA

China is one of the founders of SCO and has an active participation to achieving the collective aims of SCO partners and it is responsible for the economic locomotion at the Central Asia. China is the world's largest producer of rice and grain, which is a very water-hungry crop, and it has over 20 percent of the world population.

Nowadays, China is facing a water crises, at 2014 it had more than 400 cities with a shortfall of water, some 110 of which were facing serious scarcity, more than half of China's 50,000 rivers have disappeared, over 70 percent of the country's lakes and rivers are polluted, there is only seven percent of its fresh water¹, 24,000 villages in north and west China were abandoned because of desertification², and at rural areas people have been suffering from conventional energy shortage³. It is notable that “needs to strengthen law enforcement, streamline and coordinate water management institutions, and establish clear water rights and penalties”⁴.

China's government has already begun realizing policies to mitigate its water and energy interdependency issues. At 2004 China began supporting policies that would bring water efficiency to the electric power sector. In 2013 and 2014, this country announced initiatives designed to reduce water usage in China's coal sector and at 2015 China announced a list of measures to significantly improve the quality of China's water environment by 2030. Therefore, it is evident that China has shown a commitment at the combat of water and energy crises at it prioritizes efficiencies rather than further extraction of vital resources⁵.

1 MAPS OF WORLD. **Water crises around the world.** Available at: <<http://www.mapsofworld.com/around-the-world/water-crisis.html>> Access in: Apr. 25, 2017.

2 CHO, Renee. **How China is dealing with its water crisis.** Available at: <<http://blogs.ei.columbia.edu/2011/05/05/how-china-is-dealing-with-its-water-crisis/>>. Access in: Apr. 26, 2017.

3 FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF UNITED NATIONS. **Energy environment and agriculture in China.** Available at: <<http://www.fao.org/3/a-t4470e/t4470e0q.htm#TopOfPage>>. Access in: Jan. 6, 2017.

4 CHO, Renee. **How China is dealing with its water crisis..** Available at: <<http://blogs.ei.columbia.edu/2011/05/05/how-china-is-dealing-with-its-water-crisis/>>. Access in: Apr. 26, 2017.

5 SCHNETTLER, JACK. **China's challenge to guarantee energy and water security.** Available at: <<http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/china-s-challenge-to-guarantee-energy-and->

2. RUSSIA

Russia has unique water resources, almost one fourth of the global water resources. However, these resources are poorly accounted and managed, and they are unequally distributed across the country. The majority of high quality water resources of Russia are concentrated in the mountain regions, where it is difficult to deliver water to other regions of the country⁶. Meanwhile, the central and southern regions of European Russia, where 80% of the country's population and industry is concentrated, have only 8 % of water resources⁷.

It is important to note that, according to Russian consumer watchdog agency Rospotrebnadzor every third sample from sources of drinking water in Russia fails to meet acceptable standards due to chemical contamination⁸. A third of Russia's population use poor quality water daily⁹. Consequently, the number of companies in Russia that offer unique technologies for purifying water, including water with radioactive contamination, is increasing¹⁰.

The most water stress region at this country is the west of Russia, which population is already subject to water shortages, and is expected to face even more pronounced difficulties in decades to come¹¹. In addition the existing water supply system in Russia uses obsolete Soviet times technology, which makes necessary to develop a new water management policy at the federal and regional levels. This new

water-security>. Access in: Apr. 26, 2017.

6 RUSSIAN WATER ASSOCIATION. **Russian water sector.** Available at: <<http://nprvo.ru/en/water/sector/>>. Access in: Apr. 28, 2017.

7 CLIMATE CHANGE POST. **Russia.** Available at: <<http://www.climatechangepost.com/russia/fresh-water-resources/>>. Access in: Apr. 28, 2017.

8 TEREKHOVA, Sophie. **Russia's battle with water pollution continues.** Available at: <https://rbth.com/science_and_tech/2014/09/05/russias_battle_with_water_pollution_continues_39577.html>. Access in: Apr. 28, 2017.

9 RUSSIAN WATER ASSOCIATION. **Russian water sector.** Available at: <<http://nprvo.ru/en/water/sector/>>. Access in: Apr. 28, 2017.

10 TEREKHOVA, Sophie. **Russia's battle with water pollution continues.** Available at: <https://rbth.com/science_and_tech/2014/09/05/russias_battle_with_water_pollution_continues_39577.html>. Access in: Apr. 28, 2017.

