



ICDT INSIGHTS

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AZERBAIJAN: DRIVING REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY WITHIN THE TURKIC WORLD

Through over \$20 billion in strategic investments across the Organization of Turkic States (OTS), Azerbaijan is asserting itself as a key economic and logistics player in Eurasia. From rail and maritime expansion to digital corridors and green energy, the country is helping shape a more integrated, connected, and sustainable future for the Turkic region.



Azerbaijan's investments reach over \$20bn across member states of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) through major logistics infrastructure reflecting the country's growing regional economic influence. Indeed, Azerbaijan is on

ongoing transformation into a critical Eurasian transport hub. In 2024 alone, 11mn tons of cargo were shipped via Azerbaijan from Turkey and Central Asia. Investments into the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway have lifted its annual capacity to 5mn tons, while expansion

at the Alat International Trade Seaport will raise its capacity to 25mn tons from the current 15mn. Ten new cargo vessels are also under construction at the Baku Shipyard, adding to the existing fleet of over 50.

Digital connectivity was also a

focus on the country's strategy. A joint fibre-optic cable project between Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan, laid across the Caspian Sea, aims to establish a secure "digital corridor" and strengthen regional data exchange. Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev pointed to the initiative as part of broader efforts to diversify energy exports and boost digital infrastructure.

These efforts are part of the OTS development strategy, which aims to strengthen economic ties and promote regional integration among Turkic-speaking countries. With member states like Türkiye, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan — and observers

including Hungary and Turkmenistan — the Organization of Turkic States is positioning itself as a key driver of cross-border trade, investment, and innovation.

Leveraging a shared cultural heritage and strategic geographic location, the OTS is working to create a seamless economic space connecting Europe and Asia, with strong potential in sectors such as energy, transport, logistics, and the digital economy.

At this regard, the leaders of the member countries have provided the organization with a first joint financial institution, the Turkic Investment Fund, which is expected to begin project activities in 2025. The

fund would help develop national priorities in trade, logistics, infrastructure, energy, digital economy and tourism.

Moreover, in a major step toward energy transition, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan signed a strategic partnership agreement at COP29 to export green electricity via a Caspian-Black Sea corridor. The Budapest Declaration, signed at the OTS summit, further reinforced commitments to green development, sustainable infrastructure and expanded energy cooperation.

Source: BNE Intellinews - The Azerbaijan State News Agency

STRATEGIC ALLIANCES FUEL EGYPT'S TOURISM BOOM ON THE MEDITERRANEAN COAST

With record growth in tourist arrivals and soaring foreign investment, Egypt's Mediterranean coast is fast becoming a hotspot for luxury tourism and real estate development. Backed by landmark deals — including a \$3.5 billion Qatari project and a \$35 billion UAE investment — the country is leveraging strategic alliances to transform its coastline into a key engine of economic revival and a magnet for global investors.

The tourism sector in Egypt is a vital source of income. The Mediterranean coastline, stretching from Alexandria to Marsa Matruh, is one of Egypt's most attractive areas for tourism development. The region offers pristine beaches, clear waters, and rich historical and cultural significance, making it an ideal location for luxury tourism investments.

Moreover, the number of inbound tourists to Egypt from January to May 2025 grew by 26% compared to the same period last year, accompanied by a notable increase in tourism spending according to the Egyptian Minister of Tourism and Antiquities. At this regard, Qatar and Egypt



mark a significant milestone in the relationship between the two nations through the signature of a \$3.5 billion tourism project giving new impetus to a larger strategy to strengthen the bilateral ties between the two countries, particularly in the economic sphere.

Under the terms of the anticipated deal, Qatar would provide \$1 billion to Egypt immediately after the agreement is signed, with the remaining balance delivered over the next 12 months. This financial support is expected to help Egypt kickstart its development plans,

particularly in the tourism and real estate sectors, which are seen as crucial for the country's long-term economic growth.

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The discussions about this investment come on the heels of a \$35 billion deal with the United Arab Emirates (UAE), which is also contributing significantly to Egypt's economic recovery. The UAE's investment primarily focuses on developing Egypt's Mediterranean coastline, particularly in the Ras El-Hekma area.

With its Mediterranean coastline becoming a lure for luxury tourism and real estate development, Egypt is capitalizing on this momentum with high-profile partnerships. The recently announced

landmark \$3.5 billion deal with Qatar (prior to the UAE's multibillion investment of \$35 billion) is an indicator of increasing international confidence in Egypt's long-term economic vision and direction. As tourism numbers exceed expectations and infrastructure development plans advance, Egypt is not only positioning itself as a high-profile destination, but also a prominent investment gateway in the region.

Source: [Travel and tour world - Egypt Today](#)

OLAM AGRI TO BOOST SOYBEAN PRODUCTION IN NIGERIA



Olam Agri from Olam Group Singapore, a Leader in food, feed, and fibre and high growth emerging markets, has partnered with the Nigerian Firm IDH and Arzikin Noma to increase the production of soybean in Kwara State. The agreement aims to unlock the potential of smallholder soybean farmers, particularly women and young people, through a comprehensive support programme.

