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# KYRGYZ, TAJIK FASHION GOES ON SHOW IN MOSCOW

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Artisans Kyrgyz and Tajik clothes and textile designers get a golden opportunity to impress top Russian buyers later this month at the Federal Trade Fair in Moscow, Russia's largest specialized industrial show.

With the backing of International Trade Centre (ITC), seventeen firms from the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan will display their creations at the 37th edition of the "Textillegprom" fair for textile and light industry goods and equipment being held in the Russian capital September 27-30.

The fair, which is staged twice a year, attracts over 2,400 participants, representing about 3,000 trade and industrial companies, and is visited by over 30,000 specialists.

"The Russian market has huge potential for Kyrgyz and Tajik firms. This is a great chance for them to show what they can do," said Patricia R. Francis, ITC Executive Director. "The experience will enhance the competitiveness of the textile and clothing sectors in the two countries," she added.

The seven Tajik companies will be the first from their country to attend the fair. Development of the textile and clothing sector is a priority of the Tajik Government, which considers the sector to have significant potential for growth and making a contribution to export diversification.

In the Kyrgyz Republic, the sector accounts for over seven percent of economic output and employs some 150,000 people, over 70 percent of them women.

The companies from the two Central Asian countries are taking part in the fair as part of a three-year ITC trade promotion programme for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The programme aims to stimulate and diversify textile and clothing exports in both countries in a sustainable way by increasing the sector's ability to compete.

ITC, a joint venture of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United Nations, has a mandate to promote export-led growth in developing countries and states in transition, with an emphasis on SMEs and on businesses where women play an important role.

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