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The event discussed present and future challenges of the media industry

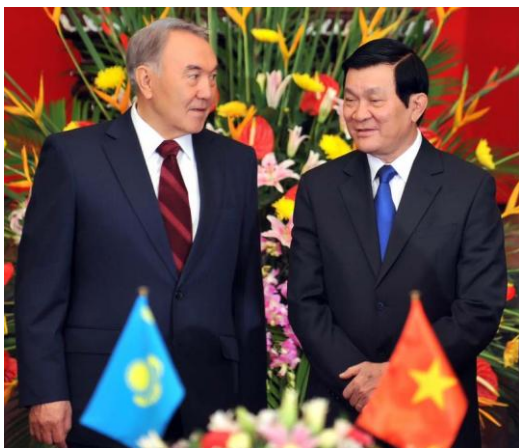
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Kazakhstan and Vietnam Pledge to Boost Ties



Presidents Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan and Truong Tan Sang of Vietnam in Hanoi on October 31.

Photo from *Akorda.kz*

President Nursultan Nazarbayev paid his first official visit to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on October 30. The three-day visit began with the wreath-laying ceremony at the Monument of National Heroes and at the Mausoleum of the nation's founding father Ho Chi Minh in the capital of Vietnam Hanoi.

President Nazarbayev was then welcomed by his Vietnamese counterpart Truong Tan Sang in the President's Palace, where both leaders discussed relevant issues on the agenda.

“Our countries have developed with great success over a short period of time,” President Nazarbayev said at the meeting. “We have similar positions in political and economic development. [This visit] gives the opportunity to improve trade and economic ties.”

In an expanded format, the two sides discussed bilateral cooperation, measures to further enhance collaboration in political, economic, scientific and technical fields as well as in the spheres of education, sport and culture, and interaction within international and regional forums.

“Kazakhstan views Vietnam as an important economic and political partner in South-East Asia,” the Kazakh President said at the news briefing after bilateral talks. “We have had an absolutely trust-based dialogue and clearly defined priorities for our future cooperation.”

Following the negotiations, Kazakhstan and Vietnam signed a number of cooperation agreements, including the Protocol on amendments to the agreements between the governments of

Kazakhstan and Vietnam on cooperation in education, tourism, in the field of civil aviation. The two countries also signed an agreement on avoidance of double taxation.

President Nazarbayev invited Vietnamese businessmen to participate in the Kazakhstan's Programme for Accelerated Industrial and Innovative Development, noting the contractual framework set up during this visit would create all conditions for the expansion of bilateral ties between the countries. He also mentioned that the Common Economic Space (CES) among Kazakhstan, Russia and Belarus opened the opportunity "to extend and open new markets in all of the three countries".

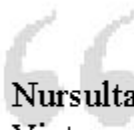
President Truong Tan Sang called the negotiations fruitful and successful and said they were conducted in an open and constructive atmosphere.

In his interview to the Kazakhstan Information Agency President Truong stressed the high importance his country attached to its relationship with traditional friends, including Kazakhstan. "Vietnam considers Kazakhstan an important partner in the post-Soviet space and in Central Asia," the president of Vietnam said.

"Pursuing a multi-vector and balanced foreign policy, Kazakhstan has strengthened bilateral relations with all countries, enhanced its position and role within international and regional organizations, performed excellently its duties as the OSCE (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe) Chair and successfully held the OSCE Summit in Astana in 2010," President Truong said.

"The Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) initiated by President Nazarbayev is becoming more influential and attractive. We appreciate Kazakhstan's contribution to the maintenance of peace, stability, cooperation and development in Asia and the world at large," the Vietnamese leader added.

During his stay in Vietnam, President Nazarbayev held meetings with the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Nguyen Phu Trong and Chairman of the National Assembly Nguyen Sinh Hung.



Nursultan Nazarbayev: Kazakhstan views Vietnam as an important economic and political Partner in South-East Asia.

Almaty's Mayor Akhmetzhan Essimov and Chairman of People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City Le Hoang Quan signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two cities. Like Almaty in Kazakhstan, Ho Chi Minh City is the largest city in Vietnam and the country's economic centre. The city is populated by 9 million people. Ho Chi Minh City aims to become an important hi-tech city in the country and the entire South-East Asia region. In the light of the Programme for Accelerated Industrial Innovation Programme implemented in Kazakhstan, cooperation between the two financial centres of Almaty and Ho Chi Minh City would open new horizons for both countries' economic development, as well as new prospects for Kazakh and Vietnamese tourists.

