



Message by  
Rt. Hon. Greg Hands MP  
Minister of State  
for Trade and Investment  
Department for  
International Trade

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the UK Pavilion at the Astana Expo. This Pavilion is a symbol of UK creativity, showcasing British inventions throughout history. From steam locomotion to graphene - the strongest, thinnest and most permeable material that we've ever discovered – one can find examples of how UK innovation has always sought to push boundaries and shape the way we live.


The UK is part of an international presence of 115 countries here at the Astana Expo 2017, finding innovative solutions to the important questions surrounding Future Energy. Creating a more secure and sustainable world for future generations is one of the noblest causes we can pursue. That is why the UK Pavilion's theme is "We are Energy". It shines a light on the role that we, as individuals, can play to help overcome the world's most pressing challenges.

I am proud that the UK's Department for International Trade has convened the whole of the government in co-ordinating an ambitious business programme for the Expo. We will help demonstrate the UK's impressive capabilities across the various strands of Future Energy – be it through reducing carbon, or alleviating poverty, through access to reliable low cost energy.

The UK is widely considered to be one of the best places in the world to invest in renewable energy, and the technology within our oil and gas sector is second to none. In creating a more sustainable and prosperous world for all, I am confident that UK talent, expertise and creativity will play a leading role in delivering this vision.

A final word on Kazakhstan, our generous hosts. As the largest economy in Central Asia and an energy producing giant, it is only appropriate that the Expo is held in its capital. UK-Kazakhstan business ties are extensive and deep. Visitors may have seen the beautiful Palace of Peace and Reconciliation whilst in Astana. Not all of them will know that it was designed by British architects.

The UK is not only one of the largest investors in Kazakhstan, but joined forces with leading Kazakh businesses to establish the only foreign chamber of commerce in Astana. You'll also find British companies operating in the financial services, legal and education sectors here in Kazakhstan, and we are ambitious for our collaboration to continue.

I hope all visitors, young and old, find their experience of the UK Pavilion enjoyable, inspiring and thought provoking. Together, we can make a real difference. 

Opening night at the  
Astana Expo 2017

