



CENTRAL
ASIAN
STUDIES
CENTER

Newsletter

College of Social Sciences, KIMEP University

#2, Spring 2016

Dear friends,

It is our pleasure to present to you the second issue of KIMEP CASC newsletter!

Here you can find information about the [events](#) that we had in Fall 2015 and early Spring 2016. We held a series of public lectures on a variety of topics ranging from the IMF economic outlook for the region of Central Asia to new cinema language in Kazakhstan ([pages 2–3](#)). Together with one of the top international think tanks, the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), we co-organized an international workshop on the economics of the Silk Road Economic Belt ([page 6](#)). This newsletter features interviews with workshop participants from Kazakhstan, China, and Russia ([pages 7–9](#)).

We continue our fruitful partnership with Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES) in Kazakhstan. With the support of FES we launched our own [CASC YouTube channel](#), and now you can watch the videos of our joint events, including the roundtables on legal culture in Kazakhstan and gender in contemporary Kazakhstan, and those of the international conference “Contemporary Eurasia: Between Greater Europe and Greater Asia” ([page 3](#)). The conference gathered prominent scholars from Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Russia who discussed geopolitical and political trends in the Eurasian space. It attracted a lot of attention and was the real highlight of the year.

In our [Gallery](#) you can find the winners of the competition of photos of Central Asia made by KIMEP community ([pages 10–11](#)). In our [Recent publications](#) section you can see what research KIMEP College of Social Sciences faculty have been engaged in ([last page](#)). And to close, we present [Our Picks](#), a selection of the most interesting recent publications in the field of Central Asian studies ([pages 4–5](#)).

We hope you will find this issue informative.

Nargis Kassenova, CASC Director,
nargis@kimep.kz



Contemporary Eurasia: Between Greater Europe and Greater Asia

International conference summary with links to full-length session videos, [page 3](#)



The Gumbez of Manas, Karakol bazaar, archaeological excavations at Boschekul

Photos from Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, [pages 10–11](#)

5 recent publications

by KIMEP College of Social Sciences faculty, [last page](#)



329-page infographics-rich report by the World Bank on the prospects for healthy, active and prosperous

Aging in Europe and Central Asia, [page 4](#)

7 public lectures and 3 roundtables, [pages 2–3](#)

Chinese soft power, OBOR, and Eurasian Economic Union

Quick interviews with three participants of our *Central Asia and the New Silk Road* workshop, [pages 7–9](#)

Events

Fall 2015–Spring 2016

Public lectures

September 25, 2015

The new cinema language of Kazakhstan: tabooed topics and professional conformism

Tolegen Baitukenov, *Vremya* newspaper

October 23, 2015

Central Asia and the Caucasus: economic outlook, challenges and needed reforms

Dr. Jüha Kähkönen, IMF

Dr. Gautam Bhattacharya, KIMEP University



Dr. Jüha Kähkönen, Deputy Director of Middle East and Central Asia Department, IMF, and **Randa Elnagar**, Press Officer, IMF

November 5, 2015

Norwegian foreign policy

Mr. Ole Johan Bjørnøy, Ambassador of Norway in Kazakhstan

November 13, 2015

Germany as a mediator between East and West?

Mr. Guido Herz, Ambassador of Germany in Kazakhstan



Mr. Guido Herz, Ambassador of Germany in Kazakhstan

November 20, 2015

Inequality, inclusive growth, and fiscal policy in Asia

Dr. Donghyun Park, Asian Development Bank

January 12, 2016

Sources of variation of governance systems in Europe

Georg Sootla, Tallinn University, Estonia

January 20, 2016

Who will blink first? Signaling in conflict escalation: cases of Ukraine and Syria

Galymzhan Kirbassov, UN Assistance Mission in Somalia

CASC–FES events

International conference

November 29, 2015

Contemporary Eurasia: Between Greater Europe and Greater Asia (*in Russian*)

The conference addressed contemporary geopolitical, political and socioeconomic trends in the post-Soviet Eurasian space. The discussion focused both on challenges that this trends pose for the development of the countries and the opportunities that exist for building positive agendas in the region. The conference gathered prominent experts from Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Russia.

