

Astana – an innovative city

By **ADILBEK DZHAKSYBEKOV**

MAYOR OF THE CITY OF ASTANA



ADILBEK DZHAKSYBEKOV graduated with a degree in Economic Sciences. From 2003 to 2004 he was Minister of Industry and Trade of Kazakhstan. Between 2004 and 2008 he was Head of the Presidents Administration of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Between 2008 and 2009 he was the Ambassador of Kazakhstan to the Russian Federation. From 2009 to 2014 he was Minister of Defence, and in 2014 he was appointed State Secretary of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and the Mayor of Astana.

Over the past two decades, Kazakhstan has established itself as a politically stable country with a growing economy.

The country’s capital, Astana, has been the driving force behind this development. The progressive transformation of Astana in such a short space of time serves as an example to other regions and cities.

Despite this impressive track record, Astana’s Akimat (Administrator) continues to make all efforts to improve the living standards of the residents in the city by promoting development through innovation.

The data below shows how Astana has reached the next stage of its ongoing transformation:

The Gross Regional Product for the first nine months of 2014 was 2496.8 billion tenge – 8.7 per cent higher than the same period in 2013. Compared to data from 2013, the value of investments in 2014 has risen by 12.6 percent to 644.1 billion tenge.

The State budget contributions in Astana in 2014 grew by 25.3 per cent, totalling 764.3 billion tenge. Local budget revenues in 2014 equalled 164.3 billion tenge, while own revenues in 2014 increased by 16 per cent compared to the previous year.

As for large-scale social and investment projects which rely on Astana’s economic potential, the right to host the International Specialized Exhibition EXPO-2017 is seen as one of the biggest achievements.

This victory confirms Astana’s accomplishments to date, particularly in areas of technological and economic development.

Under the title of ‘Future Energy’, the EXPO will help Kazakhstan to achieve its goal of becoming sustainable in clean energy.

The EXPO will contribute to Astana’s vision for innovative development in a number of ways. Firstly, it will help us to identify solutions to become more energy efficient through the ‘Astana Green City’ initiative. Secondly, it will improve transportation in the city through the ‘Astana Mobility’ initiative. Thirdly, the ‘Welcome to Astana’ initiative will create a more comfortable lifestyle for the city’s residents.

In addition, and most importantly, the EXPO has already facilitated the ‘Smart Astana Project’, which saw the introduction of a number of hi-tech services in Astana. These have included the E-Ambulance, School of Future Now, Open Wi-Fi, Intelligent House, Smart Life and Automated Pharmacist.

Furthermore, the Intelligent Transport System and the Safe City programme have also been rolled out well in advance of the EXPO. To date, tens of thousands of video cameras and tens of smart traffic light systems have been installed throughout the city. These preparations are critical if we are to host a successful EXPO in 2017.

The innovative changes currently taking place in our capital provide the solid grounding required for further development. I’m confident that in the years to come, Astana will become a developed, intelligent and innovative city, which utilises modern technologies to make life even more comfortable and exciting for its residents and visitors.

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Astana: the capital city undergoing innovative development

