

## **Kazakhstan**

**(667)**

### **UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme**

#### **Progress report**

**Period of activity: 2006**

#### **UNESCO Chair in Science and spirituality**

**Report established by: Prof. Meruert Abusseitova, UNESCO Chairholder, Institute of Oriental Studies**

### **I. Activities**

#### **1. Education/Training/Research**

##### *Education*

- PhD in History  
Duration: 3 years  
Target groups: postgraduate students  
Geographical coverage for partners and participants: national

##### *Training*

- study of the Persian language  
Duration: 2 years  
Target groups: postgraduate students, academics  
Geographical coverage for partners and participants: national

##### *Research*

- History and Culture of Central Asia: Ancient, Middle Ages, Modern Times  
Duration: 2 years  
Target groups: 4 postgraduate students, 15 academics, 5 teachers from adult education  
Geographical coverage: national  
Intended use of results: publication of the articles and book at the end of the project
- Islam in the Medieval History of Kazakhstan and Central Asia  
Duration: 2 years  
Target groups: 3 postgraduate students, 14 academics, 3 teachers from adult education  
Geographical coverage: national  
Intended use of results: publication of the articles and book at the end of the project
- The Phenomenon of Migration in multiethnic Societies  
Duration: 2 years

Target groups: 2 postgraduate students, 9 academics, 1 teacher from adult education

Geographical coverage: national

Intended use of results: publication of the articles and book at the end of the project

- Religious and Secular Dimensions of the Socio-Cultural Space in Post-Soviet

Duration: 2 years

Target groups: 1 postgraduate student, 2 academics

Geographical coverage for partners: national

Intended use of results: publication of the articles and book at the end of the project

## **2. Conference/Meetings**

### *Conference 1*

- "Towards the New Standards of the Development of the Social Sciences in Central Asia" (Part 2)

Dates and place: 10-11 October 2006, Almaty

Participants (number and geographical coverage): 20 people, international (France, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan).

### *Conference 2*

- "Historic-Cultural Links between Iran and Desht-i-Kypchak"

Dates and place: 23-24 May 2006, Almaty

Participants (number and geographical coverage): 41 people, international (15 foreign participants)

### *Conference 3*

- "Nomadic Imperia of Eurasia: History and Modernity", devoted to the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mongol Empire

Dates and place: 9-10 October 2006, Almaty

Participants (number and geographical coverage): 32 people, international

### *Conference 4*

- "Kazakhstan and the Oriental Countries: History and Modernity" – annual young scholars readings in memoriam of Prof. Veniamin Yudin

Dates and place: 30 March 2006, Almaty

Participants (number and geographical coverage): 22 people, national

### *Conference 5*

- "Eurasian in the Context of the World History", V Eurasian Academic Forum

Dates and place: 15 October 2006, Astana

Participants (number and geographical coverage): 60 people, international

## **3. Interuniversity Exchanges/Partnerships**

There are agreements on the academic exchange and partnership with the following institutions:

- St-Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences (St-Petersburg, Russia)

- Abu Raikhan Beruni Institute of Oriental Studies of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan (Tashkent, Uzbekistan)
- India-Central Asia Foundation (New Delhi, India)
- Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology of the Academy of Social Sciences of China (Beijing, China)
- First Historical Archive of China (Beijing, China)
- Academic Centre of Socio-Economic Researches at the Academy of Sciences of Mongolia (Ulgii, Mongolia)

