DICE OF ASIA:

CICA Digest



30th CICA Anniversary

Meetings of the Committee of Senior Officials and Special Working Group

10th Think Tank Forum Meeting

CICA Secretary General participation in SCO RATS, UNESCO conferences and Amman Security Colloquium

Seminars on implementation of confidence building measures





KAZAKHSTAN

























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Dear readers,

The final issue of the Voice of Asia: CICA Digest this year covers landmark events of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia in 2022.

Initiated by Kazakhstan at the dawn of its independence, CICA continues to demonstrate its commitment to the spirit and letter of the fundamental documents and its relevance in new realities, being a continental platform with a wide geographical coverage and a comprehensive agenda.

The main achievement of the forum in the outgoing year was the Sixth CICA Summit on 12-13 October in Astana that was dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the Conference and became historic in terms of its outcomes.

That important gathering succeeded to adopt a solid package of documents, the main one of which, of course, was the Astana Statement on CICA Transformation, which launched a structured, inclusive and transparent negotiations process of gradual, incremental and consensus-based transformation of CICA into a full-fledged regional international organization.

NEW ASIA IN THE NEW WORLD

The transformation of CICA has become the central theme of the Kazakh chairmanship and has received universal support from the Member States, which confirms their commitment to creating a common, indivisible and comprehensive security architecture on the world's largest continent.

Another outcome of the Summit is the expansion of the CICA family – Kuwait became the 28th Member State and the Eurasian Economic Union became the sixth CICA partner organization, which indicates the growing international credibility of the Conference.

Furthermore, the Sixth CICA Summit succeeded in adoption of the Regulations of the CICA Fund, CICA Plan of Action on the Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, CICA Leaders' Statement on Cooperation in the Field of Security of and in the Use of ICTs, and several other decisions.

All these achievements are the outcome of Kazakhstan's twoyear chairmanship, which, by the decision of the Sixth Summit, was extended until 2024.

There are important tasks ahead of us. This is, first of all, work on developing a road map of necessary measures for the transformation of CICA, as well as improving and updating the regulatory framework of the Organization, and further strengthening CICA institutions - the Business and Youth Councils, the Think Tank Forum and the Council of Eminent Persons.

At the same time, the Chairmanship's extensive efforts will be also aimed at implementation of the priorities of Kazakhstan's Chairmanship for the period 2022-2024 announced by President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev at the Sixth CICA Summit, which include the creation of the CICA Council on Sustainable Connectivity: transformation of the CICA Finance Summit into a permanent platform; organization of the High-level CICA Conference on Environmental Issues in 2024 in Astana; establishment

of cooperation between CICA and the Islamic Organization for Food Security; hosting of the Rally of the Volunteer Movement Leaders of the CICA Countries under the auspices of the Youth Council in 2024 in Astana; creation of the Partnership Network of the Leading Universities of the CICA Member States.

We hope for support and close cooperation with all participants of the CICA development process to implement our common priorities on ensuring peace and security on the planet.

Taking this opportunity, I wish good health and well-being, success and prosperity to you and your loved ones in the New Year 2023!

Yours sincerely,

Mukhtar Tileuberdi Deputy Prime Minister – Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan





12-13 October 2022



October

Summarizing outcomes of seminar devoted to combating documents forgery

The five-day training seminar "Combating Forgery of Documents to Prevent Human Smuggling and Illegal Migration", organized by the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia together with representatives of the Turkish National Police, completed its work on.





As a result of the training course, certificates of the Ministry of Interior of Türkiye were awarded to 38 officers from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Qatar, Russia, Türkiye and Uzbekistan.

The programme included the study of various methods of detecting forged documents, the examination of equipment seized during operations, as well as the analysis of the behavioral characteristics of criminals for their early detection.

At the certificate award ceremony, Deputy Executive Director Ms. Chi Fang noted the importance of the event and its significant contribution to the CICA Plan of Implementation of Confidence Building Measures in the priority area "New Challenges and Threats".

In his speech, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Qatar to Kazakhstan Mr. Abdulaziz bin Sultan Al Rumaihi emphasized the relevance of the course topic in modern realities and expressed gratitude to the CICA Secretariat and the Ministry of Interior of Türkiye for organizing the event.



Special Working Group participants hold another round of talks in run-up to Sixth CICA Summit

Participants of the Special Working Group (SWG) of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia conducted a final meeting on 4 October 2022 to prepare the outcome documents of the Sixth CICA Summit (12-13 October 2022, Astana).



The online meeting chaired by Ambassadorat-Large of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan Talgat Kaliyev took place at the headquarters of the CICA Secretariat.

Following the three rounds of meetings, the SWG made a series of recommendations to the Senior Officials Committee (10-11 October 2022)

On the Astana Statement on CICATransformation, CICA Plan of Action on the Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and CICA Leaders' Statement on Cooperation in the Field of Security of and in the Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), the Concept Paper and Plan of Implementation of the CICA CBMs "Security of and in the Use of ICTs" for 2022-2023, as well as the Concept Paper on Human Dimension.

Summing up the SWG work, Chair Kaliyev informed that the agenda of the upcoming SOC would also include the issue of Kuwait's accession to CICA as a full member.



CICA CHRONICLE:

ЛЕТОПИСЬ СВМДА: ВО ИМЯ БЕЗОПАСНОСТИ И СОТРУДНИЧЕСТВА

CICA CHRONICLE 30 ДЕТОПИСЬ СВМДА

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CICA CHRONICLE



ЛЕТОПИСЬ СВМДА

Senior Officials Committee submits a number of important documents for consideration at Sixth CICA Summit

The final touches to the agenda of the Sixth CICA Summit were put by the participants of the Senior Officials Committee (SOC) on 10-12 October 2022 in Astana.