As part of the Kazakh president's visit, the Kazakhstan-Vietnam Business Forum took place on Oct. 31. It was attended by a number of senior Kazakh and Vietnamese officials. Following the forum, an agreement was signed on establishing the Kazakh-Vietnamese Business Council between the Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the two nations.

In terms of trade cooperation between the two countries the trade turnover in January - August 2011 amounted to \$33.3 million. The main items of export that Kazakhstan supplies to Vietnam are asbestos, flat-rolled products of iron and different types of equipment. Kazakhstan imports from Vietnam tea, medicines, hygienic and cosmetics products, paper, cardboard and glass.

The Kazakh-Vietnamese Intergovernmental Commission on trade-economic and scientific-technical cooperation plays an important role in advancing bilateral trade and economic relations. Its fifth meeting was held on Sept. 16 in Astana. Following the meeting, the two sides signed a Protocol and approved the Kazakhstan-Vietnam's Joint Action Plan for 2011-2013 aimed at strengthening political and trade-economic cooperation.

On the second day of his visit, President Nazarbayev met with students and professors at Vietnam National University where he received the honorary degree of University Doctor. After the

ceremony, the President of Kazakhstan visited the temple of literature, which is devoted to the memory of Confucius and the sages and philosophers of Confucianism.

Vietnam and Kazakhstan closely cooperate within the framework of various regional and international structures such as the United Nations and the Conference for the Implementation of Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA). Kazakhstan's government plans to open its diplomatic mission in Vietnam in 2013 and expects this will create new opportunities for the development of bilateral relations as well as for further cooperation in the international arena.

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Kazakhstan's Fertility Programme to Help Families Conceive Children

Kazakhstan attaches great importance to introducing advanced reproductive technologies to improve the demographic situation and the quality of life for people who are unable to have children. On October 28, the Ministry of Health held the Third International Scientific Conference in Astana that looked at modern approaches to the treatment of infertile marriages, as well as the problems of assisted reproductive technology (ART).

The conference brought together 300 leading experts in the field of reproductive technologies from Kazakhstan, Russia, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, France, Belgium, Greece, and Israel. It also gathered obstetricians and gynecologists involved in the treatment of infertility and representatives of in vitro fertilisation (IVF) centres.

The Ministry of Health organized the conference as part of the State Programme for Health Development "Salamatty Kazakhstan" (Healthy Kazakhstan) for 2011-2015. In her opening speech, Health Minister Salidat Kairbekova said the State Programme covers all major issues of achieving sustainable development in health protection and improving the demographic indicators of the population. Its main objective is to improve the health of citizens and to form an effective healthcare system, she said.

The organizers held several workshops on the most pressing problems of embryology in the ART. Using telemedicine, the forum attendees witnessed the operations that were carried out in real time in clinics in Moscow and Clermont-Ferrand, France.

“Within 16 years, Kazakhstan has mastered the latest reproductive technologies of treating both female and male infertility.

in-vitro fertilisation in the framework of guaranteed free medical care. In 2010 the number of treatments funded by the state amounted to 100 cycles. Under the State Programme "Salamatty Kazakhstan" the IVF volume will increase to 750 cycles by 2015. Patients can receive such treatment in both public and private centres, according to Kairbekova.

According to the Ministry of Health, more than 20,000 couples in Kazakhstan have been treated with methods of assisted reproduction. As a result, about 6,000 long-awaited children were born to



Today, Kazakhstan has 10 IVF centers. More than 20,000 couples in Kazakhstan have been treated with methods of assisted reproduction.

Photo from www.ecomed.kz

At the conference Kairbekova also met Rene Frydman, a prominent French scientist, physician, and a professor, and concluded an agreement under which specialists from Kazakhstan will receive training in France.

Since 2010, Kazakhstan became one of the few countries that allocated funds for

families that were previously considered infertile. The effectiveness of practiced programmes meets the standards of leading European centres and exceeds 40%. Since 2008, Kazakhstan's data are represented in the European register of ART.

