

27.05.2008 16:53

State News Agency of Turkmenistan (TDH)

The country's energy potential – for the common benefit

President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov visited the Dovletabad gas field to take part in the ceremony of putting the gas compressor station into operation and to start a large-scale investment project aimed at developing Turkmenistan's gas infrastructure.

In the morning the President's helicopter landed in the territory of the Dovletabad-2 gas field. The people from the neighbouring settlements, the elders, the local authorities, the senior officials of the national ministries and departments, the members of the EU high-ranking delegation gathered there to take part in the event, which would go down to the history of Turkmenistan's fuel and energy sector. By tradition the girls dressed in the national costumes presented the bouquets of flowers and the elders offered bread and salt to the Turkmen leader.

The participants of the ceremony cordially greeted Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov.

The specialist of the ENEX Company, which had completed a number of the important projects in the strategic sector of Turkmen economy, made the presentation on the key parameters and principles of operation of the Dovletabad-2 gas compressor station.

Addressing the participants of the ceremony Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov focused in particular significance of the current event. The Turkmen leader said that wide international energy partnership, diversification of energy export to the world markets ranked among the fundamental principles of Turkmenistan's energy policy that was evidenced by the agreements signed with the leaders of the neighbouring countries - Russia, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan – on construction of the Caspian gas pipeline and reconstruction of the Central Asia-Centre gas main line.

Upon completing the works stipulated by the documents the volumes of fuel supply would be considerably increased – forwards Russia and farther to Europe that would promote strengthening energy security of the countries importing Turkmen natural gas. In this regard the Turkmen leader stated that having the abundant reserves of hydrocarbon resource Turkmenistan was able to supply gas to the anticipated projects of international gas pipelines.

The President said that on that day under the partner obligations the project on construction of a gas compressor station with the capacity of 20 billion cubic metres a year would be launched in the Dovletabad field with the unique reserves of natural gas. The complex amounted to over 130 million euros to be built by Belgian ENEX would be equipped with mechanisms and equipment manufactured by the leading European and American processing equipment producers such as Dresser Rand, General Electric, PALL, Honeywell, Emerson Process management, Schneyder Electric. In two years the Dovletabad-2 gas compressor station would be put into operation that would enable to increase Turkmenistan's gas export capacity by 4 billion cubic metres of fuel and to create new jobs in the region.



The culmination of the event of paramount importance for Turkmen gas industry workers came. To the applause of those present at the ceremony the President signed the Address to future generation of the Turkmen people, who would live and perform good deeds in the new historical epoch. The capsule with the Address was dropped into the foundation pit.

Upon concluding the ceremony the Turkmen leader wished the Turkmen oil and gas industry workers and the ENEX specialists success in implementing the important project. Then Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov arrived at the construction site in the Dovletabad-3 gas field.

Establishing an extensive network of gas-transport lines was a strategic trend of development of Turkmenistan's fuel and energy sector. Having initiated a number of the regional and interregional projects and standing steadfast to dependable partnership Turkmenistan started complex technology modernization of gas-production industry, establishing the reliable fuel transport system to foreign consumers.

Through using advanced technologies and latest scientific and technical achievements and actively co-operating in this field with the leading foreign companies the Turkmen oil and gas production departments intensified the exploration work to strengthen the raw materials base, steadily increased the rates of developing and putting new fields into production. Sound investments were made in technology modernization of the enterprises and construction of the oil and gas fields.

The important aspects of the programme included modernization of the industrial infrastructure of the international pipeline Turkmenistan (Deryalyk)-Europe (Central Asia-Centre) that served the export of Turkmen natural gas in the northern direction. The works were carried on to increase the pipe capacity of the gas main line connecting Turkmenistan with the CIS countries for many years and to improve the quality of hydrocarbon resources supplied to the partners. A number of the relevant projects had been implemented in recent years.



The Dovletabad-3 booster station would be put into operation on that day. The project on turnkey construction of the high-technology facility with the capacity of 20 billion cubic metres a year was implemented by the ENEX Company (Belgium). The technologies and equipment that ensured high producing capacity and environmental safety had been supplied by the largest companies and firms of Germany, the United States, France, Poland and Indonesia. 60 highly qualified specialists would operate the station.

The President's helicopter landed in the platform near the main facilities of the Dovletabad-3 gas field. The local people and the elders greeted the Turkmen leader there.

