



# UNITED STATES– KAZAKHSTAN CONVENTION

Successful Strategic Partnership

11 December 2013



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
KAZAKHSTAN



In collaboration with



newsdeskmedia

Hyatt Regency Washington  
400 New Jersey Avenue, NW Washington, DC, 20001



# A bilateral relationship goes global

HE Kairat Umarov, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to the United States



**T**he United States-Kazakhstan Convention is being organized at a time when we embark on the implementation of the Kazakhstan 2050 Strategy, a visionary, long-term program for progressive development of the nation, laid out by President Nursultan Nazarbayev, to ensure its entrance into the rank of 30 most developed countries of the world by 2050.

Against this backdrop, today we observe rapid growth

of Kazakh-US strategic and comprehensive partnership, which covers a wide range of areas ranging from trade and economic cooperation to regional and global security.

In trade and economic areas, our companies are increasingly enhancing their business relationships with each other. US companies are taking part in industrial modernization and new development programs, making use of the excellent investment

climate Kazakhstan offers in addition to their presence in our energy sector. Just recently an architecture firm, Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture, won an international competition for designing the EXPO 2017 on the theme of 'Future Energy'. World leader on uranium production, JSC KazAtomProm, has recently established its office in Washington DC, indicating the growing cooperation in peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Other energy issues such as energy efficiency, clean energy technologies and diversification of energy sources are considered within the US-Kazakhstan Energy Partnership, which meets annually. Chevron, ExxonMobil and other big major companies successfully invested in oil and gas sector that powered the dynamic economic growth in Kazakhstan. Building on more than 20 years of successful cooperation on extractive industry, we are

## The convention provides an excellent opportunity to take stock of the achievements

now focusing on diversifying our economic engagement through transfer of technologies, joint projects on science and technology, while American high-tech and IT companies consider Kazakhstan a favorable destination in which to do business. As a result, Microsoft, Cisco and IBM are contributors to fostering innovation in our country. Joint projects are reviewed at the bilateral Commission on Science and Technology for Development, while American companies are active participants in Astana Economic Forum, which is emerging as New Davos in Eurasia.

Our successful partnership in nuclear non-proliferation greatly contributes to strengthening global security. President Nursultan Nazarbayev and President Barack Obama meet each other regularly at international fora such the Nuclear Security Summits (Washington DC in 2010 and Seoul in 2012) and the

G20 summit (St Petersburg, September 2013) to discuss joint non-proliferation efforts. Two rounds of talks between Iran and E3+3 countries that Almaty hosted on 25-26 February and 5-6 April 2013 contributed to creating an atmosphere of trust and paved the way for further discussions that led to the signing of the promising agreement on 24 November in Geneva.

On regional security, Kazakhstan provides crucial logistical support to the United States in its stabilization efforts in Afghanistan. My country firmly supports the Northern Distribution Network and is building the New Silk Road envisioned by the United States.

GE locomotives being assembled in Astana are used in transportation of goods and passengers along the New Silk Road across Kazakhstan. Another American company, HP, uses Kazakhstan's rail network to supply laptops and other products from China to Europe. This, coupled by the humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan, providing grain, offering scholarship for 1,000 Afghan students for \$50 million, has a long-term positive impact on the regional security and prosperity.

Our common priorities in the region were discussed during Defense Minister Adilbek Dzhakysbekov's visit to the US on 12-14 November, which also covered larger defense and military ties between our two countries.

Our strategic partnership received a powerful impetus as a result of the productive visit to Washington DC by Foreign Minister Erlan Idrissov on 8-10 July. The agreement on the introduction of a five-year visa to American and Kazakh citizens, which has been in place since 1 August 2013, is key to helping grow people-to-people ties.

I believe that the United States-Kazakhstan Convention provides an excellent opportunity to take stock of the achievements and generate collective wisdom on how to build on the success and open new avenues for 21st-century strategic and comprehensive partnership between Kazakhstan and the United States.

I wish a successful day at this important, thought provoking convention. ■

# Working together toward increased partnership

**Faruk Taban**, President, Turkic American Alliance

**T**he Turkic American Alliance (TAA) is excited to have co-organized the United States-Kazakhstan Convention. The theme of the convention –Successful Strategic Partnership – is an important one because of the changing political landscape in Central Asia.