11 CLIMATE CHANGE POST. **Russia.** Available at: <<http://www.climatechangepost.com/russia/fresh-water-resources/>>. Access in: Apr. 28, 2017.

system is necessary to the distribution of water, seeking to reduce the deteriorating of water¹².

3. KAZAKHSTAN

Kazakhstan is an active participant country in the establishment of a number of institutional structures in the Interstate Coordinating Water Commission (ICWC), the subordinate Amu Darya and Syr Darya Basin Management Authorities (BVOs), the Interstate Council on problems of the Aral Sea Basin (ICAS) and the International Fund for the Aral Sea (IFAS).

The President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, while speaking at the summit of the International fund for saving the Aral Sea in Almaty, on April 28th 2009, said, "I want to assure that despite the world economic crisis, Kazakhstan is not planning to stop working at the Aral Sea". He reminded the ASBP (Aral Sea Basin Program) was being implemented with active support of the World and Asia Bank and EU programs. Reconstruction of dam of Syr Darya and construction of several water development facilities were completed in Kazakhstan.

In southeastern Kazakhstan, a major body of water faces Aral's fate. The shallow, boomerang-shaped Balkhash is the world's 15th largest freshwater lake mostly fed by the Ili River that flows from China. The lake that supplies three Kazakh regions with is shrinking as China amasses Ili's waters in a dozen reservoirs. Given the Gordian knot of regional problems, some experts think that in the coming decades, an armed conflict in the region over water seems inevitable.

Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan are generously endowed with hydrocarbons; Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan have abundant potential for hydroelectric power generation. These energy resources could be utilized efficiently in Central Asia through the market system, whereby energy supplies are no interruptible. In this regard, the Kazakhstan's President has recently announced his proposal for establishing Central Asian Energy Grid and Energy Security Council aimed at better energy connectivity of

12 RUSSIAN WATER ASSOCIATION. **Russian water sector.** Available at: <http://nprvo.ru/en/water/sector/>. Access in: Apr. 28, 2017.

Central Asia with other regions, including South Asia, thus promoting a regional and international energy security network.

4. KYRGYZSTAN

Kyrgyzstan is a mountainous country located between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. Considered one of the poorest in Central Asia, its economy is composed mostly by: minerals extraction (gold, mercury, uranium and natural gas); agriculture (wool, meat and cotton, the only one to be exported); and reliance on remittances from citizens working abroad.

Although Kyrgyzstan's territory is of the richest in water resources, the country loses a third of its water wealth through holes in the poorly irrigating system. Furthermore, most of the water located there is reassigned to the downstream countries, such as Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, which ends up reflecting the States' economy. In the SCO, Kyrgyzstan is known for its support to the economic integration of the members – according to the president, Almazbek Atambayev, “it is impossible to cope with this global economic woe alone”¹³.

In 2016, Kyrgyz' president backed Iran's promotion in the Shanghai Corporation Organization as a full member: “Kyrgyzstan's view of Iran's intention to join the SCO as a full member is positive and Kyrgyzstan welcomes Iran's will”. Besides that, in that same year the first ever joint military of the Organization started in the country and although authorities claim that the exercise involves an “anti-terror” operation, the firepower used was way heavier than is usually employed against terrorists. Currently, Kyrgyzstan is in territorial dispute with Uzbekistan, another member of the SCO.

5. TAJIKISTAN

Tajikistan is one of the countries that have the most quantity of water among the SCO's permanent members but on the other hand, it struggles for energy. On a freezing

¹³ KABAR, **SCO becomes influential int'l group: Kyrgyz president**. Available at: <http://old.kabar.kg/eng/analytics/full/4399> Access on: July 4, 2017.

night in January 2009, a catastrophic power cut plunged swathes of the Tajik capital Dushanbe into darkness. This crisis was a demonstration that the complex network of shared power and water supplies that had served all five Central Asian republics in Soviet times was no longer working. With this collapse, a consequence was that Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan had to start using more water to generate electricity in the winter, so less reached agricultural lands in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan during the growing season.

Apart to that, furthermore, talks on tripartite water and energy projects had been taking place among Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Iran for some time. The three sides are considering constructing a new 500-kilovolt Tajikistan-Afghanistan-Iran high-voltage power transmission line. Moreover, the partners plan to construct several medium-sized hydro power plants in Tajikistan with the use of Iranian investment funds and are discussing the possibility of exporting water from Tajikistan to Iran.

