



Kazakhstan Takes 8th Place in International Physics Olympiad

By Michelle Witte

ASTANA – Kazakhstan's team has come in eighth out of 85 countries in the unofficial results of the 45th International Physics Olympiad (IPHO), held at Astana's Nazarbayev University from July 13-22. Students from Kazakhstan won three gold and two silver medals at the event, in which 383 high school students participated.

During the competition, students from around the world competed in two rounds of assessment, a five-hour theoretical round consisting of three questions and an experimental round in which the students perform experiments. Students can be awarded gold, silver or bronze medals for their efforts, or honourable mentions.

According to IPHO rules, gold medals are to be awarded to about 8 percent of participants, silver to 25 percent. About 67 percent of participants receive some type of recognition.

Each country can send a team of five students to the competition. Technically, the competition is between individuals only, and team performance is not officially ranked.

Amir Bralin, Nurislam Tursynbek and Danat Issa brought home gold medals for Kazakhstan, while Daulet Kurmantayev and Nurbek Dinmuhammed took silver. The students have represented Kazakhstan at other national and international science and mathematics competitions.

Continued on Page A2



Minister of Education and Science Aslan Sarinzhapov (c) with winners of the 45th International Physics Olympiad.

National Commissions for UNESCO Gather in Astana

By Malika Orazgaliyeva

ASTANA – The first interregional meeting of the National Commissions for UNESCO took place on July 22-24 in Astana. The meeting, held for the first time outside of UNESCO headquarters in Paris, was jointly organised by Kazakhstan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Culture, as well as the Akimat (city administration) of Astana and UNESCO.

The meeting brought together National Commissions representing all regions of the world to discuss perspectives for capacity-building, strengthening cooperation and promoting National Commissions' best practices.

Heads and members of 125 member states' National Commissions representing UNESCO's five regional groups – the Arab states, Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and North America as well as Latin America and the Caribbean – attended the meeting.

Kazakhstan's National Commission includes the heads of key ministries and national committees, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Sport Serik Sapiev,

chairs of UNESCO-associated schools and clubs as well as a number of prominent scholars and public figures in cultural and artistic circles.

Representatives of UNESCO's partner international organisations ALECSO (the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation), IICAS (the Institute for International, Comparative and Area Studies) and TURKSOY (the International Organisation for Turkic Culture) attended the meeting on behalf of observing parties.

"Kazakhstan warmly welcomes participants of the first interregional meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO, gathered today in our young capital. We are pleased that the leadership of UNESCO entrusted Kazakhstan with holding the first event in this format. I hope that such meetings will become a positive tradition and an effective instrument of our cooperation," Secretary of State of Kazakhstan Adilbek Dzhaksybekov said, reading the welcoming speech of Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev to the gathered participants.

Continued on Page A3

Visit Increases Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan Cooperation

By Arsen Nurabayev

BISHKEK – Kazakh Minister of Foreign Affairs Erlan Idrissov paid an official visit to the Kyrgyz Republic, on July 15-16, where he was received by President Almazbek Atambayev and interacted with his counterpart.

Idrissov began the conversation, held in the similar Kazakh and Kyrgyz languages, by conveying the best wishes of Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev to the leader of the neighboring state and the Kyrgyz people.

The parties discussed topical international and bilateral issues and stressed the impor-

ance of joint efforts to maintain regional stability and security. They also reviewed the process of Kyrgyzstan's accession to the Customs Union and the Eurasian Economic Union and intensification of Kazakh-Kyrgyz trade and economic cooperation.

Atambayev outlined the prospects for further development of his country and also praised the visionary leadership of Nazarbayev, which has ensured a progressive increase in Kazakhstan's socio-economic performance and living standards. Atambayev said he expects a fruitful visit and talks with his Kazakh counterpart this November in Astana.

In his turn, Idrissov informed

the Kyrgyz President on the priorities of the political and socio-economic development of his country in accordance with the Kazakhstan 2050 Strategy. He stressed that Kazakhstan was interested in sustainable development of all countries of the region and intended to continue its efforts to achieve this goal.

Idrissov's visit began on the shores of Lake Issyk Kul, a prized tourist destination in Kyrgyzstan, favoured by guests from Kazakhstan and Central Asia, as well as Russia.

There he met with Kyrgyz Foreign Minister Erlan Abdyldayev to discuss Kazakh-Kyrgyz bilateral cooperation, regional coop-

eration and international issues. The setting clearly impacted the atmosphere of the talks, which were "frank, kind and truly fraternal," according to a Facebook post by the Kazakh Foreign Ministry.

During the meeting, the state and prospects of Kazakh-Kyrgyz bilateral cooperation, and current issues of region cooperation and international interest were discussed.

"We have a historical connection and there is a feeling of friendliness between our countries. We have one past and a common future ahead waiting for us," said Idrissov.

Continued on Page A8

Kazakh Foreign Ministry Expresses Condolences over #MH17, Calls for 'Most Thorough Investigation'

By Altair Nurbekov

ASTANA – Kazakhstan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued its first comments on the loss of Malaysian Air flight MH17 and the deaths of the nearly 300 people on board on July 17.

The comments, posted on Facebook and Twitter, say:

"We express our deepest condolences to the families and the close ones of those who perished due to the crash of the #MH17 Malaysian Airlines airliner in eastern Ukraine. We are most deeply

concerned with what happened. We believe that there should be a most thorough investigation and that all the circumstances of what happened be established. We are working to determine whether or not there had been citizens of Kazakhstan on board the plane and will share this information once we have it. Generally, we yet again call on all sides involved in the conflict in eastern Ukraine to cease fighting as soon as possible and to find solutions to their differences through peaceful means."

Astana's Nibali Wins Tour de France, Sets New Records



See story on B7

Golovkin Gets Big Win at Madison Square Garden



See story on B1

NATION

Proposed Changes to Oralman Legislation to Relax Some Settlement Rules A2

Kazakhstan's 'Best Family' to be Announced in September A2

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

Industrial Production of Coalbed Methane Discussed at International Forum A4

Kazakhstan Improves Position in Global Innovation Index A5

INSIDE

EDITORIAL

Kazakhstan's ambitions for economic and social growth A6

OPINIONS

YESPAYEV: Knowledge-Based Economy Key Component of Kazakhstan 2050 A7

MUKANOV: Conserving, Increasing Kazakhstan's Forests are Priorities A7

NATION & CAPITAL

Astana Hosts International Wheelchair Dance Competition B1

Kazakhstan's Southern Border Holds Hidden Tourism Potential B1

NATION

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 2014

Proposed Changes to Oralman Legislation to Relax Some Settlement Rules

By Michelle Witte

ASTANA – Kazakhstan may once again adjust legislation relating to ethnic Kazakhs wishing to immigrate to Kazakhstan (called oralmans, “returnees,” in Kazakh) in response to the country’s demographic goals and the needs of migrants.

According to Aslan Karzhaubayev, vice chairman of the Committee on Migration of Kazakhstan’s Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, who spoke with The Astana Times on July 24, Kazakhstan has always had an open-door policy for ethnic Kazakhs wishing to immigrate. Currently, he said, more than 1 million Kazakhs live in China and Uzbekistan each, slightly fewer in Russia and about 500,000 in Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia. There are also Kazakhs in Iran, Afghanistan and Turkey.

In December 2013, he said, the laws regarding returning Kazakhs were changed. Most returnees, he said, come from the south, from Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, and they settled in southern Kazakhstan. To help even out the country’s population, in December, oralmans began to be directed to seven regions in the country’s north and west: Akmola, Pavlodar, Kostanay, West Kazakhstan, East Kazakhstan and Atyrau – areas that were experiencing population loss and where there would be more space for housing and new construction. Many of the northern areas are also places with relatively high Russian populations and lower ethnic Kazakh populations.

“But this mechanism did not work,” Karzhaubayev said. “Over the past 20 years of migration, we have seen a tendency of ‘broken families’ migrating to Kazakhstan – I mean when parents were moving without their children, because the children had to finish their education first or they were in the army. And now, when these children finally decided to move to Kazakhstan, they have to follow the new legislation process and they cannot join their families, as they cannot choose where to live any more.” The returnees also can’t apply for citizenship until they’ve lived in the country for four years.

This caused some resentment among returnees, Karzhaubayev said, and has led the committee to draft some changes to the law.

In April, new approaches to the law were determined, which Karzhaubayev says will be presented to Parliament in September. The changes include allowing returnees to settle anywhere they choose and get oralman status, allowing them to apply for permanent residence immediately and allowing



Kazakhstan is to adjust legislation relating to ethnic Kazakhs wishing to immigrate to Kazakhstan.

them to apply for citizenship as soon as they have received permanent resident status and be granted citizenship as early as within three months.

On April 22, Minister of Labour and Social Protection of Kazakhstan Tamara Duisenovna announced the proposed changes to the law, and in May, Chairman of the Committee on Migration Salamat Amanbayev discussed other changes to the immigrant legislation, including the free movement – regardless of quotas and permissions – of “multinationals investing capital in three main industries of the country: manufacturing, agribusiness and exploration,” reported News.nur.kz. The Employment Roadmap 2020 programme plus housing benefits and access to microcredit were to be extended as incentives to promote internal migration north.

At the April 22 government meeting, Duisenovna reported that if current trends continue, by 2050 the population of Kazakhstan’s northern regions will shrink by 900,000 people while the population of the south will increase by more than 5 million.

What the new approaches propose is using benefits to draw returnees to

particular regions (14 are proposed), rather than forcing them to move there. If the changes are approved, oralmans who choose to migrate to the designated northern and western regions will receive additional benefits, such as compensation for their travel expenses and assured housing. Returnees have up to one year after their migration to the country to take advantage of these benefits. And, Karzhaubayev notes, regional governments will still have the right to decide how many returnees they are able to accommodate.

Some 5 million ethnic Kazakhs live outside of Kazakhstan, Karzhaubayev said, and some 952,000 have migrated to Kazakhstan since 1991. “In some years, more than 70,000 people moved to Kazakhstan in a short period of time,” he said. “Now we are seeing a decline – during the past three years, only 30,000 people moved to the country. So far this year, only 8,000 people have migrated to Kazakhstan.”

This migration is often described as “returning to their homeland,” but as Karzhaubayev says, most oralmans are not the children of Kazakhs fleeing the famine and collectivisation of the 1930s, but peo-

ple leaving places they have lived in for centuries, the traditional spread of Kazakh settlements having been much larger than today’s national boundaries. “We don’t have any illusions that all 5 million Kazakhs that now live abroad will decide to move to the country and we don’t have a policy to regulate that. All we do is just establish good conditions for their coming back,” he said.

In addition to the fast-track citizenship process and the incentives to move to designated regions, the government has also set up four regional centres where returnees can take get help, including professional training courses.

The biggest hurdles for returning Kazakhs relate to language, Karzhaubayev said. The returnees all speak Kazakh well, he said, but Kazakhstan has many regions where Russian is the lingua franca, and often necessary for work and professional life. Literacy is also an issue. “Sometimes [oralmans] cannot write, as those coming from China use Chinese characters and oralmans from Uzbekistan use the Roman alphabet.” Returnees also face stereotypes, including that they are poorly educated or backward.

To help them adjust, four regional centres have been set up, one in Mangistau, one in Karaganda and two in South Kazakhstan to give oralmans free access to language classes and vocational skills and other training. “As we are now focusing on new regions, we have decided to give power to regional administration to open such centres in their areas,” Karzhaubayev said.

“To move even from one city to another within one country is not a simple thing,” Karzhaubayev noted. “To move from one country to another is much more complicated. And if people decide to move – it’s not a spontaneous decision. They all have different reasons. Sometimes I ask myself, if I was also born somewhere outside modern Kazakhstan, would I have come back after 1991? I cannot answer this question. Some decide to move because of the economic growth of the country; some have problems with assimilation in their current countries. Some would like to preserve the language and traditions. We don’t ask why oralmans are moving to Kazakhstan. We just want to give the opportunity for these people to start a new life here.”

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

“As a result of complex testing, about 44 percent of prospective students successfully passed the tests for enrollment in higher education institutions,” Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Kazakhstan Takir Balykbekbayev said at the July 24 Central Communications Service (CCS) media briefing. “The complex testing is held for graduates from previous years who plan to enroll in higher education establishments and for graduates of technical and vocational education. In total, 87,060 applications to take part in the testing were submitted,” he informed. Meanwhile, according to him, the maximum 100 points were scored by just nine prospective students. The average number of points scored was 44.9 and 56,019 people did not score the minimum enrollment points. About 44 percent of prospective students successfully passed the test and can enter higher educational institutions.

“More than 80 ethnic groups live in the Pavlodar region. Nine offices of the Regional Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan work in the region and 50 ethno-cultural associations function in its towns, districts and rural areas,” Deputy Head of the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan of the Pavlodar Region Seisembai Zhetpysbayev informed at a July 23 CCS briefing. As he noted, the working body of the assembly of the region is the secretariat of the assembly, which is part of the administrative structure of the Pavlodar region. Besides, he informed that 12 people represent the region in the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan. “The council of elders that includes veterans and representatives of different ethnic groups functions as part of the regional assembly as well. Besides, there is an expert group consisting of scientists from different universities also functioning within the framework of the assembly. Moreover, it has a club of journalists for inter-ethnic relations,” Zhetpysbayev said. He also informed that sittings of the assembly are held on a regular basis. The council of the regional assembly includes 33 members representing social and ethno-cultural associations as well as state bodies. The regional assembly has 137 people representing 28 ethnic groups working within its framework,” he added.

A meeting between President Nursultan Nazarbayev and the Chairman of the Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Kazakhstan, Supreme Mufti Yerzhan Mayamerov, took place July 25, where the sides discussed topical issues of spiritual life in the country. The head of state noted that the religious situation in Kazakhstan is stable, as representatives of various faiths live in unity and harmony. The meeting also touched upon issues of religious education. Nazarbayev stressed the importance of the spiritual and moral education of youth and the need for a more thorough analysis of this sector. Mayamerov also informed the President about the ongoing work of the Kazakh Spiritual Administration of Muslims. At the end of the meeting the President congratulated all Kazakh Muslims on the upcoming Oraza Ait holiday.

A nationwide anti-corruption movement, Zhanaru, was initiated in Kazakhstan at the beginning of this year, Tengrinews reported. “We plan to conduct preventive measures and teach civil servants to resist pressure [to engage in corruption] from their superiors and from those who offer bribes to civil servants,” Vice Chairman of Zhanaru Murat Abenov said. “Personally, as a person who has worked in regional administrations, the Civil Service Agency, Parliament and the central government, I would say that only 5 percent of civil servants are prone to corruption. The remaining civil servants are honest people who live on their salaries and work diligently,” Abenov said. Anti-corruption education for the population is among the main goals of Zhanaru. Abenov and other like-minded people volunteering in the anti-corruption movement are planning to open an anti-corruption school. These schools will teach people to search for information about the work of government agencies, to recognise when their rights are being violated, to know which public services are provided for free and how they are supposed to be provided and to stand up for their rights. At these schools, citizens will learn how to act in real-life situations such as accessing land and housing, interacting with traffic police and more. The movement will release annual reports and work toward achieving transparency in the work of government agencies.

Kazakhstan’s ‘Best Family’ to be Announced in September



By Rufiya Ospanova

ASTANA – The “best family in Kazakhstan” as determined by the Mereli Otbasy competition, will be announced on Sept. 12, said Makhabbat Bekbosynova, chairwoman of the National Commission for Women, Family and Demographic Policy under the President, at a recent Central Communications Service (CCS) media briefing.

“The regional round of the competition took place May 23. It identified the families that will take part Sept. 12 in a big gala concert and Mereli Otbasy, which will be held in the city. This concert will take place on the eve of Family Day and at that time the best family of Kazakhstan for the year will be declared,” explained Bekbosynova.

She recalled that the Mereli Otbasy contest, conducted in two phases, started on April 1 in all regions of Kazakhstan. Applications for participation in the competition were submitted by more than 500

families. Selection of participants was determined in the qualifying rounds in each region, as well as in Almaty and Astana.

“The first round was held at the level of cities and regions of our country. The second round was held at the level of regional centres and cities of Astana and Almaty, which determined the best family. But I want to say that the best family is certainly the conventional name,” said the head of the National Commission.

Bekbosynova also named the families that reached the finals of the competition.

“In Astana, it is the Akhmetovs family. This is a very interesting family, a dynasty of railwaymen. In this family dynasty are 67 people and they all work in Kazakhstan Temir Zholy. In Almaty, the Zhumayevs, the family of alpinists, won. The head of this family conquered more than 14 of the highest peaks in the world. In the Akmola region, a family of teachers won, whose teaching experience is more than 300 years. It was not easy for the competition committee to determine the finalists,” she added.

Systematic and comprehensive work was established on strengthening and improving the status of

the family. The national competition is being held on the initiative of President Nursultan Nazarbayev to revive moral values and cultivate a positive image of marriage and family, as well as to raise the status of the family in the republic.

In 2013, Family Day and the annual Mereli Otbasy were announced.

In districts (cities), the competition was organised by the department of internal policy of the district akimats (local administrations); in the regions, Astana and Almaty cities, the organisers were internal control policy under the overall supervision of akims (governors) of respective territorial units.

“Materials on the 16 winners of regional competitions, as well as Astana and Almaty, which were held May 23, were presented to the National Commission for the final round. Defining the best family of the 16 contenders is based on the results of SMS and Internet voting. Information about the start of voting will be provided through the national TV channels,” Bekbosynova announced.

The name of the winner of Mereli Otbasy will become known at the grand final on Sept. 12. The TV show will be broadcast Sept. 14, Family Day.

Kazakhstan Takes 8th Place in International Physics Olympiad

Continued from Page A1

“The Olympiad was both challenging and interesting. The participants were very intelligent. Students from East Asia are our main competitors,” said Issa, as reported by Tengrinews. “Take China, for example – every year they bring five contestants, and every year, all of these five win gold medals. This year, South Korea showed excellent results, too.” China, Taiwan and South Korea were the top three teams at this year’s competition.

Opening the competition, IPHO President Hans Jordens commended Kazakhstan for drawing the largest number of participants yet seen to the Olympiad. At the closing ceremony in the capital’s Palace of Peace and Accord, Jordens and Kazakh Minister of Education and Science Aslan Sarinzhypov handed out the awards.

“We are proud of you,” Sarinzhypov said at the closing ceremony,

reports Kazinform. “Your success would be impossible without preparation, so I want to express my gratitude to your teachers, coaches and heads of the delegations. To raise and educate children – this is a great mission,” he said, adding that he hoped that the interest of young people in physics would continue to be encouraged.

The 2014 IPHO was organised by Kazakhstan’s Ministry of Education and Science and the Daryn National Scientific and Practical Centre with the support of the akimat (city administration) of Astana. It was sponsored by ExxonMobil Kazakhstan.

While in the country, visiting delegations were taken to the notable sights of Astana as well as the Borovoye resort area a few hours drive from the capital.

The 2015 IPHO will take place in Mumbai, India.

