



## Kazakhstan Joins ASEM, Moves to Boost Multilateral Cooperation in New Format



President Nursultan Nazarbayev (c) with his counterparts during the two-day 10th ASEM summit in Milan, Italy, on Oct. 16-17, which took place under the title of "Promoting financial and economic cooperation through enhanced Europe-Asia connectivity."

By Zhanara Abdulova

MILAN – Kazakhstan has officially joined the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), a key forum for dialogue and cooperation between the two continents, and took part in the 10th ASEM Summit on Oct. 16-17 in Milan.

President Nursultan Nazarbayev headed the Kazakh delegation at the two-day summit, addressing an audience of more than 50 heads

of state and government and holding a number of bilateral meetings with his European and Asian counterparts.

Speaking at the plenary session, "Promotion of financial and economic cooperation through enhanced Europe-Asia connectivity," President Nazarbayev said the search for common answers to today's challenges and threats requires a shared European and Asian agenda.

"The most efficient way to overcome the existing crisis is to unleash the integration potential of the Eurasian region," he said.

"It is necessary to change the paradigm of international cooperation, which implies taking real action in eliminating protectionist barriers, opening markets and increasing bilateral trade," Nazarbayev said of his vision for future cooperation between Asia and Europe.

One of the key directions of co-

operation, the President said, is the transformation of global financial architecture, along with overcoming imbalances in the financial sector and developing of an effective model for the regulation of international capital flows.

Nazarbayev also stressed the need to develop new financial bridges, noting that the regional financial centre of Almaty has the potential to unite parts of Europe and Asia.

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## Astana, EU Conclude Talks on Enhanced Partnership, Proving International Relations Aren't "Zero Sum Game"

By Aisha Mukasheva

BRUSSELS – Kazakhstan and the European Union completed talks on an expanded Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) in Brussels on Oct. 9 during the visit of the President of Kazakhstan to the seat of the European central bodies. Documents on the completion of bilateral negotiations between Kazakhstan and the EU regarding Kazakhstan's accession to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) were also signed during the visit.

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan Erlan Idrissov and Chief Executive Officer of the European External Action Service David O'Sullivan signed the joint document on the completion of negotiations on the draft PCA between Kazakhstan and the EU. The agreement will strengthen the current relationship in 29 areas of cooperation, including economics, trade and investment. It renews a similar agreement

signed in 1995 and enacted in 1999. The agreement also covers such broad questions as legal compatibility, freedom and security, personal data protection and visa procedure facilitation.

President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev and President of the European Commission Jose Manuel Barroso held numerous talks during the course of Nazarbayev's official visit to Brussels.

"Today, Mr. Barroso and I officially confirmed the completion of negotiations on a new expanded partnership and cooperation agreement between Kazakhstan and the European Union. We also signed and initialled a document that says that Kazakhstan and the European Union resolved their issues on [Kazakhstan's] WTO accession. These two documents are highly anticipated, very important for our country," Nazarbayev said.

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## Officials Unveil Details of Samruk Kazyna Transformation

By Danna Bupezhanova

ruk Kazyna board of directors on Sept. 5 during a session chaired by Kazakh Prime Minister Karim Massimov.

Leaders, experts and officials from various states and companies participated in the event. The list included Managing Director of McKinsey Global Institute (MGI) Dominic Barton, a member of the board of directors and Samruk Kazyna Independent Director Richard Evans, MGI Director General Isaac Adizes, prominent professor of economics at New York University and President of RGE Monitor Nouriel Roubini as well as representatives of similar foreign sovereign funds such as Singapore's Temasek Management, Malaysia's Khazanah Nasional Berhad, the Korean Investment Corporation and Qatar Investment Authority.

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## Armenia Joins Eurasian Economic Union, Kyrgyzstan Edges Closer to Membership

By Nurbek Almashov and Malika Orazgaliyeva

MINSK – Illustrating the growing pull of the yet-to-be-launched Eurasian Economic Union, Armenia joined the group at a meeting of the leaders of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia in the Belarusian capital on Oct. 10. Kyrgyzstan edged closer to joining by agreeing to a road map for

its accession to the group's predecessor, the Common Economic Space of Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia.

On May 29, the presidents of Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia met in Astana and signed a treaty establishing the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU). Now ratified by all three countries, the treaty is set to enter into force on Jan. 1, 2015.

Presidents Serzh Sargsyan of Armenia and Almazbek Atam-

bayev of Kyrgyzstan joined their three colleagues at the Oct. 10 meeting in Minsk to participate in talks and sign documents.

Addressing the gathering, President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan stressed the need to enhance work on informing the business community and other citizens of the member states of the real and practical advantages of the EEU. He also highlighted the need to expand Kazakhstan's representation among

the personnel of the Eurasian Economic Commission, the permanent ruling body of the EEU. Nazarbayev also urged the commission to work harder on quickly and correctly translating documents into the national languages of the member states.

The next meeting of the highest level of the Eurasian Economic Commission is to take place in December in Moscow.

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## Kazakhstan, UNDP and Coca-Cola to Increase Rural Access to Safe Drinking Water

By Rufiya Ospanova

ASTANA – Earth is our Home, a programme for Kazakh water resources management, was launched on Oct. 8. As part of this project, international organisations represented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Kazakhstan and the Coca-Cola Company, with the support of the Kazakh Ministry of Agriculture, made a commitment to assist in addressing the global challenge, which the country is already facing: the effective management of water resources and provision of access to quality drinking water.

By 2025, there will be the potential danger of an acute shortage of water resources. As Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev noted, "Water is becoming an important factor in geopolitics, being one of the causes of tensions and conflicts in the world."

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The Earth is our Home programme proposed by the organisers combines the efforts of the state, nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) and businesses in order to address a number of issues that are vital and relevant to the Kazakh people. The programme provides for small- and medium-sized pilot projects on water resources management through grant assistance from NGOs dealing with water supply problems. The programme is also designed to support innovative initiatives that are aimed at optimising the technology to improve the efficiency of the water sector. By next year, the result will be a significant increase in the number of people with access to safe drinking water in the most vulnerable rural areas of Kazakhstan.

Bach told a press conference during his visit that the IOC holds the "original bid of Almaty," which is based on use of existing sports infrastructure and the rich sports heritage of Kazakhstan in high regard.

"With all this infrastructure and rich sport traditions, the Almaty candidacy looks strong," he added.

ALMATY – International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach called Almaty and Kazakhstan's application to host the 2022 Winter Olympics "very solid and competitive" during an Oct. 11-12 visit to Almaty's sports complexes.

Bach visited the Medeo mountain skating rink and the Chimbulak ski slopes and jumps complex.

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"With all this infrastructure and rich sport traditions, the Almaty candidacy looks strong," he added.

He also called the success of Kazakh athletes at the 2012 summer games a "breakthrough."

The IOC president also touched upon a very timely question on behalf of the Kazakh Sports Press Association (SPA) concerning the extension of quotas for accreditation of domestic journalists covering the Olympic Games. Kazakhstan's Olympic achievements allow for this and Bach promised to study this question.

The highlight of the IOC president's visit was his participation in the ceremony of *tusau kesu*, the Kazakh tradition marking the beginning of a child's new stage in life. Bach cut the binds of one-and-a-half-year-old Altair Omarov and wished him a bright Olympic future.



Thomas Bach (c) cuts binds during the traditional *tusau kesu* ceremony in Almaty.

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# NATION

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2014

## Kazakhstan Going Mobile, Announces Official During E-Government Forum



Foreign guests at the 3rd Global E-Government Forum in Astana.

By Yelden Sarybay

ASTANA – Kazakhstan's hosting of the recent third Global E-Government Forum under the auspices of the United Nations is part of the country's effort to develop an effective and user-friendly e-government platform.

"We are dedicated to simplifying the mechanism of interaction between businesses and the state. E-procurement, electronic document management, e-tax, e-licensing, information systems, as well as the payment of pensions and benefits have already shown to be effective. Furthermore, the cloud platform will create an 'open government' and thus increase the transparency of public authorities to businesses and the public," said Kazakh Prime Minister Karim Massimov, who attended the forum along with UN Deputy Secretary-General Wu Hongbo, government officials, scholars and leading international experts in the field of Information Communications Technologies (ICT) from more than 70 countries.

Kazakhstan has been developing e-government for nine years and offers its citizens more than 500 services, the most popular of which include the issuance of address references authenticating a person's living location and providing references for property

ownership, pension savings and business ownership.

Kazakhstan's Deputy Minister for Investment and Development Askar Zhumagaliev also announced during the forum, titled "Smart Governance for Sustainable Development: New Opportunities of Partnership in the Networked Society," that Kazakh government services will also soon be available through mobile phones. "The next stage of development of e-government is the development of mobile government. We'd like to launch about 50 of the most popular services this year. Further, within three years almost all existing services are supposed to be transferred to mobile government," he said.

Also planned are regional centres of excellence where countries can share knowledge and experience. "We are ready to become a centre of excellence and expertise in the region of Central Asia," Zhumagaliev said.

The Kazakh e-government portal has undergone four developmental stages already. The first stage was informational. At the time the electronic government web-portal was launched, it was filled with information about state agencies, their work and the services they deliver to citizens. The second stage of development was interactive. It

was marked by the start of the provision of e-services. The users of the web-portal were able to send requests to state agencies via their own computers. The third stage of the electronic government development was a transactional one. At this stage, citizens were able to pay for state taxes and fees, fines and utility services online.

The fourth and current stage of the electronic government is transformational. The main aim now is to provide services to citizens with maximum efficiency. For the achievement of this target, interactive and transaction services were combined within the complex services that are demanded by the citizens of Kazakhstan. Since the beginning of the year, Kazakh citizens have been able to register a legal entity in just 15 minutes as well as request an ID card, passport or driver's license.

"In the short term, we'll become witness to the development of the world's best e-government in Kazakhstan," South Korean First Deputy Minister of Security and Public Administration Bahk Gyurng Goog told the forum. This year is the first time the forum has been held outside of South Korea.

Building an effective e-government is not easy and requires institutional agencies at all levels of government to be efficient, transparent, accountable and democratic, Wu told the forum. E-government increases the quality of public administration and increases the efficiency of public services and the civil service as a whole. It also promotes greater involvement of stakeholders in the process of reforming the public sector and increases access to information, he said, adding that Central Asian countries are making progress on developing e-governments.

"Analysis of the development of e-government in 2014 showed that the Central Asian region countries are working at all levels to promote and develop e-government," Wu said.

## Senate Elections Met International Standards, Say Int'l Observers

By Michelle Witte

ASTANA – The regional administrations (maslikhats) of Kazakhstan elected 16 new senators on Oct. 1 in a process that unfolded largely without incident, reported Central Election Commission (CEC) member Marat Sarsembayev on Oct. 10.

**Kazakhstan's election laws require Senate elections to be contested – a ballot may not contain a single candidate.**

"[International observers] told us that the evaluation is high and that there are no shortcomings concerning this election. This is their evaluation; these are their words," Sarsembayev said in an interview with The Astana Times.

Nearly 400 observers, including 116 international observers, monitored the indirect election in 16 polling stations around the country. The international observers came from the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA-CIS), the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and the CIS itself. Representatives from some diplomatic missions in Astana, including the Czech Republic, Thailand and Germany, among others, also took part.

"Our final report says that the election was held in accordance with the international standards and the law of Kazakhstan," said Farkhad Rakhimov, coordinator of the IPA observers, as reported by Trend.az on Oct. 1. The IPA includes experts from the International Institute of Monitoring of Development of Democracy, Parliamentarianism and Protection of Electoral Rights of Citizens of IPA CIS Members, among others.

According to a CEC press release, five appeals were filed during the course of the election, most seeking clarification of legislation governing the election and an acting senator from Kyrgyzstan challenged the decision of the territorial election commission declaring him ineligible for election.

Nearly all of the 3,279 enrolled electors – the members of regional maslikhats – took part in the election, the CEC said, reporting that more than 98 percent participated in the vote. Maslikhat deputies are not required to vote, Sarsembayev said, but the act is, of course, considered a responsibility of the position.

Of the ballots cast, 12 were declared null and void, Sarsembayev said. This was a better result than in previous years, he noted, saying that there were perhaps 20 in the previous Senate election and more than 200 in the 2008 Senate election.

Kazakhstan's election laws require Senate elections to be contested – a ballot may not contain a single candidate. Nine regions saw two candidates compete; three names appeared on the ballots in seven. The biggest margin of victory came in the West Kazakhstan oblast, where Yerbulat Mukayev won with 94.8 percent of the vote.

Though Sarsembayev noted that Senate candidates are not required to disclose their political affiliations, other publications, including The Economist, are reporting that candidates of the ruling Nur Otan party won every seat. Election to the Senate is based on regional representation; it is in the Mazhilis that political parties are officially more active.

One woman, the only woman among the 39 candidates who stood for the final election, was voted into office, along with all four incumbent senators who ran. Nine of the other senator-elects were employees of state organisations; two come from Kazakhstan's business community. The average age of the new senators is 56; four of the new senators are not ethnic Kazakhs.

### NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

Young and talented people from other countries will be encouraged to move into Kazakhstan, Minister of Health and Social Development Tamara Duisenova said. "One of the directions for improving migration policy will be the attraction of talented young people from neighbouring countries, who will be awarded with grants," Duisenova told a joint meeting of the Social Council of the Nur Otan party and the Mazhilis Committee for Social and Cultural Development. She added that this is the practice of Singapore, Malaysia, the U.K. and other developed nations. According to the minister, talented young people choosing to study in Kazakhstan and completing a three-year training course will be given the opportunity to work in their field in the country regardless of quotas or permits.

"Babalar Sozi," a 100 volume collection of Kazakh folklore, was presented at the World Book Fair in Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany. The illustrated collection of epics, legends, myths and proverbs contains almost all genres of Kazakh folklore and includes manuscripts recorded in old Arabic print and other works. To compile the book, folklorists searched collections in Uzbekistan, Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan and China. Folklorist Seit Kaskabasov in particular spent 10 years producing the collection, issuing 10 volumes a year.

According to him, the work was difficult, and many texts of the songs had been banned. The presentation of the collection gathered eminent Turkologists, literary critics and scientists from different countries. German Turkologist Thomas Wyrwal said, "Not every country can show off such a rich culture and, beyond that, publish it for the masses. It is really great work. This is an opportunity for younger generations to know their history."

"A project to include the Kazakh language in the global Google Translate system needs the support of native speakers," Chairman of the Board of the WikiBilim Foundation Ruan Kenzhehanuly said at an Oct. 15 Central Communication Service (CCS) briefing. According to Kenzhehanuly, Google Translate and the improvement of its language options depend on the support of users. "There are some issues that require the participation of users of the system. For example, when you see any mistakes by other people on the website, you will have a chance to correct them," he said. According to Kenzhehanuly, the system has more than 80 languages and about 200 million people use it daily. Google Translate translates not only words, but also word-groups, small texts and whole web pages. "After a great number of texts were translated by the system, we were asked to evaluate the quality of translation. The work takes only one or two minutes," he said. According to Kenzhehanuly, the Kazakh language will be integrated into the system by the end of 2014.

"It is necessary to introduce free education for teachers," Rector of Kazakh National Pedagogical University Serik Praliyev said at an Oct. 16 meeting of the National Council for Teacher Education. "We need to develop the social status of teachers in new format. Admission to teacher training institutions should be carried out only on a free basis," Praliyev noted.

According to him, teaching staff should be prepared only by state universities that meet international standards. He also noted that it is important to reduce the total annual load to 500 hours per teacher. "However, applicants wishing to enter university must pass the creative examination aimed at determining their teaching ability. And graduates who have completed the course with excellence should be admitted only on the basis of their creative disciplines, without passing national testing," the rector said. According to him, after the training, a young person must be certified; only then should he or she be able to get a job.

## Kazakhstan, UNDP and Coca-Cola to Increase Rural Access to Safe Drinking Water

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"The problem of access to water is acute in our country. A serious problem is the low level of public awareness about the opportunities through which effective methods of saving water are available. Together, we can strengthen the capacity of local communities to increase access to safe drinking water to the vulnerable population and also tell people about effective measures and conservation of water resources," said Stanislav Kim, head of the Department of Environment and Energy, UNDP Kazakhstan.

"The project which we have presented here is part of a global initiative and will be implemented in 21 countries. It is still in the pilot phase. However, under this initiative, we are more focused on involvement of the population in the solution of these problems, i.e. identifying some approaches by which they will be directly involved in tackling the problem of water supply and ensuring its quality," he noted.

According to Kim, it is necessary to work on the approaches through grants, which will be decided by UNDP with the financial support of Coca-Cola. The size of the grants will be up to \$150,000. Nonprofit and nongovernmental organisations can participate in the programme by proposing ideas. Regular grant contests will be announced, to which all interested parties may submit applications and an independent com-



Ensuring the quality of drinking water was among the top issues addressed by representatives of the project.

mission will decide which projects to support.

The focus of the Earth is our Home on the promotion of modern and technologically-advanced methods to improve water quality, as well as the ways to save it, is timely and relevant. The timely implementation of the initiative will help to solve the task set by Nazarbayev to provide all the people in Kazakhstan with quality

drinking water, the importance of which was noted in his state of the nation address, "Strategy Kazakhstan 2050, a New Political Course of the Established State."

Such significant projects are being implemented not only by the state and public organisations, but are also actively promoted by Coca-Cola, the largest manufacturer of beverages.

"The importance of water for the

health of society as a whole is difficult to overestimate," said Oleg Piletsky, the company's manager for government and public affairs in the countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus.

