



Foreword by  
Rt. Hon. Charles Hendry  
UK Commissioner,  
Astana Expo 2017

The UK is delighted to participate in Astana Expo 2017 and welcomes the focus on the important issue of future energy.

As the world's population and urbanisation continue to grow, so does the demand on the earth's finite natural energy sources. Meeting this demand requires a global effort. The UK takes seriously its role in addressing the environmental, economic and social challenges which sustainable energy production raises.

We hope that the journey through the UK Pavilion at Expo and associated programme of cultural, education and business events in Astana, illustrate a strong contribution to a more sustainable future. You will also discover how expertise across a range of technologies and services supports that goal and makes the UK a business partner of choice. We invite you to a range of installations and events highlighting the UK's flair for innovation and academic excellence which have led to ground-breaking discoveries.

The UK is a renowned world leader in oil and gas extraction and distribution, as well as in the off-shore wind power sector. Having established the world's first civil nuclear programme, the UK now has Europe's largest off-shore wind farm, as well as Europe's largest solar panel array on water.

With an estimated 64 per cent of the world's population set to live in cities by 2050, the UK is contributing world-leading smart city technologies which will help address the challenge of mass urbanisation and support a high quality of life for all.

The UK is committed to energy security and to action on climate change by cutting UK greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80 per cent by 2050 and by sourcing at least 15 per cent of energy from renewable sources by 2020. By this time, the majority of the UK's renewable energy will come from onshore and offshore wind, biomass electricity and new technologies. It makes the UK one of the best places in the world to invest in renewable energy.

And, via the recent discovery of advanced material graphene, the UK is leading a new

wave of scientific breakthroughs. Its potential, still largely untapped, is certain to play a crucial role in the storage and conductivity of energy - creating new possibilities for the way future generations live their lives.

The UK was one of the first countries to commit to taking part in Expo, and we have taken one of the largest pavilions. That is quite right for one of the countries with the largest foreign direct investment in Kazakhstan. The relationship has been built through the active engagement of many British companies and workers in the 25 years since independence. It was consolidated by the visit of then Prime Minister David Cameron in 2013 - the first serving British Prime Minister to visit - and the visit of President Nursultan Nazarbayev to the United Kingdom in 2015.

To date, much of that investment has been in the oil and gas sector, but now we are focussing on broadening the cooperation to other sectors. There is great opportunity particularly in mining, in financial services where the City of London is working closely in the creation of the Astana International Financial Centre, and in education - at all levels.

We are especially proud that so many of the brightest young Kazakhs have come to study in the UK, many through the excellent Bolashak scholarship programme, and many more coming individually. Many of these inspiring young people are now taking on senior positions in government and business.

During Expo, we will be delighted to welcome senior representatives from the UK government and business to build the relationship further. We are delighted that HRH The Duke of Gloucester will be leading the UK delegation at our National Day, to be followed shortly afterwards by a financial services delegation led by the Rt. Hon. the Lord Mayor of the City of London.

I join the whole of the UK Pavilion team, and colleagues in the Department for International Trade and the British Embassy in Astana, in welcoming you to our pavilion to share a journey of discovery and inspiration. I hope you enjoy it.