



# Kazakhstan News Bulletin

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### Say It in Kazakh:

*Where is the museum?  
--- Murazhai qai zherde ornalaskan?*

*How many museums are here? --- Bul zherde qansha murazhai bar?*

*When does the Kazakh exhibition open? --- Qazak kormesi qashan ashylady?*

## **Dignitaries View Ancient Artifacts of Kazakhstan, Congratulate President and People on Independence**



**Ambassador Kanat Saudabayev (L) talks to Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Secretary Sam Bodman at a December 15 reception.**

US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, Energy Secretary Sam Bodman and Congresswoman Shelley Berkley (D-NV) were among the many dignitaries and friends of Kazakhstan who attended a December 15 reception to celebrate Kazakhstan's 14<sup>th</sup> Independence Day and announce an upcoming US tour of the art exhibit, "Of Gold and Grass: Nomads of Kazakhstan" which will be the first ever art exhibit from Kazakhstan in the US.

The atmosphere of the event held at the Smithsonian's Arthur M. Sackler Gallery was particularly warm on a cold, wet, Washington night. Live traditional

Kazakh music added to the warmth.

Kanat Saudabayev, Kazakhstan's Ambassador to the United States, welcomed guests at the reception saying: "During the years of independence, Kazakhstan has turned from one of the most backward former Soviet republics into an economically strong and democratically growing nation, a recognized leader in the region. The people in Kazakhstan and abroad link these successes with President Nursultan Nazarbayev's vision. His impressive election victory gave the President the strongest mandate for continued modernization. I believe the next seven years will not only become the time of the flowering of Kazakhstan, but a new era in our relationship with the world and the United States. The presence here of key members of the US Administration, Congress and business community shows Washington's serious interest in Kazakhstan, and we are very optimistic about the future of both our country and our cooperation."

In an interview with Kazakhstan's Khabar TV during the reception, Secretary Rumsfeld said "Secretary Bodman and I are very pleased to be here at this important reception and to



**Winged ibexes are part of the golden decorations to be presented in the exhibit.**

have a chance to congratulate the people of this great country on their Independence Day, and certainly to extend our congratulations to the President on his recent reelection and to wish him and the people of Kazakhstan well.”

Secretary Bodman commented “We in the Energy Department are very much looking forward to continuing to expand our relationships with Kazakhstan because of its importance in this emerging region of the world.”

Rep. Berkley added “I would like to congratulate the great nation of Kazakhstan on 14 years of independence. I am very proud of the extraordinary economic development and the potential that Kazakhstan has to be a real leader in that part of the world. I also wanted to congratulate the President on his outstanding election victory. I think any politician would love 91 percent of the vote, but I think that demonstrates the confidence that the people of Kazakhstan have in their elected leader. It’s a wonderful democracy in a very challenging part of the world, and certainly the United States believes in helping foster democratic institutions throughout the world, and Kazakhstan should be proud of its achievements.”

Rep. Berkley also shared her excitement about the upcoming national tour featuring ancient Kazakh art and offered assistance in arranging for the exhibition to visit her district of Las Vegas, a city with a population of 1.5 million people and 38 million visitors annually.

Yerlan Baizhanov, First Deputy Minister of Culture, Information and Sport, led a delegation of Kazakh officials and performers to the reception. He said the exhibit will show golden artifacts dating back to the middle of the first millennium BC, the time Ancient Greece blossomed. Ancient Greeks knew little of the nomads of the steppes, he said, referring to some far away lands as the “land of the griffins protecting gold.” Several of the recent finds in Kazakhstan, at burial mounds in Issyk and Berel, included golden artifacts of those ancient days depicting griffins. Griffins are mythical winged beasts.

The exhibition is being put together by the Kazakh Embassy in Washington, the Ministry of Culture, Information and Sport and the Foundation for International Arts and Education of Bethesda, MD. It will exhibit artifacts from the collections of Kazakhstan’s Presidential Center of Culture, Museum of Gold and Precious Metals, and the Museum of the Archeology Institute.

Ambassador Saudabayev concluded “We hope the upcoming exhibition will help Americans discover an ancient rich culture and vivid and diverse art of the Kazakhs. We hope as a result our peoples will become closer and more comfortable with each other, and our friendship will grow stronger.”

## **Kazakh Independence Celebrated in Tucson**

The people of Tucson, Arizona, and their Kazakh community joined together to celebrate Kazakhstan’s 14<sup>th</sup> Independence Day on December 16.



**At left: Tucson City Councilwoman Nina Trasoff reads proclamation making December 16, 2005 Kazakhstan Independence Day in Tucson. With Trasoff are two Bolashak students, Aidyn Uisinbekov and Bakytzhan Bitemirov.**

**At right: Jerry Gary and Kazakh students from the University of Arizona sing the Kazakhstan anthem and observe the raising of the Kazakh flag.**



Tucson has been a sister city of Almaty since 1989. Jerry M. Gary, Chairman of the Tucson-Almaty Sister Cities Committee, was the lead organizer of the occasion helped by many Americans who became attached to Kazakhstan over the years and more than a dozen of Kazakh students, including a number of Bolashakers.

Celebrations included a flag raising and a city council proclamation declaring the day as Kazakhstan's Independence Day in Tucson, and were followed by a pot luck dinner.

Nina Trasoff of the Tucson City Council said "I am very pleased to have participated in the celebration of Kazakhstan Independence Day. I applaud the Tucson-Almaty Sister Cities Committee and the young Bolashak Scholars from Kazakhstan that took part in the ceremony."

