

Kazakhstan-Iran relations

Diplomatic relations between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Islamic Republic of Iran were established on January 29, 1999. Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the Islamic Republic of Iran was opened in 1993. Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Republic of Kazakhstan was opened in 1992.

The Republic of Kazakhstan and the Islamic Republic of Iran numerously confirmed political will and interest in the development of friendly and neighborly relations.

More than 60 interstate, intergovernmental, interdepartmental agreements and documents are signed between states. It forms contractual legal framework of bilateral interaction.

The Republic of Kazakhstan and the Islamic Republic of Iran coordinate their actions in the regional structures (Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia - CICA, Shanghai Cooperation Organization or SCO, Economic Cooperation Organization - ECO), as well as in terms of special workforce on the Caspian Sea.

In the modern time the trade between states increases, investment, energy, transport, scientific cooperation develops, cultural exchange between nations. This all proves the rational neighborhood between Kazakhstan and Iran.

Alongside with it, the potential relations between Kazakhstan and Iran is great, however, it is not fully realized, although it can be seen relative activation of bilateral visits (Table 1 and Table 2).

Table 1. Dynamics of visits

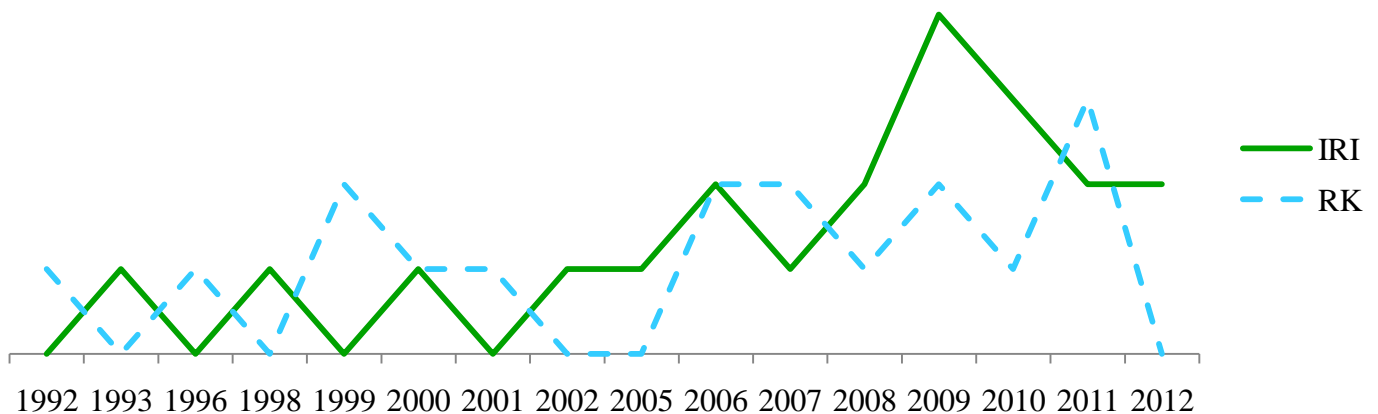


Table 2. Trade turnover between the RK and the IRI
(according to the data of the Agency of Statistics of the RK, USD)

year	turnover	export	import
2009	1,3 billion	1,279 billion	24 million
2010	1,1 billion	1,09 billion	0,2 million
2011	1,11 billion	1,08 billion	34,9 million

The Republic of Kazakhstan exports to the Islamic Republic of Iran the following products:

- metal
- metal items
- grain

The Republic of Kazakhstan imports to the Islamic Republic of Iran the following products:

- dried fruits
- petrochemical products
- products of food industry
- building material

Cooperation in the sphere of transportation:

- October 7, 2001 – opening of direct automobile and ferry communication on feeder vessels from Aktau to Iranian port Nowshahr/Enzeli;
- cargo transportation between Aktau port and ports of Iran (oil, metal, grain, wheel techniques and to name but a few);
- December 2007, Ashkhabad – the intergovernmental agreement between Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Iran on cooperation in construction of new railway Uzen (Kazakhstan) – Kyzylkaya (Turkmenistan) – Bereket – Etrek – Gorgan (Iran). The length of the railway on the territory of Kazakhstan is 146 km, Turkmenistan – 700 km, Iran – 83 km. Kazakhstan's part was finished in 2011.

Thus using the positively developing dual relations of Kazakhstan both with Iran and The US, which has difficulties in the direct contact with Teheran, Kazakhstan could place a mediator, diplomatic function of mediator, representing the interests of Iran in the US, as Switzerland represents the interests of the US in Iran. It would support the beginning of regardful dialogue of Washington with Teheran, formation of mutual trust between them, and gradual way out of international isolation.