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## **Pakistan, Kazakhstan Seek to Expand Ties in Trade, Industry, Agriculture**



President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan and Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani of Pakistan shake hands following their meeting in Astana on September 7.

Photo from *Akorda.kz*

Boosting cooperation between Astana and Islamabad was the key topic of discussions between the Kazakh leadership and Pakistani Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani who paid a two-day official visit to Kazakhstan this week.

Following the official welcoming ceremony at Ak Orda residence on September 7 President Nursultan Nazarbayev held talks with Prime Minister Gilani. The sides discussed the issue of nuclear disarmament and other relevant matters of regional agenda including the enhancement of the security in the region.

Speaking of the friendly and constructive relations between Astana and Islamabad Nazarbayev emphasised the significance of the current visit in upgrading the ties.

“We have a plenty of bilateral documents, agreements and memoranda. And this visit is quite a possibility for analysing and outlining the prospects for the further development of our cooperation”, Nazarbayev said.

Expressing his gratitude for a warm welcome, Prime Minister Gilani particularly noted the vastness of Kazakhstan’s wheat fields and suggested sharing scientific and industrial experiences between the two countries in wheat cultivating with the aim of increasing productivity.

During the meeting the sides exchanged views on the current situation in Afghanistan, Maghreb states and the Middle East. The agenda included other issues concerning the nuclear security and regional stability. Both countries highlighted the necessity to closely interact in countering terrorism and extremism.

The parties also mentioned the promising projects in agriculture and the possibility to establish joint plants on producing agricultural products. Moreover, Kazakhstan is seen to be very attractive as a major supplier of grain-crops for Pakistan. In its turn, Islamabad is willing to provide its seaports for transiting Kazakh goods.

At the meeting the Pakistani entrepreneurs were invited to participate in the State Programme for Accelerated Industrial and Innovative Development of Kazakhstan that will open new markets of both Kazakhstan and the countries of the Customs Union – Russia and Belarus.

Prior to this meeting Prime Minister Gilani held talks with his Kazakh counterpart Karim Massimov that covered the ways to broaden the canvas of bilateral cooperation in economy, trade, energy, communications and defence.

The sides agreed to facilitate visa procedures for holding business forums and exhibitions as well as launching joint industrial ventures. With the aim of providing a mechanism for achieving the objectives and exploring new fields of interaction the two nations agreed to set up an inter-governmental commission. They also decided that the foreign ministers of the two countries would hold regular consultations.

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The Heads of government witnessed the signing of an agreement between Pakistan and Kazakhstan’s chambers of commerce and industries on enhancing bilateral trade through close interaction.

In a joint statement issued after the talks between Kazakh and Pakistani leadership, the prime ministers described the bilateral relations after 16 years as “very important”.

This was Prime Minister Gilani’s first visit to Kazakhstan, made on the invitation of his counterpart Karim Massimov.

The diplomatic relations between Kazakhstan and Pakistan were established by the Declaration on cooperation principles as of 24 February 1992. Kazakhstan opened its Embassy in Pakistan on 27 November 1994. The embassy of Pakistan in Kazakhstan functions since February 1992.

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## Astana, Beijing Continue on Road of Strategic Partnership



Kazakh Foreign Minister Yerzhan Kazykhanov shakes hands with his Chinese colleague Yang Jiechi in Beijing on September 8.

Photo by Viktor Glebov

On September 8-9 Kazakhstan's Foreign Minister Yerzhan Kazykhanov paid his first official two-day visit to Beijing as Minister where he met with the Chinese leadership. Both countries pledged to carry forward the sustainable development of bilateral strategic partnership.

Speaking at the meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi, Minister Kazykhanov said that on the eve of 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two nations Astana and Beijing have upgraded their relations to all-round strategic partnership by virtue of mutual political trust and commitment to further the rapprochement process between the two neighbouring countries in all spheres of interaction. He emphasised the significance of a regular political dialogue between Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev and President of the People's Republic of China Hu Jintao in consolidating bilateral ties.

"Kazakhstan pays great attention to its relationship with China", Kazykhanov explained.

Calling the two countries good neighbours, Jiang said that Kazakhstan – China relations have entered a new era of development and face important opportunities.