EURASIA&WORLD

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 2014

EXTERNAL NEWS IN BRIEF

According to Deputy Minister of Transport and Communications of Kazakhstan Mereke Pshembayev, 157 kilometres of the Western Europe – Western China road will be commissioned by the end of the year. “The Western Europe – Western China road will be commissioned and opened for traffic,” Pshembayev said at a July 25 Central Communications Service (CCS) media briefing. “The total length of the corridor makes 2,452 kilometres. Construction and repair work is underway in five regions of our country. Presently, the works are underway at 1,445 kilometres of the road. Over 35,000 people are employed in the construction,” the deputy minister said. According to Pshembayev, the work is underway and near completion in the Aktope region. In the Kyzylorda region, 812 kilometres of the road will be built this year as well. Construction has already launched at the Shymkent – Tashkent road section. The reconstruction of this section, according to the deputy minister, is being financed by the World Bank. “Works are also underway at a road section between Shymkent and Taraz. We plan to build the first tunnel in Kazakhstan there. The construction is being carried out by an Iranian company. In the Zhambyl region, the construction of a road section detouring to Kordai village will be completed this year,” Pshembayev noted.

During a July 21 working visit to Belarus, Prosecutor General of Kazakhstan Askhat Daulbayev met with Prosecutor General of Belarus Alexander Konyuk. Daulbayev expressed his gratitude to Konyuk for the invitation to visit Belarus and emphasised that cooperation between Kazakhstan and Belarus has a nature of strategic alliance. During the meeting, the parties expressed satisfaction with the current level of bilateral relations and discussed prospects for further cooperation. The counterparts stressed that the importance of consolidating efforts in combating the challenges and threats of the modern world increases immensely in the context of the current strategic goals on ensuring international and regional security. At the meeting, Daulbayev noted that cooperation between the general prosecutor's offices, both in multilateral and bilateral formats, is quite fruitful. Issues regarding the fight against transnational organised crime and money laundering, extremism, terrorism and drug trafficking were also discussed at the meeting. As a result of the meeting, the sides signed an agreement on cooperation between their general prosecutor's offices and a memorandum of understanding between the prosecutor's offices of Astana and Minsk. Speaking at a press conference held after the signing ceremony, the prosecutor general of Kazakhstan emphasised that the signed agreement seeks to strengthen cooperation between the law enforcement authorities of the two states and makes an important contribution to combating crime and ensuring law and order.

Secretary of State of Kazakhstan Adilbek Dzhasybekov met Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of France to Kazakhstan Francis Etienne on July 22 to discuss the current bilateral cooperation between Kazakhstan and France, including military and technical cooperation. Preparation for the official visit of President of France François Hollande to Kazakhstan, which has been scheduled for the second half of 2014, was also addressed by the parties.

Kazakhstan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has called upon Israel and Palestine to stop the bloodshed in the region, the press service of the Foreign Ministry reported. The ministry expressed deep concern over the escalation of the crisis in the Gaza Strip, which has caused numerous civilian deaths. “We are calling upon Israel and Palestine to take immediate and effective measures to stop the bloodshed and resume peaceful negotiations. Kazakhstan supports the initiative and concerted efforts of the international community, particularly under the auspices of the UN, involving the development of mutually acceptable conditions and approaches to resolving the decades-old conflict,” the statement said. The ministry added that further escalation would most certainly lead to destabilisation of the volatile Middle East region, which would undermine both the parties currently in conflict and the international community that is working towards achieving a ceasefire and stability in the region.

Almaty Hosts Retreat for Landlocked Nations' UN Representatives

By Altair Nurbekov

ALMATY – Kazakhstan's largest city located in the picturesque foothills of the Tien Shan mountains hosted a retreat on July 14-16 for the permanent representatives to the United Nations from landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) as they sought to share experiences in fighting the common challenges.

Kazakh Foreign Minister Erlan Idrissov, UN Deputy Secretary General and High Representative on LLDCs Gyan Chandra Acharya and Executive Secretary of the Kazakh Ministry of Transport and Communications Zamir Saginov, as well as representatives of international organisations, including the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the World Trade Organisation (WTO) attended the event.

The event at the Ritz Carlton hotel, with a great view of the city and the mountains, was organised to discuss implementing the Almaty Programme of Action (APA), adopted at the UN-supported international conference of LLDCs held in the city on Aug. 28-29, 2003.

The jubilee review conference devoted to the implementation of the APA will take place in Vienna on Nov. 3-5. Holding the retreat in Kazakhstan is the nation's contribution to the preparatory process of the Vienna conference and the interests of landlocked countries, the country's Foreign Ministry noted in a news release.

“We decided to organise this ambassadorial retreat of LLDCs in Almaty, the southern capital of Kazakhstan, for a reason. As you

are aware, Kazakhstan initiated the adoption of the APA in 2003 for the developing countries that have no access to the sea. It is gratifying that this document made it into the history of the UN and today we are actively preparing for the second United Nations conference for a comprehensive 10-year review of the implementation of the APA in accordance with General Assembly resolution 66/214. Kazakhstan, as the initiator of the process, is interested in the success of the meeting. That's why we organised this retreat,” explained Idrissov in his welcoming speech.

Acharya noted the relevance of holding the event in Almaty given the historical continuity and the economic success of the country. “We are in a country whose leadership under President Nazarbayev has been visionary and committed to promoting prosperity, security and welfare of all people of Kazakhstan by following a vigorous policy of building infrastructure, connecting Europe with Asia and creating logistic hubs with huge investment through revival and modernisation of the old Silk Road ... The World Bank ranks Kazakhstan as one of top 50 most business-friendly countries in the world,” he said.

One of the major conditions for the economic development of any country is its progressive integration into the global transport linkages, which implies the realisation of transit potential due to the attractiveness of their terrestrial communications, maritime and airspace to international transport of passengers, cargo and goods.

The problems of landlocked countries were clearly explained in Idrissov's speech. “Lack of territorial access to the sea, remoteness

and isolation from world markets, additional border crossings, cumbersome transit procedures and inefficient logistics systems make LLDCs pay 30 percent more for travel and other expenses during the trading, which greatly exceeds the costs of the seaside states,” he said.

APA, practically the only existing programme of the sort, is a kind of a road map to ensure the special needs of LLDCs. It contains specific measures and recommendations concerning the policy in the spheres of transit and infrastructure development. The document also provides financial and technical assistance to the specified group of countries.

In the words of Idrissov, Kazakhstan is committed to the objectives of the rapid realisation of the road map for the implementation of the APA.

“The Kazakh government is working hard on the development of trade and transport sectors, including upgrading existing facilities, increasing the commercial orientation of transport services and eliminating non-physical barriers to the development of transit transport,” he reported.

Kazakhstan is the largest landlocked state in the world. Since the adoption of the APA, the republic has made significant progress toward sustainable development, despite the lack of access to the sea.

“Together with other countries, including landlocked ones, we are trying to reflect our priorities in the discussed documents,” noted the foreign minister.

“The ambassadorial retreat of LLDCs, in our view, should include the development of recommendations for inclusion in the global plan of action for the next period to achieve the objectives of

the APA. As an important task in this regard, we need to focus our efforts on the adoption of legally-binding global and regional instruments, thus really protecting the interests of landlocked countries. Recommendations must take into account all the lessons learned from the APA, as well as fully correspond with the decisions of the UN global conferences in the field of development, including Rio+20, and consider future challenges as sustainable development post-2015,” he concluded.

In his turn, UN Deputy Secretary General Acharya said, “There is consensus that the Almaty Programme of Action has been an important instrument in highlighting landlockedness and other special development challenges that LLDCs face at the international level. ... Many LLDCs have improved their macroeconomic environment, and as a result have become attractive business destinations for foreign investors. ... [But] the progress has been uneven and unsteady. Poverty levels have decreased to almost 22 percent in aggregate terms in LLDCs – just as in other developing countries. But a disaggregated study shows that a large majority of them have almost 40 percent of their populations living below the poverty line.”

Permanent Representative of Zambia to the UN and chair of the group of developing countries Muaba Patricia Quasis Botha noted that Kazakhstan's candidacy for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council in 2017-2018 is positively perceived in the landlocked countries as an opportunity to provide more attention to their problems in this authoritative body.

In his speech, Saginov provided an overview of Kazakhstan's con-

sistent efforts on the development of transport routes and the use of the geographical position of the country for good.

“Formation of a modern transport infrastructure in Kazakhstan, as well as ensuring its integration in the international transport system and realisation of transit potential, is our main goal,” he said. “There are projects being realised on the way to develop the Western Europe – Western China road corridor and railways in the east-west and north-south directions. ... These projects will join the so-called eastern and western gates of Kazakhstan at Khoros and the Aktau port and operation of rail crossing points with China (Zhetygen - Korgas) and Uzen (state border with Turkmenistan) will make it possible to transport goods toward the Middle East and Europe even sooner.”

As Saginov noted, “Currently the main flow of traffic between Asia and Europe is carried out mostly by sea transport. The share of land transport is only 0.2-0.5 percent. In order to attract transit traffic through Kazakhstan, we have a task to provide the re-orientation of the China-EU traffic route and increase the share of such shipments to 8 percent of the total volume by 2020, given that the total transit of all forms of transport will eventually increase by two times and reach 30 million tons, compared with 15.4 million tons in 2009.”

In his state-of-the-nation address, Strategy Kazakhstan 2050, Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev noted that the republic aims to enter the top 30 most developed countries by 2050. Many problems reflected in Strategy 2050 are consistent with the objectives of the APA. The achievement of ambitious goals is directly correlated with the elimination of trade and transit barriers and development of a logistics infrastructure, all issues most sharply faced by the landlocked developing countries.

US Ambassador-Designate Says Will Lead Growing Engagement in Kazakhstan

By Michelle Witte

ASTANA – “As Kazakhstan increases its role and voice in regional and international affairs, the United States wishes to be Kazakhstan's trusted strategic partner,” George Krol, U.S. President Barack Obama's nomination for ambassador to Kazakhstan, testified to the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee on July 17.

Krol is currently U.S. Ambassador to Uzbekistan and served as ambassador to Belarus from 2003-2006. He joined the U.S. Foreign Service in 1982 and has worked in U.S. missions in Warsaw, New Delhi, St. Petersburg, Moscow, Kiev and Minsk and served as director of the Russian Affairs Office at the U.S. State Department and as deputy assistant secretary for South and Central Asian affairs. Earlier in his career, from 1995-1997, he was special assistant to the ambassador-at-large for New Independent States (the states now known as the Commonwealth of Independent States). He has degrees from America's Harvard University in history and from the U.K.'s Oxford University in philosophy, politics and economics. Krol was tapped to be U.S. ambassador to Turkmenistan in 2007, but never confirmed.

“If confirmed, I would intend to use diplomatic experience in the Central Asia region where I now serve as Ambassador to Uzbekistan and previously as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, as well as my interagency contacts, to lead our mission team in advancing our growing engagement with Kazakhstan in pursuit of our broader national interests of strengthening long-term stability in the Central Asia region and the world, promoting American economic and business interests, encouraging respect for universal human rights and preventing any threats to our national security emerging from this region,” Krol told the committee that must approve his nomination before it goes to the full Senate for a final vote.

The relationship between the U.S. and Kazakhstan is growing in depth and importance, the ambassador-designate said. “Our Strategic

Partnership with Kazakhstan has become increasingly important as Kazakhstan takes its rightful place on the world stage as a country of consequence,” Krol said. U.S. investment in Kazakhstan has reached roughly \$31 billion, and ties in the spheres of security, education and civil society have expanded, Krol noted.

The role of the U.S. is not to dictate, but to provide the Kazakh people with an example of a prosperous, rule-based democracy, he said. “The choice will be Kazakhstan's to make, but the United States will always be a reliable principled influence and partner for Kazakhstan's efforts to advance market reform and to develop into a free, democratic society respectful of the rights and choices of its citizens.”

Krol also remarked upon Kazakhstan's significant aid contribution to Afghanistan and its burgeoning international development body, KAZAid, currently being established in collaboration with USAID. “This is a country the United States can work with,” he said.

“Kazakhstan has been a generous partner in Afghanistan and a vital link in the Northern Distribution Network, and is a strong supporter of building greater transport and commercial links across the region and beyond,” Krol told the committee. “Kazakhstan has also directly supported international efforts regarding Iran's nuclear programme and has been not only a responsible partner but also a world leader in global nonproliferation efforts, having given up at its independence what was, at the time, the fourth-largest nuclear arsenal in the world.”

Kazakhstan has made “wise decisions” since its independence 22 years ago, the ambassador-designate said, citing economic reforms he credited for the country's rise to middle-income status, as well as the Bolashak international scholarship programme.

Krol was nominated for the ambassadorship on May 1. Former ambassador to Kazakhstan John Ordway has been serving as interim chargé d'affaires since Ambassador Kenneth Fairfax completed his mission in October 2013.

National Commissions for UNESCO Gather in Astana

Continued from Page A1

“Today, the promotion of the ideals of UNESCO requires constant efforts on the part of member countries and the full use of this unique tool of cooperation, the National Commission for UNESCO. I am convinced that the first interregional meeting will be an important step towards strengthening partnerships,” the President said in his address.

According to the head of state, Kazakhstan is making every possible effort in promoting UNESCO's values, principles and ideas of tolerance. Kazakhstan has put forward a number of global initiatives, including the International Year and Decade of the Rapprochement of Cultures. Astana has also become the venue for the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions.

“In May 1992, Kazakhstan joined UNESCO and was the very first member country from Central Asia. And as soon as the National Commission was created in 1994, Kazakhstan organised a cluster office of UNESCO in Almaty,” said UNESCO Deputy Director General for External Relations and Public Information Eric Falt at the opening.

“I want to thank the government of the Republic of Kazakhstan for their help and cooperation, which was really rich and rewarding ...” noted Falt, who commended UNESCO and Kazakhstan's 20 years of cooperation.

“Also, let me recognise the central role which Kazakhstan plays in providing a strategic structure for the international community on advancing cross-cultural and interreligious dialogue ...” he added.

The meeting also included a ceremony marking the inclusion of eight cultural heritage sites within Kazakhstan on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Those sites include the ancient settlements of Kayalyk, Karamergen and Talgar in the Almaty region and Aktobe, Stepinskoe, Akrytas, Kulan, Kostobe and Ornek in the Zhambyl region.

The sites have been added as part of the joint transnational serial nomination with China and Kyrgyzstan known as “Monuments of the Great Silk Road: Tien-Shan Corridor.”

Two national biosphere parks in Kazakhstan, Katon-Karaghai and Akzhayik, were also added to the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Chairman of the National Commission of Kazakhstan for UNESCO and Minister of Culture Arystanbek Mukhameduly recognised the hard work that resulted in Astana hosting the gathering.

“The purpose of the meeting is to identify ways to strengthen the partnership among the National Commissions, between the National Commissions and the UNESCO Secretariat, as well as provide a venue for a broad discussion of issues on the agenda of the organisation. Astana became the venue of the meeting due to successfully holding many international forums in Astana and the cooperation of Kazakhstan and UNESCO ...” said Mukhameduly.

He also praised the role of former Ambassador-Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to UNESCO Olzhas Suleimenov and former Chairman of the National Commission of Kazakhstan for UNESCO Imangali Tasmagambetov. Tasmagambetov, who has been the Akim (Mayor) of Astana, received a UNESCO Honorary Medal from UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova for his contribution to strengthening cooperation between UNESCO and Kazakhstan as well as safeguarding the historic heritage of the Great Silk Road.

Kazakhstan is a party to 14 international conventions under the auspices of UNESCO, including conventions on protecting intangible cultural heritage and on prohibiting the loss or sale of cultural property. In 2010, during the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures declared by the UN General Assembly at Kazakhstan's initiative, member states, international and regional partners

and the UNESCO Secretariat organised over 1,000 events around the world. Introducing the report for the year, UNESCO Director General Bokova stressed Kazakhstan's role in promoting dialogue between cultures and religions. In 2011, the UNESCO General Conference supported the Kazakh resolution (co-authored with 27 countries) on the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2023). The aim of the decade is to promote global peace-building dialogue and UNESCO's strategy “New Humanism in the 21st Century.”

During the first interregional meeting of the National Commissions for UNESCO, chairmen of the National Commission of the Asia-Pacific regional group, representing 26 countries, discussed the importance of effective collaboration between the National Commission and the General Secretariat of UNESCO. Reports were made by Director of the New Delhi UNESCO Office Shigeru Aoyagi, General Secretary of the National Commission of Kazakhstan for UNESCO and ISESCO Assel Utegenova, General Secretary of the National Commission of Saint Lucia Marcia Symphorien, Secretary General of the National Commission for Hungary Katalin Csillag and Executive Chairman of the Indonesian National Commission Arif Rahman.

The Europe and North America regional session, in which 28 countries were represented, paid particular attention to the assistance and support on offer for newly formed National Commissions.

African leaders of National Commissions representing 36 countries discussed the work of UNESCO in general and the national characteristics of African countries.

The sessions developed recommendations and conclusions that were presented at the closing plenary session.

Astana's city administration organised a cultural festival for visiting delegates, “Millennium Around Astana.”

ECONOMY

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 2014

Industrial Production of Coalbed Methane Discussed at International Forum

By Natalia Ryzhkova

KARAGANDA -- The technology of industrial development of coalbed methane in coal mining was the main topic of a June 20 international forum.

Representatives of large companies from Russia, Spain, China and the United States working in the area or interested in the project shared the experience of extracting simple hydrocarbons from coalbeds.

The forum, organised by the Karaganda city government and the KazTransGas and Sary-Arka companies, is pursuant to developing unconventional hydrocarbon resources, seeking out the options for gasification in the country and

building a new energy industry in Kazakhstan.

"We are in talks with potential investors. The project's aim is for Karaganda and Astana to use new energy sources. The question is their cost. To reduce it, we are studying the existing technology in the world," Deputy Akim (Governor) of the region Anuar Akhmetzhanov said in an interview.

The forecasted resources of colliery gas in the field's coalbeds are around 900 billion cubic metres, or about 85 percent of the overall reserves in Kazakhstan. The total annual demand for gas in the region is 1-1.5 billion cubic metres. Back in Soviet times, works were carried out in the coalfield on safe

exploration and production of methane. The task now is upgrading technologies in the priority sectors of the economy.

According to local experts, the development of production and utilisation of coalbed methane will provide non-conventional clean energy and partly replace the coal used in the energy of the industrially-developed central and eastern regions of Kazakhstan. As international experience shows, methane in the utilities sector and cars will replace less environmentally-friendly and more expensive liquid hydrocarbons and liquefied gas.

New productions open new jobs and with industrial development of methane (CH₄), coal mines'

emissions as well as the economic costs of the subsequent extraction of coal will decrease, while mining safety in the pits will increase.

Carlos Barat, director of the Spanish production company Cobro, sees cooperation with Kazakhstan as promising and believes that production costs in the region will be much lower than in Europe due to the natural conditions of flat terrain and shallow deposits.

The Sary-Arka SEC received two contracts for subsurface use and survey works are already underway. Kazakhstan lacks its own matured technology, it was stated. In the past year, the first 800-metre well was drilled in the Taldykuduk field and the experience proved

that methane production is not as simple as it seemed.

"We thought it was enough to drill a well for the gas to go from it, like in oil and gas extraction. But this method proved to be not applicable to methane, which has its own quirks and nuances," Yessen Yesirkeyev, a specialist at Taldykuduk drilling company, admitted. "We are now studying the difficulties and conducting tests."