The meeting held under the chairmanship of Kazakhstan had intensive negotiations on the main outcome document of the upcoming Summit on CICA transformation into a full-fledged international organization, as well as on many priority areas of cooperation of the Member States, including security issues.

The SOC made a number of recommendations and decisions on the outcome documents of the upcoming Summit.



The following draft documents were submitted for approval by the Summit:

- CICA Leaders' Statement on Cooperation in the Field of Security of and in the Use of Information and Communication Technologies, designed to give political impetus to the practical cooperation of the CICA Member States in the new priority area;
- CICA Plan of Action on the Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-
- Terrorism Strategy, which has become a historic achievement and a successful result of difficult ten-year negotiations.
- Regulations of the CICA Fund an additional voluntary funding mechanism to support the implementation of CICA projects;
- Decision on accession of Kuwait to CICA as a Member State.

In addition, the SOC approved the Draft Decision of the Summit on the CICA Chairmanship in 2022-2024 and next meetings of the Summit and Ministerial Council.

The SOC also decided to approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the CICA Secretariat and the Eurasian Economic Commission, which is scheduled to be signed on 13 October 2022 on the sidelines of the Summit by the CICA Executive Director and the Chairman of the Board of the Eurasian Economic Commission.





Along with the above documents, the SOC approved Kyrgyzstan as a coordinator in the priority area of trade and investment, and approved three concept papers in the key priority areas of CICA confidence building measures – development of secure and effective systems of transportation corridors, human dimension, security of and in the use of ICTs.

In their remarks, SOC participants noted the relevance of the Kazakh initiative to convene the Conference in the light of the current alarming conditions of increased international conflicts and expressed gratitude to the Chairmanship for the great work done, which led to the consensus on a number of outcome documents.















CICA celebrates its 30th anniversary

A solemn ceremony marking the 30th anniversary of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia was held on 5 October 2022 in Astana.

The event organized by the CICA Secretariat was attended by members of the Parliament, leadership of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan and other state bodies of the Republic of Kazakhstan, ambassadors and representatives of diplomatic missions and international organizations accredited in Astana, as well as political, scientific and business circles of the country.

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan Adil Tursunov addressed the guests of the event with welcoming remarks, noting the most important milestones of the 30-year activity of CICA, achievements made during the chairmanship of Kazakhstan and plans ahead of the Sixth CICA Summit (12-13 October 2022).

"We can say with confidence that CICA has implemented its main goals set out in the founding and statutory documents of the Conference, and is ready to launch the transformation process into a full-fledged organization," the Deputy Minister said.











On this auspicious day, the Secretariat received numerous congratulations from the heads of foreign ministries of the CICA Member States, expressing confidence in the success of the dialogue in the name of a stable and secure future.

Historical photographs from the archive reflecting landmark events in the history of CICA were presented at the event together with CICA anniversary projects – the books "Tales of Asia" and "Ecotourism Guidebook of the CICA Region", and the commemorative coin "100 tenge" of the National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

National treats from friendly countries – China, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, as well as Kazakh folk melodies performed by the Saryarka folk ensemble added a special charm to the celebration.

For reference: The publication titled "Tales of Asia" aims to strengthen cultural and humanitarian ties among the peoples of the CICA Member States, introduce children to the vast geography and rich traditions of diverse Asia, as well as develop tolerance among the younger generation. The collection will be printed in 1000 copies in English and 1000 copies in Russian. It includes tales from 18 Member States.

The Ecotourism Guidebook of the CICA Region is an initiative to promote tourism in numerous tourist destinations of Asia: cultural, historical and religious tourism, wildlife tourism, including alpine and extreme tourism. The Guidebook in English and Russian is printed in 1000 copies.

Astana hosts 6th CICA Summit



A number of landmark decisions were taken following the Sixth Anniversary CICA Summit, which was held in Astana on 12-13 October 2022.

52 delegations, including 13 heads of Member States, observers and partner organizations, and guests of the Chairmanship gathered in the Kazakh capital at this critical time for the world to address pressing issues and develop common approaches to strengthen peace, stability, and security in the vast Asian continent.

The key strategic decisions taken by the Summit was the Astana Statement on Transformation of the Heads of State and Government of CICA, which launched a structured, inclusive and transparent negotiation process for the gradual, incremental and consensus-based transformation of CICA into a full-fledged regional international organization, which is the strategic goal of Kazakhstan.

The CICA transformation process will aim to reinforce the organizational and institutional basis for cooperation among CICA Member States and give our effective dialogue platform a special status, thereby significantly consolidating the levers of influence of Asian states in global processes, which will allow it to play a global role.

Another achievement of CICA was the Summit's decision to accept Kuwait as a Member State. Moreover, as an outcome of the Summit, CICA welcomed a new partner – the Eurasian Economic Union. All these decisions testify to the international credibility of the Conference as a representative and multilateral mechanism in the field of security and regional cooperation.

Along with this, the Summit adopted the following documents:

- The Regulations of the CICA Fund an additional voluntary funding mechanism to support the implementation of CICA projects one of the priorities of the Kazakh Chairmanship; the Fund's activities will be based on the principle of consensus and full compliance with the objectives of CICA and will be carried out under the supervision of all Member States:
- The CICA Leaders' Statement on Cooperation in the Field of Security of and in the Use of Information and Communication Technologies, designed to give political impetus to the practical cooperation of the CICA Member States in the new priority area;

- The CICA Plan of Action on the Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which has become a historic achievement and is aimed at implementing this Strategy on a voluntary basis in the CICA region;
- Decision on the next CICA Chairmanship in 2022-2024.

