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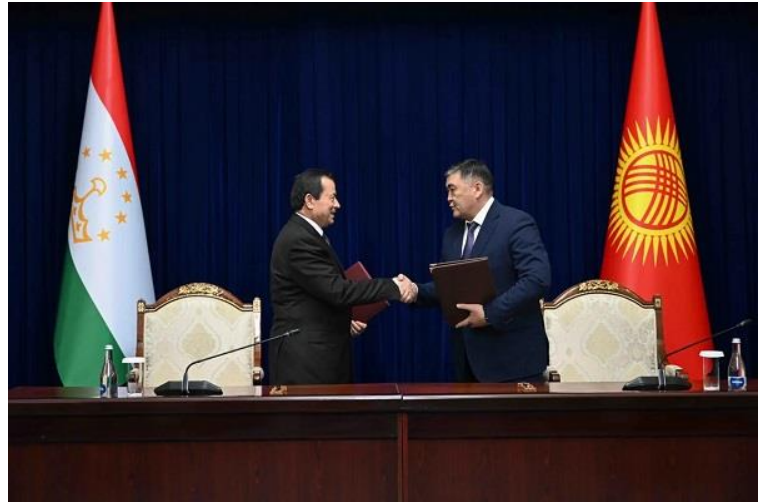
Historic Peace Deal Between Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan: A New Era of Hope



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A significant milestone in Central Asian history has been achieved with the resolution of the last border conflict in the region. The signing of a border treaty between the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan marks a crucial step toward lasting peace and regional cooperation. On March 13, 2024, Kyrgyz Republic



President Sadyr Japarov and Emomali Rahmon of Tajikistan convened in Bishkek to formalize this historic agreement, officially ending decades of border disputes and fostering diplomatic progress between the two nations.

The Treaty on the Delimitation and Demarcation of the Kyrgyz-Tajik Border, signed during the high-level meeting, resolves long-standing territorial disagreements covering 980 kilometers from the "tri-point" with Uzbekistan to the junction with China. The agreement also includes 16 additional documents focusing on crucial aspects such as water and energy infrastructure, road transport, and economic cooperation. The signing of these agreements reflects a shared commitment to mutual growth and security. Tajikistan's President Emomali Rahmon made his first state visit to Bishkek in nearly twelve years, underscoring the significance of this breakthrough. His presence highlighted the importance of diplomatic engagement in resolving disputes and reinforcing intergovernmental ties. Following the treaty signing, the two leaders inaugurated two

checkpoints on the border via a virtual ceremony, symbolizing a new era of collaboration and connectivity.

Key Provisions of the Agreement

A particularly notable aspect of the agreement pertains to the Tajik enclave of Vorukh, which will now encompass an area of 15.5 thousand hectares. This territory will be connected to the Tajik mainland by a neutral highway—Dacha-Kapchygai-Khojai-Aalo-



Vorukh—measuring 3,425 meters in length and 40 meters in width. This highway will serve as a crucial link between the regions, enhancing accessibility and economic integration. Additionally, the Kyrgyz Republic Ministry of Foreign Affairs emphasized that both countries have agreed to designate two roads as neutral pathways to ensure unrestricted movement and mutual cooperation. Furthermore, the Kyrgyz Republic has committed to constructing the Min-Oruk-Samarkandek neutral highway, reinforcing its dedication to sustainable development and regional connectivity. A complex exchange of land plots was also finalized as part of the agreement.

The Kyrgyz Republic received 190 hectares in the Leilek district, including 155 hectares of the Kairagach plot and 35 hectares from the previously existing Kairagach enclave. This enclave has now been abolished, with the border running along the Selkan canal. In exchange, the Kyrgyz Republic transferred 190 hectares to Tajikistan, including land in



various locations such as Saada, Razzakov, Selkane, Maity, Proletarsk, Ulak-Zhai, Ak-Aryk, and Kara-Bak. Both nations have also agreed to resume direct air links and reopen the border, which had been closed since May 2021. As part of the land exchange, the Kyrgyz Republic will receive approximately 25 square kilometers from Tajikistan in return for either land of equal value or improved access to shared water resources.

A Turning Point for Regional Peace and Security

This historic accord signifies the dawn of a new era of peace and cooperation. This agreement is going to contribute to and strengthen security, stability, and sustainable development in the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and the broader Central Asian region. The peace deal holds immense significance for Central Asia's transport and logistics networks. Within the framework of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), this agreement will enhance the strategic potential of the Middle Corridor, linking Central Asia to other regions of the world. Moreover, both countries reaffirmed their commitment to expediting the launch of the Central Asia-South Asia-1000 (CASA-1000) electricity transmission project. This initiative aims to export 1,300 MW of surplus electricity from the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan to Afghanistan and Pakistan during the summer months, further strengthening regional economic integration.

Leadership in Diplomacy and Peacebuilding

The success of this peace agreement underscores the leadership of Presidents Japarov and Rahmon in prioritizing dialogue over conflict. Their ability to negotiate a fair and lasting settlement reflects a deep commitment to regional peace, stability, and cooperation. The



resolution of this border dispute has garnered widespread praise from international organizations and regional stakeholders. The governments have demonstrated an exemplary approach to conflict resolution, proving that diplomacy, mutual concessions, and peaceful negotiations can lead to lasting peace. This agreement demonstrates that diplomacy and mutual understanding can pave the way for lasting peace and has set a remarkable precedent for other nations, proving that territorial disputes can be resolved through dialogue, compromise, and shared interests. The resolution of this border dispute has garnered widespread praise from international organizations and regional stakeholders. Both countries are also prioritizing cooperation across various sectors, including trade, investment, science, technology, and cultural exchange. This treaty provides a solid foundation for deeper economic ties and regional collaboration and promotes long-term stability. This remarkable achievement symbolizes the triumph of diplomacy and mutual understanding over conflict, and peaceful negotiations can lead to lasting peace. As the region moves forward, the lessons learned from this agreement will be instrumental in shaping a future built on trust, cooperation, and shared prosperity. The historic deal between both countries is not just a resolution of a border dispute but also a beacon of hope for a more stable and connected Central Asia.