

# 20 YEARS

OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN  
**Kazakhstan & Pakistan**





ISBN 978-969-9684-01-2  
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**20** YEARS  
OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN  
**Kazakhstan & Pakistan**

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**Embassy of Kazakhstan**

First Edition Published, 2012

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## PREFACE

Kazakhstan and Pakistan are celebrating two decades of their diplomatic relations this year. But these relations are surpassed by centuries of cultural, religious and historical ties. Diplomatic and political relations between the two countries were established in 1992 and have since grown from strength to strength. Soon after gaining independence, the President of Kazakhstan, H.E. Nursultan Nazarbayev paid a visit to Pakistan which reflects the significance and importance that both countries attach to each other. During that historic visit in February, 1992 a number of key documents were signed to establish the relations on a solid footing. In 1995 Prime Minister of Pakistan, Benazir Bhutto flew to the Kazakh capital to return his excellency's visit. On this occasion both countries signed Joint Statement on Perspectives of Bilateral Relations. The relations continued to grow following these visits and acquired a regional dimension in the wake of the happenings in Afghanistan on which both countries have unanimity of views. During the tenure of the present PPP government both President Asif Ali Zardari and Former Prime Minister, Syed Yusuf Reza Gilani have visited Kazakhstan. Pakistan and Kazakhstan support each other in various international and regional organizations. Kazakhstan has great appreciation for Pakistan's role in the War on Terror.

In addition to strengthening of political contacts between the two countries there has been significant development in cooperation in the fields of energy, agriculture, science and technology. Both countries are cooperating in medium and small-scale industries, scientific research, upgrading and modernization of infrastructural facilities as well as training programmes. A major advance that has materialized is the formation of the Joint Economic Commission to boost economic ties. The number of bilateral documents exceeds thirty including interstate, intergovernmental and interdepartmental agreements, which have laid down a solid foundation for long-term partnership. A number of Pakistanis are working in Kazakhstan and earning good will for the country. It is a fact that both countries have been able to continue their cooperative relationship despite hindrances. It is to be hoped that the depth and breadth of this relationship will continue to tap the possibilities that arise in the future.

This commemorative publication celebrates and records the ever growing Pak-Kazakh relationship. It documents this happy journey of friendship and goodwill. We regard this work as a labour of love we could not have completed without excellent cooperation of our Kazakh counterparts. We plan to translate the book subsequently in the official languages of Pakistan and Kazakhstan for wider readership and understanding.

*Kazakhstan - Pakistan Dosti Zindabad*

## The Republic of Kazakhstan 1991 - 2011

### **Introduction**

At the heart of the ancient Silk Route, Kazakhstan has for many centuries been a vibrant hub of both trade and culture, a place for meeting, debate and dialogue between civilizations and religions of East and West. The ninth-largest country in the world as well as the largest landlocked nation, Kazakhstan is four times the size of Texas and five times the size of France. The country has as its neighbours Russia, China, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.

### **Declaration of Independence**

On December 16, 1991 the Republic of Kazakhstan declared its independence. Today, the citizens of the Republic have much to celebrate as they contemplate twenty years of peace, progress and independence. Achievements of which all citizens of Kazakhstan can be especially proud are in the areas of:

### **Foreign Relations:**

Kazakhstan has reached out to form alliances with its neighbours and build bridges to more distant nations. Its efforts were recognized by the international community when it was awarded the Chair of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in 2010.

### **Nuclear Non-Proliferation:**

One of the first acts of the President of the Republic in 1991 was to close the infamous Semipalatinsk nuclear testing site. Working in partnership with the United States, Kazakhstan went on to safely destroy the nuclear weapons it inherited from the Soviet era. Kazakhstan's contribution to halting the spread of weapons of mass destruction was recognized when in 2009 the U.N. General Assembly adopted a Kazakh initiative to declare August 29th -- the anniversary of the closure of the Semipalatinsk facility -- "International Day Against Nuclear Tests".

### **Economic Growth:**

In the 20 years since declaring independence, the Republic of Kazakhstan has made a successful transition from a planned to a market economy. Between 2000 and 2007 the economy grew by over 9% each year while along the way Kazakhstan:

- repaid all of its debt to the International Monetary Fund – 7 years ahead of schedule,
- was granted “market economy status” by the US and

# GLIMPSES OF KAZAKHSTAN



**Presidential Palace**



**Baiterek Tower**

## GLIMPSES OF KAZAKHSTAN



**Astana Masjid**



**Khoja Akmet Yassazi**

investment grade credit rating by Moody's Investor Service.

- attracted over US\$136bn of Foreign Direct Investment (an estimated 80% of all FDI in Central Asia)
- vastly improved the economic security and wellbeing of its citizens – GDP per capita rising from US\$ 696 in 1993 to US\$ 9,070 in 2010.

More detail on Kazakhstan's achievements in each of these areas is to be found in the pages that follow. As Kazakhstan celebrates twenty years of independence, it reaffirms its commitment to work for peace, progress and harmony both in Kazakhstan and among the nations of the world.

### Foreign Relations:

A vast and lightly-populated country at the heart of Central Asia, Kazakhstan has always cultivated good relations with its neighbours as much as among its own diverse ethnic groups. Since independence in 1991 Kazakhstan has worked to become a unifying force in the region and build bridges to more distant neighbours. Just one year into

“Kazakhstan since its independence has not only made a successful policy of necessary economic modernization, but also perpetuated ethnic and religious harmony between Russians and Kazakhs. I welcome this factor of stability and cohesion.”

*Thierry Mariani, Secretary of State for Transport of France, speaking at the IV Astana Economic Forum, May 3, 2011.*

independence, President Nazarbayev proposed to the UN General Assembly in 1992 convening of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA). The driving force behind this initiative was the desire to create an effective framework for ensuring peace and security in Asia. Today, CICA is an international forum of 24 countries, working to support peace, security and stability in Asia and around the world. As a nation of great ethnic and religious diversity, the Republic of Kazakhstan has from the beginning fostered global inter-cultural dialogue. In 2003 the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions was inaugurated in Astana to serve this purpose. Since then the event has been held every three years and has gained worldwide recognition. The fourth Congress - which was held in Astana in May 2012 - had a theme “Peace and Concord as the Choice of Mankind”. The Republic of Kazakhstan was the first post-Soviet state to be awarded the Chair of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in 2010. Kazakhstan worked during its Chairmanship to give new

impetus to the international organization, enhancing measures to address serious challenges facing the OSCE community. The culmination of the year was the adoption of the Astana Commemorative Declaration at the OSCE Summit in December 2010. The Declaration marked a new departure for the OSCE, committing signatories to joint implementation of a free, democratic, common and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community based on shared principles and goals.

The practical experience gained by Kazakhstan in chairing the OSCE is being put to further good use in its Chairmanship of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in 2011-2012. The OIC brings together 57 states with an aggregate population of over 1.5 billion people.

Kazakhstan has proved its commitment to the efforts of the international community to stabilize and rebuild Afghanistan. The International Contact Group on Afghanistan met in Astana in 2011 to exchange views and develop specific interaction measures. Looking to the future, Kazakhstan has allocated a fund of US\$50million to educate 1,000 Afghan students in civic professions in the universities

“We have accomplished much together since December 16, 1991, and today, Kazakhstan is charting a future in which our two countries will continue to work together to promote regional stability, build prosperity, advance democracy, and expand our economic and energy partnership.”

*Barack Obama (U.S. President) - letter to President Nazarbayev on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of Kazakhstan's independence, December 15, 2011.*

of Kazakhstan. Kazakhstan continues to develop its role as an international broker of security and stability among nations. At the 66<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly, Kazakhstan announced its candidacy for the position of non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for 2017-2018. Efforts are also underway to have Almaty given the status of sub-regional hub of multilateral diplomacy as a UN Regional Centre.

### **Nuclear Non-Proliferation:**

Since declaring its independence in 1991, the Republic of Kazakhstan has proven its strong commitment to the peaceful use of nuclear energy and opposition to nuclear arms proliferation. In his first official act as President in 1991, Nursultan Nazarbayev signed a decree permanently closing the Semipalatinsk nuclear testing site. An unwanted legacy

from the Soviet era, the infamous Semipalatinsk site saw the first Soviet nuclear detonation in 1949 - and some 450 more in the following decades.