Thus, the Astana Summit once again demonstrated the forum's determination to further advance the goals and objectives of CICA for the sake of security and sustainable development.











Partnership between CICA and the EAEU established at the Sixth CICA Summit in Astana

The sidelines of the Sixth Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia hosted a signing ceremony for a Memorandum of Understanding between the CICA Secretariat and the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

The document was signed by CICA Executive Director Kairat Sarybay and Chairman of the Board of the Eurasian Economic Commission Mikhail Myasnikovich.

Thus, the EAEU became the sixth Partner Organization of CICA. Areas such as regional economic integration, economy and finance, transportation and transport, digitalization and information and communication technology, industry, agribusiness, trade and competition policy were identified as fields of interaction between the two associations.

In his remarks at the signing ceremony, the CICA Executive Director pointed out that CICA acted in five broad dimensions of cooperation – military-political, new challenges and threats, economic, environmental, and human. That being said, at least 60 percent of the CICA agenda is represented by economic issues, which clearly testifies to the Member States' focus on practical cooperation and opens up broad prospects for interaction with the EAEU. Thus, cooperation between the CICA Business Council and the EAEU Business Council could become one of the practical forms of this work.

SIXTH CICA SUMMIT N-13 October 2022 The CICA Executive Director emphasized that the wide range of economic challenges and opportunities, global and regional threats and challenges, the goals of sustainable development and environmental protection were indicative of the need for greater interaction and connectivity on the Asian and – on a broader scale – on the Eurasian

continent.

In December 2021, the CICA Member States decided to initiate contacts between the CICA Secretariat and the Eurasian Economic Commission in order to establish mutually beneficial and constructive interaction. Chairman of the Board of the Eurasian Economic Commission Mikhail Myasnikovich is invited to participate in the Sixth CICA Summit in Astana on 12-13 October 2022.





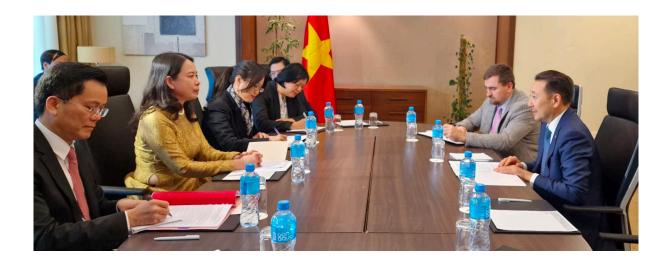
Viet Nam highly appreciates outcomes of the Sixth CICA Summit

On the sidelines of the Sixth CICA Summit on October 12-13 in Astana, Secretary General Kairat Sarybay met with Vice President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam Mrs. Võ Thị Ánh Xuân.

The Secretary General expressed gratitude for such a high level of Viet Nam's representation at the Summit, which made a historic decision to launch the transformation of CICA into a full-fledged international organization. He thanked the Vietnamese side for its continued support of the CICA process and expressed hope that productive cooperation between the Conference and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) would be established soon.

Võ Thị Ánh Xuân described CICA, which had achieved significant results over 30 years of its evolution, as an efficient and effective mechanism for strengthening strategic confidence among Asian countries. In her opinion, the Sixth Summit provided an opportunity for Member States to compare approaches to ensuring peace and stability in the region, while further transformation of the Conference would only contribute to the security and prosperity of Asia.

The Vice President also congratulated Kairat Sarybay on his appointment to the new position of CICA Secretary General, thanked the Secretariat for the excellent preparation to the Summit, and promised to assist in establishing ties between the CICA and ASEAN Secretariats.





South Korea makes voluntary financial contribution to CICA

The Secretary General expressed his sincere gratitude to the Korean side which had been making regular contributions to the Secretariat's budget since 2006. Furthermore, the Republic of Korea plays an important role in the CICA process in the capacity of Coordinator of the Confidence Building Measures on "Energy Security" and "Information Technology".

Kairat Sarybay and Koo Hong-seok emphasized the historic significance and success of the Sixth CICA Summit that was held in Astana on 13 October 2022 and its strategic decision to launch the CICA transformation, elaborated on further steps and actions to implement the leaders' decisions.



CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay met with Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the Republic of Kazakhstan H.E. Mr. Koo Hong-seok on 19 October 2022 on the occasion of another voluntary financial contribution by the Government of the Republic of Korea to the CICA Secretariat budget.





November

Representatives of tourism departments of the CICA Member States held an online meeting on the development of cooperation in tourism hosted by the Republic of Tajikistan in collaboration with the CICA Secretariat on 26 October 2022.



Experts from the CICA Member States discuss opportunities to expand cooperation in tourism

The meeting chaired by Mr. Kamoliddin Muminzod, Deputy Chairman of the Committee for Tourism Development of the Republic of Tajikistan, was attended by tourism experts Azerbaijan, Bahrain, from China, Bangladesh, Irag. Israel, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, and Türkiye. In his welcome remarks, the Deputy Chairman stressed that tourism was one of the important sectors of the economy and a regular dialogue among the experts would bring practical benefits to the CICA Member States.

The event was organized to strengthen and develop cooperation in the area of tourism among the CICA Member States.

During the discussion, the meeting participants noted that the effective interaction would attract additional tourists to the CICA Member States, improve the economic situation of the countries, create new jobs, expand the market for local products, bring about conditions to encourage investment, revive the culture and traditions of the peoples, deepen cultural and

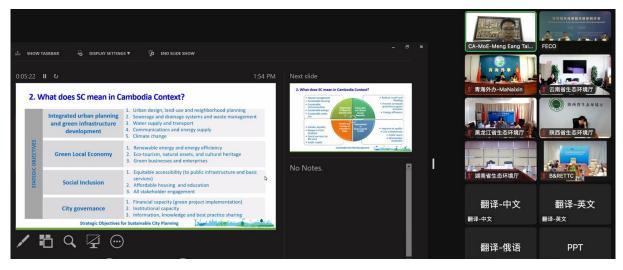
economic relations between the countries, as well as improve the state of engineering and transport infrastructure in the regions.

