



Wednesday, 30 November 2016, Zunfthaus zur Meisen, Münsterhof 20, 8001 Zurich



The **Swiss-Asian Chamber of Commerce**, in close collaboration with the **Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan**, kindly invites you at short notice to a key event on **Kazakhstan's Business and Investment Opportunities**.

Kazakhstan is located in the heart of the Eurasian continent, and is a bridge between Europe and Asia, in the vicinity of rapidly growing markets of China, Russia and India. Its favorable geographical position, macroeconomic, social and political stability have established Kazakhstan as one of the most attractive investment climates in the region.

The EU member-states are Kazakhstan's largest trading partners, followed by the Russian Federation, China, Switzerland, Ukraine, Turkey and the USA.

The total volume of foreign direct investments which went into Kazakhstan's economy in the course of 2005-2015 has reached 215 billion US dollars.

In Kazakhstan, investors are granted a package of investment incentives for the implementation of business projects in the priority sectors of the economy. This package is unique in the region. President Nazarbayev chairs the Foreign Investors Council and has regular meetings with foreign investors. The Government established a "single window" for investors - special offices around the country where investors receive a wide range of government services such as business registration and work permits.

The Government introduced the institute of the Investment Ombudsman and established a "single window" for investors - special offices around the country where investors receive a wide range of government services such as business registration and work permits.

In 2015, a new Entrepreneurial Code and a new Labor Code were adopted, both aimed at improving the business environment. Efforts to remove bureaucratic barriers have resulted in the improvement of its ranking on the annual **World Bank "Doing Business"** report from 41 to 35 out of 190 in 2016.

The country has developed a number of **major infrastructure projects**, such as: **Khorgos** dry port on the Chinese border; the port of **Aktau** on the Caspian Sea; "**Western Europe – Western China**" **international transit corridor**, passing through Kazakhstan and making it possible to reduce cargo transportation time from Lianyungang in China to St. Petersburg in Russia to 10 days. Over the past five years, new railways with a total length of 1,791km have been constructed.

The country is developing port infrastructure through the ports of other countries: the seaport of Batumi in Georgia, providing access to the Black Sea and the Kazakh-Chinese logistics terminal in the Pacific port of Lianyungang.

In the economic field Kazakhstan is implementing a number of the strategic policy documents:

- The "Nurly Zhol" State Program of Infrastructure Development for 2015- 2019. The key objective is to connect the Kazakh regions by main tracks and modernize the logistical, social and industrial infrastructure.
- The State Program of Industrial-Innovative Development for 2015-2019 with the major focus on development of non-extracting sectors of the economy, including machinery building, agro-processing, petrochemicals and transportation services.
- The concept of transition to the "green economy". It is expected that by 2050 up to 50% of electricity will be generated by alternative and renewable energy sources; additional GDP growth will be 3% minimum.
- The Complex Plan of Privatization for 2016-2020, which enhances pre-sale preparation and accomplishing sale of objects of public property and quasi-public sector by engaging independent consultants, and accepting target indicators, planned for a 15% decrease in the number of quasi-public sector's organizations by the year 2021. Under the terms of the plan, and estimated 783 organizations will be privatized and equipped to thrive in a competitive market.
- "The National Plan – 100 specific steps", providing for far-reaching changes in order to implement the five institutional reforms: the formation of a professional state apparatus, enforcement of the rule of law, industrial development and economic growth, identity and unity, and the formation of an accountable state.
- In addition, the International Financial Center (IFC) will be opened in 2017 in Astana, which will include a new court for financial and investment disputes, applying English law and using the English language in the proceedings with the participation of foreign arbitrators.

Kazakhstan is a **member of the Eurasian Economic Union** (hereinafter – the EAEU), which implements a common trade policy, along with Armenia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and Russia. Within the EAEU, **the countries secure the free movement of goods, services, capital and labor force**, and pursue a coordinated, coherent and unified policy in the sectors of the economy.

In **2015, Kazakhstan joined the World Trade Organization** as the 162nd member. According to WTO requirements, amendments were introduced to more than 100 legislative acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan and a substantial number of international agreements adopted within the EAEU. As part of Kazakhstan's commitments undertaken within the framework of its accession to the WTO, the Government will proceed with significant liberalization of key services sectors, such as financial services and telecommunications, and guarantee a non-discriminatory market opening for foreign investors in construction, energy related and transportation services.

All the above-mentioned efforts, combined with a growing middle class, provide trade and investment prospects for Swiss firms seeking new opportunities in one of the most dynamic of the emerging markets.

Most importantly, we hope this will be an event where new business and investment opportunities may be identified and deep links may be forged with Kazakhstan.

Schedule:

11:20 – 11:30hrs	Registration , Zunfthaus zur Meisen, second floor, Münsterhof 20, 8001 Zurich
11:40 – 11:45hrs	Welcome Address: Dr. Urs Lustenberger , President, Swiss-Asian Chamber of Commerce, Zürich
11:45 – 12:10hrs	Keynote Speech: <i>Kazakhstan - The Investment Destination</i> H.E. Mrs. Zhanar Aitzhanova , Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Swiss Confederation, Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Geneva
12:10 – 12:25hrs	Business Opportunities in Kazakhstan Mr. Maxat Suleimenov , Counsellor, Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Berne
12:25 – 12:40hrs	Cooperation with Kazakhstan and recent visit of the business delegation to Astana and Almaty Representative of the Chamber of Commerce Switzerland – Russia & CIS
12:40 – 13:00hrs	Q & A
13:00 – 14:00hrs	Networking Lunch
14:15hrs	Approx. End of the event



This event is kindly co-supported by the

Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Registration Form

Registration: Please register by returning the form below to the Swiss-Asian Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 1073, 8032 Zurich, faxing 041/620 88 03 or emailing sacc@sacc.ch, by Friday, **25 November 2016, at the latest**. The cost of the event, which includes a networking luncheon, is CHF 140.00 for SACC Chamber-Members and CHF 160.00 for Non-Members. You will receive a confirmation including the invoice after your registration. Cancellations will be accepted until Friday, 25 November 2016, noon-time: - otherwise a full no-show charge applies.

Last Name: First Name:

Position: Company:

Full Address:

Phone: Fax: E-mail:

Date: Signature: