



ECO Newsletter

Economic Cooperation Organization

July, 2025- No. 11



Foreword

Dear Readers,



I am delighted to present the July 2025 edition of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Newsletter.

July 2025 was an extraordinarily significant month for us as the Republic of Azerbaijan hosted the historic ECO Week, culminating in the 17th ECO Summit on July 3-4 in Khankendi. The ECO Week, in addition to the Summit held under the theme “New ECO Vision for a Sustainable and Climate Resilient Future.”, featured a series of significant events, including the First ECO Youth Forum in Aghdam (July 1), the First ECO Women Forum in Lachin (July 2), and the 6th ECO Business Forum in Shusha (July 2). The Summit was also attended by a number of special guests representing countries and international organization as well as the whole family of ECO institutions.

The Summit provided an excellent opportunity to review the work and priorities of the Organization, assess progress, and chart a course for the future. During the Summit, the leaders put forward a significant number of proposals and suggestions on enhancing trade integration and transport connectivity, promoting renewable energy cooperation, advancing climate resilience, and strengthening ECO institutions. The proposals from our leaders and the discussions held during the three forums would guide us in crafting Strategic Goals of the Economic Cooperation 2035, a vision document aimed at steering the Organization for the next ten years.

What was particularly prominent during the Summit was a clear display of regional unity and solidarity with a renewed sense of urgency and shared purpose among Member States. The evident good chemistry between leaders coupled with clearly articulated political will to forge deeper regional cooperation has provided fresh impetus to us as an organization.

2025 has already been a path breaking year for us, as ECO has hosted a series of high-level events and we remain determined to maintain this momentum for the rest of the year as well. Crafting a new vision, undertaking comprehensive reforms, universalizing ECO agreements and frameworks across our membership and prioritizing their implementation would remain our key priorities for the future.

I must extend my profound gratitude to the Republic of Azerbaijan for their gracious hospitality and meticulous arrangements for the Summit. The outcomes of these historic events will certainly shape the future of our Organization and the region.

I also thank the Islamic Republic of Iran for its offer to host the 18th ECO Summit in 2027, which was warmly welcomed by the leaders during the 17th Summit.

Together, we can build a thriving ECO region as we remain united in our commitment to shared prosperity and a better future.

Secretary General
Economic Cooperation Organization

Azerbaijan Hosts 17th ECO Summit

İQTİSADI ƏMƏKDAŞLIQ TƏŞKİLATININ
17-Cİ ZİRVƏ GÖRÜŞÜ
XANKƏNDİ, AZƏRBAYCAN
4 İYUL 2025



17th SUMMIT OF THE ECONOMIC
COOPERATION ORGANIZATION
KHANKENDI, AZERBAIJAN
JULY 4, 2025



July 4, 2025-Khankendi

The Republic of Azerbaijan, under the Chairmanship of H.E. President Ilham Aliyev, successfully hosted the 17th ECO Summit on July 3-4, 2025, demonstrating its commitment to promoting regional cooperation and sustainable development. Held under the overarching theme “New ECO Vision for a Sustainable and Climate Resilient Future,” the Summit concluded a dynamic and inclusive ECO Week, held from July 1 to 4, 2025, across different cities of the Karabakh region.

The Summit brought together ECO Heads of State and Government, as well as Ministers from the ten ECO Member States. Also in attendance were representatives from ECO Observers, including the Turkish Cypriot State and the Organization of Turkic States, Special Guests from Nigeria and the United Arab Emirates, and heads of international organizations, including the Secretaries General of D8, CICA, UNESCAP, TRACECA, ITF, and the Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations. ECO’s Specialized Agencies and Subsidiary Bodies, including the ECO Trade and Development Bank, ECO Cultural Institute, ECO Educational Institute, ECO Science Foundation, ECO Seed Association, and Parliamentary Assembly of ECO Member States (PAECO) also participated at the Summit.





ECO leaders expressed their unified resolve to enhance regional cooperation, with particular emphasis on trade, connectivity and green transformation. They also highlighted the need to deepen collaboration in key areas such as tourism, energy, science, education and cultural exchange as core pillars of the ECO framework, recognizing their vital role in fostering mutual understanding, innovation, and inclusive development across the region.

Within the Summit's framework, series of multi-stakeholder forums were held. The ECO Youth Forum, themed "Enhancing the Role of Youth for Building a Sustainable and Climate Resilient Future," was held in Aghdam on July 1. Following this, the ECO Women Forum, focused on "Enhancing the Role of Women for Building a Sustainable and Climate Resilient Future," convened in Lachin on July 2. On the same day, the 6th ECO Business Forum brought together business

leaders and investors in Fuzuli under the theme "Investment and Trade Promotion as a Catalyst for Sustainable Development in the ECO Region." The substantive discussions and insights from the Youth, Women, and Business forums during ECO Week will contribute to shaping the Organization's new vision document: Strategic Objectives of Economic Cooperation – 2035.

The 17th ECO Summit served as a crucial platform for reinforcing the shared commitment of member states to sustainable economic growth, deeper regional integration, and inclusive development. At the Summit, a significant treaty event was held where the Republic of Kazakhstan signed the Charter of the ECO Clean Energy Center, which is based in Baku. Looking ahead, the next ECO Summit is scheduled for 2027 and will be hosted by the Islamic Republic of Iran, continuing the momentum towards regional cooperation and progress.



First ECO Youth Forum



July 01, 2025-Adgham

The Republic of Azerbaijan hosted the First ECO Youth Forum in Aghdam City under the theme “Enhancing the Role of Youth for Building a Sustainable and Climate-Resilient Future.” The forum brought together young leaders from ECO Member States to engage in strategic discussions and contribute to policy frameworks, emphasizing their critical role in shaping the future of the region.

The Forum discussed key objectives including raising awareness among young leaders about regional issues and policy-making processes, fostering collaboration through the exchange of ideas, and developing actionable policy recommendations for Strategic Objectives of the Economic Cooperation 2035.

The ECO Secretary General, Dr. Asad M. Khan highlighted the critical role of youth in shaping the future of the ECO region. Dr. Khan emphasized the importance of empowering young people through education, entrepreneurship, and civic engagement to drive sustainable development, economic growth, and regional collaboration. He reaffirmed ECO’s commitment to fostering an inclusive environment where the voices of youth are not only heard but acted upon, paving the way for a prosperous and united future for the region.

The delegations’ discussions centered on three main themes: Economic and Trade Cooperation, which explored opportunities for intra-regional trade, removing barriers, and promoting youth entrepreneurship and the digital economy; Sustainability and Technology, which addressed climate-resilient development and the role of AI and digital transformation in regional growth; and Human Development and People-to-People Ties, which focused on education, health, youth mobility, and tourism, while strengthening cultural and historical connections among member states.



6th ECO Business Forum



July 2, 2025-Shusha

The 6th ECO Business Forum successfully concluded in Shusha, Azerbaijan with the theme of "Investment and Trade Promotion as a Catalyst for Sustainable Development in the ECO Region." The event was jointly organized by the Export and Investment Promotion Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (AZPROMO), the ECO Secretariat and the ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ECO-CCI), with the support of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The forum brought together delegations from the ECO-CCI, National Chambers of Commerce and Industries of the ECO Members States, with participation of private business companies from across the region. In total, 94 companies and 200 business representatives participated from across the ECO region. The delegations of ECO Secretariat, ECO-affiliated institutions, business



leaders, and regional trade organizations, also took part in the gathering.

The forum was inaugurated by H.E. Mr. Elnur Aliyev, First Deputy Minister of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, who delivered a keynote address emphasizing the transformative impact of investment and trade promotion in achieving sustainable development across the ECO region.

Dr. Asad M. Khan highlighted the forum's importance in catalyzing regional cooperation and harnessing the collective economic potential of the ECO region. He stressed that realizing the region's full potential requires deeper collaboration. He appreciated the Republic of Türkiye for their active persuasion of ECOTA by organizing 5th ECO Ministerial Meeting of Commerce and Foreign Trade which was scheduled on June 23-25, 2025 in Istanbul but postponed.





First ECO Women Forum

July 02, 2025-Lachin

The First ECO Women Forum was held in Lachin, Azerbaijan, under the theme “Enhancing the Role of Women for Building a Sustainable and Climate-Resilient Future.” The event brought together women leaders from across the ECO region and international organizations to foster dialogue, cooperation, and knowledge exchange.

The Forum featured three thematic panel sessions that emphasized the transformative role of women in climate resilience, urban development, and sustainable growth. Discussions highlighted the need for women’s leadership in environmental governance, gender-responsive climate policies, and access to green finance.