Then the President headed for the gas compressor station and cut the green ribbon to the applause of those present. Congratulating the participants of the ceremony on the remarkable event Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov and ENEX CEO Koen Minne entered the territory of the complex. Then the President entered the central control room on the first floor. The Turkmen leader pushed the button on the desk computer-aided control console and gave start to another 'blue fuel' flow.

The President cordially congratulated those present on the remarkable event – commissioning of the gas compressor station.

Addressing the participants of the ceremony the Turkmen leader said that Turkmenistan had achieved the remarkable results due to the selfless and diligent labour of the Turkmen people. Stability reigning in the country, the laws facilitating business activity, the steps strengthening the national currency and supporting the private sector and the other progressive reforms implemented in all spheres of the life of the Turkmen society promoted dynamic development of national economy, science and culture, enhancement of the international prestige of the young Turkmen state.

Touching upon the tasks to develop the energy sector the President said that gas industry was one of

the basic and leading sectors of Turkmen economy that considerably contributed to national development, improvement of the welfare of the Turkmen people. The services of gas industry workers, builders, explorers, drilling technicians and other specialists, who worked under severe climatic conditions of the Karakum Desert, far from the comfortable centres, for the homeland were great.

The Turkmen leader said that having declared the principle “a state for the people” to be fundamental for the national policy Turkmenistan applied great effort, heavily invested in construction of the remote gas fields, development of modern infrastructure in the towns and settlements, construction of apartment houses, schools and kindergartens. The President said that the Government would attach paramount importance to development of the industrial centres.

Touching upon the future trends of development of the fuel and energy sector the President said that heavily investments were made to intensify the exploration work, to develop and construct the oil and gas fields, in particular Garabil and Gurrukbil and gas rich Southern Yoloten and Osman.

The Turkmen leader said that the planned increase in gas production was attributed to this region that proved Turkmenistan’s profound economic potential, its status of a world’s energy producer. According to experts, Turkmenistan ranked among the countries with the richest potential gas reserves in the world; to date the potential reserves of Turkmenistan were estimated at over 24.6 trillion cubic metres. Such a solid raw material base enabled to steadily increase fuel production and to develop new fields and deposits.

Turkmenistan had invited the world-renowned audit company Gaffney, Cline & Associates Ltd (Great Britain) to estimate the reserves of the fields in Turkmenistan. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov informed that the British company would certify the hydrocarbon resources in the southeastern region of Turkmenistan.

The Turkmen leader emphasized that full-scale application of advanced techniques and technologies to production, achievements of modern science was a key requirement of the ongoing reforms, development of gas industry and the other sectors of national economy. Through developing mutually advantageous partnership with many well-known foreign companies Turkmenistan implemented the programmes on phased replacement of fixed assets of national industries, construction of supermodern industrial complexes applying the latest achievements of scientific and technical advance and computer technologies that was vividly evidenced by the Dovletabad-3 booster station, which enabled to increase the field producing capacity up to 10 million cubic metres a day.

Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov said that commissioning of the compressor stations could be regarded as Turkmenistan’s contribution to implementation of the quadripartite agreement concluded between the governments of the Russian Federation, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan to increase the capacity of the Central Asia-Centre-4 trunk gas pipeline.

Expressing gratitude to the ENEX Company CEO and specialists for performing the project activities at a stated time Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov wished the Belgian partners success in implementing the other projects in particular on construction of the facilities of the industrial infrastructure of the Turkmenistan-China gas pipeline, the gas compressor stations Dowlatabad-2 and Bagtyyarlyk.

Then the floor was given to the honorary guests – EU Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs and EU Special Representative for Central Asia Pierre Morel. Expressing sincere gratitude for the opportunity to take part in the ceremonies on remarkable occasion the EU high-ranking officials emphasized that these and many other large-scale projects launched in the country provided the vast opportunities for implementing Turkmenistan's profound energy potential as well as establishing full-scale international co-operation in mutual interests.

Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov wrote an entry to the Book of Honorary Guests.

Then the ceremony of awarding the best workers took place. The President presented the valuable gifts to the workers.

On that day Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov returned to Ashgabat. At the Ashgabat International Airport the Turkmen leader bade a cordial farewell to the guests and expressed belief that co-operation would be successfully maintained.