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President Tokayev and President
Lee Jae Myung Speak on the Phone

Congratulatory Message by Ambassador Nurgali Arystanov

It is a great honor to extend my heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the Republic Day of Kazakhstan. This day stands as a symbol of our sovereignty, independence, and unity — values that have guided Kazakhstan throughout its remarkable journey of nation-building. Over the past three decades, Kazakhstan has emerged as a country of peace, prosperity, and opportunity, committed to sustainable development and constructive international cooperation.

Kazakhstan's foreign policy, based on principles of balance and multivector engagement, has enabled us to establish close partnerships around the world. Among them, the Republic of Korea holds a special place. This year, we proudly celebrate the 33rd anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Kazakhstan and Korea. Over these years, our partnership has grown into a comprehensive and strategic one, encompassing political dialogue, economic cooperation, cultural exchange, and people-to-people connectivity.

Recent high-level visits and active inter-parliamentary exchanges have given strong momentum to our bilateral ties. Collaboration is expanding in future-oriented areas such as high technology, renewable energy, digitalization, education, and urban development. These efforts reflect the shared vision of our two nations to build resilient, innovative, and sustainable economies.

This year also witnessed significant developments at

the highest level. On July 23, 2025, Presidents Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and Lee Jae Myung held a phone conversation during which they confirmed their commitment to further strengthen multifaceted relations. The leaders

tive, education, and healthcare. President Lee Jae Myung extended an official invitation to President Tokayev, who gratefully accepted and confirmed that he would participate in the Central Asia – Republic of Korea (C5+K) Summit in

Kazakhstan's foreign policy, based on principles of balance and multivector engagement, has enabled us to establish close partnerships around the world.

exchanged views on a wide range of bilateral cooperation, reaffirmed their interest in intensifying trade, economic, cultural, and humanitarian collaboration, and emphasized the importance of advancing ongoing and promising projects in industry, energy, automo-

Seoul in 2026.

Economic cooperation between our countries is also reaching new heights. In 2024, Korea had become the third-largest investor in Kazakhstan, with a total investment volume of USD 1.2 billion made throughout the year. This achievement



Nurgali Arystanov, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan

highlights the strength of our economic ties and demonstrates even greater potential for future collaboration in diverse sectors. Currently, 876 companies with Korean capital are operating in Kazakhstan.

Connectivity between Kazakhstan and Korea continues to strengthen. Today, there are 20 direct flights per week linking Astana, Almaty, and Shymkent with Seoul and Busan. These connections not only facilitate trade and business but also promote tourism, cultural exchange, and educational cooperation. In 2024, a total of 40,180 Korean tourists visited Kazakhstan,

marking a 12.8% increase from the previous year. At the same time, the number of Kazakh tourists visiting South Korea showed a 19% increase by July 2025, reaching 37,737 people. Moreover, under the visa-free regime between our two countries, Korean citizens can visit Kazakhstan for up to 30 days without a visa, further facilitating travel and exchange. The vibrant Korean community in Kazakhstan remains an invaluable bridge, fostering mutual understanding and contributing to the cultural diversity of our society.

On this auspicious occasion, I would like to express my sin-

cere gratitude to the Government and people of the Republic of Korea for their enduring friendship and support, as well as for the warm hospitality extended to Kazakh citizens residing in Korea. The trust and mutual respect that define our relationship will continue to serve as a strong foundation for future progress.

As we look to the future, I am confident that Kazakhstan-Korea relations will continue to flourish, and our friendship will grow even deeper, guided by the spirit of partnership and a shared vision for peace and prosperity.

Kamsahamnida.🙏





2025
10.15-16
Lotte Hotel Seoul

Event Details

Date : Wednesday, October 15, 2025

Time : 10:00 - 17:40 (*KST, UTC+9)

Venue : Crystal Ballroom, 2F, Lotte Hotel Seoul

Host : Government of Kazakhstan

Organizers : Alatau City Development Group, Alatau City Bank, Caspian Group, KPMG

Support : Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Kazakh Invest

Participants : Korean and Kazakhstan government officials, Korean and international companies, and industry leaders

ALATAU RISE With Kazakhstan

Alatau City Emerges as New Investment Hub in Central Asia

Nurgali Arystanov, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Korea: “For Alatau City, the most ideal partner is Korea.”

Kazakhstan’s Ambassador to Korea, Nurgali Arystanov, stated in an interview with Diplomacy Journal on the 24th that “Korea combines speed with strong momentum while remaining firmly focused on its goals and direction,” adding that “Korea is the most ideal partner for advancing the Alatau City project.”

The Alatau City project, launched in 2023, is a major national strategic initiative for Kazakhstan, marking the start of the country’s transition from a resource export-dependent economy to one focused on advanced industries. Its core objective is to build a new city near Almaty, comparable in size to the South Korean city of Busan.

More than 90% of the designated territory has been established as a special economic

zone, providing foreign companies with exemptions from corporate tax and VAT, as well as additional benefits such as reduced land and property taxes.

Ambassador Arystanov explained that the project’s goal is to establish a smart hub that integrates future-oriented industries such as AI, blockchain, and green energy. He emphasized that Kazakhstan’s abundant energy resources offer a key advantage in meeting the substantial power demands required for large-scale data center operations. “With its rich oil and gas reserves, Kazakhstan provides ideal conditions for attracting energy-intensive high-tech industries,” he noted.

Currently, 876 Korean-invested enterprises are operating in Kazakhstan. In 2024, Korea invested about 1.2 billion USD (approximately 1.67 trillion KRW), making it the country’s third-largest investor after Russia and the Netherlands. With

Kazakhstan actively fostering new industries and attracting international capital, Korea—backed by its advanced technologies and strengths in ICT, smart cities, and green energy—is regarded as “the best partner.”

The Ambassador reiterated the importance of Korean involvement, stating, “Seoul is a global success story in smart city development. For Kazakhstan to join the wave of digital innovation, the active participation of Korean companies is essential.”

The Largest Investment Opportunity in Central Asia... ALATAU RISE With Kazakhstan to Be Held

The Alatau City Partner Attraction Roadshow, ALATAU RISE With Kazakhstan, will be held in Seoul from October 15 (Wednesday) to 16 (Thursday). This official event is designed to introduce the Alatau City project—emerging as Kazakh-



Nurgali Arystanov, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Korea

stan's next-generation growth hub—directly to Korea's leading companies and government institutions. Senior officials from the Kazakhstan government will visit Korea to present detailed strategies and partnership opportunities for the project.

'ALATAU RISE With Kazakhstan' will serve as the first major platform to showcase the vision and growth potential of Alatau City to Korean society, marking a new beginning to strengthen partnerships and broaden the horizons of economic and industrial cooperation between the two nations.

Alatau City is Kazakhstan's strategic new city development project, envisioned as a hub for cutting-edge industries and international economic cooperation. In particular, the event will highlight a wide range of investment opportunities in advanced sectors prioritized by Kazakhstan at the national level, including future mobility and hydrogen energy.

During the event, Korean companies and public institutions will engage in practical business matching and cooperation programs, while the Kazakhstan government will present investment incentives, institutional support measures, and opportunities for joint research and development (R&D) within Alatau City. For Korean companies, this

Roadshow is expected to serve not just as an introduction to the project, but as a gateway to entering the Central Asian market.

Key Kazakh Government Officials to Attend ALATAU RISE With Kazakhstan, Engage Directly with Korean Companies

The upcoming Roadshow will be a significant occasion with the attendance of key officials from the Kazakhstan government, who will engage directly with Korean companies and in-

vestors.

Notable speakers include Kazakhstan's Deputy Prime Minister Qanat Aldabergenuly Bozymbaev, Vice Minister of Transport Talgat Lastayev, Vice Minister of Energy Ilyas Bakytzhan, Vice Minister of Industry and Construction Olzhas Saparbekov, Vice Minister of National Economy Bauyrzhan Omarbekov, and representatives from the Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC). They will present the strategic development direction of the Alatau City project and introduce national-level investment support policies.

Deputy Prime Minister Kanat Bozymbaev will outline the national economic growth strategy alongside the blueprint for developing advanced industrial complexes, including Alatau City. He plans to emphasize the desire to expand cooperation with Korean companies and public institutions. Particularly, he will highlight the significance of the "Alatau City Special Law" enacted on September 9 by President Tokayev, stressing the government's commitment to fully supporting the investment environment through legal and institutional frameworks.

Vice Minister of Transport Talgat Lastayev will provide detailed explanations of the



Kanat Bozymbayev, Deputy Prime Minister of Kazakhstan

current status and future plans for building future mobility infrastructure within Alatau City, showcasing new business opportunities based on sustainable transport systems and smart logistics platforms.

Vice Minister of Energy Ilyas Bakytzhan will present Kazakhstan's hydrogen economy roadmap and the status of renewable energy projects. He will underscore the promising cooperation potential with Korea in the hydrogen energy sector and introduce various possibilities to develop Alatau City as a global hub for hydrogen energy innovation.

Finally, the representative from the Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC) will highlight Kazakhstan's competitiveness as an international investment hub, outlining the country's financial infrastructure policies and investment systems aligned with global regulatory standards. They will also propose diverse opportunities for companies to manage capital more efficiently and securely through cutting-edge financial technologies such as fintech.

The direct participation of

these high-level Kazakhstan officials at the event signifies that the Alatau City project is not merely an urban development initiative but a strategic national future industry cultivation project, symbolizing a strong commitment to deepening cooperation with Korea.

project. This project is envisioned to evolve beyond just a new city to become a smart city and industrial cluster that will become Kazakhstan's new growth engine.

Alatau City is designed to accommodate over 1.9 million people and aims to create more than

They will also propose diverse opportunities for companies to manage capital more efficiently and securely through cutting-edge financial technologies such as fintech.

Alatau City: Emerging as Central Asia's New Investment Hub

The Alatau City project is a massive national strategic initiative in Kazakhstan, expected to generate an economic value of multi trillion KRW. The Kazakhstan government works on drafting measures to facilitate and support foreign investors' participation in this ambitious

1.1 million jobs. Covering about 880 square kilometers—larger than the entire area of Busan, South Korea—the city is located north of Almaty, Kazakhstan's largest economic center. It is being developed as a future-oriented smart city equipped with advanced industries, eco-friendly environments, cultural and tourism infrastructure, and residential areas. The project will focus intensively on fostering new



Alatau City Planning Design

growth sectors such as advanced R&D hubs, hydrogen-based energy infrastructure, and future mobility clusters.

The initiative is actively led by the Kazakhstan government and Yuriy Tskhay, a president of the local Korean diaspora association, who emphasizes the identity of the Koryo-saram as Koreans and expresses a strong will for priority cooperation with their homeland, South Korea.

To boost investment attractiveness, the Kazakhstan government has included Alatau City in a special economic zone (SEZ) and promised to enact a law for the city's special legislative status by the end of 2026. This legislation will provide various benefits to resident companies and investors, including tax reductions, institutional stability, and a regulatory environment aligned with global standards.

Alatau City symbolizes Kazakhstan's future and holds great promise as a K-partnership platform that will extend economic cooperation with Korea throughout Central Asia. Based on close collaboration with South Korea—renowned for its advanced technology, capital, and experience—the project is



The K-Park Groundbreaking Ceremony

attending including Yuriy Tskhay, chairman of the Caspian Group and the Association of Koreans in Kazakhstan; Marat Yeleusizovich Sultangaziyev, governor of Almaty region; and Marat Almasovich Azilkhanov, deputy chairman of the Assembly of People of Kazakhstan, alongside other prominent political and business leaders from Kazakhstan.

This groundbreaking ceremony was held as a gesture of

ple cultural experience space, featuring traditional Korean hanok-style architecture, K-content experience centers, exhibitions of Korean diaspora traditional culture, the global K-beauty industry, shopping malls, medical tourism, and MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) facilities, forming an integrated cultural hub.

Furthermore, K-Park is expected to serve not only as an important point for spreading the Korean Wave in Central Asia but also as a platform for expanding cultural and economic cooperation between Korea and Kazakhstan. While reflecting the identity and historical roots of the Korean diaspora, it will fuse global Korean Wave content, enhance social and cultural pride within the local community, and provide real business opportunities for Korean companies seeking overseas expansion.

Following the groundbreaking, K-Park aims for a first phase completion within two years. Upon completion, it is expected to mark a significant leap in cultural and economic cooperation between the two countries. As a core cultural infrastructure within Alatau City, K-Park is set to become a bridge connecting Korea and Central Asia and a new platform for the spread of the Korean Wave in the region. ♪

The project will focus intensively on fostering new growth sectors such as advanced R&D hubs, hydrogen-based energy infrastructure, and future mobility clusters.

expected to establish itself as a global innovation ecosystem beyond conventional urban development.

Establishing K-Park, the world's first cultural and business K-convergence space

On September 12, the groundbreaking ceremony for "K-Park" was held at Alatau City. The event attracted significant attention, with key figures

gratitude for Kazakhstan's historical support to the Korean diaspora. As the world's first K-cultural convergence complex, K-Park holds great symbolic significance. The project aims to combine the cultural roots of the Korean diaspora with modern Korean content and global trends, establishing a forward base to spread Korean diaspora and Hallyu (Korean Wave) culture from Central Asia to the world.

K-Park will go beyond a sim-



President Lee Jae-myung (right) held talks with President Tokayev of Kazakhstan on the phone.

President Tokayev and President Lee Jae Myung Speak on the Phone

During the phone conversation, the Presidents of Kazakhstan and Korea confirmed their desire to further strengthen multifaceted relations between the two countries.

They thoroughly exchanged views on a wide range of bilateral cooperation. In particular,

the leaders reaffirmed an interest in intensifying cooperation in the trade, economic, cultural and humanitarian spheres.

The importance of effective implementation of current and promising projects in the field of industry, energy, automotive, education, and medicine was emphasized.

President Lee Jae Myung invited President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev to pay an official visit to the Republic of Korea.

President Tokayev gratefully accepted the invitation, and confirmed that he would participate in the C5+K summit in 2026 in Seoul. ♫



President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev of Kazakhstan (right) holds an interview with Ana Tili journalist Yerlan Zhunis.

President Tokayev Highlights 2024 Achievements, Outlines 2025 Priorities

In a recent interview to Ana Tili (Mother Tongue) newspaper, President Tokayev shares his perspectives on the activities in the past year and sets goals for 2025.

Major Outcomes of 2024

Last year was marked by many important events, and a great deal of work was accomplished. For example, engineering and communal infrastructure across all regions underwent modern-

ization after having fallen into a deplorable state. A total of 18 million square meters of housing was completed, and 7,000 kilometers of highways were built or repaired. New passenger terminals were inaugurated at the airports in Almaty, Kyzylorda, and Shymkent. Large-scale projects were implemented in the mining, petrochemical, and metallurgical industries. The manufacturing sector also saw active development, with its share in the industrial structure now almost equal to that of the ex-

tractive sector. I would particularly like to highlight the success of our agricultural sector, which achieved a record harvest of nearly 27 million tons of grain—the highest in the past decade.

