DEVELOPMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM IN KAZAKHSTAN: POST-SOVIET UNION

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Independence – 1991
Population – 17 million
%62 Kazakhs
%25 Russians
%15 Others (Uzbeks, Ukrainians, Tatars, Germans....)

-Ninth largest country in the world
-World`s largest landlocked country
ECONOMY DEPENDS ON OIL (Energy Sector)

– Mineral resources (73%)
– Agricultural production (4.2%)
SOVIET ERA

• In Soviet times, higher education was free.
• In Soviet Kazakhstan every graduate was guaranteed a job upon graduation both by the KazSSR and the USSR governments.

• In Soviet times, the admission to the universities was highly competitive.
• Based on the results of the entry exams, universities and institutes selected about 25 percent of all the applicants. Although the USSR Constitution proclaimed equality for all in education, special preference in the admission process was given to the members of the Komsomol (Young Communist League) and to the Communist Party members who were viewed as active social participants in the life of the community.
The population was:

- the 1989 census, 27.1 percent of Kazakhstan’s urban population was Kazakh, while 50.8 percent was Russian.
- A much larger proportion of the Kazakhstan’s urban population was fluent in Russian than in Kazakh. At the end of the Soviet era, over 80 percent—and quite possibly over 90 percent—of Kazakhstan’s total urban population was literate in Russian Language.
- Indeed, in the late 1980s, even among adult urban Kazakhs, most had graduated from schools where Russian was the sole medium of instruction, and their children were following in their parents’ paths.
The classification in the 1980s

- the “mixed school” (where different groups of pupils receive instruction through different mediums of instruction)
- the “pure school” (where all pupils receive instruction through the same medium).
- The vast majority of pure schools offer instruction exclusively through either Kazakh-medium classes (KMCs) or Russian medium classes (RMCs).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Urban areas only</th>
<th>Rural areas only</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pure Russian</td>
<td>% 72.7</td>
<td>% 47.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pure Kazakh</td>
<td>% 11.3</td>
<td>% 37.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed</td>
<td>% 15.1</td>
<td>% 14.5</td>
</tr>
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</table>
POST-SOVIET ERA
Education in KAZAKHSTAN

• **President, Nursultan Nazarbayev**, is magnificent leader. He determine the strategy for the Kazakhstan. He clarify the road up to 2030 by defining `Strategy of Kazakhstan-2030`. *(Message of the President, Mr. Nazarbayev to the people of Kazakhstan, it was delivered in 1997. This is called as a `Strategy of Kazakhstan-2030`)*

• Nazarbayev build a multicultural society. In Kazakhstan; identity, ethnic and religious background is not important; individuals should be given opportunities regardless of these factors.
Public spending on education

In 2008 expenditure on education increased 2.8 times compared with 2004 and amounted to 4.7 billion dollars. Their share in total GDP is 3.7%. This corresponds to the level of countries such as Germany, Slovakia, Spain.
Higher education institutions (HEIs)

• These are called **universities, academies or institutes**.
• There are currently 177 universities, **68 public** and **109 private**, plus 5 branches of Russian universities.
• To increase the international relevance and competitiveness of its higher education system, Kazakhstan has decided to adopt a major structural reform taking place in the European Union, commonly known as “the Bologna Process”, and is already reshaping most university courses into Bologna’s three levels:
  – Bachelor degrees (four years),
  – postgraduate Master’s degrees (two years) and
  – PhDs (four to five years).
Teaching staff in higher education institutions public and private, in 2004/5 was 42,333

- whom 2,728 (6.4%) were doctors of science
- 12,350 (29.1%) candidates of science (broadly equivalent to PhD).

- The current number of full-time equivalent students per teacher is estimated to be 10.3 in the public institutions, 11.2 in the private institutions.
Unified National Test (UNT)

- The UNT, which is approved by the MOES. All tertiary educational institutions are obliged to comply with UNT regulations.
- The test is administered simultaneously and marked using advanced information technology.
- The UNT can be taken either in Russian or Kazakh and is based on the curricula of general secondary education in four subjects, three of which are compulsory: Kazakh or Russian; Kazakh History; and Mathematics. The fourth “profile” subject is chosen by the student on the basis of career choice. Each subject has 30 multiple choice questions with one point for each correct answer. Three hours are allotted to complete the test and repeats are not allowed. Results are evaluated based on a 120 point scale.
Public educational grants and scholarships

• In addition to the educational grants scheme, there are a number of scholarships available, including:
• in 2005, some 1 000 Presidential Scholarships were awarded to the most talented graduates and postgraduates of tertiary educational institutions;
• Lists of grant winners are published in the national mass media.
• Public educational grants were awarded, 60% to Kazakh-speaking students and the remaining 40% to Russian speakers. These grants are awarded by the Ministry of Education and Science by state orders to winners of “Altyn Belgi” medals, to Olympiad winners.
Internationalisation

- Adaptation of Kazakhstan higher education to Bologna process.
- Currently, we have started the adaptation of Kazakhstan higher education to Bologna process. We prepare the new course descriptions with ECTS (European Credit Transfer System). Because we have many students in EU countries.
- About 19 thousand Kazakh people study in more than 35 countries of the world. 16.4 thousand people study in Russian institutions of higher education. Every year the geographical cooperation in the sphere of education and science expands.
- Education of Kazakh people abroad realizes according to the following trends: international educational exchange programs; grants of the foreign countries governments and international organizations; private education; international grant of “Bolashak”.
Preparing students abroad: The Presidential Bolashak Scholarship Programme

• In 1994 the government of Kazakhstan established a scholarship to study abroad programme through which talented young people are fully supported and in leading institutions, not only at the graduate level, but also at the undergraduate level.