SESSION 1 & 2: EURASIAN SPACE IN THE TRIANGLE OF EU–RUSSIA–CHINA

Is Russia leaving from “Greater Europe” to “Greater Asia”? Is worsening of relations between Russia and the West a temporary phenomenon or are we witnessing a serious geopolitical shift? What can other post-Soviet states leaning toward Russia do? What is the compatibility between Russia’s and China’s economic integration projects (Eurasian Economic Union and Silk Road Economic Belt)? What is the role for EU in this integration projects? What challenges and opportunities do these factors create for the development of societies in the Eurasian space?

Session 1 · **VIDEO:** youtu.be/7MGMiFN0w5g (1 h 27 min)

Sergey Utkin, Centre for Situation Analysis, Russia

Yelena Kuzmina, Institute of Economics, Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia

Vladimir Ryzhkov, National Research University Higher School of Economics, Russia

Session 2 · **VIDEO:** youtu.be/x_GVXrcw7gk (1 h 18 min)

Alexander Iskandaryan, Caucasus Institute, Armenia

Nargis Kassenova, KIMEP University, Kazakhstan

Dauren Aben, Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan

SESSION 3 & 4: THE PROCESSES OF NATION BUILDING IN EURASIAN SPACE AND THEIR COMPATIBILITY

How are changes in the Russian foreign policy and rhetoric (active use of such concepts as “Novorossiya,” “Russki mir,” etc.) perceived in the post-Soviet Eurasian space? How compatible are processes of nation-building in these countries, taking into account the neoimperial trend in Russia and post-colonial discourses in other post-Soviet countries?

Session 3 · **VIDEO:** youtu.be/rbU-H8M2JWQ (1 h 39 min)

Emil Pain, National Research University Higher School of Economics, Russia

Alexei Makarkin, Center for Political Technologies, Russia

Vladimir Ryzhkov, National Research University Higher School of Economics, Russia

Rustem Kadyrzhanov, Institute of Philosophy, Political Sciences and Religious Studies, Kazakhstan

Session 4 · **VIDEO:** youtu.be/WxliSB7ESkg (1 h 36 min)

Berik Abdygaliuli, Political scientist, Kazakhstan

Medet Tulegenov, American University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan

Mikhael Zolyan, The Center for Regional Studies, Armenia

Victor Kovtunovskii, Fund for parliamentary development in Kazakhstan

Zhar Zardykan, KIMEP University, Kazakhstan

International workshop

October 20, 2015

Central Asia and the new Silk Road: security, economics and regional geopolitics

More information on [pages 6–9](#)

Roundtable series

In fall 2015 CASC with the support of Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES) in Kazakhstan launched a series of roundtables addressing issues at the intersection of domestic and international politics. You can find videos of the roundtables and detailed summaries on our website: www.casc.kz/?page_id=95.

November 19, 2015

Legal culture in Kazakhstan

Zhenis Kembayev, KIMEP University

Legal Culture in Kazakhstan: Past and Present

Nicolás Zambrana-Tévar, KIMEP University

Dispute Resolution Culture in Kazakhstan

November 20, 2015

Gender in contemporary Central Asia

Elaine Conkievich, UN Women Multi-Country Office for Central Asia

Thomas Kreussmann, Kazan Federal University, Russia

Project on Gender in Modern Central Asia: Challenges and Findings

Asel Murzakulova, Bishkek Humanities University, Kyrgyzstan

Searching for Social Justice: The Problem of Women Joining

Hizb-ut Tahrir in Kyrgyzstan

Mohira Suyarkulova, American University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan

Zine culture and Zine Making in Kyrgyzstan

December 15, 2015

US pivot to Asia: responses in East Asia and implications for Central Asia

Prof. Hans Maull, German Institute for International

and Security Affairs

Prof. Sebastian Harnisch, Ruprecht-Karls-University of Heidelberg

Our picks

Selected articles related to Central Asian affairs

Golden Aging: Prospects for Healthy, Active and Prosperous Aging in Europe and Central Asia

World Bank Report, June 2015, <http://www.worldbank.org/en/region/eca/publication/golden-aging>

Aging in Europe and Central Asia is different from that in Western Europe and East Asia in that populations are aging, while people are not necessarily living longer. The rise in the average age is largely attributable to a decrease in fertility rather than to an increase in longevity. Today, life expectancy at birth is 73 years, three years lower than in East Asia and a full ten years behind Western Europe. In many countries in Europe and Central Asia, the emigration of young people has also accelerated the aging of their societies.