The closure of Semipalatinsk was followed in 1993 by Kazakhstan's signing of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and one year later, its adoption of the protocols of the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) - committing Kazakhstan to stringent IAEA oversight, including comprehensive declarations, reporting, and site-access obligations. The US provided support on decommissioning and reducing risks of nuclear proliferation, especially through the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Programme. The final nuclear warheads were removed from the territory of Kazakhstan in 1996 and in 2003, the Central Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty was signed in Semipalatinsk. Kazakhstan remains today a key player in non-proliferation cooperation, both bilaterally with the US and increasingly in the IAEA.

A major milestone for Kazakhstan was the 2009 adoption by the U.N. General Assembly of a Kazakh initiative to declare August 29th -- the anniversary of the closure of the Semipalatinsk facility -- "International Day Against Nuclear Tests." One year later, at the 2010 Nuclear Security Summit in Washington, D.C., U.S. President Barack Obama praised President Nazarbayev as "one of the model leaders in the world on nonproliferation and nuclear safety issues."

"Kazakhstan has shown extraordinary leadership in nuclear disarmament. In 1991, President Nazarbayev made a courageous decision to shut down the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site and renounce nuclear weapons. That was a visionary step, a true declaration of independence."

*Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the UN- on a 2010 visit to Semipalatinsk.*

### **International Cooperation:**

The challenge facing Kazakhstan on independence was to redirect its nuclear expertise towards the development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy. From the beginning, Kazakhstan has seen international collaboration as essential to this process. Kazakhstan has systematically pursued agreements with key global nuclear companies on the creation of conversion, enrichment and fuel assembly production facilities – to complete the nuclear fuel cycle and promote peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

By 2010, joint ventures and strategic alliances had been formed with major nuclear power companies in Canada, China, France, Japan and Russia. In 2007, Russia and Kazakhstan formed the International Centre for Uranium Enrichment (ICUE), with the approval of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The ICUE will

“Through [the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Programme] the United States and Kazakhstan forged a partnership to safely destroy the nuclear weapons it inherited from the Soviets. From that base of cooperation, Kazakhstan emerged as an important player in stopping the spread of weapons of mass destruction. Kazakhstan will celebrate the 20th anniversary of its founding on December 16 of this year and throughout these two decades, it has remained committed to the success of global non-proliferation efforts.”

*US Senator Richard Lugar (R-IN) at Indiana University on November 10, 2011.*

essentially act as a uranium fuel reserve to provide developing countries with non-discriminatory access to low-level nuclear fuel for power generation - while keeping the sensitive technology for uranium enrichment under international supervision.

“The threat of nuclear terrorism puts us in a race between cooperation and catastrophe. The kind of cooperation we see again and again from Kazakhstan on a continuing basis can help us win that race.”

*Sam Nunn, Co-chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Nuclear Threat Initiative Former U.S. Senator (D-GA), – speaking at the Kazakhstan: Strengthening International Cooperation for Peace and Security Symposium, Ust-Kamenogorsk, October 2005.*

### **The Economy of Kazakhstan:**

Kazakhstan is endowed with vast natural resources, the carefully-planned development of which has been a key part of the country's strategy over the 20 years since independence. Its natural resources include:

- The world's largest reserves of barite, lead, tungsten and uranium
- The world's second-largest reserves of chromites, silver and zinc
- The world's third-largest reserves of manganese
- Significant deposits of copper, gold and iron ore

- Current oil reserves of 30 billion barrels (twice as much as the North Sea)
- Current natural gas reserves of 2 trillion cubic meters

With a forecast increase of oil reserves to around 100 billion barrels by 2015, Kazakhstan is set to take its place in the top 3 oil producers in the world. Equally, natural gas reserves are set to more than double to 5 trillion cubic meters by 2015. In 2009, Kazakhstan overtook Canada to become the world's top exporter of uranium.

Agriculture also remains an important element of Kazakhstan's economy, accounting for 10% of exports in 2005. Grain and livestock are the most important commodities: with a record grain harvest of 29 million tons in 2011, Kazakhstan is among the top 6 global exporters of grain. The Government continues to promote this sector, recently announcing transportation subsidies for grain to Black Sea and Baltic ports and an increase in the number of grain rail wagons.

“Kazakhstan leadership's consistent policy on effective use of national resources for the benefit of citizens, responsible and proactive policy on the international scene has earned the country high prestige worldwide. A clear evidence of this was the OSCE summit held in Astana...”

*Dmitry Medvedev, President of the Russian Federation.*

### **The Transition to a Market Economy**

In the 20 years since declaring independence, the Republic of Kazakhstan has made a successful transition from a planned to a market economy. The nascent state introduced its national currency, the tenge, in 1993 and by 2000 Kazakhstan was the first former Soviet Republic to repay all of its debt to the International Monetary Fund – 7 years ahead of schedule. Between 2000 and 2007 the economy grew by over 9% each year.

In 2002, the economic transformation of Kazakhstan received two significant endorsements: firstly, when the US granted the country “market economy status”, secondly when Kazakhstan became the first country in the CIS to be awarded an investment grade credit rating by a major international credit rating agency (Moody's Investor Service).

### **Natural Resources as the Engine of Kazakhstan's Economy**

Since 1993 Kazakhstan has attracted over US\$ 136bn of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) – an estimated 80% of all FDI in Central Asia. Despite the global economic and financial crisis, FDI continues to flow

into the country in the region of US\$ 18-19bn annually, a tangible measure of international confidence in the strength and stability of the economy of Kazakhstan. Kazakhstan continues to set itself ambitious targets for economic success.

“Over the past 19 years, the Government and the people of Kazakhstan have made great strides in protecting the country's independence and sovereignty, promoting socio-economic development, improving people's lives, and expanding foreign relations.”

*Hu Jintao, Chairman of the People's Republic of China*

- During the Fourth Economic Forum in Astana (May 2011) President Nazarbayev announced that the aim is now to join the club of high income countries, increasing GDP per capita to \$15,000 by 2016 (from \$9,000 in 2010).
- 2010 saw the launch of the State Program of Accelerated Industrial and Innovative Development for 2010-2014: the main objectives are to create new, export-oriented, high-tech manufacturing; develop infrastructure; support innovation; and invest in regional training and education.

### GDP

1993: 29,423m tenge / US\$ 11.4bn

2010: 21,816bn tenge / US\$ 148bn

### GDP Per Capita:

1993: 1,796 tenge / US\$ 696

2010: 1,336,466 tenge / US\$ 9,070

### Investment in Fixed Assets

1999: 369,084m tenge

2009: 4,585,298m tenge

### Foreign Trade Turnover – US\$M

1995: Exports: US\$ 5,250m

Imports: US\$ 3,806m

2010: Exports: US\$ 59,830m

Imports: US\$ 30,839m

# GLIMPSES OF KAZAKHSTAN



Metro of Almaty City



Kazakh Musical Instruments

Traditional Kazakh Men Dress

## GLIMPSES OF KAZAKHSTAN



**Medalist with President**



**Traditional Dance**

**Life in Kazakhstan:**

For the 16.5million people of Kazakhstan, the twenty years since independence have brought an unimaginable increase in prosperity, achieved in an environment of religious tolerance and harmony between the diverse ethnic groups that are a legacy of the country's complex history.

**Ethnic Diversity:**

Kazakhstan is historically home to a variety of ethnic groups and religions and in the 20 years since independence has continued to embrace this diversity. Today, people of more than 130 ethnic groups belonging to over 40 religions live together peacefully in Kazakhstan. The two main religious groups are Islam (70% of the population – the majority being Sunni Muslims) and Christianity (26% - with the majority adherents of the Russian Orthodox faith). Hundreds of mosques, churches, synagogues and other houses of prayer have been built in the years since independence, with the total number now over 3,000 from just 670 in 1990.

The Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan is a national political body comprised of delegates from the Regional Assemblies. Its task is to represent the many different ethnic groups that make up the population. The 350 members represent over 100 ethnic groups and the Assembly is chaired by the President of the Republic, Nursultan Nazarbayev. The Constitution of Kazakhstan stipulates that nine deputies of the Mazhilis (the lower chamber of Parliament) are elected by the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan.

**Education:**

Investment in education has been central to the development of modern-day Kazakhstan. The Bolashak scholarship programme has provided thousands of young people with undergraduate and postgraduate education around the world, including many in the United States. Nazarbayev University, the new educational flagship of Kazakhstan, opened in Astana in 2010. Kazakhstan also offers educational advancement to Afghanistan through a fund of \$50 million which enables Afghans to study in the universities of Kazakhstan.