Kazakhstan is a social state, which is why last year we began payments under the National Fund for Children program. Pensions, allowances, scholarships, and salaries for civil servants were increased. Hundreds of new schools, kindergartens, and sports centers were built nationwide. More than ten branch-

es of leading foreign universities were established. Funding for science was increased, and cultural figures received significant support. Special emphasis was placed on developing mass sports. All these measures represent valuable investments in strengthening the creative potential of our citizens.

Overall, the past year was challenging—one could even say difficult. Kazakhstan faced the negative impacts of external factors, and natural disasters disrupted some of our plans. Yet, we not only managed to stabilize the situation but also continued implementing reforms. Thus, our

geopolitical tension, Kazakhstan has solidified its position on the international stage as a country playing a constructive role in fostering dialogue for the sake of peace. This has positively influenced the security and sustainable economic development of our country.

Economic Growth

In April last year, a law aimed at creating favorable conditions for entrepreneurs was passed.

The state also actively supports small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) through subsidies, preferential loans, and loan guarantees. The share of

All our reforms and economic development measures aim to improve the quality of life for citizens. This is our sole objective and the Government's top priority.

strategy of creation remains on course for further development.

Multivector Foreign Policy

Globally, Kazakhstan is often referred to as a middle power. This status comes with significant responsibilities, including the need for responsible conduct on the international stage and a constructive approach to addressing the most pressing issues of our time. Consistent with this, Kazakhstan is a steadfast supporter of the United Nations as the “common home of all humanity”—a non-alternative and universal organization.

Kazakhstan was at the forefront of establishing the Organization of Turkic States. The member countries of this organization are not only our neighbors but also important geopolitical partners.

The 5th World Nomad Games took place in Astana. Strong ties have been established among educational institutions, academic circles, and the creative intelligentsia.

In the face of unprecedented

SMEs in the economy has been steadily increasing, and this sector now provides jobs for 4.3 million people, nearly half of the employed population. Therefore, it is safe to say that entrepreneurial initiative is becoming a driving force behind Kazakhstan's economic growth.

The state is equally invested in the development of large businesses.

It is also promising that foreign businesses are increasingly opening offices in Kazakhstan. This strengthens healthy competition, and diversifies the economy. The Investment Headquarters under the Government is effectively functioning as intended, facilitating decisions through a “one-stop” approach.

The Government's efforts to improve the investment climate are yielding tangible results. A recent UN ESCAP report noted that Kazakhstan attracted \$15.7 billion in foreign direct investment for new projects in 2024, marking an 88% increase compared to the previous year. This is the highest figure in the

North and Central Asia region, with Kazakhstan accounting for nearly two-thirds (63%) of all foreign direct investment in the area.

All our reforms and economic development measures aim to improve the quality of life for citizens. This is our sole objective and the Government's top priority.

The National Infrastructure Plan through 2029 was adopted, outlining more than 200 projects.

Major energy sector projects with a combined capacity exceeding 600 megawatts are planned for this year. Significant progress will also be made in “green” energy, with agreements already in place with foreign investors to construct wind, solar, and hydroelectric power stations.

The future expansion project for the Tengiz field will be completed, with special attention given to oil refining and the development of the oil and gas chemical industry, including the expansion of production capacity at the Aktau bitumen plant.

The development of the machine-building industry will continue, with new production lines for cars from leading global brands. Additionally, Kostanay will begin producing cast iron parts for internal combustion engines and components for leading bridges.

Great attention will also be given to developing social infrastructure. The national project “Modernization of Rural Healthcare” continues, with medical facilities being constructed in rural areas. The construction of 217 modern schools with a combined capacity for 460,000 students is planned, with 105 schools already completed. This initiative aims to resolve the problems of emergency schools, three-shift schooling, and student place shortages.

Achievements in IT sector

Our citizens are well aware of the advantages of digitalized public services. The list of services available on the e-government website is constantly expanding. According to the UN

ranking, Kazakhstan is ranked 24th globally for e-government development.

In addition, Kazakhstan's banks are developing their own digital ecosystems, significantly simplifying daily life for people.

It is also encouraging that the export of IT services from Kazakhstan is steadily increasing. The Astana Hub is functioning successfully, with over 1,500 participants, nearly a third of whom are foreign companies. Kazakhstan is becoming increasingly attractive to global digital nomads.

By the end of the year, the international artificial intelligence center Alem.AI will be inaugurated. This center is envisioned as a platform for attracting investments and implementing the best global practices and innovations.

AI education must be integrated into schools, colleges, and universities. Last year, 15 of our universities introduced AI

courses in partnership with Google. Furthermore, a specialized training program for AI professionals, AI-Sana, is currently being developed.

Nuclear Power Plant

President Tokayev is convinced that a large-capacity nuclear power plant is essential for Kazakhstan. Moreover, he does not rule out the possibility of starting the construction of a second, and perhaps even a third, nuclear power plant in the near future.

Vibrant Youth, Education Opportunities

Today, many young people seek opportunities abroad for education or career advancement.

The "Bolashak international scholarship is well-known, internships for young scientists at foreign research centers are organized, and student exchange programs with various countries are in place.

* * *

Relevance for Korea

As a result of the presidential visit to Kazakhstan in 2024, the bilateral cooperation is on the surge.

In light of President Tokayev's priorities, the following areas offer new opportunities for partnership:

- Large infrastructure projects;
- Upgrading energy facilities, green energy;
- Higher education and science; IT, AI and fintech;
- Investments and trade;
- Nuclear power plant construction.

Commenting on the President Tokayev's interview, Ambassador Nurgali Arystanov expressed his belief that given the milestone events planned and recent trajectory in bilateral cooperation, the year 2025 will be even more successful for Kazakh-Korean cooperation. ♫





President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev

President Tokayev's Vision for Growth Good for Coop with Korea

By Nurgali A. Arystanov, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Republic of Korea

On January 28, 2025, President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev chaired the extended government meeting, where he outlined key national priorities aimed at accelerating Kazakhstan's economic development, fostering global partnerships, and advancing technological innovation. His strategic vision presents numerous opportunities for deepening bilateral cooperation between Kazakhstan and South Korea. In this regard, I would like to briefly share my views on the new vistas for our partnership.

First, the President focused on economic diversification and

investment opportunities. It was outlined that Kazakhstan's economy demonstrated strong growth in 2024, expanding by 4.8% with robust performances in agriculture, construction, trade, and transport. Kazakhstan is rich in rare earth metals deposit, containing 17 types of critical elements. This presents new opportunities for cooperation with South Korea, a leader in advanced technologies. The Korea Institute of Geoscience and Mineral Resources (KIGAM) is already working with Kazakhstan on exploring lithium deposits. Such collaborations will be instrumental in utilizing Kazakhstan's resource potential to overcome value chain disruptions.

President Tokayev also reaffirmed that Kazakhstan remains a top investment destination,

attracting \$12.7 billion in foreign direct investment in the first nine months of 2024. The Government of Kazakhstan will continue improving the investment climate, welcoming new investors, and introducing additional incentives and comprehensive ecosystem to attract high-quality investments.

Emphasizing the importance of optimizing investment processes, President Tokayev highlighted the efforts of the Investment Headquarters in reducing bureaucratic barriers and streamlining procedures for both foreign and domestic investors. Over the past year, the headquarters successfully resolved issues related to 115 projects worth \$50 billion, reinforcing Kazakhstan's attractiveness as a regional investment hub.

To support this vision, the

country is prioritizing large-scale investment projects across key sectors, including manufacturing, transport, logistics, information technology, and agriculture, with a particular focus on fostering partnerships with Asian nations.

Here, I would like to draw the reader's attention to the fact that South Korea, in particular, emerged as the fourth-largest investor, following the Netherlands, Russia, and Belgium, with \$907 million invested in the first nine months of 2024. To further strengthen partnerships and expand opportunities, Kazakhstan continues to refine policies that streamline investment mechanisms and foster long-term economic cooperation.

As President Tokayev stated at the Government meeting, Kazakhstan remains committed to enhancing energy efficiency and advancing green initiatives.

In the energy sector, Kazakhstan is making significant strides in expanding its renewable capacity, with an additional 450 MW set to be generated this year. Agreements for the construction of Kazakhstan's first nuclear power plant in the Almaty region are nearing completion, with plans for a second and third nuclear plant also in development. A new plant for wind power components is also under construction, further reinforcing the country's transition to clean energy. At the same time, major investments in gas power plants and renewable energy infrastructure will help address energy shortages, particularly in the southern regions.

In this regard, I would like to emphasize the importance of Kazakhstan's cooperation with global institutions such as GGGI, GCF, and AFoCO in advancing sustainability and environmental initiatives. South Korean companies, particularly Doosan Enerbility, are playing a key role in supporting Kazakhstan's green transition, contributing to the development of renewable energy and upgrading its energy infrastructure and enhancing energy security.

Second, it is well known that Kazakhstan is making major strides in logistics and transport devel-

opment, with projects such as the Trans-Kazakhstan Railway Corridor strengthening its position as a global transit hub. The Government is also transforming major airports into international aviation hubs, making use of Kazakhstan's open skies policy and fifth-freedom rights. This initiative is expected to help expand business and tourism connectivity. Furthermore, Kazakhstan's logistics sector is set to benefit from enhanced e-commerce-based supply chains.

Tourism, as President Tokayev noted, is becoming an increasingly important driver of economic growth. To unlock its full potential, Kazakhstan is focusing on infrastructure development, enhancing accessibility to its unique natural reserves and cultural heritage sites while actively engaging private investors in the sector.

In this context, one could see positive dynamics in Kazakh-Korean ties. For instance, strengthened air connectivity between Kazakhstan and Korea has played a crucial role in fostering people-to-people exchanges. With 15 weekly flights operating on the Astana-Seoul and Almaty-Seoul routes, travel between the two countries has become more convenient, leading to a notable increase in visitor numbers. In 2024, the number of South Korean tourists exploring Kazakhstan reached 40,180, marking a 12% rise, while Kazakh citizens traveling to South Korea grew by 8%, totaling 53,224. These trends reflect the growing interest in cultural and business exchanges, further deepening bilateral ties.

Third, Kazakhstan will continue its multivector and balanced foreign policy. In his speech, President Tokayev emphasized Kazakhstan's role as a "middle power" in global affairs, reflecting high level of international trust. In today's complex geopolitical landscape, strengthening cooperation with neighboring countries, particularly in Central Asia, remains a key priority.

At the same time, advancing bilateral partnerships plays an equally important role in expanding Kazakhstan's external ties. In this respects, there has been a

number of important visits, which took place in 2024. Our bilateral ties are reinforced by high-level exchanges with South Korea, including presidential state visit to Kazakhstan in 2024, the first official overseas visit of National Assembly Speaker Woo Wonshik to Kazakhstan in October, and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Murat Nurtleu's visit to South Korea in November.

Finally, fourth, Kazakhstan will keep investing in human capital. As President Tokayev assured, Kazakhstan continues to upgrade its standing in education and scientific research, ensuring transparency and accountability in funding. This commitment is also reflected in Kazakhstan's growing cooperation with South Korea in the field of education. In 2024, Minister of Science and Higher Education Sayasat Nurbek made two significant visits to South Korea, securing agreements on joint scientific projects and educational grants. Notably, a memorandum of understanding signed with Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon provides scholarships for Kazakh students pursuing master's degrees in technical fields at leading South Korean universities, further strengthening academic and technological exchanges between our nations.

In his remarks, President Tokayev emphasized that Kazakhstan is rapidly integrating advanced technologies such as AI into key sectors. We have advanced bilaterally in this area as well. Educational cooperation with South Korea plays a crucial role in this transformation. SeoulTech's collaboration with the School of Artificial Intelligence in Kyzylorda is a testament to the growing academic and technological ties between our nations.

Overall, the long-term vision of President Tokayev for Kazakhstan's sustainable growth outlines important paths forward, which will positively impact international collaboration. With South Korea as a key partner, we look forward to further strengthening our economic, technological, and educational ties for mutual prosperity. ♫



President Tokayev delivers his State-of-the-Nation Address on September 8, 2025.

President Tokayev Outlines Vision for Kazakhstan's Digital Future

President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev delivered his annual state-of-the-nation address, “Kazakhstan in the Era of Artificial Intelligence: Key Tasks and Their Solutions through Digital Transformation.” The Head of State presented an ambitious program of reforms centered on digital transformation, investment, global connectivity, and institutional renewal.

At the heart of the address was Kazakhstan's determination to lead in the AI era. President Tokayev announced the

creation of a new Ministry of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Development, which will be headed by a Deputy Prime Minister-level official. The new body will spearhead Kazakhstan's transition into what he described as a “fully digital nation within three years.” The President called for rapid adoption of a comprehensive Digital Code covering artificial intelligence, big data, and the platform economy, and directed the Government to ensure total integration of AI across all sectors of the economy.

Alongside digital transforma-

tion, the President focused on investment and economic modernization.

Transport and logistics featured prominently as Kazakhstan continues to strengthen its role as a vital bridge between Europe and Asia. He stated that by October a unified Smart Cargo digital customs and logistics platform must be launched, allowing private operators equal automated access to customs and logistics infrastructure. In aviation, he reiterated Kazakhstan's strategic ambition to become the leading hub in the

Eurasian space, underpinned by the proposal to create a national cargo carrier with foreign partners and integrate new airports into global logistics chains.

On foreign policy, President Tokayev reaffirmed Kazakhstan's multi-vector approach, emphasizing the importance of balance and constructive engagement.

The President also proposed a major institutional reform that will have long-term political implications. He suggested a transition toward a unicameral Parliament, with the issue to be decided by a nationwide referendum in 2027.

The President also outlined broader national priorities. These included granting special status to Alatau City as a new innovation hub, adopting a new Construction Code by the end of the year, creating a unified digital land resources map, and pursuing long-term

strategies for food security and water management. He called for continued restoration of the Aral Sea, joint efforts to preserve the Caspian Sea, and accelerated use of advanced water-saving technologies. He further emphasized the role of education in preparing the next generation for the AI era,

Kazakhstan navigates global change.

Given Kazakhstan's focus on AI and other new technologies, it is expected that the implementation of the new policies will pave the way for Kazakh-Korean cooperation. In particular, artificial intelligence, smart city, wa-

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highlighting programs to integrate AI into school curricula and to expand digital learning for rural students.