Along with the political vector of cooperation, Kazykhanov and Yang discussed cooperation in trade and economic sphere. China is one of the leading economic and investment partners of Kazakhstan. In ten years the trade turnover between the countries increased twelve-fold. Today's aim is to increase the bilateral trade to US\$ 40 billion by 2015.

Both ministers highly evaluated the interaction between Astana and Beijing in carrying out joint projects in different spheres including energy sector, construction of "Western Europe – Western China" transit corridor and "Zhetygen – Khorgos" railway. Cooperation in nuclear power sector is considered as the promising direction.

The Heads of Foreign Service also added that both countries understand and support each other on regional and international issues.

Later that day Foreign Minister Kazykhanov also held a meeting with Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping. In his welcome speech Xi welcomed Kazykhanov's official visit to China and said: "Beijing treasures its traditional friendship with Kazakhstan, and to enhance relations with Astana is one of the priorities of China's diplomacy".

In his turn, Kazykhanov expressed his gratitude for the warm and hospitable reception of the Kazakh delegation in Beijing and conveyed greetings from President Nursultan Nazarbayev.

"Kazakhstan is willing to work with China to enhance strategic mutual trust and cooperation in key areas such as trade, energy, finance, transportation and high technology in a bid to further boost the bilateral all-round strategic partnership," Kazykhanov said.

The following day the Kazakh Foreign Minister addressed the academic community of the Chinese Institute of International Affairs. The main focus of his speech was exposing Astana's foreign policy priorities.

Speaking of the cooperation between Kazakhstan and China on the global and regional levels Kazykhanov underlined importance of the close interaction in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

"Kazakhstan is looking forward to keep acting together in enhancing the development of the SCO and raising its profile on the international stage".

**In ten years the trade turnover between the countries increased twelve-fold. Today's aim is to increase the bilateral trade to US\$ 40 billion by 2015.**

Reminding the audience about Kazakhstan's ongoing chairmanship in the Council of Foreign Ministers Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Kazykhanov specified on the main aims of Astana's leadership:

“Along with the development of dialogue among civilizations, Kazakhstan sees its main task to withdraw the Islamic world on the trajectory of modernisation, eliminate the breeding grounds for extremism and terrorism”.

In his speech Kazykhanov also stated that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction still remains one of the most serious global threats.

“We realise that the appeals to immediately put an end to nuclear weapons and completely disarm as soon as possible are pretty much utopian. Kazakhstan calls for the gradual and proportional reduction of nuclear arsenals till their complete destruction”.

Diplomatic relations between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the People's Republic of China were established on 3 January 1992.

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## Priorities of OSCE Forum for Security Cooperation Chairmanship Presented



Kazakh Minister of Defence Adilbek Dzhaksybekov delivers his speech while opening ceremony of the Forum on September 7.

Photo from *Osce.org*

As the new Chair of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), Kazakhstan promises to continue the work on modernising the Organisation's major documents such as the Vienna Document 1999 and agreements on small arms and light weapons, as well as pursue non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Adilbek Dzhaksybekov, Kazakhstan's Minister of Defence, conveyed this intention upon commencing the Chairmanship in Vienna on September 7, which is to run till the end of 2011.

In his opening remarks, Dzhaksybekov emphasised that as a responsible member of the Organization Kazakhstan has always supported and will support joint efforts of all participating States to maintain a comprehensive security and dialogue in the OSCE area.

At the Forum, the Kazakh delegation have actively participated in the discussion of proposals for modernising the Vienna Document and helped to arrive at certain decisions. The Minister stressed that his country would continue to move forward in this direction: “We are aware that we must fulfil assignments of Heads of State and Government on the renewal of the Vienna Document, announced in December 2010 in Astana,” he said. “We believe that we can synthesise all the work in November in order to successfully complete the first phase of updating the document, and we encourage consolidating all efforts in this direction.”

The problems involved in implementing the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons and the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition will also remain an important item on Kazakhstan's FSC agenda, Dzhaksybekov said. He stressed the need for carrying out the OSCE projects in these fields in the participating States.

With regards to non-proliferation efforts, the new Chair is planning to host a regional seminar on the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1540 on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. “Work will continue on the Code of Conduct as to organise a review conference next year on one of the most important politico-military instruments,” Dzhaksybekov said.

“We clearly realise the responsibility that the current chairmanship of the Forum is placing upon us. We will have to carry out this function at a special time for the politico-military dimension of the OSCE,” Dzhaksybekov said to the OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier during a meeting that was part of the Minister's visit programme.