GDP per capita  
 1993: US\$ 696  
 2010: US\$ 9,070  
 Proportion of people with incomes below the subsistence level  
 1996: 34.6%  
 2009: 8.2%  
 Unemployment rate  
 1996: 13.0%  
 2010: 6.6%

**Gender Equality:**

In the United Nations Development Report 2011, Kazakhstan ranks 56th among 146 countries on the Gender Inequality Index (an advance from its position of 66th among 138 countries in 2010). The GII is a composite measure reflecting inequality in achievements between men and women in three dimensions: reproductive health, empowerment and the labour market.

Kazakhstan has shown a tremendous improvement in key health indicators over the last 20 years and on key empowerment and labour measures Kazakhstan scores higher than the average for countries with high human development:

- Maternal mortality is now 45 per 100,000 live births vs 140 for the period 2003-2008.
- 13.6% of Parliamentary seats are held by women (average: 13.5%)
- The labour force participation rate for women is 66% (average: 48%).

**Sports:**

The Kazakhstan team has produced the true sensation at the recent Olympic Games at London. According to the result of the main sports event of four years Kazakhstan gained 7 gold, 1 silver and 5 bronze medals and 13 medals in total. The country is on the 12th place of the overall standings. The XXX Olympic Games have become the most successful in the history of Kazakhstan. President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev named the three main sources of the Olympic triumph. The first is the state support of sport. To date the country has over 33 thousand sport facilities, 70 thousand different classes, and 3 million Kazakhstan residents are doing physical fitness. The second source of success is the talent, gifts, will for victory and excellent skills of coaches. And the third is the unity of people.

**President Nursultan Nazarbayev Address to Nation****Socio-Economic Modernization is Next Main Vector of Development**

Kazakhstan has identified social and economic modernization as its main vector of development for the next decade, President Nursultan Nazarbayev said as he outlined major priorities of this new direction in his state-of-the-nation address.

“New tasks to strengthen the economy and improve people's welfare represent the new stage in Kazakhstan's development path,” the President told the members of the Parliament, the Government, and the people of the country during his address televised live nationally.

He went on to note that finding the optimal balance between achieving economic success and providing public goods is vital for Kazakhstan. For this, the country needs to implement a set of tasks in ten directions, he said.

Nazarbayev named employment as the first direction. “On my instruction, the Government has approved a fundamentally new employment programme,” the President said. The programme targets tasks such as the creation of an effective system of training and employment assistance, providing greater support for entrepreneurship, and increasing labour mobility. The large-scale implementation of the programme will begin this year, the President said.

Affordable housing was named as the second direction. Each year Kazakhstan commissions six million square metres of new housing. However, more than half a million of young families require own homes. To solve the problem of housing, the President instructed the government to develop and adopt a state programme named “Affordable Housing 2020” by July 1.

Development of regions and small towns is the third direction. The country should build new plants and create industrial jobs and social infrastructure in economically promising areas. President highlighted the development of small single-industry towns as a separate issue. As

the Zhanaozen disturbances last December have shown, single industry towns are vulnerable to social risks. Therefore, the government was instructed to prepare a special programme on the development of one-company towns.

The fourth direction concerns the improvement of the quality of public services. “It is an important aspect of combating corruption and enhancing public trust in the activities of state bodies.” For this, the country needs to develop e-government, simplify administrative procedures, and improve computer literacy of the population, the head of state said.

As the fifth direction, Nazarbayev named the improvement of human resource capacity. “Our most important task is to prepare a skilled political class of managers. I instruct the Government and the Presidential Administration to prepare proposals on candidates for the Presidential personnel corps by the end of the first half of 2012,” he said. This body will form the basis of a new managerial elite, which will lead the country in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The President identified modernisation of the judiciary and law enforcement systems as the sixth direction. The procedure for the formation of the judiciary need to be radically revised, the new Criminal and Procedure Code need to be completed, and the draft bill on private detective activity is to be prepared. Another important task is to update the personnel of law enforcement and special bodies.

Qualitative growth of human capital in Kazakhstan is the seventh direction, which concerns the improvement of education and health. The country needs to introduce advanced techniques and technologies in education process, improve the quality of the teaching staff, and increase access to education for young people. Another important task is to increase the availability and quality of medical services, as well as to promote healthy lifestyle.

The eighth direction relates to the pension system. Nazarbayev instructed the Government and the National Bank to develop proposals to improve the pension system, especially as far as the oversight of the pension funds is concerned. The industrial and innovation projects must continue to be implemented, the President said next. Therefore, he said the Programme of Accelerated Industrial and Innovative Development will remain the benchmark of economic modernisation. He also outlined several major multi-billion-dollar projects that the Government is to implement within the next few years, including the

construction of a power station in Balkhash, a petro chemical plant in Atyrau, a gas processing plant at the Karachanganak field and a set of gas pipelines throughout the country.

Last but not least, Nursultan Nazarbayev named the development of agriculture. Kazakhstan will introduce mechanisms of state support for retailers without intermediaries, create a single grain holding, and establish a state system of guarantees and insurances to reduce risks of private investment in agricultural production, the President said.

President Nazarbayev stressed that the Government needs to strengthen the innovation system of the country. Diversification of foreign direct investments in Kazakhstan remains an important issue as well. They must be directed to promising industries such as tourism, the President said as he called for the development of skiing resorts near Almaty.

He also went over key aspects of Kazakhstan's foreign policy for the decade ahead. "We have responded to the global challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century by deepening integration on the Eurasian space. As a responsible member of the international community, Kazakhstan will continue to actively seek ways to strengthen peace and security. Kazakhstan will remain committed to a balanced foreign policy, interacting both with the West and Asia," Nazarbayev said. He listed several key events this year in the foreign policy area, including the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures which now brings together 24 states from Israel to Iran to India to Pakistan to China and Vietnam.

"Today, the whole world and every state need to find answers to powerful global and domestic challenges. By performing the tasks in ten directions of the socio-economic modernisation, we will strengthen the economy, make our society stable, and improve the well-being of our people," the President said.

President Nazarbayev called social modernization the central issue for the new Parliament and the Government, as well as all responsible forces such as Kazakhstan's parties, public associations, creative and professional unions, the media.

"We must unite all the forces for the benefit of our motherland. I call on all the citizens of Kazakhstan to take active part in the work to achieve the identified goals," the President concluded.

**Key Country Facts : Kazakhstan**

**Population:** About 16.5m (2011).

**Continent:** Kazakhstan is one of only five transcontinental countries: 95% of its territory lies in Central Asia, 5% in Europe.

**Area:** 2.7 million square kilometers

**Relative size:** Ninth-largest country in the world– and the largest landlocked nation.

**Capital City:** Astana (since 1997).

**Ethnic Groups:** 130 ethnic groups: Kazakh 64%, Russian 22.8%, Uzbek 2.9%, Ukrainian 2%, Uighur 1.4%, Tatar 1.2%, German 1.1%, Other 4.5% (2011).

**Religions:** Over 40 religious affiliations: 70% Muslim, 26% Christian, while others include Buddhists, Judaists and Atheists.

**Languages:** Kazakh is the state language, Russian has official status under the Constitution.

**Climate:** Continental: cold winters (-40 C), hot summers (+40 C).  
Terrain is arid and semi-arid.

**Time Zone:** West/East (UTC+5/6).

**Political System:** Secular democracy, governed by a Constitution approved by referendum in 1995 and amended in 2007. The Constitution defines Kazakhstan as a presidential-parliamentary republic which values individual life, rights and freedoms and has a considered system of checks and balances between the executive, legislative and judicial branches of Government.

**Administrative Divisions:** 14 oblasts (regions) and two cities: the capital Astana at the heart of the country and Almaty to the south.

**Economy:** A market economy, one of the three fastest-growing in the world between 2000-2010 (Ernst & Young), fuelled by vast natural resources.

**Currency:** Tenge

**Internet Domain:** Kz

**Islamic Republic of Pakistan****Introduction:**

Nineteenth century witnessed emergence of a host of newly independent states on the map of the world. Pakistan is a distinguished post-colonial state as it was acquired by the Muslims of the sub-continent without resorting to civil war and bloodshed. The country owes its existence to the long and historic struggle of Muslims of subcontinent who with zeal and zest stood against all odds achieved their goal after a long sequence of just political and constitutional struggle under the leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah. Islamic Republic of Pakistan emerged on the map of the world as a sovereign country on 14th August, 1947 after the division of sub-continent. It has a long history of five thousand years. Pakistan covers 881,888 Sq. km. with a population of 187,343,000 (2011 est.). Pakistan is also termed as “Land of Pure People”.