President Tokayev stressed the unifying principles of law, order, and patriotism as Ka-

ter-saving technologies, smart farming, green projects, infrastructure and logistical development as well as rare earth metals exploration will remain as priority areas for our collaboration. ♾



Deputies and members of the Cabinet listen to the State-of-the-Nation Address on September 8, 2025.



President Tokayev delivers a speech at the 80th session of the UN General Assembly in New York.

Kazakhstan's President Tokayev Addresses UN General Assembly

Kazakhstan's President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev called for comprehensive UN reform, stronger global cooperation, and urgent steps toward peace, sustainability, and digital equity in a time of mounting instability during the Sept. 23 General Debate of the 80th session of the UN General Assembly in New York.

UN must adapt to today's realities, Tokayev urges

In his statement, President Tokayev underscored the urgent need for a comprehensive

reform of the UN system. Reflecting on the institution's eight-decade legacy, Tokayev acknowledged the UN's central role in addressing global challenges – but warned that the current crisis of trust in multilateral institutions must not be ignored.

"We must also face the truth: the world around us has changed profoundly – and, unfortunately, not for the better," the President said, calling for the UN to become more "adjustable to the realities of today's unpredictable world."

Security Council reform

Tokayev emphasized that UN reform is not a matter for "endless contemplations" but a "strategic necessity." A central pillar of this bold effort, he argued, should be reform of the UN Security Council. President Tokayev called for greater representation of major powers from Asia, Africa, and Latin America on a rotational basis, as well as an amplified role for responsible Middle Powers.

"They can act as bridges within the UN when major powers are divided," he said.

Tokayev also proposed the creation of a dedicated team to present concrete reform ideas,

stressing the need to uphold the founding principles of the UN Charter, including sovereignty, territorial integrity, and peaceful dispute resolution, without selective application.

Economic resilience and connectivity

Kazakhstan's central role in Eurasian connectivity was another key theme. President Tokayev showcased Kazakhstan's transformation into a major logistics hub, handling 80% of overland transit between Asia and Europe.

"By 2029, we plan to build 5,000 kilometers of new railway lines," he said.

He stressed Kazakhstan's commitment to open markets and foreign direct investment, noting the country has attracted over \$400 billion in the three decades since independence.

This year, economic growth is expected to exceed 6%, underscoring the sustainability of our economy as the largest our

part of the world.

Tackling climate change and water security

Kazakhstan is also facing environmental pressures, including the Aral Sea tragedy, the rapid melting of glaciers and the shrinking Caspian Sea. Tokayev called for urgent steps to address these crises and announced that Kazakhstan will host a Regional Ecological Summit in April 2026.

AI for human progress

On digital transformation, Tokayev highlighted Kazakhstan's ambition to become a fully digital state within three years. With 90% of public services already digitalized and a national supercomputer in operation, the country is embracing AI to drive progress.

"Kazakhstan views artificial intelligence not as one more technological advancement, but as a major breakthrough that can be a true engine of human progress," he said.

National reforms and economic strategy

President Tokayev outlined Kazakhstan's political reforms, including a single seven-year presidential term and a stronger, more transparent governance model rooted in the rule of law.

He also outlined Kazakhstan's four-pillar energy strategy: oil and gas, coal, uranium, and critical minerals, emphasizing that renewable energy must be part of a balanced, technologically advanced energy transition.

Kazakhstan's grain export capacity, now reaching 12 million tons, is also positioning the country as a significant agricultural power in global markets.

Commitment to peace, dialogue, and global cooperation

President Tokayev concluded with a reaffirmation of Kazakhstan's role as a global bridge-builder and peace-maker. 🌐





President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev shakes hands with the Chairman of the Global Green Growth Institute, 8th Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon.

Head of State Meets with Chairman of the Global Green Growth Institute

On the sidelines of the Astana International Forum, President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev held a meeting with the Chairman of the Global Green Growth Institute, 8th Secretary-General of the United Na-

tions Ban Ki-moon.

The Head of State expressed gratitude to the Institute for its expert support in developing Kazakhstan's Strategy for Achieving Carbon Neutrality, as well as for its participation in the ecological restoration program of

the dried-up Aral Sea bed.

Ban Ki-moon expressed his support for Kazakhstan's efforts in the field of sustainable development and emphasized the importance of expanding cooperation to advance global environmental initiatives. ♣



President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and the Chairman of the Global Green Growth Institute, 8th Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon hold a meeting.

Kazakhstan's Constitution at 30: What Has Been Achieved?

The following article was contributed by Nurgali Arystanov, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Republic of Korea, to the Diplomacy Journal for publication. –Ed.

When people voted in the 1995 national referendum (Aug. 30) to adopt a new Constitution, they laid the cornerstone of modern

statehood. More than just a legal charter, the Constitution of Kazakhstan is marked by its humanist focus. Article 1 declares the country a democratic, secular, legal, and social



President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev places his hand on the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan

state, in which the highest values are the individual, their life, rights, and freedoms.

For a country like Kazakhstan, which gained independence relatively recently, these provisions were far from mere formal declarations. They became a bedrock of domestic policy, legislative development, and state strategy in the years

where the activities of national human rights institutions are regulated by the Constitution and constitutional laws.

"This is a sign of democratic maturity. Reforms have made human rights protections more accessible, including the right of citizens to appeal directly to the Constitutional Court," Lastayev explained.

Digitization has advanced rapidly. Over 80% of pre-trial investigations are now conducted electronically, and 90% of investigative actions are video-recorded, ensuring transparency. The Ministry of Justice has also broadened legal access through the People's Lawyer campaign and the expansion of its online Legal Cabinet.

that followed. Experts note that the constitutional recognition of human rights was a decisive step in the transition from an administrative-command system to a modern rule-of-law state.

Over nearly three decades, Kazakhstan has demonstrated a readiness to strengthen mechanisms for protecting citizens' rights in a gradual yet consistent manner: open, institutionally formalized, and backed by international obligations. Human rights have thus acquired not only domestic significance but also become a marker of international legitimacy.

Expanding Human Rights Safeguards

Perhaps the most significant innovation of the reform that followed a nationwide referendum on June 5, 2022 was granting constitutional status to the Human Rights Commissioner. Ombudsman Artur Lastayev highlighted that with this decision, Kazakhstan has joined developed democracies

The ombudsman's role has expanded from reviewing complaints to proactive monitoring of detention facilities, legislative initiatives, and legal education. In 2024, nearly 800 visits to prisons, detention centers, and special institutions were carried out, far exceeding previous years.

Regional representatives of the ombudsman now operate nationwide. This institutional presence has fueled a surge in public trust, as annual appeals have grown from 1,800 to nearly 7,000 in just a few years. According to Lastayev, this reflects both rising legal awareness and stronger trust in institutions. Legislative proposals from the ombudsman's office are increasingly shaping national policy. Among the most notable is the new law on combating domestic violence, written in accordance with ombudsman recommendations, which now stands as a landmark in Kazakhstan's legal landscape.

Rule of Law through Con-

stitutional Change

The Constitution has proven to be flexible, evolving in response to new challenges. The transformative change came with the referendum in June 2022, when citizens endorsed sweeping reforms aimed at democratization, judicial modernization, and the reinforcement of the principle of law and order.

The judiciary was a primary beneficiary. As Chief Justice Aslambek Mergaliyev noted, according to the Constitution, everyone has the right to judicial protection of their rights and freedoms.

"Therefore, it is crucial that every citizen is confident in the fairness of the court, where they can truly find both protection and truth. The rule of law in all spheres of life must become the foundation of Kazakhstan's progressive development," he said.

Digitization has advanced rapidly. Over 80% of pre-trial investigations are now conducted electronically, and 90% of investigative actions are video-recorded, ensuring transparency. The Ministry of Justice has also broadened legal access through the People's Lawyer campaign and the expansion of its online Legal Cabinet.

Aspirations of the People

The Constitution has proven both durable and adaptive. Nearly three decades after its adoption, it remains centered on the principle that the highest value is the individual, their rights, and their dignity. The 2022 reforms in particular cemented the idea that sovereignty belongs to the people, while anchoring the rule of law and human rights protections in the country's political DNA.

As the nation navigates the digital era and a shifting global landscape, its greatest hope lies in the Constitution's continued role: not only as the foundation of statehood, but also as a reflection of the society's aspirations. ✨



President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev delivers a speech at the plenary session of the Astana International Forum, May 29, 2025

Excerpts from Statement by President Tokayev at Astana International Forum

Kazakhstan approaches today's turbulent world with a spirit of constructive engagement. Our foreign policy is based on the belief that dialogue is more powerful than division, and that sovereign rights must be respected.

There should be no room for nationalistic hubris and ignorance of historic and cultural traditions of the peoples.

Meanwhile there also should

be due respect to the right of all national minorities to speak their languages and cultivate their cultures. That's what we in Kazakhstan strongly pursue: "The unity in diversity."

Over the past few years, Kazakhstan has undergone profound economic and institutional reforms. Our goal is clear: to build a more diversified, inclusive, and future-ready economy – one where growth is not just sustained, but shared.

Despite global headwinds, our economy grew by 5.1% in 2024. Foreign direct investment reached record levels. Freight through the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route surged 62%.

We are investing in human capital, expanding opportunities for young professionals. Our immediate task is to reduce regional disparities to strengthen our middle class.

That is why we continue to

deepen our capabilities in key sectors – from digital technologies and AI to clean energy and value-added manufacturing.

We are making significant progress in digital transformation, reflecting our desire to become IT hub in Eurasia.

We place emphasis on artificial intelligence. The goal is to become an academic and innovation hub with a number of foreign university branches and Research and Development partnerships.

Kazakhstan is launching the most powerful supercomputer, which has already been delivered here.

Finally, we are planning to create a pioneering pilot zone called CryptoCity where cryptocurrencies might be used for purchasing goods, services, and even beyond.

Being the source of 40% of

the world's uranium Kazakhstan puts nuclear energy as a top priority in its national strategy.

But development cannot be sustainable without addressing the climate emergency. Central Asia is one of the most climate-vulnerable regions on the planet. It is experiencing warming twice as fast as the global average.

In 2026, we will host a Regional Ecological Summit in partnership with the UN – a platform to combine Central Asian strategies and global ambitions.

Two months ago, the UN General Assembly formally established the United Nations Regional Centre for the SDGs for Central Asia and Afghanistan in Almaty.

This is a milestone in our multilateral development engagement. This Centre will

support joint projects, offer technical expertise, and coordinate international cooperation.

Kazakhstan firmly believes that middle powers should have a vested interest in an equitable and inclusive global order, which needs to be reassessed and overhauled. Accordingly, middle powers should be ready to shoulder more multilateral responsibility.

Critical decisions that affect billions of lives cannot be made by a handful of nations alone.

That is why Kazakhstan supports the expansion of the United Nations Security Council, including broader regional representation.

We all should strongly remain adherent to the UN Charter with no biased and selective approaches to its principles. Thus we would be able to restore trust in authority of the United Nations. ♣



8th UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon participates in the plenary session of the Astana International Forum, May 29, 2025

Kazakhstan–Korea Parliamentary Ties Continue to Strengthen

Ambassador of Kazakhstan, Nurgali Arystanov, held a meeting with Park Hong-keun, Chairman of the Korea–Kazakhstan Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Group, at the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea. The two sides discussed a wide range of bilateral cooperation issues and reaffirmed their mutual interest in further deepening the expanded strategic partnership between Kazakhstan and Korea.

Ambassador Arystanov congratulated the interlocutor on the election of Lee Jae-myung as President of the Republic of Korea and expressed confidence that the political dialogue between President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and the new Korean leader would contribute to the steady advancement of multifaceted cooperation between the two countries.

Special attention was given to the visit of Speaker Woo Won-shik to Kazakhstan in October 2024. The visit was highlighted as an important step toward developing parliamentary diplomacy. The parties underscored the importance of continuing the Central Asia – Republic of Korea Parliamentary Speakers' Conference as a key platform for regional cooperation.

The meeting also noted the positive dynamics of trade, economic, and investment cooperation. The Republic of Korea remains one of Kazakhstan's key trade and investment partners globally.

The sides also reviewed the prospects for expanding



Ambassador of Kazakhstan Nurgali Arystanov (left) and Chairman of the Korea–Kazakhstan Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Group Park Hong-keun shake hands and pose for a photo.

humanitarian cooperation, including in the fields of education and culture. Ambassador Arystanov shared that approximately 1,300 Kazakh students are currently studying at Korean universities. Notable initiatives include the opening of the School of Artificial Intelligence in Kyzylorda, the upcoming launch of a Woosong University campus in Turkistan in September 2025, and a partnership between Akhmet Baitursynov Kostanay Regional University and Dong-Eui University.

The development of connectivity between Kazakhstan and Korea was also discussed. Currently, there are 19 direct flights a week between the two countries. The aim is to increase this number to 40,

which will promote business, tourism, and people-to-people exchanges.

Park Hong-keun, who also serves as Chairman of the General Hong Beom-do Memorial Association, expressed his commitment to actively contributing to the further development of inter-parliamentary and humanitarian cooperation. In turn, Ambassador Arystanov invited the Korean lawmaker to visit Kazakhstan at a convenient time for talks with Kazakh counterparts. The invitation was gratefully accepted.

It should be noted that the Kazakhstan–Korea Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Group in the Mazhilis of Kazakhstan is chaired by Aidos Sarym, a member of Parliament. ✎



Delegations from both chambers of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan hold a high-level meeting with representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea to deepen inter-parliamentary cooperation.

Kazakhstan's Parliament Strengthens Ties with Korea's National Assembly

Delegations from both chambers of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan have held high-level meetings with representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea to deepen inter-parliamentary cooperation.

From the Senate, Senators Suindik Aldashev, Bibigul Zheksenbay, Ainur Argynbekova, and Zakirzhan Kuziyev met with Lee In-Young, Chairman of the Committee on Children, Population and Environment of the National Assembly of Korea. The discussions focused on prospects for leg-

islative collaboration and the exchange of expertise in areas such as environmental protection, sustainable development, and social policy.

Senator Aldashev emphasized the constructive dialogue and close contacts underpinning political relations between Kazakhstan and Korea. He noted that bilateral relations have been developing actively at a high level in a spirit of mutual trust and openness, with recent reciprocal visits by the heads of state further expanding the scope of partnership.

Another key topic discussed

was the protection of children's and family rights and the promotion of humanitarian initiatives. The Korean delegation was also briefed on legislative measures undertaken by Kazakhstan to prevent and combat crimes against minors. Aldashev stated: "Kazakhstan prioritizes the health and well-being of children and families. 2022 was declared the Year of the Child, and significant reforms have been launched in social protection, education, and healthcare. Since 2016, the Office of the Commissioner for Children's Rights has been active. We are

committed to safeguarding the rights of Kazakh citizens living in Korea, including children. Currently, around 45,000 of our compatriots reside in Korea. We aim to ensure their access to quality education, healthcare, and social services, and we request the Korean side's support in facilitating access to inclusive education, early development programs, and cultural integration initiatives for children of Kazakh citizens.