Kazakhstan's another prominent figure, the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva Kassym-Zhomart Tokayev also addressed the OSCE participating States at a joint meeting of the Organisation's Permanent Council and Forum for Security Co-operation the same day.

"We share with the OSCE a broad understanding of the concept of security," he said on behalf of his Office. "Emerging challenges such as cyber attacks, transnational crime, terrorism, illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, drugs and human beings and energy security – among others – continue to broaden the concept."

"Regional organizations have a role to play in helping countries develop capacity. Here, the anti-terrorism work of the OSCE – with facilitation of implementation of international legal instruments, strengthened border management and organization of contacts between anti-terrorism practitioners – has produced good results," he continued.

Tokayev also discussed UN-OSCE co-operation to promote peace, fundamental freedoms and human rights, sustainable development, and arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation, as outlined by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at the OSCE Summit in Astana last December.

**“We clearly realise the responsibility that the current chairmanship of the Forum is placing upon us. We will have to carry out this function at a special time for the politico-military dimension of the OSCE”.**

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## State Influence in Oil Sector High But Investors Feel Comfortable

Speaking a forum on developing manufacturing enterprises in Kazakhstan held in Astana on September 7, Chairman of the Board of Samruk-Kazyna National Welfare Fund Timur Kulibayev also noted that state influence in oil sector is rather high, as it determines the volume of shipments for domestic market, export duties, tax legislation, etc. "And it all works," he added.

"Of course, we have contracts that were signed in the early 1990s, e.g. the contract with the "Tengizshevroil", where they have their own tax regime. Kazakhstan as a state stands for investment development and invites investors to Kazakhstan, showing stability of its obligations. Therefore, I think our investors feel comfortable," he said.

However, the state will pay more attention to environmental issues, local content, and national staff. "These are all issues we are working on, including within our contacts with foreign investors," he said.

Kulibayev emphasised that this year Samruk-Kazyna intends to increase the share of local content in the procurements of Fund' companies up to 55% from the last year's 50%, as well as to increase the scope of state procurement from domestic producers up to KZT 1,8 trillion, one third of which are under long-term contracts.

For making the process of state purchases more transparent public council on state procurement will be established under the Fund.

"Under my chairmanship top managers of the national companies and prominent businessmen, who work and produce goods and products for national companies, were invited to join and become members of this council. By the recommendation of Atameken National Economic Chamber 14 of such business people will be included into this council," said Kulibayev.



Timur Kulibayev, Chairman of Samruk-Kazyna Fund  
Photo from [Regnum.ru](#)

According to him, in the framework of the public council, "we will develop procedures to improve the procurement process in national companies, increasing their visibility and transparency, and on the other hand, our enterprises and businessmen would be better aware of the needs and requirements of national companies."

"We have already started to move to a five-year planning, so we can inform about our procurement plans in a medium-term period. I think it would be very useful and important information for entrepreneurs," the Head of the Fund said.

**Kulibayev: Kazakhstan as a state stands for investment development and invites investors to Kazakhstan, showing stability of its obligations. Therefore, I think our investors feel comfortable,**

Kazyna chief announced the launch of a national contest of ideas "Innovative Kazakhstan" among young people devoted to 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Independence of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The competition is being held under the motto "Your idea! Your chance! Your Future!" and arranged for young people aged 15 to 30 years old - school and university students, young professionals and entrepreneurs.

One of the main objectives of the Fund Samruk-Kazyna "is to promote innovative culture in companies. The solution to this problem depends primarily on the people, aimed at improving quality of life and progressive development of society, who are pushing innovative ideas to achieve these goals. Great expectations and hopes in this regard are set on young generation of Kazakhstan.

The Fund "Samruk-Kazyna" believes that the innovative development of Kazakhstan - is a complex task, which must be solved at the level of all society. It is necessary nowadays to properly educate a new generation, to prepare the staff, learn and create new technologies as well as encourage start-ups.

"I am confident that this competition will open up new names that will give a way to new original ideas and innovative solutions to urgent problems of economic and social life. And I believe if we support innovative youth today, we will get a strong Kazakhstan tomorrow," said Kulibayev.

