

## Kazakhstan independence day

## Kazakhstan: 20 years of peace, stability, prosperity

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The main directions of our country's activities in the global arena were defined in the Concept of Foreign Policy. President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev formulated the first concept in his paper entitled "Strategy of Formation and Development of Kazakhstan as a Sovereign State," which was published in May 1992. The paper stated: "The main goal of our foreign policy is to form favorable external conditions and ensure a stable development of the country based on political and economic reforms."

Kazakhstan's foreign policy is based on a multi-vector approach that has made it possible for the country to establish partnership relations with most nations of the world. Today we are developing partnership relations with virtually all major powers (Japan, Russia, China, the United States, India, Brazil and the European Union). Together with them we are trying to find ways to respond to new challenges and threats, as well as to deal with other issues while taking into account our common interests.

The realities of today's world are such that it is precisely the active involvement in the activities of the international community that guarantees one country an effective realization of its national interests and secures its full-fledged participation in global affairs.

In particular, one of our main external economic goals is participation in the revival of the Great Silk Road, which connects the so-called Great Triangle — the U.S.-Europe-Asia — where the major flows of goods and finances are concentrated. All of that determine and necessitate our commitment to the further development of stable trade and economic relations with a large number of countries.

We have established a reputation as a reliable, predictable and responsible partner both in the East and in the West. We have created a solid foundation for developing comprehensive relations with many countries based on international law and agreements. Moreover, we are building our relations with many countries on the basis of strategic partnership agreements.

I would like to emphasize that over the past 20 years our strategic priorities have stayed the same.

An unquestionable achievement of Kazakhstan's diplomacy is the strengthening of cooperation with our main partners — Russia, China, the U.S., the European Union, as well as the major nations of Asia and Latin America.

Also, the relations with our neighbors in Asia form an important basis of our country's foreign policy. Since becoming an independent nation, Kazakhstan has established itself as an internationally recognized leader in Central Asia. The Republic of Kazakhstan is making significant investments in the regional economies and is pursuing a policy of merging the efforts of the Central Asian nations to respond jointly to challenges and threats of today's world.

zations and cultures. It is universally recognized that Kazakhstan plays an important role in setting up new security mechanisms in both Asia and Europe, as well as reinforcing the existing ones.

Today, celebrating the 20th anniversary of its independence, Kazakhstan is not going to stop at what it has accomplished. In the years that will follow, a lot of work should be done to strengthen further the foreign-policy foundations of our independence. The multiethnic nation of Kazakhstan needs lasting peace and long-term stability. Achieving this all-important goal is hardly possible without actively pursuing a dialogue between civilizations in order to eliminate the deep-rooted causes of conflicts and contradictions both within individual countries and in international relations. Furthermore, our active efforts to promote a global inter-civilizational dialogue are bearing fruit in Kazakhstan itself, where people belonging to 140 ethnic groups and 40 religious ones live side by side in peace and harmony.

In the context of Kazakhstan's efforts to promote inter-civilizational dialogue, one accomplishment seems to me particularly important: It is the fact that the term "Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community" proposed by Kazakhstan has been adopted by the influential OSCE. It is known that this event took place at the historic OSCE summit held in Astana on Dec. 1-2, 2010. The term was first used in

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dent Nazarbayev first voiced his idea to create a new integrated association of countries, the Eurasian Union. At that time, our leader's initiative was met with mixed reactions. Soon after the collapse of the USSR, the leaders of the former union republics who overnight became heads of states independent of the Kremlin did not want to hear about reuniting. The idea of Eurasian integration seemed utopian. However, today it is safe to say that the theory of Eurasianism has been put into practice through establishing a range of new Eurasian regional organizations, including the EAEC (Eurasian Economic Community), the Customs Union (of Kazakhstan, Belarus and Russia), the CSTO (Collective Security Treaty Organization) and the SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization).