From the Mazhilis, members Aidos Sarym, Vera Kim, and Olzhas Kuspekov, representing the Kazakhstan-Korea Friendship Group, also met with the Korean delegation in Astana. Sarym highlighted the constructive and active political dialogue between the two countries, noting that the 2019 state visit of President Moon Jae-In to Kazakhstan and the 2021 official visit of President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev to Seoul were pivotal moments in bilateral relations. Over recent years, exchanges between Kazakh and Korean parliamentarians have intensified, facilitating active experience-sharing and inter-parliamentary cooperation.

During the meetings, both



sides discussed a broad range of issues, including social and medical support for citizens, employment, mother and child rights, environmental protection, and other topics integral to national and international policy. Sarym also expressed gratitude to the Korean delegation for supporting the ongoing forest restoration initiative

in Abai region, which aims to rehabilitate areas affected by wildfires.

Both sides agreed to deepen bilateral parliamentary relations and strengthen cooperation on shared issues, paving the way for further legislative collaboration in social policy, environmental protection, education, culture, and tourism. ♣



Delegations from both chambers of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan take a commemorative photo with representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea to deepen inter-parliamentary cooperation.



Ambassador of Kazakhstan Nurgali Arystanov delivers a lecture to students.

Kazakhstan's Constitution Day Celebrated in Seoul

A lecture by Ambassador Nurgali Arystanov, dedicated to the State of the Nation address of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, “Kazakhstan in the Era of Artificial Intelligence: Current Challenges and Solutions through Digital Transformation”, was held in the capital of the Republic of Korea.

The event was organized with the support of the Secretariat of the Central Asia – Republic of Korea Cooperation Forum. Participants included representatives of academic and business circles, staff of international organizations, and students.

In his remarks, Ambassador Arystanov elaborated on the key directions of the Address, highlighting the Head of State's initiatives to transition to a unicameral Parliament, establish a Ministry of Artificial Intelligence and Digital

Development, and introduce advanced technologies in agriculture, infrastructure, and logistics. He also emphasized the importance of the Alatau City project, the development of smart cities, green initiatives, and tourism promotion.

The Kazakh diplomat noted that these priorities resonate with the experience and focus areas of the Republic of Korea, thus opening broad opportunities for joint projects in digitalization, innovation, green energy, and urban development. He expressed confidence that the synergy of efforts between the two countries would elevate cooperation to a qualitatively new level.

As part of the program, guests were shown the feature film “My Big Kazakh Family”, which vividly illustrates the traditions of tolerance and interethnic harmony in Kazakh society. The screening received warm feedback from the Korean audience.

A special highlight of the event was its cultural and educational segment. Ambassador Nurgali Arystanov read the Kazakh fairy tale “The Brave Hare” (author Meirzhan Zhylykbay) for children and their parents, with a Korean rendition performed by a professional voice actress. This initiative became a vivid example of cultural exchange and strengthening friendship between Kazakhstan and Korea.

In addition, Ambassador Arystanov held a meeting with Mr. Rhee Jong Kook, Executive Director of the Secretariat of Central Asia – Republic of Korea Cooperation Forum. The parties discussed prospects for further interaction between the Central Asian states and the Republic of Korea, emphasizing the importance of deepening political, economic, and humanitarian cooperation in light of the Kazakh President's Address. ✨

State of the Nation Address by the President Discussed in Seoul

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Ambassador Nurgali Arystanov delivers a lecture on the State-of-the-Nation Address of the President of Kazakhstan.

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Ambassador Nurgali Arystanov and participants take a commemorative photo after the lecture.



Ambassador of Kazakhstan Nurgali Arystanov poses for the camera with the President of the Jogye Order of Korean Buddhism, Venerable Jinwoo.

Korea Participates in Congress of Leaders of Traditional Religions

The Jogye Order of Korean Buddhism is the largest Buddhist order in Korea, preserving a 1,700-year-old tradition of Korean Buddhism.

Ambassador of Kazakhstan Nurgali Arystanov held a meeting with the President of the Jogye Order of Korean Buddhism, Venerable Jinwoo.

During the meeting, the sides discussed interfaith dialogue, tolerance, and the promotion of peaceful coexistence. In this context, the Kazakh diplomat handed over, to President Jinwoo, an official invitation from Maulen Ashimbayev, Chairman of the Senate of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan,

to participate in the 8th Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, which will be held on September 17-18, 2025, in Astana.

The interlocutors emphasized the importance of the Congress in advancing global dialogue between civilizations, cultures, and religions, as well as strengthening mutual understanding and respect among religious communities. The active participation of the Jogye Order in the Congress was highly valued, contributing to the development of cultural and humanitarian cooperation between Kazakhstan and Korea.

President Jinwoo gratefully accepted the invitation and confirmed the intention of the

Korean side to participate in the Congress, underlining its significance as a key platform for interaction among spiritual leaders and the promotion of peace and harmony.

During the conversation, Venerable Jinwoo also expressed his appreciation to the Government and people of Kazakhstan for their support of ethnic Koreans residing in the country, noting their important role as a "golden bridge" between the two friendly nations. The parties also highlighted the dynamic development of bilateral cooperation, including people-to-people ties, facilitated by the increasing number of flights between cities of both countries. ☸

Labor Cooperation Strengthened: Visit of First Deputy Minister Yertayev

Mr. Askarbek Yertayev, First Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Protection of Kazakhstan, successfully completed an official visit to the Republic of Korea, aimed at advancing bilateral dialogue and cooperation in the field of labor and social protection.

During his visit, Mr. Yertayev held productive meetings with key Korean officials, including Mr. Park Il-Hoon, Director General of the Ministry of Employment and Labor (MOEL), and Mr. Kim Jeong Do, Acting Commissioner of the Korean Immigration Service, Ministry of Justice. These discussions focused on enhancing labor relations, ad-

ressing employment challenges, and exploring opportunities for further collaboration between Kazakhstan and Korea.

In addition, Mr. Yertayev briefed Hon. Park Hong-keun, Chairman of the Korea-Kazakhstan Friendship Group at the National Assembly, on issues related to labor cooperation, emphasizing Kazakhstan's ongoing initiatives to strengthen workforce development and international employment partnerships.

As part of his visit, Mr. Yertayev attended the premiere of a documentary film dedicated to the achievements and legacy of General Hong Beom-do, an event that highlighted the historical and cultural ties

between Kazakhstan and Korea. The screening featured remarks from Speaker Woo Won-shik and Hon. Park Hong-keun, reflecting the shared respect and recognition of historical contributions.

Overall, the visit significantly contributed to advancing dialogue on labor cooperation and reinforced the strong foundation for continued collaboration between Kazakhstan and Korea in this important area. Both sides expressed optimism about further deepening mutually beneficial exchanges and partnerships, particularly in workforce development, labor mobility, and social protection initiatives. ♣



Mr. Askarbek Yertayev, First Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Protection of Kazakhstan, holds a productive meeting with key Korean officials.



Delegations from Korea, Central Asian countries, and other regions of Kazakhstan take a commemorative photo at the II Central Asia-Korea Cooperation Forum in Turkestan.

II Central Asia-Korea Cooperation Forum Opens in Turkestan

The II Central Asia-Korea Cooperation Forum for local governments is taking place in Turkestan under the theme: "Turkestan – Center of International Cooperation on the Great Silk Road." The first forum was held last year in the Republic of Korea. Today's event serves as a platform for exchanging experiences and adopting concrete measures to advance this important mission.

Delegations from Korea, Central Asian countries, and other regions of Kazakhstan are participating in the forum. Notable attendees include H.E. Cho Tae-ik, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Kazakhstan; Yu Min

Bon, Secretary General of GA-ROK Association; Baktyarbek Djeenbayev, Head of the Department for Local Self-Government Development at the State Agency for Civil Service and Local Self-Government of Kyrgyzstan; and Chong Young Hwa, Director of Woosong University Kazakhstan.

The forum began with a presentation of the investment opportunities in Turkestan Region. In his opening remarks, Akim of Turkestan Region Nuralkhan Kusherov emphasized the region's readiness to strengthen strategic partnerships, expand interregional cooperation, and implement joint initiatives.

"Strategic partnership be-

tween Kazakhstan and Korea is strengthening. Our country is implementing large-scale reforms aimed at diversifying the economy, enhancing institutional capacity, and creating a favorable environment for foreign investors. Special attention is being paid to developing international partnerships with Korea and solidifying Kazakhstan's position as a reliable trade and economic partner in Central Asia. One key outcome of Kazakhstan-Korea cooperation has been the start of construction of a 926 MW combined-cycle power plant in the region, implemented by the Samruk-Kazyna Fund and South Korea's Doosan Enerbil-

ity. This is one of the largest energy investments in Kazakhstan. Turkestan's strategic location makes it a vital transport and logistics hub in Central Asia. We are ready to use this potential to attract investment, increase export opportunities, and strengthen economic ties with foreign partners, including Korea. Thanks to mutual trust and support from Central Asian heads of state, a unique model of cooperation based on neighborly relations, friendship, and support has developed. Turkestan Region is ready to expand strategic partnership with Korea, strengthen interregional ties, and implement joint initiatives," said N. Kusherov, expressing confidence in long-term cooperation and ensuring comprehensive support for new projects.

Speeches were also delivered by Ambassador Cho Tae-ik, Secretary General Yu Min Bon, Baktyarbek Djeenbayev, and Chong Young Hwa, who all expressed readiness to establish lasting partnerships.

Historically, Turkestan, the heart of the Great Silk Road, has been a crossroads of cultures, ideas, and trade routes. Today, Turkestan Region continues to actively develop international connections, establishing sister-region relationships with several regions in China, Central Asia, and Turkey. A notable



Akim of Turkestan Region Nuralkhan Kusherov delivers opening remarks.

example of regional collaboration is the international trade and economic center "Central Asia", jointly developed by Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.

Turkestan Region is one of Kazakhstan's leading agricultural areas, ranking first in the country for cotton, vegetables, and fruit production. The region is expanding greenhouse areas and arable lands annually, with plans to implement advanced Korean agrotechnologies, in-

cluding AI, robotics, and biotechnology for smart greenhouse construction. Additionally, Turkestan's unique historical monuments, rich culture, hospitality, and scenic landscapes offer significant opportunities for tourism development.

The opening of Woosong University's branch in Turkestan, which will train IT specialists, represents an important step toward the region's digital transformation and will strengthen scientific and educational cooperation between Kazakhstan and Korea.

It is noteworthy that in 2024, the Republic of Korea ranked third among the largest foreign investors in Kazakhstan. Last year, bilateral trade between the two countries reached \$3.1 billion, with Hyundai, KIA, Samsung, LG, Doosan, and 876 other South Korean companies successfully operating in Kazakhstan.

The forum highlights the growing role of Turkestan as a hub for international cooperation and underscores Kazakhstan's commitment to fostering long-term partnerships with Korea and the broader Central Asian region. ♫



Akim of Turkestan Region Nuralkhan Kusherov talks with a delegate from Korea.

A UN Center in Almaty was Solidly Supported by UN Member States

The UN General Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution on the establishment of the UN Regional Centre for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for Central Asia and Afghanistan. The document was initiated by Kazakhstan on behalf of the Central Asian states. 152 UN member states, including the Republic of Korea, supported the resolution as co-sponsors, which underlines the high significance of the initiative and broad international consensus.

The establishment of the UN SDG Centre is an important step in implementing the initiative of the President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, first presented at the 74th session of the UN General Assembly. At that time,

the Head of State proposed to locate the Centre on the basis of the new building of International Organizations in Almaty, where 18 UN agencies are already operating.

President Tokayev stressed that Kazakhstan, as the largest economy in the region, is interested in strengthening cooperation between states and the sustainable development of Central Asia, playing a key role in promoting regional integration.

The growing role of middle powers in global governance underscores the importance of Kazakhstan's efforts to ensure sustainable development and stability. Kazakhstan continues to strengthen its role as an important bridge between the world's leading centers of power and acts as a catalyst for inter-

national cooperation.

Particular attention is paid to the economic development of Afghanistan. The stability and prosperity of the people of this country are directly linked to the security and well-being of Central Asia. Kazakhstan consistently supports the Afghan people, facilitating the processes of restoring the country, expanding trade and economic ties and integrating into regional cooperation.

The Centre will be a key platform for coordinating international and regional efforts, sharing best practices, providing technical assistance and implementing joint projects. It will work closely with governments, international organizations, the private sector and civil society to achieve concrete and measurable results.

In addition, the Centre will make a significant contribution to the revitalization processes of the UN system, helping to increase the effectiveness of the organization's activities at the regional level. Its work will be aimed at strengthening coordination between UN agencies, adapting global initiatives to regional needs and promoting inclusive multilateral cooperation, which meets current UN reforms aimed at increasing its efficiency and effectiveness.

The adoption of this resolution underscores global support for a regional approach to sustainable development and demonstrates the readiness of the international community to facilitate the progress of Central Asia and Afghanistan on the path to stability, prosperity and integration into global development processes. 🌐



Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations, Kairat Umarov, delivers remarks at the UN General Assembly.



President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev meets with Executive Director of the Green Climate Fund Mafalda Duarte.

Head of State Meets with Executive Director of the Green Climate Fund

The meeting focused on prospects for strengthening cooperation between Kazakhstan and the Fund.

President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev emphasized that Kazakhstan attaches great importance to environmental protection, including the preservation and expansion of forest resources, as well as the rational use of natural resources.

Kazakhstan plans to host a Regional Climate Summit in April 2026. The main objective of the event is to seek collective solutions to pressing challenges, including adaptation to the consequences of climate change and ensuring food and water security.

For her part, Mafalda Duarte expressed support for Kazakhstan's efforts to address climate challenges. In particular,

she praised the National Adaptation Plan implemented with the participation of the Fund and UNDP, which includes a comprehensive disaster risk management system and an early warning system.

The interlocutors also underlined the importance of fostering a responsible attitude toward nature and promoting environmental awareness in society. ♻️

Kazakhstan Strengthens Business Ties with Korea: AIFC Invites Investors

The Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC) hosted the business event AIFC Connect in Seoul on May 21, 2025, aimed at strengthening commercial ties between Kazakhstan and the Republic of Korea. The initiative also sought to foster new partnerships and encourage Korean entrepreneurs to engage in joint ventures through the AIFC platform.

Nurgali Arystanov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Republic of Korea, delivered a welcoming speech in which he emphasized the high level of the expanded strategic partnership between Kazakhstan and Korea.

In his speech, the Ambassador noted that the Republic of Korea is one of Kazakhstan's key partners: "As of 2024, the volume of direct investments from Korea to Kazakhstan reached 1.2 billion US dollars,



Renat Bekturov, Governor of the AIFC, speaking at the AIFC Connect event

making the Republic of Korea the third largest investor in the country's economy. Over the

past 20 years, the total volume of Korean investments has exceeded 10.8 billion US dollars."

He also highlighted that 876 enterprises with South Korean capital are successfully operating in Kazakhstan. Moreover, air connectivity between the two countries is developing: currently, 15 direct flights per week operate from Astana and Almaty to Seoul, and starting May 29, SCAT Airlines plans to launch a new route between Shymkent and Seoul.

Renat Bekturov, Governor of the AIFC, commented: "As the leading financial centre in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, according to the GFCI rankings, the AIFC offers foreign investors favourable conditions for conducting business in Kazakhstan and the Central Asian region. Through AIFC



Nurgali Arystanov, Ambassador Kazakhstan, speaking at the AIFC Connect event



Yevgeniy Kochetov, Vice Minister of Culture and Information of Kazakhstan, speaking at the AIFC Connect event

Connect, we have showcased the opportunities available to entrepreneurs in Seoul – a global economic hub – to launch projects in sectors such as finance, industry, infrastructure, and the creative industries, one of the fastest-growing sectors in today's economy."

The main focus of the event in Seoul was the opportunities offered by the AIFC to foster the growth in the creative industries, underpinned by its

advanced legal framework for intellectual property protection and its capacity to structure deals in accordance with global best practice. The event also drew attention to the financial centre's potential for investment in projects within Kazakhstan's real economy.

The business programme of the event, which included a presentation on Kazakhstan and its investment opportunities, was opened by Darmen Sad-

vakassov, CEO of Dasco Group. This was followed by a panel session on the AIFC, moderated by Arman Batayev, Founder and Managing Partner of OD Consulting. Experts Olga Em, Director of the VITIS Korea Fund OEIC, and Zhanna Diyarova, Director of the AIFC Authority Participants Support and Business Relations Department, discussed the role of the financial centre in attracting investment and structuring deals, its legal and regulatory infrastructure, the advantages of the AIFC's fund platform for foreign investors, and the processes involved in creating and managing funds.

The programme proceeded with a discussion about the creative industries in Kazakhstan and the value that the AIFC brings to the sector. Speakers included Yevgeniy Kochetov, Vice Minister for Culture and Information in the Republic of Kazakhstan, and Asset Onglassov, Chief Product Officer at the AIFC Authority.

Yevgeniy Kochetov, Vice Minister of Culture and Information of the Republic of Kazakhstan, stated: "Kazakhstan places special emphasis on the development of the creative sector, considering it a strategic priority and one of the key directions for economic diversification. Kazakhstan's geopolitical features,



Renat Bekturov, Governor of the AIFC, and Nurgali Arystanov, Ambassador of Kazakhstan, at a meeting with Korean business representatives

cultural diversity and interethnic uniqueness, along with a soft tax policy and a well-developed financial infrastructure, create wide opportunities for the growth of the creative industry. When speaking of our countries' joint prospects, it is clear that Kazakhstan and the Republic of Korea share a rich history of cultural cooperation.

Over 50 representatives from South Korean companies took part in the event, including those from the creative industries – such as producers and experts in the music and film sectors – as well as participants from the real economy and the financial sector.

To date, 18 companies with South Korean capital have been

porting Kazakhstan's business and economic growth by providing a favourable environment for attracting capital. Since its establishment in 2018, the AIFC has facilitated the inflow of over USD 14.7 billion into the Kazakh economy. As of now, more than 3,900 companies from 80+ countries – including the United States, the United Kingdom, China, Türkiye, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, and others – have registered within the AIFC's jurisdiction.

The Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC) is an independent jurisdiction offering a favourable legal and regulatory environment, as well as developed infrastructure for starting and conducting business, attracting investment, creating jobs, and fostering economic development in Kazakhstan. www.aifc.kz

AIFC Connect is an exclusive meeting format where experts and participants within finance and industrial sectors come together to exchange views on the AIFC's initiatives and the investment opportunities Kazakhstan offers for the business. AIFC Connect events were held in Singapore in 2023, and in the United Kingdom (London) and the UAE (Dubai) in 2024. ✨

The AIFC is recognised as the leading financial hub in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, supporting Kazakhstan's business and economic growth by providing a favourable environment for attracting capital.

We firmly believe that the creative economy has the power to elevate our relationship to a new, more dynamic level.”

As part of the event, Ernar Kurmashev, Producer, Head of the Tolqyn Film Fund (a venture capital fund), and Aizhat Kussainov, Head of the Ōzen music platform, shared their success stories in Kazakhstan's creative industries with attendees of AIFC Connect.

registered at the Astana International Financial Centre. These companies operate across a range of sectors, including information and communication technologies, professional, scientific and technical services, financial services and insurance, administrative and support services, construction, and others.

The AIFC is recognised as the leading financial hub in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, sup-



Over 50 representatives from South Korean companies took part in AIFC Connect

Products of Kazakh companies are presented at Korea Import Fair 2025

In an effort to promote national exports, Kazakhstan participated in the Korea Import Fair 2025, held in Seoul.

The event, hosted by the Korea Importers Association (KOIMA) with the support of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy of the Republic of Korea and the Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA), showcased the services of Air Astana and Scat Airlines as well as products from Maximus and chocolate by Lotte Rakhat.

In her opening remarks, KOIMA Chairperson Youn Young-mi emphasized the importance of expanding imports from friendly partner countries. She emphasized that this exhibition provides a unique opportunity for foreign companies to present their products in Korea and find potential partners.

The event brought together more than 200 companies from



Ambassador of Kazakhstan Nurgali Arystanov, KOIMA Chairperson Youn Young-mi, and National Assembly Member Seo Il-jun pose for a photo at the Kazakhstan Embassy booth

40 countries, including partic-

ipants from Europe, Asia, and Africa. The Kazakhstan booth attracted several hundred visitors and many Korean companies expressed strong interest in cooperation with Kazakh companies.

During the exhibition, Ambassador of Kazakhstan Nurgali Arystanov, KOIMA Chairperson Youn Young-mi, and National Assembly Member Seo Il-jun were presented Kazakh goods and discussed prospects for expanding the bilateral trade.

It should be noted that in 2024, the trade volume between Kazakhstan and Korea amounted to USD 3.1 billion, placing South Korea among the top 10 largest trading partners of Kazakhstan. ♣



KOIMA Chairperson Youn Young-mi delivers a congratulatory speech at the Opening Ceremony of the 2025 Korea Import Fair



Ambassador Nurgali Arystanov delivers a welcome speech at the opening ceremony of the International Space Summit 2025

Kazakhstan and Korea Strengthen Cooperation in the Space Sector

Kazakhstan presented its national stand at the "International Space Summit 2025," dedicated to the latest achievements and prospects for the development of the global space industry.

The event brought together representatives from governmental and private organizations, scientists, investors, and diplomats to discuss key directions in the development of space technologies and international cooperation.

The Kazakh delegation included Ambassador of Kazakhstan Nurgali Arystanov, Chairman of the Board of JSC "NC Kazakhstan Gharysh Sapary" Kayirzhan Kozhaev, Deputy Director of LLP "Galam" Adilsultan Lepes, and Director of the Institute of Ionosphere Serik Nurakynov.



Kazakh delegation led by Ambassador Nurgali Arystanov in front of the Contec Space Group stand at the International Space Summit 2025

In his opening remarks, Kazakh Diplomat provided an overview of Kazakhstan's space industry, emphasizing its strategic importance for the country and its significant potential for further development. He reminded

that the Baikonur Cosmodrome, the world's oldest and largest operational spaceport, is located in Kazakhstan.

The Ambassador noted that President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, in his video address on



Kazakh delegation led by Ambassador Nurgali Arystanov in front of the Kazakhstan national stand at the International Space Summit 2025

the 70th anniversary of the Baikonur Cosmodrome, highlighted the significance of large-scale space projects implemented over recent decades in contributing to the national economy and expressed the aspiration to transform Baikonur into a center for international cooperation, scientific exchange, tourism, and education.

Furthermore, the Ambassador stated that the national company "Kazakhstan Gharysh Sapary" is developing cooperation with Korean companies in the development of domestic space infrastructure and technologies, in line with the summit-level agreements. He emphasized that Kazakhstan continues to invest in key areas, including satellite communications.

He also informed that the country's "KazSat" communication satellites and "KazEOSat" remote sensing satellites are successfully operating, playing a significant role in the development of telecommunications

infrastructure and spatial monitoring systems.

During the summit, the Kazakh delegation met with Sun-hee Lee, President of South Korea's Contec Space Group, one of the key organizers of the event. They discussed opportunities for establishing cooperation and

exchanged views on other promising areas of interaction.

The participation of the Kazakh delegation in the forum reaffirmed the growing interest of both countries in deepening partnerships in innovative and high-tech sectors, including the aerospace industry. ✨



Ambassador Nurgali Arystanov and the President of South Korea's Contec Space Group

Strengthening Cooperation with Korea in ICT Education

A roundtable dedicated to the development of information and communication technologies (ICT) in the education sector of Central Asian countries and the Republic of Korea was held in Seoul.

The event brought together government representatives, experts, diplomats, journalists, as well as officials from the Ministries of Education of the five Central Asian states. The main focus of discussions was on fostering cooperation in ICT for education, with particular emphasis on school programs and human resources development.

While delivering the opening remarks, Mr. Rhee Jong Kook, Executive Director of the Secretariat of the Central Asia-

Republic of Korea Cooperation Forum (CARK), highlighted that since 2020 such roundtables have been held annually. He stressed the importance of having ICT as a separate platform for dialogue. "Today we focused on the education sector, but in the future, discussions will be expanded to areas such as agriculture, transportation, and healthcare," he said.

Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Korea, Nurgali Arystanov, noted in his remarks that relations between Kazakhstan and Korea are dynamically developing across various fields, including education. This is facilitated by the regular political dialogue between the leaders of the two countries. In particular, on July 23, 2025,

President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and President Lee Jae Myung held a telephone conversation, during which they discussed priority areas of mutually beneficial cooperation. The Kazakh diplomat emphasized that the Minister of Science and Higher Education of Kazakhstan, Sayasat Nurbek, visited Korea twice last year, giving a strong impetus to the development of inter-university contacts. Ambassador also stressed that ICT and artificial intelligence are practical areas of cooperation within the CARK framework.

He stated that the opening of the School of Artificial Intelligence at Korkyt Ata Kyzylorda University and the launch of a campus of Woosong University in the city of Turkistan would be an important step in strengthening educational cooperation.

On behalf of Kazakhstan, Assel Bulekbayeva, Head of Division of the International Cooperation of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, delivered a report on the current state and future prospects of ICT development in education. She paid particular attention to the introduction of artificial intelligence and presented the national AI-Sana program. Assel Bulekbayeva emphasized Kazakhstan's openness to cooperation with the Korean side in advancing AI and digital transformation.

At the conclusion of the roundtable, participants exchanged views and identified specific areas for cooperation in innovative development with the application of artificial intelligence. ✨



Participants in the roundtable dedicated to the development of information and communication technologies (ICT) in the education sector of Central Asian countries and the Republic of Korea pose for the camera in Seoul.



Participants in a seminar titled "Investment Dialogue on Critical Minerals between Korea and Kazakhstan" take a group photo in the capital of the Republic of Korea.

Investment Opportunities in Critical Minerals Discussed in Seoul

A seminar titled "Investment Dialogue on Critical Minerals between Korea and Kazakhstan" was held in the capital of the Republic of Korea, organized with the support of the Korea Institute of Geoscience and Mineral Resources (KIGAM). The event brought together more than 30 participants, including leading Korean companies such as Hyundai Development Company, POSCO International, LX International, as well as renowned academic institutions, including Seoul National University and Pusan National University.

In his speech, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Nurgali Arystanov, emphasized

the importance of expanding bilateral cooperation in the field of critical materials. He highlighted that Kazakhstan is ready to actively develop collaboration with the Republic of Korea in the exploration, extraction, and processing of lithium – one of the most in-demand and strategically important resources for high-tech industries and sustainable economic development.

KIGAM President Lee Pyeong-Koo urged Korean companies to increase their investments in Kazakhstan, noting the country's vast potential for the development of critical minerals.

Daulet Saktaganov, a representative of Kazakh Invest NC JSC in Korea, informed seminar participants about the key in-

vestment opportunities and incentives that Kazakhstan offers to foreign investors.

During the event, the results of research on the Bakennoye lithium deposit in the East Kazakhstan region were also presented, sparking great interest among attendees and marking an important step toward attracting investment in the extraction and processing of critical minerals.

Following the seminar, Korean companies expressed their interest in deepening cooperation with Kazakhstan in the field of critical materials. The parties discussed the prospects for implementing joint projects aimed at developing and efficiently utilizing natural resources for the benefit of both countries. ✨



Ambassador of Kazakhstan Nurgali Arystanov poses with a Korean businessman at the Global Business Forum in Seoul.

Kazakhstan's Investment Opportunities Presented in South Korea's Capital

Ambassador of Kazakhstan Nurgali Arystanov presented Kazakhstan's investment opportunities at the Global Business Forum in Seoul.

The event gathered over 160 participants, including executives of major corporations and holdings, construction and development, transport and logistics, engineering and industrial, consulting and investment companies, as well as representatives of government and public organizations, leading universities, media outlets, and the diplomatic corps.

The event was organized by The Korea Herald, Korea's leading English-language daily newspaper. The main goal of the forum was to create a

platform for establishing connections with leaders of the Korean business community and strengthening business cooperation.

Media Group, Mr. Jeong Won-joo, Chairman of Daewoo Engineering & Construction, and Mr. Shin Jung-hoon, Member of the National Assembly of the

The opening ceremony featured welcome speeches by Mr. Choi Jin-young, CEO of Herald Media Group, Mr. Jeong Won-joo, Chairman of Daewoo Engineering & Construction, and Mr. Shin Jung-hoon, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea.

The opening ceremony featured welcome speeches by Mr. Choi Jin-young, CEO of Herald

Republic of Korea.

In his remarks, Ambassador Nurgali Arystanov noted that,



Ambassador of Kazakhstan Nurgali Arystanov takes a photo with Korean business leaders at the Global Business Forum in Seoul.

based on the results of 2024, the Republic of Korea ranked 3rd among the largest investors in Kazakhstan, with an inflow of foreign direct investment

amounting to USD 1.2 billion.

He highlighted the successful operation of more than 876 Korean companies in various sectors of Kazakhstan's economy,

as well as the implementation of several successful investment and breakthrough projects with the participation of major South Korean companies. The Ambassador emphasized the Government of Kazakhstan's ongoing efforts to further improve the investment climate and create a favorable business environment, in line with President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev's course for comprehensive modernization and economic transformation of the country.

