Press release

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Landmark agreements see Central Asia thrive in renewable energy cooperation and water access

Cross-border partnerships underscore the region's commitment to shared energy security with hydropower at the heart

- A monumental agreement between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan on recognition of their shared border ensures mutual access to water and energy facilities.
- Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan sign an MoU to merge their energy systems and expand green energy exports between the countries.
- Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan agreed a joint roadmap to advance the construction of small-scale hydropower plants. Almost $1bn funding has been secured for Tajikistan's Rogun Hydropower Project.

The 2025 World Hydropower Outlook, released today by the International Hydropower Association, reveals that regional cooperation is driving new development in Central Asia, positioning hydropower at the centre of efforts to strengthen energy security and economic integration.

New agreements across the region – including joint electricity trade deals, grid integration plans and cross-border hydropower projects – are turning political cooperation into concrete infrastructure and market development.

Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan reached a landmark bilateral arrangement ensuring mutual access to water and energy facilities. Meanwhile, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan agreed a joint roadmap to advance the construction of small-scale hydropower plants, supporting rural electrification and energy diversification.

Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan announced plans to import electricity from Azerbaijan and signed a trilateral Memorandum of Understanding to merge energy systems and expand green energy exports. This was complemented by a new regional electricity trade agreement involving Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, based on a roadmap developed with the UN Economic Commission for Europe.

In Uzbekistan, hydropower generation rose 20% in 2024. The Government labelled 2025 the "Year of Environmental Protection and Green Economy" and revealed the country has the potential to develop 10GW of hydropower and aims to reach 6GW by 2028.

In 2024, the Russian Ministry of Energy unveiled its Energy Strategy to 2050, which was approved in April 2025. The strategy targets a 17% increase in hydropower generation from 2023 levels and includes 7.8GW of new hydro and pumped storage capacity in Siberia and the Far East.

Press release

The Georgian Economy Ministry is targeting 10GW of electricity generation by 2032, with the share of hydropower poised to rise from 50% to 74%.

Malcolm Turnbull, IHA President, commented: "Encouragingly, this year's World Hydropower Outlook shows that global new capacity is accelerating after several years of stagnation. With increased solar and wind power on the grid, hydropower is playing an increasingly vital role in the global energy transition - providing flexibility, storage and resilience. It also has the advantage of being a predominantly domestic industry which is important for energy security. But markets alone won't deliver what is needed. Continued momentum will require bold policy action, including reforms to reward hydropower's multiple benefits and faster permitting. The only resource we lack is time."

Eddie Rich, IHA CEO, added: "As the renewable energy market continues to grow, pumped storage hydropower is playing an increasingly vital role in ensuring system flexibility and stability. This year's Outlook reaffirms that for many regions, increased conventional hydropower remains the priority essential to achieving global climate and development goals. In the face of growing climate volatility, we must build not just clean energy systems, but resilient ones. Water, wind and sun, gets the job done!"

There is also growing momentum on the ground:

- **Kazakhstan:** Announced plans to add 600MW of hydropower by 2027/28.
- **Tajikistan:** Aiming to become a regional electricity powerhouse through the 3,600MW Rogun project and the CASA-1000 transmission network.
- **Kyrgyzstan:** Four projects are currently under construction, including the Suusamyr–Kokomeren cascade – expected to add 1,305MW of capacity.
- **Uzbekistan:** Declared 2025 the "Year of Environmental Protection and Green Economy" and has the potential to develop 10GW of hydropower and aim to reach 6GW by 2028.

South and Central Asian Hydropower in numbers:

- Generation by hydropower: 564TWh
- Total installed capacity: 166.5GW
- Capacity added in 2024: 4,012MW
- Total pumped storage installed capacity: 7,711MW
- Pumped storage capacity added in 2024: 0GW

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Notes to editors:

Global highlights of the 2025 World Hydropower Outlook include:

- Global hydropower capacity grew by 24.6GW in 2024, including 16.2GW of conventional hydropower and 8.4GW of pumped storage hydropower

Press release

- The global hydropower development pipeline now exceeds 1,075GW, including 600GW of pumped storage and 475GW of conventional projects.
- China continues to dominate global hydropower development, with 14.4GW of new capacity added in 2024, including 7.75GW of PSH.
- Africa more than doubles the previous three years' development, commissioning 4.5GW of new hydropower capacity in 2024.
- Europe saw a decade-high 680TWh in hydropower generation supported by strong rainfall, while EU and national policy measures drive momentum for pumped storage.

More information:

- The World Hydropower Outlook is available as a downloadable PDF [link].
- The 2025 World Hydropower Outlook will launch during London Climate Action Week at a high-level global event hosted by EBRD in Canary Wharf, in partnership with EBRD, the British Hydropower Association, and the Global Renewables Alliance.

About IHA:

The International Hydropower Association (IHA) is the global voice of sustainable hydropower. It is a non-profit membership organisation committed to sustainable hydropower. Its mission is to advance sustainable hydropower by building and sharing knowledge on its role in renewable energy systems, responsible freshwater management and climate change solutions. IHA seeks to achieve this through monitoring the hydropower sector, building an open, innovative and trusted platform for knowledge, and advancing strategies that strengthen performance.

Learn more: www.hydropower.org

The International Forum on Pumped Storage Hydropower, held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris from 9-10 September is expected to gather 400 Heads of State, government ministers, CEOs, and leaders to unlock the full potential of pumped storage. Building on the momentum of the 2021 Forum — which featured leaders like Mark Carney, Canada's Prime Minister, and former US Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm — this year's event will turn global ambition into high-impact action.
Learn more: www.pumpedstorageforum.com

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Media Contact:
Kiran Bose
Senior Communications Officer (Asia)
International Hydropower Association
t: +44 7399 049 171
e: kiran.bose@hydropower.org