



## Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) pipeline

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**Abstract** - This Article aspires to outline brief evolution and internationalization of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India pipeline. How TAPI pipeline turned “dream pipeline” to “real pipeline”. It is descriptive research.

**Keywords:** Turkmenistan, TAPI, energy.

### INTRODUCTION

TAPI Pipeline was mooted first in 1993, after undaunted discussion after discussion in ten years by parties; it could only be implemented end of 2015. This Article aspires to outline brief evolution and internationalization of Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India pipeline. How TAPI pipeline turned “dream pipeline” to “real pipeline”. It is descriptive research. Apart from that, it looks at the project from an internal point of view, which makes it different from other vantage points of views on the topic.

#### **History of TAPI pipeline**

TAPI Pipeline was mooted first in 1993. Several companies like Unocal, Delta, and Bidas has interested in the project. In 2002, ADB (Asian Development Bank) issued a positive report on the feasibility of the pipeline that spurred the parties to intensify their efforts to develop the project further<sup>i</sup>. 2002 was one of the milestones for the development of the project after being kept long in abeyance. It is envisaged length is 1800 km and capacity was 27 bcm per year, which will transport 12.5 bcm, 12.5 bcm, 2 bcm for India, Pakistan and Afghanistan respectively. However, its capacity has been increased to 33 bcm per year recently. The pipeline's cost is estimated at [USD \\$7.6 billion](#)<sup>ii</sup>. Since 1995 TAPI project could not be realised due to lack of financing and credit provision.

The project that can produce a decisive ultimate impact on Afghanistan's stability and prosperity<sup>iii</sup>. In long-run TAPI pipeline's economic impact on Afghanistan is remunerative, because if this line would succeed, ancillary second natural-gas pipeline likely to resurface, which was part of the envisaged plan in 1990's third line, has never mooted but feasibility studies were done by Argentine oil Company Bidas and US oil Company Unocal in the 1990s done upon need and rising energy demand of India, Pakistan and Afghanistan, which has given those companies hope of export 198 bcm gas annually<sup>iv</sup>. More, Rabat-Kashan- Kalinav electro-conductive line, power lines, fiber optic communications line parallel to TAPI and gas compressor stations in Afghanistan minding 198 bcm ultimate reachable capacities could boost the Afghan economy.

### Realization of TAPI pipeline

After undaunted discussion after discussion in ten years by parties, with the initiatives of Turkmenistan's President the project has been started to give hope the possibility to see brighter days. President Gurbanguly Berdymuhamedov on 7<sup>th</sup> November ordered state companies Turkmengaz and Turkmengazneftstroi to begin building Turkmen section of the pipeline. New deadline set as the end of 2018.<sup>v</sup> In 2015 TAPI pipeline's capacity has increased to carry 33 bcm gas for a 30 year. 14 bcm of gas will be supplied to India and Pakistan each, while the remaining 5 bcm will be supplied to Afghanistan<sup>vi</sup>. The implementation of the project will be realized in two steps, at first step it would supply 5-6 bcm natural gas per annum, and in second step gas compressor stations will be implemented at several points to boost its full capacity of 33 bcm natural gas per year<sup>vii</sup>. The project would provide 12000 employments for Afghan people with 1 billion USD transit tax for Afghanistan's state budget<sup>viii</sup>. During his official visit to Turkmenistan in February 2019, Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani said that TAPI would enable operation of non-working factories of Afghanistan due to lack of energy supply<sup>ix</sup>. This will also serve to promote further economic growth in the countries where pipelines run, to assist in the resolution of issues of providing people with light and heat, development of production and social infrastructure, job creation which will, ultimately, positively affect the overall political climate within and beyond the region<sup>x</sup>. During the same official visit of Afghanistan's President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani to Turkmenistan upon Turkmen President's invitation. During Afghanistan's official visit to the country, Turkmenistan's President Gurbanguly Berdymuhamedov noted that it would be possible to arrange the transportation of Turkmen natural gas through the present Kelif- Shabyrgan gas pipeline by own means. Corresponding negotiations have already been held between relevant departments of the two countries<sup>xi</sup>. The pipeline would supply gas to Afghanistan that would boost Afghanistan's economy.