The dissatisfaction of the downstream countries regarding the current state of Central Asia's water issues is exacerbated by Tajikistan's failure to sign the two main United Nations conventions that regulate cross-boundary water resources: The Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (1992) and the Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses (1997).

6. UZBEKISTAN

Uzbekistan is a landlocked country, located in Central Asia, with more than 60% of the population living in densely populated rural communities. As one of the remaining countries from the URSS, it has conquered its independence in 1991. Nevertheless, the Uzbek government has maintained the Soviet-style command economy, joining the business sector with subsidies and tight controls on production and prices. Thus, its growth has been driven primarily by state-led investments, and the export of natural gas, gold and cotton provides a significant share of foreign exchange earnings.

As a co-founder of the SCO, Uzbekistan has been in the presidency of the organization during the periods of 2003-2004, 2009-2010, and, more recently, 2015-

2016, playing an important role in strengthening and developing mutually beneficial cooperation, especially in the field of responding to current security challenges and threats. That was made possible through the mechanism of meetings between the Secretaries of Security Councils, launched in 2004 on the initiative of this country¹⁴.

In fact, Uzbekistan stands for a more active cooperation between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, considering that the struggle against international terrorism, radical, aggressive extremism and separatism, fighting drug traffic and organized crime is a major component of the SCO activity, as declared by the Permanent Representative of the country in the United Nations, Murad Askarov¹⁵.

7. INDIA

India is the second most populous country in the World¹⁶, staying behind only from China. It is also the seventh largest country in territorial expansion. Its economy is based on traditional village farming, modern agriculture, handicrafts, a wide range of modern industries, and a multitude of services.

In the environmental branch, India has been suffering from the disordered industrial growth – deforestation, soil erosion, overgrazing, desertification, air pollution from industrial effluents and vehicle emissions. In addition to that, the water pollution became a critical issue, especially from the runoff of agricultural pesticides.

Initially, India entered the SCO as an observer country, but in June of 2017¹⁷ along with Pakistan, became a full member. Its entrance was heavily supported by Russia, and as a SCO member, India is expected to have a

¹⁴ EMBASSY OF UZBEKISTAN TO THE UNITED STATES. **Presidency of Uzbekistan at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization**. Available at: <<https://www.uzbekistan.org/sco2/archive/6773/>>. Accessed on: May 6, 2017.

¹⁵ SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANIZATION. **Uzbekistan Stands for Cooperation between SCO and UN in Struggle against Terrorism**. Available at: <<http://infoshos.ru/en/?idn=4942>>, Accessed on: May 6, 2017.

¹⁶ CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY. **Central Asia :: India**. Available at: <<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/in.html>> Access on: May 8, 2017.

¹⁷ THE ECONOMIC TIMES, **India, Pakistan may join as full members of SCO in June**. Available at: <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/india-pakistan-may-join-as-fullmembers-of-sco-in-june/articleshow/57573150.cms> Access on: May 8, 2017.

bigger influence in Central Asia, especially when it comes to fighting terrorism and economic arrangements involving gas and oil exportation between the members.

Despite the tense relationship between India and Pakistan¹⁸, the military efforts, such as antiterrorism structure, sponsored by the SCO shall provide a healthier environment for the relationship of these countries¹⁹. Furthermore, the SCO is to India a mechanism for the development of diplomacy and politic alliances with China and Russia, assuring the entrance of India in Central Asia.

8. PAKISTAN

Pakistan began its participation at SCO in 2005 as an Observer State, at this role Pakistan has been making substantive contribution to regional peace, security and development. Recently this country became a permanent member. It is important to note that Pakistan is a natural ally of SCO, because of its ideal location and as a source of regional economic integration. Therefore, it has its significance as permanent member based on the Pakistan's potential as a viable trade corridor for the landlocked Central Asian Republics, China and other members²⁰.

Pakistan is a one-river-basin country (Indus river), which depends of hydroelectric power for generate electricity, once that hydropower is the second largest source of electricity, contributing 33.1% of total power generation²¹. This river flows suffers of extreme variability, at the summer there are 84 percent of flows and at the

¹⁸ THE AMERICAN INTEREST, **India and Pakistan Join the SCO**. Available at: <https://www.the-american-interest.com/2017/06/09/india-and-pakistan-join-the-sco/> Access on: July 4, 2017.