The competition aims to identify and support initiatives of young people in two main categories:

"Technological breakthrough":

- \* Engineering and technical innovation;
- \* Information Technology;
- \* Industrial activity;
- \* Energy-saving technologies;
- \* Ecology and environmental management;
- \* Innovations in management.

"The social ideas":

- \* Education, culture, health care;
- \* State, local governments;
- \* Social and political life;
- \* Infrastructure, housing and communal services in the regions, towns and villages.

Projects must be efficient from the technical, economic and environmental points of view, but also contribute to solving challenging issues for the Kazakhstan society.

"First of all, it is important for "Samruk-Kazyna" that we can get some new and fresh ideas, and secondly, to consider the youth perspectives for the personnel reserve, whom we could attract in our work", - concluded the head of the National Fund.

There will be 10 finalists selected who will receive valuable prizes and two winners - one in each category - will receive grants amounting to 5 million tenge for their study abroad.

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## Artist Saltanat Sadibekova Presents Joy of Life in Astana Exhibition

Astana's Has Sanat Gallery has bestowed variety of bright colours and plenty of positive energy on the capital's residents as it opened the exhibition of a prominent Kazakh artist Saltanat Sadibekova on September 7. The exhibition called "Joy of Life," which, indeed, is present in every of the works, contains more than forty paintings created in the last five years and is to run till October 7.

Saltanat Sadibekova demonstrated artistic ability at an early age and developed it while at the Almaty children's art school and further in the Zhurgenev Kazakh State Institute of Theatre and Cinema, which she completed in 1995. She held her first solo exhibition in Almaty, her native city, in 2002. Since then, her works were regularly seen at personal, national, and international exhibitions. Her first exhibition in Astana was organised in 2003.

"Today's opening is kind of a new start after my five year leave," Sadibekova said at the opening. Her previous solo exhibition was held in 2006 in Almaty, after which she undertook the duties of a wife and a mother. Saltanat gave her special thanks to the gallery, since "having a place for exhibition is a very encouraging factor for an artist."

The exhibition shows that Sadibekova experiments a lot and is in constant search for novelties and new techniques, Zhanna Yensebayeva, director of the gallery, said. "We called our exhibition "Joy of Life" because the artist abounds with this joy, she works with it, and it is present in each of her paintings," she added.

These paintings, however, also demonstrate the artist's professionalism, in addition to her inner world, according to the expert and art historian from the Kasteev Museum of Arts in Almaty Mariya Kopeliovich. "Contemplating Sadibekova's works, one is always surprised by the diversity of the artist's manner of writing and her interests."

**Saltanat Sadibekova demonstrated artistic ability at an early age.**

She confidently uses Paul Gauguin's cloisonné, which is demonstrated in paintings such as "Almaty, Medeo," "Almaty, Café Solyanka," "Folk Instruments." In works like "Moonlight Rendezvous," "Dome," "Oriental tale," the artist used methods and manners of the miniaturist style. Some paintings, such as "Almaty's Glavpochtamt building," "Green still life," remind Van Gogh.

Moreover, subjects of some of Saltanat's works reveal her interest in traditional Kazakh arts and crafts. Many complex concepts are fused in the works of Sadibekova into a coherent whole, which is deep in fact and easy to perceive, Mariya Kopeliovich thinks.

"Saltanat surprises us with her positive energy, hard work, nonstandard perception of the world, and multifaceted creativity that aims towards her ideals and perfection, which is so obviously necessary in modern society," Kapeliovich said.

In addition to her solo exhibitions in Almaty and Astana, Saltanat's works were presented in various exhibitions in China and Italy, while her paintings found place in private collections in Kazakhstan, Turkey, the United States, France, Italy, and other states.



Painter Saltanat Sadibekova presents her solo exhibition at Khan Sanat Art Gallery in Astana on September 9.