More often than not, the aging of a population is a source of concern, given the potential for higher health care and pension costs, increasing dependency, lower growth, unsustainable fiscal deficits, and intergenerational tensions. Demographic trends are frequently viewed as unstoppable and as an inevitable cause of increasing economic costs. However, individuals and firms change their behavior in response to changing conditions, and policy can help or hinder adaptation to demographic shifts.

In Europe and Central Asia, bold adaptive action is needed across many policy areas to support active, healthy, and productive aging. These areas include much more than reforming the intergenerational transfer and pension systems: they encompass, among others, shifting health systems toward preventive care, primary care, and more diagnostics; reforming educational systems to bolster the cognitive skills needed for productive employment along



The report is accompanied by a detailed infographic (*fragment*)

longer working lives; and reforming labor market institutions to allow women to reconcile family and career goals and older people to work more flexible hours.

This report aims to provide a better understanding of the aging process and its links with the economy — and ultimately to guide policy making. Policy makers can meet the challenges and seize the opportunities of aging by facilitating behavioral adaptation. In such a scenario, Europe and Central Asia could one day enter a period of “Golden Aging,” in which all people can live long, healthy, active, and prosperous lives.

Eurasia in Russian Foreign Policy: Interests, Opportunities and Constraints

Ivan Timofeev and Elena Alekseenkova. *Russie. Nei. Visions* No. 89, December 2015, https://www.ifri.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/ifri_rnv_89_timofeev_alekseenkova_eng_december_2015_protege_0.pdf

The Eurasian axis of Russian foreign policy has been given several impetuses over the last two years. The most important of these has been the sharp deterioration in relations with the West against the backdrop of the Ukraine crisis.

In response to such changes, Russia’s approach to multipolarity has shifted: it is now understood to offer

simultaneous access to several different sources of economic growth and modernization. Success in Russia's Eurasian foreign policy will require real effort to promote economic development and guarantee security. In the field of development, Russia has a great potential but starts from a weak position. It has a significant advantage, however, in being able to underwrite regional security, an essential precondition for economic development at a time when the risks of the region descending into chaos are high. The politicization of economic projects ranks among the major risks associated with Eurasian integration.

The Ukraine Conflict and the Future of Kazakhstan's Multi-Vector Foreign Policy

Sean R. Roberts, George Washington University. PONARS Eurasia Policy Memo No. 388, September 2015, <http://www.ponarseurasia.org/memo/ukraine-conflict-and-future-kazakhstans-multi-vector-foreign-policy> · Summary by Jiří Melich

It is generally acknowledged largely thanks to Kazakhstan's official "multi-vector foreign policy," the country has not experienced any significant conflicts in its almost twenty-five years of independence and is considered, with the exception of the Baltic states, as one of the most successful post-Soviet states in terms of development.

In several respects, the Ukraine conflict presents the first real challenge to this. As the sanctions by the West increasingly isolate Russia, the latter's relationship with Kazakhstan "could become more demanding." Kazakhstan has found itself in an "awkward" position between the two parties in this prolonged confrontation. In its own interest, it tries to retain a business-like relationship with Ukraine and does not want to be viewed as outright supporting Moscow's position. So far, Kazakhstan has managed these challenges relatively well; in fact, it has also attempted to play a mediating role in the Ukraine conflict.

This reality creates several pitfalls for Kazakhstan. One can expect that whenever Russia uses its influence in the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) by sanctioning certain Western companies or products from the EU in an attempt to counter European and U.S. sanctions against it, Kazakhstan's economic interests will be seriously hurt.

The Ukraine conflict has also problematized Kazakhstan's traditionally open position on regional political and security cooperation. This especially applies to its participation in regional bodies like the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). As the conflict in Ukraine drags on, the

tension over regional cooperation and allegiances might intensify, with Russia possibly seeking to leverage the CSTO and SCO as becoming more assertive against NATO.