Experts jointly reviewed the current state of the tourism industry, agreed to provide mutual assistance and support to this field to cope up with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. and developed an action plan for further consideration at the meeting of the Heads of Departments of Tourism of the CICA Member States, which is scheduled to be held in November 2022.

CICA Member States discuss green and low-carbon city development



The prospects for deepening cooperation among CICA Member States in the field of green and low-carbon development and promoting the establishment of city cooperation networks were discussed by experts and representatives of enterprises, research institutes and international organizations in the area of environment protection of CICA Member States. The seminar held on 31 October 2022 in online format provided a platform for the exchange of expert opinions and experience.



In her welcoming remarks, Deputy Head of the CICA Secretariat Ms. Chi Fang noted the special relevance of green and low-carbon development of Asian countries, recalling that the issue of decarbonization of the economy was raised at the last Sixth CICA Summit. In this regard, Ms. Chi Fang emphasized the importance of joining efforts to take urgent measures to form a green, healthy, safe and more sustainable economy.

Participants of the seminar exchanged experience on the use of environmentally friendly and low-carbon technologies, discussing further assistance in their use and promotion among CICA Member States.

The online seminar was organized by the People's Republic of China, a co-coordinator in the priority area of "Environment Protection". The event was attended by more than 100 representatives from Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Kazakhstan, Qatar, Russia, Thailand, Türkiye and Uzbekistan.



International training course "Sustainable Waste Management in Circular Economy" launched for the CICA **Member States**

Thailand, as Coordinator of confidence building measures in the area of sustainable development in the CICA Environmental Dimension, launched the international training course entitled "Sustainable Waste Management in Circular Economy" for the CICA Member States on 3 November 2022. The event will be held online until 22 November 2022.

Over 30 participants from Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Egypt, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Türkiye have registered for the training course.

During the first day of the training, the participants discussed principles of the management of solid waste and treatment technologies, as well as current issues faced in waste water purification.

The two-week course provides an introduction to advanced technologies for the treatment, disposal and recovery of various types of waste, including marine debris, plastics, and electronic waste. The participants will also discuss methods for abating environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants, the creation of a central waste water treatment system for urban areas and water reclamation, the use of biogas for energy generation on a small scale, and the impact of these processes on climate change.

During the seminar, the participants will also share their experiences in managing food waste in gastronomy, infectious waste resulting from the pandemic, as well as discuss methods for dealing with illicit dumping eliminating its consequences.

Overall, the training programme is designed to give a general understanding of waste management principles and provide a forum for sharing best practices to address emerging issues in this area.

The CICA Member States participate in the exercise on alerting duty emergency response services

The Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Kazakhstan together with the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Kyrgyz Republic held a joint exercise for the CICA Member States on alerting duty services to emergency situations using the example of wildfires in border areas. The event was held online on 3 November 2022 and brought together representatives from Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, China, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Thailand.





According to the fire services, space monitoring helped to detect fire hotspots in the border areas of the Zhambyl region of Kazakhstan neighbouring Kyrgyzstan that lead to steppe fires, which have the potential risk of spreading to the territory of the bordering state. In this regard, representatives of the Ministries of Emergency Situations of the two countries examined the plan of interaction for emergency recovery in the neighbouring territories.

The exercise participants also learned about the set of operational and technical measures taken by the duty services of the Crisis Management Centers (CMC) of the Ministries of Emergency Situations of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, including those on sustainable and ongoing coordination of rescue forces and means in response to natural and man-made emergency situations.

During the exercise, representatives of the Ministries of Emergency Situations of the two countries also discussed potential risks in preventing fires and modern methods of firefighting.

Following the training, the participants welcomed Kazakhstan's initiative to conduct exercises and expressed the hope that such an exchange that allows for specific practical application would continue within CICA.

CICA Secretary General participates in the **Amman Security Colloquium**



CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay took part in the Amman Security Colloquium held in the Jordanian capital on 2 November 2022.

Addressing the session on "Regional and International Challenges", the Secretary General noted the significance of security interaction in the overall system of CICA confidence building measures, as well as the importance and effectiveness of the basic principles of the Conference that are inclusiveness, voluntariness and strict consensus.

"It is strict adherence to the principles I have indicated that makes it possible to continue the dialogue, even when this dialogue becomes difficult to implement in other multilateral formats," the Secretary General underlined.

Special emphasis in his address was placed on the key decision of the Sixth CICA Summit to transform the forum into a fullfledged international organization designed to strengthen the role and impact of CICA on the processes taking place on the world's largest continent.

In his address, the Secretary General also mentioned the important documents adopted at the Summit in the "New Challenges and Threats" dimension - the CICA Plan of Action on the Implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the CICA Leaders' Statement on Cooperation in the Field of Security of and in the Use of Information and Communication Technologies.

"Thus, the CICA Member States aspire as their ultimate goal to create an architecture of security and cooperation in Asia based on the principles of international law, transparency and mutual confidence," the Secretary General concluded.

The Amman Security Colloquium is an annual event that brings together prominent figures, heads of international organizations, leading international security experts, military, academic and civil society representatives. The Colloquium provides a platform for dialogue and the search for innovative ways to resolve conflicts based on the goals and principles of the United Nations.