It should be kept in mind that the concept of the Eurasian Bridge put forward by Kazakhstan's leadership in the early 1990s has eventually transformed into the doctrine of a "multi-vector diplomacy of Kazakhstan." In effect, this doctrine means that our country adopted a balanced global policy to safeguard our national interests. Kazakhstan lies at the juncture of the West and the East, of Europe and Asia, of Islam, Christianity and Buddhism. By virtue of this unique location, our country serves as a bridge between civili-

the "Astana Declaration: Toward a Security Community" adopted by the participants as a document summarizing its results. Kazakhstan proposed a cooperative platform for Eurasian security that would eventually combine the potentials of the OSCE and its Asian counterpart, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia, which President Nazarbayev proposed to convene in 1992. The results of Kazakhstan's chairmanship in the OSCE show that individual countries, as well as regional international organizations, are interested in the further strengthening of our country's role as a bridge between Europe and Asia.

As a regional leader holding the OSCE chairmanship, Kazakhstan exerted maximum efforts to bring about the recognition of Central Asia as an integral part of the process of setting up a transcontinental security framework. As President Nazarbayev pointed out, our region is acquiring a new, global dimension. We want our region to be associated not with conflicts, crises or social problems, but rather with successful and dynamic development and prosperity. To achieve this goal, the international community must direct its efforts not toward resolving local military problems, but first and foremost toward the economic development of the region.

As the head of Kazakhstan's diplomacy, I can say that we are going to continue to make purposeful efforts to implement the Astana Declaration and achieve the realization of the "Astana legacy" in the framework of the OSCE. It is obvious that the advancement toward a full-fledged Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community is going to take many years of concerted efforts. Therefore, the establishment of an OSCE Security Institute in Astana that was proposed by President Nazarbayev is very well timed. I think this organization could correct the "lens" for viewing the future that was characterized by our president as flawed due to the OSCE's inability to predict and prevent local conflicts and other challenges facing the international community.

One of the most important factors that motivated our president to convene the OSCE Summit in Astana was the aspiration of Kazakhstan, as a predominantly Muslim nation successfully implementing socioeconomic and political reforms and consistently integrating into the democratic community, to demonstrate to the whole world that Islam, progress and democracy are mutually compatible. We are consistently pursuing the same goal in carrying out our important mission of chairmanship in the OIC.

Upon hosting the 38th session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) on June 28-30, Kazakhstan assumed the chairmanship of the second largest international organization after the United Nations and the key association of Islamic countries.

Our OIC chairmanship's slogan reads "Peace. Cooperation. Development." These priorities have become the focus of Kazakhstan's chairmanship.

The Astana Meeting became the most important event of the year in the world's Muslim community due to the postponement of the 12th OIC Summit.

The participants of the meeting noted that the 38th session of the OIC CFM went down in history as the most dramatic one in the context of the Arab Spring, the richest one in content as to the scope of discussed problems, and the most fruitful one as far as the decisions made there are concerned.

It was in Astana that the historic decision was made to change the OIC's name from the Organization of the Islamic Conference to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, which signified its transformation into a more cohesive and effective international organization.

I would like to lay particular emphasis on the importance of Kazakhstan's relations with Japan. We appreciate the continued support that Japan has provided to Kazakhstan from its first days of independence. It should be noted that Japan is one of the first countries that recognized the independence of Kazakhstan. All these years, Japan has been and remains a reliable and constructive partner, assisting in solving the problems of socioeconomic development.

Suffice it to say that through official development assistance (ODA), Japan has provided soft loans for a number of infrastructure projects in Kazakhstan, as

well as grants for various purposes for the amount of \$1 billion. In 2010, the government of Kazakhstan and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed a \$75 million loan agreement for the project of reconstruction of the CAREC (Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program) Transport Corridor, reflecting the resumption of concessional loans through ODA.

Regular high-level exchanges play an important role in the development of dialogue between our countries. We are interested in deepening the close partnership in accordance with the joint declaration and important agreements on mutually beneficial cooperation reached during the official visit of Kazakhstan's president to Japan in June 2008.

The energy industry, where our companies are actively collaborating in the area of nuclear power, is the engine that is pulling forward the economic cooperation between our countries. Considering the growing deficit of the conventional energy resources, this collaboration is extremely promising.

Currently, Kazakhstan is implementing a large-scale modernization of its industrial complex. We intend to double the industrial output and we are interested in cooperation with Japan. We have created all conditions for investors, such as a modern market economy, favorable tax system, legislation that protects investments, investment climate and well-developed financial system.