"The whole world today is experiencing difficulties in relation to water resources. In many countries there is an acute shortage of safe drinking water. We believe that working together with other

# EURASIA & WORLD

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2014

**EXTERNAL NEWS IN BRIEF**

"The Western Europe-Western China transport corridor plans to add a branch to the countries of the Persian Gulf. The branch will start from the territory of Kazakhstan. The main part on Kazakhstan's land will be put into operation in 2017," Deputy Chairman of the Road Committee of the Ministry of Investments and Development Amangeldy Bekov said recently, commenting on the preliminary results of construction, infrastructure creation and other details of the huge transport project. "We have already built 1,728 kilometres. By the end of 2014, we plan to open the road from Shymkent to Russia. Work is being carried out in four regions: Kyzylorda, South Kazakhstan, Zhambyl and Almaty. The construction of almost all road sections is financed through international financial institutions. It is planned to complete the construction of our section of the corridor in 2017," he said. According to him, one of the difficulties is land acquisition, and in the South Kazakhstan region, judicial processes are still ongoing. Land acquisition is now being transferred to local executive bodies and money allocated to the regions through the national budget. "There is also a shortage of qualified professionals. Now, by the decision of the government, the work on this corridor will attract foreign labour. As [the project] is a promising project with specific deadlines, the government decided to increase quota to attract foreign high-skilled workers." The project is hoping to attract experienced machinists and engineers, he said.

Permanent Representative to the UN from Kazakhstan Kairat Abdulkhanov and his counterpart Kodjo Menan from Togo signed a joint communiqué establishing diplomatic relations between the two states on Oct. 9 in New York. During the signing ceremony, the sides exchanged views on current bilateral cooperation and its prospects and discussed solutions for the problems of landlocked countries. The two sides underlined the importance of sharing experience in economic development and expanding contacts between their nations, especially in trade, mining, energy, access to regional markets and education. Kazakhstan also officially invited the government of Togo to participate in the international exhibition EXPO 2017 in Astana. Menan also expressed interest in Kazakhstan's assistance in developing cooperation between the African state and Central Asia. A few days later, through a similar ceremony, Kazakhstan established diplomatic relations with Mauritius.

Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Malaysia Daniyar Sarekenov met with Attorney General of Malaysia Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail in Malaysia's administrative centre on Oct. 10 to discuss expanding cooperation in law enforcement as stipulated by the joint statement issued during the official visit of Prime Minister of Malaysia Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak to Kazakhstan in May. During their meeting, the ambassador and the attorney general also discussed their countries' major threats and challenges and domestic and international efforts being made to address them. The parties acknowledged the need to expand the legal framework for bilateral cooperation in law enforcement. A delegation from the General Prosecutor's Office of Kazakhstan will visit Malaysia on Oct. 27 and 28 to study the best Malaysian practices in combating religious extremism and terrorism.

EXPO 2017 Commissioner and First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan Rapti Zhoshybayev visited Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkmenistan to distribute invitations to EXPO 2017 and to discuss bilateral cooperation. In Armenia, Zhoshybayev met with the foreign minister and minister of economy; in Georgia, with President Giorgi Margvelashvili and the ministers of economy and sustainable development and foreign affairs; in Azerbaijan, with deputy head of the Presidential Administration Novruz Mamedov and the ministers of energy and culture and tourism, and in Turkmenistan, with Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov, Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers Palvan Taganov and Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce Dovran Orazmurodov. The countries discussed attracting corporate partnerships to EXPO 2017 and increasing interparliamentary cooperation.

## Kazakhstan Joins ASEM, Moves to Boost Multilateral Cooperation in New Format



In Milan, Nursultan Nazarbayev met with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, among other leaders, to discuss both bilateral and international issues, such as the situation regarding Ukraine.

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Another key to the development of the region is strengthening transport and transit infrastructure, in particular the revival of the Silk Road, which will provide Europe with the shortest route to Asia.

The President stressed the importance of access to modern technology and energy resources. Kazakhstan, a stable supplier of energy to Europe and Asia, is making efforts to diversify energy routes, he said.

Another priority for sustainable development in the region is the formation of common trade infrastructure, the key element of which will be the Eurasian Economic Union, the Kazakh leader posited.

"Moreover, today, Asia and Europe need to rediscover each other and build a fundamentally new foundation for cooperation. Kazakhstan's G-Global initiative could become a platform for concerted in-

ternational action in the field of economics and finance," Nazarbayev said of the dialogue platform Kazakhstan introduced in 2012.

"Kazakhstan, as a full-fledged member of the Asia-Europe Meeting, is ready to provide all possible support to promote dialogue and cooperation between the two [part of the Eurasian continent]," he noted in conclusion.

While in Milan, Nazarbayev held a number of bilateral meetings with his European and Asian counterparts. With German Chancellor Angela Merkel, he discussed strengthening trade and economic cooperation and exchanged views on the most pressing international security issues. With U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron, the discussion focused on a range of issues in the trade, economic and investment areas, as well as international issues, and with Prime Minister of the Netherlands Mark Rutte, the

Kazakh President negotiated on investment, trade, economic and energy problems.

Nazarbayev also held talks with Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi and Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban to discuss trade, economic, cultural and humanitarian issues and future cooperation within various international organisations.

Among the Asian leaders who met with President Nazarbayev on the sidelines of the summit were President of South Korea Park Geun-hye, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Prime Minister of China Li Keqiang.

On his way back to Astana, President Nazarbayev summarised the results of the summit for the Kazakh media, noting that the talks he had on the sidelines of the meeting were aimed at expanding and deepening bilateral and multilateral cooperation, as well as identifying new ways to develop cooperation.

"These meetings expand opportunities for attracting investment to Kazakhstan in the difficult situation in the global economy that we face today. Many countries are seeking to invest in Kazakhstan, which creates incentives for further economic development, new jobs and the improvement of the lives of our people," he said.

The President stressed that the participants of the summit in Milan discussed the settlement of the situation in Ukraine. He noted that the conflict should be resolved exclusively through the negotiation process and that Kazakhstan was making every effort to support that.

The Asia-Europe Meeting was formed in 1996 and currently has 53 partners, with Croatia and Kazakhstan joining at this summit. The forum provides a platform for fostering political dialogue, reinforcing economic and trade cooperation and promoting partnership in various

areas, including the environment, culture, education and social issues. In addition to holding government-level meetings, ASEM also brings together members of parliament, the business sector, civil society, academia and the media by encouraging people-to-people contact.

ASEM partners account for around 60 percent of the world's population, half of global gross domestic product and almost 70 percent of international commerce.

The ASEM group includes the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), charged with promoting cultural, intellectual and people-to-people contacts between the two regions; the Asia-Europe People's Forum (AEFP), a meeting point for civil society; the Asia-Europe Business Forum (AEBF), which supports business-to-business exchanges and the Asia-Europe Parliamentary Forum (ASEP), which encourages parliamentary cooperation.

## Astana, EU Conclude Talks on Enhanced Partnership, Proving International Relations Aren't "Zero Sum Game"

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"We raised the issue of a new agreement in 2006. The last 3-4 years saw active negotiations in this direction, which were successfully completed. Kazakhstan is the only country in Central Asia to sign a second-generation agreement with the EU. This indicates that our relations have reached a qualitatively new level, and emphasises the strategic nature and maturity of our partnership," he added.

"Kazakhstan is an important partner for the EU. I can confidently say this is a successful completion of three years of negotiations on a new partnership and cooperation agreement," Barroso commented.

The new agreement is 280 pages long, 180 of which are dedicated to the chapter on trade, a particular interest for Kazakhstan today.

The new agreement will now be put to a legal consultation. The document is to be translated into all the languages of the EU countries and a process of initialisation will begin, in which the parties will sign each page of the agreement.

The new agreement consolidates the expansion of trade and investment flows, political issues, the prospects of Kazakhstan's accession to the WTO and other questions. It also places greater emphasis on common security threats. Since 2013, Kazakhstan has cooperated with the EU on security issues in the high-level EU-Central Asia dialogue, which focuses especially on Afghanistan's stability.

The head of the European Commission noted that recent years have strengthened partnerships between the two countries and contacts have become more frequent and significant.

Kazakhstan is today an important partner for the EU, not only on trade and economic exchanges, but also for promoting peace and security in the wider region. And



President Nursultan Nazarbayev (l) and President of the European Commission Jose Manuel Barroso sealed an agreement opening a new stage in the relations between Kazakhstan and the EU.

our cooperation is expanding. This agreement will greatly facilitate stronger political, economic and strategic relations as well as the flow of trade, services and investment between Kazakhstan and the EU, and contribute to Kazakhstan's political, rule of law and economic reform, as well as modernisation and prosperity," Barroso said.

According to Barroso, the new agreement consolidates the expansion of trade and investment flows, political issues, the prospects of Kazakhstan's accession to the WTO and other questions. It also places greater emphasis on common security threats. Since 2013, Kazakhstan has cooperated with the EU on security issues in the high-level EU-Central Asia dialogue, which focuses especially on Afghanistan's stability.

Over the past decades, the EU has become Kazakhstan's primary trade partner in the world, as well as its top foreign investor with half of total FDI in Kazakhstan, the president of the European Commission said.

Trade turnover between Kazakhstan and Europe reached \$28 billion since the beginning of the year, almost 55 percent of Kazakhstan's foreign trade.

"This will only increase in the future," Barroso added.

He praised the completion of talks on Kazakhstan's accession to WTO, and explained that "the process is not over yet, as Kazakhstan will have to continue negotiating with the other WTO partners, but today the EU confirms that we have closed our bilateral issues with Kazakhstan and we are showing how supportive we remain of Kazakhstan's WTO accession."

According to Barroso, "the PCA and Kazakhstan's WTO accession are part and parcel of the same logic of political and economic diversification and further integration of Kazakhstan in global affairs."

The second way the new PCA will be used is to enhance energy cooperation. "Kazakhstan is a very important and reliable energy partner for the EU, now supplying around 5-6 percent of EU oil demand," Barroso said. In an Oct. 8 opinion published in the Wall Street Journal Europe, President Nazarbayev argued the same thing, stressing that Kazakhstan already is the third largest non-OPEC energy supplier to Europe behind Russia and Norway.

"This new agreement includes a chapter on raw materials and energy with provisions that go

beyond WTO and Energy Charter Treaty commitments," Barroso commented.

The third specific way the new agreement will benefit the signatories is by improving people-to-people contacts. "The EU Visa Code, in force since April 2010, already simplifies the issuance of short stay visas for citizens of Kazakhstan travelling to the EU. And we are happy to advance our cooperation on migration issues within the framework of the new agreement," Barroso added.

Perhaps no less significant was another comment by Barroso on the new document, especially given the East-West tug-of-war over Ukraine.

"Finally and equally important, this agreement demonstrates that international relations are not a zero sum game, that Europe is open to building strong and solid relations with the members of Customs Union willing to do so," Barroso said. "That is why I think today's agreement is a very important symbolic gesture. Apart from its substance, it shows that it is possible for a country of the Customs Union to develop and deepen the relationship with the European Union. I think this is important especially when you consider the situation that we have been facing in that part of Europe and also in the wider region."

In this connection, Barroso praised Kazakhstan's and President Nazarbayev's "balanced position regarding the situation in Ukraine."

"We both support a peaceful solution for the conflict in full respect of Ukraine's sovereignty," the European leader said, thanking President Nazarbayev "for sharing with me the vision you have about the situation in that part of the region."

Finally, Barroso said he was glad that President Nazarbayev would participate in the ASEM Summit in Milan on Oct. 16-17.

"Kazakhstan will be the first

Central Asian country to become partner of the ASEM! We believe that Kazakhstan has a great role to play in terms of cooperation, trade and transit between Europe and Asia," he said. "And you can always count on the European Union as your partner in promoting a vision of cooperation, inclusiveness and win-win solutions, in the European continent and beyond."

Talks on the enhanced partnership have been ongoing since their official start in June 2011 in Brussels. Eight rounds of negotiations have been held since then. Within the framework of Kazakhstan's accession to WTO, Minister of Economic Integration of Kazakhstan Zhanar Aitzhanova and EU Commissioner Karel de Gucht signed an agreement on export duties, as Kazakhstan and the EU concluded their bilateral market access negotiations.

"We want Kazakhstan to become more modernised and diversified. For us, it is also important that local companies in Europe and European companies in Kazakhstan can simplify their operations. With the entry into force of the agreement, many new opportunities will arise for citizens, students, researchers and travellers," Director for Russia, Eastern Partnership, Central Asia, Regional Cooperation and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) of the European External Action Service (EEAS) Gunnar Wiegand said.

Earlier, on Oct. 8, President Nazarbayev also met with King Philippe of Belgium. The sides discussed key aspects of bilateral relations in the political, cultural and humanitarian spheres. The two leaders also noted increasing levels of cooperation between the two countries in various fields and highlighted the presence of a number of promising directions for the development of further cooperation.

# ECONOMY

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2014

## Presidential Visit Draws Attention to Mangistau Region's Assets

By Alina Usmanova

ASTANA – During his working visit to the Mangistau Region on Oct. 1, Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev had a meeting with entrepreneurs and members of the public sector where he noted the positive dynamics of the development of the region, drawing attention to the implemented infrastructure projects aimed at using the benefits of the local area.

"On my instructions, the capacity of the Aktau seaport was increased from 12.5 million to 16 million tonnes and by 2020 it will be increased to 22 million tonnes of cargo per year. Iran is ready to buy up to 6 million tonnes of grain per year. Agreements reached with Iran in this and other areas open up new prospects for entry into foreign markets. In general, taking into account the possibilities of the Aktau seaport, our country has a great export potential," Nazarbayev said.

The President also stressed that construction of a logistics centre in Aktau, being implemented with the participation of Azerbaijani investment, will pave the way for quality and inexpensive supplies of fruits and vegetables for all Kazakh consumers.

Nazarbayev addressed the issue of further development of the special economic zone (SEZ) in Aktau.

"The SEZ was established in 2002 and they started to build infrastructure in 2009. The first platform was finished in 2012, which took 7 billion tenge (US\$38.5 million) of budgetary money. However, today in the SEZ, from among of 31 registered projects, only five are working. The enterprises produced goods worth more than 220 billion tenge (US\$1.2 billion) and paid almost 10 billion tenge

(US\$55 million) in taxes. There is the return and we should further realise their potential. For all other projects we should seriously speed up the work and start to attract investors," Nazarbayev said.

He also drew attention to the importance of expanding the specialisation of the mining industry.

"In the Mangistau region, there are significant deposits of uranium, strontium, manganese, copper and mineral salts. Many of them have been explored, but production is not conducted. Meanwhile, there is the potential for whole sectors of the metallurgical industry, creating new industrial and innovative projects. The region's economy has kept on oil production, while the share of small and medium business is only 18 percent. In this regard, we should pay more attention to other sectors," the President said.

In this regard, the head of state pointed out the need for the development of industries not related to oil, in particular logistics, transit, services and tourism. He called for the formation of an ad hoc working group and to make proposals for the development of the Kendlerli tourist zone and other attractive areas after preliminary discussion in the government.

Nazarbayev also noted that the territory of the region is in the desert area, making it difficult for agriculture.

"The area consumes 20,000 tonnes of meat per year and produces 5,500 tonnes. The region gets 500 tonnes of fish per year and the need is 5,000 tonnes. At the same time, the nearby Atyrau region is self-sufficient with all the necessary products including vegetables, fruits and meat. It is necessary to solve problems of agricultural development in the region and this will be needed to connect small- and medium-sized businesses," he said.

He stressed that good fertility and life expectancy and reduced infant and maternal mortality are observed in the region.

"However, the availability of medical staff is 20 percent below the average for the country. The shortage of places in kindergartens is 12,000, which is one of the worst in the country, while this region is one of the leaders in the country on the inflow of people from other regions and neighbouring countries," Nazarbayev noted.

According to him, the government needs to create the conditions to encourage migration to other priority areas.

In conclusion, Nazarbayev again drew attention to the importance of attracting foreign investment and also pointed out the need for the active use of the conditions that have been created for the dynamic development of the region.

At the meeting, Regional Akim (Governor) Alik Aidarbayev gave a report on the socio-economic development of the region and Minister for Investment and Development Asset Issekeshev spoke about the implementation of the industrial and innovation programme in the area.

In addition, the head of state was presented with a plan for the construction of Borzhakty-Yersai, a new railway line with a length of 13.8 kilometres. A live video feed conference from the Borzhakty station was organised, during which the President launched the construction of the railway.

Borzhakty-Yersai is focused on providing sustainable traffic to the construction projects and coastal infrastructure of the Kuryk port, supporting development of Kazmortsentrans LLP, Tengiz-Service LLP, Globalink LLP, Yersai Caspian Contractor LLP and oil transhipment through the port.

## Kazakh Negotiations to Join WTO Going Well, Should Conclude by Year's End, Says Official

By Zhanat Ernst

BRUSSELS – Kazakhstan's government is committed to creating stable and predictable conditions for European investors that enhance the diversity of Kazakhstan's economy while the country is in the final stage of negotiations on accession to the World Trade Organisation (WTO), Kazakhstan's Minister for Economic Integration Zhanar Aitzhanova said after meeting with European Commissioner for Trade Karel de Gucht on Sept. 30.

According to the minister, during the negotiations at the European Commission, issues of bilateral cooperation were discussed and significant progress on finalising the text of a section on trade and investment of the new Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) between Kazakhstan and the EU was made. [President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan travelled to Brussels on Oct. 8-9 to complete the talks and sign the PCA with top European leaders.] Topics such as trade, customs cooperation, competition, technical regulations, food safety, intellectual property, investment in the energy and mining sectors, as well as market access for goods and services were discussed.

