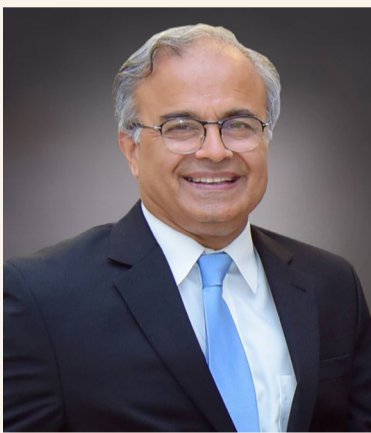




ECO Newsletter

Economic Cooperation Organization

December, 2024 - No. 4



Dear Friends,

I am delighted to present the last and final edition of the ECO Newsletter for the year 2024. December was a particularly eventful month, highlighted by the successful convening of the 28th ECO Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting in Mashhad. The Mashhad Communiqué, while endorsing and approving the important initiatives and activities undertaken by ECO during 2024 also provided guidance on the future direction by tasking the Secretariat to draft a post-2025 strategic vision for the Organization. We also received formal confirmation of July 3-4, 2025 as the dates for the 17th ECO Summit in Azerbaijan.

On the sidelines, I also had the privilege of engaging with the Foreign Ministers and senior officials of the member states. In line with my priority to bring greater visibility and transparency in ECO's work I also extensively engaged the media both in Mashhad and Tehran to highlight our key achievements during the year and the important decisions taken during the COM.

In December, I also virtually addressed the 7th CICA Ministerial Council Meeting where I emphasised the importance of fostering multilateralism as our best bet in collectively dealing with the complex challenges we face in the world today and deeper regional collaboration as its important building block. I also had a series of engagements in Tehran including with the UN Resident Coordinator as well as the Ambassadors of UAE and Mauritania, to explore avenues for strengthening ties and fostering partnerships in areas such as trade, transport, and energy.

Private sector engagements were also a key focus this month. At the pre-Kish Expo event and the International Conference entitled Role of Diplomacy in Economic Development hosted by the Maku Free Industrial Zone, we underscored the critical role private sector had in promoting innovation, unlocking trade potential, and creating opportunities for regional collaboration.

As 2024 comes to a close, I extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Islamic Republic of Iran for its leadership and contributions as the Chair of ECO during 2024. We are confident that Kazakhstan, as the incoming chair for 2025, will build on this momentum and guide the organization towards greater achievements, especially as we celebrate ECO's 40th anniversary in 2025.

Secretary General
Economic Cooperation Organization

ECO Convenes 28th ECO Council of Ministers Meeting



Mashhad – December 3, 2024

The 28th Meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organization Council of Ministers (COM) brought together Foreign and Deputy Foreign Ministers from ECO member states as well as representatives from ECO subsidiary bodies and international organizations such as the Turkish Cypriot State, Organization of Turkic States, Asia Cooperation Dialogue, and Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia.

Chaired by H.E. Abbas Araghchi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the meeting focused on fostering regional integration and sustainable economic growth. Key discussions included the development of a new ECO strategy for the post-2025 era. The Council adopted the Mashhad Communiqué which outlines strategic directions for ECO's future activities.

The Council also reviewed progress on major initiatives and projects, emphasizing collective action to address shared challenges. It also highlighted ECO's expanding global partnerships, particularly with UN agencies and other multilateral platforms, as crucial to advancing its objectives and enhancing international visibility. The 29th ECO Council of Ministers Meeting will be hosted by Kazakhstan in 2025, continuing the Organization's mission to promote regional prosperity.



Secretary General Meets Deputy Prime Minister of Pakistan



Mashhad – December 3, 2024

On the sidelines of the 28th ECO Council of Ministers Meeting, Dr. Asad M. Khan met H.E. Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan. Senator Dar congratulated Dr. Khan on his appointment as ECO Secretary General and expressed Pakistan's commitment to strengthening regional cooperation, while Dr. Khan assured his dedication to turning these aspirations into actionable initiatives.