The Kazakh diplomat invited South Korean companies to invest in Kazakhstan, highlighting key sectors such as infrastructure, information technology and artificial intelligence, drones, banking, rare earth metals, hydrogen energy, healthcare, education, and creative industries.

During the forum, guests were shown videos about Kazakhstan's investment opportunities and tourist attractions, including the "Born Bold" media campaign, and were provided with printed materials on the country's economic and investment potential.✽



Ambassador of Kazakhstan Nurgali Arystanov delivers remarks at the Global Business Forum in Seoul.



Participants in the Kick-off ceremony of the World Smart Sustainable Cities Organization (WeGO) for 2025 take a group photo.

Kazakhstan and Korea Strengthen Partnership in Smart Cities

The capital of the Republic of Korea hosted the Kick-off ceremony of the World Smart Sustainable Cities Organization (WeGO) for 2025. The event brought together over 50 participants, including diplomats, representatives of international organizations, and experts in sustainable urban development and technologies.

In his speech, Ambassador of Kazakhstan Nurgali Arystanov, representing Almaty as the Executive Vice President City of WeGO, emphasized the importance of international cooperation in the field of smart and sustainable cities. He noted that Almaty is becoming a regional financial, logistics, and transport hub. Thanks



Ambassador of Kazakhstan Nurgali Arystanov delivers a speech at the Kick-off ceremony of the World Smart Sustainable Cities Organization (WeGO) for 2025.

to this status, new offices of international organizations are opening in the city, and the number of international flights is growing. In particular, in September 2024, WeGO opened its Central Asia Regional Office in Almaty, which successfully hosted WeGO's Executive Committee Meeting. Furthermore, the United Nations General Assembly recently unanimously adopted the resolution on the establishment of the UN Regional Center for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for Central Asia and Afghanistan in Almaty.

Regular direct flights are operated between Almaty and Seoul by Air Astana and Asiana Airlines. Additionally, starting from April 7, 2025, Eastar Jet will launch two new direct flights from Seoul to Almaty, making travel between the two countries even more convenient and accessible.

"In 2023, Almaty was also awarded the bronze prize at the Seoul Smart City Prize by WeGO, which recognizes the city's efforts in innovative solutions for sustainable development. As a result of this



Participants in the Kick-off ceremony listen to the speech by Ambassador of Kazakhstan Nurgali Arystanov.

achievement, city representatives participated in an extensive training program aimed at using technology to improve energy, transportation, healthcare, and safety," said Nurgali Arystanov.

It should be noted that the role of cities in international diplomacy is rapidly increas-

ing. Kazakhstan, as one of the founders of WeGO (Astana, 2010) and an active participant (Almaty, member since 2021), is ready to continue its cooperation within WeGO in areas such as digital transformation, innovation, and the use of artificial intelligence in the development of smart cities. ♻️



About 50 participants, including diplomats, representatives of international organizations, and experts in sustainable urban development and technologies attend the Kick-off ceremony.



Akim of Almaty, Darkhan Satybaldy, takes a commemorative photo with Governor Park Wan-su of Gyeongsangnam-do Province, South Korea, along with other dignitaries on September 22, 2025.

Almaty and Gyeongsangnam-do to Develop Joint Elevator Production Projects

A significant step in Kazakhstan–Korea cooperation was taken as Akim of Almaty, Darkhan Satybaldy, held an official meeting with Governor Park Wan-su of Gyeongsangnam-do Province, South Korea on September 22, 2025.

During the meeting, the parties signed three key Memorandum of understanding (MOUs) to promote exchange and cooperation between Almaty and Gyeongsangnam-do, develop the elevator industry jointly, and attract foreign students.

These agreements aim to strengthen business ties, implement joint projects in high-tech and educational sectors, and facilitate the exchange of



Almaty and Gyeongsangnam-do signed three key Memorandum of understanding (MOUs).



Akim of Almaty, Darkhan Satybaldy, holds an official meeting with Governor Park Wan-su of Gyeongsangnam-do Province, South Korea on September 22, 2025.

expertise between the two regions.

Akim Satybaldy highlighted the importance of educational cooperation, noting that South Korea is recognized as a leader in education in the Asia-Pacific region and was ranked last year as one of the top destinations for international students.

"We are particularly interested in developing educational links, and the presence of university rectors from institutions such as Changwon University and the Korea Elevator Industry University in your delegation underscores the significance of this area. We are especially focused on engineering, technical, and IT specialties, which are strategically important for the development of Almaty's economy and Kazakhstan as a whole," said the Akim.

He also emphasized the dynamic growth of ties between Almaty and South Korea, noting that more than 10,000 Korean tourists visited the city during the first half of 2025.

In his turn, Governor Park Wan-su expressed Gyeong-

sangnam-do's interest in expanding cooperation with Almaty, particularly in the elevator industry and the creation of joint projects within the framework of the free economic zone.

He expressed confidence that the signed memoranda will form a solid foundation for long-term partnership, facilitating technology transfer,

attracting investments, and implementing innovative initiatives between Korea and Kazakhstan.

The agreements mark a new chapter in the Kazakhstan-Korea relationship, highlighting the shared commitment of both sides to high-tech collaboration, education, and sustainable economic development. ✨



Almaty and Gyeongsangnam-do signed a Memorandum of understanding (MOUs).



Executives and workers at the Silk Road Electronics factory in Saran, Karaganda Region take a group photo.

Samsung Manufacturing Begins in Karaganda Region, Kazakhstan

A significant step in Kazakhstani industrial and technological development. The Silk Road Electronics factory in Saran, Karaganda Region, has officially launched the production of Samsung-branded televisions and washing machines. This year, the plant plans to manufacture 17 washing machine models and 21 television models, marking a significant step in Kazakhstan's industrial and technological development.

The launch was made possible through close collaboration between the Government of Kazakhstan, the Karaganda Regional Administration, and Samsung Electronics.

"Today we see the results of our President's strategic course to attract investments. This



project brings new technologies and job opportunities for our residents. I want to thank everyone who contributed their effort, knowledge, and time to make

this project a reality," said Yermaganbet Bulekpaev, Akim of Karaganda Region.

The Samsung washing machines produced at the factory

feature innovative functions and support the SmartThings ecosystem, allowing users to control appliances remotely and receive recommendations for optimal washing cycles.

At the same time, the factory has begun producing high-resolution televisions, including Crystal UHD 4K, FHD, and HD models. All TVs are Smart TV-enabled, offering vivid displays, access to streaming platforms, and compatibility with smart home systems. Plans are already underway to expand production to include QLED televisions.

"Samsung has been operating in Kazakhstan since the 1990s, and this marks our first production facility in the country. The company has ambitious plans for the future. Representatives from Samsung's Korean headquarters are closely supervising the process and ensuring quality control until the plant reaches full operational capacity," said Eugene Chung, President of Samsung Electronics Central Eurasia.

The production lines are equipped with modern technology and adhere to Samsung's high-quality standards, guaranteeing reliability and durability of the products.



The Silk Road Electronics factory in Saran, Karaganda Region, has officially launched the production of Samsung-branded televisions and washing machines.

The project was made possible thanks to Kazakhstan's ongoing economic reforms under President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and improvements in the investment climate. It reflects the country's commitment to strengthening cooperation with Korea and fostering the localization of high-tech manufacturing.

"Now Kazakh citizens can use Samsung products made on our own soil. This is a contribution to the country's industrial development and the improvement of quality of life," emphasized Alex-

ander Kritsky, Director of Silk Road Electronics.

The project was supported by the Industrial Development Fund and represents a key milestone in expanding Kazakhstan–Korea industrial partnership.

The launch ceremony was attended by Azamat Panbaev, Chairman of the Industrial Committee of the Ministry of Industry and Construction of Kazakhstan, who noted that efforts will continue to expand the range of locally produced appliances in the future. ♾



Executives and workers of the Silk Road Electronics factory in Saran, Karaganda Region take a group photo.

Investment and Business: Meeting Between Almaty and Pyeongtaek

A significant meeting was held between Marat Sultangaziev, Akim of Almaty Region, and the Mayor of Pyeongtaek, South Korea, on August 28, 2025, aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation in investment, business, and cultural exchange.

At the start of the talks, the Akim highlighted the importance of this courtesy visit in reinforcing long-standing relations. "This year marks the 33rd anniversary of diplomatic relations between Kazakhstan and the Republic of Korea. Over these years, our countries have built relationships based on trust and genuine partnership across various sectors. The state visit of the President of

the Republic of Korea to Kazakhstan in June last year gave new momentum to our cooperation, and the leaders of our countries reaffirmed their com-

phasizing its status as a recognized agricultural and tourist hub in Kazakhstan with strong economic growth.

Promising sites for joint ini-

The meeting concluded with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Friendly Relations and Economic Cooperation between the cities of Pyeongtaek and Konaev.

mitment to an expanded strategic partnership," said Marat Sultangaziev.

The Akim presented the socio-economic and investment potential of Almaty Region, em-

tiatives include the Industrial Zone of the New Alatau City and the Alatau Special Economic Zone.

Particular attention was given to projects in innovation and



Marat Sultangaziev, Akim of Almaty Region, and the Mayor of Pyeongtaek, South Korea, take a commemorative photo with other guests on August 28, 2025.

sustainable development. Almaty Region actively develops alternative energy, operating wind and hydroelectric plants. Construction of an academic campus is underway, which will become a center for science, education, and high technology. In the agro-industrial sector, a modern project—a “smart strawberry greenhouse”—is being implemented with the participation of Korean partners and the use of Korean technologies.

The meeting concluded with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Friendly Relations and Economic Cooperation between the cities of Pyeongtaek and Konaev.

Akim Marat Sultangaziev expressed confidence that the document will serve as a strong foundation for long-term, mutually beneficial partnership. "I am convinced that our cooperation will only continue to grow, and the friendship between Almaty Region and Pyeongtaek will make a worthy contribution to the development of Kazakhstan–Korea partnership," he concluded. ☼



Marat Sultangaziev, Akim of Almaty Region, and the Mayor of Pyeongtaek, South Korea, on August 28, 2025, exchanged a Memorandum of Understanding on Friendly Relations and Economic Cooperation.



Marat Sultangaziev, Akim of Almaty Region, and the Mayor of Pyeongtaek, South Korea, holds a meeting.



Minister Sayasat Nurbek, Ambassador Nurgali Arystanov, Mr. Ji-Beom Yoo, President of Sungkyunkwan University (SKKU), and delegation members posing for a group photo.

Minister of Science and Higher Education of Kazakhstan Visits Korea

The Minister of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan, H.E. Mr. Sayasat Nurbek, paid a working visit to the Republic of Korea, further strengthening bilateral cooperation in science, education, and innovation, with particular emphasis on university partnerships and technological collaboration.

While in Seoul, Minister Nurbek held a series of high-level meetings with key Korean officials and academic leaders.

During the meeting with H.E. Mr. Bae Kyung-hoon, Minister of Science and ICT, Minister Nurbek shared his views on further advancing partnership in science, technology, and innova-

tions. They agreed to continue efforts to elevate the cooperation to the next level.

At the talks with Ms. Choi Eun-ok, Acting Minister of Education, the main topic was expanding cooperation based on the success story of AI School established by Seoul National University of Science and Technology (SeoulTech) in Kazakhstan at Korkyt Ata University. They were of the common view on the need to advance student exchanges between universities of the two countries.

With Mr. Ji-Beom Yoo, President of Sungkyunkwan University (SKKU), Minister Nurbek focused on agreements with Satbayev University to develop dual-degree programs, further

expanding opportunities for Kazakh students. They exchanged ideas to further promote SKKU's ties with Kazakh universities.

Cooperation with Seoul Cyber University (SCU) reached a new milestone. The two sides agreed to establish cooperation with Q University. As part of the visit, the Kazakh delegation visited the campus, where they paid tribute to the bust of Abai and attended a Kazakh room, symbolizing the closeness of the two cultures. The parties also signed a memorandum of understanding.

At the meeting with Mr. Kwang Hyung Lee, President of KAIST, Minister Nurbek discussed expanding cooperation in artificial intelligence, robotics, and start-up incubation, with a focus on



Minister Sayasat Nurbek, Mr. Bae Kyung-hoon, Minister of Science and ICT, and delegation members posing for a group photo.

developing joint laboratories and academic exchanges. The sides highlighted the promising areas of cooperation in building Kazakhstan's capacity for advanced technology development.

At a meeting with Mr. Daehi Lee, CEO of Korea Venture Investment Corporation (KVIC), Minister Nurbek explored ways to attract Korean venture capital to Kazakhstan's innovation ecosystem, highlighting opportunities for co-investment and collaboration in supporting start-ups.

He also met with Mr. Dong Hwan Kim, President of Seoul National University of Science and Technology (SeoulTech), to discuss opening opportunities for advanced cooperation.

At the World Knowledge Forum, organized by Maekyung Media Group, Minister Nurbek delivered a speech highlighting the importance of global cooperation in education and science in the era of rapid technological transformation.

This visit reaffirmed the shared commitment of Kazakhstan and Korea to foster innovation, academic exchange, and technological cooperation. ❧



Minister Sayasat Nurbek and Mr. Bae Kyung-hoon, Minister of Science and ICT, shaking hands.



A delegation from Seoul National University of Science and Technology (SeoulTech), led by President Professor Dong-Hwan Kim, takes a commemorative photo.

SeoulTech President Leads Delegation to Kazakhstan to Bolster Educational Ties

A delegation from Seoul National University of Science and Technology (SeoulTech), led by President Professor Dong-Hwan Kim, visited Korkyt Ata Kyzylorda University from April 16 to 18, 2025, to deepen academic cooperation between Korea and Kazakhstan.

One of the key highlights of the visit was a meeting between President Kim and Mr. Nurlybek Nalibayev, Governor (Akim) of the Kyzylorda Region. The two sides explored opportunities to expand bilateral cooperation in higher education, academic exchange, and the implementation of joint scientific and applied research projects.



President Professor Dong-Hwan Kim and Mr. Nurlybek Nalibayev, Governor (Akim) of the Kyzylorda Region take a commemorative photo.



A delegation from Seoul National University of Science and Technology (SeoulTech), takes a commemorative photo with promising students from leading secondary schools.

Governor Nalibayev expressed strong interest in advancing collaboration in key sectors such as agricultural processing, the food industry, and tourism, as well as in forward-looking areas including renewable energy, waste management, and lithium research in the Aral region—underscoring a shared commitment to environmental protection and sustainable regional development. In response, President Kim emphasized SeoulTech's intent to establish a startup incubator in the region, launch academic mobility programs, train IT specialists, and expand collaborative research initiatives.