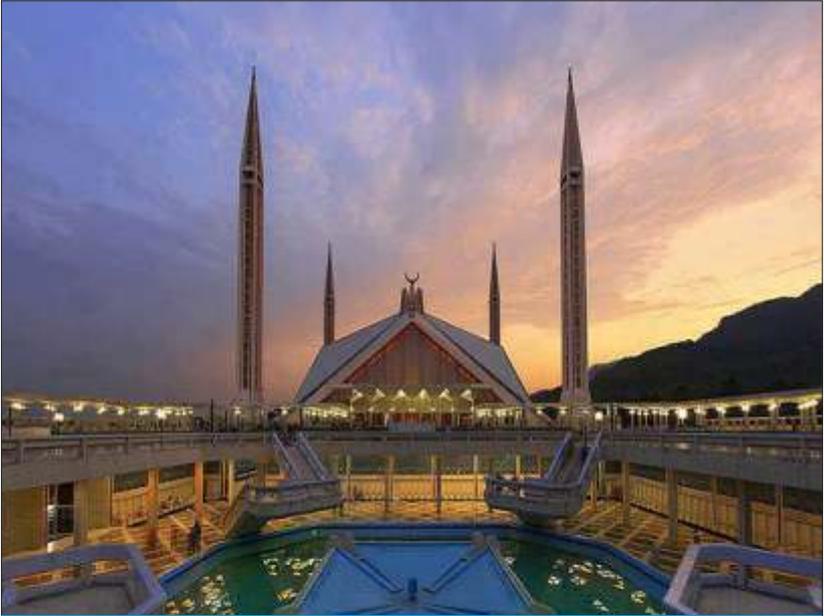
**Geography:**

At the time of independence, Pakistan (including East and West Units) inherited 23 per cent land mass of Indian sub-continent. After separation of East Pakistan, it was left with an area of 881,888 Sq. km. which is home to more than 180 million population. Pakistan has its borders with Iran to the Southwest, Afghanistan to the west and north, China to the northeast, and India to the East. Arabian Sea makes the southern boundary of Pakistan.

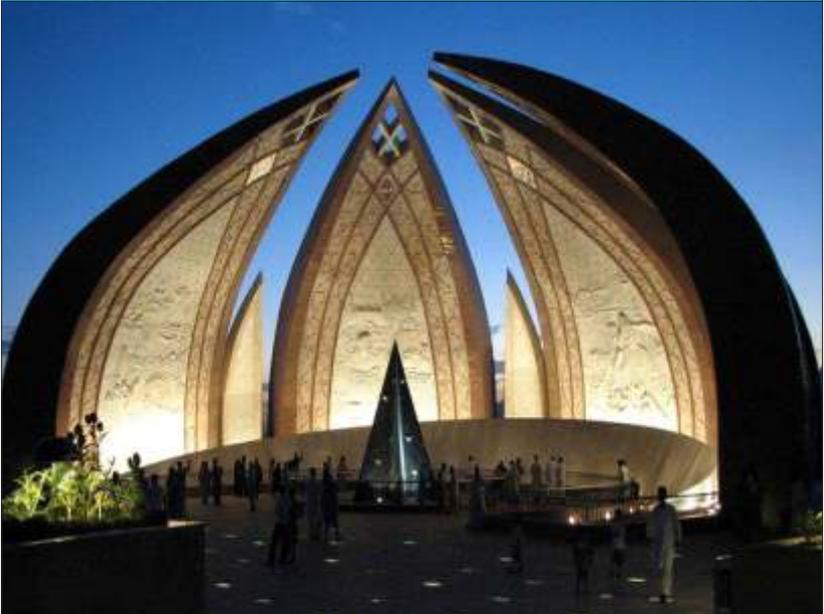
The state derives its strategic significance from the fact that it provides a junction between Middle East, Central Asia and the South Asia. The famous Khyber Pass and Bolan Pass have served as traditional migration routes between Central Eurasia and South Asia. Like many post-colonial countries, Pakistan has inherited controversial international borders. It has territorial conflict with India over the Kashmir issue and the border dispute of Durand Line with Afghanistan. Pakistan has seen the ramifications of the geopolitical borders in terms of conventional war with India over Kashmir, millions of refugees from Afghanistan in 1970's.

The geography of Pakistan is a blend of landscapes varying from plains to deserts, forests, hills, and plateaus ranging from the coastal areas of the Arabian Sea in the south to the mountains of the Karakoram range in the north. Pakistan is divided into three major geographic areas: the northern highlands; the Indus River plain; and the Balochistan Plateau. The northern highlands of Pakistan contain the Karakoram, Hindu Kush and Pamir mountain ranges, which incorporate some of the

## GLIMPSES OF PAKISTAN



**Faisal Masjid, Islamabad**



**Pakistan Monument, Islamabad**

## GLIMPSES OF PAKISTAN



Shangrilla, Skardu



Sharda Bridge on River Neelum, AJK

world's highest peaks, including K2 (8,611 m/28,251 ft) and Nanga Parbat (8,126 m/26,660 ft). The Balochistan Plateau lies to the West, and Thar Desert in the East. An expanse of alluvial plains lies in Punjab and Sindh along the Indus River. The main rivers are the Indus (2,749 kilometers within Pakistan) and its tributaries: the Chenab (730.6 kilometers), Ravi (680.6 kilometers), Jhelum (611.3 kilometers), and Sutlej (530.6 kilometers). The navigable portions of these rivers are generally small and unconnected as a result of seasonal variations in water flows and the presence of substantial irrigation structures.

**Climate of Pakistan:**

Pakistan's climate ranges from tropical to temperate with arid conditions existing in the coastal south, characterized by a monsoon season with adequate rainfall and a dry season with lesser rainfall. There are four distinct seasons. Rainfall can vary radically from year to year, and successive patterns of flooding and drought are common. The diversity of landscape and climate in Pakistan allows for a wide variety of trees and plants to flourish in this region. The forests range from coniferous alpine and subalpine trees such as spruce, pine, and deodar cedar in the northern mountains to deciduous trees such as the mulberry-type Shisham in the Sulaiman range in the south.

**People of Pakistan:**

Pakistan is home to 180 million culturally, religiously and ethnically diverse people. Punjabis, Pushtuns, Sindhis, Balochs, Sarikis, Hindkowans, and the Brahui, and the various peoples of the Gilgit–Baltistan. The demographic distribution is also diverse that most of the population is residing along the Indus River. Indus River has its own civilization and that is of centuries old. Pakistan is home to over 97 per cent of Muslims and the remaining 3 per cent is other religions. Approximately 95 percent of the Muslims are Sunni and 5 percent Shia. The country was founded to promote religious freedom, and the constitution guarantees freedom of religion. Islam is the state religion, and the constitution has been formed keeping in focus Quran and Hadith. The constitutions states that religious practice is “subject to law, public order, and morality.” The government also has Islamic institutions such as the Federal Shariat Court and the Council of Islamic Ideology, which advise politicians on the congruence of legislation with Islamic injunctions.

**Language:**

Official language of Pakistan is English and Urdu is the national language. There are six major languages other than English and Urdu.

While it has also been estimated that other than these languages there are 75 or 80 different kinds of language spoken in the whole country and they are based on the variant dialects. As Pakistan's national language, Urdu has been promoted as a token of national unity. Quite recently, Urdu has undergone change and evolution thus making it one of the most modern language which is constantly changing and evolving from its original form.

Substantial population of Pakistan includes youth as according to an estimate of 2004, 40.2 per cent of the population was aged 14 or younger, 63 per cent was 15–64 years of age, and only 4.1 per cent of the population was 65 and older. This youthful population is an asset for Pakistan.

**Education:**

The education sector in Pakistan is handled by the Ministry of Education and the provincial governments, whereas the federal government mostly assists higher education, accreditation, research and development. The article 25-A of Constitution of Pakistan obligates the state to provide free and compulsory quality education to children of the age group 5 to 16 years. The education system is divided into five categories or levels. Literacy rates vary regionally, particularly by sex. Public expenditure on education is 2 per cent of GDP. However, the government recently approved the new national education policy, which stipulates that education expenditure will be increased to 7 per cent of GDP. According to the Quality Standard World University Ranking 2010 there are two Pakistani universities among top 200 Technology Universities of the World. Eleven Pakistani other universities including Institute of Space Technology (IST), Quaid-e-Azam University, National University of Science & Technology, University of Karachi, ranked among World Top Universities of world, according to World Ranking of Universities.

