## Nowruz City Hamburg

## **Economic and Cultural Bridge Building**

a time when violent extremism is trying to destroy diversity and liberties, Nowruz recalls the power of culture and heritage to build strong and sustainable societies", said Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, in her Nowruz message 2017. Thus she has given the motto of this year's Nowruz event in Hamburg. Under the title "Break into the future. Tajikistan, the Central Asian countries and Iran", experts presented the potential for German companies in the region. A matter truly dear to the heart of Kourosh Pourkian, Honorary Consul of Tajikistan! As President of the Nowruz Forum Germany, the business consultant has set himself the task of using the peace message of the three-thousand-year-old Persian Spring and New Year festival Nowruz for an economic and cultural exchange between Northern Germany and the Nowruz countries. In cooperation with the Embassy of Tajikistan he invited to the Nowruz Fireplace Talk and cultural evening in the "Villa Schöne Aussicht". During the talk show, Asgarkhel Mangal, owner of an international transport company, confirmed the reputation of "Made in Germany" in the Nowruz region. The investment advisor Hans-Joachim Siegert from Tajinvest promoted the Tajik agricultural sector. With its untreated products, the country offers an interesting investment location for the German bio-economy. For Kristin Laabs, the Country Director of KfW Tajikistan, Renewable Energies offer the most attractive investment sector. Also for this business segment, the development bank offers good financing opportunities - also to the delight of H. E. Maliksho Nematov.

The Tajik Ambassador Maliksho Nematov outlined the international initiatives of Tajikistan on water related issues and explained the goals of the International Decade of Actions "Water for Sustainable Development" 2018-2028, adopted by the resolution of General Assembly of the United Nations on December 2016, as well as noted the significance of water diplomacy in promotion of conflicts on water management and use of water resources, particularly in trans-

boundary river basins.

Iran's Consul General Seyed Saeid Seyedin praised his country with the port of Chahabar as a safe transit area. Moreover, he is on fire for the idea to celebrate a great Nowruz festival in Hamburg, the "Gateway to the World", with the consular representatives of all Nowruz countries.

► Culture binds (from left to right): Tajikistan's show star Fahriddin Malik with the Moscow-born Kate Shine, super talent on the electric cello, and the Iran-born artist Sina Vodjani with his bridge building photo art compositions.



H F Maliksho Nematov (2nd from left), Ambassador of Tajikistan, with Congbin Sun, Consul General of the People's Republic of China; the Iranian Consul General Seved Saied Sevedin and Mehmet Fatih Ak. Consul General of Tukey, who remembered the values anchored in Nowruz such as solidarity, mutual understanding and respect, and Honorary Consul Kournsh Pourkian







▲ The moderator Eduard Kinsbruner (2nd from left), Regional Director for Central Asia of the German Committee on Eastern European Economic Relations, with the participants of the Nowruz Fireplace Talk: Kristin Laabs, Asgharkhel Mangal and Dr. Hans-Joachim Siegert (from left to right)



Nowruz building bridges between parties: The members of the SPD-faction of the Hamburg-State Parliament Gulfam Malik from the Nowruz-country Pakistan, and Markus Schreiber (m.), with the CDU-politicians Huy-Tam Van (l.), Member of the Commission of the Small and Medium-Sized Business Association (MIT), and Jutta Höflich (r.), Member of the Regional Committee on Foreign, Security, European and Development



Since President Barack Obama, the White House is sending a New Year's message to its citizens celebrating Nowruz. It was all the more delightful to welcome Dorothee Hagen (2nd from right), President of the German-American Women's Club, for the first time, and press officer, Alexa Lindsay-Fraßa (L.), with her spouses to the Hamburg Nowruz-Event.