The Turkish Academy for Combating Drugs and Organized Crime held a CICA seminar for law enforcement officers involved in combating money laundering and countering terrorism





CICA seminar for law enforcement officers held in Ankara

Law enforcement officers from Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Iran, Kazakhstan, Palestine, Qatar, and Uzbekistan participated in the course which took place from 31 October to 4 November 2022 in Ankara.

The course programme consisted of lectures and practical sessions on developing effective plans for investigating financial crimes, key indicators of suspicious financial transactions, specificities of the seizure of criminal funds, international conventions against money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

Between 2019 and 2022, Türkiye, as Coordinator of CICA Confidence Building Measures in the "New Challenges and Threats" dimension, held 13 events within CICA, two of which took place at the headquarters of the Organization.

More than 170 law enforcement officers from CICA Member States have received certificates of completion of the CICA courses on combating drug production and trafficking, document forgery, human smuggling, the financing of terrorism, gathering open source information in criminal investigations, as well as have learned about the latest scanning equipment for smuggling detection.

CICA Secretary General addresses SCO RATS Scientific and Practical Conference in Tashkent



CICA Secretary General Kairat Sarybay undertook a working visit to the capital of Uzbekistan, where he participated in the Eighth SCO RATS International Scientific and Practical Conference "Modern Security: Challenges and Solutions" on 8-9 November 2022.

In his address to the session on international counterterrorism cooperation, the Secretary General described the efforts made by CICA Member States to overcome the threat of terrorism.

"CICA and the SCO should be seen as complementary regional structures, whose concerted efforts can bear good fruit," Kairat Sarybay underlined. He expressed confidence that there was the

widest field for cooperation between CICA and the SCO, CICA and the SCO RATS on counterterrorism and the closely related topic of information and communication technology security. "CICA can play the role of an "outreach platform" for the SCO in the vast Asian region," the CICA Secretary General noted, saying that all SCO Member States were also CICA Member States. The framework for such cooperation is already in place; the SCO has been a Partner Organization of CICA since 2014, and the SCO RATS since 2017.

CICA Expert, Ambassador Adel Adaileh (Jordan) also spoke at the Conference, making a presentation on the role of theologians in countering the propaganda of destructive interpretations of religious teachings by terrorist and extremist organizations.

As part of the event, the CICA Secretary General awarded in a solemn setting CICA 30th anniversary medals to the SCO RATS leadership. By decision of the CICA Member States, Director of the SCO RATS Executive Committee Ruslan Mirzaev and his Deputy Kanat Tyukeev received the awards.

The CICA Secretary General also awarded the CICA 30th anniversary medal to UN Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Representative to Central Asia Ms. Ashita Mittal. During the meeting, Ambassador Kairat Sarybay discussed with Ashita Mittal CICA's regional cooperation with UNODC on a wide range of issues, such as combating drug trafficking, countering terrorism, including as part of the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and closely related issues of safe use of ICTs.

Training for dog handlers and detection dogs held in Ankara

A CICA seminar for dog handlers and dogs trained to detect drugs, explosives and weapons, organized by the Directorate General of Customs of the Ministry of Trade of Türkiye, was held on 7-9 November in Ankara.

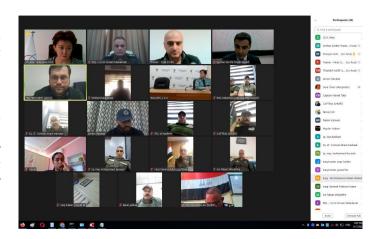
The dog handlers have paid special attention to the development of physiological instincts in dogs, which eventually lead to the development of the animal's intelligence.

The participants were given recommendations on healthy dog nutrition, as well as were informed about a technique for training them to refuse food offered by strangers to distract them from their search.

Forty-six officers, including three generals and six lieutenant colonels, representing law enforcement agencies from Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Russia, and Uzbekistan took part in the training.

The dog handlers were introduced to improved training techniques for dogs trained to detect drugs and weapons, depending on their specific tasks: searching indoors, outdoors, in vehicles, and among materials that emit distracting odors. The participants were shown the differences in training dogs to detect plant-based and synthetic drugs.

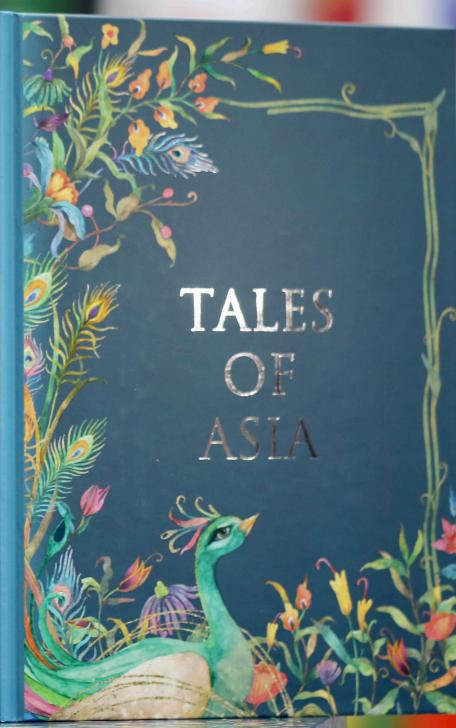
In addition, the latest generation of remote control devices for dogs when working on a mined site were presented during the seminar.



The event concluded by summarizing that every year, thanks to detection dogs, tons of drugs and weapons are found and destroyed around the globe.

CICA Officer Sh. Yelkeyeva, welcoming the participants on behalf of the Organization's Secretariat, thanked the Ministry of Trade of Türkiye for the informative training, which, she said, made a valuable contribution to providing real substance to the "New Challenges and Threats" dimension, coordinated by the Republic of Türkiye.





