

► Transformation process in Tajikistan – On the way to being a "Green Country", H.E. Sohbnazar Gayratsho on his inaugural visit to the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, since 2013 the seat of the only honorary consulate of the Central Asian country in Europe, to recruit partners



▲ After the friendly exchange on the intensification of cooperation between Hamburg and Tajikistan State Counsellor Almut Möller, Representative for Foreign Affairs, handed over the photobook "So Beautiful is Hamburg" to H.E. Sohbnazar Gayratsho.



▲ In an interview with Dietrich Wersich (CDU), 1st vice-president of the Hamburgische Bürgerschaft (the Hamburg City Parliament), one of the topics was the peculiarities of Tajik presidential democracy. Then the diplomat from Dushanbe signed the guest book.



▲ In the hope of continuing the constructive dialogue with the foreign affairs commissioner Robert Lorenz-Meyer (L) and the chairman of the committee Eastern Europe Mirco Nowak (r.), the ambassador registered in the guest book of the Hamburg Chamber of Commerce.



▲ When it comes to Tajikistan or the subject Nowruz, Markus Schreiber (r.) was naturally not to be missed. Ambassador Gayratsho and Honorary Consul Pourkian were happy about the reunion with the SPD member of parliament during the lunch exchange in the restaurant "Parlament", where "twinning" was an issue.



BRIDGE BUILDING Connecting Tajikistan and Germany through Inaugural Visit

"We have an abundance of agricultural products and raw materials, such as fruits, cotton and raw aluminum. With our hydropower, we could meet the energy needs of Central Asia three times", said Tajikistan's Ambassador H.E. Sohbnazar Gayratsho during his official inaugural visit to the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg at the beginning of November. For this, the smallest Central Asian country needs new sales markets as well as investors for the processing and refinement of its own products. "Because we want to retain more added value in Tajikistan," said the diplomat.

During his promotional tour accompanied by Honorary Consul Kourosh Pourkian, Gayratsho made it clear that German know-how for the development of infrastructure in Tajikistan is at the top of the wish list. As an example, he called the medical care. There are now technically well-equipped clinics, but there is a lack of professionals and doctors who can handle it.

The pride of the ambassador is the ecologically clean energy. Tajikistan operates several hydropower plants and would like to use the generated electricity to produce hydrogen according to the "pow-

er-to-gas" principle and to transport it to Europe via the hub of Hamburg, the future center of North German hydrogen energy.

With its breathtaking natural landscapes and its more than 3000 years old culture, the 9-million-inhabitant country has plenty to offer for tourists. In order to be able to welcome more than 20,000 European guests in the long term, according to the Tajik tradition of "MEHMAN", which means a "gift from God", a tourist infrastructure must first be created. "For this we need trained tourism professionals as well as service personnel," said Gayratsho, who also envisioned a kind of "climate tourism". Gayratsho sees a tourist target group in the more than 100,000 large community of Hamburg, which is familiar with the culture and united by the traditions of the New Year and Spring Festival "Nowruz". In Tajikistan, they could feel at home and still discover and experience a lot of new things.

Speaking of Nowruz – at the latest on March 24, when Honorary Consul Kourosh Pourkian invites to the 10th Nowruz Economic and Cultural Forum, Ambassador H.E. Sohbnazar Gayratsho will be back in Hamburg.



▲ The ambassador and the honorary consul of Tajikistan are well-equipped to attend a match at the Hamburger Sportverein (HSV): Henning Bindzus (l.), HSV Director Business Relations & Brand, and HSV Project Manager Christian Lenz (r.), presented the hosts fan scarves of the traditional football club during the lunch exchange.



▲ Business breakfast in the premises of the LUNO Group: Upon invitation of the Russian-German Trade Guild, H.E. Sohbnazar Gayratsho in the series of "Ambassador Dialogue along the Silk Road" promoted his country in front of representatives of the business and tourism industry. In the current "Doing Business Report" of the World Bank Tajikistan is among the top 20 reformers.