"Negotiations with [the EU Commissioner for Trade Karel] de Gucht were completed in accordance with our national economic interests, as well as our obligations concerning WTO

accession. A predictable climate and conditions conducive to investment not only in the resource sector, but also in manufacturing, agriculture and industry, will be created for entrepreneurs and businessmen from 28 EU countries, which are the largest investors in Kazakhstan," Aitzhanova said.

From 1993-2013, the gross inflow of direct investment from the EU into Kazakhstan's economy amounted to approximately \$87 billion. Kazakhstan's main investors are the Netherlands, the U.K., Italy and France. The volume of bilateral trade between Kazakhstan and the EU by the end of 2013 amounted to \$53 billion, which is more than 40 percent of Kazakhstan's total trade turnover. Over the first half of 2014, total trade with the European Union has already exceeded \$28 billion, which is 45 percent of the country's total trade.

"With regard to the field of trade and services, in respect to the EU, we will take the same obligations that will take effect upon the accession of Kazakhstan to the WTO," Aitzhanova explained.

At the same time, in sectors of the economy suffering from a shortage of highly skilled labourers, Kazakhstan will procure European staff on a contractual basis in areas such as information technology, engineering and architecture environmental protection, and auditing services.

### ECONOMY NEWS IN BRIEF

According to Karim Kokrekbayev, Akim (Governor) of the Zhambyl region, meat production is expected to increase to 82,000 tonnes – by 40 percent – in the region by 2020. "Thanks to measures we have undertaken, meat production will be increased to 82,000 tonnes ... milk production will grow to 325,000 tonnes," he said. The number of cattle of all types are also expected to increase. However, the provision of milk and dairy products in the region remains low. A cheese factory is currently on trial in the region, producing 25 tonnes of milk annually. The region's meat imports reached \$0.3 million and dairy product imports \$5.3 million in the first seven months of this year.

Nearly \$5 billion is planned to be attracted to the chemical industry of the Zhambyl region through the State Programme of Accelerated Industrial and Innovative Development (SPAID), said Akim (Governor) of the region Karim Kokrekbayev at an Oct. 10 briefing. "I am confident that the chemical industry will become a driving force of the regional economy in the future. Thanks to the state programme and state support, over 900 billion [US\$4.95 billion] tenge of investments are planned to be attracted to the chemical industry of the Zhambyl region by 2020," he said. As a result, the production output of the chemical industry in the region is expected to reach 324 billion tenge [US\$1.78 billion] by 2020, six times more than in 2013, increasing tax revenues to the regional budget from the chemical industry by 3.2 times, the Akim said.

"Modernisation of Atyrau's oil-processing plant will be completed by the end of 2016," Akim (Governor) of Atyrau region Baktykozha Izmukhambetov said at an Oct. 17 Central Communications Service (CCS) briefing. "As you know, all the three [refining] plants [in Kazakhstan] are under reconstruction. The reconstruction of the oil-processing plant in Atyrau comprises two stages. The first stage will be finished this year. The project envisages the issue of aromatic hydrocarbons, benzol, paraxylene. The second stage will be completed by the end of 2016," Izmukhambetov said.

Vice Minister of Health and Social Development Svetlana Zhakupova forecast pension increases at a recent Central Communications Service briefing (CCS). "We have developed a concept for modernising the pension system, which provides for an increase of pension payments. Primarily, it concerns people who retired in the 1990s. We are changing the mechanism for establishing the basic pension, so length of service in the Soviet and post-Soviet eras and accumulations in the pension system from 1998 will be taken into account. Therefore, we expect pensions to grow. Today if they get 10,450 tenge [US\$57.56], later they will get over 20,000 [US\$110.16]. We expect pensions to increase in 2017," Zhakupova said. According to her, they are also considering the issue of changing the structure of the living wage, which will also affect pension payments.

"As a result of improved procedures and reduced job costs, Zhilstroisberbank plans to reduce service fees by 20 percent next year," Aibatyr Zhumagulov, chairman of the board of Zhilstroisberbank Kazakhstan, told an Oct. 14 media briefing. "The bank has reached an agreement on reducing tariffs for notarising real estate purchase and sale agreements from 22,000 to 7,000 tenge [US\$121.18 to US\$38.55]. The service fees for evaluating companies working within the Affordable Housing 2020 Programme were reduced from 5,000 to 2,540 tenge [US\$27.54 to US\$13.99]. We are now negotiating the reduction of the service fees of insurance companies," he told.

## North Caspian May Contain Large, Unexplored Oil Reserves, Energy Ministry Says

By Dmitry Lee

ASTANA – The northern Caspian Sea may contain large amounts of previously unexplored oil reserves, the Kazakh Ministry of Energy announced on Oct. 1.

"Computer simulations of 15 sedimentary basins were conducted. And, according to our expectations, and according to the results of computer simulations, the northern parts of the Caspian Sea may have large oil reserves," said Deputy Minister of Energy of Kazakhstan Magzum Mirzagaliyev, according to Tengrinews.kz.

Mirzagaliyev also noted that the project, known as Eurasia, to further explore the northern Caspian's oil reserves would be conducted in cooperation with Russia. The project was presented to heads of state Nursultan Nazarbayev and Vladimir Putin during an exhibition in Atyrau at the end of September.

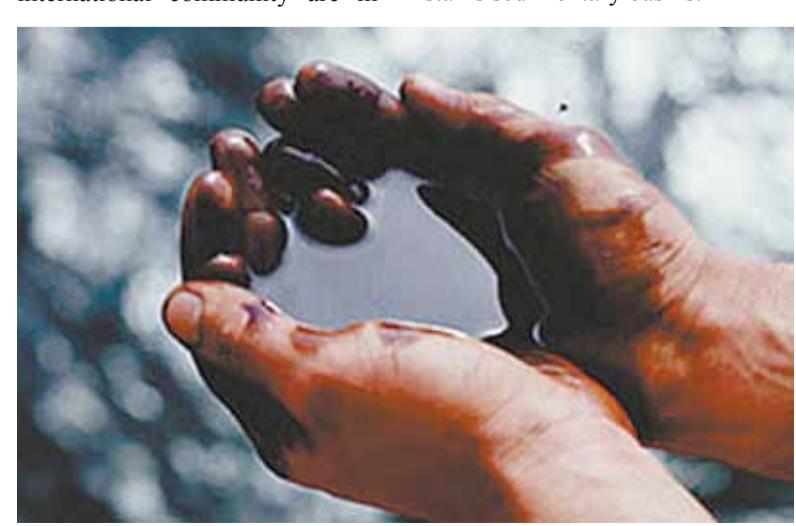
"[The project] is now very conceptual. Representatives of the international community are in-

terested in it, as well as the Russian side. It is necessary to conduct a very careful examination, to drill appraisal wells to a depth of 15,000 metres, which will allow us to make all the necessary studies and understand how the results of computer simulation can be confirmed," Mirzagaliyev said, adding that the initial cost of the project is estimated at about \$500 million.

The Eurasia project for the exploration of the deep-lying layers of the Caspian Basin was introduced at the 8th Eurasian Kazenergy Forum, Energy of the Future – Eurasian Perspectives, in October 2013. The project soon was established as an interdepartmental group of the Kazakh government.

Later, a project team was formed, which has been dealing with initial organisational work to further implement the project.

The project involves geological exploration and drilling in the Caspian Basin, which is thought to have among the highest potential for oil and gas of all of Kazakhstan's sedimentary basins.





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*Rustam NURGALIEV  
Minister of Energy of Kazakhstan*

*Svetlana ZHAKUPOVA  
Vice Minister of Health and Social Development of Kazakhstan*

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# BUSINESS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2014

**BUSINESS  
NEWS IN BRIEF**

"Within the privatisation programme, three companies of Kazakhstan Temir Zholy were sold for 2.6 billion tenge [US\$14.32 million]," the Samruk Kazyna National Welfare Fund press service noted on Oct. 16. According to Serikbek Yelshibekov, general director of Samruk Kazyna Contract LLP, seven companies were put to electronic tender. "Electronic tenders for Bas Balkhash 2004 LLP, Birzhan Atyrau LLP, Gasyr-Mangistau LLP and Ak Beren LLP were not held because of an absence of registered participants. However, Yertys Service LLP, MAK-Yekibastuz LLP and Kazykurt-South LLP were sold for 2.6 billion tenge," Yelshibekov said. Yertys Service was sold for 703.8 million tenge (US\$3.87 million), which was 15 percent higher than the starting price, Kazykurt-South was sold for 960.5 million tenge (US\$5.29 million), 1.6 times higher than the starting price and MAK-Yekibastuz for 1.02 billion tenge (US\$5.61 million), 3.6 times higher than the starting price.

Four investors were interested in the purchase of Yertys Service, seven in Kazykurt-South and six in MAK-Yekibastuz. The potential buyers increased the price 12, 50 and 55 times, respectively, which indicates a high interest in the assets. Kazykurt-South and Yertys Service are involved in the preparation of railway tanks for petroleum products, while MAK-Yekibastuz repairs technical coaches and diesel and electric trains. "The closure of transactions to sell the companies is expected within two months," Yelshibekov said. The government and Samruk Kazyna developed a comprehensive privatisation plan for the fund for 2014-2016. The programme is designed to reduce state involvement in the economy and strengthen its foundations. Previously, six companies were sold for 836 million tenge (US\$4.6 million) under the programme.

"Over 457,000 hectares of unused agricultural land was returned to the state land fund in the Zhambyl region," said Akim (Governor) of the region Karim Kokrekbayev at an Oct. 10 media briefing. "As a result of the land inventory of 2011-2013, about 547,000 hectares of idle agricultural land was detected. This includes 169,000 hectares of cropland and 10,200 hectares of irrigated land. As a result of undertaken measures, 457,000 hectares of unused agricultural land, including 91,900 hectares of cropland, was returned to the state land fund," Kokrekbayev said. Another 173,000 hectares of land, including 64,400 hectares of cropland, was returned to agriculture. It is also planned to create a vegetable and fruit cluster in the Shu district that is expected to double the production of vegetables and fruits by 2020, he said.

"The Affordable Housing Programme reduces the load on the national budget and provides for the growth of the volume of housing," Deputy Head of the Board of the Housing Construction Savings Bank of Kazakhstan Yerbol Karashukayev said at an Oct. 14 Central Communications Service (CCS) media briefing. "The uniqueness of our system is that after financing, the funds are returned to the administration quite quickly. For example, local executive bodies allocated 30 billion tenge [US\$165.24 million] for the construction of housing in 2015, and the bank has already returned 30 billion tenge this year," he noted. "Thus, the funds are not lost in the process, but can be used again," he said, increasing the multiplicative effect of one invested tenge.

According to the Short-Term Energy Outlook published on Oct. 7 by the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), Kazakhstan's oil output will remain stable at 1.72 million barrels per day in 2014.

## Officials Unveil Details of Samruk Kazyna Transformation

Continued from Page A1

There were other officials from international financial institutions, particularly the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), as well as top Kazakh officials.

The programme is the first transformation project of such magnitude in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Its implementation is expected to bring an additional \$11 billion to Kazakhstan's economy by 2020. Some of the biggest companies have already implemented provisions of the pilot project, including Kazakhstan's Temir Zholy national railway company, KazMunayGas national oil and gas company and Kazpost.

At the event, Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev stated that the government sought to create a high-tech and highly efficient sovereign wealth fund that would increase the wealth of the state. "When we established Samruk Kazyna, we studied international experience to raise the benefit of our assets and to advance them to a new level in order to be competitive. Due to the international financial crisis, the fund had to assist in dealing with its consequences and entered in the assets of many secondary Kazakh banks, which were in dire straits. Nowadays, Samruk Kazyna has already withdrawn [from these companies and banks] and has to focus on its direct mission, namely attracting foreign investments to manufacturing companies, developing new types of products and implementing new technologies," he said.

The President emphasised the need for foreign competition for companies, such as KazMunayGas, Air Astana and Kazakhstan Temir Zholy, which had leading positions in the CIS region. In this respect, he set a new challenge for Kazakh enterprises to enter the list of the top Fortune 500 companies. In his address, he also focused on the need to develop the scientific and technical potential of the fund beyond the establishment of Nazarbayev University and implement the Kazakhstan 2050 Strategy's objective to raise the share of small and medium-sized businesses in the GDP to 50 percent by 2050.

Chairman of Samruk Kazyna Umirzak Shukayev stated that the fund would transform from a passive shareholder to an active investor and, therefore, was in need of a radical reform of the board of directors, for instance withdrawing all state officials from the board, reducing the number of the fund-owned companies from 600 to 300 and cutting down the number of management levels from nine to four. "We would set a lower limit for the internal rate of return for all subsidiary companies and obligatory requirements to engage private companies as partners, as well as to transfer new technologies," Shukayev added.

Shukayev highlighted that the programme was aimed at the

creation of value and the fastest achievement of a positive profit by 2020. He advocated for Samruk Kazyna to reevaluate all the key systems of indicative planning and investment strategies of subsidiary companies, to strengthen sectoral command within the fund and to confer to the investment committee exclusive powers on the selection and implementation of big projects and the use of fund budgets and subsidiary companies. To that end, the programme proposed completely revising the fund's assets, determining the best structure of portfolio through restructuring, privatisation, merger and takeover, disposing of inefficient assets in traditional sectors and establishing new enterprises in the energy, metallurgy and chemical fields as well as tourism and green economy industries.

In turn, international and Kazakh experts emphasised that in general, implementation of the programme would benefit the fund as well as Kazakhstan's economy. With the fund being the owner of the largest strategic national companies in various industries, the modernisation of the economy was impossible without the modernisation of the fund.

Barton highlighted four main factors, which should be taken into consideration for the success of the Samruk Kazyna transformation. First, using an analytical approach the fund and its subsidiary companies should elaborate in detail their initiatives set by the programme in three main directions of transformation: management, portfolio restructuring and value creation. Second, members of the board of directors and executives of subsidiary companies should actively participate in the process of planning. Third, the fund should attract active and competent people to the board and executive team to elaborate and implement the programme. Fourth, the programme needs the support of high executives, such as the President and Prime Minister.

Larissa Zyamzina, advisor to Shukayev, noted that a programme of such scale was an unprecedented project in the CIS. She stated that the fund sought to advance the efficiency of its subsidiary companies through reengineering projects and was expecting results in two to three years.

Samruk Kazyna is the owner of the largest strategic national companies in various industries, including oil and gas, nuclear power, mining, communications and mail, and one of the biggest employers in the state, with 350,000 employees. The fund directly adds 2.5 trillion tenge (US\$13.8 billion) to the country's GDP and its total cost amounts to around \$100 billion. Approximately one quarter of all investment in Kazakhstan is carried out by the subsidiaries of the fund.

The plans for implementation of the transformation programme were announced in late February, with Nazarbayev instructing to finalise the document by September of this year.

Production of the Peugeot 2008 at the Kostanai plant will start at the end of January 2015, and the cars will go on sale in early spring. The price of this urban crossover will start at \$21,000 and include a 1.6-liter engine with four and five speed manual and automatic transmissions. The cars will be available in the standard Access and upgraded Allure models.

A restyled version of the Peugeo-

## Pavlodar SEZ, Three New Chemical Companies to Further Kazakhstan 2050 Strategy

By Sergey Gorbunov

PAVLODAR — Nurlan Kapparov, head of Kazatomprom, the national atomic company, and Kanat Bozumbayev, Akim (Governor) of the Pavlodar region, held a meeting in late September with representatives of the German company SAS Chemieanlagenbau Chemnitz GmbH to discuss creation of new chemical productions in the territory of the region's Special Economic Zone (SEZ).

These negotiations have gone unnoticed by the general public and yet they show that the Kazakhstan 2050 Strategy, which proclaimed the further industrialisation of the country, is working and foreign companies are attracted to its implementation.

An example of this is the Pavlodar SEZ created on Nov. 29, 2011 in accordance with a presidential decree, which not only takes on the responsibility of erecting new production facilities but has also released its first production. Similarly, many facilities are under construction. The purpose of creating the SEZ was multi-faceted, taking into account the internal and external interests of the state. This includes the development of chemical and petrochemical industries, in particular, production of export products with high-added value using modern technologies, and implementation of breakthrough investment, research, scientific and technological innovation projects within the development of priority sectors with high redistribution. Much attention is paid to the creation of a favourable investment climate and attracting domestic and foreign investments for the implementation of investment projects and integrated development of the chemical industry on the basis of public-private partnership.

Forty-five companies have already expressed their wish and registered for participation in such a programme. The total investment planned for the start of production is 341.2 billion tenge (US\$1.9 billion) with the creation of more than 3,000 new jobs. Despite the absence of funds in 2012 and 2013 for the construction of infrastructure, three companies already operate in the SEZ and work on three productions will be completed this year. The current projects include the production workshop of inhibited hydrochloric acid (Caustic), production of household chemicals (Belzina-PV LLP) and start of the release of disinfectants (BO-NA LLP).

By the end of the year three more companies are expected to be introduced into operation — UPNK-PV LLP, the plant on the calcination of petroleum coke, AgroKhimProgress LLP, which will complete a project for the production of agrochemical products, and Khimsbyt-PV LLP, which will introduce the capacity to produce products like polyvinyl chloride, antifreeze and an inhibitor deposition of mineral salts and rooting system. The total investment for the above



Kazakh, German companies are set to build a chemical production line.

six projects is 39.9 billion tenge (US\$219.4 million).

In addition to these projects, the basic enterprise of the "Pavlodar" SEZ, Caustic JSC, together with the Kazatomprom, plans to implement ten projects in 2015-2018, including the sulphuric acid plant.