Secretary General Meets Tajik Foreign Minister



Mashhad –December 2, 2024

Dr. Asad M. Khan met H.E. Mr. Sirojiddin Muhridin, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan, on the sidelines of the 28th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers. Dr. Khan discussed key regional issues, ECO's collective priorities, and structural challenges affecting the Organization's efficiency. He also invited Tajikistan to host future ECO events.

H.E. Mr. Muhridin congratulated Dr. Khan on his appointment, expressing confidence in his leadership and highlighting Tajikistan's developmental priorities. He conveyed the country's readiness to host ECO Ministerial Meetings on Industry and Environment. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing regional cooperation and advancing ECO's shared goals.

Secretary General Meets Turkmen Deputy Foreign Minister



Mashhad –December 2, 2024

Dr. Asad M. Khan met H.E. Mr. Ahmet Gurbanov, Deputy Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan, on the sidelines of the 28th ECO Council of Ministers Meeting. Dr. Khan acknowledged Turkmenistan's growing role within the ECO and praised the country for hosting several important regional and international events.

The discussion focused on the region's development potential, with particular emphasis on Turkmenistan's initiatives in tourism and transport. Both sides reaffirmed their shared commitment to advancing ECO's objectives and strengthening regional cooperation, especially under Kazakhstan's upcoming leadership in the coming year.

Secretary General Meets Deputy Prime Minister of Kazakhstan



Mashhad –December 2, 2024.

Dr. Asad M. Khan met H.E. Mr. Murat Nurtleu, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, on the sidelines of the 28th ECO Council of Ministers Meeting. The discussions focused on Kazakhstan's priorities for its ECO chairmanship in 2025, with a particular emphasis on enhancing regional transport and connectivity. Dr. Khan encouraged Kazakhstan to host several ministerial meetings and highlighted the importance of upcoming high-level events under the ECO framework, urging Kazakhstan's active participation and meaningful contributions to these initiatives.

The meeting concluded with both sides reaffirming their shared commitment to advancing ECO's objectives and strengthening regional cooperation. Dr. Khan expressed confidence in Kazakhstan's leadership, emphasizing its pivotal role in driving the organization's agenda forward in the coming year.

ECO Tourism Website and YouTube Channel



Mashhad – December 2, 2024

Dr. Asad M. Khan announced the official launch of the ECO Tourism Website during the 28th Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM). This initiative is a significant step towards disseminating tourism related information in the region.

The website, accessible at <http://tourism.eco.int>, aims to serve as a comprehensive resource for travelers and tourism stakeholders, complementing national tourism websites and tourism promotion portals to provide a one-stop-shop for all tourism-related information in the ECO region.

This new online platform and relevant YouTube Channel (www.youtube.com/@TourismInECO) will not only consolidate tourism-related information, but will also integrate key outputs from ECO's tourism efforts, including the Ecotourism Catalogue, the ECO Tourism Investment Guide and a highlight of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in the ECO region.

ECO Senior Officials Convene in Mashhad

Mashhad – December 2, 2024

Senior officials of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) gathered in Mashhad for a preparatory session ahead of the 28th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM). Chaired by Dr. Seyed Jaleedin Alavi Sabzevari, Director General of Multilateral and International Economic Cooperation at Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the meeting brought together delegates from ECO Member States and Observers. Coordinated by the ECO Secretariat, the session finalized key documents, including the Mashhad Communiqué, which was later adopted during the COM. The Communiqué outlines strategic initiatives and actionable steps to enhance regional cooperation, reflecting ECO's commitment to building a resilient and integrated region while collectively addressing shared challenges.

The discussions during the session focused on regional challenges and opportunities, underscoring the importance of strengthened collaboration among ECO Member States. Participants emphasized the need for joint efforts to unlock the region's development potential, particularly through coordinated actions and shared strategies. The preparatory session set the stage for meaningful deliberations at the COM, reaffirming ECO's dedication to fostering sustainable growth and regional integration.



