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Topic 1: The Role of Infrastructure in the Development of South East Asia

Being characterized by a strong economic potential, the South East Asia region has had a remarkable growth in trade networks, agricultural economies, and labour supplies in the past decades. However, not all countries are experiencing the same level of progression in infrastructure since there are economical differences between nations. Their economic progress take in account the soil, the education offered access to food, etc. Since some are disadvantaged, a misbalance is created in the Asian-Pacific region. Nations like China and India take advantage of their high number of citizens to reinforce their economies. In most under developed countries, nations lack finances to lift their people from poverty. This is why actions should be taken in order to make a “Seamless Asia”.

Having realized that its economy is aggravating, Turkmenistan has made tentative to open its doors to foreign relations. The high rate of unemployment of 49%[[1]](#footnote-1) has made Turkmenistan aware of its lack of infrastructure. The absence of export routes has had a major impact on the country’s economy since it is rich in natural gases[[2]](#footnote-2). However, after the death of the past president of Turkmenistan, the country declared itself “permanently neutral” and was recognised by the United Nations. In other words, Turkmenistan is bound to be neutral in cases of war. Ever since, Turkmenistan has made diplomatic relations with over 130 countries enhancing its economy[[3]](#footnote-3). Relying on its cotton and natural gases, Turkmenistan has opened 14 cotton-processing plants between 1991 and 2004[[4]](#footnote-4). Also, most projects lead in Turkmenistan are government building projects since private property demands are low.[[5]](#footnote-5) In recent years, Turkmenistan has been classified as having one of the highest growing economies in the world.

Knowing that the economy of all countries will never be completely balanced, solutions must be brought to the table to attempt a “Seamless Asia”. To keep the balance between its cultures and its economy, Turkmenistan decides to continue to make further relations with countries in order to establish new projects. The essential to a succeeded project is to form bonds and connexions with allies to have a greater impact. This is the path that Turkmenistan wishes to pursue. On the other hand, since Turkmenistan habits a large desert, it could generate more energy with the use of solar panels solar panels. Though, this revolves around Turkmenistan’s economy.

Topic 2: Future of Food

Since the world’s population is constantly in growth, it is expected that by 2050[[6]](#footnote-6), the population will grow by 2 billion. Therefore agricultural production must increase by 60% in order to feed and provide basis for economic growth and poverty reduction. As Asian countries have the largest populations on the planet, several measures should be taken to ease the increase of population. One of these is the Climate-smart agriculture also known as CSA. Its purpose is to increase agricultural productivity, reinforce the resilience of crops, and reduce greenhouse gases. Though, the CSA’s primary objective is to assure national food security meaning that all people have physical social and economic access to food, which is safe and consumed in sufficient quantity, and is supported by a sanitary environment[[7]](#footnote-7).

Compared to other central Asian countries, Turkmenistan is aware that it has one of the lowest crop rates in the region. Since only 4% of Turkmenistan’s land is cultivable[[8]](#footnote-8), it does not bring a strong income. In past years, Turkmenistan was the 10th largest producer of cotton up until recent years. Due to the arid environment, an excessive amount of irrigation is necessary for the crops to grow. Being surrounded by the Karakum desert, temperatures rise up to 48 degrees[[9]](#footnote-9) Celsius creating an inhabitable land for all crops. Turkmenistan realizes that the climate change has also had a great impact on its agriculture. The last years, Turkmenistan has had a 50%[[10]](#footnote-10) loss of crops due to insufficient water reserves and high temperatures. These points set aside, Turkmenistan wishes to stand by its cultures and continue its farming ways without change. Turkmenistan’s agricultural system is based on leaseholders. The government provides the families with land and in return they have to meet the necessary requirements to keep it. Turkmenistan truly believes that this method is the best for its economy.

The main reason that Turkmenistan is suffering of a decline in agriculture is its lack of water to create irrigation in the crops which was ultimately caused by climate change. By reuniting with other countries that are facing the same problems, Turkmenistan and others could benefit of arrangements such as lowering CO2 emissions to lower the greenhouse effect. On another hand, Turkmenistan could ensure the end of hunger to its people by agreeing to the sustainable development goals, which enumerate a list of actions that must be done before a certain date[[11]](#footnote-11) such as ending hunger and ensuring food to all people before 2030.

Topic 3: Labour Migration & Illegal Trafficking in the Asia-Pacific

Asia’s labour migration is the highest of all regions. The large populations hold both skilled and less skilled workers creating a fluctuating migration pattern. Skilled workers tend to migrate towards developed countries. On the contrary, less skilled workers tend to either stay in their country or migrate to countries in development. Since there are nearly 4.5 billion humans in the Asia-Pacific, there are 59 million migrant in the region alone[[12]](#footnote-12). With these high rates of immigration, the rates of illegal trafficking increase as well. Measures should be taken as this matter involves several countries in Asia.

Turkmenistan does not feel involved in the issue since its immigration rate is of 195000 people entering the country in 2015[[13]](#footnote-13). Being an under developed country, not many wish to migrate to Turkmenistan other than family and labor reasons. However, some desire to leave the country without the approval of the government. The republic is concerned that its people are leaving resulting in a decreasing economy. Evidently the main reason of their departure is labor. Labor in Turkmenistan is known to be harsh because of weather and very poor income[[14]](#footnote-14). Therefore, to sustain their families, Turkmen illegally emigrate by using a temporary visa to find new work in other Asian countries[[15]](#footnote-15). Since the death of the previous president of Turkmenistan, the republic is aware that rates of illegal emigration have risen[[16]](#footnote-16). This is mainly due to the fact that the new president has decided to rather focus on building Turkmenistan’s economy than to prevent emigration[[17]](#footnote-17).

As solution to the illegal trafficking, Turkmenistan has no other choice than to instore a new security system at its borders. In order to prevent Turkmans from crossing the border, Turkmenistan wishes now to reinforce security and guards with its neighbours. Whilst maintaining its neutrality, it is important to the republic to keep its people in to stabilise its economy. Furthermore, since the republics economy is growing, the government could raise the salary of their employees in order to attract its habitants to stay in the country.

1. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkmenistan> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/tx.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkmenistan> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/tx.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4904e.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/026/MD776E.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agriculture_in_Turkmenistan> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkmenistan> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agriculture_in_Turkmenistan> [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300> [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. “Asia-Pacific Migration Report 2015: Migrants’ Contributions to Development” *United Nations Economic and Social Comission for Asia and the Pacific*, Februarary 2015, 9 [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. <https://www.iom.int/world-migration> [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. <https://iwpr.net/global-voices/rising-emigration-turkmenistan> [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)