PRESS RELEASE | CASPIAN WEEK

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Caspian Week Forum Beijing brings China and the Greater Caspian Region together on energy, critical minerals and the Middle Corridor



A full hall for the opening of Caspian Week Forum Beijing, Beijing International Hotel, 3 November 2026. Photo: Caspian Week

Caspian Week Forum Beijing took place on 3 November 2026 at the Beijing International Hotel, as part of the 15th China Overseas Investment Fair. Hosted by the Greater Caspian Association (GCA) and co-hosted by the China Overseas Development Association (CODA), it was the first Caspian Week edition held in China. Sixteen speakers and moderators from China, Central Asia, the Gulf and Europe took part.

Ambassador Dr David Fernández Puyana of the University for Peace opened the forum. He Zhenwei, President of CODA, Murat Seitnepesov, President of GCA, and Dr Claude Béglé gave opening remarks.

Energy security over land

In the energy panel, moderated by Oscar Wendel of Global Stratalogues, speakers agreed that energy security now means storage and flexibility as well as supply. Yang Lei of Peking University set out China's energy transition, Linar Yakupov described Central Asia's investment moment and the role of Islamic finance, Laila Tang of MegaRely explained why sodium-ion batteries suit the region's cold, remote grids, and Wu Zhengzhang of Zhongjing Group proposed a pilot Caspian Energy Fund to bring long-term capital into gas and cross-border power projects.

Critical minerals beyond raw materials

Academician Zhai Mingguo of the Chinese Academy of Sciences described the region's belts of copper, gold, rare metals, uranium and lithium, Gavin Yang of Beijing Dacheng Law Offices made the case for

processing near the mine, and Konstantin Belotelkin of Overbest gave an explorer's view of a region with large unexplored areas.

From transit route to trade hub

In the connectivity panel, moderated by Franz J. Marty of the Swiss Institute for Global Affairs, Dr Claude Béglé called for resilient routes rather than a single lowest-cost one. Eugene Seah showed that the Middle Corridor loses most time at the transfer points between rail and sea, Li Jinying of the CFLP Planning and Research Institute offered to build a Middle Corridor index with the Greater Caspian Association, and Anzheng Wei of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank said the bank plans to invest more than USD 1 billion a year in corridor projects over the next five years.

Investment showcase and business meetings

The forum closed with the Greater Caspian Regional Investment Showcase, where Murat Seitnepesov presented the region as eighteen economies from the Black Sea to Central Asia. On 3 and 4 November, delegates from the region held business meetings with Chinese companies, arranged in advance.

Global Stratalogues, the intelligence partner of the forum, has published an event report on the discussions: heyzine.com/flip-book/c4278c75b2.html. Photos and session summaries are on caspianweek.org/en/events/2026-beijing.

About Caspian Week

Since 2017, Caspian Week has brought together leaders, investors and experts around one mission: to help realise the human and economic potential of the Greater Caspian Region. An initiative of the Greater Caspian Association, it has been held in Davos, Zurich, Lugano, Geneva (including at the United Nations), Dubai and Baku, and in 2026 in Beijing.

About the Greater Caspian Association

The Greater Caspian Association, based in Geneva, connects the Greater Caspian Region, eighteen economies from the Black Sea to Central Asia, to the world.

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