Secretary General Addresses Media on Regional Cooperation Goals

Tehran– December 3, 2024

Dr. Asad M. Khan addressed two media briefings in December 2024, sharing key decisions from the 28th Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting and outlining future initiatives.

At a press conference in Mashhad on December 3, Dr. Khan informed about the adoption of the Mashhad Communiqué, emphasizing regional trade, the establishment of an ECO Free Trade Area, and cooperation in energy, tourism, food security, and climate resilience. He highlighted the launch of the ECO Clean Energy Centre at COP29 in Baku and the designation of Shahrizabz, Uzbekistan, and Erzurum, Türkiye, as ECO Tourism Capitals for 2024 and 2025, respectively. He also welcomed Kazakhstan's chairmanship starting January 2025, coinciding with ECO's 40th anniversary.

On December 9, at the ECO Secretariat in Tehran, Dr. Khan discussed preparations for the 17th ECO Summit in Azerbaijan (July 2025) and ongoing projects to improve trade and connectivity. He also shared plans to develop a post-2025 roadmap under the ECO Vision 2025 framework to ensure sustained progress in regional development.



Secretary General Visits ECO-RCRM

Mashhad– December 3, 2024

Following the 28th ECO Council of Ministers Meeting, ECO Secretary General Dr. Asad M. Khan and his delegation visited the ECO Regional Center for Risk Management of Natural Disasters (ECO-RCRM) to review its achievements, ongoing projects, and strategic plans.

Dr. Sina Samadi, Director of ECO-RCRM, presented an overview of the Center's activities, emphasizing its specialized training programs aimed at enhancing the region's disaster management capacities. Dr. Khan commended the Center's progress and its vital role in advancing disaster risk management infrastructure and fostering regional scientific collaboration. The delegation toured the Center's advanced facilities, including the climate modeling laboratory, gaining insights into its innovative capabilities and projects.



Secretary General attends CICA Ministerial Meeting



Tehran, December 17, 2024

Dr. Asad M. Khan, Secretary General of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), attended the 7th Ministerial Council Meeting of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), hosted virtually by the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Dr. Khan underscored the growing importance of multilateral cooperation in tackling today's challenges and emphasized the need for a bottom-up approach to foster regional and sub-regional dialogue. He highlighted the synergies between ECO and CICA, noting that all ECO member states are also associated with CICA and operate in overlapping areas of cooperation. Referring to the 2008 Memorandum of Understanding between the two organizations, he called for translating this understanding into actionable plans and projects to achieve shared objectives. Dr. Khan concluded by reiterating ECO's commitment to strengthening its partnership with CICA and advancing their common goal of sustainable development in the region.



Secretary General Engages with Media Representatives



Tehran, December 9, 2024

Dr. Asad M. Khan, Secretary held a press conference at the ECO Secretariat to brief media representatives on the outcomes of the 28th Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting and upcoming ECO events. He highlighted ECO's commitment to strengthening economic cooperation and regional integration. Dr. Khan also discussed key ongoing and future projects aimed at improving regional connectivity, enhancing trade, and building climate resilience across the ECO region. Additionally, he outlined preparations for the 17th ECO Summit, which will be hosted by Azerbaijan in July 2025.

Dr. Khan provided updates on the ECO Vision 2025, emphasizing that the 28th COM meeting had tasked the Secretariat with formulating a comprehensive roadmap for the post-2025 agenda, which will guide the organization's future strategies and initiatives, ensuring sustained progress in fostering regional development. The press conference highlighted ECO's commitment to deepening regional integration, sharing the outcomes of the 28th COM Meeting, outlining future initiatives, and enhancing its visibility in the media.



Secretary General Meets Trade Minister of Türkiye



Tehran, December 11, 2024

During his visit to Tehran for the Iran-Türkiye Joint Economic Committee meetings, Minister of Trade of the Republic of Türkiye, Prof. Ömer Bolat, met Dr. Asad Majeed Khan to discuss strategies for enhancing regional trade. Dr. Khan emphasized the significance of the ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA) in boosting intra-regional trade and provided updates on ongoing efforts to finalize a research study and roadmap for updating ECOTA's modalities. He also highlighted the need for more frequent ECO Trade Ministers' meetings, pointing out that only four have been held to date.