A road map of the projects is ready and relevant legislation is in the making. The process of industrial production of coalbed methane will take a long time, which in turn necessitates tax incentives to attract investors. The company expects to get down to commercial production no later than in 2017.

ECONOMY NEWS IN BRIEF

Deputy Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Bakytzhan Sagintayev discussed Kyrgyzstan's entry into the Customs Union (CU) and the Common Economic Space (CES) at a July 26 meeting in Bishkek with Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic Joomart Otorbayev and Economic Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic Temir Sariyev. During the talks, the parties discussed the state and prospects of Kazakhstan-Kyrgyz cooperation in trade and economic activity, cooperation in the energy and water sectors, agricultural business, finance and investment. The two sides also discussed issues of Kyrgyzstan's accession to the CU and cooperation within those international organisations. During the conversation, Sagintayev and Otorbayev noted broad prospects for expanding business partnerships and emphasised the need to further deepen bilateral relations. An important outcome of the meeting was the signing of a document titled "Protocol for Kyrgyz-Kazakh talks on Bilateral Cooperation and the Entry of the Kyrgyz Republic to the Customs Union and the Common Economic Space."

National Beef Export Programme Yields Positive Results

By Doszhan Nurgaliyev

ASTANA - The regions of the country under the development programme for the export potential of beef cattle have actively formed a complete cycle for the processing of agricultural products with high added value.

According to the Kazakh Ministry of Agriculture, the country's stock breeders today purchased more than 174,000 head of cattle. Over 477,000 animals are involved in the stock's transformation process.

As a result of the efforts aimed at the development of beef cattle, over the past three years the proportion of cattle farms in the country increased from 12 to 22 percent. Since the beginning of the programme, a number of export-oriented feedlots for 97,500 head

of cattle have been built at the expense of KazAgro and private investments.

"These measures this year will increase the export of high-quality beef to 10 million tonnes," said Minister of Agriculture Assylzhan Mamytbekov.

In accordance with the objectives for the development of beef cattle and creation of a food belt around Astana, the Akmola region is implementing a number of investment projects aimed at strengthening the agro-industrial potential of the region.

The Korgalzhyn district is one of 163 districts in the country which provides food security for the internal market and creates a range of export-oriented agriculture goods. The district's products account for 80 percent of the regional GDP; about 40 farming partnerships and 145 farms, which rent more than

486,200 hectares of farmland, are involved in agro-production.

In 2014, farmers in the district sowed a total of 98,796 hectares of crop areas, including grains (87,932 hectares), oilseeds (6,935 hectares), annual grasses (2,465 hectares) as well as potatoes and other kinds of vegetables (64,150 hectares). In other words, the efforts of farmers are mainly focused on the production of crops, in particular wheat and barley.

Another leading direction in the district is livestock and poultry breeding. In the first half of 2014 the farms engaged in these industries produced 1,800 tonnes of meat, more than 3,873 tonnes of milk and about 594,000 eggs. At the same time the volume of meat increased by 50 tonnes, milk by 275 tonnes and eggs, by 44,000. The results of the stock breeders' work over the past half-year are

estimated at 1.15 billion tenge (US\$6.3 million), which is almost 17 percent of the planned agricultural production of the district in the current year.

"The state support and stimulation of animal husbandry, especially under the programme Sybaga Agribusiness 2020, is a significant contribution to the achievements of the district. The subsidies in the size of 170 tenge (US\$0.93) per 1 kilogramme of meat are a substantial assistance," said Director of the Agroexport LTD Rakhim Akimzhanov.

In the past year 163 million tenge (US\$887,328) was allotted from the state budget for the development of animal production, in addition to 552 million tenge (US\$3 million) of preferential loans allocated under the programme Sybaga 2011-2013. Due to that farmers purchased 3,058 head of cattle,

including 2,983 head of stud stock and 125 pedigree bulls.

In addition, the Ministry of Agriculture worked out an optimal mechanism to stimulate the development of remote pastures and create water points for animals. Investment subsidies are also provided for infrastructure development and pastures, including the purchase of wind and solar systems, water pumps and automated drinking cups.

The farmers in the district believe that these measures will largely accelerate the formation of the industry. And Bakarra, the powerful, high-tech meat processing plant which manufactures a wide range of products, including for export, provides the district's meat branch with a full production cycle. In 2014, the export volume of this enterprise will reach 200 tonnes of meat and sausage products.

"Revenue from the Astana-Shchuchinsk Toll Road, will reach 1.2 billion tenge (US\$6.5 million) by year's end," Mereke Pshembayev, Deputy Minister of Transport and communications of Kazakhstan said at a July 25 Central Communications Service (CCS) briefing. According to him, in 2013, the Astana-Shchuchinsk Toll Road raised over 800 million tenge (US\$4.4 million) over a course of only six months. During the first half of this year, 454.3 million tenge (US\$2.5 million) were collected. The road is a modern, six-lane highway. According to the Transport and Communications Ministry, this road handles anywhere from 5,500 to 7,000 vehicles per day. Tolls started being collected along the road at the beginning of the third quarter of 2013. The length of the tolled section of the road is 211.5 kilometres. The government set tolls at 200 tenge (US\$1.08) for cars; for buses up to 16 seats and two-axle trucks of 1-2.5 tonnes - 1,200 tenge (US\$6.53), for buses up to 32 seats and two-axle trucks of up to 5.5 tonnes - 2,500 tenge (US\$13.61), for buses over 32 seats and two-axle trucks of up to 10 tonnes - 3,700 tenge (US\$20.15), triaxial trucks with carrying capacities of 10-15 tonnes - 5,000 tenge (US\$27.23), for multiaxial trucks over 15 tonnes, including trailers and truck tractors - 6,200 tenge (US\$33.77). For cars registered in regions through which the road passes, a subscription fee of 1,000 tenge (US\$5.44) per year for the entire route in both directions was introduced.

"On the orders of the President of Kazakhstan, the government discussed plans for the development of the financial sector up until 2030 at a meeting today. The proposed strategy is one part of the long-term planning system being undertaken by Kazakhstan that also includes the 2050 Strategy," Chairman of the National Bank of Kazakhstan Kairat Kelimbetov said at a July 22 Central Communications Service (CCS) media briefing. According to Kelimbetov, the main purpose of the far-sighted concept is to create a competitive financial sector and improve its effectiveness in redistributing resources across the economy using the best international standards, including those put forth by the OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.) The Chairman of the Bank emphasised three key goals that were taken into consideration during the meeting that were put forward by President Nazarbayev. "First of all, consolidation and creating value in the banking sector. Secondly, developing mobile technologies for banking services is key, as is the further development of our corporate management and risk management systems," Kelimbetov said. The banking sector development model places special emphasis on strengthening a group of big strategic banks and a group of second tier banks. Major Kazakhstan-based banks will represent the banking sector of the country in the financial market of the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU). Meanwhile, second-tier banks will ensure a higher level of competition in banking services geared towards private citizens and corporations. Besides, the proposed plan addresses issues such as the improvement of public financial literacy, the development of payment services, improvement of discipline in financial organisations and the development of public-private partnerships amongst other things.

100 Wind Power Generators to Be Constructed as Part of Expo 2017

By Julia Rutz

One-hundred wind-powered generators are planned to be constructed around Astana in preparation for EXPO 2017, reported Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Central Asian Fuel and Energy Company Alexandr Klebanov in a speech to Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev on July 3.

"We want to erect 100 wind [power] generators with a total power of 100 megawatts in order to create a new capital city design. Air travellers while coming to Astana will see all these generators," said Klebanov during the President's visit to the EXPO City building yard.

Klebanov also said a centre for energy research will be constructed on the grounds of EXPO 2017

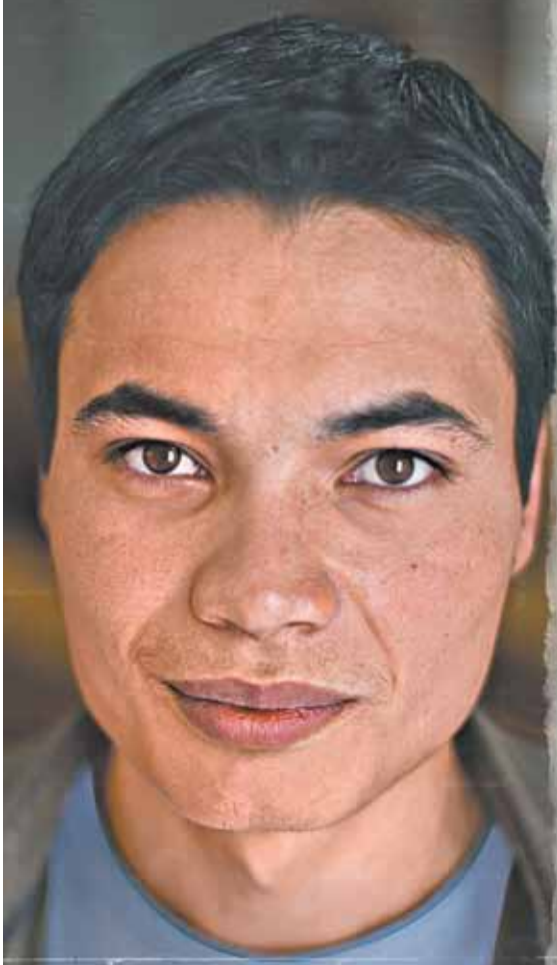
and will include three eco-friendly facilities that will help capture rainwater, process wastewater and generate solar power.

"The energy collected with the help of solar batteries will be transported to the central control station. Energy surpluses will be sold on later," said Klebanov.

The centre's wastewater facilities will process approximately 750 cubic metres of water per day.

Also, a special trash collection system will cover all 174 hectares of the expo grounds, including 240 intake reservoirs located next to expo pavilions and around the expo's purpose-built residential district. The waste will be transported through vacuum pipes to a processing facility. The system will allow waste processing to continue regardless of the weather and will help reduce odors.





COMPANIES

SHOULD

COMMIT


TO OUR

COUNTRY'S

FUTURE.

WE AGREE.

Scott Davis
Managing Director
Chevron Eurasia
Almaty, Kazakhstan

 **Human Energy**

Chevron recognizes the potential in Kazakhstan. And has from this country's beginnings. Since 1993, we and our partners have put over \$52 billion into the economy. And created thousands of jobs. We've become the country's largest private oil producer. And the Tengiz field is now among the top producing oil fields in the world. Chevron and Kazakhstan have come far together. And our future is even brighter. Learn more at www.ChevronKazakhstan.com

CHEVRON, THE CHEVRON LOGO AND HUMAN ENERGY are registered trademarks of Chevron International Energy Co., Ltd. © 2014 Chevron. U.S. and all other countries.

BUSINESS

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 2014

BUSINESS NEWS IN BRIEF

“More than 10,000 specialists from 400 companies in the country will be trained on the roadmap of dual training,” Deputy Chairman of the Kazakh Board of the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs (NCE) Nurzhan Altayev announced at a July 25 press conference. “As of today, 400 companies have applied for training of more than 10,000 professionals this year,” Altayev said. According to him, implementation of the dual training roadmap contains priority industries of the region, including agriculture, veterinary science, ecology, metallurgy, engineering, medicine, pharmaceuticals, energy, mining, construction, utilities, maintenance, management and transportation. “At the same time, the roadmap includes a list of colleges that are contemplated in the dual training implementation draft of the republican scientific centre Samruk Kazyna, which declared the introduction of elements of dual training in 2013,” he stressed. According to Altayev, the roadmap contains separate graphs of priority projects within the state programme of accelerated industrial development of the region for 2015-2019. “In each area the list of specialties needed by the enterprises was made and the general list of these specialties contained 83 professions. The list included 173 colleges,” the deputy head of NCE said. He also added that the current process of signing three-four side agreements started among the companies that make the order, colleges which train specialists and regional chambers of entrepreneurs which will monitor and control the process. “To date, more than 100 contracts have been signed in the country,” he said.

“The number of registered inspections of small and medium-sized Kazakh businesses decreased by 60 percent this year,” said Saule Aitpayeva, Chairwoman of the Kazakh Committee for Legal Statistics and Special Records of the General Prosecutor’s Office, at the July 25 Central Communication Service (CCS) media briefing. “Our President signed the decree on protection of businesses. Pursuant to this decree, we will work on improvement of supervisory mechanisms through application of innovative technologies in order to reduce administrative barriers and ensure transparency of regulatory and supervisory activity of the state bodies. The dynamics of the recent years show steady reduction in the number of business inspections,” she added. According to Aitpayeva, the number of registered inspections decreased by 85,000, or 60 percent, this year compared to the corresponding period of the previous year. The reduction in the number of inspections was conditioned by the moratorium on inspections of small and medium-sized businesses imposed April 2. Thus, the prosecution authorities stopped over 10,000 business inspections over the period of the moratorium. In total, 1,561 inspections initiated by entrepreneurs were registered in the country during this period.

Speaking at the July 22 Central Communications Service (CCS) media briefing, Chairman of the National Bank Kairat Kelimbetov said people’s confidence in bank deposits has increased and as a result, the amount of deposits has grown. “People’s confidence in banks remains at a high level and as of June 1, the volume of deposits has increased by 14 percent. This growth was achieved despite the SMS attack that we had back in February, which caused the outflow of over 200 billion tenge (US\$1.1 billion). Nevertheless, the population has trust in bank deposits and the volume of deposits increases,” Kelimbetov informed. The chairman also noted that some analysts believe that the SMS attack was somehow connected with the tenge exchange rate adjustment held a week before the attack. “As you may know, similar events recently took place in Bulgaria. The banking system there was destabilised for two days with the use of the same technology. As you all know, Bulgaria is a member of the European Union (EU); still, the issues regarding this type of cybercrime are relevant in many countries. We learned our lesson. The General Prosecutor’s Office developed amendments to several laws, including the law regulating misinformation issues. However, we resolved this problem without anybody’s help. All speculations and rumors were stopped within a week,” Kelimbetov concluded.

Competition Reviews Innovations in East Kazakhstan



National Agency for Technological Development representatives in Ust-Kamenogorsk to select the best business ideas in the region.

By Svetlana Abenova

UST-KAMENOGORSK – A group of professionals organised under the auspices of a project initiated by the Ministry of Industry and New Technologies and the National Agency for Technological Development (NATD) visited the East Kazakhstan region recently to select the best business ideas in the

region. This event was an additional incentive for local manufacturers to produce competitive world-level goods.

The project was implemented in the framework of the annual national competition of innovative business plans, NIF \$50K. The exhibition of ideas and developments in the Altai Technological Park demonstrated the

big innovative potential of the region.

Anatoly Kovshik, head of the Vibromash CC LLP, presented to the visitors new-generation refrigerators that do not require energy. In winter, they accumulate cold and in summer, they emit cold. The units operate on the principle of the heat pipe; the minimum temperature inside is minus 40 degrees and they can store cold up to eight months.

An aircraft equipped with helicopter propellers, the invention of Victor Ovseychuk, aroused the special interest of the visitors. Galym Alkenov and Alimzhan Amangeldy, eighth grade students from the secondary school in the Ulan district, presented a small, three-coulter drill and a plant sprayer.

An engine with the power potential of tens of megawatts, the invention of Vladimir Kotov, a scientist from Kurchatov, not long ago caused great interest among world-renowned scientists, including Nobel laureates at the Oskemen EXPO 2014. There is every reason to believe that in the future this very

promising project will be financially supported by the state.

Members of the NATD working group organised a regional workshop for businessmen. Vladimir Aksenov, Director General of the city’s condenser plant, held a master class for the participants and shared their experiences in creating an export-oriented enterprise.

The opportunities of the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) open up great prospects for manufacturers, said Aksenov, the head of one of the leading companies in the country. According to Aksenov, economic unification and consolidation of laws and standards for technical regulation will contribute to the development of contacts and give significant impetus to the economies of Kazakhstan, Russia and Belarus.

“The EEU solves a lot of problems of domestic export-oriented businesses such as ours, where 80 percent of production is exported. Actually it will contribute to their further development,” he said.

“However, technologically we have strongly outstripped our Russian col-

leagues and today we compete mainly with European manufacturers of condensers, such as BMI and Siemens Vishay, which have been involved long and deep in this production,” said the director of the plant, while noting that it is practically impossible to break into the European market.

According to him, they “formalised” everything there and created numerous barriers to protect their market.

But at the same time, said Aksenov, the competition within the common market “helps find exclusives and advanced innovations.”

“Actually, without competition there is no stimulus for investment in the cheapening of technology and quality. Over the past five years our enterprise almost completely modernised production and updated nomenclature by about 90 percent. I am sure that the EEU will give Kazakhstan strong economic growth in the near future,” he concluded.

According to the East Kazakhstan innovators, participation in training workshops and business courses organised by NATD will help them in the future to avoid errors in preparing and submitting the necessary documents for participation in the republican contest. Moreover, they got a lot of useful information in terms of opportunities in connection with the signing of the EEU treaty.

Kazakhstan Improves Position in Global Innovation Index



By Rufiya Ospanova

In comparison to 2013, Kazakhstan improved its position by five points in the Global Innovation Index (GII) ranking, reported the press service of the Economic Research Institute of the Ministry of Economy and Budget Planning.

“According to the 2014 survey, Kazakhstan took 79th position, improving its position by five points compared to last year. On the regional classification among the countries of Central and South Asia, Kazakhstan is ranked second, between India and Bhutan,” the report states.

The results were obtained in accordance with a study conducted July 18 by the international business school INSEAD in collaboration with Cornell University and the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO).

The study covered 143 countries, which together account for 98.3 percent of the world GDP and 92.9 percent of its population. According to this study, the most innovative countries are Switzerland, the U.K. and Sweden.

GII has been calculated since 2007 and currently represents the most comprehensive set of indicators of innovative development of the various countries of the world. The index consists of 81 different variables that characterise in detail the innovative development of countries at different levels of economic development and is calculated as a weighted sum of the scores of the two groups of indicators -- resources and conditions for innovation (innovation input) and achieved practical results of the innovation (innovation output).

Having improved its position in 2014 on the main indicators, Kazakhstan demonstrates a positive trend on individual components of the index. In terms of business development, the country has risen 16 positions, finishing in 103rd place, market development

improved nine positions and institutions three positions.

According to experts at the Economic Research Institute, despite Kazakhstan’s stable position in the GII and improvement of individual components of the index, development of the national system of support and introduction of innovations is at the stage of formation, thus explaining the lag behind the leading countries of the world.

The effectiveness of innovative activity depends on the general economic situation in the country and the state of scientific and technical strategy from full resource provision, market conditions, availability of professional staff and effective management.

“To improve the calculations, the method of calculating the ranking is revised annually. This year, we have introduced new quality indicators. As some processes cannot be represented properly, the GII model is not decisive in the evaluation of innovative development of the country,” emphasised specialists of the Ministry of Economy and Budget Planning.

According to the ministry, while there is not yet a specific model of innovative development of the economy in the world, if strictly followed the country must come to socio-economic wellbeing. According to the procedures of various international rankings, the basic factors of economic development are human capital, competitive business, infrastructural base and an effective institutional environment that will help achieve practical results in the field of technology and innovation.

