

Kazakhstan

N.S. Bektourganov

Minister of Education and Science



Becktourganov Nuraly Sultanovich was born on 7 January 1949 in Astana. Completed secondary schools No 3 in Astana. In 1971 he graduated from Kazakhstan polytechnic institute of V.I.Lenin, on specialty "Metallurgy of non-ferrous metals". As a young specialist started work in Chemical metallurgy institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Kazakhstan (CMI AS RK) in the position of engineer, later on leading engineer, research assistant. In March 1977 has gained master's degree, in 1989 -PhD. From 1979 until 1982 has served as a scientist secretary in CMI AS RK. From 1988 -the head of the laboratory, and from 1990 the head of the division. In 1992 N. Becktourganov has been appointed as a deputy academician secretary, the same year appointed as a deputy of the Head of Karagandy oblate administration. In November 1997 N. Becktourganov has been appointed as a Director of the Department of internal policy, in May 1998 - Vice-minister of

information and public accord of the Republic of Kazakhstan. In December 2000 appointed as Minister of education and science of the Republic of Kazakhstan. He masters German and English languages at intermediate level. He has published 263 scientific studies. Married has 3 children.

Education in Kazakhstan: a step into the 21st century

During the ten years of the country's independence, the educational system was able to adapt to the demands of the market economy. It has rationalized its structure and network without affecting the society, has increased the budgets, and has moved on to financing the "subjects" (i.e. concrete persons) rather than the "objects" (i.e. institutions) of education. It has also formed a modern base of norms and legal instruments.

1. Transition to the 12-year schooling

The introduction in Kazakhstan of the 12-year schooling, already adopted in the world community, will allow to train competitive school graduates able to continue their studies in the higher educational establishments in Europe. The concept of the Kazakh model of the 12-year schooling supposes a new organization of education at the last phase (11-12th grades) based on the capacities and needs of each pupil. Firstly, this covers the teaching of the humanities, natural sciences, physics and mathematics and other disciplines through a system of "profile" schools or classes, and later – the continuation of education in the higher educational establishments. Secondly, it concerns the vocational training through the system of primary education (vocational schools), secondary education (colleges) in parallel with the general secondary education. This will allow to increase the demands for our graduates on the labor market and to assist them to better adapt to the new economic conditions.

2. Informatization of the educational system

The State programme of the informatisation of the secondary educational system, initiated by the President N.A. Nazarbaev, is being implemented since 1997. By the beginning of the new school year, the computerization of all schools will be achieved. At present, an Information system of educational management is being introduced, which unites in one network all educational managerial organs, educational establishment and the majority of schools of Kazakhstan. The Concept and Programme of informatisation of the entire educational system of the country have been elaborated. In order to improve the quality of education at all levels, the Ministry of Education is working on the introduction of the new information and communication technologies in education. In co-operation with UNESCO, pilot projects are being developed for the introduction of various forms of distance learning. One of the important steps towards the informatisation of the educational system at all levels is the creation of a centralised educational information resource base of Kazakhstan.

3. Reforming of the higher vocational education

This country was one of the first to sign the Lisbon Convention on the recognition of the qualifications in the field of the higher education in Europe. Now we have to resolve a number of new problems linked to the need of establishing the equivalency in the higher education, received abroad, and the legalisation of the diplomas. The first steps in this direction have already been made. The Classifier of training trends and disciplines of the higher vocational education of new generation has been prepared. The Classifier is in harmony with the international standards of the classification of education, which have been recommended by UNESCO to the states signatories to the Lisbon Convention. A system of the state accreditation for the institutions of the higher vocational and postgraduate vocational education has been introduced. Using the experience of the leading countries of the world, Kazakhstan undertakes to unify the efforts of the educational establishments and the research institutes in order to improve the quality of training of specialists and to more efficiently involve the youth in the scientific projects already during the school years. Thus, the principle of “education through science” is being implemented. Over 30 scientific and research centers have been set up in universities. Kazakhstan signed agreements in the field of education with a number of countries and is gradually occupying its place in the international educational space. *С*