Recognizing the high level of Japan's investment capabilities, as well as its industrial and technological potential, we would like to achieve a significant increase in the intensity and scope of the bilateral cooperation in areas other than raw materials.

Japan is an important member of the Group of Eight and Group of Twenty, and other international financial groups. Japan's global leadership in advanced technologies and availability of rich natural resources in Kazakhstan create the complementary and harmonious environment for building a mutually beneficial partnership on a qualitatively new level and for implementing the principle "resources in exchange for investment and technology."

President Nazarbayev's visit to Japan that took place on June 19-22, 2008, gave a great impetus to our cooperation in investment and technology. The two countries determined the directions and outlook for their economic partnership.

Our countries are working on establishing a proper foundation for the cooperation in investment and technology based on international law and agreed-upon terms. For instance, on Dec. 19, 2008, a signing ceremony was held in Tokyo for the first inter-governmental agreement in the history of our bilateral diplomatic relations — the Convention between Japan and the Republic of Kazakhstan for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income. We are now in the final stages of drafting an Agreement for the Liberalization, Promotion and Protection of Investment.

Another important element of our continuing trade and economic cooperation is the Joint Commission of Private and Public sectors on Kazakh-Japanese economic cooperation, the



**Friendly ties: Foreign Minister Yerzhan Kazykhanov meets with Yukio Hatoyama, a former prime minister and head of the Parliamentary League of Friendship with Kazakhstan, during his visit to Kazakhstan on the occasion of the fourth Astana Economic Forum in May.** EMBASSY OF KAZAKHSTAN

third session of which was held on Oct. 6, 2011. The task of the joint commission is to encourage maximally the joint efforts of private and public sectors of our two nations to develop further our trade and economic relations.

Joining the efforts of the two countries' government agencies, Japanese corporations, financial organizations and Kazakhstan's development institutions ensure the creation of a single integrated system for making and implementing decisions, as well as the full use of the possibilities of a public-private partnership.

In 2009-2010, honorary consulates of Kazakhstan were opened in Osaka, Sapporo, Nagoya and Fukuoka. I think that our honorary consulates will make an important contribution to the further strengthening of trade, economic, cultural and humanitarian cooperation between our countries.

Even today, the consistent and systematic work that we have done to create favorable conditions for our cooperation in investment and technology is bearing fruit.

According to the National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan, in 2010 the volume of Japan's investments in the Kazakh economy reached \$804.7 million. During the entire period of the republic's independence, the overall volume of Japan's direct investments stood at \$2,794 billion as of Dec. 31, 2010.

Our countries have enormous opportunities for cooperation in the transport sector as well. Kazakhstan is geographically located in the center of Eurasia, on the corridor from Europe to South and East Asia. Using the transit and transport potential of Kazakhstan, in the future Japan could export to Europe via Kazakhstan. In addition, the creation of a Customs Union among Kazakhstan, Russia and Belarus coupled with a favorable investment climate holds great promise for business activities of Japanese investors in Kazakhstan, as the finished products can be then beneficially sold in the huge market of three countries, which today is estimated at 170 million people. In the future the opening of direct flights between Kazakhstan and Japan would stimulate further realization of potentials of both countries in trade and economy.

I would also like to mention

about the intensification of inter-parliamentary cooperation. In Japan, for over 10 years now, there has been a Parliamentary League of Friendship with Kazakhstan. The league is chaired by the former Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama, with whom I met during his visit to Kazakhstan in May to participate in the fourth Astana Economic Forum. We are also grateful for the participation of a large group of Japanese Diet members, the mayor of Nagasaki and Japanese academia at the International Forum for a Nuclear Weapon-Free World on Oct. 11-13 in Astana and Semey.

In 2004, some members of the Senate of the Parliament of Kazakhstan formed a group to promote the country's cooperation with Japan, and in June 2005, a similar group was set up in the Majilis, the lower chamber of Kazakhstan's Parliament.

By the present moment, Kazakhstan and Japan have also created a firm foundation for full-scale cooperation and strengthening of their strategic partnership within the framework of international organizations.