The article concludes that Kazakhstan is likely to find it increasingly difficult to balance close ties with Russia, Europe, the United States, and Ukraine without creating tensions with one or more of these partners. This situation that is largely outside Kazakhstan's control, and Kazakhstan's options might be limited until the conflict in Ukraine is resolved. Although it would make sense for Kazakhstan to more actively engage the EU and the U.S., to do this might be difficult in the context of the Ukraine conflict, as Moscow tends to perceive any pro-Western rapprochement as anti-Russian.

Regional Implications of Afghanistan's Transitions: Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan

Annette Bohr and Gareth Price, <https://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/files/chathamhouse/publications/research/20151214AfghanistansTransitionsBohrPrice.pdf>

The withdrawal of international troops from Afghanistan does not pose a major security risk per se for regional neighbors. Rather, the problem is the lack of an adequate regional security structure. Scope exists for broader bilateral or regional engagement and discussion on a range of regional challenges. However, the lack of institutional capacity in Afghanistan is a constraining factor.

Regional economic connectivity is limited. Obstacles to integration include water disputes. Two key development projects — the Central Asia–South Asia Electricity Transmission and Trade Project (CASA-1000) and the Turkmenistan–Afghanistan–Pakistan–India (TAPI) pipeline — face numerous hurdles. Support for increased people-to-people contacts could provide an entry point for broader initiatives, but macro-level solutions are unlikely at this stage.

Pakistan's relationship with the Afghan Taliban will remain one of the key determinants of Afghanistan's future stability. Islamabad tolerates violent radicalization so long as it does not target the Pakistani state. In contrast, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan regard Pakistan, not Afghanistan, as the main source of religious radicalization. The withdrawal from Afghanistan of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) is unlikely to affect levels of drug-trafficking or crime, as the drug trade serves the interests of the ruling elites. ■

Central Asia and the New Silk Road

Security, Economics and Regional Geopolitics



Dr. Sarah Lain, Research Fellow, RUSI (UK)



Dr. Alka Acharya, Director of the Institute of Chinese Studies (India)

On 20 October 2015, KIMEP CASC held a workshop “Central Asia and the New Silk Road: Security, Economics and Regional Geopolitics” in collaboration with the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Kazakhstan (FES). The focus of the workshop was the economics behind the Chinese Silk Road Economic Belt (SREB) and its impact in Central Asia. The key areas of discussion examined the potential benefits that the SREB could bring to participating countries, the integration of the SREB with other economic projects and the various funding mechanisms through which the SREB will be financed.

The workshop brought together participants from Almaty, Astana, London, Beijing, Shanghai, New Delhi and Russia, including representatives from academia, the private sector and think tanks.

For the summary of discussion please see: “The Economics of the Silk Road Economic Belt.” Sarah Lain and Raffaello Pantucci. RUSI Publications, 27 November 2015. https://rusi.org/sites/default/files/20151126_cr_economics_of_the_silk_road_economic_belt.pdf

Quick interviews with workshop participants

Maxim Menschenin, CASC Fellow

Daniyar Kosnazarov

INTERNATIONAL TURKIC
ACADEMY, ASTANA



What does Chinese soft power in Central Asia look like?

If soft power is about being attractive, making other states and societies follow you and feel them less skeptical about your intentions, then the Chinese strategy in Central Asia proves effective, even if all suspicions haven't been eliminated. We can see how Chinese presence has been growing over the past several years. China's economic activity, investments, and infrastructure projects, in some way, have Soviet-style gigantism, and this meets the Central Asian governments' preference for mega projects and big deals. We, in the region, know how huge China's wallet is, and our expectations are based on this assumption. During the ongoing economic crisis and times of low oil prices, no state spends so much money abroad like China does. While Beijing does this for its own purposes, it also helps others. China, in that respect, tries to kill two birds with one stone. It smartly manages its reserves and invests abroad to keep the economy afloat while it is going through internal transformation. Beijing also attaches other states to itself