ES OF ASIA СКАЗКИ НАРОДОВ АЗИИ

TALES OF ASIA СКАЗКИ НАРОДОВ АЗИИ

CICA strengthens external relations

Enhancing synergies among regional organizations was discussed during the visit of CICASecretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay to Vienna.



In a conversation with Secretary General of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Ms. Helga Schmid, the sides exchanged views on a wide range of international cooperation issues in the current geopolitical context, including such topics as terrorism, climate change, and gender issues.

The Secretary General also met with OSCE Ambassadors from the CICA region, representatives of the OSCE Troika and senior officials of the Organization's Secretariat and briefed them on the achievements of the Kazakh Chairmanship from 2020 to 2022, the outcomes of the Sixth CICA Summit, as well as spoke about the priorities of the Kazakh Chairmanship for the next two years.

The programme of the Secretary-General's visit continued with a meeting with Director General of the International Institute for

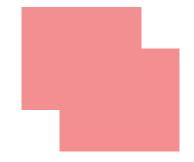
Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) Albert van Jaarsveld, during which the sides discussed ways to address the pressing challenges of the 21st century that affect the future of all humankind, such as climate change, energy security, water resource management, agriculture, etc. Emphasis was placed on the role of science diplomacy in addressing global challenges, and on the role of sustainable development in building bridges between countries and regions.







In concluding the meeting, the Secretary General awarded in a solemn setting the CICA anniversary medal to Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Austria, Permanent Representative to the International Organizations in Vienna Alibek Bakayev for his distinguished services and valuable contribution to the strengthening and development of the CICA process. During the event with the participation of representatives of official, business and cultural communities of Austria, Kairat Sarybay, in order to raise awareness about the activities of CICA, highlighted the main goals, objectives and achievements of the Organization.



CICA Member States share experience in poverty alleviation at a seminar organized by China

A seminar on poverty alleviation for CICA Member States, organized by the People's Republic of China, was held online on 17-18 November 2022.



In her welcoming speech, CICA Deputy Executive Director Ms. Chi Fang thanked the Chinese side for organizing and holding an important and constructive event in the priority area of agriculture and stressed the importance of exchanging relevant information on methods of reducing poverty and ensuring food security in the CICA region.



China, as coordinator in the priority area of agriculture under the CICA economic dimension, in cooperation with the CICA Secretariat provided a platform for the exchange of experience in the field of poverty alleviation in the region, which was attended by delegates from the Yangling Demonstration Zone, representatives of agricultural associations, representatives of the CICA Secretariat, as well as officials and diplomats of Member States of the Organization.

During the two-day seminar with the participation of more than 100 participants from Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, China, Iraq, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Qatar, Russia, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, the Chinese side shared relevant information and its rich experience in poverty alleviation, rural regeneration and the introduction of e-commerce, including during the COVID-19 pandemic, and presented the basic aspects, practical measures and innovations in the sector by making optimal use of available resources.

Meeting of Heads of Tourism Departments of CICA Member States

The Republic of Tajikistan, as the coordinator of the tourism priority area, organized a meeting of the heads of tourism departments of the CICA Member States, which was held on 22 November 2022 in an online format.

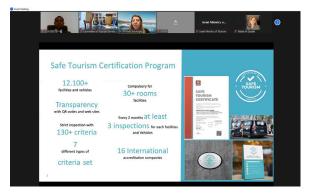
The meeting attended by representatives from the tourism sector and officials from Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, China, Israel, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Russia, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand and Türkiye was inaugurated by Mr. Tojiddin Jurazoda, Chairman of the Committee of Tourism Development of the Republic of Tajikistan.

The idea behind organizing this event was to offer a platform for discussion, exchange of experience and exploring opportunities to boost cooperation in reviving the tourism industry across CICA countries. The event was of particular importance in the context of countries opening their borders to international tourists and was designed to help build a new tourism ecosystem for CICA Member States.



In her opening remarks, Deputy Head of the CICA Secretariat Ms. Chi Fang expressed gratitude to the Republic of Tajikistan for hosting such a significant event in the field of tourism, which was one of the most affected sectors of the economy by the COVID-19 pandemic that washed over the whole world, including the CICA Member States. She stressed the importance of promoting sustainable tourism in the region, creating income opportunities for the local population, strengthening mutual understanding and friendship between peoples and protecting the natural and cultural heritage of destination couttries.

The event also highlighted diverse tourism strategies. approaches. methods, new ways of offering services to counter new challenges adopted in CICA countries to support tourism industry. Moreover, it discussed best practices in marketing and promotion of national tourism products, creating favourable environment for tourism associations and companies, as well as prospects for cooperation and identification of new tourist routes in different directions and measures to ensure safety of tourists.









CICA Member States continue to strengthen cooperation in emergency prevention and control

More than 40 specialists and experts from mining research institutes and mining enterprises from Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, China, Iran, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Thailand and Türkiye took part in the International Online Conference on Mine Safety Risk Prevention and Control organized on 22-23 November 2022 by the Ministry of Emergency Management of the People's Republic of China with the assistance of the CICA Secretariat.

In her welcoming remarks, Deputy Executive Director of the CICA Secretariat Ms. Chi Fang noted that such specialized conferences contributed to strengthening practical cooperation among the Member States, helping them to focus on a positive agenda and implement mutually beneficial joint projects. The representative of the Secretariat stressed the relevance of developing common approaches to emergency response, risk monitoring and early warning of disasters, and invited the Member States to intensify activities on that track through joint exercises and training.

Director of the Department of International Cooperation and Rescue of the Ministry of Emergency Management of China Liu Weimin, in turn, focused on the possibilities of CICA in strengthening specialized multilateral cooperation and building the capacity of emergency services.