This year marked the 20th anniversary of the closure of the Semipalatinsk Test Site, the largest nuclear test site in the world, by a decree of our head of state. During these past years, Kazakhstan has been true to a consistent and active commitment to the global process of nonproliferation and reduction of nuclear weapons. In recognition of this, the U.N. resolution adopted on Dec. 9, 2009, declared Aug. 29, the day when the Semipalatinsk Test Site was officially closed, the International Day against Nuclear Tests. Japan was one of the co-authors of that resolution.

Kazakhstan and Japan have identical views on the issues of international security. Japan welcomed the Republic of Kazakhstan's decision to join the NPT (Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty), and it reacts favorably to the integration initiatives of our country in international and regional organizations. In turn, Kazakhstan supports Japan's bid to become a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council.

It is well known that Kazakhstan and Japan are the most severely affected countries by the nuclear explosions in the history of humanity. Japan has supported victims of nuclear tests in Kazakhstan. We highly appreciate

our cooperation in the field of medicine and health, and that the Japanese side has provided assistance to the medical services of our country.

For us it was very symbolic that the Japanese delegation headed by the Mayor of Nagasaki Tomihisa Taue participated in the International Forum for a Nuclear Weapon-Free World in Astana in October this year. I think our countries who experienced the horrors of nuclear weapons have a moral right to suggest specific programs aimed at nuclear disarmament and strengthening security.

Addressing the 66th Session of the U.N. General Assembly, President Nazarbayev made a proposal to begin drafting a universal declaration on a nuclear weapon-free world. As our head of state pointed out, the adoption of that international act would imply the establishment in the 21st century of an integrated system of global nuclear safety under the strict control of the U.N., which should be given exceptional powers for that purpose.

Kazakhstan and its president are true to a consistent and active commitment to the global process of nonproliferation and reduction of nuclear weapons. The international community holds in high esteem the great contribution made by Kazakhstan and President Nazarbayev toward the creation of a nuclear weapon-free world. One of the indications of that recognition is the fact that during his visit to the Semey, U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki Moon called on the international community to follow Kazakhstan's example and to make meaningful progress toward complete nuclear disarmament.

In my opinion, Kazakhstan and Japan should jointly urge the nations possessing nuclear arms to follow Kazakhstan's example in complete nuclear disarmament. We must work together to make the world free of nuclear weapons.

Kazakhstan and Japan also have links in the fact that Kazakhstan's capital Astana was first designed by famous Japanese architect Kisho Kurokawa. The face of modern Astana Kisho Kurokawa packed into a formula of abstract symbolism. His vision and philosophy of the city's urban development was formulated as symbiosis and metabolism. He saw the city as a living organism coexisting with another organism — nature. Nowadays, Astana is an environmentally friendly, beautiful, modern capital. It is a synthesis of Eastern and Western cultures, a symbol of traditions and progress.

As you can see, our nations have common interests not only in mutually beneficial political, economic and innovative cooperation, but also in the advancement of peace initiatives in the global arena.

In my opinion, it is very important for us to raise our relations to a qualitatively new level that would reflect the realities and challenges of today's world, while at the same time maintaining the dynamic character of our cooperation.

I am confident that the cooperation between Kazakhstan and Japan will further develop in all domains, for there is no limit to the horizons of our strategic partnership.



**Futuristic: Astana, first designed by Kisho Kurokawa, is the new capital city at the heart of the nation.** EMBASSY OF KAZAKHSTAN



**Dynamic shape: Located next to the Ak Orda Presidential Palace in Astana, the Central Concert Hall, designed by Italian architect Manfredi Nicoletti, was inaugurated by President Nursultan Nazarbayev on the Independence Day of Kazakhstan in December 2009.** EMBASSY OF KAZAKHSTAN

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On screen: Videos on Kazakhstan broadcast in the Tokyo areas of Ginza, Shibuya, Shinjuku and Yurakucho feature President Nursultan Nazarbayev (left, in Shibuya) and the futuristic Khan Shatyr entertainment center in Astana (right, in Ginza). EMBASSY OF KAZAKHSTAN



## Video showcasing Kazakhstan is running in Tokyo through Dec. 24

In celebration of the 20th anniversary of its independence, the Republic of Kazakhstan has been broadcasting videos in Tokyo on large-scale displays at the busiest intersections of the capital, from Dec. 10 through Dec. 24.