The Minister reaffirmed Türkiye's commitment to multilateral economic cooperation, noting that trade with ECO Member States had doubled between 2020 and 2023. He expressed Türkiye's readiness to host the 5th ECO Trade Ministers' Meeting in Ankara in June 2025. Discussions between the two leaders focused on reducing trade barriers, improving connectivity, streamlining customs procedures, and enhancing rail systems between Iran and Pakistan to facilitate trade and economic integration.

Dr. Khan acknowledged Türkiye's leadership in the region, contributing 63 per cent of the ECO region's exports, and called for business forums and a comprehensive roadmap to ease the movement of goods, capital, and people. Both leaders emphasized the importance of achieving actionable outcomes ahead of the ECO Summit in Azerbaijan on July 3-4, 2025, expressing optimism about further strengthening regional economic ties.

Expert Group Meeting on Banking and Financial Matters

Tehran, December 10, 2024

The ECO Secretariat hosted the 2nd Expert Group Meeting on Banking, Financial Matters, and the Formation of the ECO Clearing Union in a virtual format. The meeting was chaired by the Islamic Republic of Iran and attended by representatives from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Turkiye, and Turkmenistan. The ECO Secretariat, led by Secretary General Dr. Asad M. Khan, and the ECO Trade and Development Bank also participated.

Dr. Khan emphasized the critical role of an efficient payment system in expanding trade volumes and fostering economic integration. He highlighted the need for enhanced cooperation among Central Banks and Finance Ministries to achieve intra-regional trade targets and advance regional integration.

Discussions centered on the establishment of the ECO Clearing Union, aiming to reduce transaction costs and processing times for trade-related payments, thereby boosting intra-regional trade.

The group agreed to continue deliberations in future Working Group sessions and to hold a virtual consultative session with the Asian Clearing Union (ACU) to refine recommendations for the 6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Finance and Economy, scheduled for May 2025. The proposed clearing union is expected to streamline trade transactions and significantly enhance economic cooperation among ECO member states.



Secretary General Highlights Regional Trade Opportunities at Pre-Kish Expo Event

Tehran- December 13, 2024

Dr. Asad M. Khan attended the pre-Kish Expo event and emphasized Kish Island's role as a Free Trade Zone and a hub for regional collaboration. He highlighted the upcoming 1st International Kish Expo (January 18–24, 2025), which will host participants from over 40 countries, as a key platform for innovation and business networking.

Dr. Khan also stressed the importance of such events in unlocking the untapped trade potential and fostering economic integration in the region. He proposed hosting the 3rd ECO Trade Fair in partnership with KISHEXPO to further strengthen regional trade connectivity and drive joint economic growth.



International Conference on Cultural Diplomacy and Economic Development



Tehran – December 17, 2024

Dr. Asad M. Khan addressed the International Conference on the Role of Diplomacy in Economic Development, organized by the Maku Free Industrial Zone. The event brought together delegates from public and private sectors, including representatives from Iran, Iraq, Turkiye, ECO, SCO, and other organizations, providing a platform for dialogue and collaboration.

Dr. Khan highlighted the immense potential of the Maku Free Trade Zone, one of Iran's largest free zones and a key hub for regional trade collaboration. He emphasized the importance of creating a business-friendly environment to foster trade and investment within the region. He also outlined ECO's initiatives to expand intra-regional trade and investment opportunities.

Dr. Khan stressed the significance of such conferences in promoting business networking and showcasing the untapped economic potential of the region. He reaffirmed ECO's commitment to supporting similar initiatives aimed at fostering regional integration and economic growth.