A presentation of projects for the production of polyaluminium chloride and calcium chloride was held during the negotiations with the management of CAC Chemieanlagenbau Chemnitz GmbH. According to the German side, these reagents are less harmful to the human body compared to the chemicals used in Kazakhstan for the purification of drinking water and thawing roads in the winter. Polyaluminium chloride is a highly effective flocculant for water purification, which takes a large number of soluble particles in an insoluble form and derives turbidity from various types of solutions.

Calcium chloride is used in the preparation of solutions for well drilling, as well as for thawing and drying winter roads, and is also used as a fixant and reaction accelerator for concrete curing. These reagents are both currently being used in manufactured products and their need in future production will make them in demand in Kazakhstan and neighbouring countries. Therefore, the task is set to accelerate construction of the SEZ's primary facilities. In the current year, 3.5 billion tenge (US\$19.2 million) was allocated from the national budget for creation of infrastructure in the SEZ. These funds will be used for the construction of a customs terminal, electric supply and installation of fences within the SEZ, as well as for treatment facilities.

Currently, the construction of infrastructure facilities is being conducted according to schedule. Work on the second-floor masonry exterior walls was completed in the customs terminal, the installation of plates was done and partitions and walls with window units are being installed. Excavation and pipe fitting are carried out on the technical water supply and pneumatic tests were conducted. In addition, the SEZ territory fence is being mounted.

The petrochemical SEZ is no single oasis of industrial breakthrough in the regional centre. Within the cluster development of the economy, the formation of an aluminum sub-zone has already begun. Aluminum from the Kazakhstan Electrolysis Plant JSC will be used to create new industries for high redistribution and this trend is also being implemented within the Kazakhstan 2050 Strategy.

## Peugeot to Produce Two New Car Models in Kostanai

By Assel Yessenova

Peugeot plans to begin production on two new cars in Kostanai that will be available for sale as early as spring 2015, according to the website of the AllurGroup.

The two new cars, Peugeot 508 and 2008, were presented at the recent second Astana International Auto Salon (AIAS) and will be manufactured at the AgromashHolding facilities.

Production of the Peugeot 2008 at the Kostanai plant will start at the end of January 2015, and the cars will go on sale in early spring. The price of this urban crossover will start at \$21,000 and include a 1.6-liter engine with four and five speed manual and automatic transmissions. The cars will be available in the standard Access and upgraded Allure models.

A restyled version of the Peugeo-



# EDITORIAL & OPINIONS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2014

## Transcontinental Connectivity as the Best Way to Make Benefit for All

**A** multi-vector foreign policy has always been a priority for Kazakhstan. Since independence, the government has signed a multitude of treaties establishing partnerships and working relations with neighbours far and wide.

Organisations such as the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO), the Eurasian Economic Community (EEC), Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), the UN, the Asian Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the World Bank, and many others know Kazakhstan to be a reliable and predictable partner that manages to balance interests and agendas while pursuing its own development goals. The most recent accession to the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), which took place at the Milan summit on Oct. 16-17, follows that path of dialogue and international cooperation.

Kazakhstan aims to build interconnections in central Eurasia and provide connectivity between East and West, North and South. Major projects in partnership with China, Russia, European states and the United States demonstrate success in this respect. As President Nursultan Nazarbayev stated during the ASEM Milan summit, the task is to find joint responses to modern challenges and threats, which means states in Europe and Asia unifying their agendas. The Ebola epidemic, the conflict in eastern Ukraine and the evolution of ISIS are the latest and loudest issues that need to be addressed systematically and conjointly.

The most effective way to overcome the international crisis, according to President Nazarbayev, is to use the integration potential of the Eurasian region. He called for a change in the paradigm of international cooperation, which involves taking real action in matters of elimination of protectionist barriers, opening markets and increasing bilateral trade. Current sanctions against partner states can affect Kazakhstan in unpredictable ways and are counter-productive to the world economy.

He also pointed out the need for the transformation of the global financial architecture in general so as to overcome imbalances in the financial sector and develop an effective model for the regulation of international capital flows. In today's turbulent world, there is a need for new financial bridges, and regional financial centres, such as Almaty, have lot of potential to be the new spaces for business. The effects of the global financial crisis are still having a negative impact on international markets and stimulating them needs to be a cooperative effort.

Kazakhstan is also interested in strengthening the transport and transit infrastructure, in particular, the revival of the Silk Road, which will provide the shortest way between Europe and Asia. The Western China-Western Europe highway megaproject is part of that Eurasian integration vision promoted by Kazakhstan and other continental countries. Beyond bricks and mortar, a modernised world order also needs to provide a system of fair access to modern technology and energy resources. Kazakhstan, being a stable supplier of energy to Europe and Asia, is making efforts to further diversify energy routes.

Creating a continental infrastructure, a key element of which is to become the Eurasian Economic Union, is a priority for the sustainable development of the region.

It is worth noting that the participants of the Milan summit widely discussed the situation in Ukraine. Nazarbayev noted that the conflict should be resolved exclusively through the negotiation process, and Kazakhstan, for its part, is making all the necessary efforts.

Of all the countries in Central Asia, only Kazakhstan has been invited to the ASEM summit, which was attended by the heads of state and government of more than 50 countries. This demonstrates the level of trust placed on the country and involves Kazakhstan in the most relevant discussions.

Such forums provide an opportunity to exchange views on topical issues with other heads of state. In particular, at the summit, President Nazarbayev held meetings with the leaders of Britain, Japan, Germany, China, South Korea, Hungary, Italy and the Netherlands aimed at expanding collaboration, as well as identifying new ways of development cooperation.

"These meetings raised the prestige of our country in the world, expanding opportunities for attracting investment in Kazakhstan in a difficult situation in the global economy, as well as form a favourable attitude towards our country. Many countries are seeking to invest in Kazakhstan, which creates incentives for economic development, create new jobs and improve the lives of our people," Nazarbayev said afterwards.

As a reliable partner on the world stage and a full member of the Asia-Europe Meeting forum, Kazakhstan is ready to provide all possible support to promoting dialogue and cooperation on the continent.

It is the policy of Kazakhstan to be flexible and continue with a multi-vector approach. As such, the country will continue to strengthen relations with Russia in all spheres of political, economic, trade and cultural cooperation on the basis of the Treaty on Good-Neighbourliness and Alliance in the 21st Century. It will also deepen the comprehensive strategic partnership with China within the framework of high-level political dialogue. Developing energy, investment, technology, trade and economic, cultural and humanitarian cooperation with China is as important as maintaining full-scale relations with the European Union – the largest economic, trade and investment partner of Kazakhstan, with whom Kazakhstan has just agreed on a new Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement.

Recent developments in Kazakhstan's foreign and trade policies, – from its joining the Eurasian Economic Union with Russia and Belarus and completing the talks on a new agreement with the European Union, to acceding to the ASEM forum and building the physical transcontinental infrastructure – all point to the steady progress Kazakhstan has been making in realising its overarching goal of turning its landlocked position in the heart of Eurasia from an impediment into an advantage, benefitting not only itself but everybody around.

## Kazakhstan Moves Forward with Setting up Development Assistance Agency

By Malika Orazgaliyeva

ASTANA – In an interview with this newspaper, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan Sapil Zhoshybayev addressed a number of topics, including the process to create a permanent structure to oversee Kazakhstan's development assistance to foreign countries, provisionally called KazAID, the Kazakhstan Agency for International Development.

*Recently, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative in Kazakhstan Stephen Tull talked about activities on the establishment of a system of official development assistance (ODA) in Kazakhstan. How would you comment on this?*

Indeed, today the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, together with relevant state bodies and our international partners, the main of which being UNDP, are working on this matter.

The initial step was the development of a concept of efforts of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the sphere of official development assistance, which is a comprehensive strategic vision of the development of national policy in the field of financial, technical and other assistance to foreign countries.

Since its approval by the head of the state in April 2013, activities focused on the implementation of the main provisions of this concept document have been conducted. A roadmap which provides a list of specific measures aimed at creating a national system of ODA was developed and is being implemented.

Because of the freshness of this field for our young state, first of all, we were faced with the need for the legal definition of the category of ODA and legislative regulation of the respective relations.

To this end, we have developed a draft law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On official development assistance," which is currently in the process of parliamentary approval. Later this month, according to the bills scheduled for 2014, we are preparing to work with our parliamentarians to finalise this law. I am confident that we will gain their understanding because of the importance of this issue in the context of the complex challenges facing our



Sapil Zhoshybayev

country in the framework of Kazakhstan 2050 Strategy.

The participation of authoritative international partners such as UNDP has allowed us to ensure the best global practices at all stages of the preparation of the draft law.

*Why should Kazakhstan take care of the countries in the region and the world as a whole?*

Of course, at first glance it may seem that ODA aimed exclusively at promoting other countries diverts resources away from pressing domestic problems.

International experience shows, however, that ODA is an effective mechanism for improving the stability and prosperity in the region and the whole world. In fact, it is another tool to create favourable external conditions for the development of the country. That is why many countries formed national systems of ODA in the past century.

The presence of the national system of international development assistance is one of the essential attributes of the states which seek to become among the most-developed countries of the world. With economic development and growth of the international prestige of the country, the responsibility of Kazakhstan for ensuring international and regional security and stability increases.

Moreover, the system of ODA will provide the creation of favourable external conditions for the successful implementation of Kazakhstan 2050 Strategy and achievement of a high living standard for the population of Kazakhstan.

The establishment of a national system of ODA will be a clear example of the formation of a new phase in the development of Kazakhstan as an established state, as well as demonstrate the country's maturity and responsibility for regional and global sustainable development, peace and stability. No country can develop in isolation and not depend on external conditions.

It is no coincidence President Nursultan Nazarbayev, at the opening plenary session of the 7th Astana Economic Forum on May 23, said, "It is impossible to live in harmony and prosperity in a globalised world when there are serious problems in the world, especially in the neighbouring countries. The fire of their conflicts can come to any country. ... Kazakhstan entered the top five fastest-growing countries over the past decade and a half. We adopted the Kazakhstan 2050 Strategy and now are implementing serious actions on comprehensive modernisation. We aim to become one of the 30 most-developed countries in the world. And we intend to achieve these goals in a tight integration with our neighbours. We care about what is happening in our region. Growth due to separation from our neighbours, due to their 'sinking' into chaos and disorder, ultimately makes us weaker in the region and the world as a whole."

Kazakhstan entered the top five fastest-growing countries over the past decade and a half. We adopted the Kazakhstan 2050 Strategy and now are implementing serious actions on comprehensive modernisation. We aim to become one of the 30 most-developed countries in the world. And we intend to achieve these goals in a tight integration with our neighbours. We care about what is happening in our region. Growth due to separation from our neighbours, due to their 'sinking' into chaos and disorder, ultimately makes us weaker in the region and the world as a whole."

*As an ordinary citizen, I'm interested in the costs of official development assistance. What is your point of view?*

Kazakhstan has already been providing ODA for the last 10 years in the framework of international agreements and treaties. According to UNDP statistics in the context of development assistance, which statistically includes humanitarian assistance, Kazakhstan ranks first among the Central Asian states, having allocated more than \$100 million for ODA during the last 10 years.

Another matter is that this work was often carried out unsystematically in the framework of one-off initiatives. Now we are raising it to a completely new level.

All ODA will be provided in accordance with the Foreign Policy Concept of Kazakhstan. There is a proposal to legislate the main objectives, missions, principles and secto-

ral priorities of ODA, differentiate competences between governmental bodies and establish a special organisation under the MFA, which will work as an operator in the field of ODA with a working title of KazAID.

Moreover, KazAID will not become a charitable organisation providing funds at the disposal of foreign governments. KazAID will provide carefully-planned, targeted support to projects which are able to contribute effectively to the development of regional economy, safety and people's well-being. We will cooperate with foreign states and regional organisations to choose the most attractive projects, as well as collaborate with Kazakhstan's companies and NGOs to apply their experience and knowledge.

KazAID's activity and funded projects will be closely evaluated on a regular basis to ensure achievement of the objectives of the programme and verifying efficient and rational use of funds.

In general, we don't plan to increase the existing cost side in the near future. First of all, we are tasked to gather ODA carried out by various governmental bodies under one roof in order to maximize the benefits of our projects and guarantee the effective use of funds. This will be adjusted under the unfavourable conditions budget of ODA, but all of it in the future.

*We know that Kazakhstan provides humanitarian assistance in the form of essential commodities, food, clothing, etc. What kind of assistance will be provided within the framework of ODA?*

For the 20 years of its independence, Kazakhstan has accumulated extensive experience in the field of reforms; for instance, the principle of a one-stop shop implemented in the framework of citizen service centres. Also let's recall how we received passports 15 years ago. Sometimes people had to start queuing at six in the morning, while nowadays the procedure of getting an identity card is very simple. We have enough similar examples concerning e-government, the tax system, education and health care, support of small- and medium-sized enterprises, investment and so on.

We have experience to share and this experience will be demanded.

Europe, as well as unresolved frozen conflicts.

It was impressive to see how civil society organisations from different countries can discuss and draw up possible solutions (sometimes even controversial ones) to the toughest crises in our world.

For example, in a thematic session on nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction, a representative of an NGO from India expressed his opinion on how to avoid conflict between India and Pakistan, while an NGO representative from South Korea explained the situation between his country and North Korea. Three hours passed in the blink of an eye. Given the floor first at the beginning of the section, I spoke as a representative of a Kazakh NGO about Kazakhstan's promotion of a nuclear-weapons-free world, the ATOM Project, the collection of signatures on the project's website and that more than 95,000 people have already signed its online petition. Participants of the session were surprised and pleased to learn about the noble initiative.

I hope at the next forum, we will be able to organise a special session on Kazakhstan's disarmament policy.

Over recent years, we've gotten used to organising such large-scale events with a great number of participants, including many notables and celebrities. But we should remember that events of this kind are organised not so much for a good venue and beautiful badges, but for making some substantial contribution.

The 10th Asia-Europe People's Forum in Milan was truly a forum by the people and for the people.

**The author is president of the Internet Association of Kazakhstan.**

## Asia-Europe People's Forum: An Eyewitness Account

By Shavkat Sabirov

As the proverb goes, "the first impressions are the most lasting."

For the first time this year, representatives of Kazakhstan's civil society attended the Asia-Europe People's Forum (AEPF).

For 20 years now, this forum of nongovernmental organisations has been organised on the eve of the Asia-Europe Meeting Summit (ASEM). The 10th AEPF in Milan on Oct. 9-12 brought together more than 150 civil society activists from across two continents. Despite its official-sounding name and huge number of guests, it was very easy to register for the event. A registration fee of 20 euros and confirmation of my name (without even mentioning the name of your NGO) and country on a badge gave me access to the forum.

An ordinary room, simple plastic chairs, a table covered with a cloth, a microphone and equipment that constantly went haywire convinced me even more that major summits can be carried out on a global scale in very simple and natural ways.

There was only one working language at the forum, English, but since the event took place in Italy, translation was available from Italian into English, which, I guess, is the correct thing to do.

The programme and working sections were devoted to the most urgent

challenges faced by the international community: peace and security in Asia and Europe, nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction, democracy and human rights, social security for all and the right to work, waste disposal and more.

Unable to grasp such immense topics, I had to choose something specific. I chose two thematic sessions on weapons of mass destruction and on human rights and democracy.

I must say, the atmosphere at the event itself was friendly and sometimes even homey. Participants greeted each other warmly and kindly, got acquainted and discussed pressing issues and various problems. In the beginning, I was approached by many people who simply held out their hands and introduced themselves and their country. At first, I felt ill at ease, as we have lost the habit of such simple communication.

But in a few moments these feelings passed, and I started feeling comfortable and introduced myself with great pleasure in the same way.

The plenary sessions were held in the same style. Nobody hurried, speakers contributed on equal terms, asking questions of the audience and delivering speeches without reading them. My personal experience of participation in international events allowed me to evaluate all aspects of the forum calmly and without haste. Speakers, in fact, were talking about well-known and well-understood things. Much was already known to me, and it was not necessary to write anything down, though the audience took careful notes during the speeches.

I would like to specifically highlight a plenary meeting devoted to "Peace and Security in Asia and Europe." It is no secret that today numerous conflicts affect the lives of people in Asia and Europe. These conflicts, in turn, affect the territory and borders of many countries, lead to ethnic tensions and migration and eventually result in terrorism. Forum participants tried to find out which is more important, a policy of war or a strategy of peace? How long can we increase military budgets at a time when the whole world is struggling economically? A separate report was devoted to the policy of disarmament and conflict prevention in Asia and

Europe, as well as unresolved frozen conflicts.

It was impressive to see how civil society organisations from different countries can discuss and draw up possible solutions (sometimes even controversial ones) to the toughest crises in our world.

I hope at the next forum, we will be able to organise a special session on Kazakhstan's disarmament policy.

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The 10th Asia-Europe People's Forum in Milan was truly a forum by the people and for the people.

**The author is president of the Internet Association of Kazakhstan.**

# OPINIONS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2014

## British-Kazakh Legal Cooperation Should Be Enhanced

By Lord Edward Faulks



I am delighted to be making my first visit to Kazakhstan, a country with which the U.K. has a rapidly growing bilateral relationship. It is also my first opportunity to see vibrant new Astana, much of which reflects the work of U.K. architects.

Following the British Prime Minister's visit to Kazakhstan in 2013, trade deals worth £2 billion were signed. I want to see this level of interaction between our two countries continue, benefiting both our economies.

Last month during the visit of the Lord Mayor of the City of London, the British Embassy organised legal seminars in Almaty and Astana under the global U.K. government GREAT campaign. In cooperation with the British-Kazakh Law As-

society and the Law Society of England and Wales, U.K. and Kazakh experts shared with 100 Kazakh and international lawyers the best worldwide practice in corporate governance. The U.K. has long been a centre of international legal

expertise, and in addition to my meetings with Kazakh ministers, I aim to enhance the relationship between our legal services industries during my visit.