¹⁹ THE WIRE, **SCO Membership Is a Stepping Stone, India's Real Destination is Central Asia**. Available at: <https://thewire.in/144241/what-india-can-expect-from-shanghai-cooperation-organisation/> Access on: July 4, 2017.

²⁰ NAZIR, Maryam. **SCO Membership & Pakistan**. Available at: <http://www.ipripak.org/sco-membership-pakistan/>. Access in: Apr. 25, 2017.

²¹ SINHA, Uttam Kumar. **Water and Energy: A Flashpoint in Pakistan-India Relations?** Available at: http://www.ensec.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=271:water-and-energy-a-flashpoint-in-pakistan-india-relations&catid=112:energysecuritycontent&Itemid=367. Access in: Apr. 25, 2017.

winter only 16 percent, in reason of there are surpluses of 18pc in summer and shortages of 18pc in winter²².

Unfortunately, there is no water policy in Pakistan. It is already the third most water-stressed country in the world according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Its per capita annual water availability is 1,017 cubic meters - perilously close to the scarcity threshold of 1,000 cubic meters. In this context of water crisis, the scarcity of water is also triggering security conflicts in the country, there are people fighting for resources and there is the possibility that the country may run dry by 2025 if the authorities do not take immediate action, as it was warned by Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) last year²³.

OBSERVER STATES

9. AFGHANISTAN

Afghanistan is a land locked country located in Southern Asia, most precisely in the north and west of Pakistan, east of Iran. Its population exceeds 33 million of habitants with almost 80% of them living in rural areas; only 27% of the population has access to improved water sources and only 5% to improved sanitation facilities²⁴. In a historical context, the country has suffered from a great civil war, which left significant social and economic scars that led to an unstable and vulnerable condition²⁵.

Economically speaking, it is considered to be extremely poor and highly dependent on aid from other countries, hence, the United States of

22 AHMED, AMIN. **Pakistan turning into a water-scarce country, say experts**. Available at: <<https://www.dawn.com/news/1313054>>. Access in: Apr. 25, 2017.

23 SHAMS, Shamil. **Water scarcity in Pakistan – A bigger threat than terrorism**. Available at: <<http://www.dw.com/en/water-scarcity-in-pakistan-a-bigger-threat-than-terrorism/a-37444480>>. Access in: Apr. 25, 2017.

24 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY. **Central Asia :: Afghanistan**. Available at: <<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/af.html>>. Access on: May 8, 2017.

25 UFRGS, **The SCO and Post War Afghanistan: new challenges to regional cooperation**. Available at: <https://www.ufrgs.br/ufrgsmun/2013/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/The-SCO-and-Post-War-Afghanistan-New-Challenges-to-Regional-Cooperation.pdf> Access on: July 4, 2017.

America created a project which includes all Central Asia's countries with the goal to help the country's economy recovery.

Due to its geographical position, the water tends to flow from Afghanistan to other countries, and even though some dams were built by the government, it is not enough to attend the country's needs, and as a result of this, only 30% of the water located in Afghanistan remains there²⁶.

Terrorism and narcotics trafficking were an overdue problem in the country, but its current stability and safety has a direct link with the SCO²⁷. In 2009²⁸ the organization implemented an action plan to combat the organized crime in the country and to embellish the national army and police. That, along with the economic reinforcement provided by the US government, helped the country to reestablish its foundation.

In 2012 Afghanistan was granted the position of an observer country in the SCO. Due to the organization's mechanisms of cooperation, it serves the country as a way of communication with its neighbors.

10. BELARUS

Belarus is the only European state that has the observer status in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. This country is interested in "developing relations with the organization in various areas, including sustainable development, security, humanitarian and cultural cooperation"²⁹.

The Republic of Belarus has 153 water reservoirs with the total volume of 3.1 km³ and effective storage of 1.24 km³, which is sufficiently to meet the current and

²⁶ HYDRALIFE, **Afghanistan's Water Crisis**. Available at <<https://www.hydratelife.org/afghanistans-water-crisis/>> Access on: May 8, 2017.

²⁷ MAINSTREAM WEEKLY, **SCO's Role in Afghanistan: Prospects and Challenges**. Available at: <http://www.mainstreamweekly.net/article5721.html> Access on: July 4, 2017.

²⁸ WORLD POLITICS REVIEW, **Afghanistan, Not New Members, Will Determine SCO's Relevance**. Available at: <http://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/articles/16223/afghanistan-not-new-members-will-determine-sco-s-relevance> Access on: July 4, 2017.