Turkmenistan's President issued Resolution, ordering the Turkmengas and Turkmennebitgas gurlushyk State Concerns to design and construct the section of the TAPI gas pipeline at the expense of the funds of the Turkmengas State Concern<sup>xii</sup>. The same year in August at the 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the TAPI Management Committee the members of which are the ministers of the oil and gas branch of Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India, the Turkmengas State Concern was elected the Consortium leader of the TAPI Limited Pipeline Company. As the Consortium leader "Turkmengas" will coordinate the interaction of the construction, financing, processing and exploitation of the TAPI pipeline<sup>xiii</sup>. TAPI project was also supported by large financial institutions, including the Asian Development Bank. All important commercial and judicial documents forming a basis for starting a particular realization of the TAPI projects agreed and signed thanks to the efforts of the countries project participants<sup>xiv</sup>. Turkmenistan also making overtures, to attract Japanese investment to TAPI pipeline project<sup>xv</sup>. Saudi Arabia's Development Fund provided credit for the finance of the pipeline<sup>xvi</sup>. Turkmenistan invited Russian companies to involve in the project. The Russian ChTPZ group (Chelyabinsk Pipe Rolling Plant) won the tender for the supply of pipes for the construction of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) natural gas pipeline. The company will supply pipes for the construction of the linear section of the 214-kilometre pipeline. The deal was 219 million USD. The procurement of the pipelines was financed by the Islamic Development Bank (IDB)<sup>xvii</sup>.

Until the end of December 2019, all the pipelines were supplied to Turkmenistan. More countries participation in the Project would make it more internationally supported project.

Turkmen part, “214-kilometre section”<sup>xxviii</sup>, of the pipeline has finished within three years 2015 to 2018. February 23, 2018, in Serhetabad district of Mary province of Turkmenistan and the Afghan city Heart with the participation of President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Mohammad Ashraf Ghani, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Shahid Hakan Abbasi and State Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of India Mobashar Jawed Akbari construction of Afghan part of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline kicked off<sup>xix</sup> for 800 km in Afghanistan part<sup>xx</sup> of the project. And the most important thing is that the TAPI gas pipeline will promote the support and strengthening of the political and social stability in the entire region<sup>xxi</sup>. Once it called “Dream Pipeline” now it is being realized and turning into “Real Pipeline” and “Peace Pipeline” as it is often referred by some experts.

Turkmenistan and Pakistan signed an agreement on 12 March 2019 for implementation of TAPI natural gas pipeline and to set up a working group was decided to finalize an agreement on the transmission line of up to 1,000MW electricity. Foreign Ministry of Turkmenistan Mr. Meredov said the optic-fibre network parallel to the TAPI pipeline may be extended till China<sup>xxii</sup> and Japan<sup>xxiii</sup> in future. The agreement would enable the Interstate Gas Company — a subsidiary of Pakistan’s petroleum division — and TAPI Project Company Ltd (TPCL) — a joint venture conglomerate company of the four countries Turkmenistan, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan — to enter into a formal implementation of the section of TAPI pipeline in Pakistan within two to three months<sup>xxiv</sup>. TAPI Project Company Ltd (TPCL) has been doing well in the implementation of the project.

### Conclusion

The most important thing is that the TAPI gas pipeline will promote the support and strengthening of the political and social stability in the entire region<sup>xxv</sup> and boost Afghanistan’s economy. Once it called “Dream Pipeline” now it is being realized and turning into “Real Pipeline” and “Peace Pipeline” as it is often referred by some experts. More countries participation in the Project would make it more internationally supported project. More, countries have taken part in the project, making it one of the most internationally supported projects.

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