There are already many positive and productive links between Kazakhstan and the U.K. in the legal sector, with a number of U.K. law firms operating in Almaty. Similarly I am delighted that respected Kazakh firms also have offices in London.

I also plan to discuss recent legal changes in Kazakhstan and progress on judicial co-operation with civil society representatives and government ministers.

We in the U.K. are proud of our international legal reputation. In February next year we will host the first Global Law Summit, an unrivalled international gathering which will discuss how rule of law is es-

sential for economic growth as well as being the foundation for a strong and prosperous society.

This world-class event will draw on the U.K.'s legal expertise, which is based on our long history of freedom and justice, founded in the Magna Carta 800 years ago. It will also provide a platform where international legal professionals can hear from high-profile world experts and discuss issues like global commerce and dispute resolution.

English law, like the English language, is commonly used in global commerce and international dispute resolution, and London has long been recognised as a primary centre for international and commercial litigation and arbitration. Today, companies are twice as likely to choose English law over other governing laws for arbitration.

In addition, the U.K. allows virtually unrestricted access for foreign law firms. There are over 200 foreign law firms in the U.K. and many of these firms derive a large proportion of their overall turnover from business conducted in London.

Although known internationally as a financial centre, London is now as much a legal centre, with an unrivalled mix of judicial expertise in the fields of finance, business and property. As a consequence, doing business and resolving disputes in the U.K. is quicker and cheaper – saving businesses up to £1.4bn a year – but still resulting in cast-iron judgments that are respected around the world.

The U.K. is home to three of the largest five global 100 law firms, based on head-count.

Foreign businesses – including many from Kazakhstan – recog-

nise the considerable strength of the U.K.'s legal services sector. For example, around 75% of the claims brought to England and Wales' Commercial Court involve overseas parties.

The U.K.'s strength is based on the impartiality of its legal systems, the reliability and predictability of the law, the distinction and experience of its practitioners and the wide range of dispute resolution options available to clients.

Business comes to the U.K. because it knows that it will find world class, highly specialised, commercially focussed and innovative lawyers, mediators and arbitrators. It understands that a decision from a court in one of the U.K. jurisdictions carries a global guarantee of judicial excellence and integrity.

## Kazakhstan's Market Economy: Key Milestones and Achievements

By Roman Vakulchuk



In my new book, "Kazakhstan's Emerging Economy: Between State and Market," I study the type of market economy that has evolved in Kazakhstan since 1991 by focusing on the interaction between the state and private business.

Today, Kazakhstan is considered to be the most successful market reformer among the post-Soviet countries. Kazakhstan's transition has been unique in many respects. First, the economy was in crisis in the early 1990s, inflation reached four-digit figures, unemployment rates were high and future economic prospects were uncertain. However, since 2000, Kazakhstan has achieved high economic growth

and the economic well-being of the population has improved. True, the development and export of energy resources helped the country re-

cover from the economic collapse of the 1990s. On the other hand, we should bear in mind that without the appropriate market-oriented institutions responsible for economic policy-making and improving the business climate, the management of energy resources would hardly have proven successful and sustainable. Despite depending on the export of energy resources, the government has established effective political and economic institutions that have helped the country avoid the 'resource curse' and attract significant foreign direct investment.

Second, unlike other resource-rich countries, which usually restrict access to foreign investors, Kazakhstan has been open to for-

ign companies and investment from the very beginning. In particular, it largely privatised its energy sector and attracted foreign capital for developing the economy. Moreover, Kazakhstan has actively learned from the experiences of other countries in implementing economic policies. These measures helped to achieve progress in implementing market reforms.

Third, over the years of independence, a new culture of state-business interaction based on mutual dialogue has emerged in Kazakhstan. Communication platforms were established where two parties exchange information, discuss joint projects and solve problems.

Despite existing difficulties in the private sector, many issues

are solved successfully through this dialogue.

I would like to stress two main conclusions of my work. First of all, from the point of view of the rules of the game, the economy of Kazakhstan represents a 'core-periphery' model, in which the 'core' part is more state-led and consists of strategic industries and big companies, whereas the 'periphery' part is more market oriented and includes non-strategic industries and small and medium-sized companies. The state controls and coordinates the core by market mechanisms; for the periphery, it seeks to provide conditions for developing a market-oriented environment with little state involvement.

The second conclusion relates to the fact that the evaluation of Kazakhstan's economic development, for instance by international organisations, is based mainly on the analysis of the energy sector, which is controlled by the state. Generalisations are then made

with respect to the entire economy and therefore many consider state regulation of the economy to be excessive. However, my results demonstrate that despite the fact that the energy sector is important for the entire economy, other industries (e.g. services) also play an important role and develop within the market-oriented environment with minimal state regulation. Unlike the energy sector, however, these industries have been under-researched by experts and scholars until today. Therefore, in contrast to many previous studies, this work shows that a balance between state and market regulation of the economy has been found. This I see as the main success in the market-oriented development of Kazakhstan since independence.

**The author holds a Ph.D. in economics and is a senior research fellow at the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) in Oslo.**

## Environment Set to Be Major Project of 21st Century

By Francis Etienne



The UN Climate Summit in New York marked a high point in political mobilisation for climate, with over 120 countries represented at the highest level. The summit should lead to the adoption of a universal climate agreement in December 2015, but already appears to be a success in terms of initiatives in key areas of reducing greenhouse gas emissions: finance, green cities, energy, forestry, transport and agriculture. In this perspective, France is leading the fight against global warming by taking concerted international action and expresses to Kazakhstan its grateful thanks for its fruitful cooperation in that field.

In the urgency of a response to the negative consequences of global warming that we see on the horizon by the end of the century, France would foster dialogue and

strengthen international cooperation in this field. Paris calls for a significant reduction in carbon emissions in order to achieve the objective of 2°C, which means reaching climate neutrality, a compatible level of emissions with the absorption capacity of the planet.

France also demonstrates its commitment by the voluntary national targets it puts forward such as those proposed to its European partners, the Energy Transition Act and an EU target requiring emission reductions up to 40 percent in 2030 compared to the 1990 levels.

Following the success of the summit in New York, France intends to gather and call for a large mobilisation of the international

community to adopt in Paris a universal agreement on climate. To this end, France stresses and promotes the implementation of instruments and policies towards low-carbon economies.

France wants to commit a strong impetus to the movement against global warming by its ambitious financial contribution of \$1 billion over four years to the Green Climate Fund at the meeting on Nov. 19 and 20 in Berlin.

Before the next French round in 2015, Paris encourages the Peruvian presidency of the Conference of Parties on Climate to channel the energies set in motion during the summit. Up until now, it has been up to Lima to complete three ob-

jectives for the 2015 climate convention: strengthen the ambition of each member, develop the confidence of all in the commitment to reduce emissions and enhance the multilateral approach complemented by civil society initiatives.

The French government urges its partners to support the dynamic it wants to instill and invites emitting countries to embrace a common approach towards environmental protection. Industrialised countries that are also great democracies cannot ignore the importance of these issues. Polluting countries have a duty to report and tackle the challenges facing the entire international community.

In this area as elsewhere, France

relies on Kazakhstan as a strategic partner in Central Asia. Repeatedly, France and Kazakhstan have proven the strength of their cooperation and the intensity of their exchanges. The environment promises to be the major project of the 21st Century in which Kazakhstan will play a leading role and to which it has already committed, as will be demonstrated at EXPO 2017 in Astana.

France reiterates its confidence and support for its Kazakhstan partner in the ongoing environmental efforts to lead, with a common goal of preserving our planet.

**The author is Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of France to Kazakhstan.**

## Stronger US-Kazakhstan Relations: Paving the Way along the New Silk Road

By C. Naseer Ahmad



Kazakhstan is a country on the move. It is an unmistakable impression one gets from hearing scholars, diplomats and businessmen visiting Washington. Time and again one finds many opportunities around this capital to hear experts share their vision and voice their opinion up close and personal.

A recent luncheon in Washington was an excellent example of such interactions. Although this was an official event, the atmosphere was quite relaxed which facilitated meaningful dialogue between experts from different fields and with varying persuasions.

There appears to be a shared appreciation of Kazakhstan's "pragmatic foreign policy." Pragmatism also requires negotiating, whether with bilateral or multilateral partners. And for negotiations, there were some useful words of wis-

dom from the Steppes: "Ask for a camel, if you want a horse."

From the experts, one learns that Kazakhstan is a donor country and not a recipient of financial aid. This meant sound management of the resources and finances, about which experts seemed to also agree.

The crux of the discussions in September in Washington has been

well summarised by the Silk Road paper – "Looking Forward: Kazakhstan and the United States" by the eminent scholars of the Central Asia – Caucasus Institute Silk Studies programme. This team of six authors, three from the United States and three from Kazakhstan, with support from their respective institutions has put forth concrete policy recommendations for moving US-Kazakhstan relations to a higher level.

The chapter containing the "Summary of Policy Recommendations" states the simple fact that "each country needs the other in fulfilling its goals" and that "both sides focus their energies with respect to the other on advancing" commonalities. These experts recommend signing "a US-Kazakhstan Strategic Partnership Charter, and intensify the work under its specific working groups."

Experts present actionable ideas about intensifying cooperation in defense and security. For in-

stance, they recommend that the U.S. should take the lead in working with Kazakhstan authorities to improve interoperability between Kazakhstan forces and NATO, "helping KazBrig reach NATO Evaluation Level 2 and by expanding it to a three-battalion brigade."

They further recommend institutionalize and intensify analytic interaction on regional security affairs.

Realising the important role of trade and investment, seasoned voices urge the removal of impediments to U.S. investment in Kazakhstan. In this regards, just as in many other aspects of international relations, the importance of enhancing the rule of law for improvement of the investment climate was stressed. To further the cause of strong bilateral and multilateral trade relations, one heard the calls for rapid completion of Kazakhstan's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO). Experts recommend that the "U.S.

should prioritize Kazakhstan's accession to the WTO and prevent it from remaining on the back-burner, as it has been for years." They see a huge untapped potential that could benefit both US and Kazakhstan and their trading partners.

Since stability in Afghanistan is vital for security not only in the areas along the Silk Road but also throughout the world, experts emphasise multi-sided cooperation on post-2014 Afghanistan. They understand that the U.S. and Kazakhstan share an interest in ameliorating and countering any diffusion of instability from Afghanistan into Central Asia. It is fortunate that the transition of power in Kabul from President Hamid Karzai to President Ashraf Ghani has been managed successfully by U.S. diplomatic efforts. This peaceful transfer of power – and the absence of a bloody power struggle – should expand the opportunities for an effective role for both the U.S. and Kazakhstan in setting the

stage for a brighter future for Afghanistan's citizens.

As the U.S. is the only major external actor in the region "without a regularised consultative mechanism in Central Asia," the experts recommend "Central Asia Six Plus One" entity. In the absence of such an entity, it could be very hard for both the U.S. and Kazakhstan to achieve their respective regional objectives.

The ancient Silk Road was a significant factor in the development of civilisations across the continents and economic and cultural exchanges between civilisations. Today, even thousands of miles away in Washington from that ancient route one can see that the New Silk Road opens new horizons for unparalleled economic growth and enhanced cross cultural exchanges. And, stronger U.S.-Kazakhstan relations are the key ingredient for paving the way along the New Silk Road as the broad avenue of hope for humanity.

**The author writes for the Diplomatic Courier and Pakistan Link and is a member of the Boards of the Embassy Series and Interfaith Voices, a National Public Radio programme. He is a member of the National Press Club in Washington, DC.**

# EURASIA & WORLD

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2014

## Kazakhstan, Russia Launch Hydrocarbon Initiative, Move Forward with Plans to Build Nuclear Power Plant

By Yelden Sarybay

The presidents of Kazakhstan and Russia launched a new hydrocarbon development initiative as they met in Atyrau, Kazakhstan on Sept. 30.

**Energy is paramount in today's global agenda, and the Caspian region is strategic in matters of oil and gas production for both Kazakhstan and Russia.**

President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev met with Russian President Vladimir Putin at the 11th annual Interregional Cooperation Forum between the two countries, which focused on innovation in the oil and gas industries. Officials from Kazakhstan's 14 regions and their Russian counterparts, as well as approximately 60 companies from both countries attended the event.

Speaking at the event, President Nazarbayev stressed the importance of the oil and gas industry for the economy of Kazakhstan, which is ranked 12th in the world in oil reserves and is among the top 20 countries in terms of gas reserves. In this regard, Nazarbayev noted the importance of having modern trends shape the hydrocarbon sector.

"Since last year, the balance of oil consumption has shifted to emerging economies. For the first time in history, oil consumption in developing countries has exceeded consumption in OECD [Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development] countries. The main trend of the last few years in the petroleum sector also has been the development of shale deposits. Modern technologies of horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing allow for production of both gas and oil," Nazarbayev said.

One of the most important top-

ics discussed at the forum was the newly developed Eurasia project, which was launched in a symbolic ceremony by the heads of the two countries. The project will explore innovative approaches to hydrocarbon exploration. "The

ment made at the forum was that Russia and Kazakhstan will jointly build a nuclear power plant in Kazakhstan. According to an intergovernmental agreement initiated in Atyrau on Sept. 30 by Kazakhstan's Minister of Energy Vladimir Shkolnik and Russia's Rosatom Chief Executive Officer Sergey Kirienko, the location, power output and the dates of construction of a power plant will be determined in the future contract. The location has not been determined yet, according to Shkolnik, although Kurchatov, the former centre of the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site in the east of Kazakhstan, has been named as one of the most probable locations.

President Putin remarked, "Over the past 11 years, the economic ties between the two countries have reached a qualitatively new level. Bilateral trade increased more than six times. The volume of direct Russian investment in Kazakhstan increased by 10 times. These high dynamics are greatly facilitated by the interaction of investment in our economies."

"Direct partnerships with all 14 regions of Kazakhstan have been established by the majority of Russian territorial entities," he continued. "This has created more than 11,000 joint ventures. About 300 interregional agreements on cooperation have been signed. Russia and Kazakhstan have the longest land border in the world. Forty percent of bilateral trade is created by the regions along this border."

Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak, Governor of Orenburg Region Yuriy Berg, President of Bashkortostan Rustem Khamitov, Minister of Energy of Kazakhstan Vladimir Shkolnik, Akim (Governor) of Atyrau Region Baktykozha Izmukhambetov and Akim (Governor) of Aktobe Arkhimed Muhambetov made their presentations at the forum, among others.

The next Interregional Cooperation Forum will be held in 2015 in Ufa, Russia.

Another important announce-

# Nation & Capital

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2014

## CULTURE

Netflix Series 'Marco Polo' Shot in Kazakhstan to Premiere in December

B3

## SOCIETY

Collection Boxes, Nationwide Programme to Address Problem of E-Waste

B5

## SPORTS

Kazakhstan Paralympians Win Nine Medals So Far at Incheon 2014 Asian Para Games

B7

## Golovkin Knocks Out Rubio in Round 2, Wins WBC Interim Championship Belt

By Dmitry Lee

Gennady G. Golovkin of Karaganda, Kazakhstan, knocked out Marco Antonio Rubio of Mexico in round two of an Oct. 19 bout in Carson, California to win the World Boxing Council (WBC) interim championship belt and extend his winning streak to 31 wins, 28 of which he finished with knockouts.

This was an important win for Golovkin, the reigning WBA middleweight champion, as it was his largest purse at \$900,000 and Rubio is considered one of the toughest opponents the Kazakh has faced. Rubio has 59 wins and 51 by KO, 7 losses (after the fight against Golovkin) and is known for hard punches.

Golovkin made a statement before the bout admitting that this one could end by decision, "I know Rubio is a very smart guy. He won't give me too many chances for lucky punches," he said.

On top of that Rubio didn't make weight by 800 milligrams the day before and his payment terms were cut from \$450,000 to \$350,000. The camps made an agreement that Rubio would lose the WBC interim title in mid-weight and if he won, he would strip Golovkin of his title.

But the bout ended quickly with some fans joking that Golovkin's



Gennady Golovkin (l) knocks out Marco Antonio Rubio in Round 2, stripping the Mexican of WBC interim champion title.

post-fight interview lasted longer than the bout.

Golovkin won by trapping Rubio and attacking from the centre.

The first round ended with a few powerful exchanges but the second with a knock out on the 19th second as Rubio stumbled to his feet at the count of ten, and the fight was stopped.

After the fight Golovkin, once

again challenged any current world champions to face him in the ring and thanked his fans for their support.

The GGG, as Golovkin is known, phenomenon continues to attract international attention as the Kazakh boxer racks up more wins and KOs.

One other thing GGG has been doing is attracting attention to his home country. At a recent pro-

gramme of Larry King Now, King spoke to Rosie Perez, an Academy Award-nominated actress, of this boxer. She heaped praise on Golovkin for being such a great fighter from Kazakhstan, calling him "electric", to which King replied, "I have an honorary degree from a university in Kazakhstan, I was giving a speech there. That's a great country, by the way."

## Kazakhstan Increases Funding for UN-Managed Civil Service Hub

By Yelden Sarybay

ASTANA — The Kazakh government has agreed to provide \$14 million in funding over the next three and a half years to support the Regional Civil Service Hub that will be managed by the United Nations Development Programme. An agreement to strengthen the Regional Hub in Astana was signed on Sept. 17.

The hub was established in 2013 by a partnership of 25 countries and six international organisations that work together in an institutional framework. It is now a dialogue platform that brings together 29

countries for the continuous exchange of best practices and experience in the field of civil service. The hub's mission is to help develop effective civil service systems in the region.