Secretary General Meets Mauritanian Ambassador



Tehran, December 12- 2024

Dr. Asad M. Khan met H.E. Sidi Mohamed Radhi, Ambassador of Mauritania to Iran, to discuss enhancing collaboration between ECO and the African Union (AU). The discussions focused on fostering partnerships in trade, transport, and energy sectors.

Dr. Khan invited African Union ambassadors in Tehran to a special briefing at the ECO Secretariat to showcase ECO's activities, projects, and the benefits of ECO-AU cooperation. The meeting highlighted ECO's commitment to expanding regional engagement and strengthening partnerships with the African Union.



Secretary General Meets UN Resident Coordinator



Tehran, December 16, 2024-

Dr. Asad M. Khan met H.E. Mr. Stefan Priesner, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Tehran. The two had an in-depth exchange on the possibilities and potential for cooperation between ECO and the UN in advancing Sustainable Development Goals in the region.

Dr. Khan detailed on ECO activities and its external relations, mentioning its observer status at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) since 1993 and partnerships with various UN entities. He highlighted ECO's recent participation in the UNGA High-Level Week and the UN Summit of the Future, where it advocated for stronger collaboration between the UN System and regional organizations. He also emphasized the region's vulnerabilities to climate-related threats and called for closer collaboration between ECO and the UN System to address these challenges.

Mr. Priesner briefed on the UN System, particularly the UN Resident Coordinator Office in Tehran. He noted that the office collaborates with 18 UN agencies and 27 line ministries in Iran to handle a wide range of development priorities. The meeting explored opportunities for joint projects in connectivity, tourism, and climate change mitigation, with both sides reaffirming their commitment to strengthening ECO-UN cooperation for regional and global development.

Secretary General Meets UAE Ambassador



Tehran, December 15, 2024

Dr. Asad M. Khan, ECO Secretary General, met H.E. Mr. Saif Mohamed Obaid Al Zaabi, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates in Tehran.

The Secretary General briefed the Ambassador on ECO's key activities, particularly in regional trade and connectivity. He acknowledged the UAE's leading role in advancing renewable energy and the green energy transition, highlighting its hosting of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), development of Masdar city, and the successful organization of the 28th UNFCCC COP in 2023.

Dr. Khan underscored the importance of fostering closer ties between ECO and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and conveyed interest in exploring avenues for collaboration between two sister organizations.



Modeling and Simulation Software in Transportation Management



Tehran, December 04, 2024

The Economic Cooperation Organization, in collaboration with the Transportation Data Analytics Center of the Iran University of Science and Technology, organized a virtual workshop titled "An Introduction to Applications of Modeling and Simulation Software in Transportation Management."

The workshop highlighted the transformative potential of modeling and simulation software in tackling modern transportation challenges. Participants shared insights into innovative tools that improve transportation network design, optimize decision-making processes, and support the development of resilient and sustainable systems. The event reaffirmed ECO's commitment to fostering regional cooperation and knowledge exchange to address critical issues in transportation management effectively.

ECO and JICA Explore Collaboration Opportunities

Tehran – December 9, 2024

The Chief Representative of JICA Iran Office, Mr. Tanaka Osamu, met ECO Deputy Secretary General Ambassador Silapberdi Nurberdiyev to discuss potential joint projects and areas of collaboration. Ambassador Nurberdiyev emphasized the importance of enhancing regional connectivity through the development of North-South and West-East transport corridors, alongside advancements in human resources, sustainable development, and the information and communications sectors to foster trade and economic growth. He highlighted these areas as critical for strengthening regional ties and achieving shared development goals.



Mr. Tanaka reaffirmed JICA's readiness to support ECO's initiatives, bringing its expertise in capacity building, disaster risk reduction, and water management, as well as its active presence in ECO member states. Both sides identified key areas for collaboration and agreed to draft a joint action plan, organize capacity-building workshops, and utilize Tehran as a hub for regional training programs. The meeting marked a significant step in strengthening ECO-JICA relations, reflecting a shared commitment to advancing sustainable development and regional cooperation.