**Politics and Political Environment:**

Politics within Pakistan has many constitutional variations linked to implementation of governance and government system in the country. Pakistan is a constitutional democracy and is a federation of four provinces. There has always been, however, a consensus among the political parties and ruling establishments about the role of Islam and federal status of the country. Since 1947, three major constitutions (1956, 1962, 1973) have been implemented in Pakistan.

Members of the National Assembly are elected to 5 year terms (the

length of the parliamentary term) unless the Assembly is dissolved early (which is at the instigation of the Prime Minister). The National Assembly elects the Prime Minister, who is the head of government and must be a member of the National Assembly. On 24th March 2008, the National Assembly elected Yousaf Raza Gilani as Prime Minister. He was later disqualified by the Supreme Court of Pakistan. The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) holds the most seats but with no overall majority and so currently leads a coalition government. In the upper house or Senate, 92 members are elected by each of the four provincial assemblies, which are represented in equal number. There are 12 additional members from the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and the Islamabad Capital Territory. The Federal Cabinet is drawn from both the National Assembly and the Senate.

The President is the head of state. They are elected to five-year terms by an electoral college consisting of members of the Senate, National Assembly, and provincial assemblies. The President can serve a maximum of two consecutive terms. The current President is Asif Ali Zardari, who was elected on 6th September 2008. The 18th Amendment, passed in April 2010, has granted provinces authority over much of what was previously federal policy including areas such as education and health.

### **Neighboring Environment/ Regional Context**

Pakistan is present at the crossroad of Middle East, Central and South Asia. It is surrounded by big and unreceptive neighbors which makes its security a high profile issue for its politics and economy. Both internal and external aspects of its politics have high impact on regional politics. On the other hand, the political, economic and military developments in the three adjacent regions and the neighboring states have direct consequences for Pakistan.

The nature and scope of its external relations has been delineated clearly in the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence. They emphasize co-operation, friendliness and non-interference. However, its military preparedness and strategy is a credible symbol of security from any possible external threat. Pakistan has the eighth largest standing armed force and is the only Muslim-majority nation to possess nuclear weapons. Pakistan is the first nuclear power country in the Muslim world, and second in the South Asia. It is designated as a major non-NATO ally of the United States and a strategic ally of China. The country has been a major proponent of regional, Islamic and international cooperation in fields of both traditional and non-traditional security. It is a founding member of the Organisation of the

Islamic Cooperation (formally the Organisation of Islamic Conference) and a member of the United Nations, Commonwealth of Nations, Next Eleven Economies and the G-20 developing nations.

The regional environment has greatly improved for Pakistan since 1947. South Asian countries have agreed to a Preferential Trade Agreement and are aiming at free trade arrangement in the future within the framework of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). There are plans to link up South Asia with roads and oil and gas pipelines from Central Asia and Iran. Pakistan is a member of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), which is an economic entity with ten member countries including Central Asian states, Iran, Afghanistan, and Turkey. Pakistan has also close relations with South East Asian countries and is a member of the Asian Regional Forum (ARF).

**Economy:**

At the time of partition, Pakistan inherited a fragile economic structure. There were inadequate banking infrastructure, poor agriculture and weak industrial base. Most of the technically skilled personnel had migrated to India, and educationally unskilled Muslim masses lacked immediate capability to run the economic engines of the state. Refusal of Indian government to transfer assets to Pakistan added to the plight. The early governments, nevertheless, put their efforts for economic uplift of the country. National level efforts were launched along with an encouragement of private investment. Agricultural and industrial development banks (ADB & IDB) were established.

These efforts played a vital role in economic development. However, constant political instability always hindered economic prosperity. As such, Pakistan is profiled a developing country. It has the economy that is 47th largest economy in the world in case of nominal terms. Pakistan has semi-industrialized economy. The government attaches the highest priority to economic and social development. Agriculture sector is responsible for 21.8% of its economy with cotton, rice, wheat, sugarcane and maize as the major crops. Pakistan is an exporter of fruits, especially citrus, and fish and fish preparations. Industrial sector accounts for 24% of the economy. Textiles, chemicals, food processing, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, iron and steel, building materials, cement, fertilizers, sports goods, surgical goods, and leather goods are the mainstay of the industrial sector and the country's exports. Energy, IT and small and medium sized industries are among the fastest growing sectors in the country.

Pakistan's role in the war on terror in the post 9/11 era put an undue pressure on its economy. Foreign aid for the purpose increased inflation rate in the country. The 2008 democratically elected government inherited an economy with a current account deficit of 8.4 % of GDP. The Global Financial Crisis in the same year had further impact on the country's economy. However, despite these challenges, the country has continued gain economic stability. The focus is also laid upon grassroots economic uplift in terms of efforts like Balochistan Package, Benazir Income Support Program etc.

Pakistan's strategic location at the cross roads of Central Asia, South Asia and South West Asia endows it with great potential to become a hub of economic activity. That is why, in addition to the available extensive rail and road network, the government is developing highways, rail roads and most significantly the Gwadar Port has also been developed to link up adjoining regions of Central Asia and beyond. The government has also emphasised foreign investment. Efforts for trade and energy cooperation and connectivity have been initiated with countries like Tajikistan, Iran, China and Turkey. Pakistan resourcefulness and strategic position has a great potential to advance the economic development of the whole surrounding regions.

### **Special Features of Pakistan:**

Pakistan is having unique and distinct features that often make it stand out amongst community of nations. Like for example the irrigation system of Pakistan is almost three times larger than that of Russia while in case of agriculture production, Pakistan is world's twenty-fifth largest producer and is also standing at the position of fifty-fifth in industrial production. Pakistan has world's fourth largest coal, seventh largest copper and sixth largest gas reserves. Tarbela Dam, built on Indus River, is second largest dam in the world. Kan Mehtarzai railway station in Pakistan is highest station in Asia and is located 2240 meters above sea level near Quetta. Shundur Polo ground is one of the highest polo ground in the world. Karakoram Highway (KKH) is the highest paved international road in the world. Gwadar is one of the largest deep sea port in the world. Khewra salt mine is also second largest salt mine in the world. Pakistan has also one of the largest ambulance organization, Edhi foundation. The world's second and ninth highest mountains, K2 and Nanga-Parbat, are in Pakistan. The official and national sport of Pakistan is field hockey. In the year 1992, Pakistan had 5 World Titles in different sports at the same time including Cricket, Hockey, Squash and Snooker. Deosai National Park located in Skardu, Astore Districts of Gilgit-Baltistan in Pakistan, is at an average elevation of 4,114 metres (13,497 ft) above the sea level, making the Deosai Plains the highest plateau in the world.

## Key Country Facts : Pakistan

**Official Name:** Islamic Republic of Pakistan

**Capital:** Islamabad

**Area:**

Total	881,888 Sq. km.
Punjab	205,344 Sq.km.
Sindh	140,914 Sq. km.
Khyber Pukhtoorkhwa	74,521 Sq. km.
Balochistan	347,190 Sq. km.
Federally Administered Tribal Areas	27,220 Sq. km.
Islamabad (Capital)	906 Sq. km.
Gilgit-Baltistan	72,496 Sq. km
Azad Jammu & Kashmir	13,297 Sq. km

**Population:** 180 million (estimated 2011)

Pakistan is divided into four provinces viz., Khyber Pukhtoorkhwa, Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan. The tribal belt adjoining Khyber Pukhtoorkhwa is managed by the Federal Government and is named FATA i.e., Federally Administered Tribal Areas. Azad Jammu & Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan have their own respective political and administrative machinery, yet certain of their subjects are taken care of by the Federal Government. Provinces of Pakistan are further divided into Districts

**Religion:** 95% Muslims, 5% others. Annual per capita

**income:** US \$1085

**GDP:** 5.8%

**Currency:** Pak. Rupee.

**Languages:** Urdu (National) and English (Official)

**Literacy rate:** 53%

**Government:** Parliamentary form

**Parliament:** Parliament consists of two Houses i.e., the Senate (Upper House) and the National Assembly (Lower House) .