²⁹ BELARUS NEWS. **Belarus emphasizes importance of establishing ties between SCO, EEU, CSTO**. Available at: <<http://eng.belta.by/politics/view/belarus-emphasizes-importance-of-establishing-ties-between-sco-eeu-csto-96577-2016/>>. Access in: Apr. 28, 2017.

future consumption needs. Belarus has around 20,800 rivers, 10,800 lakes, 153 water reservoirs and 1,500 ponds. Their water resources are primarily intended for irrigation and water supply of big cities³⁰.

However, the most essential problem for Belarus is the an uneven distribution and quality of water resources, which is connected with the unequal water supply to the population and territories, varying levels of intensity of agricultural and industrial production and water needs directly related to them³¹.

11. IRAN

The Islamic Republic of Iran is an observer state in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. Iranian officials have lobbied for full membership since obtaining the formal SCO observer status in July 2005, because they have seen benefits from the enhanced status. Despite Tehran's aspirations, its government's links with international terrorism, support for militant extremists in foreign countries, and its controversial nuclear energy program have made the existing SCO members reluctant to incorporate Iran.

The country faces multiple challenges as far as its water management is concerned. Iranians use 66 gallons of water daily, on an average. But lack of fresh water and overconsumption of water has made it the world's 24th most 'water-stressed' country, as per the 2013 report of the World Resources Institute. As of 2014, and according to Iran's Ministry of Energy, the country is making use of 70 percent of the total renewed freshwater, which is far beyond the suggested limit of 40 percent.

A glaring example of the water crisis is Lake Urmia, once a mighty salt lake, but now has shrunk to a shocking five percent of its earlier volume in just 20 years. The Zayandeh river, which stands for "life-giving river", and was once the largest river that flowed through the heartland of Iran is now mostly dry after being used for several purposes.

30 CLIMATE CHANGE POST. **BELARUS.** Available at: <http://www.climatechange.org/belarus/fresh-water-resources/>. Access in: Apr. 28, 2017.

31 CLIMATE CHANGE POST. **BELARUS.** Available at: <http://www.climatechange.org/belarus/fresh-water-resources/>. Access in: Apr. 28, 2017.

Alarming rise in population, over exploitation of groundwater, and rampant wastage of water, especially in cities, are among the reasons for the situation of water crisis that Iran finds itself in.

12. MONGOLIA

Mongolia is a landlocked country, located between Russia and China, with 73% of agricultural land, except that only 0,4% of it is actually arable, with the rest consisting of permanent pasture.³² According to the Mongolian Ministry of Nature, Environment and Tourism, by 2007, the number of dried lakes, rivers and springs rose to 30%.³³

In consequence of climate change, hundreds of Mongolia's lakes and rivers have dried up, and there is significant desertification of land notably on the south, around the Gobi desert. Water sources are unsteadily distributed within the country, with abundant superficial water resources located in northern Mongolia, but which are inaccessible for the drier central and southern parts of the state, that lack water sources. Besides water shortage, its quality is worrisome due to the economic activities of herding, mining and urban development, which add up and become threatening to public health.³⁴

DIALOGUE PARTNERS

13. ARMENIA

Armenia or Republic of Armenia is a dialogue partner in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization since April, 2016. Foreign Minister of Armenia and the SCO Secretary General agreed that the establishment of partnership relations will be a new

³² CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY. **Mongolia** – The World Factbook. Available at <<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/mg.html>>. Last accessed at 05/10/2017.

³³ UN-WATER COUNTRY BRIEF. **Mongolia**. Available at <http://www.unwater.org/fileadmin/user_upload/unwater_new/docs/Publications/MNG_pagebypage.pdf>. Last accessed at 05/10/2017.

³⁴ THEUNISSEN, Tirza. **Water Scarcity: a Threat to Mongolia's Sustainable Development**. Available at <<http://asiafoundation.org/2014/09/17/water-scarcity-a-threat-to-mongolias-sustainable-development/>>. Last accessed at 05/11/2017.

landmark for the development of cooperation between Armenia and the Organization, as well as for prospects for further deepening of cooperation.