ECO and AFAD Explore Collaboration in Disaster Risk Reduction

Tehran – December 11, 2024

Ambassador Silapberdi Nurberdiyev, Deputy Secretary General of ECO, met Mr. Muhammet Maruf Yaman, Head of Foreign Affairs at Türkiye's Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD), to enhance regional collaboration on disaster risk management. Ambassador Nurberdiyev praised AFAD's support for ECO's disaster risk reduction (DRR) initiatives, including hosting the upcoming "Winter Drill" and Technical Working Group on DRR in Erzurum, Türkiye, in early 2025.

Mr. Yaman reaffirmed AFAD's commitment to ECO's efforts and highlighted the alignment of the technical meeting with the "Winter Drill" planned for March 2025. He also expressed enthusiasm for a joint workshop on earthquake risks. As a member of APDIM, AFAD is dedicated to advancing disaster preparedness and mitigation across the region.



Training on Geospatial Data for Disaster Risk Reduction

Tehran – December 16-17, 2024

The ECO Secretariat, in collaboration with the National Cartographic Center of the Islamic Republic of Iran (NCC), organized a virtual training on the "Application of Geospatial Data in Disaster Risk Reduction." The event aimed to enhance participants' expertise in utilizing technologies like remote sensing, GNSS data analysis, and InSAR for effective disaster management.

The training emphasized the role of geospatial data in building resilience against shared challenges such as natural disasters and climate change. ECO Deputy Secretary General Ambassador Silapberdi Nurberdiyev and NCC Director General Ali Javdaneh highlighted the importance of regional cooperation and capacity building in disaster risk reduction.

Expert-led sessions covered topics such as hazard monitoring using InSAR, tectonic movement analysis with GNSS, and the integration of geospatial sciences in climate change adaptation and sustainable planning. Participants gained valuable technical skills and insights into leveraging geospatial technologies for disaster resilience and sustainable development across the ECO region.



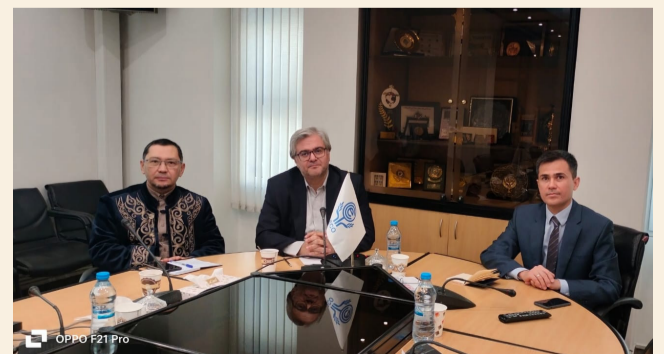
Workshop on Big Data in Transportation Management

Tehran, December 11, 2024

The Economic Cooperation Organization, in collaboration with the Transportation Data Analytics Center of Iran University of Science and Technology, organized a virtual workshop on the "Application of Big Data in Transportation Management and Planning."

Experts and stakeholders from ECO countries shared insights, best practices, and case studies on the use of Big Data in transportation. Discussions focused on how data-driven solutions can optimize transportation networks, reduce congestion, and promote sustainable mobility across the region.

The initiative showcased ECO's commitment to regional cooperation and capacity-building while emphasizing the role of academic and technical institutions in fostering innovation and leveraging technology for sustainable and efficient transportation systems in the ECO region.



ECO Participates in Rasht National Gastronomy Festival



Rasht – December 18-19, 2024

The Rasht National Gastronomy Festival took place on December 18-19, 2024, in Rasht, Gilan Province, Iran. The event brought together ambassadors from Asian Cooperation Dialogue member states, as well as representatives from international and regional organizations. Known as a "city of firsts" in Iran, Rasht was designated a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy in 2015.