Jerry Gary, Chairman of the Tucson-Almaty Sister Cities Committee said: "Heart-felt observance of Independence Day is something that all Americans recognize. It was an emotional and rewarding experience to be with 14 young Bolashak Scholars and others from the Kazakh community in Tucson and participate in their celebration on December 16, 2005."

## **Kazakhstan Ratifies UN Civil and Political Rights Pact**

President Nursultan Nazarbayev signed into law legislation ratifying Kazakhstan's accession to the UN's International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights on November 28.

Kazakhstan signed the covenant which is a part of the International Bill of Human Rights, at the end of 2003, joining 162 countries.

Rapil Zhoshybayev, Kazakhstan's Deputy Foreign Minister had earlier explained the covenant's ratification would be a "significant event, speeding up the improvement in domestic legislation and bringing it up to international standards." Ratification should be a "major factor" in Kazakhstan's quest for chairmanship-in-office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in 2009, he explained.

## **Kazakhstan Inaugurates Oil Pipeline to China, Heralding New Era in Regional Energy Progress**

President Nursultan Nazarbayev ceremonially opened the taps of a new oil pipeline from Kazakhstan to China on December 15, heralding a new era in energy development in the Caspian Sea region.

The US\$806 million 625 mile pipeline will carry 10 million tons (70 million barrels) of oil a year from Kazakhstan, the Central Asian country with the largest oil reserves, to the second largest importer of oil in the world.

The pipeline opened a huge market for Kazakhstan which is quickly becoming one of the world's top oil exporters. Kazakhstan is aiming to more than double its production from 1.3 million barrels to three million barrels a day by 2015. The lion's share of increased production will be exported.

The pipeline was opened on the eve of Kazakhstan's 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary of independence on December 16. The oil rich former Soviet republic's first pipeline to the east began to fill with oil as President Nazarbayev pressed a button at the headquarters of the national KazMunaiGaz company in the capital of Astana. The pipeline is a 50-50 joint venture between state companies China National Petroleum Corp. (CNPC) and KazMunaiGaz.

"It will work for the good of our two peoples. This is the beginning of a project to double the trade between Kazakhstan and China," the President said. He also announced plans to build a gas pipeline to China.

For China, the new route is a key step toward securing adequate foreign energy supplies for its booming economy. Out of China's total oil consumption of 6.7 million barrels a day last year, almost half was imported according to figures from oil company BP PLC, as reported by the Associated Press.

Until now, the main route for Kazakh oil exports has been the Caspian Pipeline, which was opened in 2001 to link the giant western Tengiz oil field with Russia's Black Sea port of Novorossiisk.

The new pipeline starts in the central Kazakh town of Atasu and runs to the Altaw Pass in northwestern China. It will initially carry oil from the Kumkol field in central Kazakhstan, which is being developed by CNPC following its acquisition of the field's former operator earlier this year.

By 2011, when it reaches full capacity of 20 million tons (140 million barrels) annually, the pipeline is expected to be used to also ship oil from western Siberia.

The partners are also planning to extend the pipeline to the Caspian Sea by linking it to a 435 mile pipeline that runs within Kazakhstan from the Caspian city of Atyrau to the Kenkiyak oil field farther east.

Linking the two pipelines will give Kazakhstan more outlets from the Caspian Sea to ship oil to foreign markets and will also give the Chinese access to Caspian oil.

"Only a small stretch remains (to be built) to reach the Caspian oil," the President said at the ceremony. He then turned to Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Vladimir Shkolnik and asked: "When do we begin construction?"

"Tomorrow," Shkolnik said. He earlier noted that for the new Chinese pipeline to begin functioning, it will have to be filled with 600,000 tons of oil, which will be done by mid-2006.

The pipeline opening comes half a year after the opening of another alternative export route for Kazakh oil, the 1,100 mile pipeline that runs from the Azeri capital of Baku, via Georgia to the Turkish Mediterranean port of Ceyhan. Oil from producers in Kazakhstan has not yet entered that pipeline called Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan, as details are still being worked out.

## **Kazakh Firm Joins London's FTSE 100, More Kazakh Listings to Come**

Kazakhmys, Kazakhstan's copper mining firm joined London's benchmark FTSE 100 share index on December 7, lining up alongside other major UK favorites like BP. FTSE 100 (Financial Times Stock Exchange 100) is the premier share index of the London Stock Exchange, akin to the US's Dow Jones index at the New York Stock Exchange.

Kazakhmys became the first former Soviet bloc company to join the index, but is one of a growing number of firms from the region to list shares in London, according to the BBC. Another firm from Kazakhstan, KazakhGold listed its shares in London earlier.

Since its listing in October 2005, Kazakhmys' shares have risen almost 22 percent in value.

Privatized by the Government of Kazakhstan in the 1990s, Kazakhmys employs 6,000 workers and is the tenth largest copper producer in the world, with 16 mines across the country and a market value of US\$5.6 billion (£3.2bn). It recorded a 50% rise in revenues to \$1.3 billion (£765m) in 2004 due to soaring commodity prices.

The FTSE 100 is reviewed four times a year to ensure it represents the 100 largest UK listed companies.

## **Things to Watch:**

- On December 26, the Kazakhstan based Central Asian Geographical Society will unveil its plans for the first ever round the world maritime expedition originating from Kazakhstan, the country the farthest from the oceans of the world. The society will select participants for the voyage through a competition. Those who finish the expedition will receive a US\$30,000 diamond studded medals.
- Kazakhs look forward to the New Year. Celebrations planned across the country.

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