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Press release

Commemoration of the First International Tea Day

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Tradition of tea in Azerbaijan goes back far in history. Since tea was first brought to us in the Middle Ages by the caravans traveling the Great Silk Way, it has become an integral part of Azerbaijani culture, as well as an important industry. First started in the 19th century, small tea plantations grew to full scale industrial production by 1920's. Southern regions of Azerbaijan with their humid subtropical climate are particularly well-suited to tea cultivation and produce some of the best tea in the world.

Azerbaijan's Government places significant priority on sustainable tea harvesting. To that end, a State Program on the Development of Tea Growing from 2018 to 2027 was initiated by the President of Azerbaijan in 2018 with the aim of scaling up tea production, increasing the export potential of the industry and ensuring employment prospects of the rural population.

According to global surveys, per capita consumption of tea in Azerbaijan is among the highest in the world, with 99.1% of the population considering themselves regular tea drinkers, preferring local tea brands.

Our love for tea reflects our ancient tradition of hospitality. Black tea is often served to guests, in traditional armudu, or pear-shaped glass, to keep tea hot at the bottom while helping it cool faster at the top. It is commonly served in Azerbaijani tea houses called chaykhanas, favorite places of leisure that are Azerbaijan's analogue of European cafes. Whether it is a family celebration, a meeting of old friends or a business lunch, it will always be accompanied by strong and freshly brewed aromatic tea.



Today the world is experiencing unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, which negatively impact all sectors of the economy. The Government of Azerbaijan is taking all appropriate measures to minimize the economic damage of the coronavirus on agriculture, including tea cultivation. Accordingly, the agricultural sector continues to operate in strict compliance with the requirements of the special quarantine regime and maintains vital food supply chains open for uninterrupted operation.

Azerbaijan proudly joins the First Observance of the International Tea Day, celebrating both the beautiful tradition and the important industry, which provides livelihood for many families and contributes to sustainable rural development, poverty reduction, food security and other crucial goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.