This partnership, concluded on 19th June 2025, provides support and assistance to

5,000 Nigerian farmers through the provision of credit facilities for farming inputs, mechanisation support, financial access, training in sustainable practices and crucial market linkage, in order to increase both the productivity and the quality of the soybean produced in Nigeria.

In line with this program, Olam Agri food has constructed within the same region a soybean oil extraction Unit that has a capacity of transforming 350,000 tons of soybean per

year. Behind the partnership concluded with the Nigerian Firm, the Singaporean Company intends to increase the local production with a view to ensuring, on the long run, the full functioning of the soybean oil extraction Unit. On a larger standpoint, this investment illustrates the increased interest of the Singaporean company for the edible oils industry in Nigeria. Before the opening of the Unit in Kwara State, Olam Agri already had one in Ogun State, exclusively dedicated to sesame oil extraction.

With all these initiatives, the Singaporean Company intends to reinforce its presence in the rapidly growing Nigerian edible oils market. According to Statista's projections, the size of the edible oils market in this country is expected to reach \$2.85 billion by 2025, with an average annual growth rate estimated at 11.54% until 2030.

Source: [The Nation Newspaper](#)



OIC INVESTMENT FORUM IN AFRICA

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Republic of Mali

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GUYANA: THE WORLD'S FASTEST GROWING ECONOMY POWERED BY OIL

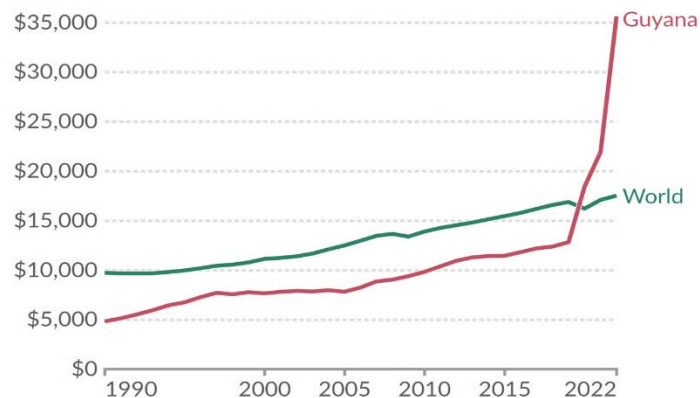
Guyana is now experiencing an economic transformation of historic proportions. Fuelled by an unprecedented surge in oil production and revenues, the country has become the world's fastest-growing economy in per capita terms. As international energy giants deepen their presence and exports soar, Guyana is navigating the challenges and promises of ambitious development and redistribution plans.

Guyana has seen the fastest growth in gross domestic product (GDP) per capita in the world over the past decade. Guyana's economy achieved its fifth consecutive year of double-digit growth in 2024, expanding 43.6% as oil output and exports showed solid increases.

The large and sudden expansion in oil production that Guyana has known has driven most of this growth. From 2020 to 2023, the country's oil production grew 425%, making it a key contributor to global crude oil supply growth. Latin America's newest oil producer last year became the region's fifth-largest crude exporter after Brazil, Mexico, Venezuela and Colombia, and was identified as one of the main contributors to the growth of global oil supplies.

The oil sector expanded

This data is adjusted for inflation and for differences in the cost of living between countries.



Data source: World Bank (2023)

OurWorldinData.org/economic-growth | CC BY

GDP PER CAPITA (USD)

57.7%, while the non-oil sector grew 13.1% last year. Oil output rose to an average of 616,000 barrels a day from 391,000 bpd the previous year as a consortium led by US major ExxonMobil, which controls all production in the country, continued expanding operations and completed a key upgrade at its offshore facilities.

The nation's oil revenue increased to \$2.57 billion in 2024, including crude sales made by the government and \$348 million in royalties received from the Exxon group, compared with \$1.62 billion in 2023, including \$218.1 million in royalties.

With national oil output on track to reach one million barrels per day by 2027, Guyana faces both a rare economic opportunity and growing pressure to deliver before the energy transition

accelerates further.

Guyana plan to share oil and gas wealth with citizens as Guyana government announced in 2024 that hundreds of thousands of Guyanese citizens at home and abroad aged 18 and over will each receive cash payments of about 480 US dollars.

As Guyana's oil output continues to climb, the country stands at a crossroads. The coming years will be critical. With clear plans to reinvest revenues and share the benefits with its population, Guyana is taking bold steps toward building a more resilient, equitable future. The urgency to diversify its economy and invest wisely has never been greater.

Source: Bna Americas, Business Day

BRIEFS

➤ **China's duty-free access offers growth path as AGOA waivers**

The future of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (Agoa) is far from certain. On June 12, 2025, China announced it would extend duty-free market access to 53 African countries, eliminating tariffs on 98% of taxable products originating from these nations.