The core of the GII Report consists of a ranking of world economies’ innovation capabilities and results. Over the last seven years, the GII has established itself as a leading reference on innovation. Understanding the human aspects behind innovation in more detail is essential for the design of policies that help to locally promote economic development and richer innovation-prone environments. Recognising the key role of innovation as a driver of economic growth and prosperity and the need for a broad horizontal vision of innovation applicable to developed and emerging economies, the GII includes indicators that go beyond the traditional measures of innovation, such as the level of research and development.

Mangistau Sturgeon Farm to Produce 60 Tonnes of Fish per Year

By Olga Zolotykh

AKTAU - A new sturgeon farm in Akshukur Village in the Mangistau region will produce up to 60 tonnes of sturgeon per year, its executives say.

There are currently more than 3,000 young fish in the farm’s pond. By the end of the year, the farm plans to fill another 38 ponds with another 7,000 fish. The farm uses a special fodder produced in Poland and the ponds in which the fish are grown have closed water systems, so the fish grow in fresh artesian wa-

ter. This is the only fish farm in the country to use this water system.

Experienced fish farmers, including Russian specialists, are involved in the project. According to them, fish grown on farms is not inferior to wild-caught fish.

“Now, the sturgeon weigh slightly more than a kilogramme. Before we sell them, we must grow them up to 2.2-2.3 kilogrammes,” the deputy manager of the project, Tursungul Zhakypova, said. “The juvenile fish is brought from the Atyrau Ural sturgeon farm. In two years, the first Mangistau sturgeon will appear on

store shelves. Beluga grows faster – in a year and a half – and Siberian sturgeon will be grown by the end of this year. Our customers are fish shops and restaurants,” Zhakypova said.

The project, part of the State Programme of Accelerated Industrial Innovative Development (SPAI-ID) and the Business Road Map 2020, has cost 582.2 million tenge (US\$3.17 million), together with the infrastructure expenditures, and has created 25 jobs.

The company’s managers believe that in four years, the farm will be paid off and begin to turn a profit.

KAZAKHSTAN UNITED FOR GLOBAL SECURITY

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.

EDITORIAL & OPINIONS

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 2014

Kazakhstan's ambitions for economic and social growth

President Nursultan Nazarbayev has recently launched no less than 75 new projects under the auspices of the second five years of the State Programme of Accelerated Industrial and Innovative Development. These are, of course, very serious and grand plans that will strive to take the country to new heights in terms of economic growth. But the President has also stated that despite the definite positive results, the process of industrialisation has not yet reached its main goal, which is the overall transformation of the economy with manufacturing prevailing over the extractive industries. Institutional change, not just façade alterations, is at the heart of the matter.

The Kazakhstan 2050 Strategy, which is currently the basis of all economic and social development, clearly aims to diversify the country from digging up its reputed oil, gas and other natural resources, but progress has been slow on that front. The challenges to moving away from extraction are plentiful and they are inseparable from the current way of doing business. What is needed is innovation that can accommodate social coherence and balanced development.

With 42 percent of its population living in rural areas, Kazakhstan needs to have a well-performing agricultural industry. That's not to say that the country needs more farmers and shepherds, but that life in a rural area needs to be as comfortable as in the most developed cities, and just as productive. Focus on agrotechnologies and logistical networks are already providing for some of this, but there is still untapped potential in the regions. For example, the area of inter-regional transport and communication is lagging in comparison to construction booms in the capital and main cities of the republic. Currently, the Tulpar-Talgor is the only fast speed train and runs a limited, if slowly increasing, scope. The population density allows for few profitable corridors, however, the population is growing and developing international transit routes such as Western China-Western Europe give reason for a more prosperous tomorrow.

Here the function of the Eurasian Union presents a many-sided prospect. Some fear the danger of Russian monopolies taking over the Kazakh market, but it's a double-edged sword. If the local businesses establish themselves firmly, they will be in a position to offer products and services that others can't. Will they be in that position given the ease of seeking rent from extraction, is another question altogether. Perhaps EXPO 2017 will provide inventive ways of seeing the energy sector, or perhaps the tourism industry will transform radically in the foreseeable future.

Regardless of the answer, the fact that regional and international cooperation is growing in importance is indisputable. Diplomatic missions and trade delegations to and from Kazakhstan are making steady progress in creating a much-needed atmosphere of trust and mutual respect. Without rapport, there can be no long-term relations and beneficial exchanges. The role of individuals who act in tandem with the overarching goal cannot be overstated.

Kazakhstan is a young country, and a generational divide between the ex-Soviet and newly independent citizens is blurred by the traditional values and ideologies of the steppe civilisation. It is no coincidence that the President chose to introduce and discuss the concept of "Mangilik El" or Eternal Nation. The ancient inhabitants and current dwellers of the region could not endure without a guiding philosophy that connects the past with the future and provides a clear understanding of the here and now.

In business, what is essential for Kazakhstan is the cultivation of corporate culture, which will create the most favourable business climate. So far, the only truly international companies on the world markets have been KazMunayGaz, Kazakhmys, ENRC, and to a lesser extent, KazAtomProm. Increasingly, national companies under the administration of Samruk Kazyna National Welfare Fund and also private owners are reaching a state where they can talk of IPOs and public ownership. But before the most lucrative and successful enterprises can be sold off, even partially as is the plan, the judicial backbone as well as the general public must be ready for those crucial steps.

In light of an emergent civil society, the official "cultural policy" of Kazakhstan is currently being formed. Culture, after all, is a matter that touches everybody living within the community. The public discussions online and rounds of organised discussions have concluded and are being analysed by a working group at the Ministry of Culture who will be presenting it to the head of state. This gives a great impetus to the creative sphere in general as it places value on the home-grown artists. Certainly, the music and entertainment industries, as well as the literature and theatrical works, must be authentic because at the end of the day, that's what makes the country unique and different in the eyes of investors.

Generally speaking, Kazakhstan, the brand, is gaining a reputation. Sport achievements and the odd successful artist provide high visibility on the world markets. The task of the current and future administrations is to translate that into a coherent system of social organisation and development. After all, the country is a dynamic mix of different religious, ethnic and tribal cultures, proud of its past heritage and current citizens and looking forward to a bright future.

As such, the most valuable resource that Kazakhstan has and needs to continue to develop is its human capital. Small and medium-sized enterprises represent a giant potential against the backdrop of raw material extraction. Young talent seeks to find ever-advancing ways of self-expression and purposefulness. New faces in the business and the political scene are also leaving their marks of distinct character and ambition. With President Nazarbayev at the helm, noticing and correcting the flaws in the chartered course, Kazakhstan is steering steadily towards a better future for all of its citizens.

Soft Power Can Unite Nations, Ambassador to Hungary Says

By Gulbarshyn Sabayeva and Khalima Buqarkyzy

ASTANA – Kazakh Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Hungary Nurbakh Rustemov recently discussed Kazakhstan's relationship with that nation, focusing on reviving cultural and promoting economic ties. Hungary recently erected a monument to Kazakhstan's beloved intellectual, Abai, joining monuments in Moscow, Istanbul, Beijing, Tashkent, Tehran and other cities.

"Hungary is a powerful industrial nation with a rapidly and intensely growing economy," the ambassador said. "Kazakhstan is its third largest trade partner in the CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) after Russia and Ukraine. However, we try not to confine ourselves to mere political, economic, trade and social, humanitarian cooperation with Hungary. Our goal is to also attach high importance to literary and cultural ties and to deepen mutual respect based on our common roots."

"Besides, today is the time to prove oneself not by power but by deed. Now is the zenith of 'soft power' policy. ... [T]oday, what finds its way to people's hearts is public diplomacy, human diplomacy and academic diplomacy rather than official diplomacy. ... Needless to say, today we have a great many things we are proud to have represent Kazakhstan to the rest of the world. Swiftly bursting into blossom, marvellous Astana has already turned into the symbol of our admirable independence, exceptional courage and eternal nationhood. Since our independence, the world has begun to know Abai better. ... Our spirit will no doubt be high as long as these two special symbols of the Kazakh nation stand in Hungary, at the centre of Europe."

How did Hungarians receive the opening of Astana Street and of the monument to Abai?

Hungarians ... gladly welcomed the event that brings closer the distant and makes the stranger a relative. The common people, intellectuals and authorities alike conveyed their good wishes, saying that the thousand-year gap between our nations had now become smaller. ... Such an event is special, for it opens new ways for strategically unique advancement as it cheers both nations up and strengthens mutual relations. Through Hungary, we will be in direct communication with Europe and will improve our cooperation with ... the European Union. In return, Hungary will have access to a stable connection with the East via our country.

I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to thank East Kazakhstan Region Akim (Governor) Berdibek Saparbayev for his considerable contribution to the erection of this monument to Abai.

Let's talk about trade and economic relations. Recently, a delegation headed by our prime minister [Karim Massimov] paid an official visit to Hungary. Together with the Hungarian officials, they are reported to have discussed a number of important issues. Would you please elaborate on that? What are some priority areas in the relationship between the two countries in the coming years?

In terms of the size of its economy and population, Hungary isn't among Europe's giants, such as the U.K., France, Germany, Italy and Spain. However, it is one of the Central European countries with a stable economy and huge industrial potential; an example to follow in such areas as road construction and vehicle assembly, agricultural and



Nurbakh Rustemov

medical production. Kazakhstan is interested in importing medicine and medical equipment from Hungary. Hungary intends to invest in Kazakhstan's oil and gas industry as well as in the agricultural sector. Hungarian MOL [Hungary's oil and gas public limited company] is already engaged in oil and gas production in West Kazakhstan. A Hungarian trade house opened in Astana. Both countries' Chambers of Commerce as well as the Kazakh-Hungarian Business Council are currently functioning successfully, and the activity of these organisations is coordinated by both countries' intergovernmental economic cooperation commission. ... During his recent visit to Hungary, head of government Karim Massimov named agriculture as a priority area for Hungarian investment and said, "We are among the leaders in grain and flour production, and have great potential in animal breeding and dairy products." I believe this visit will give a new momentum to economic cooperation between our countries.

In your view, which sectors are most interesting to Hungarian investors?

Hungarian businessmen are prepared to be involved in government projects in Kazakhstan, including participating in investment projects. The country is interested in cooperation with Kazakhstan in the development of agriculture and the processing industry by means of technology transfer and attracting international financial institutions and Hungarian banks. ... Agricultural businessmen and farmers in Kazakhstan are highly interested in implementing Hungary's best practices of optimisation and automation of agricultural complexes. As such, both parties' needs fit together perfectly.

As evidence, a \$100 million investment and technology transfer agreement was signed by (and between) Alibi LLP (Kazakhstan) and Transz-Ker Zrt (Hungary) during Massimov's visit to Hungary.

What was also mentioned during that visit is the lack of a direct air connection from Kazakhstan to ... Budapest. The number of people in Kazakhstan visiting famous resorts and health and leisure centres in Hungary has been growing over recent years. With this in mind, we feel a growing necessity to open a direct transport link between the two countries. Currently, we are awaiting the outcome of governmental talks between the countries regarding such an air connection.

We cannot but mention scientist Mándoki Kongur István when we talk about the Magyars. His remains were laid in Kazakhstan, in the Kensai cemetery. What do the Magyars think about this?

A genuine patriot of the Kazakh people, an advocate for the Turkic nations, Mándoki Kongur István is held by the Magyars in utmost respect. This Turcologist, who dedicated his life to the study of the

ancient history of the great steppe and the blood connection between his people and the Kazakhs, remains forever in the land of the ancestors he used to speak about so much. ... He enormously expanded the horizon of Turkic studies by relentlessly tracking down historical and cultural ties among the Turkic nations in Europe and studying the Cumans-Kipchaks [a federation of Turkic peoples that at one point spread from modern-day Kazakhstan to Hungary]. His contribution to the translation, study and popularisation of the folklore and literature of Turkic nations sharing common roots is simply tremendous. ... He demonstrated true courage by proceeding to investigate our affinities in turbulent times, demonstrating his patriotism. He was a pioneer who quenched seven and a half centuries of longing of the Kipchaks, who long ago settled all over Europe, for their motherland. He was able to cheer up the Kazakh people at the moment of obtaining their independence, a worrisome time. ... [T]here are 16,000 volumes of his rare books and manuscripts. The time is near at hand when these valuable works of Kongur shall be delivered to Kazakhstan's capital, Astana, in accordance with the head of the Turkic Academy's recent official visit to Budapest and agreements reached there. This surely means that it's time for those studying Kongur István's work to head to Astana.

Many Hungarians consider Kazakhs to be their relatives. While ambassador, have you noticed any qualities that belong to both nations?

Of course. In spite of 7-8 centuries of separation and fusion with a lot of other nations, we still have many things in common with the Hungarian Kipchaks. For example, some words in Hungarian are very similar to ours; virtually the same. Along those lines, many tales [and]

proverbs in folk literature, especially in the ancient Kipchak language, are almost the same as ours, save for minor variations. This has been studied and published by our scholars. The Hungarians are very family-oriented, patriotic, respectful of elders, caring of the younger. This aligns with our Kazakh sacred customs and traditions. One more thing: for some time now, the Kipchaks in Hungary have been really eager to know their origins, to study their ties with the Eurasian steppes, to accept themselves as Kipchaks. The now world-famous Turan Congress that brings together hundreds and thousands of people every year only proves this further. And their eagerness to visit the land of their forefathers and to know the Kazakhs is growing. ...

Comparing today's Hungarians and Kazakhs, I find resemblances in their nature and temperament. For instance, Hungarians are a horse-loving nation, called the 'dashing riders'. ... Family is regarded as the core value in life; elderly family members bring up their grandchildren. If successful in making friends and when getting to know each other better, they disclose all of their personal secrets, just like us. And they openly ask personal questions. They take off their shoes at the door, just like Kazakhs. They amplify their views using stories and examples. They hate reserved, overly cautious, buttoned-up people.

What advice would you give to your younger countrymen hoping to become diplomats?

It would be most favourable for diplomats to absorb the diplomatic traditions of both the ancient East and West. In the East, honouring the envoy and collecting as much discreet and precise information as possible has played a very important historical role. How many wars have been triggered and how many cities and towns destroyed because of harm to or by an ambassador? And how many compromises have been reached and how many dynasties connected through the wisdom and ploys of ambassadors? ... It is a must for a Kazakh diplomat to master both the Eastern delicate human aspect and the Western pragmatic facet of diplomacy.

Look at post-Soviet history – how many countries managed to preserve friendships with their neighbours and avoid major internal armed conflict, like Kazakhstan? This is why I believe that all Kazakh diplomats, whether serving abroad or yet to come, should make this rare aspect of their home country known around the world and spread its light wherever they are.



A delegation of Hungarian Kipchaks visited Astana in 2012 to promote ties between the two countries and restore cultural connections going back several centuries.

THE ASTANA TIMES

Editor-in-Chief: Roman Vassilenko
Managing Editor: Tatiana Kostina
18a Pobeda Avenue Astana, 010000
Telephone/Facsimile: +7 7172 32 17 29
Distribution in Astana: +7 7172 44 51 53

Publisher: Svezhaya Pressa LLP
News and Editorial: +7 701 575 1055
Advertising: +7 727 252 08 82
E-mail: info@astanatimes.com
KazPost Subscription index: 64572

Advertiser bears responsibility for the content of advertisements. The newspaper does not answer the readers' letters, does not mail them, does not consider copies the size of over 5 printed pages, does not review and does not return the materials not ordered by the newspaper. Guest opinions do not necessarily reflect the newspaper's opinion. For reprinting, permissions must be sought and obtained first from The Astana Times, and reference must be made to "The Astana Times".
The Astana Times is printed at "Media Holding "ERNUR" LLP, 30 Sileti Street, Astana.

The Astana Times is published since November 2010. The Astana Times is re-registered by the Ministry of Communications and Information of the Republic of Kazakhstan under the registration No. 14037-G of 20 December 2013.
The newspaper is typed and made into pages at the computer centre of "Kazakhstanskaya Pravda". Published biweekly, the size of 8 pages.

ORDER: 683

PRINT RUN: 6,000

OPINIONS

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 2014

Minister of Culture Stresses Kazakhstan's Contribution to UNESCO Programmes

By Gulyaim Tulesheva

During the first interregional meeting of the National Commissions for UNESCO, organised by the Kazakhstan Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Astana akimat (city administration), Minister of Culture Arystanbek Mukhamediyev discussed Kazakhstan's contributions to UNESCO programmes, the principles of their cooperation and the priorities of the National Commission of Kazakhstan.



Arystanbek Mukhamediyev

once again confirms the high international prestige of our country and the head of state, whose initiatives have always been understood and supported by this influential global institution. The meeting of the National Commissions was held as part of the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures 2013-2022, approved at the 67th session of the UN General Assembly, which is one of President Nazarbayev's major initiatives. This project aims to promote global dialogue and UNESCO peacemaking strategies, such as the New Humanism in the Twenty-First Century. As for the goals and objectives of the meeting, they were no less global and include consultations on increasing the potential of and finding ways to strengthen cooperation and promoting the best practices of national commissions.

Kazakhstan has cooperated with UNESCO since 1992 and has achieved a lot during this time. What are the main areas of cooperation between the parties?

Over the years, much has been done in terms of cooperation with UNESCO. Our interaction with this

authoritative international institution is based on the 1995 memorandum of cooperation between Kazakhstan and UNESCO and the agreement on opening a UNESCO Bureau in Astana that same year. In 2001, the bureau was given regional status and Kazakhstan became a member of 14 UNESCO conventions, including conventions on the protection of intangible cultural heritage and on prohibiting and preventing the illicit import, export and transfer of ownership of cultural property in 2011.

An important area of cooperation between Kazakhstan and UNESCO has been the State Cultural Heritage Programme aimed at promoting research on the historical and cultural heritage of Kazakhstan from 2004-2011. As part of the programme, restoration works were carried out on 19 historical and cultural monuments in 12 regions of the country. As of today, there are 198 National Commissions world wide and their objectives and functions are set out in the UNESCO Constitution and the Charter of National Commissions for UNESCO affairs.

What are today's main objectives?

The Kazakhstan Commission for UNESCO was established in 1993 under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From 2000 to 2014, it was led by Imangali Tasmagambetov, who made great contributions to the Kazakhstan-UNESCO partnership. For many years, the commission has actively worked to deepen cooperation with other nations, in particular, those in Central Asia, in all UNESCO facets. For example, in 2011, the National Commission of Kazakhstan, jointly with the UN-

ESCO Cluster Office in Almaty and Kazakhstan's Federation of UNESCO Clubs, successfully held the first regional meeting of National Commissions in Central Asia, which focused on the challenges and priorities of regional cooperation in all areas of the organisation. As experience has shown, such meetings provide the opportunity to not only identify areas of potential cooperation, but also take concrete steps towards joining other national efforts and promoting regional UNESCO initiatives.

Kazakhstan also promotes cooperation between the Turkic-speaking countries and cooperates in TURKSOY, a UNESCO partner organisation. In September 2012, Astana hosted the Meeting of the National Commissions for UNESCO of the Turkic-speaking countries, which played a significant role in the expansion of cooperation in achieving UNESCO and TURKSOY's common goals.

No less important work is being done on the national level. New working bodies have been created at the National Commission of Kazakhstan. For example, along with the existing national committees for the MAB (Man and Biosphere) programme, Memory of the World and Bioethics Committee, we established the National Committee for the Protection of Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2012. It was decided to finalise Kazakhstan's multinational application for its Nowruz and Falconry projects and prepare the applications for Aitys and Yurt on behalf of Kyrgyzstan. Also, we submitted the first national applications for Karazhorga and Orteke. In April, we set up the National Committee for World Heritage, which

contributed to the fruitful participation of our country's delegation in the recent session of the World Heritage Committee in Qatar.