The first IVF laboratory in Kazakhstan was opened in 1995 in the Almaty Centre for Human Reproduction and a year later the first child was born. Today, the country has 10 IVF centres, including three state centres. New ART laboratories are expected to open soon.

Within 16 years, Kazakhstan has mastered the latest reproductive technologies of treating both female and male infertility. It is successfully applying methods of cryopreservation of embryos, programmes with donor gametes, and surrogacy. Since 2007, it has effectively run the pre-implantation diagnosis of genetic disorders in embryos before the pregnancy. The ART has been widely used as the only effective method for treatment of severe male infertility.

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Almaty Hosts Fourth Annual National Media Kuryltay 2011

The IV annual National MEDIA-Kuryltay 2011 (*kuryltai* means congress in Kazakh) took place on October 31 in Almaty. The event discussed the role of the media in society, the media market in Kazakhstan on the eve of its 20th anniversary, new media and its future growth prospects,

Assel Karaulova, president of the Kazakhstan Press Club, opened the event thanking the media partners and sponsors of the conference. Deputy Mayor of Almaty Serik Seidumanov and member of the "Soros Foundation Kazakhstan" Board of Trustees Nurlan Yerimbetov also made welcoming remarks.

The conference participants were presented a short film about journalistic achievements of the past 20 years. The media "veterans" – Sagymbay Kozybaev, Seitkazy Matayev, Vladimir Roerich, Gulzhan Yergaliyeva, Tatiana Rau, Talgat Suyinbay and others spoke of the journalism of the 1990s.

Experts also discussed the future, the opportunities and the risks of journalism in Kazakhstan as well as gave an outlook on media market development for the next 10 years.

According to Chairman of the Committee of the Kazakh Ministry of Communications and Information Bolat Bersebeyev, modern mass media both in Kazakhstan and worldwide are about to face three challenges, one of which is an integration of all functions of the traditional media into the Internet.

"In order to ensure the exclusivity of the product, the media will need to approach new forms of information delivery, mastering the Internet and the social networks since in Kazakhstan more than seven million people use the Internet on a daily basis," Bersebeyev said.

As for the print media, according to Chairman of the Journalists' Union of Kazakhstan Seitkazy Matayev, it will not outlive its usefulness in 10 or even 50 years, since Kazakhstan is quite conservative in choosing the information source.

According to the sociological research, the people of Kazakhstan have their own suggestions and requests to the local media. The opinion of the majority of newspaper readers, whose age ranges between 30 and 50 years old, is more interested in "profound" interviews and author's columns.

The readers complain about the lack of full-fledged journalistic investigations, and that the news agencies usually reprint each other's information. People claim publications do not have a dialogue between the author and the reader. However, the figures show that the audience relies more on newspapers and TV broadcasting, which is still the most popular segment of the media market.

Chief Editor of the *Caravan* newspaper Adil Ibrayev distinguished among the media's main problems the absence of an ombudsman within the country's government which would address the



journalistic issues at the state level. “The journalists that have specific problems do not know who to appeal to. Therefore, we need to unite and create an institution,” Ibrayev suggested.

In addition, speaking on the issue of the switch by traditional media to the Internet, the head of the project “New Media in Central Asia” Oleg Gant noted that media do not work for Internet users, as they often copy the newspaper content without adjusting the online version.

“As it often happens, the traditional media do not adapt their content to search engines, and eventually the product remains non-demanded,” Gant said.

During the MEDIA Kuryltay 2011 Kazakhstan’s Academy of Journalism held a ceremony presenting the highest national awards.

“Altyn Zhuldyz” award was presented to “The Kazakh Newspaper” and its editor Kogabay Sarsekeev. President of the Kazakh Academy of Journalism Sagymbai Kozybaev handed the prestigious award “Altyn Samruk” to the family of publicist Anuar Alimzhanov for his outstanding contribution to the national journalism. The “Akku” Award named after Galina Kuzembayeva for the contribution to the development of the domestic media market was given to Assel Karaulova.

The award ceremony will continue in Astana on December 9.

Within the scope of the conference the participants had a chance to attend the round table discussion on a topic: “Publicity and the media. The new formats of business papers”, with the participation of the country’s leading companies, journalists of business publications and news agencies.

The development of new media and multi-media was reviewed during a special master class by Oleg Grant, team leader of the “New Media in Central Asia” project, who shared his practical experience in organizing the processes of transforming the editorial and commercial services of traditional publishing companies into multimedia formats.