On the occasion of the signing of the agreement, the former Chairman of the Agency for Civil Service Affairs of Kazakhstan Alikhan Baimenov said that "[t]he agenda of civil service reforms is determined by governments based on their internal priorities. At the same time, a continuous exchange of experience and knowledge serve as a good support for making respective decisions. The Regional Hub will

become an institutional base to this end. Studying other countries' experiences undoubtedly benefits the countries of the region."

In the hub's first year of operation it has published two editions of its e-journal, held technical workshops and training sessions and conducted a global conference within the Astana Economic Forum.

Kazakhstan's new funding will help the hub establish a Civil Service Research Centre, strengthen the secretariat and create a permanent position of Chairman of the Steering Committee of the Regional Hub of Civil Service in Astana. Last month, Baimenov was appointed to

that position, having left the newly reformed Agency for Civil Service Affairs and Fighting Corruption where he held the position of a deputy chairman since the government reshuffle in August 2014.

United Nations Resident Coordinator in Kazakhstan Stephen Tull said, "This new agreement creates a qualitatively better institutional environment for the Regional Hub. Ultimately, this benefits citizens in Kazakhstan and across a wide region, as it spreads the best practices in public service. The Regional Hub has come a long way already, and now it will have the capacity to satisfy the demands of its members."

## Shymkent Student Animations Gain Attention at International Festival

By Lyubov Dobrota

Students from Shymkent Aliya Tugelbai and Bakbergen Saparov

were recognised among participants from 35 countries during the recent 18th To Save and To Reserve International Ecological Festi-

tival in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia for animated cartoons they created to help save the endangered saiga antelope.



Young Kazakh animators were awarded at an international festival.

Tugelbai's 3.5-minute "A White Saiga" and Saparov's 2.5-minute "A Lame Saiga" animations both took one year to create. According to the young animators, the most challenging part of the project was to depict the characters in motion as each second of animation requires five to seven images.

The animators also took second place at the First National Festival of Children's Art and presented animated cartoons at the 17th International Festival of Animated Video Clips Animayevka 2014.

The Alakai children's animation studio where the two students learned to make animated videos was opened by the Centre of Childhood and Youth in Shymkent last year. The director of the studio, Maksut Zharimbetov hopes other children will be inspired by the students' achievements and will also succeed in this type of art.

Tugelbai and Saparov have already begun work on other stories related to ecological issues. Tugelbai wants to address the problem of swallow extinction and Saparov has been inspired by the beautiful legend of the Kirik Kiz passover, located on the way to the Ugam gorge.

## Asian Games Victories Further Country's Reputation as Sporting Nation

By Dmitry Lee

Kazakhstan's performance at the 17th Asian Games in South Korea in early October was further evidence of the country's growing reputation as a sporting nation.

Of the 1,454 medals in 36 events that were captured at the games, Kazakhstan clinched 84 medals, including 28 gold, 23 silver and 33 bronze in 23 disciplines and ranked fourth overall. Only heavy favourites China, South Korea and Japan finished ahead of Kazakhstan.

Kazakh boxers particularly dominated the event winning

ten medals in 13 events in all but two weight categories to capture the overall medal count in the sport.

The national team also won the medal count in canoeing, taking 10 medals. National team athletes also won the medal count in wrestling as well as seven medals in swimming and shooting, six each in track and field, judo and karate, four in weightlifting, three in rowing, two in fencing, wushu, water polo, taekwondo and tennis and one medal each in beach volleyball, cycling, gymnastics, handball and rugby.

*Continued on Page B7*

## German Photographer Explores Culture, Contrasts of Kazakhstan

By Michelle Witte

ASTANA — Photographer Dieter Seitz, whose work focuses on people and cultural issues, has chosen Kazakhstan to be the subject of a multi-year photo project exploring its blend of cultures and the industry upon which the country's prosperity is built.

The photos, which he plans to show in exhibitions in Germany and Kazakhstan and publish in a book, are Seitz's attempt to capture what he calls Kazakhstan's three cultural streams, which Seitz believes interlink and flow together in a way that is unique among the former Soviet states.

"There's firstly the traditional Kazakh culture, which was suppressed during the Soviet era — but not completely ..." he told The Astana Times in an interview on Oct. 17. "The sec-

ond cultural stream ... is all the things connected with the Soviet socialist era, which you see in the architecture in places, in the behaviour of people, and in many other things. And the third stream, of course, is the Western modernism that comes into the country. People are keen, and wanting to get things coming from Western culture."

In Kazakhstan, Seitz said, these streams are not fighting each other, but commingling. "In my impression, these things go together. There's not only a change from one thing to another, but they are mixed, like a melting pot, and it makes the country very interesting." It is this blend he hopes to capture in his photos of the country. In a previous, but smaller-scale country-based project, Seitz explored India.

*Continued on Page B4*

## THINGS TO WATCH OCTOBER – NOVEMBER

## ASTANA OPERA

October 22, 23 and 24 at 19:00 "La Traviata" opera

## MAXIM GORKY THEATRE

October 22 and 23 at 19:00 "Twelfth Night"  
October 23 at 11:00 "The City of Masters"  
November 2 at 18:00 "Valentine's Day" Drama

## KAZAKHSTAN CENTRAL CONCERT HALL

October 25 at 18:00 Gulmira Sarina concert  
October 31 at 18:30 Tamara Assar concert

## BLACK DUCK RESTAURANT

November 4 at 20:00 Poetry reading

## CONGRESS HALL

October 22 at 19:00 Diana Arbenina and Nochnye Snaipery Jubilee Concert  
November 4 at 19:30 Yelena Vaenga concert

## STALNYE KONI MOTO BAR

November 1 at 20:00 "Tarakany" concert

# PEOPLE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2014

## Patriotism Drives Surgeon to Pursue Cutting-Edge Medicine

By Dmitry Lee

In the first 20 years of independence, Kazakhstan has had many successes and, among its most recent, has been in the field of cardiovascular surgery. Heart transplants are now performed in Kazakhstan at the capital's National Research Cardiac Surgery Center (NRCCS) headed by Dr. Yury Pya, the center's chairman of the board.

On Aug. 8, 2012, Pya with a team of surgeons performed the first-ever heart transplant in independent Kazakhstan. He is a renowned cardiac surgeon at the international level, the main supernumerary cardiac surgeon of the Ministry of Healthcare and Social Development and a graduate of the Second Moscow State Medical Pirogov University.

Pya's parents were Koreans deported from Far East [Russia during the repression in 1937] to the Kyzylorda region. "I could say I am from Kyzylorda, although later I moved to Taraz to go to school. So I could say I was conceived in Kyzylorda and born in Taraz," Pya said.

Pya graduated in the Soviet Union in 1974. "It was no secret that the best universities were in the capitals of each Soviet republic and naturally the capital of the then-Soviet Union was Moscow, so my ambitions were to enroll there," Pya remembered.

Pya grew up thinking about becoming a physicist, but his mother urged him to study medicine. "My mother influenced my final decision [to attend medical school]. She said that she could see me as a future medic – a surgeon in particular. At first I didn't like hospitals. I think no one likes the 'hospital' smell, especially at the dentist's, people are repulsed by it," Pya said. Pya's career had begun in



Yury Pya

the city of Tula, Russia. He later relocated to Frunze (now Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan) and later to Turkey to continue his professional career.

In 2003, he received the diploma of a candidate of medical sciences at the Bakulev Scientific Center of Cardiovascular Surgery in Moscow. In 2010, the Higher Attestation Commission of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation awarded him the degree of Doctor of Medical Sciences.

It is no surprise that he was entrusted to undertake the leading role at the NRCCS given his previous practical experience, excellent surgeon and colleagues education and scientific training. In December 2011, due to the center's introduction of the technology of implantation of a miniature version of a ventricular assist device or artificial heart model called Heart-Ware, Kazakhstan made the list of the 22 most-developed countries in the field of cardiac surgery.

Pya, an avid cyclist who spends most of his time either in surgery or on the phone giving consultations to his patients, strongly believes that Kazakhstan has just begun the long journey in the area of cardiac research and realises the difficult task his center is facing.

"Our clinic is as young as our capital and to win people's trust we will need years [of hard work]. One can rapidly publicise anything but medicine. One can be born and become a virtuoso violinist at five ... but in medicine it doesn't work like that," he said.

According to the surgeon, heart diseases today are "the number one killer in the world, as they are often referred to. Each year, around 15 million people die from cardiovascular diseases. There are no natural disasters, not even car accidents that can compare [to those numbers]." Lifestyle, genetics and daily stress all affect the human heart, Pya noted.

### Challenges Facing Kazakh Healthcare

On a larger scale, Pya sees corruption among key challenges to Kazakhstan's healthcare, although one that is being faced firmly both by his centre and by the authorities generally.

"Today, one of the challenges in our medical system is corruption, starting from education; I mean in medical universities. The [medical] knowledge base [upon graduation] from one of the medical institutions is not comparable to any European university. But I would like to take Singapore as an example. If I am not mistaken [the first prime minister] Lee Kuan Yew transformed a backward country bogged down in corruption into one of the most developed and successful in Asia today.

It is the least corrupted with high-quality education that can easily compare to some in the United States, for instance. Kazakhstan has the potential to do this. At this point, Kazakhstan has reached a stable political position and the country is still developing, and as long as corruption exists, it would be hard to make significant changes [in this field]," Pya commented.

"[As a doctor], nationality is my least concern. And although our centre accommodates mostly Kazakhstan nationals, we have also had foreign citizens in the past. Speaking of foreign patients, in the past two years most of them are from neighbouring Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Russia and only a few were from the U.S., Canada and Western Europe, Egypt, Australia and Tajikistan. We need to be reasonable as these countries are geographically too far from Kazakhstan."

"I can't fight [corruption] alone, but if I win people's trust to follow my work, they will do the same thing. So to battle corruption in healthcare, one needs to [learn] to trust people, believe they can change and do it. This is why I bet on the younger generation who has not yet had the taste of corruption. I think one of the reasons our center is successful is because we managed to get rid of corrupted ways and I believe that when you create such an aura then no one can destroy it," the surgeon added.

Pya has been working at the centre for more than 11 years and has formed a team of young and dedicated individuals. "I don't mean only medics. These are nurses, technical staff and administrative staff whose goal is to make this centre a centre to be proud of and make a change. These are people who work selflessly and love their job. Because if a person loves his or her job passionately, financial success will follow. If one is chasing the money only, one can easily lose it," said Pya, who is also fond of philosophy.

The NRCCS team has received training to improve and upgrade their qualifications at clinics in the United States, Germany, France, Israel, the Czech Republic, Lithuania, Russia and other nations.

Pya's credo is "We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children." The Native American proverb inspires him to continue to work by leading by example.

"[capital] move matches my own ambitious plans to contribute to cardio surgery and I hope that we are on the right track with our centre. I would like to emphasise that we even managed to launch such a programme as heart transplantation. It doesn't take one person to do that. This is not a medical but a social issue and I would like to say thanks to my destiny that brought me here and thanks to all the people who surround me here, my colleagues and, of course, to all my patients for their trust to us. I also have a wish that the new generation wouldn't be [easily] tempted by the idea to leave the country for the better but they would be inspired by the idea to make this country better for themselves. But doing so, one needs to realise that he or she is not doing it only for themselves but for the generations to come."

Pya's contribution to the development of the domestic healthcare system has been widely recognised. In 2006, he was given an award for excellent work in the healthcare system; in 2011, he received an award for his contribution to the development of the country's medical system; in 2012, at the Fifth Forum of the Patriots of the Republic, he was named the Patriot of the Year. Pya was awarded with the national prize Altyn Adam – Person of the Year in the category Physician in 2012. The same year, he was given Kazakhstan's Order of Parasat.

In related news, Astana hosted on Aug. 29-30 for the first time the Third National Congress of Cardiac Surgeons organised by the World Society of Cardio Thoracic Surgeons. Some 52 foreign experts and surgeons attended.

This article was first published by edgekz.com website.

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# CULTURE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2014

## Almaty Food Festival Offers Taste of France



International chefs pose at the French cuisine festival on Sept. 26.

By Julia Rutz

Almaty visitors and residents were able to sample some of the best of French cuisine during the Sept. 26-28 Festival de la Gastronomie Francaise.

The festival was held in Almaty for the second time and took place in several restaurants, including Café de Paris, French Connection, Nova Vina La Cave, La Tartine, as well as on the city square next to the Palace of Republic. The festival offered top cheeses, confectionery and beverages like cider, calvados and sparkling wines from Norman producers.

The highlight of the event, which was supported by the French Consulate and Alliance Francaise Almaty, was a master class taught by five followers of 20th century master Auguste Escoffier, who was known as

"the king of chefs and the chef of kings."

It is believed that Escoffier was the one who rationalised and modernised the culinary art, divided a kitchen staff into separate brigades and introduced the new "Russian" plate service method, according to which dishes are served due to a menu order. His book "Le Guide Culinaire" that first codified French cuisine is considered to be the must-have resource for understanding and preparing French cuisine.

Escoffier made culinary into an art. He believed that a plate is nothing less than a canvas to create a masterpiece. Thanks to his contribution, French cuisine was included on UNESCO World Cultural Heritage list in 2010. To mark that, the Festival de la Gastronomie Francaise was established and we are pleased to be

this year in Kazakhstan. We hope our culinary experience will be useful for local chefs, as for us. We are going to try several traditional Kazakh dishes, especially besbarmak," said one of the French chefs during the festival.

Unlike restaurants where the prices for a dinner were pretty high, French dishes offered on the city square were free to taste.

The Festival de la Gastronomie Francaise is an annual event held on Sept. 20-22 in France, as well as in other countries. It is a family, nationwide and international holiday that unites nations all over the world and allows cultural exchange. After last year's success in Almaty, it was decided to carry out the French cuisine festival in the city one more time and let people discover more about French restaurant food.

## Netflix Series 'Marco Polo' Shot in Kazakhstan to Premiere in December



A photograph from the new Marco Polo series.

By Bakhytbek Aduov

ASTANA – An international television series that, in part, features Kazakhstan as the backdrop for the adventures of the great explorer Marco Polo is set to premiere in December.

**Shooting on the "Marco Polo" series first began in late 2012 after Weinstein entered into an agreement with the TV channel Starz. Netflix then backed the project after it was abandoned by Starz.**

The \$90 million series is being produced by the U.S.-based Weinstein Company and is set to be shown on Netflix. Producer Harvey Weinstein says the series will be filled with political intrigue, large-scale battles and a love story. In other words, it will be the "Game of Thrones of the East."

The series is set in the 13th century China, but was filmed in Kazakhstan, Malaysia and Italy after suitable locations could not be found in China.

In total, more than 1,500 people from 28 countries participated in the creation of the series. The lead role in the series is played by Italian actor Lorenzo Richelmy. Actors Benedict Wong from the

UK (Prometheus, Sunshine and Kick-Ass 2), actress Zhu Zhu from China (Cloud Atlas) and actor Rick Yune from the USA (Fast and Furious and The Fall of Olympus) play notable roles as well. Series directors Joachim Ronning and Espen Sandberg (Kon-Tiki and Bandidas) have been nominated for Oscars.

The Kazakhstan filming for the series took place in spring 2014. Kazakhstan was chosen for its unique natural landscapes, talent pool and generally low shooting costs.

Akhat Ibrayev played a key role in bringing the shooting to the country and later, through his production company Adigul Family Pictures, helped organise the shooting on the ground, going to great lengths to meet the demands of foreign and local actors.

The series features famous Kazakh actors Sanzhara Madiev, Murat Mukhashev, Zhandos Alibassov, Daulet Abdygaparov, Erden Telemissov, Tolepbergen Baisakov and Dilmukhamed Akimov. Kazakh stuntmen, who have also worked on such major motion pictures as "47 Ronin," "The Expendables 2" and "Conan the Barbarian," also worked on the series.

In total, about 20 Kazakh actors, 10 stuntmen and others, such as make-up artist Irina Strukova, participated in the project.

As a token of respect, the shooting of "Marco Polo" in Kazakhstan received much assistance from local authorities, in particular, those in the Almaty regional administration. They helped work on location, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan helped with visas for foreign visitors.

Weinstein's decision to shoot in Kazakhstan may have been in-

fluenced by his 2010 visit to the country. That year, he took part in the International Astana Action Film Festival at the invitation of the famous Kazakh-Russian director Timur Bekmambetov, who recently signed a contract to shoot the film Ben Hur in the United States.

During that visit, he noted that you don't need to be from the United States to have an impact on cinema. "Ten years ago, nobody would have imagined that the list of best directors of our time would include five from Mexico. Today, we all know Guillermo Del Toro, Alfonso Cuaron, Diego Luna, Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu and Guillermo Arriaga, who wrote the screenplay for Inarritu. In 1960, it was difficult to imagine that 10 young French directors would change cinema. But it happened. Great directors can be born anywhere, maybe one of them is now sitting in this hall."

Weinstein has produced many successful films, but is known for preferring independent cinema and is believed to have heavily influenced the films of director Quentin Tarantino. The Weinstein Company is an American film studio founded by Bob and Harvey Weinstein in 2005 after the brothers left then Disney-owned Miramax Films, which they had co-founded in 1979. They retained ownership of the Dimension Films label of Miramax. It is one of the largest small major film studios in North America.

Shooting on the "Marco Polo" series first began in late 2012 after Weinstein entered into an agreement with the TV channel Starz. Netflix then backed the project after it was abandoned by Starz.

## Almaty Art Exhibit Displays Hopes of Seriously Ill Children

By Julia Rutz

"A Dream," an art exhibition opened recently in Arman cinema hall in Almaty, displays paintings created by children who are suffering from leukemia and angiostaxis. The children attended workshops organised by Kazakh artist Marat Bekeev and sculptor Eduard Kazaryan in order to learn how to express their feelings on canvas.