Preserving Heritage

As known, there are several monuments in Kazakhstan on the List of UNESCO World Heritage sites. What new sites in Kazakhstan will be nominated for candidacy on the UNESCO list of world heritage sites?

We pay great attention to programmes aimed at the promotion and protection of national, world and natural heritage, cultural harmony and the ideology of non-violence. The UNESCO World Heritage List includes three monuments in Kazakhstan: The mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yassawi, the petroglyphs at Tamgaly and the Korgalzhyn and the Nauryzum reserves in Sary-Arka's steppes and lakes in North Kazakhstan. In due time, with the financial support of Japan, we implemented a project to preserve ancient Otrar. Just a month ago at the 38th session of the World Heritage Committee in Qatar, the first segment of the international bulk application consisting of multiple Silk Road historic sites was approved. The first segment, consisting of the Tien Shan Corridor (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and China) was included on the list, which was nominated for candidacy by all three of these countries. Of this initiative's 33 protected sites, eight are in Kazakhstan. They include: Kajalyk, Karamergen and Talgar in the Almaty and Aktobe regions and Stepninskoe, Akyrtyas, Kulan, Kostobe and Ornek in the Zhambyl region.

At the recent 26th session of the International Coordinating Committee of UNESCO, Man and Biosphere, Katon Karagai National Natural Park and the Akzhaiyk Biosphere Reserve were added to the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

Also, much work is being done

jointly between Kazakhstan and UNESCO on preparing Kazakhstan's nominations to the UNESCO World Register of Documented Heritage, Memory of the World. Today, the register contains the manuscripts of Khoja Ahmed Yassawi, archival materials on the activities of the international antinuclear movement Nevada-Semipalatinsk, as well as the Aral Sea Archives. The Kazakh National Commission submitted a new application for preserving historical documents related to the closure of the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site, prepared by the National Committee "Memory of the World" of the National Library of Kazakhstan.

What are the plans of your ministry for the near future, in particular for the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures?

Once again, I'd like to emphasise the uniqueness of this decade of festivities intended to intensify international efforts to promote intercultural and interfaith dialogue. I believe that the dialogue between cultures and religions is one of the best ways to strengthen this very fragile world. There needs to be fair dialogue on strengthening security and understanding. In our country, the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan, with which we work very closely and which has successfully proved its effectiveness, plays a great role in this matter. The three-day programme of the First Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO devoted considerable time to the assembly, including its exhibition.

As for our plans, we intend to continue to promote our applications in UNESCO and develop cultural tourism in conjunction with the tourism industry. In short, there is a wide field of activity and one goal, the rapprochement of cultures to promote closer relations among peoples, which is the main idea behind UNESCO and the national commissions.

Knowledge-Based Economy Key Component of Kazakhstan 2050

By Saken Yespayev

The sixth technological revolution is the main trend of development for the nation designated by the President Nursultan Nazarbayev in Kazakhstan 2050 Strategy 2050.

In the next 10-15 years, it is vitally important to create a knowledge-intensive economic base, without which it will be difficult to compete with developed countries. The key condition for that, emphasised the head of state, is the introduction of a knowledge-intensive economic model, which aims to increase the share of finished products in Kazakh exports to 70 percent, decrease energy consumption two times and improve productivity five times. This requires a specific plan and developments.

The results of research at our institute suggest that we need a fundamentally-new paradigm of public administration and planning in order to achieve strategic goals on the development of a scientific-driven economy and to join the 30 most-



developed countries of the world. It should be based on the latest achievements of the theory of public management with regard to specific conditions of our state and national economy.

The analysis of economic growth and its factors in Kazakhstan (capital, labour resources and productivity) shows that all this is still provided mainly by the growth of

capital and, to a lesser extent, by productivity.

The average contribution of the capital's factor to economic growth is 6 percent, while the contribution of productivity is only 3.2 percent. In this regard, it is expedient to develop and adopt a law on Kazakhstan's priorities of economic strategy. This will ensure the coordination of long-term strategies, programmes of development in general, regions and industries as well as mutual coordination of targets, schedules and measures to implement the strategic documents. By the way, Russia has already developed the law on state strategic planning of socio-economic development.

It is also advisable to legally establish control methods and mechanisms of accountability of all participants of strategic planning on the basis of public-private partnership. It is especially important to integrate into the state strategic planning system the institutes of development,

business entities, companies, banks and other participants.

In addition, it is recommended to develop a concept for management of state property and national assets in order to assess the expediency of existence of state-owned companies and enterprises and reform their work.

Currently, the main criterion for evaluating the activities of development institutions is the profitability of their work. In this respect they do not differ from the second-tier banks, except for their annual capitalisation from the budget. But their work should be assessed by the degree of participation in the diversification of domestic economy, implementation of investment projects and creating the added value and export volumes of goods and services.

In addition, almost 30 percent of joint stock companies and partnerships, as well as about 70 percent of communal property, are marginally profitable or even have a zero result of financial and economic activity.

Taking into account the fact that a significant part of state property objects are working in the social sector, agriculture and housing, it is necessary to develop clear criteria for assessment of socio-economic benefits from the activities of state-owned enterprises, joint stock companies and limited partnerships.

All these speak in favour of the need to classify the existing state organisations based on strategic, social and commercial orientation and conduct ongoing monitoring of their activities. These strategic and social companies should be evaluated primarily on the end results of their work.

And, of course, it is impossible to transfer to the sixth technological mode without the Agency for Planning and Management of Knowledge-Based Economy (APMNE). Its priority should be improving the efficiency of innovation potential, including the formation of research and development infrastructure, regulation, planning, financing, science and technology forecasting. Simply, the agency must help all enterprises to identify promising directions of development in order to maximise the use of available resources.

To achieve the goals defined by the President, we also need to develop and adopt a government programme on human resources for knowledge-based economy by

2030. The emphasis there should be on the quality of human capacity and innovation mindset of people. That is, the country needs human potential that corresponds to the sixth technological structure.

Creating a knowledge-intensive economy will also require the adoption of new laws on cluster economy, high technologies and innovations and the development of the map to place innovative economy and regions on the base of the fifth and sixth technological structures. The creation of an effective system of public administration and planning is a complex, multifaceted and continuous process. However, the results of research conducted by our institute and international experience suggest that Kazakhstan certainly has great potential for the organisation of a new economic model, the expediency of which is clearly argued in the President's strategy.

Therefore, it can be safely expected that Kazakhstan will join Singapore, Malaysia and other countries where this model has already been created and the reforms were carried out successfully and effectively.

The author, a doctor of economics, is Director of the Institute of Economics of the Committee of Science of the Ministry of Education and Science of Kazakhstan.

Conserving, Increasing Kazakhstan's Forests are Priorities

By Bolat Mukanov

One of the important government tasks in Kazakhstan is improving the environmental situation, including increasing the percentage of forestland.

The main ecological function of forests is sanitary, water and climate protection. This is especially relevant for sparsely-wooded countries, such as our republic. Therefore, the priority tasks for the forest industry are conserving existing forests and increasing their size.

Forestland is an irreplaceable natural resource and its importance in light of conserving the genetic diversity of flora and fauna, carbon depositing and release of oxygen is significantly higher than its economic effect as a source of raw materials.



However, forestry scientists indicate the need for implementation of the industry's problems based on the widespread introduction of innovative technologies as well as

improving existing scientific developments. The activities of the Kazakh Scientific Research Institute of Forestry and Agro-Forest Melioration are aimed at achieving the objectives of forest husbandry, among which are forest breeding, selection and protection from pests, diseases and fires, the introduction of tree and shrub species and protective forest cultivation.

In the first half of this year, 11 recommendations were developed as part of the project "Improvement of technologies to increase the forest cover and resilience of forests in major forest zones of Kazakhstan." One application was filed for the patent on the reproduction of western arborvitae; two candidates were selected for the varieties of haloxylon black and an information database was created

on the distribution of organic carbon and its one-year deposit by forests.

In the future, our research topics will reflect the problematic issues of the forest sector. Thus, the draft research programme for 2015-2017 includes the development of more than 12 recommendations. Some specific projects of the programme are planned to be implemented at best world standards; in particular, patents for stock planting in forest nurseries with innovative technologies as well as the assessment of the state of pine plantations on the biometric indicators of assimilation apparatus. We will also apply for patents on selection achievements, such as hybrid varieties of Scots pine. For the first time, we will develop a technology of in vitro reproduction of poplar (*Populus pruinosa*) and Anthrax Al-

tai (*Sibiraea altaicensis*), which are included on the Kazakh list of rare and endangered species. In addition, we plan to conduct research at the level of regional novelty, including obtaining new data on the current status, structure and age of birch plantations in Rudny Altai in order to save and restore their biodiversity and genetic resource-building potential. For the first time we also plan to conduct research on the distribution of carbon in the biomass in wooded lands of West and South Kazakhstan and develop recommendations for prevention of forest fires.

Research results will be cost-effective due to the use of modern technologies, the application of new biological drugs and mechanisation that will reduce the costs of forestry operations. Our research and development are aimed at improving the environmental situation of certain regions, including the dried-bottom territory of the Aral Sea, as well as conserving rare and endangered tree and shrub species and increasing the resilience of forests to changing climatic factors and diseases.

An additional source of forest science financing is the research conducted under contracts with such companies as JSC Astana Zelenstroy, Zhasyl Aimak, Astana Ormany LLP, which resulted in successful work in the green zone of Astana. Taking into account the complexity of soil and climatic conditions of the region, we consider it is expedient to further deepen research in this direction.

Kazakhstan's programme for forest husbandry 2020 is presently under development. The document is aimed at creating conditions for the conservation and effective management of forest ecosystems and sustainable development of the forest sector of the republic. Only through joint efforts of all concerned agencies and the population we can achieve the planned objectives, including the preservation and enhancement of Kazakh forest resources.

The author, a doctor of agricultural sciences, is General Director of Kazakh Scientific Research Institute of Forestry and Agro-Forest Melioration.

EURASIA&WORLD

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 2014

Kazakh FM Participates in Central Asia+Japan Dialogue, Meets with Counterparts

By Arsen Nurabayev

BISHKEK – Kazakh Foreign Minister Erlan Idrissov joined his counterparts from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Japan, July 16, to review 10 years of cooperation within the Central Asia+Japan dialogue. The group also discussed ways to develop and strengthen partnerships in the coming decade.

The agenda of the meeting included such issues as increasing cooperation to promote collaboration in the agricultural area, achieving sustainable development based on Millennium Development Goals, combating illicit drug trafficking, addressing the situation in Afghanistan and preventing natural disasters.

In his remarks to the gathering, Idrissov expressed gratitude to Japan for its active promotion of the Central Asia+Japan dialogue, which is considered an important tool to strengthen cooperation among the countries. He also drew attention to the need to continue the rapprochement and expansion of cooperation for peace and stability and improve the welfare of citizens in the region in an environment of increasing challenges and threats in Central Asia.



Foreign ministers of countries participating in the Central Asia+Japan dialogue.

"In this context, Kazakhstan stands for the strengthening of the Central Asia plus Japan dialogue and the search within its framework of pragmatic and viable cooperation projects and mechanisms. Our activity is intended not only to create conditions for cooperation and to strengthen and develop economic relations, but also

lead to the growth of sincere political trust and ultimately to create conditions [for security] on the vast part of the Asian continent," Idrissov said.

During the meeting, the six ministers exchanged opinions on deepening cooperation in agriculture, which according to previous agreements was selected as a pilot

area for closer cooperation among the participating states. The ministers agreed to implement specific agricultural projects. They also signed a joint statement at the outcome of the meeting covering a wide area of issues.

While in the city, Idrissov met with Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs Fumio Kishida. The meet-

ing focused on visits at the highest levels, prospects for further promotion of trade and economic cooperation, cooperation within multilateral diplomacy and a regular exchange of views on international issues.

Idrissov and Kishida noted the importance of the start of production of Toyota Fortuner cars in Kostanai and expressed hope that this will pave the way for other Japanese automakers. They also noted favourable prospects for further development of cooperation in the field of nuclear energy and the development of rare earth metals.

Speaking about the prospects for economic cooperation, Kishida expressed Japan's support for reforms in Kazakhstan aimed at achieving the objectives of the Kazakhstan 2050 Strategy, noting specifically the possibility of Japanese participation in the development of small and medium-sized businesses.

The two ministers discussed the possibility of opening direct air services between Kazakhstan and Japan. They expressed hope that the introduction of a unilateral, visa-free regime in Kazakhstan for the citizens of Japan and nine other countries on July 15 will increase the flow of tourists and investors. Kishida assured Idrissov that Ja-

pan, in turn, will promptly consider the abolition of visa requirements for holders of diplomatic and service passports.

Idrissov officially invited Japan to participate in the international exhibition EXPO 2017 in Astana and expressed hope that Japanese companies that are known for their know-how and technologies in the field of new energy will take an active part in it.

The parties agreed to increase cooperation in the international organisations, such as the United Nations and UNESCO. At the same time, they highlighted the importance of the recent inclusion of the Great Silk Road objects both in Kazakhstan and Japan on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

They also considered the cooperation between Kazakhstan and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

The Central Asi+Japan dialogue is a new form of cooperation initiated by Japan in 2004 to expand and strengthen ties with Central Asian countries as well as to increase regional cooperation. The dialogue has become an important platform for the discussion of issues related to the region's political, economic and security challenges.

Visit Increases Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan Cooperation

Continued from Page A1

"Kazakhstan has resolved its border issues with its neighbours, yet there are border problems among other countries in Central Asia and this cannot but cause concern," he added in an apparent reference to periodic clashes in recent months between the Kyrgyz and Tajik border guards with the use of light weaponry and even mortars.

An important outcome of the negotiations was the signing of the programme of cooperation between the Kazakh and Kyrgyz Ministries of Foreign Affairs for 2014-2015, which would strengthen the political dialogue between the two countries.

The discussion in Cholpon-Ata meanwhile centered on prospects of expanding bilateral cooperation in trade, economic, investment and agricultural areas, as well as in the water-energy sector.

"There is significant potential for economic cooperation between our countries. We need to deepen our trade and economic relations and actively encourage the expansion of mutual trade," Idrissov added.

"We would like to develop regional cooperation and believe that in this area all countries have to do much more," Idrissov said. "Take, for example, intra-regional

trade -- it makes up only 5 percent of our countries' external trade."

"We, too, would like to achieve the expansion of trade, which had already exceeded \$1 billion in the past," noted Abdylidayev, adding that Bishkek would like to see the revival of the Kazakh-Kyrgyz Investment Fund.

The foreign ministers expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the negotiations and expressed hope for further fruitful cooperation between the two countries.

An important outcome of the negotiations was the signing of the programme of cooperation between the Kazakh and Kyrgyz Ministries of Foreign Affairs for 2014-2015, which would strengthen the political dialogue between the two countries.

"Kazakhstan is interested in a successful and progressive development of Kyrgyzstan and our other neighbours. Our country will be able to achieve the goals of the Kazakhstan 2050 Strategy only in close cooperation with partners in Central Asia and the stable development of the region," Idrissov said.

"Many thanks for the two schools that are being built by Kazakhstan in Bishkek and Osh cities. It is one of the very important aspects that strengthens our friendship," Abdylidayev noted.

Another development, which will contribute to the friendship, will be the naming of an avenue in Astana in honour of Chingiz Aitmatov, the late, famous Kyrgyz writer, and the installation of a monument to Manas, the Kyrgyz epic hero, as well as the naming of one of the city streets as Shokan Valikhanov and erection of a monument to Abai.

The Kyrgyz minister also invited Kazakhstan's sportsmen to participate in the Nomadic Games, which will be held September 8-14 in Cholpon-Ata.

Relations with Kyrgyzstan have seen increased attention from Kazakhstan, as just a few days prior, on July 12, Prime Minister Karim Massimov visited the city to discuss pressing issues on the agenda relating to mutual trade and travel.

Deputy FM Visits Africa, Meets with Government Officials

By Malika Orazgaliyeva

Kazakh Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Yerzhan Ashikbayev, acting as a special envoy of President Nursultan Nazarbayev, visited several countries in Africa beginning on July 22.

During the visit, he went to Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire and Benin where he took part in the Ministerial Conference on New Partnerships for Productive Capacity Building in the Least Developed Countries (LDC). The purpose of the visits was to intensify bilateral cooperation and search for common ground, the expansion of political, economic, cultural and humanitarian contacts.

Kazakhstan believes that the opinion of African countries has important meaning when discussing global issues, especially in areas such as finding a way out of the protracted economic crisis, a more equitable global financial system, real assistance in solving the problems of unemployment, health, education and the environment.

Kazakhstan attaches great importance to South-South cooperation, which has great potential for addressing issues related to poverty eradication and economic inequality in the Least Developed Countries, especially in Africa, its officials say. The republic is interested in developing friendly and mutually beneficial relations with the African continent, including with Senegal, an important partner in the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). IASTANA is an active supporter of the cooperation of the OIC and the African Union in questions of conflict resolution in Africa, providing inter-ethnic and inter-religious dialogue, poverty eradication, illiteracy and in the combating of various diseases and epidemics.

During Ashikbayev's to Senegal, while giving an exclusive interview to the African Press Agency in Dakar, he said the long distance between the two countries was not an impediment to the bilateral cooperation Kazakhstan is seeking to pursue with Senegal. The diplomat said that the motive of his mission was to further stimulate diplomatic and consular relations between the two countries.

Diplomatic relations between Kazakhstan and Senegal began in 2008 when a Kazakh delegation headed by Special Representative of the President of Kazakhstan and

then Minister of Foreign Affairs Marat Tazhin took part in the 11th OIC Summit in Senegal in March 2008. On the sidelines of the summit, the parties signed a protocol on establishing diplomatic relations.

In Senegal, Ashikbayev met with Minister of Foreign Affairs Mankeur Ndiaye.

Ashikbayev explained that shortly after independence in 1991, Kazakhstan's gross domestic product per capita was \$700. That number has grown to \$14,000 in the last 22 years. He also expressed optimism that Senegal can achieve similar success through cooperation with Kazakhstan.

During the interview with the African Press Agency, the diplomat described the Israeli-Palestinian ongoing conflict as terrible and expressed the hope that the two sides could immediately cease hostilities and work towards a peaceful coexistence between two independent states.

On July 25, Ashikbayev also met with the Foreign Minister of Côte d'Ivoire. At the meeting, Kazakhstan's deputy foreign minister reported that Kazakhstan intends to build a partnership of friendship and cooperation in the long term, which will serve as a model for relations between Kazakhstan and countries of Western Africa.

The main purpose of the meeting was to promote Kazakhstan's candidacy to become a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for 2017-2018.

"As you know, Kazakhstan announced its candidacy to become a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for 2017-2018. Let me present to you a personal message from President Nursultan Nazarbayev asking for your country's support," said Ashikbayev.

"We are grateful to Côte d'Ivoire for the support of Astana's candidacy to host the international specialised exhibition EXPO-2017, which is a testament to the high level of trust between our two countries," he added.