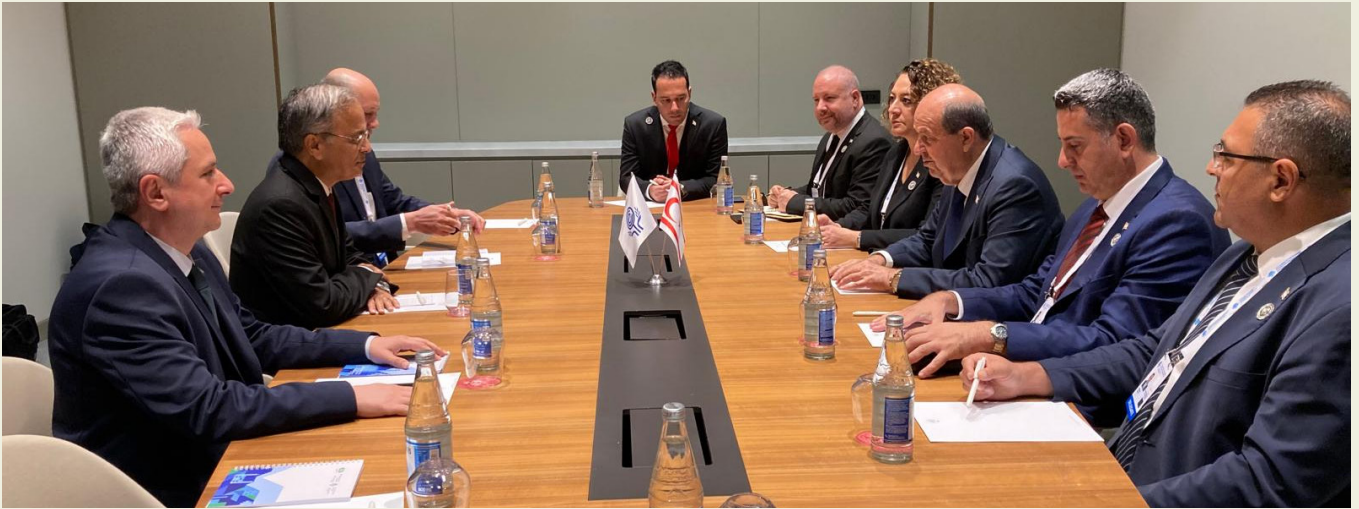


Ms. Bahar Muradova, Chairperson of the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, emphasized Azerbaijan's commitment to advancing gender equality and empowering women. Dr. Asad M. Khan highlighted the critical role of women in sustainable development, climate resilience, and economic growth, while also calling

for integrating women's voices into policy-making and enhancing their leadership to address global challenges. He further noted the importance of women's perspectives in shaping the Strategic Objectives of ECO Vision 2035, which will serve as a roadmap for inclusive and sustainable development for the ECO region.



Secretary General Meets President Turkish Cypriot State



July 3, 2025-Shusha

On the sidelines of the 17th ECO Summit, Dr. Asad M. Khan met H.E. Mr. Ersin Tatar, Honorable President of the Turkish Cypriot State. The honorable President noted the Turkish Cypriot State's desire to more closely engage with ECO for strengthening regional cooperation in mutually desired sectors.

Dr. Khan thanked the President for their active participation and contributions to ECO events and activities over the past years. He further expressed that tourism and education may be the two most relevant fields where the Turkish Cypriot State can make substantial contributions to the ECO cooperation framework.

Secretary General Advocates for Enhanced Cooperation at ECO-TDB Meeting



July 11, 2025-Istanbul

Dr. Asad M. Khan participated in the 23rd Meeting of the Board of Governors of the ECO Trade and Development Bank (ECO-TDB) in Istanbul. He lauded the ECO-TDB for its continued support of key development projects across Member States and emphasized the Bank's role in facilitating intra-regional trade, financial connectivity and SME growth. Calling for broader membership of the ECO-TDB, Dr. Khan noted that regional economic integration cannot be fully realized without the participation of all ECO Member States.

Dr. Khan also underscored the urgency of responding to global economic challenges, including food insecurity, climate change and digital trade barriers through enhanced regional cooperation. He called on the Bank to co-finance regional projects, in synergy with international institutions such as UNIDO, ADB, UNESCAP, IRU and IsDB. The meeting concluded with reaffirmed commitments from the Bank and Member States to align priorities, pool resources and drive forward a common agenda of prosperity, connectivity and economic cooperation across the ECO region.

Secretary General Meets TACI President



July 22, 2025-Tehran

Dr. Asad M. Khan met Dr. Mohammad Hossein Soufi, President of the Touring and Automobile Club of the Islamic Republic of Iran (TACI), to discuss enhancing regional cooperation in tourism, transport and trade among ECO Member States. TACI plays a key role in facilitating travel for tourists and vehicle owners in Iran and beyond, supporting smoother transit and tourism operations.

Both sides exchanged views on potential initiatives to promote travel and tourism across the ECO region. Discussions also covered ways to streamline cross-border mobility for tourists and vehicles, building on existing mechanisms within ECO.

Dr. Khan welcomed the proposals put forward and emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts to boost intra-regional tourism. Both sides agreed to explore further opportunities for partnership, engaging relevant stakeholders to advance these objectives within ECO's framework.



Secretary General Visits Asian Mayors Forum Secretariat

July 23, 2025-Tehran

At the invitation of the Asian Mayors Forum (AMF), Dr. Asad M. Khan led a delegation for an official visit to the AMF Secretariat. During the meeting, both sides discussed avenues for enhancing cooperation among municipalities across ECO member states. Dr. Khan emphasized the importance of sharing best practices in sustainable urban development, particularly in light of the outcomes of the 17th ECO Summit, held in Azerbaijan on July 3-4, 2025. He highlighted the critical role of youth and women in shaping the future direction of ECO's urban and regional initiatives.



