

Workshop: International Centre for Green Technology and Investments under the auspices of the United Nations

Organizers: Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan, UNECE, UNDP, UNEP

Target group: Open to all participants

The Republic of Kazakhstan has made substantial progress in policy and regulatory reform in support of its Green Economy Concept, including developing the Kazakh Emissions Trading Scheme (K-ETS) and policies to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy. Kazakhstan has committed to implementation of the agenda and integration of the principles of global agreements spearheaded by the United Nations, including the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and subsequent agreements, the Millennium Declaration, and the Johannesburg Declaration on sustainable development. The Paris Agreement (COP21) was signed by the Government of Kazakhstan in August 2016. Kazakhstan is also preparing for the Astana EXPO-2017 World Specialized Exhibition with the theme “Future Energy.”

President Nursultan Nazarbayev called for interregional cooperation at the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly in September 2011. Later on, this idea was reflected in the text of the Astana Green Bridge Initiative, which led to the creation of **the Green Bridge Partnership Programme (GBPP)** for 2011-2020. The GBPP was approved in 2012 by all states at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) as a cross-regional voluntary initiative on sustainable development, open to participation by all partners. The Green Bridge has grown into a partnership among the countries of Europe and Asia-Pacific regions, as well as public, private, nongovernmental, and international organizations.

Building upon these ideas and actions, at the 70th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations in 2015, President Nursultan Nazarbayev proposed to open the **International Centre for Green Technology and Investment** in Astana (hereinafter referred to as “the Center”).

The Center’s main objective is to assist in practical implementation of the transition to a green economy by providing a framework for necessary support for renewable energy, green technologies and sustainable development, as well as strengthening of international cooperation in the Green Bridge Partnership Programme. In particular, the Center will ensure international cooperation on transfer of green technologies.

The outcomes will be achieved through activities in various areas, including:

1. Transforming the energy sector
2. Sustainable urban development
3. Greening businesses
4. Adaptation technologies and best practices
5. Development of green finance
6. Developing renewable energy
7. Green capacity building

The overall mission of the Center is to contribute to global sustainable development through promoting green growth and principles of the Green Bridge. The Center will serve as a strategic center for long-term capacity development, innovation, and linkages with best practices and sources of global experience and solutions as Kazakhstan and the whole region make the transition to a green economy.

Guiding questions:

- Exchange of experience on the creation of similar centers in the world
- Discussion on the further management of the Center;
- What are the organizational and legal frameworks for the creation of the Center?

Time	Content	Resource person
14.00-14.05	Welcome / Introduction	Gani Sadibekov, Vice-minister of Energy of the Republic Kazakhstan

14.05-14.50	Plenary session “International Centre for Green Technology and Investments under the auspices of the United Nations”	Moderator: Munkhtuya Altangerel. Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Panellists: Natalia Alexeeva, Head of central Asia Office, UNEP Jacek Skiba Vice-Chair of the UNECE Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane John O'Brien, UNDP Regional Hub for Europe and CIS Daniel Kroos, OSCE Roula Majdalani, Director Sustainable Development Division ESCWA Astrid Schneider, Austrian Institute of Technology
14.50-15.25	Discussion	Jacek Skiba Vice-Chair of the UNECE Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane John O'Brien, UNDP Regional Hub for Europe and CIS Daniel Kroos, OSCE Roula Majdalani, Director Sustainable Development Division ESCWA Astrid Schneider, Austrian Institute of Technology
15.25-15.30	Conclusion / Wrap-up	Moderator