Photo by Gulnaz Altynbayeva

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## **Also in the News:**

- Kazakhstan joined the International Association of Judges following the voting at the Congress in Istanbul on September 8. The Association includes 77 members, and Kazakhstan's membership demonstrates the national judicial system's compliance with international standards, the Supreme Court's press release says.
- Kazakhstan's Commissioner for Human Rights Askar Shakirov held a meeting with the newly appointed representative of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Kazakhstan Mr Jun Kukita on September 9. During the meeting, the sides discussed priority directions of mutual cooperation in the protection of children in Kazakhstan and Shakirov briefed Kukita on activities run in the country to promote human rights.
- A ceremony of welding the first joint of the linear part of the "Beineu-Bosoy-Shymkent" pipeline took place on September 6 in the town of Turkistan, the South Kazakhstan Oblast. Representatives of government bodies of Kazakhstan and China took part in the ceremony, as well as the senior managers of the KazMunayGas (KMG) national petroleum company. Kazakhstan's Minister of Oil and Gas Sauat Mynbayev launched the first joint, after which the honourable guests left their signatures on the pipeline. The KMG is constructing the gas pipeline under the State Programme for Accelerated Industrial and Innovative Development of Kazakhstan for 2010-14, as it would deliver hydrocarbons from West Kazakhstan's wells to South Kazakhstan and further to China.
- More than 60 percent of businesses in Kazakhstan have never used bank loans and 75-76 percent of them do not request such loans. Thus, most of businesses in the country rely on self-financing, Chairman of the National Bank Grigori Marchenko said at a press conference on September 7. "Banks need to do more work with these companies," he said. On the other hand, the statements that it is too difficult to receive loans from banks are not confirmed by practice, where 85 to 90 percent of those enterprises applying for loans receive them, according to Marchenko.
- In the period from January to August of this year, Kazakhstan saw 98.8 thousand purchase and sale transactions in housing, which exceeds the figure for the same period in 2010 by 13.7 percent, the State Statistics Agency announced on September 7. The number of such transactions in August in Astana increased by 33.4 percent compared with July, and by 14 percent in Almaty. In comparison with the January-August period in 2010, these figures also increased by 11 percent and 2.2 percent respectively.
- Kazakhstan will far surpass the strategic plan for 2020 on human capital development, Deputy Prime Minister Yerbol Orynbayev said at an international conference "Twenty years of Independence: the quality and prospects of human capital development of Kazakhstan" on September 7. "Until 2020, pre-school enrolment will reach 100 percent, two universities should join the ranks of the best universities in the world, life expectancy is expected should grow to 72 years, maternal mortality should be reduced two-fold, infant mortality – three-fold, and unemployment rate be less than 5 percent," the official said. Kazakhstan is already included in the group of countries with high human development index (HDI), ranking 66<sup>th</sup> out of 169 countries.
- Kazakhstan's national football team lost to Azerbaijan 2:3 in the entertaining match in Baku on September 6 to remain with three points at the bottom of their qualifying group of EURO 2012 in Poland and Ukraine. In the earlier qualifier on September 2, Kazakhstan was also narrowly beaten in Istanbul 1-2, with the winner for Turkey coming on 94<sup>th</sup> minute only. Now the national team is facing a guest game with Belgium and a home game with Austria in October.

## **Things to watch:**

- Presidents Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan and Dmitry Medvedev of Russia will hold a bilateral summit on September 15 in Astrakhan, Russia, and attend a forum of interregional cooperation between the provinces lying along the Kazakh-Russian border
- Astana will host Senior Officials Meeting of the Council of Turkophone States Cooperation on September 12 in preparation of the alliance's summit of heads of states in Almaty in mid-October
- An exhibition "Holy Quran in the light of Iranian Art" will open in Astana on September 13, the Iranian Embassy informs. The exhibition will feature approximately 75 works of three prominent Iranian artists – Rahim Charkhi, Hassan Mollavi, and Parviz Nazari on topics of Islam and Quran. Some

rare editions of the Holy Quran, translations of it into other languages, and DVDs about Quran made in Iran will be included in the exhibition.

- International Forum of the EurAsEC “Business in conditions of the Customs Union and the Single Economic Space” will be held in Almaty on September 22. The event will take place within the business programme of the Integration Committee of the EurAsEC that will be meeting on September 23. The Forum is designed to inform the business community of the EurAsEC on the Customs Union and the Single Economic Space.
- Eighth International Conference “Nuclear and Radiation Physics,” dedicated to the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Kazakhstan’s Independence, will be held on September 20-23 in Almaty, the Institute of Nuclear Physics of the National Nuclear Centre announced. Current projects on nuclear power plants will be the main topic of discussion. In addition, the following will be in the conference programme: nuclear energy, nuclear physics, radiation ecology, nuclear and radiation techniques in medicine and industry, nuclear non-proliferation, and educational technology and training.



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