In the aggregate, 3000 students should be abroad in each year. World leading Universities, totally 450 in the Bolashak List. From Malaysia, There are 3 Universities in Bolashak list. UM APIIT MMU
Recipient countries of Bolashak students – 2005

- USA: 36%
- U.K.: 30%
- Russia: 13%
- Germany: 4%
- Canada: 4%
- China: 4%
- France: 2%
- Poland: 1%
- Czech Rep.: 3%
- Other: 3%

Biology and Biotechnology (25 students representing only 1.47% of total funded students), or Motor Industry and Mechanical Engineering (15 students representing only 0.89%) in OTHERS.

Top ten fields of study of Bolashak students, 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Number of students</th>
<th>Percentage of total students (1,697)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>State Management and State Policy</td>
<td>347</td>
<td>20.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Computer Sciences and Computer Facilities</td>
<td>307</td>
<td>18.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Economic Sciences</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>9.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Innovative Management and Technologies</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>9.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Power and Oil and Gas</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>9.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Medical Sciences</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>6.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Social and Humanitarian Studies</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Astronomy and Space</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Architecture and Construction</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Law and International Law</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following 13 priority majors:

- public administration,
- education, health care,
- space sciences,
- industrial and innovation development,
- rural territories development,
- housing construction,
- e-government,
- clusters (metallurgy, transport logistics, textile industry, food industry, tourism, oil and gas,
- engineering, and construction materials),
- science,
- public safety,
- social and cultural development,
- civil aviation
INTERNATIONALISATION

Students from Kazakhstan enrolled in United States higher education institutions
Table 7.3 Students from Central/South Asia enrolled in United States higher education institutions

Fall term, 2003-2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>0.90</td>
<td>60.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>3,198</td>
<td>2,758</td>
<td>2,581</td>
<td>13.31</td>
<td>(19.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhutan</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>0.40</td>
<td>22.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kazakhstan</strong></td>
<td>538</td>
<td>477</td>
<td>626</td>
<td>3.23</td>
<td>16.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mongolia</td>
<td>711</td>
<td>769</td>
<td>927</td>
<td>4.78</td>
<td>30.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>4,384</td>
<td>4,861</td>
<td>6,061</td>
<td>31.26</td>
<td>38.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>7,325</td>
<td>6,296</td>
<td>5,759</td>
<td>29.70</td>
<td>(21.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maldives</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>0.13</td>
<td>73.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>1,964</td>
<td>1,992</td>
<td>2,157</td>
<td>11.12</td>
<td>9.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tajikistan</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>0.95</td>
<td>58.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkmenistan</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>0.79</td>
<td>57.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uzbekistan</td>
<td>412</td>
<td>416</td>
<td>472</td>
<td>2.43</td>
<td>14.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>19,113</td>
<td>18,264</td>
<td>19,389</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Integration processes

• The cooperation of the European Union programs “TASIS” and “TEMPUS” is rather successful.

• Erasmus – Mundus programme
FOREIGN UNIVERSITIES

• SDU, KAZAKH-TURKISH UNIVERSITY
• KBTU, KAZAKH-BRITISH UNIVERSITY - joint program with LSE.
• KIMEP, KAZAKH-AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
• KAZAKH-GERMAN UNIVERSITY

GREAT CHALLENGE \ SUCCESS IS

INTERNATIONAL NAZARBAYEV UNIVERSITY

It was founded in 2010. There are 500 students fully granted by the government. %70 percentage of academic staff are from USA and UK universities. (only 12.7 percent of the 4,038 applicants)
In 2010, Mr. Nazarbayev told prospective students:

“I work as President a lot of time and I have often been offered to give my name to some factories, enterprises, and schools where I studied. I never did it and do not want to. But in this case, I have agreed to give my name to it, so you should not fail me.”

Partnership agreements with:

University College London, Carnegie Mellon University, the University of Wisconsin, Duke University, the University of Pittsburgh, the University of Pennsylvania.
HISTORY OF KAZAKH-TURKISH FOUNDATION in 1991, (KATEV)

Called as Kazakh-Turkish lutsevi (School)

They had started with 8 teacher who graduated from Turkey in 1991. The medium of education was English.

So, I would like to summarize their history shortly.

Firstly, they rent a classroom from the School in Almaty. They selected the students from applicants. After one year later, they rented a corridor which there are 4 classrooms. Two years later, the government was persuaded and the small and old school building was given the Foundation. Because, along the these years, the ministry of education, followed their activities, so they believed that there is a different but excellent education for their child.
Today, you can see the 31 college and 1 university called Suleyman Demirel University and 25 course building throughout the whole Kazakhstan. Each city has at least one college and one course building.

According to Prof. Dr. William Fierman: “the situation appears to be changing, there has been a generally lower level of achievement for pupils of KMCs. One indication of this is that in 2002, only 37 (19 percent) of the 186 winners of academic Olympiads in Kazakhstan were pupils of the 1172 “elite” Kazakh schools (litsei, gymnasia, and those with enriched academic programs); even pupils of the handful of Kazakh-Turkish litsei (only 24 schools total) had more winners among their pupils—45.”
MALAYSIA & KAZAKHSTAN RELATIONS

• We have approximately 810 Kazakh students in Malaysian Universities. Some of them have come by BOLASHAK program. The others pay their own expenditures by themselves. Malaysian universities have good reputation in Kazakhstan.

• We have many MoU with Malaysian Universities as a Kazakh Universities.
Thank you.