In the three years of holding the MEDIA-Kuryltay, this event received wide acclaim by participants and experts, as well as demonstrated its relevance and importance. In 2010, the conference was attended by more than 150 people, and the event received extensive coverage both in national and specialized Russian media. This year the conference gathered more than 200 people, including the representatives of the regional media.

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Transcending Geographical and Political Frontiers in Education

Kazakhstan has become the first Central Asian state to join the Bologna process a full participant of the European educational space by signing the Bologna Declaration. To date, 60 universities of the country have signed the Magna Charta Universitatum.

Since it joined the Bologna process in March 2010, the main goal of Kazakhstan’s participation in the Bologna Process has been to improve the competitiveness of higher education in the country through the implementation of its basic principles.

In line with the Bologna process, Kazakhstan has identified key directions and priorities for the modernization of national higher education. The country has enacted a move to three-tier education, introduced the system of credits, academic mobility

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Bolat Bersebayev: Modern mass media both in Kazakhstan and worldwide are about to face three challenges, one of which is an integration of all functions of the traditional media into the Internet.



Accession of Kazakhstan to the Bologna process provides real benefits to Kazakhstan, its students and university lecturers

of students and lecturers as well as higher education quality monitoring. All of these steps will help the country enter the European educational space and accelerate the growth of the nation's intellectual capacity and competitiveness.

The country has developed its own model of credit transfer in line with the European Credit Transfer System, and all higher education institutions are to introduce the model by 2015.

According to the Ministry of Education and Science, 38 institutions in the country have developed dual degree programmes, while courses in 131 universities are taught in line with the credit technology, and 42 universities offer distance education. In the future, a Centre of Bologna Process and Academic Mobility will be set up in Kazakhstan.

Bakytzhan Zhumagulov: Public universities will become autonomous and function as non-for-profit organizations in the future.

Student's and teaching staff's external academic mobility is made possible through the exchange programmes such as Erasmus Mundus, Erasmus Mundus Partnership as well as cooperation memoranda on joint programmes between universities of Great Britain, Germany, Czech Republic, the USA, Canada, Russia, and

other countries.

The national system of higher education has been restructured in accordance with the international system. Thus, a three-tier model of training, Bachelor - Master - Doctorate (PhD), has been established.

According to international experts, membership in the Bologna process provides real benefits to Kazakhstan and its students, such as bringing local educational programmes in line with European standards, recognition of national qualifications and academic degrees, ensuring academic mobility of students and teachers, implementation of dual diploma programmes, opportunities for graduates to seek employment in any of the countries of the Bologna process.

According to Minister of Education and Science Bakytzhan Zhumagulov, public universities will become autonomous and function as non-for-profit organizations in the future. This approach is widely used in the world. Universities will have academic freedom, which implies independence in providing educational, scientific, financial and international services.

"Nazarbayev University is now working according to this model. All of its achievements and experience will be distributed as a growth point for other universities. The university has created an entirely new model, where three powerful scientific, world-class schools work," Zhumagulov said.

Kazakhstan will continue integrating its higher education into the world educational space in accordance with the State Programme of Education Development for 2011-2020. Indeed, integration has become one of most important principles of today's educational system. The development of education is the platform upon which future economic prosperity of the country is based.

The Bologna process is the process of creating the European Higher Education Area to ensure more comparable, compatible and coherent systems of higher education in Europe, which fosters the growth of student mobility and university cooperation between different countries. It is named after the place it was proposed, the University of Bologna, with the signing in 1999 of the Bologna Declaration by Education Ministers from 29 European countries. It was opened up to other countries signatories to the European Cultural Convention of the Council of Europe. The Bologna process currently has 47 participating countries.

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Also in the News:

- In accordance with the Government of Kazakhstan's approval of a draft Constitutional Law "On judicial system and status of judges of Kazakhstan," a court jury is to be established under Supreme Court of Kazakhstan, the [official website](#) of the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan reported on October 30. The bill abolishes disciplinary and qualifications boards and provides for the establishment of appellate panel of judges for civil, administrative and criminal cases in the

regional courts. The powers on disciplinary proceedings and consideration of disciplinary cases against judges are to be handed over to the Court jury. The Court jury will function under the Supreme Court and will be represented in the regional and district courts. Moreover, the Government of Kazakhstan approved a draft Law “On amendments to some legislative acts on the issues regarding improvement of appeal, cassation and supervisory order of consideration, increase of trust level and accessibility to justice”. The main purpose of the bill is improving the judicial system, promoting the role of local courts and independence of judges. The bill provides establishment of two instances in the structure of regional courts, including appeal instance reconsidering judicial acts that have not entered into force, and cassation instance reconsidering judicial acts that have entered into force.