The country's water sector was in a state of despair after the fall of the Soviet Union: the system suffered from increased demand, dilapidated infrastructure, water leakage, wastage, and costly service provision. Realizing that the main reason behind the poor water service was weak management of available resources, Armenia's Government decided to partner with the private sector to introduce significant reforms in the sector. As a result, the sector today is well regulated with an established institutional framework, increased operating efficiency, improved service provision, and greater customer satisfaction.

14. AZERBAIJAN

Azerbaijan is a country well-known for its corruption. In 2009 the government eliminated presidential term limits and increased presidential terms from 5 to 7 years through a referendum³⁵. The country suffered a great economic development due to the growth of the gas and oil exportation.

Though the country may be rich in energy resources, when it comes to clean water distribution, the stats change. Even with the government's attempt to promote a water purification facility complex³⁶, most people in the country still have access to water mainly through untreated rivers, an unhealthy method.

In the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Azerbaijan was granted the status of a dialogue partner in 2016³⁷. The country's foreign minister, Elmar Mammadiarov, stated that "Azerbaijan has considerably higher ambitions than just the status of dialogue"³⁸.

³⁵CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY. **Central Asia :: Azerbaijan.** Available at: <<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/az.html>>. Access on: May 8, 2017.

³⁶AZERNEWS. **Azerbaijan solves water supply problems.** Available at: <https://www.azernews.az/nation/89247.html>. Access on: May 8, 2017.

³⁷ RUSSIAN NEWS AGENCY, **Azerbaijan granted status of SCO dialogue partner.** Available at: <http://tass.com/world/862042> Access on: May 8, 2017.

³⁸ THE JAMESTOWN FOUNDATION, **Implications of Azerbaijan Moving Closer to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.** Available at <https://jamestown.org/program/implications-of-azerbaijan-moving-closer-to-the-shanghai-cooperation-organization/> Access on: July 8, 2017.

Mubariz Ahmedoglu, the head of the Center for Political Innovation and Technology (TSPIT) claimed that “On the basis of its national interests, Azerbaijan has always tried, as much as possible, to cooperate with a number of international institutions”. One of the principal goals of Azerbaijan in the SCO is the preservation of its territorial integrity – given the occupation suffered from Armenia for over 20 years – along with the battle against terrorism and to establish control over the extremist and separatism movements.

15. CAMBODIA

Following the Japanese occupation in World War II, the Kingdom of Cambodia gained full independence from France in 1953. This country has experienced strong economic growth over the last decade, as its GDP grew at an average annual rate of over 8% between 2000 and 2010.

Although, Cambodia remains one of the poorest countries in Asia and long-term economic development is still a challenge, inhibited by corruption, limited human resources, high rent inequality and poor job perspectives³⁹. Therefore, to stimulate economic growth, making it possible to increase job opportunities in the private sector, represents a central challenge for Cambodia’s government.

The SCO leaders took Cambodia as one of its new dialogue partners on July 2015, after the meeting of the Heads of State Council⁴⁰. Certainly, to have conquered the status of a dialogue partner of the Shanghai Corporation Organization means a great chance to leverage Cambodia’s economy. Moreover, according to the SCO Secretary General Dmitry Mezentsev, this new cooperation will promote regional security and stability, as Cambodia’s participation in the fight against extremism, terrorism separatism is one of its focus⁴¹.

³⁹ CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY. **Central Asia :: Cambodia**. Available at: <<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/cb.html>>. Accessed on: May 8, 2017.

⁴⁰ EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN IN THE STATE OF KUWAIT. **Cambodia has Received the Status of the SCO Dialogue Partner**. Available at: <http://uzbekembassy.gov.kw/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&catid=42:news&id=4760:cambodia-has-received-the-status-of-the-sco-dialogue-partner> Access on: May 8, 2017.

⁴¹ THE ORGANIZATION OF ASIA – PACIFIC NEWS AGENCIES. **Granting Cambodia a status of dialogue partner marks significant stage for SCO**. Available at: <http://www.oanews.org/content/news/general/granting-cambodia-status-dialogue-partner-marks-significant-stage-sco>. Access on: May 8, 2017.