Kazakhstan must be just as dynamic as the political climate that surrounds it, particularly in relation with the United States. Already sharing many mutual interests and long-term goals, working together towards increased partnership will be of enormous benefit to both nations. The United States-Kazakhstan Convention is a great place to start.

The TAA is the largest national Turkic organization in the United States, representing six regional federations and more than 200 community associations, cultural centers, business chambers and education institutions.

The vision of the United States-Kazakhstan Convention echoes many of the TAA's goals – to build and support the political empowerment of Turkic Americans by functioning as a powerful advocate for dialogue at the grass-roots level among Turkic-American and American communities, as well as at the national level among Turkic states and the United States.

After organizing three successful Turkic American Conventions with another planned for April 2014, the Turkic American Alliance decided to spearhead a new initiative that would highlight the relationships of individual Turkic countries with the United States throughout country-specific annual conventions.

In collaboration with the Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians (TCAB) and Turkic American



Federation of Midwest (TAFM), TAA has already organized a number of conventions with the embassies of other Turkic countries. Such conventions have seen many notable attendees and guest speakers, such as Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Assistant Secretary of State Robert Blake, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and Congressman Dana Rohrabacher.

We hope that you enjoy the United States-Kazakhstan Convention. ■

## PROGRAM

### UNITED STATES-KAZAKHSTAN CONVENTION 11 December 2013 Hyatt Regency Washington

7.30–9.00am

#### Breakfast and Opening Ceremony

Moderated by Kemal Oksuz, President of the Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians

Welcome address by H.E. Kairat Umarov, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to the United States;  
Address by Rose Gottemoeller, Acting Under Secretary of State for Arms  
Control and International Security, US State Department;  
Address by Serik Nugerbekov, Senator, Parliament of Kazakhstan;  
Address by Dr. Faruk Taban, TAA President

**Remarks by:** Senator John Cornyn, TX; Congressman Henry Cuellar, TX; Congressman Jim Bridenstine, OK; Congressman Ted Poe, TX; Congressman Dana Rohrabacher, CA; Congressman Steve Stockman, TX; Congressman Gregory Meeks, NY; Congressman Leonard Lance, NJ; Congressman Bill Pascrell, NJ; Congressman Charlie Dent, PA; Congressman Mike Doyle, PA; Congressman Mike Fitzpatrick, PA; Congressman Rob Andrews, NJ; Congresswoman Michelle L. Grisham, NM; Congressman Pete Olson, TX; Congressman Charles B. Rangel, NY; Congressman Mark Meadows, NC; Congressman Pete Gallego, TX; Congressman Chris Gibson, NY; Congressman Doug Collins, GA

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9.15–10.45am

#### Session I

### UNITED STATES-KAZAKHSTAN: STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Moderated by James F. Collins, Carnegie Endowment Director for Russia and Eurasia  
Introductory remarks by Congressman Gregory Meeks

#### GROWING PARTNERSHIP: WHY IT MATTERS

Richard Hoagland, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State  
for South and Central Asia, US State Department

#### KAZAKHSTAN AS A HUB OF REGIONAL COOPERATION AND SECURITY

Frederick Kempe, President and CEO, Atlantic Council;  
David Sedney, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense  
for Afghanistan, Pakistan and Central Asia

**ENERGY PARTNERSHIP AND GREEN DEVELOPMENT**

Ariel Cohen, Senior Research Fellow for Russian and Eurasian Studies  
and International Energy Policy, Heritage Foundation

**DOING BUSINESS IN KAZAKHSTAN: SUCCESS STORY**

Islambek Salzhanov, General Director of Altyn Kyran;  
Sandy Merber, Executive Counsel of the General Electric Company

**Q & A**

10.45–11.00am Networking break

11.00am–12.30pm

**Session II**

**STRATEGY 'KAZAKHSTAN 2050': LONG-TERM VISION**

Moderated by Frederick Starr, Chairman of the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute and  
Silk Road Studies Program, Johns Hopkins University

Short video presentation 'Kazakhstan 2050'