- The plan on the state budget revenues in the first nine months of 2011 has been fulfilled by 107.3 percent, [Tengrinews](#) reported on November 1 citing the Tax Committee of the Ministry of Finance. According to the data, the revenues were planned at KZT 1.9 trillion (US\$ 148 = US\$ 1), while the actual revenues made KZT 2.05 trillion. The excess made KZT 140.1 billion or 7.3 percent. According to the report, the corporate income tax plan was exceeded by 5.7 percent or KZT 37.8 billion, the plan on special taxes and payments from subsoil users was exceeded by 27.3 percent or KZT 33.6 billion. In the nine months of 2011, the amount of VAT on goods imported from Russia and Belarus made KZT 204.9 billion or 116.8 percent.
- The National Agency for Export and Investment KAZNEX Invest has signed a memorandum of cooperation with Chinese energy corporation China Qinghua Group, Kaznex reported on October 28. According to the data, the signing of the memorandum took place during the visit of the Kazakh delegation headed by Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade Bahytzhan Dzhaksaliyev to Yining, Xinjiang, China.
- Kazakhstan’s leading international carrier Air Astana is planning to boost frequencies on existing long-haul scheduled services from Almaty to Bangkok, Delhi, and Kuala Lumpur from December, as well as launch a new scheduled service to Hong Kong in February 2012 and initiate a winter-season-only service to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, in October 2012, [eTurboNews](#) referred to President of Air Astana Peter Foster as saying. According to the data, services from Almaty to Bangkok will increase to five times a week, Almaty to Delhi will increase to four times a week, and Almaty to Kuala Lumpur will increase to three times a week.
- An exhibition of Kazakhstan’s prominent artist Aubakir Ismailov opened in the United Nations Headquarters in New York to mark the artist’s centennial and the 20th anniversary of the country’s independence on October 31. The exhibition is organised by the family of the artist in association with the National Museum of Visual Arts, Kazakhstan’s Permanent Mission to the UNESCO, and the Ministry of Culture of Kazakhstan.
- Writers Akim Tarazi, Askar Altai and Roza Mukanova of Kazakhstan have been awarded medals of Franz Kafka and special diplomas for significant contribution to the world literature, [Kazinform](#) news agency reported on October 31. According to the data, the prize is annually awarded by the Franz Kafka Society in Prague to outstanding figures in the sphere of culture. The Franz Kafka award has been previously received by Steven Spielberg, Milosz Forman, and many other prominent figures.
- Astana team’s cyclist Valentin Iglinsky of Kazakhstan won multi-day Tour of Hainan race. The final stage of the race was won by Kenny van Hummel of Netherlands, but Iglinsky managed to keep the first place in general classification after finishing the race.

Things to Watch:

- Kazakhstan’s Minister of Foreign Affairs Yerzhan Kazykhanov will take part in the conference on Afghanistan which will take place in Istanbul, Turkey, on November 2.
- Minister of Industry, Energy and Digital Economy of France Eric Besson is to pay an official visit to Kazakhstan on November 3-5. Meetings between Minister Besson and Prime Minister

Karim Massimov, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Industry and New Technologies Asset Iseskeshev, Minister of Oil and Gas Sauat Mynbayev, heads of Samruk Kazyna Sovereign Wealth Fund JSC, Kazmunaygaz JSC, Kazakhstan Engineering JSC, Kazatomprom JSC, and Kazakhstan Temir Zholy (Railways) JSC are expected to take place during the visit.

- Prime Minister Karim Massimov will participate in the session of the Council of Heads of Government of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states which is to be held in St. Petersburg on November 7. The Council is expected to adopt a joint statement on economic situation in the world and in the SCO space, as well as a joint communiqué, and other documents.
- Minister of Foreign Affairs Zalmay Rasul of Afghanistan is to pay an official visit to Astana on November 14-16.



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