and tries to shape foreigners' attitudes toward China's rise. In this regard, the Silk Road initiative combines all these imperatives. But it also has a soft power aspect, as it tries to show that China's attitude toward the region is transparent and lacks the so-called "hidden agenda." It reinforces the key Westphalian principle of "non-interference in domestic affairs" which, ironically, has been endorsed more by non-democratic states than by the U.S., for example. This is also an important soft power tool that makes Central Asian governments feel comfortable with China. Yet, this is all about elite-level interaction; if we focus on the society level, we see how China has become one of the top destinations for Central Asian, and particularly Kazakh, students. Not only is it less expensive to study there, but also learning Chinese is regarded by many as a smart investment that can make people more competitive in the labor market. The Chinese government works closely with foreign experts and analysts, inviting them to see China. Traders also play their role in shaping our perceptions about China. One cannot ignore the so-called Dordoi factor, the fact that Chinese economic engagement can provide many people with jobs. We also see how the Confucius Institutes function without much controversy and scandals. Moreover, companies like CNPC or Sinopec provide many jobs to locals. One of our studies has revealed that these companies feel rather



confident in Central Asia for they have good working relations with ministries, committees, and high-ranking decision-makers. We also showed how Chinese media pays attention to local specifics, even if their media bosses understand that, at this stage, they cannot compete with Russia. However, China is very patient and will keep investing cash and energy into it. Chinese soft power politics is still in the process of making, but it is developing steadily without breaks or sudden turns.

As a project economic integration, does the EEU stand a chance against the OBOR initiative?

The Eurasian Economic Union is passing through a difficult period, and its “immune system” has become weaker. This union was definitely a response to what was going on in the world, and especially addressed the increasing Chinese presence in Central Asia. But in times of economic crisis and low oil prices, Chinese investment is the region’s “safety bag.” Besides, one should bear in mind that our energy resources are going to China in quite substantial amounts, which is why the performance of our economy depends on the Chinese economy and its consumption levels. Therefore, we could not throw away or ignore the Chinese factor within Eurasian Economic Union. China’s emphasis on infrastructure and energy projects was a smart move that does not turn the EEU into a direct competitor and geopolitical enemy. In that respect, both projects are first and foremost asymmetric in their influence.

Tao Xie

BEIJING FOREIGN STUDIES
UNIVERSITY



How much of OBOR’s costs can be borne by the other participating countries?

Based on such indicators as public debt level, foreign exchange reserve, and savings rate, it seems that participating countries can contribute in a very limited way. At this moment it is too early to say how much China is willing and able to commit, but there seems to be widespread expectation that China should play the leading role in financing OBOR.

Where will the better part of China’s future investments in Central Asia go?

If the past is any indication of the future, China’s investments in Central Asia will most likely continue to focus on extractive industries *and* infrastructure, particularly railways, bridges, and roads.

Is OBOR securely and sustainably funded?

No, I wouldn’t say so. It is still at the planning stage, and its success requires not only the Chinese leadership’s commitment in terms of time, attention, and resources, but also cooperation from other countries.

Ivan Zuenko

FAR EASTERN FEDERAL
UNIVERSITY, VLADIVOSTOK



Are OBOR and the EEU mutually exclusive, or is there a way to connect both projects?

In my opinion, both projects can be realized by the same countries at the same time. Yet, it is unjustified to talk about a complete linking and merging of the two projects since they present essentially different systems. The EEU is an organization, whereas OBOR is, to a large extent, a “philosophical concept.” As an idea of large-scale economic integration, the latter has not been fully developed yet in terms of specific content (which might also be due the fact that it has been announced quite recently). In other words, the basic principles of the EEU cannot be completely realized in those countries which, at the same time, participate in OBOR — and vice versa.

How much potential is there for further liberalization and for the creation of a contiguous economic and political space through OBOR? Is a vision enough or does it take proper institutions to achieve this?

There are excellent perspectives for a further liberalization of the flow of goods, services and labor as well as for growing regional integration in Central Asia. At the moment, however, these processes are hampered by a raft of issues raised in the bilateral relations of certain countries — this concerns basically all countries participating in OBOR, and even includes the pivotal Russia–China and Russia–Kazakhstan axes. In other words, regional integration remains the overall task, while some practical issues regarding contradictory customs, migration, and investment legislations have to be resolved beforehand.

How much do Russian policy-makers really like OBOR? Do they accept it only teeth-gnashingly, or do they also keep the potential benefits in sight?