Diplomatic relations with the Côte d'Ivoire were established May 25, 2009 during the 36th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organisation of the Islamic Cooperation in Damascus, Syria.

On July 29 in Cotonou, Republic of Benin, Ashikbayev took part in the Ministerial Conference on New Partnerships for Productive Capac-

ity Building in the LDCs, which is an important platform for dialogue to enable interested countries, together with the private sector and civil society, to discuss important issues of development.

Diplomatic relations between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Republic of Benin were established on Sept. 13, 2011.

"We commend the active role of Benin as Chair of the Group of the Least Developed Countries and its contribution in promoting the interests of the LDCs at the United Nations and in other global forums," said the diplomat.

"We believe that the conference will identify new and innovative partnerships to support the efforts of the LDCs to strengthen their productive capacity based on an analysis of the different factors that affect productive capacity in the LDCs, including the promotion of green and blue economies in terms of skill development, innovation and technological acquisition," he added.

During the conference, Ashikbayev noted that Kazakhstan is making a significant contribution to the implementation of the agreements reached at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development Rio +20 in 2012.

In accordance with the Rio +20 Outcome Document, The Future We Want, Kazakhstan has developed constituent documents of the Green Bridge Partnership Programme, which are based on the decisions of the Sixth Conference of Ministers of Environment, Economy and Social Protection in Asia and the Pacific (Astana, 2010) and the Seventh Pan-European Ministerial Conference titled, Environment for Europe (Astana, 2011).

Ashikbayev presented an active position for Kazakhstan in supporting a green economy and introduced to participants the Green Bridge Partnership Programme (GBPP), which was the only cross-regional initiative supported by the conference.

According to the Kazakh Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Green Bridge Partnership Programme brings together governments, international organisations and private businesses to find transnational solutions to sustainable growth. It is also intended to provide a platform to discuss and disseminate the best available green technologies and best green practices. Kazakhstan's initiative

has been supported by a number of countries. Last September at the International Conference on the Green Bridge Partnership Programme held in Astana, countries such as Germany, Finland, the Russian Federation, Georgia, Latvia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia and Montenegro signed the programme's charter and joined the programme. Thus, political support was demonstrated for the official launch of the Green Bridge Partnership Programme. This year, Hungary signed the programme's charter, while Spain, Sweden, Armenia and Bulgaria have expressed their readiness to join the programme.

"The internationally recognised Green Bridge Partnership Programme aims to combine the efforts of countries of the region, and beyond, to promote green economic growth with neighboring and more distant countries. The programme hopes to achieve this through international cooperation, technology transfer, knowledge sharing and financial support from major financial institutions and the private sector. We are of the firm conviction that the programme can contribute to the sustainable development of LDCs, and so warmly invite all those interested to join the programme," explained Ashikbayev.

He also introduced at the meeting information concerning the upcoming international exposition EXPO 2017 in Astana. He said in his speech that the exhibition will serve to highlight energy and environmental issues and attract the world's best expertise on energy-saving technologies and alternative energy solutions, with an emphasis on inclusiveness, social justice, gender equality and poverty eradication. EXPO 2017 will allow visitors to experience a future world with cleaner, affordable and reliable energy.

"EXPO 2017 provides a new horizon for the world with regard to its energy future with new potential and possibilities. Availing this opportunity, we invite all governments – the participants of this conference – to be with us at EXPO 2017 in Astana," said Ashikbayev.

Ashikbayev concluded his speech by wishing the conference's participants productive and useful deliberations, resulting in the elaboration of significant practical recommendations to contribute to green and blue growth in the Least Developed Countries.

Nation&Capital

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 2014

CULTURE

Six-Year-Old Almaty Dancer Wins Austrian Contest

B3

COUNTRY

Kazakh Surgeons Demonstrate Microsurgery Development

B4

SPORTS

Weightlifting Records Broken at Anatoly Khrapaty Competition

B7

Astana Hosts International Wheelchair Dance Competition



Wheelchair Dance Sport gathered around 30 participants from Russia, Belarus, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, South Korea, Japan, and Kazakhstan.

By Nadezhda Khamitova

ASTANA – Around 30 participants from Russia, Belarus, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, South Korea, Japan, and Kazakhstan competed on the parquet of the Palace of Independence July 26-27, hoping to dance their way to the top at the 2014 International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Wheelchair Dance Sport (WDS) Kazakhstan Open.

This WDS competition was the last licensing event on the road to the 2014 Incheon Para Games but the first wheelchair dance event held

in Kazakhstan under the auspices of the IPC.

The panel of judges represented eight international adjudicators who arrived from Austria, Germany, South Korea, Japan, Russia, Kazakhstan and Honk Kong.

“We are glad to become part of this event. Astana is a very beautiful city with hospitable people,” said Diethard Goverkar, from Austria. “The Kazakhstan Open was the first but not the last competition in the country. We are looking forward to coming back to the

wheelchair dance event in Astana again.”

The competition was opened July 26 by the Secretary General of the Kazakh National Paralympic Committee, Vassiliy Shimanskiy. In his opening speech, he thanked all the athletes and coaches for their participation and wished them all the best in pursuing their goals.

It should be mentioned that in WDS, couples dance in pairs of two wheelchair users (duo) and pairs of one wheelchair user with a standing partner (combi). Programmes include

standard dances such as the waltz, tango, Viennese waltz, slow foxtrot and quickstep and Latin American dances such as the samba, cha-cha-cha, rumba, paso doble and jive.

IPC classifiers Yun-An Tsai from Taiwan and Gerda Nelles from Belgium arrived July 24 for international classification. International medical classification is a necessary step to ensure the honest assignment of athletes to classes.

According to Tsai, “Astana is a great city, which could be called a ‘museum of modern buildings.’ I am really impressed with the city and Kazakhstan.” Tsai also supports Kazakh paralympians striving to the international level of sports. “Kazakh athletes demonstrate great achievements in the world sports arena and I would like to wish them all success in the future,” he added. “Events like this wheelchair dance sport competition in Astana represent an opportunity to attract more people to sports, especially the physically-challenged audience. The paralympic movement in Kazakhstan is experiencing steady growth.”

Athletes with physical impairments that affect the lower limbs are eligible to participate in WDS, where there are classes one and two. Athletes are classified according to their functional abilities based on specific tests. During the weekend, pairs competed in two programmes, standard and Latina.

Kazakh athletes won their first gold medals on the first day of the event. Experienced athlete Ardak Otorbayev and his partner Aidana Beglenova were the best in the combi standard programme. This couple trains in Astana and has already achieved great success in international championships, such as the recent 2014 IPC WDS Asian Pacific Cup competition in Beijing, China.

Continued on Page B7

Kazakhstan's Southern Border Holds Hidden Tourism Potential



By Gareth Stamp

On Kazakhstan's southern border high in the Tien Shan Mountains lies an enchanting paradise home to rarely seen petroglyphs, majestic ibex, brown bears and a myriad of wildflowers that carpet the land as far as the eye can see.

Aksu Zhabagly National Nature Preserve is the oldest in Central Asia having been established in 1926, which is one of Kazakhstan's hidden touristic gems.

In late April and early May, the wild tulips are the thing to see. There are over 34 varieties in Kazakhstan and it can rightly

be claimed that tulips originated here.

In June and July, the variety of wild flowers increases and there are meadows of purple, yellow and white. Each small microclimate supports its own species.

With such abundant plant life, it is no surprise that the park is home to a wide variety of insects, birds, reptiles and amphibians. Below the snow line, pools are filled with tadpoles and in the evenings, frogs and toads can be seen along the side of the mountain streams. Small lizards bask in the sun on flat black rocks and scurry off into the alpine blooms.

Continued on Page B6

Event Celebrating Kazakh Mythology Introduces Yurt to Young People

By Natalia Slavikova

ALMATY – The Central State Museum of Kazakhstan here recently held an event celebrating Kazakh mythology, history and folklore. At the event, the fantasy novel, “In Search of the Golden Bowl: The Adventures of Batu and His Friends,” was read.

The reading was held in the yurt located in the main hall of

the museum. The novel was presented and narrated by author and mythologist Zira Naurzabayeva and writer Lilya Kalaus. The event was organised in hopes of getting young people interested in the country's history and culture and to promote the book, which is about the adventures of schoolchildren who meet with characters from Kazakh mythology.

Continued on Page B3

Golovkin Gets Big Win at Madison Square Garden

By Alina Usmanova

Gennady Golovkin gained another victory in the big arena of Madison Square Garden, July 27, knocking out opponent Daniel Geale from Australia.

The Kazakh boxer sent Geale to the showers with a technical knockout in the third round. Golovkin started the fight vehemently. In the first round Geale was on the ring floor sliding into

the corner trying to deviate from Golovkin's stroke.

In the second round, the Australian boxer missed Golovkin's powerful blow and was knocked down, but continued the fight. In the third round Geale's attempts to change the situation were ruined after missing Golovkin's first coronal stroke in the head and he decided to refuse continuing the fight.

Geale got a serious dissection and despite the forecasts of most

sports critics and experts, the super fight lasted only three rounds instead of the expected six or seven.

Viewers from more than 100 countries witnessed the fight.

A congratulatory telegramme on behalf of Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev was handed to the champion right after the victory by the Kazakh diplomats in New York who were presented at the fight. The head of state sent the telegramme to Golovkin in connection

with his defence of the world champion boxing title, according to WBA and IBO.

Nazarbayev noted that Golovkin's victory has become a good present for multiple fans of boxing and for all Kazakh fans.

“In the fair fight with the worthy opponent you demonstrated your combative nature, strong spirit and perfect physical training. You once again proved your leadership and raised the image of Kazakhstan at the international level. We are proud of your victory,” the telegramme stated.

Nazarbayev wished the athlete health, wealth and further big victories in the professional ring.

“I am very grateful to the head of our state Nursultan Nazarbayev for his support and understanding. This is a big honour for me. I am very glad that they watched my fight. This is the victory of Kazakhstan as a whole. ... I wish health and wealth to all people of Kazakhstan,” Golovkin said in response, as reported by the country's consulate general in New York.

This was the 30th fight for Golovkin in the professional ring, 27 of which he finished by knockout. He is in the top ten of main knockouts of our times and has a series of 16 knockouts in a row despite the fact he is fighting at 160 pounds. GGG, as Golovkin is called, is considered one of the major punchers, according to BleacherReport.

GGG has not just implemented his sacred dream to fight at the one of the most famous rings in the world, but also multiplied his success. The big arena was waiting for and supported the Kazakh boxer. Golovkin's masterful victory increased his army of fans among Americans as well.



GGG is feted by fans after beating Daniel Geale on July 26.

THINGS TO WATCH
JULY

KEREI RESTAURANT

August 1 at 20:00 Rasta twins concert

SCHOOLCHILDREN PALACE

August 3 at 08:45 Group run

TECHNOPARK

August 2 at 13:00 Open heaven of Rock'n'Roll
2nd annual rock festival

ASTANA CENTRAL PARK
OF CULTURE AND RECREATION

August 3 at 15:00 Photo Sushka
Informal photo exhibition

BLACK DUCK RESTAURANT

August 5 at 20:00 Poetry reading

KOKTAL 13

August 3 at 12:00 Rope Jumping Team Astana

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 2014

Kazakh Chess Grand Master Wins Spanish Tournament



Dinara Saduakassova

By Dmitry Lee

Chess masters from 38 countries, including 37 international grand masters and 33 international masters, gathered July 4-12 to challenge each other at the XXXIV Open Internacional Ajedrez Villa de Benasque. Seventeen-year-old Kazakh chess prospect Dinara Saduakassova, an international women's grand master, won two cups, taking first place among women and juniors.

Saduakassova is a role model for many high school teens. In addition, by winning international tournaments she helps establish her country as a serious contender in the modern chess world and promotes chess in Kazakhstan.

"When I was five years old, my mother took me and my brother Ar-

sen and my sister Ainur to a chess club," Saduakassova said. "The game of chess was very respected in our family and cultivated. My first teacher always believed in me and saw my talent and potential."

What does chess mean to you and what other hobbies do you have?

I was lucky as I had a chance to try different [sports] -- gymnastics, chess and went to school! Besides chess I have other hobbies. I went to music school, I love music, reading books, swimming and playing tennis. I also like riding a bicycle and photography. Chess is my life-style and as an athlete I continue dedicating my life to this sport. Young girls are following my lead. How can this not make me happy!?"

Besides her talent in chess,

Saduakassova is also a promising musician. At 11, she graduated from music school with honours and also graduated with honours from Zerde, a school for gifted children.

This year, she also published her first book for beginning chess players titled "First Steps in Chess," where she unveils her experiences in chess to the public and talks about the game. Saduakassova plans to distribute her book free of charge in schools, children's homes and educational centres.

Who is your favourite chess player and why?

Modern chess players must be versatile. Players need to use different styles. I respect Bobby Fischer and Gary Kasparov. I would like to use combinations like Mikhail Tal and

have the positional sense that Anatoly Karpov has. Chess success depends on the versatility of a person.

When you won the tournament in Spain, what did you feel?

I have participated in such tournaments before. I didn't have that feeling of euphoria. I am used to winning -- it is always great to win and glorify my country. I hope that Kazakhstan will be more recognisable thanks to my wins.

Why do you think Kazakh chess players are successful?

I am glad that I can contribute something to the history of Kazakh chess. I consider my current achievements as the beginning of my career. The driving factor was always the [desire] for perfection. The goals were quite modest at first. To achieve success, an athlete needs a goal and the desire to realise it. The key factors for success are faith and perseverance and, of course, a dream and the support of those close to you.

How do you manage your time? School, chess, hobbies.

When an athlete advances a the high level of preparations, participates in international tournaments and represents the country, sports becomes more than a hobby. To me, my work becomes conscious. Fame adds responsibility. Health and time are expensive resources; therefore, my schedule must be extremely effective. I plan my day, do some things quickly. A human rests when she changes activities. Chess requires certain sacrifices and discipline.

I am pleased that people recognise me. I am thankful to people for the attention and support. I would like to say to my fans: Believe and support our sport!

Pavlodar Resident Swims 70 km to Break Breaststroke Record

By Julia Rutz

ASTANA – Omirzhan Oshanov, a 53-year-old resident of the Pavlodar region, spent 10 hours in the Irtysh River, doing the breaststroke for 70 kilometres from Zhanatan to Pavlodar to beat the Kazakh breaststroke record. He is dedicating his record to the 70th anniversary of the victory in the Great Patriotic War, which will be celebrated next year.

"I wanted to make a particular

ture in the water was 16 or 17 degrees," said Oshanov.

Because of the cold water, the swimmer experienced cramps several times while swimming and had to make several stops to warm up. According to Oshanov, he could overcome the challenge because of his athletic background. Oshanov is a Kazakh Kuresi (Kazakh wrestling) coach at a local sport school.

"Up to now, I was taking part in cross and scratch races. Then I

"The task was a challenge, as the temperature of the water and general weather conditions were not appropriate for long-distance swimming that day." – Omirzhan Oshanov

present for our war veterans, so I decided to swim 70 kilometres, breaststroke, from my home village, Zhanatan, to Pavlodar," explained Oshanov.

According to the swimmer, the task was a challenge, as the temperature of the water and general weather conditions were not appropriate for long-distance swimming that day.

"I was swimming from 10 a.m. till 8 p.m. The weather was bad, there was no sun and the tempera-

finally decided to swim and I am very glad that I made it. Moreover, it is important for me, because this is the way I can express my gratitude and honour all war veterans and commemorate those who never came back from battlefields," explained Oshanov.

The record was confirmed by staff of the Ministry of Emergencies and a group of medics who accompanied Oshanov while he swam.

THE ATOM PROJECT

NUCLEAR TERRORISM. THE THREAT IS REAL.

DENY THEIR CHANCE TO DESTROY OUR LIVES. SIGN ON FOR A NUCLEAR WEAPONS FREE WORLD.

TheATOMProject.org

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 2014

Six-Year-Old Almaty Dancer Wins Austrian Contest



By Julia Rutz

Six-year-old Almaty dancer Sofie Manasyan won two prizes at the Constellation of Vienna: Music, Harmony, Art international festival, a celebration of children's and youth creativity, which took

place in Vienna from June 28 to July 3. The young dancer received an award in the choreography category and was also given a special prize, The Golden Hope. Manasyan performed three dances at the competition, including Kazakh and Indian folk dances.

This is not Manasyan's first victory: she has already earned international acclaim at different international dance competitions and beauty pageants. She began studying dance at the age of two and has been appearing on international stages since then, under the guidance of her choreographer, Ekaterina Gramidova. She was an honoured guest at the 2013 Junior Eurovision Song Contest. Her first success came at the 11th Moscow Meets Friends international festival for young musicians, where she astounded the jury and the audience with Kazakh folk dances. In addition to dancing, Manasyan also takes singing classes, plays piano and draws.

The Constellation of Vienna Festival is an annual event supported by the Ministry of Culture of Austria. This year, the contest gathered young talents from 16 countries to compete in three categories: vocal, choreography and musical instruments.



Sofie Manasyan

Shakarim Kudaiberdiyev's Manuscripts Returned to Kazakhstan

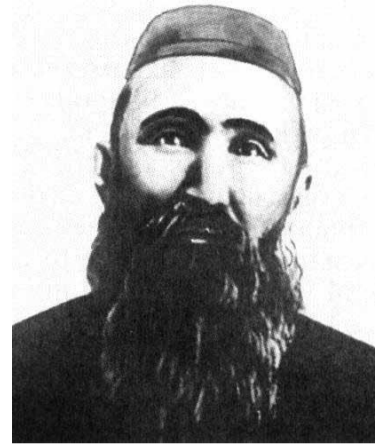
By Alina Usmanova

ASTANA – After 80 years, the manuscripts of poet and thinker Shakarim Kudaiberdiyev were returned to Kazakhstan, according to channel 24.kz. Despite the fact that his name was only allowed to be heard again in the late 1980s, after years of neglect there were still many gaps in his biography. The miraculously-survived writings found in China will help fill them.

Shakarim's manuscripts were finally returned to their historic homeland because, in the 1930s, not only Shakarim, the descendant of Abai Kunanbai, but also his children were persecuted by Soviet authorities.

Shakarim was shot by NKVD secret police in 1930s and his body was dumped in an unmarked grave only to be rediscovered decades later.

Ziyat, his youngest son and other



relatives were forced to leave their homes and go to Altai. They then left their homeland and settled in China. There he was actively engaged in educational work; his works were printed in the newspaper "Xinjiang Altai" and he started to communicate with activists of the Alash movement. Later he moved to

Urumqi, where he first discussed his father's manuscripts.

"There was a man named Karim Duisebayev who came from Kazakhstan. Ziyat entrusted him with the works of his father, which were most dear to him. Before leaving he said, 'I'm going to Urumqi. There are very few Kazakhs. And you stay here, where many of our compatriots live. This is the manuscripts of my father. It will be safer to leave them here'," said writer and poet Koben Askaruly.

Duisebayev did not keep the priceless papers for very long, as he was soon persecuted. However, during the last month before the exile he managed to give them to Askar Tananiuly, one of the founders of Kazakh prose in China, from whom Shakarim's works were passed into the hands of his son, Koben.

The chronicles of Kazakh, Turkish and Kyrgyz khans described in

the writings of Shakarim, as well as his lyrical and poetic thoughts immortalised in manuscripts, were kept for more than half a century in the family of the Chinese Kazakhs.