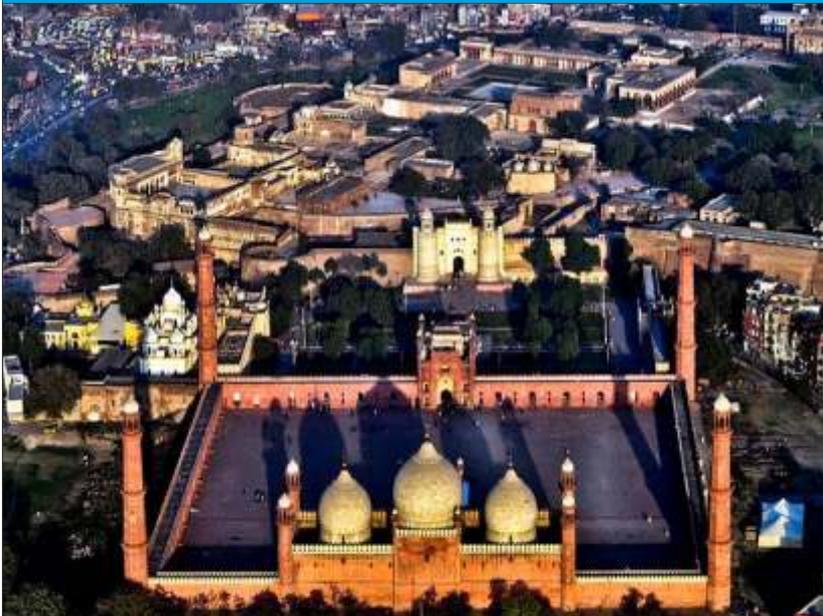
**Head of the State:** Asif Ali Zardari, President

**Head of Government:** Raja Pervez Ashraf, Prime Minister

## GLIMPSES OF PAKISTAN



**Kalash Spring Festival**



**Aerial view of Lahore**

## GLIMPSES OF PAKISTAN



**Ibex in Northern Areas**



**K-2, World's Second Highest Mountain**

**Kazakhstan - Pakistan Relations****Establishment of Diplomatic Relations:**

Pakistan and Kazakhstan established diplomatic relation in February 24, 1992. The relations became formal after opening of the Embassy of Kazakhstan to Pakistan in November 27, 1994. From November 2006 Mr. Bakhitbek Shabarbayev was accredited as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Kazakhstan to Pakistan. Relations between Pakistan and Kazakhstan are growing ever since and are marked by a significant cooperation in different areas ranging from science and technology to cooperation in medium and small-scale industries, research and scientific cooperation, upgrading and modernization of existing infrastructural facilities as well as training programs. One of the major among this is the formation of Joint Economic Commission, so as to boast economic ties with each other. The number of the bilateral documents exceeds thirty interstate, intergovernmental and interdepartmental agreements thus placing a solid foundation of long-term partnership between two countries in all areas of mutual interest.

**High Level Visits:**

Soon after independence of Kazakhstan, the first high level visit from Kazakhstan to Pakistan was that by the President H.E Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev on 24 February, 1992. He was the first President from the region to visit Pakistan. During the visit some basic documents were signed to establish relations on solid footing. After the visit of President of Kazakhstan, Pakistan reciprocated with the visit of the then Prime Minister of Pakistan Benazir Bhutto, who paid an official visit to Kazakhstan in August 1995. During her visit, both countries signed Joint Statement on Perspectives of Bilateral Relations. In October 28-30, 1996, President of Pakistan Farooq Leghari went for an official visit to the brotherly country. After a break of four years, in November 2000, Chief Executive of Pakistan, General Pervez Musharraf paid working visit to Kazakhstan. He, again, visited Almaty to participate in the First Summit of Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), in June 4, 2002.

After these series of high level visits from Pakistan, President of Kazakhstan, Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev paid official visit to Pakistan during December 8-9, 2003. During this visit, various issues of bilateral relations were discussed to enhance cooperation and collaboration. The landmark achievement of the visit was signing of a bilateral Investment Treaty, which marked beginning of a new era of cooperation in investment and trade relations. Four other agreements

were also signed on development of academic cooperation between National University of Modern Languages, Islamabad and the Ablai Khan University, Almaty. There were agreements signed in terms of cooperation in the sphere of environment, agreement between State Bank of Pakistan and the National Bank of Kazakhstan on conditions for opening subsidiary banks and cooperation in the area of Banking Supervision and on the establishment of bilateral relations in the field of urban economic management.

In July 2005, Prime Minister of Pakistan Mr. Shaukat Aziz participated in the Summit of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation(SCO), when Pakistan acquired the status of an observer state in this forum. Kazakhstan was amongst the countries in the forefront to support Pakistan's bid for observer status in SCO. During the trip, on the sidelines of the summit, Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz held various meetings with high level officials of Kazakhstan. Later, on June 17, 2006, President of Pakistan Mr. Pervez Musharraf took part in the Second CICA Summit in Almaty.

Quite recently, President Asif Ali Zardari paid an official visit to Kazakhstan to participate in 10th summit of SCO which was held on June 15, 2011. Pakistan is now currently seeking full membership status to SCO. President Zardari held bilateral meetings with various heads of state of SCO member countries during the sidelines of the summit. Former Prime Minister of Pakistan, Syed Yusuf Reza Gilani paid two-day official visit to Astana in September 7,2011. He made several key meetings including meeting with President of Kazakhstan Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev. Both heads of states agreed to counter common challenges of terrorism and extremism by reinforcing bilateral cooperation to ensure regional stability and prosperity.

### **Visits of Ministers:**

Along with the visits of heads of state of both countries, there are various other ministerial level visits between both the countries that are going on since the beginning of the relations. Below is information about various notable and successful visits of various ministers.

### **Visits from Ministry of Foreign Affairs:**

On January 13-14, 1994, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, Mr. Aseef Ahmad Ali visited Kazakhstan. During meetings, Protocol of Cooperation between Ministries of Foreign Affairs of two countries was signed. Later in August 1994, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, Mr. Kanat Saudabayev reciprocated and visited Pakistan. On March 23, 1997, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan Mr.

Kassym-Jomart Tokayev visited Islamabad where he participated in OIC Summit. In June 1997, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, Mr. Sahabzada Yaqub Khan travel to Kazakhstan on an official trip and discussed situation in Afghanistan with his counterpart. On March 5-7, 1999, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, Mr. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev again visited Pakistan to discuss perspectives of economic cooperation. In February 2001, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, Mr. Erlan Idrissov visited Pakistan to present invitation by President of Kazakhstan Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev to the then President of Pakistan, General Pervez Musharraf for the CICA Summit in Almaty. On October 22, 2004, State Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Makhdoom Khusro Bakhtyar took part in CICA Ministerial Meeting. In April 2005, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan Mr. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev visited Islamabad where he participated in Ministerial Meeting of Asia Cooperation Dialogue.

Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar visited Astana twice in 2012. First she participated in the 38th session of Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (ICFM) and second time for the SCO Summit. ICFM is a very important forum and Pakistan, being an active member of OIC, has always given it the highest consideration. Ms. Rabbani met with Prime Minister of Kazakhstan and Foreign Minister along with discussing issues with other state dignitaries. ICFM is another important joint decision-making forum. She also accompanied President of Pakistan to Astana to participate in SCO summit in June 2012.

### **Ministry of Defence:**

Pakistan and Kazakhstan has an extensive cooperation in field of defence and defence productions. To boost ties in the sector, Minister of Defence of Pakistan Mr. Chaudhry Ahmad Mukhtar took part in the SCO meeting of Heads of States on October 30, 2008, held in Kazakhstan. Minister met with Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Mr. Karim Massimov to discuss economic and military-technical cooperation.

### **Cooperation in the field of Communications:**

Both states have also initiated the cooperation in the field of communications. Minister of Communications of Pakistan Mr. Arbab Alamgir Khan visited Almaty to participate in International Road Transport Union's 5th Euro-Asian Road Transport Conference, "The Reopening of the Silk Road: from Vision to Reality", on June 11-12, 2009. During the recent visit of Prime Minister of Pakistan, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, Premier of Kazakhstan urged and shared the need

with the his counterpart to commence direct flights between Astana and Islamabad via state-owned Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), which was acknowledged by the Premier Gilani and he agreed on working on such commencement which would also lead to a boost in ties between the two countries.