The Russian leadership’s consent to link up with OBOR was, to a certain degree, given out of necessity. Moscow could not oppose Beijing’s integration initiative due to a whole string of reasons, including the geostrategic importance of Russia’s partnership with China, its interests in Central Asia, and the difficulties of its own economy. Presently and according to the steps it has taken to join



Dr. Raffaello Pantucci, Director of International Security Studies, RUSI (UK)

with OBOR, Russia appears to be much less interested in realizing Beijing's integration initiative than in its own integration projects in the post-Soviet space. Yet, if we are to count the broadening of the economic partnership with China as part of a strategy to link the EEU with OBOR, so it does seem that even Moscow has come to understand the benefits of this.

Would all of Russia equally profit from OBOR, or would the benefits be limited to certain regions only? If so, what is to be done in order to have all regions share OBOR's benefits?

At the moment, it appears that the different foci of

Russia's, China's, and Central Asia's cooperation along the shortest transportation route (i.e. the one through Western China, Kazakhstan, and further on through Central and Western Russia) will marginalize considerable parts of Russia. This affects mostly Russia's Far East where one of the most important economic branches is exactly transport. Research on customs and logistical figures has shown that this process has already become irreversible from which only one conclusion can be drawn: the transport infrastructure of Eastern Russia must increase its competitiveness and should at least retain the niche of the transportation of goods for the Korean and Japanese markets. ■

Gallery



The Gumbaz of Manas (Mausoleum of Manas) is located a few kilometers from Talas, Kyrgyzstan. Built in the 14th century, it attracts many fans of the Kyrgyz hero and curious tourists. The Gumbaz of Manas preserves the memory of the hero who unified the Kyrgyz people and defeated its enemies.

Photo by Leila Broncard



Bartogai artificial water reservoir (180 km from Almaty) collects water from the Chilik river and is part of the Big Almaty Canal. *Photo by Nygmet Ibadildin*



Karakol bazaar, Kyrgyzstan, October 2013. "On the eve of the Ramadan Bayram, we are in the animal bazaar, meandering among cows, sheep and horses, drinking vodka shots on an early sunny Sunday morning. Then we end up throwing a sheep in the trunk of a Lada. It will make good shashliks!" *Photo by Leila Broncard*



Archaeological excavations of the miners settlement at Boschekul (12–9 centuries BC), Pavlodar region, July 2009.
Photo by Rossina Bazarova



Archaeological excavations at Boschekul, May 2009. *Photo by Rossina Bazarova*

Recent publications

with Central Asia regional focus

by KIMEP College of Social Sciences faculty

Dadabayeva, G. and Sharipova, D. 2015. The imagined nation-state in Soviet literature: The case of Koshpendiler. *Nationalities Papers*.

Dadabayeva, G. and Sharipova, D. 2015. Soviet Kazakhstan: to the problems of ethnic conflicts. *KazNU Bulletin*, 1(76): 147–152.

White, K. D. 2016. Kazakhstan's Northern Aral Sea today: Partial ecosystem restoration and economic recovery.

In: Freedman, E. and Neuzil, M., eds. *Environmental Crises in Central Asia: From steppes to seas, from deserts to glaciers* (London and New York: Routledge), pp. 129–140.

Kassenova, N. 2016. Kazakhstan's Policy Toward Afghanistan: Context, Drivers and Outcomes.

In: *Afghanistan and Its Neighbors After the NATO Withdrawal*, edited by Amin Saikal and Kirill Nourzhanov (Lexington Books), pp. 97–110.

Kassenova, N. 2015. The EU Strategy for Central Asia: Imperatives and Opportunities for Change. A View from Kazakhstan. *Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES) EU Papers*, September 2015. http://www.fes-centralasia.org/files/assets/publikationen/Nargis%20Kassenova_new.pdf.

Central Asian Studies Center

College of Social Sciences, KIMEP University

KIMEP Central Asian Studies Center (CASC) was created in November 2010 with the aim to become a regional hub for academic and graduate research on Central Asia. Since then every semester it has been organizing series of events: guest lectures, roundtables, and conferences. It has been facilitating the research of foreign scholars, especially Ph.D. candidates, and serving as a coordinator of research links between foreign universities and KIMEP.

www.casc.kz

[facebook.com/casc.kz](https://www.facebook.com/casc.kz)

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Photo on page one

Nygmət Ibadıldın

Graphic designer Till Ulen

Correction: Jiří Melich was mistakenly named the news editor of the previous issue.