Shakarim was engaged in politics and elected to the township rulers. He became seriously engaged in creativity only in 1898, after he was 40 years old. He began studying eastern and western literature and familiarised himself with the legacy of such Eastern thinkers and poets as Hafiz, Fizuli and Navoi, as well as the works of Byron, Pushkin and Tolstoy. His translation of Hafiz into Kazakh remains unmatched in skill and technique, as well as a brilliant translation of Pushkin's story "Dubrovsky." He mastered the Arabic, Persian, Turkish and Russian languages. In 1903, he was accepted as a member of the West Siberian Branch of the Imperial Russian Geographical Society.

Event Celebrating Kazakh Mythology Introduces Yurt to Young People

Continued from Page B1

The guests and visitors had a memorable time in the yurt, the most common type of nomadic dwelling. Many urban dwelling children for their first time saw how yurts (which are physical manifestations of the nomadic conception of the universe) are set up. In nomadic culture, the yurt is the centre of each community's living space as well as the centre of its inhabitants and their families. At the same time, it serves as a place to connect with the universe. The yurt is a masterpiece of architectural and ecological thinking on the part of the ancient Steppe Nomads. And its adornments are rife with cultural symbolism. Its assembly, as explained by researchers and the staff at the museum, is a sacred process with a specific order associated not only with technology, but also with the symbols found in the nomad's dwelling.

Talabek Asemkulov, writer and keeper of traditions at the Kazakh School of Musical Culture, performed a kui (musical composition



A yurt in the main hall of the Central State Museum of Kazakhstan is put for celebrating Kazakh mythology, history and folklore.

played on a dombra) based on the plot of the book about the adventures of Batu and his friends. The kuishi

(performer of kuis) discussed traditional performing schools, the works of various composers and folk artists,

the dombra and the manner in which the traditional string instrument is played.

Young Artists Exhibition "Colourful Rain" Showcased in Almaty

By Natalia Valuyskaya

ALMATY – Young artists recently presented "Colourful Rain," an exhibition of paintings, graphics and art photography, in the Central Exhibition Hall, a branch of the State Kasteyev Museum.

Yasmin Magomayeva and Amir Ryskeldinov, third-grade students at the Uraz Dzhandosov Lyceum, worked throughout the year preparing for the exhibition. The tutor of their art projects, Valentina Tikhomirova, saw in the children the desire to transform the space around them with the help of colour and lines and took them under her strong wing. "Colourful Rain," in her opinion, is a cluster of art bridges between the creativ-

ity of recognised great masters and young artists.

The organisers of the exhibition gave each guest the opportunity to be a mediator between different creative worlds, watch the co-creation of adults and children and penetrate through time and space into this wonderful echo of shapes, lines and colours. After all, the history of art from the 20th century has evidence of high appreciation of children's creativity by famous artists. Many of them believed that children's work was the peak of creation, which should be achieved by professionals. No wonder that the genius Spanish painter and sculptor Pablo Picasso once said, "It is necessary to spend a lot of time in order to finally become young!"

In the paintings and graphics of

these young artists there is the harmony of motifs and similar vision of space and an objective world.

The children say that they experience happiness, joy and interest when they can express their feelings on canvas. That's why their faces, birds, lady in white mask, night and even sunny side eggs in a cast-iron pan live completely independently, without any gravitation. Ryskeldinov, for example, took a bit of paint, mixed it with water and squeezed it on the canvas and these flowing threads turned into colourful rain.

Their tutors Tikhomirova and Gulnar Dzhandosova, the latter the first granddaughter of Kazakh public figure Uraz Dzhandosov and founder and director of Lyceum are adult participants in the exhibi-

tion. Dzhandosova continues the remarkable educational tradition of her family by writing and publishing life-affirming poetry. The photographs "Celestial Themes" presented at the exhibition are her contribution to the creative, innovative teaching environment where young talents are brought up. The Lyceum, founded 16 years ago, is rightly called the school of individualised tutoring and training. Its main task is to teach each student to find and discover the talent inherent in him or her.

Tikhomirova, an art critic and artist who has been working in the Kazakh education system since 1983, creates an atmosphere of freedom for children, thereby implementing her own concept of "amazing pedagogy." She said a



tutor, as a navigator in the field of culture, helps the child choose resources for development and accompanies the child in the preparation and implementation of an in-

dividual educational programme. A tutor gives no clear messages nor teaches academic skills, but just directs the child's desire to write what he or she feels.

NATION&CAPITAL
COUNTRY

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 2014

Kazakh Surgeons Demonstrate Microsurgery Development



Kazakh surgeons, together with their colleagues from Tomsk University, replaced a damaged joint in a hand with an artificial, ceramic one for the first time.

By Yelena Brusilovskaya

ALMATY – The recent fifth Congress of Kazakh Surgeons demonstrated new possibilities in transplantology.

The surgeons, together with their colleagues from Tomsk University, first replaced a damaged joint in a hand with an artificial, ceramic one. This operation was conducted by Mismil Muradov MD, Head of the Department of Reconstructive and Plastic Microsurgery of Syzganov National Scientific Centre of Surgery (NSCS). He shared his views on the development of microsurgery in the republic.

Microsurgery today can do a lot, for example, such as transplant fingers or joints, thus maintaining the functions of the hand. After such an operation, a person can write, sew and draw. We can restore movements of the hand which were lost due to improperly united fractures or correct a birth defect, for example to set webbed fingers apart. Our

centre performs practically all types of microsurgical operations – aesthetic and reconstructive operations on limbs - using the most advanced microsurgery technologies.

Certainly, there can be problems and they depend on many factors. For a successful operation, for example, it is necessary to deliver the patient and the cut-off segment of his body to a hospital in a timely fashion. Moreover, this segment must be properly transported.

The time factor is also of special importance – the assistance should be provided within the first two to three hours. Of course in such a short period of time it is almost impossible to deliver a patient from remote areas; therefore it is very important to have such experts there.

I must say that reconstructive plastic microsurgery is a young direction and it has been developed in our centre since 1983. Then the priority was limb replantation.

Until recently, there was no reconstructive and plastic microsurgery

in the list of medical specialties. It was introduced in 2010, when Kazakhstan started fulfillment of the state programmes, including in the area of healthcare development.

Over the last two or three years, we have been working on the creation of innovative platforms in the regions. We have supervised the region in southern Kazakhstan over the past two years, for example, and have conducted about 30 master classes and trained 22 specialists.

In addition to southern Kazakhstan, microsurgery operations can be carried out in Astana and Karaganda. We also provided training for doctors from Taraz, Kyzylorda. The work is going dynamically and it is an encouraging fact that young professionals' interest in this specialty is growing, though unfortunately, Kazakhstan is short on microsurgery specialists.

Our medical universities do not train such specialists, but we are working on it. We were offered an opportunity to organise a kind of

master class at the Kazakh National Medical University.

I've been on practical trainings in European clinics and in America as it is impossible to monitor the dynamics of microsurgery's development without communicating with foreign colleagues and without studying the international experience.

In Kazakhstan microsurgery operations are performed due to the state grants and they are very expensive - about half a million tenge (US\$2,722).

We have carried out over 5,000 operations. For example, in our department we perform about 500 operations per year in hand and foot surgery. Our surgeries have a very high physical load; they practically don't move during the operation, about six-eight hours. Besides, surgical instruments and suture materials are very small in size. Therefore, the operation is performed with the use of a special surgical microscope, which zooms in eight-40 times.

Certainly over the last ten years, the progress in microsurgery is obvious. At present we are able to perform multi-microsurgery operations.

This branch of medicine is able to reduce the level of traumatization in the country and it is one of the main tasks of well-developed microsurgery. It should be noted that in addition to the ruined lives and injuries, traumatism causes very tangible damage to the economy of the state. According to statistics, the total economic losses in the country over the last five years exceeded 960 billion tenge (US\$5.2 billion). These are huge figures! Therefore, we believe that the state should create a special training programme for such specialists, taking into account their importance for the country's economy. After all, the state's expenditures on disability benefits and long-term medical treatment of such patients cost more than a billion tenge (US\$5.4 million) a year.

Microsurgery can be of great help, because it is truly a unique branch of medicine that can do if not all, but many things.

Pilot Medical Information System Launched in Stepnogorsk

By Marina Parkhomenko

STEPNOGORSK – A pilot project for the creation and introduction of Medicon.kz, a medical information system (MIS), is being implemented in the city's central hospital and municipal polyclinic.

According to its developers, the company technical support centre iDos will connect to a common information network at the hospital and polyclinic. The well-known American company EMC, one of the global leaders in the field of IT with experience in creating the national e-healthcare systems in Finland and Georgia, is among the development partners.

"The key direction of our activity is the development of integrated solutions that take into account the customer's infrastructure, specifics of manufacturing and business processes, specific branch and geographical location of the object," said Anuar Zhussupov, chief executive officer of iDos. "Medicon.kz is a social and investment project. It is primarily aimed at solving social problems in monotonous, it does not cost the healthcare organisations and the company iDos, as an investor, plans to establish an efficient information system that can be introduced in other healthcare institutions in Kazakhstan. By the way, the project was officially approved by the Kazakh Ministry of Healthcare and the Health Department of the Akmola region and its implementation is supported by the Stepnogorsk municipal administration. In addition, medical information systems created under the project will fully comply with the Concept of development of e-health in Kazakhstan for 2013-2020."

The project is being implemented here because a few years ago,

both the hospital and polyclinic were participants in a pilot project on the introduction of a medical statistical system (MSS) in the framework of the integrated health information system. Secondly, all medical facilities in the city are concentrated in one area, thereby making a medical campus, which significantly facilitates the task. "The work of 214 doctors and their assistants in the hospital and 176 medicals in the polyclinic will be automated," Zhussupov explained. "The load on the registry will drop two to three times. And most importantly, the doctors' time spent on paperwork will reduce three times to an average five to six minutes compared to the current 15 minutes or more. Consequently, due to fast searching and browsing of the patient's electronic medical records, the speed of making medical decisions will double.

The work of 214 doctors and their assistants in the hospital and 176 medicals in the polyclinic will be automated.

The system should be convenient both for doctors and administrators. The hospital and clinic's management can track the work of the staff, which is very important for wage differentiation. It will also be easier to present reports to the regional healthcare department and the centre for healthcare development because Medicon.kz will be integrated with the information systems of these structures.



Best Airline Central Asia and India, Skytrax World Airline Awards 2012, 2013, 2014

All of us at Air Astana thank our customers for voting us Best Airline Central Asia and India for the third year running.



WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 2014

East Kazakhstan Rallies Youth to Green Cause



«Green Future for the City of Youth!» informational campaign to promote energy-saving technologies in East Kazakhstan's Natural Landscape Preserve.

By Svetlana Abenova

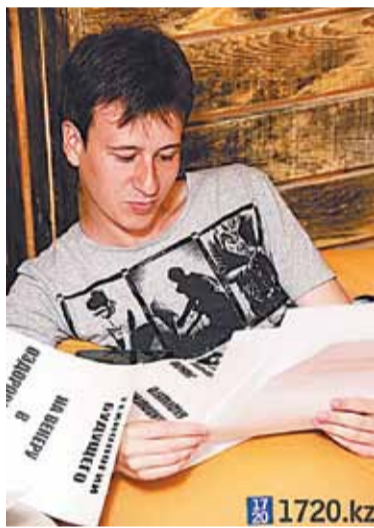
UST-KAMENOGORSK – To promote its City of Youth project, a multifunctional youth complex that is to become a centre of energy-saving technologies in East Kazakhstan's Natural Landscape Preserve, Association of Youth and Children's Organisations has launched a broad informational campaign, Green Future for the City of Youth!

The idea for the campaign, adopted from a Dutch programme, is designed to promote creative thinking by young people through brainstorming sessions, multilevel platforms and positions.

“Young people must become the

carriers of the idea of a green future and green fashion. That's why, working on posters and slogans, the team of creators do not forget that they should be understandable and also in demand among our audience. We believe that very soon, the fruits of their work will be seen on T-shirts, caps, desktop calendars [and] key chains,” said Director of the Association Olga Bobrysheva.

Over 150 philosophical, socially acute and urgent appeals were created in just six hours in one work session. T-shirts with sayings such as “Charge the mobile manually” and others will be the dress code at the Alakol Flame Youth Festival scheduled for late July.



Throughout this year, a series of informal meetings, photo hunts and travel tours under the motto “Green Future for the City of Youth” will be held in the region.

Thousands Still Flock to Korkyt Ata Mausoleum

By Dmitry Lee

In talking about Kazakhstan's riches, many forget about all but oil and natural gas, completely disregarding the country's culture. One of these overlooked treasures is a monument in the Kyzylorda region called Korkyt Ata.

The monument was erected in 1980 in the Karmakchin district. It was dedicated to the famous Turkic akyn (poet and folk singer) and creator of the musical instrument kobyz, Korkyt Ata. The historical monument is the centre of many legends that have survived to this day. Thousands of tourists visit the monument each year.

“Some believe Korkyt Ata lived for 195 years, however, the markers found at the site today state that his life ended at around 95 years of age in the eighth or ninth century A.D.,” Vyacheslav Kim, Almaty-based architect, adventurer and explorer said. “Legend has it that Korkyt was seeking immortality and felt like life was too short. He was said to see death in everything he did. So he retired to the woods and made a wooden instrument and pulled strings over it; and the modern kobyz was born.

Korkyt Ata sang in loneliness about his sorrowful fate; his music was heard by others around the world. They were mesmerised by his tunes and fame followed shortly after. To this day, his songs instill patriotism in Kazakhs,” Kim said.

According to one of many legends, Korkyt Ata requested that a kobyz be bestowed upon his grave so that kobyz tunes can be heard in the wind at all times.

“This monument was built of Syrtseva brick and has a round dome in the shape of six pyramids to reproduce the essential features of the inside of a yurt. There are four kobyz-shaped figures, on the

outside and there is a metallic bolt and four holes. The four kobyz-shaped figures make a slight vibration and a constant humming when the wind blows - music of the wind so to speak,” he added.

“Famous Kazakh architect Bek Ibraev planned the monument,” the 31-year-old architect noted.

The Korkyt Toube Mausoleum (or singing tubes in the Kazakh language) was constructed in the 10th or 11th century near the

Korkyt burial site on the Syrdarya embankment. As the centuries passed, the site deteriorated. However, in 1997, it was restored by the local municipality along with a new hotel and other modern accommodations for tourists.

Since 2006, the Ministry of Culture of Kazakhstan and the Akimat (city administration) of Kyzylorda have held an international festival called the Korkyt and the Music of the Steppe.



The Korkyt Ata monument is the centre of many legends that have survived to this day.

CHOOSE FUTURE ENERGY!



EXPO 2017
• Future Energy •
Astana Kazakhstan



expo2017astana
expo2017astana.com



TOURISM

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 2014

Kulan Settlement Added to UNESCO World Heritage List

By Yelena Efimova

ZHAMBYL – The Kulan settlement, located on the Silk Road and dating to the sixth century, has been added to in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Archaeological research of the settlement started in the late 19th century. A complex of monuments of different times is located near the Kulan village in the Ryskulov district. According to the archives, this village was mentioned for the first time in the seventh century in written sources by Chinese pilgrim Xuan Zang.

A number of famous historical events are associated with Kulan. In the year 740, the last western Turkic kagan, Ashin Syn, was killed there. And in 840 the Arab army reached the village.

“Archaeological research of the settlement identified three cultural layers, the seventh-eighth, ninth-tenth and 11th-13th centuries,” said the district museum’s guide Bauirzhan Tolybayev. “On the topography of the object there are the shahrestan and the citadel which were clearly traced and the unfortified rabad on the east side. Today, scientists from the Margulan Institute of Archaeol-

ogy conduct excavations in the palace complex on the territory of the former rabad. Earlier they found a bronze cauldron, dating to the seventh-eighth centuries. It is kept in our museum, as well as many other finds, for example jars for wine and grain and pitchers. By the way, they excavated an ancient work shop for grape processing from the ninth century.”

The palace complex of the Kulan fort is located on an area of 2,246 square metres. During the excavations archeologists obtained important data characterising the architecture and construc-

tion technology of the time. The main raw material for construction of the buildings was loess, or raw clay. It was used in manufacturing pakhsa (large adobe blocks) and bricks and plastering walls and floors and also served as a waterproofing roof material. Due to the strength of loess, the houses were built without foundations on the peeled turf and as a rule, aligned sites were located on hills. Beginning in the ninth century, the ruins of early medieval structures served as the bases of the walls.

“The exterior walls of the buildings are quite massive; their

width is three metres and the internal walls are up to one metre,” said leading researcher of the institute Arnabay Nurzhanov. “In general, in Central Asia we see similar architectural solutions and building techniques, but Kulan is original in its planning and architectural solutions of buildings. This separates the settlement as a place of local, original architectural style.”

The archaeologists found sensational discoveries, such as four terracotta heads cut from their torsos. The fragments of the statues could be dated to the ninth century, of course, if they had

not been removed from the lower cultural layers dating back to the seventh-eighth centuries, scientists say. The composition of these sculptures apparently represented a dynastic group portrait, which established itself in Central Asia in the first century A.D. Their faces have mixed Caucasoid and Turkic-type features. Most likely, these are the main members of the local dynasty. This is evidenced by the crowns on the heads of characters, as well as the calm, majestic facial expressions, which are full of dignity. The study of portrait images of Central Asian nations shows that there are no direct analogues to the sculpted heads from the excavations of Lugovoye G.

Unfortunately, the object is not protected. It was not fenced nor preserved after the season of excavations. Meanwhile, it is the only Kazakh palace complex of such scale.

Countdown is on for new Astana Marriott Hotel



By Arsen Aubakirov

ASTANA – “We are thrilled with the opportunity to bring our Marriott brand to Astana. Being a flagship brand of Marriott International, Marriott is one of the world’s fastest growing brands, and as we continue to grow, we are very excited to have this spectacular hotel in such a superb location. We are confident that the Astana Marriott Hotel will be one of the finest addresses in the city and we look forward to welcoming travellers and residents of the city of Astana as of August 1,” said Philippe Mahuas, general manager of the Astana Marriott Hotel.

According to the company officials, the Astana Marriott Hotel is the ideal solution for the modern nomad: ambitious travellers with purpose; knowledgeable, sophisticated and genuine. The new Marriott Hotel, situated in the centre of Astana, is ideally located for access to the business centre and links to the airport.

The design aims to create a five-star, international-standard hotel, stylish and inviting, with a comfortable residential feel. The spaces flow together, but each maintains its own purpose and distinctive feel. The overall concept was to create a timeless, contemporary classic hotel, modern and welcoming. Luxurious marble and joinery finishes create a distinct and unique design, European in feel, but with local touches.

The new Astana Marriott Hotel offers 271 guest rooms starting at a spacious 32 square metres with a sleek contemporary design and high-tech facilities. Forty-three suites include 27 extended-stay suites equipped with kitchens, two Royal Suites and one Presidential Suite with magnificent city centre views. Every guest enjoys around-the-clock ‘At Your Service’ care, providing the highest levels of personalised service for an extraordinary stay.

The Aroma restaurant, Vista Bar & Lounge and Lobby Bar serve up a variety of local and international gourmet experiences.

