# Kazakhstan National Day Special

## Digital technologies drive economic change

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Kazakhstan observes its Republic Day on Oct. 25, commemorating its independence. Over 35 years of sovereign growth, the country has made significant economic and social progress, establish-

ing itself as Central Asia's largest economy and the wealthiest country in the post-Soviet space by gross domestic product per capita.

By June, Kazakhstan's GDP was growing at its fastest rate in a decade, thanks to robust growth in construction, industry, services and agriculture. The success story is powered by enormous natural resource reserves, export diversification, improvement to the business climate and active foreign investment.

At his annual State of the Nation address, President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev emphasized the goal of becoming a fully digital country within three years. To support this strategy, the Ministry of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Development was established to oversee the integration of AI across key sectors of the economy and restructure governance around AI principles.

The country also launched Central Asia's most powerful supercomputer in July — a milestone in the region's technological development. The supercomputer, built on the most recent Nvidia H200 chips, will serve as the foundation of the National Artificial Intelligence Platform, allowing government agencies to connect for health care, education, energy and public service delivery.

The International Center for Artificial Intelligence Alem.ai was also launched for research and training. It is now available to startups and universities, allowing businesses and researchers to create advanced

AI applications. Kazakhstan is fast expanding satellite internet to assist its AI goals, with the OneWeb service becoming live in January and Starlink becoming available nationwide in August.

The new Alem Crypto Fund has begun operations in Kazakhstan with the goal of investing in digital assets and creating strategic reserves over time. Founded by the Ministry of Artificial Intelligence and registered at the Astana International Financial Centre, this cryptocurrency reserve will be included in Kazakhstan's overall sovereign reserves,

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Given the potential for digital technologies to drive economic transformation and improve quality of life, Kazakhstan intends to strengthen cooperation with Japan in trade, investment, technological partnerships and other areas.

Our countries exchanged ministerial visits this year. Their discussions centered on extending collaboration in the Central Asia plus Japan Dialogue, improving commercial and economic partnerships and strengthening cultural and humanitarian relationships.

Kazakhstan also showcased its legacy and current achievements at the Osaka Expo. The national pavilion guided visitors through Kazakhstan's rich historical and cultural heritage, beginning with the Saka tribes and the Golden Man and progressing to the Kazakh khans, the Golden Horde and the Silk Road. The Astana Life Ex-situ Machine, an innovative gadget developed by Kazakhstan scientists for the long-term preservation and transportation of donated organs, was a notable tech exhibition. A delegation led by Minister of



Kazakhstan's capital of Astana boasts a blend of modern architecture and open green spaces. EMBASSY OF KAZAKHSTAN

Trade and Integration Arman Shakkaliyev attended Kazakhstan's National Day, also known as Abai Day, which commemorates the 180th anniversary of the legendary Kazakh poet Abai Qunanbaiuly.

The future contains enormous opportunities for Kazakhstan and Japan to strengthen collaboration in areas such as innovation, the digital economy and climate change.

## **Congratulations**

to the People of
the Republic of Kazakhstan
on the Occasion of
Their Republic Day



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