

JUNE-JULY 2007

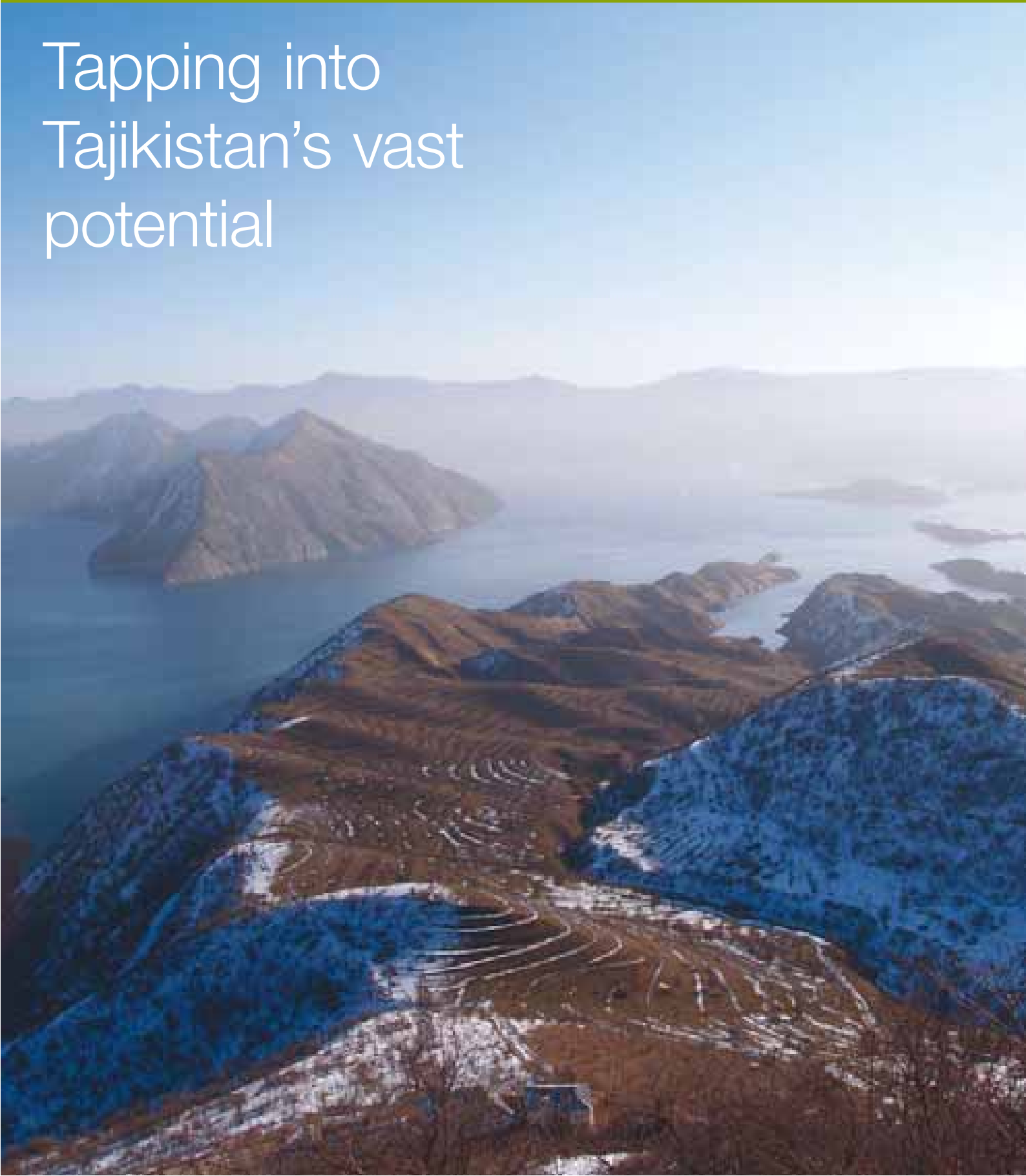


**Tajikistan and the OSCE:
Celebrating the tenth anniversary of the General Agreement on the
Establishment of Peace and National Reconciliation**

Dushanbe and Vienna: Spirit of partnership is alive and well

**The Spanish Chairmanship and Central Asia:
Joint commitment to a community of common values**

Tapping into Tajikistan's vast potential





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The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe is a pan-European security body whose 56 participating States span the geographical area from Vancouver to Vladivostok.

OSCE Chairmanship 2007: Spain

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Message from the Ambassador of Tajikistan

I am very pleased to be settling into my new post in Vienna precisely at a time when my country is marking, with great pride, the tenth anniversary of our Peace Agreement of 1997.



The signing of the accord in Moscow was a major unifying act and truly one of the greatest moments in our history. I was

especially glad to learn that the *OSCE Magazine* would devote almost an entire issue to Tajik-OSCE co-operation in the light of a decade of successful peace-building.

As the long-time head of our Foreign Ministry's department responsible for international organizations, I am thoroughly familiar with the OSCE and its work, and consider it one of our most important partners. The wide variety of themes featured in the next several pages clearly show how mutually satisfying our relationship has been through the years.

However, my Government would like the Organization to make its presence felt even more strongly, not only in Tajikistan, but also throughout Central Asia. We are a region made up of old nations but young countries. We face many challenges that have a direct impact on security and stability. And, since these challenges do not start or stop at our borders, we urgently need to involve our next-door neighbour, Afghanistan, more closely in our activities.

My Government has presented a number of priorities including fostering economic activities aimed at alleviating social problems, strengthening border management, and tackling land degradation and other environmental issues. We are working closely with the Spanish Chairmanship and the OSCE Centre in Dushanbe to address these.

Needless to say, it is an exciting time to be my country's envoy to the OSCE. I look forward to continuing the excellent work of my predecessors and playing a major role in this interesting phase in Tajik-OSCE relations, which go back a long way. After all, the Organization was a guarantor of our Peace Agreement, and its advice, assistance and commitment made it possible for us to move on from post-conflict rehabilitation to sustainable peace.

Nuriddin T. Shamsov
Vienna
June 2007

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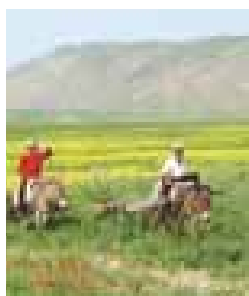
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Cover: Tajikistan’s Nurek Dam is currently the world’s tallest, while the reservoir is the country’s largest. Central Asia’s major source of water is Tajikistan, a global leader in terms of hydropower potential. Photo: OSCE/Michael Unland

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