16. NEPAL

Nepal is located between China and India; it has no maritime claims or coastline, thus, it is landlocked. Nepal has 28,8% of its terrain considered as agricultural, besides its mountainous soil. With a unique geography, the Himalayan peaks are referred to as water towers of South Asia. They are the sources of all the three of south Asia's major river systems, the Indus, the Ganges and the Brahmaputra, and Nepal lies in the middle of it. The five river basins of Nepal, all important tributaries of River Ganges, contribute 71 % of the annual flow during the dry season and 40% in the monsoon which sees 80% of the total rainfall. The total renewable water resources including the groundwater adds up to 210.2 billion km³/year, which makes Nepal one of the Asian countries with the highest level of water resources.⁴² Surprisingly, even with great levels of annual precipitation, Nepal also suffers with contaminated water reservoirs due to constant pollution due to human and animal wastes, industrial effluents and agricultural runoff.⁴³

Furthermore, in Kathmandu Valley – the country's most developed and inhabited region, for example – four million residents use around 320 million liters of water every day. The government, however, can only meet 20 percent of that demand, especially during the dry season.⁴⁴ These problems are attributed to the mass pollution of rivers after an earthquake that destroyed the country's water and sewage systems in 2015, and took many lives away as well.⁴⁵ Nonetheless, polluted rivers are not the only factor: Nepal's sewage system was built 200 years ago, which makes the pipelines more susceptible to break and leak sewage.⁴⁶

⁴² DAS SHRESHTA, SURESH. **Water crisis in the Nepal Himalayas.** Available at <<http://www2.fiu.edu/~sukopm/seminar/Suresh.pdf>> . Last accessed at 06/23/2017.

⁴³ CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY. **Nepal – The World Factbook.** Available at <<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/np.html>>. Last accessed on 05/10/2017

⁴⁴ XIANGYU, Say. **In the land of 6,000 rivers, a contamination crisis: Nepal's water nightmare.** Available at <<http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/in-the-land-of-6-000-rivers-a-contamination-crisis-nepal-s-water-8600062>>. Last accessed at 05/11/2017

⁴⁵ RAI, Riwanj. **Nepal struggles to repair water systems destroyed by quake.** Available at <<https://www.thethirdpole.net/2015/07/14/nepal-struggles-to-repair-water-systems-destroyed-by-quake/>>. Last accessed at 05/11/2017.

⁴⁶ Op. Cit. 10

17. SRI LANKA

The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka is an island on the Pacific Ocean, composed of different ethnic groups, being Sinhalese and Tamil the two largest. Tensions between the Sinhalese majority and Tamil separatists erupted into a civil war in 1983, that lasted two decades of fighting. Since the end of the conflict, the government has been pursuing large-scale reconstruction and development projects in its efforts to stimulate growth in war-devastated and disadvantaged areas, to develop small and medium enterprises, and to increase agricultural productivity⁴⁷.

This country was granted the status of SCO dialogue partner in 2009, being the alliance with the organization a great deal for Sri Lanka, since it enables cooperation on areas such as security, economy, science and technology, considering the current post conflict scenario, where fast economic development and the safeguarding of security and peace remain the priorities⁴⁸.

In fact, the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (RATS SCO) and the Sri Lanka Defense Ministry are about to conclude the legal base for anti-terrorism cooperation, having accelerated the signing of a cooperation protocol between the two structures⁴⁹.

18. TURKEY

Turkey only occupies the place of a dialogue partner in the organization. Bearing in mind that the country is involved with the *North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)*. Contrary to general perception Turkey is not rich in fresh water resources and

⁴⁷ CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY. **Central Asia :: Sri Lanka**. Available at: <<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ce.html>>. Accessed on: May 8, 2017.

⁴⁸ MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SRI LANKA. **Minister of External Affairs, Prof. Peiris emphasizes the relevance of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to Sri Lanka**. Available at: <<http://www.mfa.gov.lk/index.php/media/news-archive/2380-minister-of-external-affairs-prof-peiris-emphasizes-the-relevance-of-the-shanghai-cooperation-organization-to-sri-lanka->>>.Access on: May 7, 2017.

⁴⁹ MOSCOW (SPUTNIK). **The SCO and Sri Lankan Defense Ministry are about to conclude the legal base for anti-terrorism cooperation, RATS press service said on Monday**. Available at: <<https://sputniknews.com/world/201701091049395600-sco-srilanka-cooperation-terrorism/>>>. Access on: May 7, 2017.

it does not have excess water capacity, yet in comparison to its neighbors it has more water resources.