Introductory remarks by Congressman Robert Aderholt

**SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PARTNERSHIP**

Kerri-Ann Jones, Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International  
Environmental and Scientific Affairs, US State Department

**ASTANA ECONOMIC FORUM: NEW DAVOS**

Serik Nugerbekov, Senator of the Parliament of Kazakhstan;  
Alan Spence, CEO, Newsdesk Media

**EXPO 2017: ENERGY FOR THE FUTURE**

Pavel Chemeris, Senior Representative, national company 'Astana EXPO 2017'  
Robert Forest, Partner, Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture

**MACROECONOMIC PROSPECTS OF KAZAKHSTAN**

Daniel Heller, IMF Executive Director, Switzerland Group

**Q & A**

# Toward a new United Nations regional hub in Kazakhstan?

The creation of a regional center for the United Nations in Almaty would deliver significant benefits not only for Kazakhstan, but also for the Eurasian region as a whole, writes **Alan Spence**



**A**gainst a background of increasing regional and global engagement, Kazakhstan is continuing to promote initiatives to become a regional hub for the United Nations (UN), focused on Almaty.

In 2011, President Nursultan Nazarbayev proposed establishing

a UN regional center in Almaty, the country's former capital. Amid Kazakhstan's drive to become a regional hub for Eurasia, the presence of the UN would deliver an effective representation of the organization – its reach extending across the vast region between Vienna and Bangkok, both of which host UN international centers.

The benefits of the UN having a regional base in Eurasia would be significant. The creation of international centers offers considerable political and economic gains, with increased investment in resources for development.

A number of consultations have been held with international organizations, non-governmental organizations and UN agencies in Almaty, and UN representatives have been united in supporting the possibility of establishing a regional hub. Aligning national policy with the interests of the international community is an objective supported by the UN, which provides a platform for broad discussion, coordinated efforts and collaborative action.

Through the UN, Kazakhstan promotes its initiatives concerning issues that resonate both regionally and internationally, acting in accordance with obligations undertaken in membership of other international organisations. The country is affiliated with bodies including the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and other regional organizations.

Additionally, it is a member of a range of major international organisations, including the Asian Development Bank, the annual meeting of which it hosts next year, and the World Islamic Economic Forum, which it hosted in 2011. Recently, it achieved observer status at the African Union.

Each year, several thousand delegates, including top political, industry and financial leaders, descend on the Kazakh capital to attend the Astana Economic Forum – the country's own Davos – to help enrich global debate and decision-taking across a broad agenda of key subjects that, illustratively, can range from financial and monetary reform to the role of women in sustainable development, the robustness of banking systems and information security.

With leading academics, nobel laureates, media and socio-cultural groups also attending, the Forum has rapidly grown in importance since it was launched six years ago. In addition to addressing a range of subjects on the international financial, business and social agenda, next year's Forum will also hold special



sessions marking the 50th anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the 70th anniversary of the Bretton Woods institutions – a further endorsement of Kazakhstan as a global venue and player.

Moreover, Astana is also the host city for World Expo 2017, which embraces the theme of “Future Energy” in all its aspects.

Kazakhstan remains firm in its commitment to cooperate with the UN and, in particular, supports efforts to collectively address issues that span UN member states. Distinct focus is placed on activities in the arenas of human rights; the economy; environmental issues; international law; post-conflict rehabilitation; security; social development; and the ongoing engagement with efforts against drug-trafficking, organised crime and terrorism, which impede growth and development.

Indeed, the country has recently launched its candidacy for the non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council in 2017-18, basing its case on four key areas of security – nuclear, food, water and energy.

Meanwhile, amid rising demand for the UN’s peacekeeping operations, Kazakhstan is working to develop partnerships and expand capacity,

and the country has ratified all the UN’s major conventions on international cooperation.

It is dedicated to the ongoing transition to a green economy, and promotes sustainable development across sectors. Furthermore, Kazakhstan has made significant progress in the crucial development areas outlined by the UN’s Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and, in light of its rapid headway, the Kazakh government adopted an MDG+ agenda, which outlines more ambitious goals based on analyses of national achievements, priorities and statistics.