Festival attendees had the opportunity to experience Rasht's diverse local cuisine and explore the city's tourism potential. On the sidelines of the event, a meeting was held with the participation of the Mayor of Rasht, Mr. Rahim Shoghi, and City Council Chairman, Mr. Kargarnia. During the meeting, ECO representatives proposed that Rasht host the next ECO Silk Road Food Festival, highlighting the city's unique culinary traditions and its potential to attract global food enthusiasts.

ECO representatives also encouraged local authorities to contribute to the ECO Tourism website by showcasing Rasht's cultural and culinary heritage, as well as its attractions, to enhance its visibility as a sustainable travel destination. The discussions underscored the commitment of local authorities to strengthening the tourism industry while promoting responsible tourism as a means to boost the local economy.

ECO Tourism Capital 2025 Erzurum Unveils Calendar of Events

Tehran – December 18, 2024

The ECO Secretariat has announced the calendar of events for Erzurum, Türkiye, designated as the ECO Tourism Capital for 2025. Launched in 2020, the ECO Tourism Capitals initiative aims to highlight the cultural heritage and natural attractions of cities across the ECO region.

Erzurum, known for its historical significance and natural beauty, will follow Shahrizabz, Uzbekistan (2024), in hosting a year-long series of events. The city, renowned for its appeal to winter sports enthusiasts and nature lovers, is set to attract visitors from across the globe.

The 2025 event lineup includes the Winter Games, World Snowboard Cup, Gastronomy Festival, TV Series Festival, International Cycling Tour, and the Palandoken Economic Forum. Additionally, Erzurum will host the 6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism and the Official Inauguration Ceremony in April 2025.

Erzurum also holds the title of European Capital of Winter Sports for 2025. For more details about the events, visit the ECO Tourism website at tourism.eco.int or follow ECO's social media channels.

Tourism and Transport Task Force Focuses on Enhancing Connectivity

Tehran – December 24, 2024

The 3rd Meeting of the ECO Tourism and Transport Task Force was held virtually to discuss initiatives aimed at improving regional connectivity and boosting tourism flows. Representatives from Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Uzbekistan, and the ECO Secretariat participated in the meeting.

Key discussions centered on enhancing aviation connectivity through expanded flight routes and simplified border procedures. The potential for developing rail and road transport as alternative passenger travel options was also explored. Participants proposed holding future meetings to address infrastructure development, border facilitation, and multilateral air transport liberalization within the ECO region.

Additionally, the upgradation of the ECO Tourism Website was discussed, with a focus on adding comprehensive travel information. Member States were encouraged to share suggestions to make the platform a valuable resource for tourists and industry professionals.



3rd Meeting of the
ECO Tourism
and Transport
Task Force



ERZURUM ECO TOURISM CAPITAL 2025 EVENT CALENDAR



6-12 January 2025 Winter Games

Calling out to the world from the peak of Palandöken. The heart of winter beats in Erzurum.



25 May 2025 Snow Series Festival

The stars shine, the stories compete.



1-3 March 2025 World Snowboard Cup

Rise up in Palandöken



20 July 2025 Summer Games

Summer games from Traditions to the Future



4-5-6 March 2025 AFAD Exercise With The Participation of ECO Member States

ECO Technical Expert Group Meeting on DRR along with Türkiye wide exercise of AFAD (Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency) will take place in Erzurum



20 August 2025 Erzurum Gastronomy Fest

A story in each taste



20-25 August 2025 International Cycling Tour

You have the road, You have the pedal



18 April 2025 Official Inauguration Ceremony

With the presence of Honorable President of the Republic of Türkiye
6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism
Palandöken Economic Forum (with theme 'A Fair Future in Smart World, Intelligent



15 December ECO Tourism Capital Closure

Young Erzurumists race in winter sports



ECO Secretariat, No. 1, Golbou Alley, Kamranieh St., Postal Code: 19519 – 33114, Tehran, Iran
Web: www.eco.int, E-mail: registry@eco.int, Tel: (+9821) 22831733-4, Fax: (+9821) 22831732

#hadigelerzurumagel
#ECOTourismCapital2025



eit25erzurum.com
tourism.eco.int