

PRESS RELEASE

Agribusiness and apparel competitiveness reforms recommended to Kyrgyz Republic by three OECD Policy Handbooks released today

Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, 20 February 2014

Recommendations to boost competitiveness in the Kyrgyz agribusiness and apparel sectors are summarised by three OECD Policy Handbooks released today. The recommendations focus on access to finance, workforce skills development, and investment promotion, and include:

- **Establishing a warehouse receipts system to help small and medium farms gain access to bank credit** by using agricultural production as collateral;
- **Reforming the internship and apprenticeship systems** to help students in agriculture and agro-processing gain practical skills for employability;
- **Intensifying investment promotion and building skills in the garment sector** to help capture opportunities offered by global markets.

The Handbooks aim to help policymakers implement recommendations to boost growth and employment in two key sectors of the economy. Today, agribusiness represents one fifth of Kyrgyz GDP and employs more than one third of its labour force. Garment manufacturing represents about USD 400 million in turnover and has grown six-fold in eight years.

The Handbooks are published by a project with European Union funding and implementation by the OECD, in partnership with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). The Handbooks benefited from the active participation of the Kyrgyz government, private sector representatives and NGOs. They were peer reviewed at the December 2013 meeting of the OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Roundtable, a policy network bringing together high-level representatives from across the Eurasia region and OECD member countries. The Handbooks were presented for discussion at the Roundtable by Mr. Djoomart Otorbaev, Deputy Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Programme will continue supporting the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, partner organisations and international donors in implementing these recommendations. In 2015, the Kyrgyz Republic will discuss the progress accomplished at the OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Roundtable.

The electronic versions of the Policy Handbooks are freely accessible at:

<http://www.oecd.org/globalrelations/psd/kyrgyzrepublic.htm>

For more information on the OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Programme, please visit:

www.oecd.org/globalrelations/eurasia.htm

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