



Message from  
HE David Moran  
British Ambassador to the  
Republic of Kazakhstan

**K**azakhstan's 20th anniversary as an independent country is a real landmark. The country has made good use of this time to deliver significant economic and social progress. Over the last two years, I have been able to witness this impressive process firsthand. One of Kazakhstan's wisest investments has been in its own people. Now there is an entire generation of Bolashak alumni scholars who have been able to make their own contribution to this young but energetic nation. The economic and human potential has attracted a lot of international interest from Kazakhstan's friends and partners – as a place for trade and investment, as well as a country which has evolved its own multivector foreign policy.

Britain is a committed partner, consistently among the top five foreign investors in Kazakhstan. British and Kazakhstani business representatives often tell me of the benefits they see in our active trade relationship. I recently returned from a visit to the London Stock Exchange and Cambridge University with a senior

Kazakhstani delegation. Both sides were excited about the reality of our existing co-operation in financial services and innovation, and the scope for doing much more. Kazakhstan is similarly active in the diplomatic arena, chairing the OSCE and Organisation of Islamic Co-operation, to name just two. The UK is keen to continue to work with Kazakhstan on promoting the core human values celebrated in the Astana Declaration issued at last year's OSCE Summit.

Looking forward, the next twenty years contain much promise as well as many challenges. Kazakhstan's welcome emphasis on economic innovation can equally be applied to other spheres of governance. All over the world, society and popular expectations are changing in an increasingly connected environment. The challenge for governments is to keep pace and deliver results which meet evolving political, economic, and social expectations. Britain and Kazakhstan are natural partners in all of this, and I congratulate all the people of Kazakhstan on the occasion of the 20th anniversary. **E**