During the visit, Professor Kim also met with Ms. Rauza Mendaliyeva, Director of the Department of Internationalization at the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of Kazakhstan, and Ms. Beibitkul Karimova, Chair of the Board and Rector of Korkyt Ata Kyzylorda University. The parties discussed the implementation of a dual-degree pro-

gram and reviewed the progress of joint academic initiatives, particularly in the fields of “AI Architecture” and “Data Management.” Currently, 100 students are enrolled in these programs with the support of government scholarships.

As part of the official visit, President Kim delivered a public lecture at the School of Artificial Intelligence titled “IT

and AI Trends in Korea,” offering students valuable insights into Korea's digital transformation, emerging technologies, and global AI trends.

Also, at the Republican Seminar—a national-level event in Kazakhstan attended by senior officials from the Ministry of Education, departments responsible for education quality control, school principals,



A delegate from Seoul National University of Science and Technology (SeoulTech), talks with a student from leading secondary school.

and directors of technical and vocational colleges—both President Kim and Professor Taehee Kim, Vice Provost for International Affairs, delivered keynote presentations. President Kim spoke on “IT and AI Trends in Korea,” while Professor Taehee Kim presented “Prospects for Kazakhstan–Korea Cooperation: AI Research and Workforce Development – From Vision to Implementation,” highlighting SeoulTech’s commitment to long-term collaboration with Kazakhstan and its growing institutional partnership with Korkyt Ata Kyzylorda University (KKU).

The delegation also engaged with promising students from leading secondary schools—future leaders in digital innovation and global cooperation—including 200 students from Nazarbayev Intellectual School, 100 students (50 female and 50 male) from Bilim-Innovation Lyceum, and 25 students each from Murager School and School No. 125.

The School of Artificial In-

telligence at Korkyt Ata Kyzylorda University, launched in November 2023 in partnership with SeoulTech, represents a landmark achievement in bilateral academic cooperation. A pivotal role in the implementation of this project was played by Mr. Woo Won-shik, Speaker

successful launch of the school. During his trip to Kyzylorda on October 11, 2024, he visited the AI School, underscoring the high level of inter-parliamentary engagement and the shared commitment to advancing cooperation in high technologies.

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of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea and former Chair of the Kazakhstan–Korea Friendship Association in the National Assembly. His support and contribution to the development of bilateral cooperation in education and science between Kazakhstan and South Korea facilitated the

The events surrounding this visit mark a significant step forward in deepening the scientific and educational partnership between Kazakhstan and Korea, paving the way for greater collaboration in innovation, capacity-building, and the training of the next generation of professionals. ✨



A delegation from Seoul National University of Science and Technology (SeoulTech) attends an event.



Ambassador of Kazakhstan Nurgali Arystanov poses for a photo with SITF participants and honorary guests

Almaty Gains Recognition at the Seoul International Tourism Fair (SITF 2025)

From June 5 to 8, 2025, Almaty proudly represented Kazakhstan at one of Asia's largest tourism exhibitions — the Seoul International Tourism Fair (SITF 2025) in Seoul. The booth of Kazakhstan's southern capital drew significant attention from visitors and industry experts, and was ultimately awarded the honorary title of “The Best Booth Design of SITF 2025.”

Visitors had the chance to experience the vibrant spirit of Kazakh culture and the essence of Almaty through a dynamic and interactive pro-



The Almaty booth's gastronomy zone offered tastings of traditional Kazakh cuisine

gram, including:

- Live performances of traditional Kazakh music by dombra players Nurzhan Baibakhov, Dias Shakubaev, and Yergazy Zhuldyz.

- Embroidery workshops by crafts master Dinara Koshkarbayeva, who introduced participants to the intricate traditions of Kazakh applied arts.

- A national photo zone with traditional Kazakh costumes, which became a popular spot for souvenir photos.

- A culinary corner offering tastings of kazy, boursaks, kurt, and tea, showcasing Kazakhstan's renowned hospitality.

- Almaty's tour operators held raffles with travel vouchers, souvenirs, and discount coupons.

A special highlight of the booth was the virtual reality zone, where visitors could put on VR headsets and take an immersive 360-degree journey through Almaty.

Participation in SITF 2025 marked a significant step in promoting Almaty as a unique travel destination for the South Korean and international markets. During the fair, meetings were held with global tourism



The Almaty city booth received The Best Booth Design Award by the SITF Organizing Committee

partners, resulting in new agreements and collaboration opportunities.

Almaty is a city you'll always want to return to — and SITF 2025 proved that once again. 🇰🇷



Ambassador of Kazakhstan Nurgali Arystanov takes a photo with the organizers of the Almaty booth at SITF

Tourism Opportunities of Kazakhstan Presented in Seoul

The Embassy of Kazakhstan in Korea, together with Kazakh Tourism JSC NC, organized a Road Show to showcase Kazakhstan's tourism potential.

The event brought together about 150 participants, including representatives of leading Korean tour operators, airlines, the Secretariat of the Central Asia – Republic of Korea Cooperation Forum, the Korea Association of Travel Agents (KATA), tourism experts, and journalists from both countries. The Kazakh delegation included 10 organizations and companies such as Kazakh Tourism JSC NC, the Almaty Tourism Bureau, Air Astana and SCAT Airlines, and the Shymbulak ski resort.

In his welcoming remarks, Ambassador of Kazakhstan



Ambassador Nurgali Arystanov delivers a welcome speech at the opening of the Road Show

Nurgali Arystanov emphasized the positive trends in the coun-

try's socio-economic development. In 2024, Kazakhstan's economy grew by 5.1%, and the volume of foreign direct investment reached a record high.

He also noted that tourism is developing rapidly in Kazakhstan thanks to the political support of the national leadership. He highlighted the dynamic growth of the MICE sector (business events, conferences, and exhibitions), citing the successful hosting of the Astana International Forum on May 29–30, 2025. One of the forum's honored guests was the 8th UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who was received by President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev.

It should be noted that Korea continues to be one of Kazakhstan's key tourism markets. In 2024, 40,180 Korean nationals visited Kazakhstan, an increase of 12.8% compared to



Ambassador of friendship of Kazakhstan Kim Sang Ug presents on tourism in Kazakhstan.



Ambassador Nurgali Arystanov and Road Show participants at The Plaza Hotel on June 4, 2025

2023. The number of Korean tourists also rose to 26,861, up by 12% year-on-year.

This growth in inbound tourism is attributed to the visa-free regime, the expan-

sion of direct flights to Almaty, Astana, and Shymkent to 17 flights per week, and Kazakhstan's active promotion in the South Korean market.

On the sidelines of the Road Show, meetings were held between Korean and Kazakh tour operators. During the event, Air Astana, SCAT, and Eastar Jet—airlines operating direct regular flights between Korea and Kazakhstan—raffled off tickets to Almaty and Shymkent. Event partners also awarded hotel stay vouchers for ibis Almaty Jetisu, Oi-Qaragai mountain resort, and visits to the Shymbulak ski resort.

In addition, the Almaty City Tourism Department, together with Kazakh tour operators, participated in the Seoul International Tourism Fair (SITF), where they organized a national tourism booth. ❄



150 participants attend the Road Show at The Plaza Hotel on June 4, 2025



Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Korea Nurgali Arystanov and CEO of Eastar Jet Cho Joongseok pose for a commemorative photo with key attendees during the launch ceremony

New Eastar Jet Direct Flight Launched from Seoul to Almaty

South Korean airline Eastar Jet has launched a new direct flight on the Seoul – Almaty route, marking another step in strengthening ties between Kazakhstan and South Korea. This is the first flight to Kazakhstan operated by Korean low-cost airline (LCC).

Speaking at the launch ceremony, Ambassador of Kazakhstan Nurgali Arystanov emphasized that currently there were 11 direct flights per week between the two countries, and the addition of two new flights by Eastar Jet creates a new "aviation bridge", which will further promote business partnerships and increase tourist flow.

He noted that people-to-peo-



Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Korea Nurgali Arystanov and CEO of Eastar Jet Cho Joongseok shake hands during the launch ceremony



Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Korea Nurgali Arystanov and CEO of Eastar Jet Cho Joongseok pose for a commemorative photo with flight attendants at the launch ceremony

ple ties between the two countries are on the surge, helping to deepen mutual understanding and trust. In particular, in 2024, the number of South Korean tourists visiting Kazakh-

South Korea became the third largest investor in Kazakhstan's economy, investing \$1.2 billion USD. Currently, 876 companies with South Korean capital are operating in

South Korean airline Eastar Jet has launched a new direct flight on the Seoul – Almaty route, marking another step in strengthening ties between Kazakhstan and South Korea.

stan reached 40,180, showing a 12% increase, while 53,224 citizens of Kazakhstan visited South Korea, an 8% rise from the previous year.

The Kazakh diplomat also highlighted investment cooperation, noting that in 2024,

Kazakhstan, implementing large-scale innovative and infrastructure projects in partnership with leading South Korean companies.

In his turn, CEO of Eastar Jet Cho Joongseok said: "The flight to Almaty is both a new

challenge and a great opportunity for our airline. Kazakhstan is the heart of Central Asia, a resource-rich country, as well as an important center for tourism and cultural exchange. We are confident that with the launch of this flight, economic and humanitarian cooperation between our countries will only strengthen."

He also shared Eastar Jet's plans for active cooperation with various organizations to "make travel for Korean tourists to Almaty even more accessible and comfortable." He emphasized that "passengers will be able to personally enjoy Kazakhstan's natural beauty and rich cultural heritage."

The opening of the new flight marks another step in deepening and expanding the strategic partnership between Kazakhstan and South Korea. ✈



Consul General Askar Aslan, Honorary Consul Lee Sang-Hoon, and Eastar Jet representatives pose with a banner celebrating the launch of the new Busan-Almaty route.

Estar Jet Launches Busan-Almaty Inaugural Direct Flight

The inaugural direct flight between Busan and Almaty successfully departed from Gimhae International Airport. Operated by Eastar Jet on a Boeing 737, flight ZE935 marks an important milestone in enhancing air connectivity between Kazakhstan and Korea.

The launch was attended by Consul General of Kazakhstan in Busan Mr. Askar Aslan, Honorary Consul Mr. Sang-Hoon Lee, and representatives of Eastar Jet. The Consuls greeted the flight crew before departure and extended their best wishes.

The seven-hour flight carried 120 passengers, including travelers from Kazakhstan, Korea, and other countries — primarily tourists, students, and transit passengers.

Time	New	To	Airlines	Flights	Check-in	Remarks
16:30		NCHEON	KOREAN	KE 1418	B1-B10	GATE OPEN
16:30		OSAKA	대한항공	BX 122	D4-D24	GATE OPEN
16:30		NARITA	KOREAN	KE 2131	B1-B10	GATE OPEN
16:45		OSAKA	JEJUair	7C 1353	C7-C18	PROCESSING
17:50		PUDONG	대한항공	FM 830	B7-B11	PROCESSING
17:55		FUKUOKA	에어부산	BX 144	D4-D24	PROCESSING
18:00		BANGKOK	에어부산	BX 725	D4-D24	PROCESSING
18:00		FUKUOKA	KOREAN	KE 2137	B1-B10	PROCESSING
18:05		SINGAPORE	JEJUair	7C 2661	C7-C18	PROCESSING
18:15		FUKUOKA	JEJUair	7C 1457	C7-C18	PROCESSING
18:55		ALMATY	EASTAR JET	ZE 935	C2-C6	
19:05		BANGKOK	진	LJ 021	B17-B24	

The Busan-Almaty flight displayed on the international departures board at Gimhae International Airport.

With the addition of this route, the total number of weekly flights between Kazakhstan and Korea has reached 20, significantly boosting tourism, business, and

people-to-people exchanges. Kazakhstan hopes to see continued expansion of direct air links, and its diplomatic missions remain committed to supporting such initiatives. ✨



Ambassador of Kazakhstan Nurgali Arystanov with students in traditional Kazakh attire

SCAT Airlines Presents New Direct Flight between Shymkent and Seoul

A presentation of the new direct flight between Shymkent and Seoul by SCAT Airlines took place in the capital of South Korea. The flight is scheduled to launch on May 29, 2025. The event brought together more than 70 leading Korean tour operators and media representatives, highlighting the growing interest in expanding tourism and business exchanges between the two countries.

With the launch of this route, Kazakhstan and Korea will be connected by 15 direct flights

per week, including flights from Astana and Almaty. The new connection marks an important milestone in strengthening business cooperation and enhancing cultural and humanitarian ties between the two nations.

Speaking at the launch ceremony, Ambassador of Kazakhstan Nurgali Arystanov emphasized the significance of the new route in bringing the peoples of both countries closer together: "This is a historic moment in the development of Kazakhstan-Korea relations. A direct flight from Shym-

kent, a city rich in cultural and historical heritage, opens new opportunities for tourists, students, and entrepreneurs. We are observing a steady 12% annual growth in tourist flow, and we expect this route to become another catalyst for tourism development, business cooperation, and people-to-people exchange."

The Ambassador also underlined Kazakhstan's tourism appeal, noting that the country is famous for six sites included in the UNESCO World Heritage List, including the Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi



Kazakhstan's tourism potential was showcased during the event

in Turkistan, the Tamgaly Petroglyphs, and the Saryarka ecosystem. He encouraged tour operators to develop new attractive travel packages that would allow visitors to discover the cultural richness and natural diversity of Kazakhstan.

The Kazakh diplomat stressed the political support provided by Kazakhstan's leadership for the development of the tourism sector and highlighted that, under the initiative of President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, the country is implementing a strategy for sustainable tourism as one of the pillars of economic growth and international promotion of Kazakhstan's cultural heritage.

On tourism cooperation, the Ambassador listed key events of 2025 with the participation of Kazakh and Korean tour operators and companies, including the Kazakhstan International Tourism Fair (KITF, April 23–25), the Astana International Forum (AIF-2025, May 29–30), Kazakhstan Tourism Road Show (Seoul, June), and the Seoul International Travel Fair (SITF-2025, June 5–8).

The Ambassador also paid special attention to the eco-

nomical dimension of bilateral cooperation, noting that by the end of 2024, the Republic of Korea ranked among the top three foreign investors in Kazakhstan's economy.

In turn, SCAT's representative in Korea, Andrey Tsygankov, stated: "Today, we are not just launching a new flight – we are celebrating the friend-

ship and closer ties between our two nations. Shymkent is the third-largest city in Kazakhstan, a rapidly developing metropolis that recently opened a modern airport capable of serving up to 2 million passengers per year. We are pleased to offer comfortable flights twice a week on our new Boeing 737 MAX aircraft."

He added that SCAT carries more than 2 million passengers annually, making it one of the leaders in Kazakhstan's domestic market, and expressed confidence that the new route will be in demand not only among tourists but also business travelers, students, and families seeking closer ties.