Titled "Kazakhstan: 20 Years of Peace, Progress and Prosperity," the video runs about 30 seconds and introduces the vast country's natural landscapes, modern buildings in the newly constructed capital Astana and message of peace toward the future.

Among the images featured in the video are one of the national symbols, the golden eagle, and a young girl skipping among various sites holding aloft a golden balloon on a string.

The main message is that Kazakhstan is "a world leader in financial stability, religious and ethnic harmony, environmental stewardship."

Initiated by the Embassy of Kazakhstan in Tokyo, the public relations campaign is running in the busiest districts of Tokyo: Ginza, Shibuya, Shinjuku and Yurakucho.

Every day in prime time from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., the video is on the screens at the famed "busiest pedestrian intersection" by Shibuya Station, the East Exit of Shinjuku Station, the Ginza 4-chome crossing and the Yurakucho Marion commercial complex.

The Republic of Kazakhstan's Independence Day is celebrated every year on Dec. 16-17.

## Facts, figures on the Republic of Kazakhstan

The Republic of Kazakhstan is a transcontinental country located in Central Asia and Eastern Europe, and is approximately equidistant from the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. Ranked as the ninth largest country in the world, with an area greater than Western Europe, it is bordered

clockwise from the north by Russia, China, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, with a significant part of its coastline on the Caspian Sea. The main routes of the ancient Great Silk Road lied across the territory of Kazakhstan.

Vast in size, the terrain of Ka-

zakhstan ranges from flatlands, steppes, taigas, rock canyons, hills, deltas, and snowcapped mountains to deserts. More than a quarter of its land consists of a portion of the gentle steppes that stretch from Central Europe to Siberia.

The steppes are characterized by large areas of grasslands and sandy regions. Important rivers and lakes include the Aral Sea, Ili River, Irtysh River, Ishim River, Ural River, Syr Darya, Charyn River and gorge, Lake Balkhash and Lake Zaysan.

The climate is continental, with warm summers and colder winters. Precipitation varies between arid and semi-arid conditions.

The capital was moved in 1997 from Almaty, Kazakhstan's largest city, to Astana.

**Area:** 2,717,300 sq. km

**Capital:** Astana

**Population:** 16,638,000

(as of Nov. 1, 2011)

**Ethnic composition (percent):** Kazakh (63.1), Russian (23.7), Ukrainian (2.1), Uzbek (2.8), Uighur (1.4), Tatar (1.3), German (1.1), other groups (4.5%)

**Languages:** Kazakh (state language) and Russian; newspapers, TV/radio programs and school instruction are done in 11 languages.

**Religions:** Islam, Christianity, others

**Type of government:** Republic

**Head of state:** President Nursultan Nazarbayev

**National holiday:** Dec. 16-17, Independence Day

**Main industries:** Energy and mining industries (crude oil, natural gas, uranium and other natural resources), chemical and petrochemical industry, machinery, construction materials, agriculture, finance

**Gross domestic product (GDP) per capita:** \$11,000 (2011 est.)

**GDP per capita at purchasing**



**power parity (PPP) exchange rates:** \$13,480 (2011 est.)

**Currency:** Tenge (KZT)

### Kazakhstan in Japan

Diplomatic relations between Kazakhstan and Japan were formally established on Jan. 26, 1992. The Embassy of Kazakhstan in Tokyo opened in February 1997. Since April 2007, Ambassador Akybek Kamalidinov has been Kazakhstan's representative in Japan. In-

teraction and cooperation between the two countries have been growing on many levels, most notably in investment and trade.

In November, Kazakhstan relocated the embassy to Azabudai, Minato Ward. With its ample facilities and convenient location in the heart of the metropolis, the embassy will be better able to partner Japanese friends and members of the Kazakh community in promoting economic, social and cultural ties.

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to the People of the  
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on the Occasion of  
the 20th Anniversary of  
Their Independence

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