The arrangement applies to both least developed and middle-income countries, making it one of the most extensive preferential trade offers Africa has received from a major global economy.

Besides, Agoa's benefits have traditionally focused on a limited set of sectors, particularly apparel from countries such as Kenya, Ethiopia, and Lesotho.

In contrast, China's offer covers a wider range of goods, including processed agricultural products, manufactured items, and intermediate goods. This could support African efforts toward value addition and industrialisation—long-held but unevenly realised goals across the continent.

China's market size is also a significant factor. With more than 1.4 billion consumers and increasing demand for items such as organic foods and specialized textiles, African producers could find opportunities—provided they meet Chinese import standards and navigate complex logistics and compliance systems. By removing tariffs, China may also be seeking to ease that imbalance and strengthen its position as a key trade and development partner.

Source: Business Daily

➤ **Cameroon ratifies Samoa Agreement to extend EU-ACP Trade pact**

On June 11, Cameroon officially deposited its instruments of ratification for the Samoa Agreement at the European Union headquarters in Brussels. This new partnership agreement between the European Union (EU)

and the countries of Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific (ACP) is set to replace the 2000 Cotonou Agreement, which established the framework for the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs).

The Samoa Agreement was signed in November 2023, provisionally entering into force in January 2024, and is slated to run for a period of 20 years.

Under the EPA, "Cameroon is to progressively eliminate, over a 13-year transitional period from 2016 to 2029, customs duties on 75% of goods (or tariff lines) originating from the EU—equivalent to 80% of its imports from the bloc." The ratification of the Samoa Agreement is expected to ensure the continuation of this preferential trade regime.

Source: Business in Cameroon

➤ **Summary of the third round of negotiations for Japan-United Arab Emirates (UAE) Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)**

From June 2 to 4, the third round of negotiations for Japan-United Arab Emirates (UAE) Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) was held in Tokyo.

The meeting was attended, from the Japanese side, by Mr. Takahashi Katsuhiko, Ambassador for International Economic Affairs and Chief Negotiator along with representatives from relevant ministries. From the UAE side, H.E. Mr. Juma Al Kait, Assistant Undersecretary for International Trade Affairs Sector and Chief Negotiator, along with representatives from relevant ministries attended the meeting.

During this meeting, the two sides held active discussions on the modality of negotiations as well as on Trade in Goods, Rules of Origin, Trade in Services, Competition Policy, Intellectual Property, Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation, Digital Trade and other areas.

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan



- Encouraging the development of regular trade exchanges among Member States.
- Promoting investments aimed at trade development.
- Contributing to the promotion of productions from Member States and facilitating access to foreign
- Promoting commercial information.
- Assisting Member States in the field of trade promotion and international trade negotiations.
- Assisting businesses and economic operators.
- Encouraging contacts between businessmen from Member States.
- Promoting the products of Member States, including through regular Islamic Fairs and specialized
- Assisting Member States in establishing and organizing Export Promotion Centers.
- Providing advisory and expertise services to Member States in trade promotion matters.
- Collecting and disseminating trade data.
- Developing remotely accessible trade databases.
- Assisting Member States in establishing Documentation Centers and Commercial Information
- Encouraging intra-OIC investments.
- Promoting foreign investments in OIC Member States.
- Encouraging partnerships among economic operators from Member States.
- Providing advisory and expertise services to Member States, particularly in export-oriented investment
- Publishing an Annual Report on intra-Islamic trade.
- Conducting sectoral studies on products and markets.
- Studying ways and means to alleviate trade barriers among Member States.
- Organizing seminars and training programs.
- Assisting Member States in creating a pool of experts in various fields of trade development.
- Assisting Member States in trade negotiations.
- Preparing and organizing intra-OIC trade negotiations.

Agenda



- **5th OIC Regional Cooperation Organizations**
02-03 October 2025 • Istanbul, Türkiye
- **ICDT INVEST DAYS - MORONI**
26-29 August 2025 • Moroni, Comoros
- **Workshop on TIR /eTIR and CMR/eCMR of the OIC African Member States**
16-17 September 2025 • Casablanca, Morocco
- **Workshop on the role of credit information in supporting trade and investment decisions**
20-22 October 2025 • Casablanca, Morocco
- **OIC TOURISM FAIR / AFRICA TOURISM EXPO,**
23-25 October 2025 • Kampala, Uganda
- **42ND SESSION OF COMCEC**
01-04 November 2025 • Istanbul, Türkiye
- **HALAL EXPO & WORLD HALAL SUMMIT**
26-29 November 2025 • Istanbul, Türkiye
- **OIC INVESTMENT FORUM IN AFRICA**
02-04 December 2025 • Bamako, Mali
- **9TH ACMOI** 10-11 December 2025 • Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
- **OIC Invest Days N'Djamena,** 16-17 December 2025, • N'Djaména, Tchad



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