Mr. Gholamzadeh, Secretary General of the AMF, presented an overview of AMF's structure, strategic vision, and its expanded focus on economic cooperation among cities. He highlighted advancements in municipal services and infrastructure while acknowledging the growing alignment between AMF and ECO priorities. Mr. Gholamzadeh reaffirmed AMF's commitment to strengthening collaboration in areas of shared interest.

The meeting concluded with a mutual agreement to co-host the First Sustainable Cities Forum, providing a valuable platform for dialogue and partnership on sustainable urban development. The Forum is scheduled to take place on the margins of the upcoming AMF General Assembly in Tehran later in 2025. Both organizations agreed to convene technical sessions in the coming weeks to finalize the Forum's agenda and thematic focus.

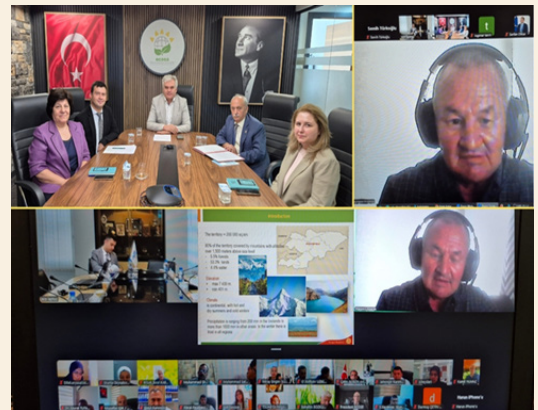


Seed Sector and Investment Opportunities of ECOSA Countries

July 29, 2025- Tehran



The ECO Seed Association (ECOSA) held the fourth session of its 2025 virtual meeting series, titled “Current Status of Seed Sector and Investment Opportunities of ECOSA Member Countries,” with a focus on Kyrgyzstan. The series aims to enhance regional seed sector development while fostering knowledge-sharing and investment dialogue among ECO Member States. Mr. Yıldıray Genç, Chairman of the ECOSA Board of Directors, highlighted the strategic importance of the seed sector and reaffirmed ECOSA’s commitment to advancing regional cooperation through regular engagements with Member States.



Mr. Abduhakim Islamov delivered a presentation on Kyrgyzstan’s Seed Sector, covering the country’s agricultural landscape, legal frameworks, institutional structures, seed production and certification systems, research capacity, and public-private collaboration models. The Q&A session provided an opportunity for participants to explore avenues for bilateral and regional cooperation. The meeting attracted over 90 participants from across the ECO region, underscoring the growing interest in regional seed sector development. The next session, focusing on

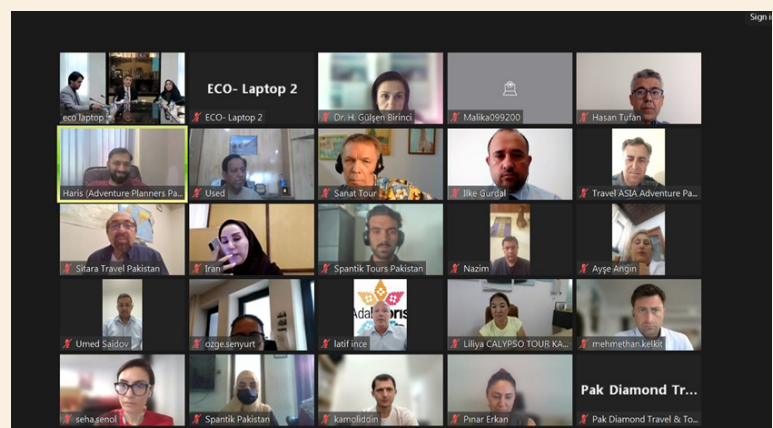
ECO Tour Operators Network Meeting

July 29, 2025- Tehran



The 8th Meeting of the ECO Tour Operators’ Network (ETON) was held virtually, bringing together representatives from tour operator companies and national tourism authorities across ECO Member States. Mr. Jasur Rajabov, ECO Director for Tourism, emphasized the importance of regional collaboration in advancing tourism initiatives and highlighted key achievements since the previous ETON meeting and the 1st ECO Tour Operators Forum.

Participants discussed plans for the upcoming 2nd ECO Tour Operators Forum, co-hosted by Türkiye and the Turkish Cypriot State, emphasizing improved air connectivity, facilitated border crossings, and digital tools to promote tourism. Recommendations included dedicated routes, joint tours, networking sessions, and video showcases for collaborative marketing. The meeting concluded with a call for active engagement to strengthen ETON as a platform for regional tourism cooperation and future initiatives.





Economic Cooperation Organization



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