**Tourism:**

Pakistan and Kazakhstan are blessed with rich cultural heritage and both the countries provide various tourist attractions for the enthusiast around the world. There are various historical sites in Kazakhstan that can be of attraction to the tourists in Pakistan and vice versa. To enhance cooperation in this regard and boost ties in tourism sector, various steps have been taken by both states. Like for instance Minister of Tourism of Pakistan, Mr. Atta-ur-Rehman participated in the 18th session of the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization in Astana, on October 2-8, 2009.

**Cooperation and Support in various International and Regional Forums:**

Pakistan and Kazakhstan supported each other at every international and regional forum. Both states have shared objectives of peace and cooperation through collaboration in various fields and areas of mutual interest. Important area of Kazakhstan-Pakistan cooperation is interaction in the framework of international organisations and forums, such as United Nations, Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia( CICA ) , Congress of World and Traditional Religions, OIC, Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Ministerial Conference “Common World: Progress though Diversity” and others. Recently Pakistan has been elected as non-permanent member of United Nations Security Council for two years and in this regard, Pakistan received full support from Kazakhstan.

Pakistan is one of the first countries which supported initiative on Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) and took active part in preparation of basic CICA documents. In September 1999, in Almaty, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan Mr. Sartaj Aziz participated in CICA Meeting which adopted the Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations between the CICA Member States. CICA members bring this forum offers great opportunities for cooperation. The forum has rich cultural, historical, economic and social diversity that has enhanced status of the forum to much higher level. Strategic location of Pakistan offers great opportunity to act as an energy and trade corridor linking Central Asia, South Asia and West Asia. Pakistan has always supported CICA

initiatives which is also reflective of the continues representation at the forum. In June 2002, President of Pakistan Mr. Pervez Musharraf took part in the First Summit of Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) in Almaty. In October 2004, State Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Makhdoom Khusro Bakhtyar took part in CICA Ministerial Meeting in Almaty. On June 17, 2006, President of Pakistan Mr. Pervez Musharraf took part in the Second CICA Summit in Almaty. In 2006, delegation of Pakistan supported initiative to hold CICA-OSCE Joint Consultative Forum “XXI Century - New Challenges to Security and Stability” in Kazakhstan. Pakistan ratified Statute of the CICA Secretariat and delegated its official as staff member of this Secretariat.

Another significant regional forum is Shanghai Cooperation Organisation(SCO) which is unique as it embodies geopolitical advantages and high level of economic and strategic significance. The members make almost three fifth of the landmass of Eurasia and a quarter of the world's population. SCO has a charter that reflects on working for peace, cooperation, development and openness in an effort to bring a new international and regional order. SCO has six members, four observers, two dialogue partners and three guests. Pakistan has been given observer status in July 2005, in Astana, during SCO Summit. Prime Minister of Pakistan Mr. Shaukat Aziz participated in the official ceremony. Representative of youth wing of Pakistan People's Party participated in the meeting of young leaders of political leaders of CIS and SCO, in October 2009 in Astana. The meeting was organised by the youth wing Zhas Otan of Nur Otan People's Democratic Party.

Kazakhstan initiative to hold Ministerial Conference “Common World: Progress through Diversity” was fully supported by Pakistan Government. Chairman of the Council of Islamic Ideology(CII), Mr. Muhammad Khalid Masud participated in the preparatory meeting of High Level Representatives for the Conference, in April 2008 in Astana. Pakistan delegation also participated in preparatory Senior Officials Meeting in August 2008. On October 17, 2008, Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Northern Areas of Pakistan Mr. Qamaruz Zaman Kaira took part in the Conference. In 2008 and 2009, representatives of the Council of Islamic Ideology and International Islamic University of Islamabad participated in the VII and VIII sessions of the Secretariat of the Congress of World and Traditional Religions. On July 1-2, 2009, Chairman of the Council of Islamic Ideology Mr. Muhammad Khalid Masud and President of International Islamic University of Islamabad Mr. Anwar Hussain Siddiqui took part in the Third

Congress of World and Traditional Religions in Astana. In December 2009, Chairman of the Department of Shariah Mr. Muhammad Zia-Ul-Haq participated in the IX session of the Secretariat of the Congress of World and Traditional Religions in Astana.

### **Trade and Economic Cooperation:**

Pakistan and Kazakhstan has improved their trade relations and over the years the trend is moving higher. For the year 2008 trade between Kazakhstan and Pakistan increased up to 30 per cent reaching to 43 million USD. In 2009 the trade was USD17 million between both the countries. Major items of Kazakhstan exports to Pakistan are organic compounds, compounds of precious metals and products, chemical industrial products, raw cotton, leather, wool and others. Major products of export from Pakistan to Kazakhstan are mainly leather, article of apparel/cloth accessories, pharmaceutical products, telecommunication appliances& equipment, cotton products, bed-linen, knitwear, pharmaceuticals, garments, leather, rice, fruits and others. As Kazakhstan is a landlocked country, it can benefit from the ports of Pakistan including the major Gwadar port, which is nearest for Kazakhstan. Through Pakistan, Kazakhstan can reach to the markets of Fareast, Middle East, South Asia and Africa.

### **Joint Ministerial Commission:**

The Joint Ministerial Commission(JMC),which examine the bilateral relations between the two countries, has a significant role to play in promoting the mutual relations on every level including trade and cooperation. This special forum was established in 1992 and was also meant to hold regular meetings in order to lay down future directions for cooperation. From 1993 till this year, seven JMC sessions took place. The Seventh session of Pak-Kazakh Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) was held on April 14-15, in Islamabad. During the 7th Sessions of JMC meeting negotiations were held on promoting cooperation in economic and technical fields which include promotion of trade & investment, agriculture, joint ventures in fields of manufacturing/SMEs, petroleum & natural resources, banking & finance, science & education, information technology health, culture and tourism. Both sides also discuss various matters including environment protection, sports, emergency situations and extradition matters.

### **Cooperation Economic Sector:**

#### **Banking:**

In 2002, the National Bank of Pakistan opened its one subsidiary office in Almaty, Kazakhstan in order to facilitate the trade and transactions

to and from the brotherly countries.

**Trade and Development:**

In February 2009, the visit of the CEO of Competitiveness Support Fund (CSF) Arthur Bayhan took place. In April of the same year, Chief Executive Director, Trade and Development Authority of Pakistan Mr. Shaikh and Arthur Bayhan visited Astana and Almaty. The purpose of the visit was to discuss establishment of working group for development of trade and investment cooperation between Kazakhstan, Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan considering potential of Karakorum highway. Trade and Development Authority of Pakistan and Corporation for Export Development and Promotion of Kazakhstan agreed to sign MoU. Mr. Azhar Kureshi, Executive Director of State Bank of Pakistan took part in the Second Astana Economic Forum, on March 11-12, 2009 in Astana. Relevant authorities of Kazakhstan and Pakistan study the possibility of organising trade caravan Pakistan-China-Kyrgyzstan-Kazakhstan.

The following factors have been considered for future cooperation by both the states: high scientific and industrial potential and rich natural reserves of Kazakhstan, growing energy demand and transit potential including sea ports Karachi, Gwadar, Kasim of Pakistan. Recently in September 2011, during the high level visit of Prime Minister of Pakistan Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani, Pakistan and Kazakhstan agreed to enhance bilateral trade and facilitate their businessmen to promote investment in diverse areas. The agreement aimed at promoting market research, developing commercial relations and expanding projects between the two countries. It will promote trade and enhance economic and technical cooperation.

**Cultural and Scientific Cooperation:**

Pakistan and Kazakhstan share various commonalities including deep rooted religious, historical and cultural links that are based on hundreds of years. Kazakhstan is a diverse country of multi-ethnic and multi-cultural origins. Both states share the common culture of famous Silk Route. There have been various efforts initiated by both sides to exchange and develop cultural and scientific cooperation.

**Media Linkages:**

In the field of media and developing links in this sector, on February 26 – March 6, 2005, a delegation of Union of Journalists of Kazakhstan visited Pakistan. The delegation met with Prime Minister of Pakistan Mr. Shaukat Aziz, Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri, Minister of Information Sheikh

Rashid Ahmed. There have been frequent visits of Pakistani and Kazakh journalist to each other's countries in order to first promote media linkages and then provide information about each other's countries.

**Education Linkages:**

There has been an extensive cooperation in the sector of education between both countries. Between July 10-19 in 2006 a high level delegation led by Director of National Library of Kazakhstan paid an official visit to Pakistan. During his stay, he met with the various officials including head of governments, officials, leaders of political parties and other representatives of Pakistan's civil society.