Turkey's average annual runoff is about 186bn cubic meters (m³). The amount available for consumption from this capacity is mere 110bn m³ including 12bn m³ of ground water. Taking into consideration Turkey's population of 60 million, the quantity of water per capita will be 2890m³. Countries regarded as rich in water resources have 8000-10,000m³ of water per capita per year. In other words, the available water per capita in Turkey is about one-fifth of the water-rich countries. The impression that Turkey has excess water derives from the fact that it is not at present in a position to fully utilize its water resources. Today Turkey utilizes only 25.9bn m³ of its available capacity of 110bn m³ the remaining portion is not surplus to Turkey's requirements, but an amount which cannot yet be allocated to its needs.

GUEST ATTENDENCES

19. ASEAN

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a regional organization comprising ten Southeast Asian states, which promotes intergovernmental cooperation and facilitates economic integration amongst its members. It has 10 members: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam; and 2 observer members: Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste.

Its role in cooperation with the SCO is stated in the Memorandum of Understanding between both secretariats, signed on April 21st 2005, in Jakarta, Indonesia, which comprehends, among the priority areas, the transnational crime, including: (a) counter terrorism; (b) drugs and narcotics control; (c) arms smuggling; (d) money laundering; and (e) trafficking in persons.

In addition, the Memorandum states the cooperation among other areas, such as: (a) economic and financial cooperation; (b) tourism; (c) environment and natural resources management; (d) social development; and (e) energy cooperation, especially hydroelectric power and biofuels.

20. COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES (CIS)

The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) started out on December 8, 1991, in the Bolovezh Accords, which also ended the Soviet Union. The organization has several goals, including the regulation of members' foreign and security policies, development of a common economic space, fostering human rights, and inter-ethnic amity, maintenance of the military assets of the former USSR, creation of shared transportation and communications networks, environmental security, regulation of migration policy, and efforts to combat organized crime.⁵⁰

On that account, the CIS acts based on its Charter, ratified by the Council of Heads of States on January 22nd 1993, which sets the goals and principles of the Commonwealth, rights and obligations of its members. The Charter sets forth that the Commonwealth stands on sovereign equality of all its representatives, and that the Member States are sovereign and equal subjects under international law.⁵¹

21. TURKMENISTAN

Turkmenistan shares its borders with Kazakhstan, the Caspian Sea, Afghanistan, Iran and Uzbekistan, with 72% of agricultural land. Hence, it is one of the countries that use the Amu Darya as a source for irrigation, hardening the conditions for replenishment of the Aral Sea.⁵²

The Karakum Desert, with an average annual precipitation of 0.47 inches, covers 80% of the Turkmen surface. Currently, the country is considered as the ninth most water insecure in the world, with many specialists arguing that a serious water shortage

⁵⁰ ENCYCLOPEDIA OF RUSSIAN HISTORY. **Commonwealth of Independent States**. Available at <<http://www.encyclopedia.com/social-sciences-and-law/political-science-and-government/international-organizations/commonwealth>>. Last accessed at 05/11/2017.

⁵¹ JAMES MARTIN CENTER. **Commonwealth of Independent States**. Available at <http://www.nti.org/learn/treaties-and-regimes/commonwealth-independent-states-cis/>>. Last accessed at 05/11/2017.

⁵² CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY. **Turkmenistan** – The World Factbook. Available at <<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/tx.html>>. Last accessed at 05/10/2017

could take place as prematurely as 2020. For this reason, Turkmenistan is effectively subordinate to the Amu Darya's resources, which is supplied by permafrost run-offs; specialists predict a flow reduction of up to 15% by 2050. Seeing that, most of the water used for cotton monoculture is risky for later consumption, as it contains harmful insecticides and fertilizers. Still, government plans of building reservoirs on the desert are not a guaranteed success, as studies show that the water may evaporate too quickly, or disappear into the desert's soil.⁵³

In the meantime, aware of the country's severe dryness, the government has recently released a plan of flooding the Karashor depression, via a complex set of tributary canals to feed the man-made reservoir, seeking to create the Altyn Asyr (Gold Age Lake), hoping to drain the flooded cotton fields and bring more migratory birds to the deserted areas. Despite that, specialists disagree of the measure – they claim that most part of the water would be absorbed by the desert's permeable and dry soil, quickly salting all the resources left.⁵⁴

⁵³ JARDINE, Bradley. **Turkmenistan's Water Insecurity Is a Man-Made Problem.** Available at <<http://thediplomat.com/2015/07/turkmenistans-water-insecurity-is-a-man-made-problem/>>. Last accessed on 05/11/2017.

⁵⁴ Op. Cit. 4

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