For an amazing view of Astana, one can head to the Vista Bar & Lounge on the hotel’s 27th floor. The menu offers a fusion of European and Asian

cuisines, served in small portions. The concept is to share and discover new tastes and flavours. Its menu will delight one’s taste buds by offering a wide array of dishes served throughout the day and evening. A private dining room is available to enjoy privacy with a boardroom table for up to 12 guests, fully equipped with a karaoke system.

Aroma restaurant is the all-day dining venue of the Astana Marriott Hotel. An a la carte menu with a French influence created by Benoit Letellier, executive chef of the Astana Marriott, is available for lunch and dinner. A wide grill selection including prime cuts, fish and seafood of the highest quality as well as Central Asian specialties are also on offer. The menu will be regularly revisited to reflect seasonal product availability.

The dishes are complemented by more than 120 wines and champagnes from all over the world and a wide selection of fine spirits.

The Lobby Bar, the focal point and meeting point of the hotel, will be open all day and offers various options for hotel residents and outsiders alike to meet at the bar for a drink or something to eat.

The menu will cover the expectations of international travellers and locals and offer a wide array of dishes served throughout the day and evening, with a changing atmosphere in the evening generated by adapted music and lighting.

Meeting space in the Astana Marriott Hotel includes six conference rooms with a total area of 500 square metres.

The Grand Ballroom can be divided by partition walls. The hotel can accommodate any need, from a small conference to a fabulous wedding. The Grand Ballroom has podium direct access that allows guests to arrive by car directly at the doorsteps of the hall.

The conference rooms are suitable for medium-sized business events. The elegant atmosphere of the rooms and special podium door exit allows for open-air events during the summer season.

“We are very excited to open the Astana Marriott Hotel in Astana. With our superb location and contemporary facilities, the Astana Marriott Hotel really is the ultimate destination for both business and leisure travellers,” says Mahuas.

During the opening period from Aug. 1-31, guests will be able book at a special opening rate. More information can be found at astanamariott.com.

Kazakhstan’s Southern Border Holds Hidden Tourism Potential



The southern border of Kazakhstan high in the Tien Shan Mountains.

Continued from Page B1

It takes three days trek on horseback over uneven ground, which may fill you with some apprehension but the horses are in the capable hands of trained rangers. It is also possible to hire

a guide such as Svetlana Baskakova, director of Wild Nature who has excellent English – Svetlana is also a Botanist with amazing knowledge of the park. The apprehension will soon pass as the surroundings envelop you to be replaced with excited expecta-

tion about what is around the next corner.

The area also includes wildflower meadows high above the snowline towards the 3,000-metre peak of Kaskabulak and the Bronze and Iron Age petroglyphs. They were discovered in the

late 1950’s and since then, only around 300 people have actually visited them and they are still waiting to be formally catalogued and fully studied. Often large herds of ibex feed on the rocky slopes and the calls of the snow cock and horned lark can be heard around the glaciated valley. Large Himalayan griffon vultures are also often seen overhead. Black rocks reflect the sun and the ancient images of ibex, hunters and dogs or wolves are clearly visible. They are scattered randomly over the floor of this bowl-shaped area and there are estimated to be around 3,000 of them.

Visitors to the area also have the opportunity to pass through wild juniper forests and patches of apple trees. A recent group of visitors also had the fortune to see a brown bear in the wild.

The region around Zhabagaly is an exciting and vibrant place with Shymkent to the West, Taraz to the East and Tashkent to the South. The park sits on the Silk Road and is not only a nature lovers dream but is also becoming an important ecotourism centre.

Organisations such as Wild Nature can arrange home stays and will arrange all of the permits and provisions needed for your visit to the nature preserve. To contact Wild Nature email baskakova2008@mail.ru or www.wild-nature-kz.narod.ru.



THE ASTANA TIMES

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to announce that readers in Kazakhstan can now subscribe to the print edition of **The Astana Times**. The newspaper will be delivered to your door twice per month.

If you’re interested in receiving **The Astana Times** in print, along with enjoying our online stories, act now! Contact **KazPost** near you and set up the subscription using our new subscription index **64572**.

We hope all of you continue to enjoy reading and sharing our stories.

Sincerely,
Roman Vassilenko
Editor-in-Chief
The Astana Times

THE ASTANA TIMES
astanatimes.com

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 2014

Weightlifting Records Broken at Anatoly Khrapaty Competition



Ilyin, Bersanov and Zelimkhan brought weightlifting victories home.

By Yelden Sarybay

Two members of Kazakhstan's weightlifting team broke stand-

ing records at the recent Anatoly Khrapaty competition on July 20th in the outskirts of Almaty. For one of the record breakers

Ilya Ilyin it was the first appearance since winning the London 2012 Summer Olympics. Weighing 107.4 kilogrammes, he com-

peted in the 105-kilogramme+ category.

In the snatch, Ilyin took on the 180 and 185-kilogramme weights with consistency; however, during his third approach, he couldn't manage the 188-kilogramme barbell. In his second exercise, Ilya was successful at the 230-kilogramme mark and then asked for 239. He successfully mastered this weight, setting a new record for Kazakhstan. It should be noted that the coaching staff of the Kazakh National Team are not allowed to train athletes with overly heavy weights.

Meanwhile, the winner of the heavyweight category was 22-year-old Ibrahim Bersanov. While in the snatch, he confidently performed at three levels of weight: 187 kilogrammes, 192 kilogrammes and 197 kilogrammes, setting a new national record. In the push competition, Bersanov exerted no less effort than his partner, managing 220 kilogrammes, 227 kilogrammes and 232 kilogrammes. Ibrahim set a record for both Kazakhstan and the double-event. The record is now 429 kilogrammes.

Talented 17-year-old Zelimkhan Abubakar claimed the third step of the podium, which added to the long list of things those rooting for Kazakhstan's weightlifting team have to cheer for. Both Bersanov and Abubakarov train with experienced coach Enver Turkeleeri, so there is little doubt that they will only grow stronger before the next Asian Games coming up in autumn 2014.

Astana Hosts International Wheelchair Dance Competition



The important role of international competitions for the development of paralympic sports in the country was emphasised at the competition.

Continued from Page B1

The leader in solo Latina (class two) was a representative of Hong Kong, Wong Wo Chau, who beat four other competitors with his passionate performance.

Russian wheelchair dance couple Maksim Sedakov and Svetlana Kukushina took first place in the combi Latina (class two) event. The two have been dancing together since 2004 and have won seven championships in Russia, two silver medals at the world championships in Hannover (Germany) 2010 and Tokyo 2013 and took first place at the World Dance Olympiad in Platja d'Aro, Spain. They have also won the Continents Cup three times and have received prizes in international competitions in Germany, Ukraine, Poland, the Netherlands, Malta, Serbia, China and more.

Representatives of Chinese Taipei Kuo Wen Sheng and Huang Yijing were the winners of the duo Latina (class two) programme.

For Aigul Balmagambetova, the young talent from Karaganda born in 1990, this competition was her first experience in WDS and it was successful. Balmagambetova became the best in solo standard (class two), where she competed with five athletes for the gold.

"Regardless of my impairments I have been practicing dances since childhood, but only for myself. I received lots of positive emotions during the Kazakhstan Open. I am happy for the success of the Kazakh athletes who took part in this event. It was a big professional experience for me," Balmagambetova said.

The winners in duo standard (class two) were local couple Ardak Otorbayev and Karlygash Tynabekova. This was their first competition as a couple. Tynabekova began WDS only three months ago but she promises to become one of the leading athletes.

In the duo standard (class two) programme, a couple from Taipei was the leader. The couple competed with athletes from Kazakhstan.

World champions, South Korean

athletes Han Chang Woo and Ryu Jini were the winners of combi Latina (class one), competing with athletes from Belarus, South Korea and Hong Kong.

The top places in combi standard (class two) were taken by Marat Karakulov and Nargiz Akhmetova, representatives of Taraz in the south of Kazakhstan who took third place and Stanislav Sheshukov and Tatiana Skvortsova of Tyumen, Russia, who took second place. The leaders of the event were Vitaliy Morozov and Gulnaz Akbasheva from Tatarstan, Russia.

Summarising the results of the event, Gulnara Mukasheva, administrative director of the Kazakh National Paralympic Committee, emphasised the role of international competitions for development of paralympic sports in the country. "The National Paralympic Committee received strong impetus in the development only recently. Nevertheless, we can already state that a lot has been achieved. Competitions approved by the International Paralympic Committee with the presence of foreign athletes and an international panel of adjudicators prove the successful strategy that our committee took."

"I can say that Kazakh athletes are some of the leading athletes in the region. We are glad to have this opportunity to hold an event of such scale and importance for physically-challenged athletes and for the Kazakh paralympic movement. We are thankful for everyone who came and supported us. I would like to express deepest gratitude to the Kazakh Agency of Sports and Physical Training Affairs and to the National Paralympic Committee for all their support," said Aliya Tussupbekova, president of the Modern and Sports Dance Federation.

The Kazakhstan Open was organised by the Agency of Sports and Physical Training Affairs, the Kazakh National Paralympic Committee and the Modern and Sport Dance Federation.

Astana's Nibali Wins Tour de France, Sets New Records

By Dmitry Lee

ASTANA – Vincenzo Nibali became the sixth man in history and the first Italian since 1998 to win all three of cycling's major tours as he secured a victory in this year's Tour de France on Sunday.

Nibali wore the overall leader's yellow jersey for all but two stages of the race after its first day. He also won four of the race's 21 total stages, the most for a tour winner since the U.S.'s Lance Armstrong won five in 2004.

He eventually finished an impressive seven minutes and 52 seconds ahead of the race's runner-up, the tour's biggest margin of victory since 1997.

"It's the most important and the best moment. I never imagined it could feel this good, because when you find yourself on this podium on the Champs Elysees, it's unique," the 29-year-old Nibali said.

"Now that I'm here, it's even better than I imagined. I fought for this every day; I started building from a long way out with a winter preparation with the team, because we had decided this was our objective."

Nibali's main rival for this year's race, Alberto Contador of Spain, crashed out, as did reigning champion Chris Froome of the U.K.

The Astana Pro Team leader said this year's tour layout was

"almost made to measure for me." He also noted that crashes are part of the race, and that he'd been a victim of them on many occasions.

The Italian, who is an avid anti-doping supporter, noted that his triumphs came through focusing on the tour as the new season started and taking advantage of opportunities to attack during the race, which helped him finish so far ahead. This tour win was a result of dedication and hard work, without the kind of sensational performances seen when doping was so prevalent. Nibali dominated throughout the race, which went over the Alps and Pyrenees mountains. After crossing the finish line, the first

thing he did was go straight to his wife and baby daughter to celebrate the win with his family.

Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev sent his congratulations to the Italian in an official statement.

"You strove for victory throughout the race stages and it allowed our team to once again demonstrate Kazakhstan's achievements in sport," his note read.

The head of state expressed gratitude to the Astana Pro Team cyclists and their dedication and will to win from the beginning of the tour. He wished Nibali good health, new victories and new heights in his career.



Nubali won due to focusing on the tour as the new season started and taking advantage of opportunities to attack during the race.



CAPITAL

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 2014

After 13 Years, New Wedding Palace to be Built in Astana

By Julia Rutz

ASTANA – A new wedding palace will emerge in Astana soon as part of the Zhastar Palace, said the administrator of the Zhastar reconstruction programme and director of the Nurli Astana Corporate Fund, Sharmerden Zhanbosinov.

“Zhastar Palace is going to be reconstructed. The name of the complex will remain the same, but it will become more functional. Apart from the wedding palace, which will offer different halls for wedding ceremonies, this complex will also include a centre for youth development and an employment services centre,” said Zhanbosinov.

The project seems likely to attract a lot of attention, as an air bridge will be erected along Abay Street, leading to the entrance of the building. The cost of the reconstruction, however, remains unknown.

“The technical draft of the reconstruction project will be approved before September 1 this year. Only after that will we be able to tell you the general cost

of the project. The model palace was agreed to by the Head of the State, but the whole project is still under development. That is why I cannot tell you about the internal design of the building,” explained Zhanbosinov.

The reconstruction is expected to be finished by the end of 2017. The project is being executed by the St. Petersburg-based company Studio 44 in cooperation with the BASIS Design Institute, which won the construction tender last June.

According to the Astana Municipal Architecture and City Planning Office, the building license was given to the Nurli Astana Corporate Fund on March 12, 2014.

There have been no wedding palaces in the capital for the past 14 years. The last institution for marriage registration was closed in 2000 and completely demolished in 2001. Since then, Astana’s newlyweds have rented private banquet halls or invited wedding officiants to restaurants in order to have the marriage registration occur during the celebration.



Zhastar Palace will be reconstructed to accommodate the new wedding palace with different halls for wedding ceremonies.

Transport and Logistics Business Development Tour Leads to Potential Partnerships

By Michelle Witte

ASTANA – Fifteen small and medium-sized business owners, including four women, in the transport and logistics sector returned to Kazakhstan on June 20 from a business development tour through Washington, DC; Chicago, Illinois; Jacksonville, Florida and Atlanta, Georgia, where they met potential American partners, received general and sector-specific business training and learned about the American business climate. At least four of the entrepreneurs, who come from across Kazakhstan, have returned with specific plans to partner with an American company they met during the trip.

The business development tour, which ran from May 30 to June 20, was the 11th tour conducted by the Kazakhstan Business Connections Programme, a project co-funded by the government of Kazakhstan and USAID as part of the Kazakhstan-U.S. Programme for Economic Development and implemented by Volunteers for Economic Growth Alliance (VEGA) and the International Executive Services Corps (IESC). The programme is also part of Kazakhstan’s Business Roadmap 2020. This tour was the programme’s second transport and logistics tour. Other tours have been in the healthcare, information and communication technology, agriculture and livestock, construction and the food industry, all designated priority sectors of the Kazakh economy. Before the programme ends this December, two more tours, in the textiles and food industry sectors, will visit different American cities.

In feedback collected shortly after the trip, four of the entrepreneurs reported that they were planning to use products they had encountered, including American software for tracking and organising truck movements for trucking companies, American equipment for tire retreading and American concrete-road-building technology.

Zharilgap Kulchikov, owner of a trucking company from Aktau, plans to use American truck tracking software, as does Yevgeniya Rybakova of Kostanay. Yuliya Nurmukhamedova, owner of a tire-retreading plant in Ust-Kamenogorsk, reported that she plans to purchase technology she saw in action during the trip. Oleg Belyayev, director of Ridder TransStroi and Auto Fort in Ridder, is very interested in bringing the concrete-slab road technology he saw in the U.S. to Kazakhstan. Belyayev told Kapital.kz on July 4 that he planned to meet with Oblast Akim Berdybek Saparbayev to discuss the road-building technology and the American partners ready to invest in Kazakhstan.

“I will show that there is good technology available, there are American partners who are ready to come with funds,” he said. He also said that the Americans he met on the business development tour were attracted to the high returns possible in Central Asia, higher than in the



U.S., where competition is fierce. “Americans like the idea that, having invested some money, they will receive high revenues. We are a reasonable investment for them to receive future income.”

Unfortunately, Belyayev said, his company won’t be able to benefit from the new incentives Kazakhstan is extended to foreign investors, because his project will come in under the \$20 million threshold for benefits. “I believe this is not right, since \$20 million is a big amount of money for an SME. If we were eligible for these incentives, I could have conducted negotiations with foreign investors in an absolutely different way,” he commented. Companies eligible for businesses development trips must fit the Kazakh classifications of small business (no more than 50 employees) or medium-sized business (no more than 250 employees).

Gaukhar Yessentayeva, chief of party of the USAID Business Connections Project in Astana, told The Astana Times on July 26 that in addition to getting training and meeting American partners, trip participants also strengthen ties among themselves. They also act as business ambassadors for Kazakhstan. Many are surprised that American

companies are interested in the Kazakh markets at all, given that their country is still relatively unknown. “Sometimes [the American business owners] don’t know where Kazakhstan is. And we always tell our people, ‘When you go, don’t be surprised [if people don’t know Kazakhstan]; try to represent our country as best you can.’”

At a press conference in Almaty marking the return of the entrepreneurs on June 20, Gabit Lesbekov, managing director of Kazakhstan’s Damu Fund, which recruits entrepreneurs to apply for the programme, said, “Implementation of the project results not only in the development of entrepreneurs’ business skills, but also in expansion of business contacts. After the business development trip, participants apply the new knowledge in practice and introduce their managerial experience obtained abroad.”

Learning about different styles of doing business is one of the programme’s benefits. Because most participants on the tours don’t speak English, Yessentayeva said, they are provided with translators who accompany them to meetings and trainings. The directness of American business meetings is often surprising to the Kazakh business owners, who are used to preced-

ing conversations about buying and selling with lengthy introductions and small talk.

“The most positive effect from the trip to me was to see how American companies work in action: management, methods in their offices. This also helped me to meet new partners not only in the U.S. but among the participants of my group,” said Anatoliy Romashko of Almaty in his feedback about the tour. “I really liked the experience of negotiations that I had during the trip. All the knowledge and experience will help me in expanding my business,” said Kairat Zhienalina in his trip feedback.

The Business Connections Programme keeps in touch with participants, contacting them every six months to see how their businesses are developing and track any contracts or other activities arising from the trip. So far, out of the 132 entrepreneurs from Kazakhstan’s 16 regions who have taken part in the programme over the past two years, 13 have concluded contracts totalling over \$13 million with U.S. companies. The biggest contract so far is a three-year, \$10 million contract between the city of Karaganda and an American IT company to supply mobile connection stations. The latest trip appears likely to add to this total very soon.

Turkish Tourism Industry Representatives Provide Training in Astana

By Julia Rutz

ASTANA – Representatives of the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism came to Astana to train 86 local hotel industry workers, who earned international certificates by the end of the programme. The training was organised as part of the city’s preparation for international exposition EXPO 2017.

According to Deputy Chairman of the Committee for Industry and Tourism of the Kazakhstan’s Ministry of Industry and New Technologies Muhit Saimasayev, international seminars are high-priority events in the run up to EXPO 2017.

“The committee is expressing hope that this event will contribute to further development of the tourism industry in Kazakhstan, which positively affects the image of our country abroad. Turkey, as a tourist destination, has great experience in this sphere and we are very glad that Turkish experts came to us in order to transfer their experience and improve the provision of tourist services in Kazakhstan,” said Saimasayev.

Manager of Kazakhstan’s association of hotels and restaurants Elnura Dzashimova expressed her hope that knowledge attained dur-

ing the seminar will be used far and wide. According to her, the training programme was attended by human resources department representatives, front office managers, office managers, food and beverage department representatives and chefs. It was also said that similar seminars will be organised in the future.

The training addressed some of the most important sectors of the tourism industry, including seminars on front office activities, housekeeping, food production, food and beverage service and personnel improvement.



EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS...
Tired, stressed and wish to unwind?

Rixos Wellness & Spa is a place to:
- relax your body and mind
- experience Spa treatments done by therapists from Bali
- spend quality time with yourself to reveal your inner you...

We are here to take care for YOU...

www.rixos.com

7 Kunayev str, 010000, Astana, Kazakhstan,
+7 7172 24 50 50, astana@rixos.comRIXOS
PRESIDENT ASTANA