Kazakhstan has long acknowledged and advocated the UN’s critical role in international relations. As the country continues its work to become a hub in Eurasia, it simultaneously strives to deliver on its commitments and focus on finding solutions to universal issues. The local support of the UN will enable Kazakhstan to build on operations that underpin international security, and will reinforce the country’s growth and development efforts in the wider Eurasian region. ■

*Alan Spence, recently in Astana, is CEO of Newsdesk Media and president of the Atlantic Council of the United Kingdom and Commonwealth*

## Atlantic Council maintains Kazakh focus

Fred Kempe, president and CEO of the Atlantic Council, and a speaker at today’s Convention, says that the Council is set to place continued emphasis on its relationship with the Government of Kazakhstan. He describes Kazakhstan as “one of the most crucial geo-political, geo-economic actors in the Eurasia region, which generates ripples throughout the world”.

“There have been times when the United States has lost focus on events and development in the Eurasia region, and we at the Atlantic Council see it as part of our job to help maintain that focus”, he says.

He says that, through the Atlantic Council’s Eurasia Center, “we have a long track record of working and engaging with the Government of Kazakhstan in a number of areas, including trans-Atlantic security issues, economic integration and energy security... in 2010, we organised an Energy Task Force under

our then chairman, Senator Chuck Hagel, now, of course, Secretary of State for Defence, and in 2012 we held a major conference on 20 years of relations between Kazakhstan and the United States.

“We were delighted to host earlier this year Kazakhstan’s Foreign Minister, Erlan Idrissov, at a special dinner in his honor and continue a friendship that grew close during the Minister’s previous role as Ambassador to Washington. And these days we welcome with similar warmth his successor, Ambassador Kairat Umarov.



# US-Kazakh trade and investment: key pillars of global engagement

The mutually beneficial relationship between the United States and Kazakhstan demonstrates the vital importance of collaboration, writes **John Michaelson**



**K**azakhstan's close trade and investment relations with the United States are a key pillar of Astana's policy of mutually beneficial economic engagement with the global community. Astana is committed to achieving rapid, diversified economic growth while

demonstrating leadership in sustainable development and use of resources and protecting the environment.

This commitment to sustainable development along with its leadership on nuclear non-proliferation, dedication to fostering peaceful solutions to regional problems and history of tolerance positions Kazakhstan as a role model in the region.

Kazakhstan is putting in place the foundations to become one of the world's 30 most-developed countries by the mid-21st century and US government and business leaders recognise the country's potential to be the next 'Asian Tiger'.

Since independence two decades ago, Kazakhstan and the United States have worked closely together to develop trade and investment relations. In these two decades, US firms have invested more than \$25 billion in Kazakhstan – initially focusing on the oil and gas sector, but more recently investing in a wider range of sectors.

In 2012, bilateral trade between the two nations reached \$2.5 billion with Kazakh purchases ranging from Boeing aircraft to South Dakota beef cattle. Moreover, trade and investment are expected to

increase significantly over coming years driven not only by Kazakhstan's vast natural resources, but also its industrial and technology development and the government's commitment to transforming the domestic economy and raising living standards.

One example of this commitment are the links being foraged by Nazarbayev University with US technology companies and leading universities.

As Kazakhstan becomes a trade hub for Eurasia, its commercial and investment partners in the US and elsewhere will benefit from greater access to this vast region, aided by the country's forthcoming membership of the World Trade Organization.

The European Union (EU) also recognizes Kazakhstan as an important partner in the Eurasian region. A substantial 63 per cent of Kazakh export trade goes to the EU, and many of the EU's member states are at work building strong trade links.

Looking to Asia, Kazakhstan is building strong partnerships with Japan, South Korea, China, Singapore and Malaysia, focusing on high-tech, innovations and energy, trade and investment issues.

Kazakhstan's commitment to robust global partnerships shines through its 2050 Strategy, which provides the targets and policy framework for the country's long-term economic development. Integrated with these long-term objectives is the National Program of Industrial and Innovative Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan 2010-14, an initiative focused on improving the diversity and competitiveness of the country's economy. ■

*John Michaelson is managing partner of Michaelson Capital, New York, and a member of the board of directors of Newsdesk Media*





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