#### **4. Publication and multimedia materials**

##### *Publication*

- Book 1  
Title: The Kazakh Diaspora: History and Modernity.  
Author(s): Mendikulova, Gulnara.  
Publisher(s): World Association of the Kazakhs, Almaty  
Year: 2006  
Language(s): Russian  
Number of pages: 344 (paperback)
- Book 2  
Title: Islam and Society in Contemporary Kazakhstan  
Author(s): Jalilov, Zaur  
Publisher(s): Daik-Press, Almaty  
Year: 2006  
Language(s): Russian  
Number of pages: 200 (hardcover)
- Book 3  
Title: Interrelations of Turkey and Central Asia in the Context of Enlarging Europe  
Author(s): Proceedings of the Research Conference  
Publisher(s): Daik-Press, Almaty  
Year: 2006  
Language(s): Russian  
Number of pages: 424 (paperback)
- Book 4  
Title: Disputes of Central Asian Muslim Religious Authorities in XX century  
Author(s): Babadjaniv, B., Muminov, A., Kugelgen, A. fon  
Publisher(s): Daik-Press, Almaty  
Year: 2007  
Language(s): Russian  
Number of pages: 273 (hardcover)
- Periodical (periodicity)  
Type: Academic journal  
Title: Shygys-Orient  
Periodicity: 2 times a year  
Languages: Kazakh, Russian, English
- Teaching/learning material

Title: Iranian Sources on the XIII-XIX centuries History of the Kazakhs and Kazakhstan

Author(s): Tulibayeva, Zhuldyz

Publisher(s): Gumilev Eurasian National University, Astana

Year: 2006

Language(s): Russian

Number of pages: 256

- Teaching/learning material

Title: Peoples Republic of China

Author(s): Orman, A.

Publisher(s): Daik-Press, Almaty

Year: 2006

Language(s): Russian

Number of pages: 712

## II. Outcomes

The main project was the conference “Towards the New Standards of the Development of the Social Sciences in Central Asia” held in October 2006. It allowed to define a framework for a joint project of a new kind – the publication of two big books - “The History of Central Asia: From Ancient to Modern Times” and the book-album “The Art of Central Asia”

## III. Forthcoming activities

### The action plan of the Chair for 2007-2008:

1. International Conference “*Islamic Civilization in Central Asia: Past, Present and Future*”, 4-6 September 2007, Almaty. This conference will be organized together with the IRSICA (International Research Center on the Study of the History, Culture and Art at the Organization of the Islamic Conference, OIC). The main domain of the conference will be the questions of the science and spiritual, cultural interaction in Central Asia in retrospective and prospective; the role of Central Asian great ancient scholars and philosophers such as al-Farabi, al-Biruni, etc. on the spiritual and cultural life in the region; the modern science-culture interaction.
2. International Conference “*China-Mediterranean Worlds Up to 12 century*” is scheduled for May 2007, Almaty. The questions of Kazakhstan and Central Asia as a part of the Great Silk Road from China to Europe, its role, significance and potentials are among the issues of this conference.
3. There is the project of the Chair on “The Role of Education in the Inter-cultural and Inter-Religious Dialogue” that could be implemented together with the UNESCO Chairs Network. Within the frameworks of this project could be organized the interdisciplinary workshop “*Ethics of the Science, Education and Information in the Cultural and Religious Spheres*”.
4. Publication of the books: “*The History of Central Asia: From Ancient to Modern Times*” and the book-album “*The Art of Central Asia*”.

## IV. Development Prospects

Action aimed at obtaining a stable permanent status of the Chair/Network in the structure of the Institution

*Short and medium term:* The Chair will continue to benefit from the Institute's status as one of the leading academic research center in Kazakhstan. This means, first of all, the financial, human and material support from the Institute. In 2007 the Institute was granted the status of the national institution which implies its higher status in the field as well as the new possibilities for development.

*Long term:* With the spreading of **the Bologna Process in Kazakhstan** (till 2010) the Institute will strive for getting an opportunity to implement MA (and then – BA) education. This means that the Chair will also become involved in this process through preparing the special courses within its framework, educating students and inviting foreign lecturers.

*Expanding activities and broadening partnerships:* At these first years of the Chair's activity we implemented a series of mainly research activity. Now it is a time to expand it at the more broad community – other universities and institutions (through joint projects and network) as well as general public (through public lectures, TV appearances, etc). This means the continuation of the fundraising activity and new agreements.