Every dream world imagined by the little artists is different – some children want to live in a peaceful and prosperous country, while others are eager to explore space or have a beautiful house for a family to live in. However, all the art works express the children's positive spirit and hope for the best.

Those workshops are aimed at the psychological support and rehabilitation of the little patients. Moreover, it is believed that such art therapy can improve their psychological status. Art therapy lets children fulfill simple creative tasks that will not cause discomfort, worry or stress. It should help them stop controlling their own emotions and spontaneously express perceptions of the world around them, describe their own feelings and get release from them.

According to statistics, about 350-400 children up to age 15 suffer from oncological diseases and 284 children have angiostaxis in Almaty. In general, 1,289 little patients received anti-tumor therapy in 2011.

"Children who suffer from angiostaxis are literally fragile. From their early childhood they are not allowed to run fast or play active games, as they have to be protected from falling and cutting themselves. Such restrictions prevent them from leading normal lives and because of that, these children need a psychological safety valve," explained the President of the Kazakh Association of Disabled People and Angiostaxis Patients Tamara Rybalova.

The social programme for such children was launched in 2013 by the Kazaryan art studio. The first exhibition was held in October 2010 and recently presented in Monaco, where it has attracted public attention.

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The Republic of Kazakhstan is seeking a seat on the United Nations Security Council as a non-permanent member for 2017-2018. Our priorities within the United Nations reflect four primary issues facing the world today: Food Security, Water Security, Energy Security and Nuclear Security.

In the 22 years since our independence, Kazakhstan has worked tirelessly to address these issues in our own country and beyond. Among many other initiatives and achievements, Kazakhstan is currently:

- ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST GRAIN PRODUCERS AND WHEAT EXPORTERS. WE HAVE DISTRIBUTED WHEAT AND FOOD TO NATIONS IN NEED.
- A CONSTRUCTIVE INNOVATOR IN WATER SECURITY. COOPERATION AND TECHNOLOGIES. WE HAVE MADE GREAT STRIDES IN THE RESTORATION OF THE ARAL SEA.
- AN ACTIVE SUPPORTER OF DEVELOPING A GREEN ECONOMY AND ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES THROUGH OUR GREEN BRIDGE INITIATIVE AND AS HOSTS OF EXPO 2017, THEME OF WHICH IS "FUTURE ENERGY".
- A GLOBAL LEADER IN NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION, DISARMAMENT AND SECURITY. AN INITIATOR OF ADOPTING A UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON A NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE WORLD AND A SPONSOR OF THE ATOM PROJECT, A WORLDWIDE PETITION CAMPAIGN TO PERMANENTLY END NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTING.

These issues are complex and interdependent. They require global cooperation and relationship building. Kazakhstan has come a long way in a short time because we know that cooperation is the key to success. We are dedicated to knowledge and resource sharing in order to help make the world a better, more secure place for its citizens.

The achievement and maintenance of international peace and global security are paramount to the success of the planet and its people. In Kazakhstan, we are ready to do our part to ensure that success as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council.

# COUNTRY

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2014

## Officials Support Breeding of Tazy Hunting Dogs



Tazy hunting dog breeders.

### Regional Governments Possess All Components Necessary to Improve Public Services, Says Official

By Michelle Witte

ASTANA – The governments in the region and Kazakhstan's government, in particular, are working to improve service delivery and are reviewing European best practices, experts involved in reforming Kazakhstan's civil service said during an Oct. 3 roundtable meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan titled, "Effective Public Service Delivery."

"The governments of the region are working hard to further improve the delivery of public services," said George Mirogiannis, team leader of the European-funded project "Support Civil Service Reform and Modernisation of the Government of Kazakhstan" (CSR), which aims to improve quality of life in Kazakhstan. "All the necessary components, such as political will, public consent and resources are available," he said.

The meeting provided a platform for the discussion of the latest trends and challenges associated with public services delivery, including the development of a mechanism for public control over the quality of services delivered, the role of senior executives and evaluation of the activity of government authorities as a tool for improving the quality of public services. Mirogiannis spoke about international trends, recent achievements and future priorities for the effective delivery of public

services. The CSR project is supporting the government of Kazakhstan through sharing of best practices of Europe and the world in the field of public service, he said.

Representatives of government authorities of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Georgia and Mongolia, as well as international organisations that are members of the regional public service hub took part in the discussion. Jean-François Lengellé, project manager for the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Eurasia Competitiveness Programme; Stephen Tull, UNDP resident representative in Kazakhstan; Alikhan Baimenov, chairman of the Steering Committee of the Regional Civil Service Hub in Astana and Bahram Khalilov, chairman of the Civil Service Commission of Azerbaijan, also participated in the meeting.

Following the meeting, a study tour of the Asan Service Centre of Azerbaijan was organised, and a Steering Committee meeting of the Regional Hub was held.

The Regional Civil Service Hub was established in Astana in March 2013 with the aim of building an institutional framework and a permanent platform for the exchange of information and experience in public service between countries of the region.

### Students Present EXPO 2017-Related Inventions in Shymkent

By Ainur Kuramyssova

SHYMKENT – Scientific projects related to EXPO 2017 developed by students of Nazarbayev Intellectual Schools, including a playground that produces electricity, were presented during a recent festival in Shymkent.

Students from 16 intellectual schools across the country presented their inventions, devices and models in order to share ideas about the effective use of natural resources. Projects were evaluated in four categories, including alternative energy and ecology, alternative energy and economy, al-

ternative energy and industry, and alternative energy and technology.

Student Bayan Sadvakassova received an award from the Astana EXPO 2017 company for her project that generates electricity from the movement of playground equipment. According to her calculations, students using various exercise equipment generate kinetic energy that is then converted into electricity and absorbed by a generator. Using the resources available at her school, the young inventor was able to prove the viability of her idea. Sadvakassova said she wants to promote a healthy lifestyle and help her nation.

## Adventurers Cross the Country to Promote Youth Patriotism

By Julia Rutz

Twenty adventurers are in the midst of a cross-country expedition to increase patriotic feelings among Kazakh youth and popularise the beauty and distinctive character of the country.

Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev launched the expedition, titled Menin Elim – Mangilik El (My Country – Eternal Nation) on Oct. 1 in Aktau on the Caspian Sea, and participants will spend the next two months driving across the country to Altai Mountains and back to the capital in the centre of the country.

The expedition on five cars in-

cludes a diverse range of people and professions, such as an ethnographer, a journalist, an artist, a blogger, a cameraman, a doctor and expedition administrators. They will visit the regional centres of all 16 regions of Kazakhstan, driving locally produced cars in order to promote the domestic automotive industry. The expedition will finish in Astana.

The official launch ceremony took place on the Aktau quay with the participation of Bolashak scholars, students of Nazarbayev University, leaders of youth organisations and ethno-cultural centres, as well as winners of in-

ternational sport and science competitions.

The expedition reached its first destination, the city of Atyrau on Oct. 7, and it was in Aktobe a few days later.

As the expedition moves across the country, it holds events aimed at 16-29-year-olds.

"Our goal is to unite the people of Kazakhstan, especially the youth, by a common idea of the unity of history, culture, traditions of the people," Evgeni Ribalko, the head of the project, said.

Photo exhibitions and video clips about the cultural, touristic and industrial potential of the regions will be presented along with

game birds and hounds, as part of the touristic programme.

"We should send the application for breed registration pointing out the total number and habitat of Tazy and Tobet dogs. How successful the application will be depends on our insistence and support of other international dog organisations," explained Abdykarimov.

The idea was also supported by a well-known expert and Dog Breeder Association President Vladimir Ekk. He said that Tazy dogs, being good hunters, have saved several villages from starving during hard times. This dog can hunt hares, foxes as well as roes, saiga and jeyran antelopes. Even in Soviet times, this dog attracted a lot of attention thanks to its great hunting merits. A book, "Asian greyhound Taza and a Hunt" written by Soviet researcher Abram Slutsky was published in 1939.

"This is a strong, clean-limbed dog with a proportional head and a strong low jaw. The main advantage of this dog in comparison to other greyhounds is that it can use not only optic merits, but also smelling. If the dog loses sight of a prey it starts tracing by smelling which makes this dog a very valuable helper for local hunters, as we have deep grass and bushes in Kazakhstan," said Ekk.

At the end of the event, the dogs and their owners were given awards and participation certificates.

## German Photographer Explores Culture, Contrasts of Kazakhstan

Continued from Page B1

Seitz first visited Kazakhstan five years ago, when he first conceived of this project. He hopes to finish by the end of 2016, if not before, and to return to some of the scenes of photos he's already made to see how they have changed.

The end of the project coincides with the upcoming EXPO 2017, which will be held in Astana, and provides a neat framework for Seitz's second theme, energy. In talking to Europeans about his project, Seitz said, he was always asked, "Why are you so interested in Kazakhstan?" Adding a project based on energy, always a global concern, seemed like a good hook for pulling interest toward the country and his work.

Exploring Kazakhstan's relationship with its vast energy resources, he came across the Kazakhstan 2050 Strategy announced by President Nursultan Nazarbayev at the end of 2012. "Part or most of this programme is saying, 'We must have renewable energy and sustainable strategies for our economy in 2050 and we have to start now, because we know in 20-30 years, oil exploitation will get so expensive or no longer be profitable, and we must have alternatives to that.' ... I didn't expect that. I thought it was very ambitious, for Kazakhstan to take such a long-range view of things. So I thought, perfect. So my second theme is to take a historical view



A Dieter Seitz's photograph of Astana from his earlier shooting series.

and a view of the future of this energy issue."

Seitz will be visiting cities and towns across the country over the course of the next two years, seeking to capture the contrasts that he said are his way of illuminating beauty and reality. He also wants to show things people haven't seen up to now. You must show more than the eagle and the steppe and things like that."

"The point is, you must get close up to these things," the photographer said. "People in other countries are interested, can be made interested. But they must see something new, and not only the stereotypes they already know about Kazakhstan: it's cold and there is a big landscape and there are horses."

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2014

# Collection Boxes, Nationwide Programme to Address Problem of E-Waste

By Zhandos Sarmantayev

ASTANA – The government of Kazakhstan is moving to address the growing problem of electronic waste through training programmes, technology disposal receptacles and awareness-raising events, and private electronic recycling companies are taking on the challenge.

"Management of Electronic Waste," a public-private partnership project launched by the Kazakh Ministry of Energy and the UN Development Programme, began work in April to develop a mechanism for managing electronic waste, including mobile phones, and addressing safety issues in electronic waste recycling. Boxes for collecting obsolete phones were to be installed around cell phone vendors in Astana and Karaganda, and awareness-raising campaigns highlighting the dangers of electronic waste were to be designed.

**"This event was the first of its kind held in Kazakhstan. It was virtually the first time public attention was drawn to this issue." – Vyacheslav Tyukhtin**

The results of the programme were presented last month at the EcoTech Conference in Almaty. Collection boxes were installed in the Alser and Sulpak electronics stores in Karaganda and Astana, as well as in the Faculty of Chemistry and Chemical Technology at the Kazakh National University, and the Dream Company for environmentally friendly disposal will



Kazakh youth during the electronic waste training programme.

launch a new campaign in October to install collection boxes across their entire network in Kazakhstan as well as offer discounts on new equipment.

Vyacheslav Tyukhtin, a specialist at an electronic waste recycling company, said the training on waste-disposal was much needed. "Our companies need to strengthen the capacity for recycling electronic waste. We perform standard procedures in selection and disintegration, but often we are faced with a situation where we do not

know where to find the right technology. It was very interesting and useful to participate together with other companies in the UNDP-organised training for the processing of electronic waste."

"This event was the first of its kind held in Kazakhstan. It was virtually the first time public attention was drawn to this issue. We had a wonderful opportunity to listen to international experts from Switzerland and Austria, who have worked in this area for many years. We talked a lot about economic

benefits of EPR [extended producer responsibility, a concept that holds the producer of a product responsible for its entire life-cycle, including final disposal], methods of robust management of chemicals in electronics, effective strategies to collect electronic waste, electronics parsing techniques," Tyukhtin explained.

Roman Mukhin, executive director of the electronic waste recycling company Promtechnoresurs, which will dispose of the electronic waste collected by the project,

said, "The population should know about it. We have no support from the government and manufacturers of electronic equipment like subsidies or tax breaks. Also, hazardous constituents are being ignored because the use of best available technologies is hard to find."

The country is on its way to treating its electronic waste more responsibly, however, he said. "In global practice, one of the most successful ways to support processors of EW [electronic waste] is to introduce the principle of extended producer responsibility. The fact that even in 2013, the principle of EPR became part of the concept for Kazakhstan's transition to a green economy, is a great encouragement, and Kazakhstan is currently working on the development of relating legislative provisions to make this happen. Therefore, the main aspects of by-laws for EPR in electronic waste, based on international best practices, have become very timely and necessary."

In addition to training, notices about the eco-boxes have been handed out at electronics stores and announcements about them made at schools and on public transportation. At one store, Alser, 112 phones and two tablets were collected over a period of just one month.

Electronic waste is a growing concern in many countries. Heavy metals and dioxins are often present inside common household electrical products, and when disposed of improperly can leach into soil and groundwater, leading to potentially dangerous chemical build-ups. Highly toxic fumes can be released into the air when plastic and other electronic parts are burnt.

In April, the then-Ministry of Environment and Water Resources announced that 1.5 million personal computers had become electronic waste in Kazakhstan as of 2010.

## Senator Suggests Housing, Social Support for Creative Professionals

By Yelden Sarybay

Senator Nurlan Orzal in requested during an Oct. 2 plenary session with the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan that social programmes and housing support be provided for young professionals working in the media, arts and culture.

"We have set up a media centre that meets all of world standards where our journalists work. Most are young journalists. For many, their social life is unprotected. They live in rented apartments. Their social vulnerability can in some ways affect their professional, creative activity," said Orzal.

Orzal recommended settling journalists and artists in a purpose built district where the rent will be subsidised by the government.

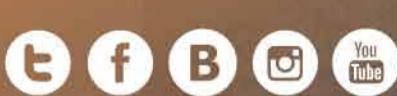
"In a rapidly changing world, the globalisation work of the media and journalists is very important. According to official statistics, currently in Kazakhstan there are 252 electronic media, 146 TV/radio stations, 88 television companies and 58 radio companies, 98 cable operators and 1,364 newspapers, 70 percent of them are non-state. There are also 522 magazines, 64 agencies that are registered and working. All these media [outlets] are officially registered and employ a lot of journalists. But we have no information about the social security of our journalists. They provide timely coverage of all the activities of all the work, all the political activity that is happening in our country," said Orzal.

Orzal is a member of the Socio-Cultural Development and Science Committee and a keen supporter of the arts. He worked as a writer for Kazakhstan Pioneer in 1970 where he started his literary career.

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# TOURISM

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2014

## Ancient Kazakh History on Display at New Shymkent Exhibition

By Lyubov Dobrota

**SHYMKENT** – An exhibition centre housing artefacts from archaeological sites in the region, including important early written texts, has been opened at the South Kazakhstan State Pedagogical Institute.

The new permanent exhibition aims to promote the history and cultural heritage of the Kazakhs among the public and visitors to the city as well as students. It presents information and artefacts from the tribes that have inhabited the region from the Bronze Age to the state of Karakhandid, which was active until the 13th century. The relics of the region's history have been collected over 50 years of annual field seasons organised by the archaeological unit of the Faculty of History of the Shymkent Pedagogical Institute. Nikolai Podushkin founded the archaeological team; his son, Professor Alexander Podushkin, now continues his activity.

"The findings gathered in the exhibition centre are a good example of the high level of material and spiritual development of

the Kazakhs," said Podushkin. "Thanks to the work of archaeologists, we are learning about the culture of our ancestors, especially nomads, who, wandering, have not left monumental buildings. The artefacts allow us to show the world the achievements of nomadic culture. This was emphasised by the head of state in his speech about the past, present and future of our country."

The discoveries have allowed archaeologists to determine that the Kangyui state existed only in the south of Kazakhstan, and it was born before the current era. Clay tablets in the Kangyui script are the key exhibits of the centre. Objects related to the written culture of the Kultobe settlement in South Kazakhstan have aroused the interest of museums around the world, and led to Podushkin being invited to the National Academy of France. He has also presented papers to the British Museum.

Podushkin's finds are the oldest written records to be found in Kazakhstan. Professor Nicholas Sims-Williams of the School of Oriental and African Studies at

the University of London helped decipher the inscriptions. The texts are very important and valuable for historians, ethnologists, linguists, archaeologists and cultural specialists of Central Asia, engaged in researching the least studied period in the history of these regions: the first centuries of our era.

"The decrypted script has unique information that allows us to learn about many events.... The significance of this is enormous: it is autochthonous; i.e. the Kangyuis were writing about themselves. It is also called the Imperial Aramaic script. Fully read, the texts of Kultobe will not only broaden, deepen or clarify some of the pages of the history of ancient states and regions, but will also help change or overwrite them. The scripts in the context of international tourism could be another historic brand for our country, along with such monuments of archaeology and architecture as Otrar and the Turkestan mausoleum. And in the future, a national park devoted to ancient writing can be created," Podushkin said.



Historical artefacts are now displayed at a new Shymkent exhibition.

## Major China TV Channel to Air Documentary Series on Kazakh Culture

By Dmitry Lee

**ASTANA** – China's main broadcaster, China Central TV6, has completed a documentary about Kazakhstan, the China Movie Channel reported.

The five twenty-minute episodes will unveil Kazakh cuisine, clothing and folk games. Chinese journalist Nina Wang, who has travelled to more than 40 countries, will tell the story of the nation's lifestyle as well as cook and eat Kazakh national dishes like beshbarmak (horse meat and wide noodles) and kumys (fermented horse milk). Wang also tried on national dresses like the saukele, the traditional embroidered headdress of Kazakh women, and galloped into the steppe on a horse.