The event featured presentations on SCAT Airlines and Kazakhstan's tourism potential, with a particular focus on Shymkent. Attendees received tourism brochures and watched promotional videos showcasing the country's natural beauty and cultural attractions.

The launch of the Shymkent–Seoul direct flight is a significant contribution to strengthening the enhanced strategic partnership between Kazakhstan and Korea. ✈️



Ambassador of Kazakhstan Nurgali Arystanov, SCAT Airlines Representative in Korea Andrey Tsygankov and SCAT Airlines Director Nikolai Buryakov



A presentation of Dr. Kim Ju yeon's book "Central Asia, The Curtain Rises: 12 Stories Unearthed from the Steppes" was held in the capital of South Korea.

Tourism Potential, Cultural Heritage of Kazakhstan Presented in Seoul

A presentation of Dr. Kim Ju yeon's book "Central Asia, The Curtain Rises: 12 Stories Unearthed from the Steppes" was held in the capital of South Korea. The event brought together the heads of mission and representatives from the Embassies of Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, as well as the head of the Secretariat of the Central Asia–Republic of Korea Cooperation Forum (CARK).

The book explores the cultural and spiritual heritage of Central Asia – its history, literature, art, and people

– through the personal reflections of the author, who undertook a journey across the region. The event gathered over 70 attendees, including representatives of leading Korean tour operators, airlines, and media.

Speaking at the event, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Republic of Korea, Nurgali Arystanov, emphasized the importance of tourism development as a means of bringing people closer together, expanding humanitarian ties, and strengthening regional cooperation between Central Asia and Korea. He noted the contribution of Kore-

an experts such as Dr. Kim Ju yeon in promoting the cultural heritage of the region.

The Ambassador also highlighted that tourism development holds a key place in Kazakhstan's national policy and is a priority for President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev. Accordingly, the country has been consistently creating favorable conditions for foreign tourists: a visa-free regime is in place with the Republic of Korea, and direct air connections are being launched. In addition to regular flights between Seoul, Astana, and Almaty, direct flights by SCAT Airlines will be launched on the Shymkent – Seoul route



A presentation of Dr. Kim Ju yeon's book "Central Asia, The Curtain Rises: 12 Stories Unearthed from the Steppes" gets underway in the capital of South Korea.

starting May 29 this year.

The Ambassador noted that the participation of Korean companies in the Kazakhstan International Tourism Fair (KITF, April 23–25, Almaty) and Kazakhstan's upcoming participation in the Seoul International Travel Fair (SITF, June 5–8, 2025) create valuable opportunities for partnership. In this regard, he called on tour operators from both countries to intensify efforts to develop mutually beneficial and attractive tourist packages that would allow for deeper engagement with each other's cultures, histories, and nature.

Rhee Jong Kook, Executive Director of the CARK Cooperation Forum Secretariat, stated that the growing interest in Central Asia opens new horizons for tourism, cultural exchange, and deeper mutual understanding between the people of the region and the Republic of Korea. In particular, he said: "Central Asia is the heart of the Great Silk Road and a land of wisdom where Eastern and Western civilizations meet. It is the birthplace of great historical and scientific figures such as Al-Farabi, Ibn Sina, and Al-Khwarizmi". He also expressed confidence that the initiative to create a CARK Tourism

Council – comprising travel agencies, airlines, and tourism organizations – will become a practical step toward closer partnership.

During the event, Korean author Kim Ju yeon gave a detailed account of her book, which documents her personal journey through the countries of Central Asia – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan – and conveys her deep admiration for the region's cultural heritage, natural beauty, and spiritual richness. She stated: "Central Asia is famous for its stun-

ning nature, magnificent architecture, delicious food, and fruits – there is so much that is appealing. But if someone asked me what the true charm of Central Asia is, I would answer without hesitation: it's the place where the kindest people in the world live".

She spoke of her visit to the National Museum in Almaty, where she was particularly impressed by the "Golden Man" – a symbol of steppe civilization. She also mentioned the Korean Theater in Almaty, where she connected with the local Korean diaspora and felt a deep bond between Korean and Kazakh cultures. Her trip to the Saryesik-Atyrau nature reserve evoked strong emotions as she discovered the unique nature of Kazakhstan's steppes and deserts, emphasizing the importance of preserving the region's ecosystem. She paid special attention to Kazakhstan's contributions to the region's cultural development and underscored the importance of introducing Korean readers to the works of outstanding Kazakh writers, such as Abai Kunanbayev.

This meaningful event highlighted Central Asia's growing role on the international tourism map and strengthened the cultural and friendly ties between our countries. 🌸



The heads of mission and representatives from the Embassies of Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan attend a presentation of Dr. Kim Ju yeon's book.



Participants of the second Kurultai of Kazakhs of Asian countries pose for a group photo in front of the event banner

Kazakh Kurultai of Asia Held in Seoul, South Korea

The second Kurultai (Assembly) of Kazakhs of Asian countries took place in South Korea, bringing together over 200 participants, including members of the Kazakh community from Korea, Malaysia, Japan, China, and Mongolia.

The event was organized by the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the Republic of Korea, the "Otandastar Foundation," and the "Qazaq Nomad" Kazakh Association in Seoul. The gathering was held at the Global Campus of Hankuk University of Foreign Studies.

The main goal of the Kurultai was to strengthen cultural

ties and promote economic cooperation between Kazakhstan and Asian countries with ethnic Kazakh communities.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Nurgali Arystanov, Ambassador of Kazakhstan, highlighted the growing investment cooperation between Kazakhstan and South Korea. He noted that South Korea ranked as the third-largest foreign investor in Kazakhstan in 2024, with investments totaling USD 1.2 billion. Today, 876 companies with Korean capital are operating in Kazakhstan, with major joint projects underway in innovation and infrastructure.

Ambassador Arystanov also emphasized the grow-

ing connectivity between the two countries, with 13 direct flights operating weekly. He noted the increasing people-to-people exchanges that contribute to mutual understanding and trust. In 2024, a total of 40,180 Korean tourists visited Kazakhstan – a 12% increase from the previous year. At the same time, 53,224 Kazakh citizens traveled to South Korea, representing an 8% year-on-year growth.

The first day of the Kurultai featured a conference, including a plenary cultural session and an economic session. Honored Artist of Kazakhstan Svetlana Aitbayeva introduced the audience to the rich traditions of Kazakh jewelry art.



Kazakh handicrafts featuring national ornaments displayed at the Kurultai

Ethnographer Aygerim Musagazhinova delivered a presentation on the nutritional value of traditional Kazakh cuisine. In the cultural segment, renowned Kazakh artist Zhubanysh Zheksenuly performed iconic songs alongside the audience.

Another highlight of the first day was the first-ever public speaking competition in the Kazakh language held in South Korea. Organized by

the Embassy of Kazakhstan in Seoul, the contest featured students from the Department of Central Asian Studies at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies who are currently studying Kazakh language. Seven finalists competed before a jury chaired by Kanat Aitbayev, People's Artist of Kazakhstan.

Sophomore student Lee Seoyeon took the first place, impressing the judges with her

fluency and eloquence in Kazakh. "To build closer cultural ties, we need to meet and communicate more often," she said. "I want to master the Kazakh language and contribute to the cooperation between our two countries." She was awarded a round-trip flight from Seoul to Almaty or Astana and a two-day stay at a Pana hotel – her first trip to Kazakhstan.

Second place went to senior Son Won-jin, who received a hand-crafted gold Kazakh ornament. Third place was awarded to junior Jeon Jaehong, who received a traditional Kazakh musical instrument – the dombra.

On the second day, participants celebrated Nauryz, the spring equinox and a traditional Kazakh holiday. The celebration included live performances, traditional dances, folk music, and displays of Kazakh national attire, crafts, and cuisine.

The Kurultai served as a vibrant platform to deepen cultural understanding, strengthen community ties, and foster long-term cooperation between Kazakhstan and its Asian neighbors. 🌸



Participants of the first Kazakh language public speaking competition take a commemorative photo after the award ceremony



Deputy Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Yermek Kosherbayev and Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Kazakhstan Cho Tae Ik, along with special guests, pose for the camera at the grand opening ceremony for Woosong University Branch in Turkestan.

Kazakhstan Opens Woosong University Branch in Turkestan to Strengthen Ties

Woosong University, a leading Korean higher education institution, opened its branch in Turkestan, marking a step in strengthening educational and scientific cooperation between Kazakhstan and the Republic of Korea.

The grand opening ceremony was attended by Deputy Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Yermek Kosherbayev, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Kazakhstan Cho Tae Ik, Minister of Science and Higher Education Sayasat Nurbek, Akim (mayor) of Turkestan Region Nuralkhan Koshеров, and Sung Kyung Kim, Honorary Chairman and Board Member of the

Woosong Education Foundation.

Deputy Prime Minister Kosherbayev emphasized the historic significance of opening

ty branches nationwide. The new branch will serve as both an educational platform and a center for international cooper-

"Woosong University Kazakhstan, which welcomed students this academic year, is a shining example of successful international partnership," he said.

a branch of a leading Korean university in Turkestan. Following President Tokayev's instructions, Kazakhstan has launched 33 foreign universi-

ation, innovation, and training highly qualified specialists to develop the country's intellectual capital.

Minister Nurbek emphasized



the strategic role of foreign university branches in transforming Kazakhstan into a leading educational hub in Central Asia.

“Woosong University Kazakhstan, which welcomed students this academic year, is a shining example of successful international partnership,” he said.

Under the guidance of President Tokayev, Kazakhstan has been systematically expanding international educational cooperation, opening foreign university branches, and creating opportunities for student and

faculty mobility.

Notably, the Institute of Artificial Intelligence was recently established at Korkyt Ata Kyzylorda University in collaboration with SeoulTech. Kazakhstan now actively partners with top Korean institutions including SeoulTech, Woosong, Dong-Eui, and KAIST, through joint research centers, dual degree programs, and academic exchanges.

During the opening ceremony, Yong Hwa Jeong, Director of Woosong University Kazakhstan, presented the university’s mission, key pro-

grams, research initiatives, and international partnerships. Distinguished guests signed the university’s “Book of Wishes,” toured the digital library, modern classrooms, and study halls, and met with students to encourage their academic journey.

The Turkestan Regional Administration prioritizes youth support, quality education, and scientific development. To this end, 100 grants have been allocated to the new university, most of which are reserved for local youth. The institution has the capacity to accommodate up to 2,000 students, and has already attracted strong interest from other regions of Kazakhstan. In 2025, approximately 400 applicants submitted documents not only from Turkestan but also from Astana, Almaty, Shymkent, as well as Kyzylorda, Zhambyl, and Karaganda regions.

The opening of Woosong University Kazakhstan represents a major step forward in international educational collaboration and in preparing the next generation of IT professionals to contribute to Kazakhstan’s digital future. 🎓





Kazakhstan Introduces New Visa Options for Skilled Professionals

The following article was contributed by the Embassy of Kazakhstan in Seoul to Diplomacy Journal for publication. --Ed.

Kazakhstan has launched three new visa categories designed to attract skilled professionals, entrepreneurs, and remote workers, reinforcing the country's position as a hub for global talent and innovation. Neo Nomad Visa (B12-1), the Digital Nomad Visa (B9-1), Visa for Permanent Residence (B9) offer flexible pathways for those seeking long-term opportunities in Kazakhstan, whether for career growth, business expansion, or remote work.

Neo Nomad Visa (B12-1):

A Unique Offer for Remote Workers

The Neo Nomad Visa (B12-1) is specifically designed for professionals and digital entrepreneurs who want to live in Kazakhstan and work remotely while maintaining their foreign income.

- The Neo Nomad Visa is a multiple-entry visa valid for up to one year.
- Visa holders can extend their stay for up to an additional year within Kazakhstan.
- Family members and dependents can obtain a visa for the same duration, though work and religious activities are restricted under Kazakh law.

With its modern infrastructure, affordable cost of living,

and growing international business environment, Kazakhstan presents an excellent opportunity for remote workers looking for a dynamic and well-connected base in Central Asia.

Digital Nomad Visa (B9-1): A Path to Permanent Residence

The Digital Nomad Visa (B9-1) is intended for highly sought-after professionals in the IT industry who are relocating to Kazakhstan to obtain permanent residence. It provides an opportunity to integrate into Kazakhstan's workforce and contribute to its economic development.

- A single-entry electronic visa is available via the Visa and Migration Portal,

valid for up to one year.

- A multiple-entry paper visa, also valid for up to one year, can be obtained through the Ministry of Internal Affairs on a basis of single entry electronic B9-1 visa.

Kazakhstan offers a stable, business-friendly environment with growing opportunities in technology, finance, and other high-demand industries. The Digital Nomad Visa allows professionals to settle in Kazakhstan while completing the permanent residence application process. A petition from Astana Hub or an authorised body in Kazakhstan's IT sector is required to obtain the Digital Nomad Visa.

Visa for Permanent Residence (B9): A Long-Term Opportunity for Skilled Professionals

The B9 visa provides a structured pathway for foreign professionals with in-demand skills in fields such as medicine, science, innovation, education, and the creative industries, enabling them to establish a long-term presence in Kazakhstan.

- Kazakh diplomatic issue:
- Single-entry visas valid for up to 90 days.
- Multiple-entry visas up to 90 days, issued once per year.

Once in Kazakhstan, professionals can transition to permanent residency, offering stability and the ability to integrate into the local job market. Kazakhstan's strategic location, strong economic growth, and business-friendly policies make it an attractive destination for those seeking career advancement and a high quality of life.

Why Kazakhstan?

Kazakhstan is one of the fastest-growing economies in the region, offering a high standard of living, strong digital infrastructure, and expanding professional opportunities. The country provides a unique blend of modern urban centres and stunning natural landscapes, making it an ideal destination for professionals seeking both career growth and an adventurous lifestyle.

Whether you are a skilled professional looking for long-term opportunities or a digital nomad seeking a fresh, inspiring location, Kazakhstan's new visa options provide the flexibility and support needed to thrive in an emerging global hub.

For more details on visa applications and requirements, please contact a Kazakh embassy or consulate. 🌐





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알마티 ▶ 서울/인천	ZE136	23:45	09:50+1	월,금 (4/7~10/24)

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CIT-ICN	DV467	19:45	05:55+1	Mon, Thu

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중앙 아시아 최고의 항공사 - 에어아스타나가 천혜의 자연 환경을 자랑하는 아름다운 카자흐스탄으로 여러분을 초대합니다. 합리적인 요금과 편리한 스케줄로 카자흐스탄을 포함한 중앙아시아로의 여행을 계획해 보세요.

인천-알마티(매일), 인천-아스타나(주 2회) 직항 운항