Director of Institute of Islamic Economy of International Islamic University of Islamabad Mr. Nasim Shah Shirazi participated in the Eurasian Economic Club of Scientists and First Astana Economic Forum, on June 26-27, 2008. Then later President of International Islamic University of Islamabad, Mr. Anwar Hussain Siddiqui held talks with Eurasian National University for the establishment of cooperation between two institutions.

Every year Pakistani students move towards Republic of Kazakhstan for their studies. Most of them study at the medical institution of the Republic. Most of the Pakistani students are encouraged to apply for the medical universities in Kazakhstan because of their excellent facilities and faculties.

**Development/Humanitarian Assistance:**

Kazakhstan has always stood by Pakistan in every thick and thin and similarly Pakistan has also reciprocated in a comparable manner. Kazakhstan provided aid to Pakistan following earthquake, on October 8, 2005, totaling 52 tones of humanitarian cargo. After the worst floods of 2011, that had hit Pakistan and created havoc in the country, Government of Kazakhstan supported Pakistan in this troubling time with generosity. The donation and help included food and other necessary items.

**Terrorism/Defence Cooperation:**

In a recent visit of Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani and his meeting with President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev, both sides agreed in principle to counter common challenges of terrorism and extremism by reinforcing bilateral cooperation to ensure regional stability and prosperity. During the visit enhancing cooperation of armed forces of Pakistan and Kazakhstan has also been discussed so as

to foster forward the relationship between security institutions and establish a mechanism to exchange information counter terrorism and drug trafficking.

**Political Dynamics of Relations:**

Various factors, such as historical relations, strategic milieu and economic potential, pave the way for the emergence of a unique relationship between Pakistan and Kazakhstan, the second largest republic of the former Soviet Union, holds a special place in Pakistan's policy priorities. The emerging ties between Pakistan and Kazakhstan clearly indicate that there is immense prospects for future cooperation. Pakistan and Kazakhstan have enjoyed a frictionless relationship and there is tremendous scope to expanding the ties.

There are three factors which make Kazakhstan and Pakistan important to each other. First, both the countries are Muslim brotherly countries and that affinity has brought them closer to each other. The geo strategic location, second, economic potential, especially energy resources, and third, multi-ethnic and diverse culture are three major factors that can be counted in to understand the dynamics of relations. Kazakhstan's geo-political existence between Russia and Asia, along with the long border with China, makes it a country of great strategic importance. On the other hand Pakistan occupies a geostrategic position of importance: bordered by Iran on the west, China on the northeast, India on the east, Afghanistan on the northwest, and the Arabian Sea to the south. It is also significant that Pakistan is lying at the junction of great powers where it has Russia and China as its neighbors. Although Pakistan has no border with Kazakhstan, its geo strategic location makes this country important for Pakistan because Pakistan has an interest in the states bordering Kazakhstan.

The second factor making Kazakhstan and Pakistan important to each other is that Kazakhstan is larger producer and rich in energy resources while Pakistan is looking for new avenues to cooperate in this regard. Kazakhstan is a substantial producer of oil and gas, coal has dominated both energy production and consumption. It is believed that Kazakhstan is estimated to have around 30 billion barrels of crude oil reserves, which makes it eleventh in the world in this regard. Along with oil, it has domestic hydrocarbon reserves amount to 3.3–3.7 trillion cubic meters of gas, of which 2.5 tcm are proven. Due to huge energy resources and economic potential Kazakhstan and Pakistan have huge prospects to enhance their ties to much higher level. In this perspective, the energy issue certainly deserves particular attention and is a point of convergence for both states. With huge increase in the

demand for oil and gas, Kazakhstan holds significant importance for Pakistan to explore the opportunities for cooperation. Kazakhstan has been termed the 'Second Kuwait' on the basis of its oil and gas reserves.

The third factor, which makes both states important to each other are the multi-religious, multi-ethnic, democratic and prospects of creating peace and cooperation in the region. Both states are multi-religious and are populace is largely living in peace and harmony with each other. Pakistan and Kazakhstan is deeply concerned about the rise of religious extremism in their neighborhood. They have shared vision of establishing stable peace in the region is only possible with peace, stability and development in Afghanistan. In Kazakhstan today, the secular state prevails. Kazakhstan also feels that combating terrorism could be an area of bilateral cooperation with Pakistan.

### **Recommendations**

- Due to the geographic limitations and being landlocked, with restricted access to the high seas, Kazakhstan is looking for sharing its riches with the countries of the region and Pakistan can provide access to the warm waters by offering its both ports i.e. Gwadar and Karachi for trade and business.
- Bilateral trade has a significant potential which is not fully utilized. The main reason is lack of adequate transportation link between the two countries. Along with this, there is a need to develop communications linkages including air, rail and road links. There is a need to develop air links between Astana and Islamabad. It is only due to the presence of adequate communications linkages especially Air, maximum potential can be exploited on both side. Kazakhstan can further enhance its trade by transportation of goods from the Karachi Port via Karakorum Highway.
- In order to promote foreign investment with Kazakhstan, links between Chambers of Commerce, Stock Exchanges, and banks should be established to provide professional guidance needed by the business communities. Promotion of barter trade must be encouraged on bilateral basis.
- Using the podiums of various regional organizations, such as the ECO and CICA, Pakistan and Kazakhstan can establish various research centers, which will facilitate economic and develop mutual cooperation in research and development.
- There should be frequent exchange of visits of scholars, cultural representatives, and government officials to develop better mutual understanding. Such an exchange can be established on a regular basis, under sponsorship from the

respective governments or by NGOs.

- Both states can offer scholarships to students in various fields. Exchange of research scholars, teachers and professors can be another option that Higher Education Commission from both sides can come forward and cooperate. This will be helpful in building strong ties at non-governmental level. Pakistani students are studying in medical colleges in Kazakhstan and Pakistan's Foreign Service Academy is imparting training to Kazakhstan's officers.
- People-to-people interaction is helpful in strengthening bilateral relations. On return to their countries, the students who are studying in the countries will be ambassadors of goodwill for Pakistan this would help us develop the relations at the people-to-people level.
- Development works and projects can be shared with lessons learnt and re-implementation of projects with modification keeping in view the requirement at the level
- There are various Pakistani companies of wide range of products, tourism, construction, advertising and so on are working in Kazakhstan to earn the good will along with improving trade and economic ties of both states.

**TRADE BETWEEN PAKISTAN & KAZAKHSTAN  
MILLION US\$**

Total	Pakistan's imports from Kazakhstan				
	Value in 2006	Value in 2007	Value in 2008	Value in 2009	Value in 2010
All products	2550	1992	44528	2155	34971

Total	Pakistan's exports to Kazakhstan				
	Value in 2006	Value in 2007	Value in 2008	Value in 2009	Value in 2010
All products	8517	6287	6061	4217	5921

**TRADE TURNOVER BETWEEN PAKISTAN & KAZAKHSTAN  
MILLION US\$**

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
<b>Trade turnover in USA million</b>	2,7	2,9	9,2	13,7	25,5	34,1	37,9	32,4
<b>Export in USA million</b>	0,7	7,0	2,0	1,7	13,7	25,2	22,5	16,0
<b>Import in USA million</b>	2,0	2,2	7,2	12,1	11,8	8,9	15,4	16,4



**Khan Shatyr**



**Polo Festival at Shandur, the world's highest polo ground, Chitral - Pakistan**

Map of Pakistan



***The Diplomatic Insight (ABC Certified)*** is Pakistan's First English-Arabic-Persian multi-lingual magazine which has been publishing since 2008 with theme objective of ***“Peace Through Informed Dialogue”***. Through the dynamics of Media, Diplomacy and Peace, the magazine as a leading media organisation, is dedicated to provide neutral and objective analysis. The magazine is not only publishing books, research and analytical reports, supplements and newsletters but also organize seminars, workshops, conferences, roundtable dialogues and produce documentaries on various issues like interfaith harmony, dialogue among civilizations, cultural diplomacy, religions, peace, extremism, dynamics of various conflicts, international relations and domestic politics. The Diplomatic Insight is a neutral magazine that is open for collaboration with diplomatic missions, international organizations, research institutes and others, to join hands together in order to create understanding of dynamics of relations and cooperation amongst people, groups and nations in a strife-torn world.

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*Published by*  
***The Diplomatic Insight***



*in collaboration with*  
***Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Pakistan***