The Chinese filmmakers were particularly interested in historical Kazakhstan, especially the places that lie along the Silk Road and mark the thousand years of contact and shared history between the two countries.

The film crew travelled to Semey to shoot at the Zhidabai complex, the home of the famous Kazakh poet, philosopher and composer Abai Kunabayev, and the Yenlik-Kebek mausoleum. Then they crossed the country to Shymkent, in southern Kazakhstan, to document the beauty of the Adam and Eve mount, the four metre tall mountain split in half by a narrow path, where supposedly only the innocent can fit. They also visited the Ak Bora spring. The crew also stopped by histori-

cal sites, including Sauran, Turkestan, Otyrar and Taraz to shoot the Tamgaly Tas petroglyph site and the Aisha Bibi and Kara Khan mausoleums, then continued to the Kapshagai reserve and to Almaty to film Charyn Canyon.

### The five twenty-

minute episodes

will unveil Kazakh

cuisine, clothing and

folk games.

CCTV reaches audiences of approximately 800 million with programmes like its annual Chinese New Year broadcast.

## Astana Marriott Launches New Sunday Brunch

By Michelle Witte

**ASTANA** – The Astana Marriott Hotel launched its new Sunday brunch on Oct. 19 in the hotel's Aroma Restaurant.

Brunches will be held every third Sunday of each month and feature an international buffet and a separate children's play and learning area organized by the team of Astana Gymboree. Brunches will run from 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. and cost 8,500 tenge (approx. US\$45), with a 50 percent discount offered for children from 6-11 years of age. Marketing Manager Nina Nikitina explained at the inaugural brunch on Oct. 19. Children under 5 years old eat and play for free.

The selection debuted on Sunday, which included oysters, seafood and sushi, a selection of salads and hot dishes, cheese and charcuterie, as well as a spread of house-made breads, pastries and desserts, is intended to provide something for everyone. Executive Chef Benoit Letellier said. "With the brunch menu we are trying to meet everyone's taste and to reach a wider range of people from both local and international communi-

ties. We are trying to have different cuisines for everybody, so everyone can find their way – not providing only European or only local dishes."

With an Indonesian sous-chef and a Thai pastry chef, Letellier calls Aroma's kitchen a good mix: "With such an eclectic team, we complement each other in terms of creativity and style added with the national touches of Kazakhstan. So it's a mix, and it allows us to cater tailor made events and meet different expectations..."

The Astana Marriott Sunday



## Almaty's Medeo Skating Rink Opens for the Season

By Dmitry Lee

Almaty's renowned outdoor skating rink Medeo opened its doors for the season on Oct. 4.

Medeo is located 1,691 metres above sea level, which makes it the highest skating rink in the world. The mountain valley was named in honour of Medeo, a wanderer who lived in the early 20th century

and established settlements in the mountains atop the Almaty mountain range.

The rink's hours of operation have changed from last year, according to information from the rink's website. Weekday skating sessions now begin at 6 p.m. and end at 11 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. On Fridays and the weekends, there will be two sessions from 10 a.m.

to 4 p.m. and an evening session from 6 p.m. until 11 p.m.

Two-hour skate rental starts from \$10 for adults, \$4 for students while children until 7 years old and pensioners are allowed to skate for free. Rooms at the adjacent Medeo hotel can also be rented for \$30 for a regular room or \$100 for a deluxe room. The facility also offers a sauna, gym and conference hall for business meetings.



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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2014

## Kazakhstan Paralympians Win Nine Medals So Far at Incheon 2014 Asian Para Games

By Nadezhda Khamitova

ASTANA – Kazakhstan's paralympians won one gold, four silver and four bronze medals over two days at the Incheon 2014 Asian Para Games.

On Oct. 20, Anuar Akhmetov of Astana set an Asian Para Games record in the 100 metre backstroke for athletes with visual impairments, with a time of 1:10.66. He also won the silver medal in the 100m freestyle event on the same day, while his teammate Mansurbek Ibrashev of Shymkent took the bronze.

"It was tough struggle for victory. My competitor was from Japan, he was really strong, but I didn't want to give him my gold medal," Akhmetov told The Astana Times. "I would like to underline that all the athletes are strong and are demonstrating their best techniques, which takes these competitions to a new level."

Akhmetov is one of the leading athletes of these Para Games. On Oct. 19, he won two silver medals in the 400m and 50m freestyle events.

On the same day, Dmitry Lee won bronze medals in the 100m freestyle and 100m butterfly for athletes with physical impairments.

Wheelchair dance sport competitions kicked off on Oct. 20 and the first day brought Kazakhstan a silver medal. South Korean pair Jaewoo Lee and Hye-Jong Yang, currently second in the world in the combi standard class one, took the crown once again with

high marks in all their dances. Kazakhstan's Ardash Otarbayev and Aidana Beglenova took silver, while Hong Kong's Wah Keung Ma and Hei Man Ho came in third.

Kazakhstan's volleyball team has a good chance for a medal, as they won their first game against Japan. The volleyball competition will run through the end of the week.

The Incheon 2014 Asian Para Games kicked off with a colourful opening ceremony launched by the Prime Minister of South Korea Chung Hung Won at Munhak Stadium on Oct. 18.

In an opening speech, President of the Asian Paralympic Committee Dato Zainal Abu Zarin paid tribute to the Korean government, authority and citi-

zens of Incheon for their unwavering commitment in organising the Games, which were launched about two weeks after the end of the Asian Games.

"Here in Incheon, we will witness the magic of para sporting action. To be able to be here, to be among Asia's best, is a feat in itself. To everyone who has made it to Incheon, congratulations," said Dato Zainal in his speech.

Kazakhstan is represented by 84 athletes in nine sports: archery, athletics, judo, powerlifting, shooting, swimming, table tennis, sitting volleyball and wheelchair dance.

The 2014 Asian Para Games opened on Oct. 18 and will run through Oct. 24. Athletes from 41 countries will compete in 23 sports.

## Kazakhstan Wins Gold, Overall Medal Count at Astana Judo Grand Prix

By Dmitry Lee

Kazakhstan's former world champion and top judoka Maxim Rakov won gold in the men's under 100 kilograms category at the season-ending Asian leg of the International Judo Federation's (IJF) World Tour held at the capital's Sary Arka cycle track Oct. 9 through 12.

Rakov clinched his fifth Grand Prix title by defeating 2012 London Olympics bronze medalist Dmitri Peters of Germany in the finals. The fight was close and was eventually decided in the shido penalties.

Kazakhstan also won the tournament's medal count with two gold, two silver and three bronze medals. One of Kazakhstan's gold medals was won by Yeldos Smetov, who also won gold at the recent 17th Asian Games in South Korea.

The event attracted 277 competitors from 37 countries and included a surprise gold medal win by Tajik Komronshoh Ustopiriyon. It was the first gold medal taken by an athlete from Tajikistan.

## Oskars Bartulis: I Don't Mind Being Called Askar

By Yerlan Zhanayev

Latvian hockey star and Astana Barys player Oskars Baruis recently played his first match with Barys against Metallurg from Novokuznetsk. Following the match, Bartulis spoke with The Astana Times about playing with his new team.

*You've arrived, so to speak, from the ship to the ball. How has such a short adjustment period been in Astana?*

The club management organised everything perfectly so that it was not necessary to think about anything other than hockey. Prior to arrival, I trained hard in Latvia.

*In your debut match, you spent more than 25 minutes on the ice; this is the second longest time in the team. Isn't that too rough a start?*

The Barys coaching staff trusted me. They let me play both in the majority and in the minority, and in equal compositions. I just tried to play my best hockey. I really wanted to play.

*For you it was the first match under the new rules...*

Before the game, I consulted with partners on this issue. For example, when playing in the minority, you do not have much chance to shoot because the play area is much bigger. One needs to get used to it.

*In your first match for Barys, you went on the ice together with Roman Savchenko. Did you find common language with him quickly?*

We had only one training ses-

sion together and discussed some details. I think if things continue in the same vein, then with each game understanding with Savchenko will be better.

*Your technique and style is reminiscent of legendary Latvian defender Sandis Ozolinsh. Did you specifically study it or is it just a coincidence?*

Seriously? I didn't train how to do it. By the way, it is an interesting comparison. It would be necessary to further explore his technique. Ozolinsh was my idol.

*On the eve of your first match, Barys head coach Andrey Nazarov recalled the Olympic tournament match between the Canadians and the Latvian team, where you participated. He noted that for the Maple Leaves that was the most intense match in Sochi. Do you remember that game?*

Yes, it was a very stubborn game, I remember it. The score was tied for a long time, but at the end of the match the Canadians put the squeeze on us, realising the game in the majority. We lacked just a little bit to win a historic victory for Latvia.

*Have you had an opportunity to see Astana?*

I haven't had such an opportunity because I have spent all my time training and acclimatising. Now I have to concentrate on the games, and then if I have free time, I will have a look at Astana.

*Your name is consonant with the Kazakh name Askar. Would you mind if the fans start calling you Askar?*

No, I would not mind at all.



Oskars Bartulis is shown during a regular KHL season game.

## Kazakh Boxer Akberbayev Defeats American Sarran, Extends Winning Streak

By Dmitry Lee

Almaty boxer Isa Akberbayev knocked out Geovanni Sarran from Palmdale, California, in Santa Monica on Oct. 1 in round four to continue his professional 13-win career streak.

With a five-kilogramme weight disadvantage but an almost 20-centimetre height advantage over Sarran, Akberbayev, a.k.a. 'Bumblebee', (190 cm, 87.9 kgs) knocked out Sarran (170 cm, 93.1 kgs) in front of his home crowd.

Sarran, with a shorter reach, had to get close to his opponent, which made Akberbayev's job easier without having to chase the American along the ropes.

Sarran took a beating in the first three rounds and dropped in the fourth after taking a right from the Kazakh that finished the bout.

Akberbayev continues his undefeated streak, with only one 'no' decision record on his sheet that was a stoppage loss to Anthony Ferrante

in January 2013. The match was later invalidated when Ferrante failed a post-fight drug test.

Following the Akberbayev-Sarran bout, Frenchman Hassan N'Dam defeated American

Curtis Stevens by unanimous decision in the evening's other event.

## Asian Games Victories Further Country's Reputation as Sporting Nation

Continued from Page B1

The Kazakh national team's performance at the Asian Games builds on its impressive wins at the Olympic Games in London in 2012, in which Kazakhstan fin-

ished 12th in the medals tally with seven gold medals, one silver and five bronze.

Kazakhstan's reputation as a sports nation is also being bolstered by its hosting of major sporting events. The 11th Asian

Winter Games in 2011 were held in Almaty and Astana, where Kazakhstan topped the medals count with 32 gold, 21 silver and 17 bronze medals. And now the country is bidding to host the 2022 Winter Olympics in Almaty.

### Total medal count by country

	G	S	B	Total
1 China	151	108	83	342
2 Korea	79	71	84	234
3 Japan	47	76	77	200
4 Kazakhstan	28	23	33	84



The Kazakhstan national Olympic team during the opening ceremony of the 17th Asian Games in Incheon.

# CAPITAL

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2014

## Astana Dombyra Party Highlights Kazakh Culture, Pride



By Malika Orazgaliyeva

ASTANA – Professional and amateur musicians participated in an Oct. 4 Dombyra party musical event at the new National Museum of Kazakhstan to promote the traditions of the Kazakh people and the national instrument known as the dombyra.

The musicians played “kuis” (instrumental compositions) on their dombyras along with other traditional Kazakh melodies and folk songs. Guests also enjoyed the traditional Kazakh treat baur-saks and the national drink kumys.

The Dombyra party was held at the museum, which was opened July 2 by Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, in order to gather those interested in Kazakh culture. The event was also attended by foreign visitors, diplomats and others.

“For us, it is important that young people do not forget their roots and understand the beauty of the national instruments, such as dombyra,” said one of the organisers of the event.

its national instrument, the dombyra. A dombyra is a two-stringed, long-necked lute-type instrument with seven to nine frets. The tear-shaped instrument is played with one, two or five fingers. In

instrument of Kazakhstan folk music.

“The idea of the Dombyra party was born during the London Olympic games in August 2012, when our athletes won another golden medal. Inspired by the victory and pride for our country, a group of young people went to Nurzhol Boulevard and started to sing folk songs and play the dombyra. A crowd began to gather and it spontaneously grew into a national event,” said one of the party’s founders, journalist Maralbek Sagynganov.

Today, Dombyra parties gather listeners not only in all regional centres of Kazakhstan, but also in countries like Mongolia, Russia, Turkey, England, Portugal and China. Usually such parties abroad are organised by Kazakh students. The invitations to the event are sent via social networks.

**A dombyra is a two-stringed, long-necked lute-type instrument with seven to nine frets. The tear-shaped instrument is played with one, two or five fingers.**

Music has been an integral part of Kazakhstan’s culture for centuries. Kazakhstan takes pride in the fact that its music is unique. Kazakh music is focused around

ancient times, dombyra players wandered around Kazakh lands strumming their instruments singing poetry as they walked. The dombyra became the focal

## BIE Commends Astana’s EXPO 2017 Preparations during Briefing in Paris

By Danna Bopezhanova

The Bureau International des Expositions (BIE) commended Astana’s preparations for EXPO 2017 as a Kazakh delegation led by First Deputy Foreign Minister and EXPO 2017 Commissioner Rapil Zhoshybaev and Chairman of the Board of the Astana EXPO 2017 national company Talgat Yermegiyev reported to the Bureau’s Executive Committee in Paris on Oct. 15.

**EXPO 2017, scheduled for June 10 through October 10, 2017, is dedicated to the theme “Future Energy” and seeks to foster action to reach energy efficiency.**

Assembly officially recognised Kazakhstan’s bid on June 10 and on fulfilment of Kazakhstan’s obligations to the BIE, including ensuring the legal basis for the EXPO organisation.

He also elaborated on the start of EXPO 2017 international promotions, outcomes of his international visits to confirm countries’ participation in the exhibition, public relations campaigns, communications tools and events. He also announced plans for the first meeting of international participants of EXPO 2017 and the first forum dedicated to the theme “Future Energy,” scheduled for Oct. 22-24 in Astana. Heads of government bodies of foreign states responsible for their participation in the EXPO as well as various experts in the field of renewable and alternative energy will be attending these events.

Talgat Yermegiyev reported on the preparatory status of the registration dossier and its main parts, including the theme of the EXPO, master, content, communication, commercialisation and financial plans and post-exhibition use of objects. He also informed on the progress of construction and other activities of the Astana EXPO 2017 national company, emphasising that all the sites of the exhibition would be finished in time and assuring the committee that Kazakh-

stan was making every effort to organise a qualitative exhibition.

At the end of the meeting, the committee commended the work done by Kazakhstan. Earlier, during an International Communication Committee session on Oct. 7, BIE General Secretary Vicente Gonzalez Loscertales underlined the high level of preparedness of the Astana team and the quality of its structured presentation on EXPO 2017 promotions, particularly underlining the non-standard application of communications tools and efforts to attract a diverse audience.

At the executive committee meeting, the BIE committee also heard reports on preparations for the Milan EXPO 2015, Horticultural EXPO Antalya 2016 and Dubai EXPO 2020.

The Kazakh delegation and the BIE leadership agreed to organise a visit of BIE General Secretary Loscertales to Kazakhstan Oct. 20 through Oct. 23.

EXPO 2017, scheduled for June 10 through October 10, 2017, is dedicated to the theme “Future Energy” and seeks to foster action to reach energy efficiency. Participants from more than 100 countries, 10 international organisations and various leading companies in the field of innovative technologies are expected to attend the event.

## First European Laser Eye Surgery Centre Opens in Astana

By Dmitry Lee

investors from abroad, because physicians are used to their own circle and do not have communication with the potential investors who would be willing to enter [the market of Kazakhstan],” said the chairman.

The investments, which have amounted to 2.5 million euros to date, according to RDC’s press service, include operational equipment, the construction of the centre according to European clinical standards, three operating rooms, using unidirectional flow diffusers with built-in micro filter ceiling type (laminar flow) and Ophthalmic Diagnostic module.

Facilities are equipped with the latest laser equipment, the first in Kazakhstan excimer laser MEL90 and the only in Astana femtosecond laser Visumax, totaling 800,000 euros. Surgeries will be carried out by experts from Europe with further training by RDC’s own specialists.

“In order to receive an eye surgery, Kazakh citizens do not necessarily need to go abroad now, such operations can be performed in Astana,” said RDC Chairman of the Board and President of the Association of Diagnostic Centres of Kazakhstan Nurzhan Otarbayev.

“Those Kazakhs who travel abroad and spend a certain amount of money [for such surgeries], can now save up to 70 percent on accommodation and airfares, plus such operations require certain post-operative observations, which can be hard to arrange in a foreign country,” Otarbayev explained.

According to him, the project has been in the process of establishment for about nine months from the beginning of the year. It has been realised thanks to the systematic work with colleagues from Slovakia and the support of young Kazakh entrepreneurs who have a clear understanding of the goals of the head of state to attract foreign investors. “I am glad that there are businessmen in Kazakhstan who connect medicine with

“We have performed eight refractive laser surgeries since Oct. 16,” said the Head of the Department of Minimally Invasive Ophthalmic Surgery at the RDC Aida Smagulova.

To date, refractive laser surgery is a new kind of ophthalmology. It is not very developed and presented in only major centres such as Astana, Almaty and Karaganda. Such methodologies, which Ofutum offers today, will be used for the first time in Kazakhstan,” she concluded.



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