The two-day conference discussed various risk management mechanisms at coal mines, ways to improve safety control systems and exchanged best practices in this area.

Mainly, participants highlighted the importance of further improving mine safety standards, conducting regular supervisory activities, training, introducing cutting-edge digital technologies, including the methods of big data analysis, robotization of mining and environment protection.



The solemn ceremony of awarding the anniversary medal "30 Years of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia" took place in Astana on 22 October 2022.

The ceremony of awarding the anniversary medal "30 years of CICA" held at the headquarters of the organization



On this day, the medal was awarded to representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, as well as to current and former personnel members of the Secretariat.

In his welcoming remarks, CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay reflected on the main outcomes of the organization for the past period and thanked his colleagues for their active participation in the process of strengthening and developing CICA.

"CICA has made considerable evolutionary progress in 30 years. And each of you, in your own time and area of activity, has made a valuable contribution to the development of the organization. The landmark decision taken at the anniversary Sixth CICA Summit was a breakthrough in the history of Asian diplomacy, and gave us all new energy and confidence in a great future for CICA," the Secretary General concluded.

The official award established on 9 March this year has two degrees. Nominations for the anniversary medal are initiated by the Member States and the CICA Secretary General, after that the nominees are presented to the Senior Officials Committee for approval. According to the Regulations for the Anniversary Medal, the Kazakh Chairmanship and the CICA Secretary General will continue to present the award during the anniversary year.





December

More than 120 experts and trainees from 16 countries of the region of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) participated in an online seminar on combating cybercrime in the SCO and CICA area.

Combating cybercrime in the spotlight of the SCO and CICA countries



The event was held from 28 November to 2 December 2022 with the cooperation of the SCO and CICA Secretariats at the SCO Countries' Legal Training and Cooperation Centre of the Shanghai University of Political Science and Law.

In opening the seminar, CICA Secretary General Kairat Sarybay noted that it was, in fact, one of the first joint projects of the two regional organizations, whose interaction had significant potential for further mutually beneficial cooperation in a number of areas for the stability, development and prosperity across Asia. Kairat Sarybay stressed that ensuring cybersecurity, security of and in the use of ICTs were in the focus of the countries of the Conference, and the seminar fit well into the agreements of the Sixth CICA Summit, which, among other things, adopted a field-specific statement of leaders, and allowed to enhance the cross-platform capacity in this area.

The seminar included thematic sessions and lectures by experts on cybersecurity in connection with digital transformation, cybercrime prevention and related regulatory frameworks, combating cyberterrorism and financial crimes on the Internet, as well as skill formation. There was also an overview discussion on existing international mechanisms of field-specific cooperation and prospects for the development of a universal convention against cybercrime. All seminar trainees received electronic certificates of participation.

Summing up, SCO Secretary-General Zhang Ming said that cybercrime was a common problem for the global community, including the area of the SCO and CICA, two key international organizations in Asia. He noted that it was a productive and constructive seminar, which allowed to compare approaches of the Member States to addressing relevant issues and challenges in international information security, as well as expressed hope that the SCO and CICA would continue implementing similar mutually beneficial joint projects.





CICA think tanks discuss a wide range of issues at their 10th Forum

The 10th meeting of the Think Tank Forum (TTF) of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia was held in a hybrid format from 30 November to 1 December 2022, bringing together representatives of the leading think tanks of CICA Member States, official structures and international organizations.

Representatives of 12 CICA Member States participated as speakers and observers of the meeting organized by the TTF Chair – Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (SIIS).



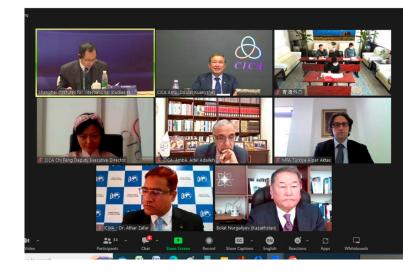
Speaking at the opening ceremony, CICA Secretary General Kairat Sarybay stressed that the establishment of the TTF led to the creation of a new, special platform for discussing the ways and problems of development, not only of CICA itself, but also in a broader sense - challenges of today's world. Noting that the Forum's status and composition made it possible to consider an almost unlimited range of issues, the Secretary General called for the ideas and recommendations developed by the TTF analysts to be studied by the Member States and discussed by the CICA governing bodies with a view of translating them into specific actions and decisions.

The opening ceremony was also attended by SIIS President Chen Dongxiao, Deputy Secretary General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Yerik Ashimov, high-ranking representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China Cheng Wei.

The agenda of the two-day meeting included a wide range of issues - food and energy security, green economy and connectivity, 30-year experience of CICA and a look into the future. The Forum was addressed by prominent experts from research institutions of Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Tajikistan and Türkiye. Experts of the Secretariat Ambassadors Adel Adaileh and Doulat Kuanyshev made presentations at the meeting.

A separate topic of discussion was the preparation of the TTF Action Plan for 2023. TTF members agreed to intensify the activity of the TTF in the intersessional period and to enrich the Action Plan of the CICA subsidiary body accordingly.

It was agreed to hold the next TTF meeting in November or December 2023. The participants expressed special gratitude to the TTF Chair -SIIS - for the excellent organization of the meeting, despite the difficulties associated with the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. The hope was expressed to see improved epidemiological situation and hold the next, 11th meeting, offline.



The CICA Think Tank Forum was established in 2014 on the initiative of the People's Republic of China, its coordinator has been the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies. By the decision of the CICA Member States in October 2021, the TTF was transformed into an advisory body. which is designed to provide information and analytical support to CICA, as well as to ensure development of interaction among think tanks of the CICA Member States. Today, the TTF membership includes research institutes and think tanks from 19 CICA Member States.



CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay met with veterans of the diplomatic service of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Almaty on 2 December 2022 to mark the CICA 30th

Anniversary.

CICA Secretary General meets with veterans of Kazakhstan's diplomatic service



In his opening remarks, the Secretary General praised the veterans for their contribution to the creation and development of CICA as one of the first international initiatives of an independent Kazakhstan that is now an effective multilateral forum with the broadest geographical coverage in the Asian region and a comprehensive agenda. He also presented the outcomes of the Sixth CICA Summit, which was historic as follows from its content, and the results of the Kazakh Chairmanship over the past two years, as well as briefed the diplomats on the Secretariat's activities.

Furthermore, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kazakh SSR (1989-1991) Akmaral Arystanbekova addressed the meeting participants and shared her memories of October 1992, when President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev proposed from the high rostrum of the UN General Assembly the initiative to convene the Conference. She highlighted the universal support that the UN Member States gave to this initiative, emphasizing their appreciation of Kazakhstan's contribution to regional and global security.

The meeting participants shared their memories of CICA's evolution, important milestones in its development, and expressed ideas for further consolidation and improvement of the Organization.

Ambassador Kairat Sarybay concluded by congratulating the veterans on the 30th anniversary of the Organization awarded anniversary and medals to several diplomats for their distinguished services and valuable contribution to the strengthening and development of the CICA process.





During his visit, the Secretary General also took part in the International Scientific and Theoretical Conference "Problems of Oriental Studies and spirituality" dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the prominent scholar, member of the National Academy of Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan, doctor of philological sciences, professor, founder of Oriental Studies in Kazakhstan, diplomat Absattar Haji Derbisali.

Speaking at the Conference, Kairat Sarybay shared the view that spirituality is a key criterion for the progress of society, which affects not only the comprehensive development of the individual, but also the socio-economic environment of any state. In this context, he noted that promoting dialogue among civilizations, cultures and religions is a priority of the human dimension of CICA.



Experts from CICA states discuss treatment for opioid use disorders

Maintenance treatment for opioid use disorders was the main topic of discussion at a virtual training course for specialists from CICA Member States organized by the Islamic Republic of Iran on 5 December 2022.



The event was attended by representatives of line departments and relevant medical institutions of Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, China, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Russia and Türkiye.

The audience was offered lectures and presentations on the use of various active substances in maintenance therapy. Participants exchanged views on the latest approaches and practices in narcology and psychotherapy in the treatment of opioid use disorders.

Iran, as the coordinator of the priority area of combating illicit drugs, has been holding such training courses for the second year in a row. The issues for discussion are of high relevance and practicality, including in the context of collective efforts of Asian countries, primarily Central Asian, in countering drug trafficking and reducing their negative impact on society.











CICA awards anniversary medals

To celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia, a number of representatives of the CICA Chairmanship and Member States were awarded the anniversary medals of the Organization on 6-7 December 2022 in Astana

In his welcoming remarks, CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay shared CICA's achievements over the past three decades and thanked all participants for their hard work in developing the Organization. The Secretary General quoted the great Kazakh poet Abai Qunanbaiuly, noting that each award recipient was a "brick" in the foundation of a large-scale organization that today addresses the issues of billions of people.

The CICA 30th Anniversary Medal was established by the CICA Senior Officials Committee on 9 March 2022. The award recognizes outstanding service and valuable contribution to the strengthening and development of the CICA process.

A total of 330 representatives of CICA Member States were awarded the First and Second Class medals during the anniversary year.



Address by Deputy Executive Director of the CICA Secretariat Ms. Chi Fang at the International Forum of Civil Participation #WeAreTogether

Plenary Session: International Cooperation in Times of Change: How Women's Leadership Changes the World for the Better

Distinguished participants and guests of the Forum,

Dear friends,

As the whole world celebrates the International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development, please accept sincere congratulations from our Organization, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia.

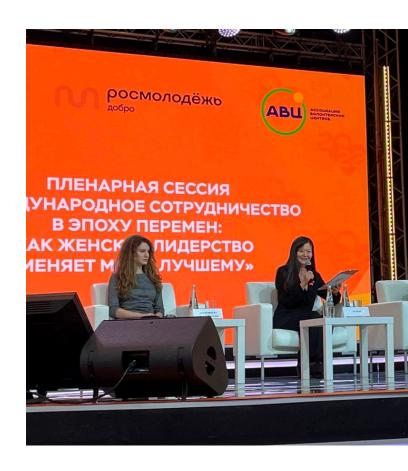
We really like the Forum's name #WeAreTogether, which is very much in line with the spirit of CICA, that is, creating a common indivisible space of security in Asia through dialogue and cooperation.

It may sound surprising, but women's voluntary participation and influence in such decision-making processes for sustainable peace has become increasingly evident in the last decade.

UN studies show that volunteering helps one become a more in-demand member of society.

Therefore, modern women are the embodiment of a new soft power with a sense of special intuition, justice, kindness and wisdom that is unique to them.

Indeed, today we may cite many striking examples of women represented in all aspects of peacebuilding, humanitarian action, recovery and reconstruction.



For its part, CICA, being a multilateral regional dialogue platform, creates equal conditions for participation of men and women in the development and promotion of the human dimension on the Asian continent.

Dialogue among civilizations, cultural and educational exchange, respect for human rights and freedoms are just a few items from the long list of priorities of CICA in this dimension.

Moreover, our Youth Council, as an advisory body, has managed to unite ambitious and progressive-minded young men and women under its umbrella in order to promote comprehensive cooperation among the CICA Member States to strengthen interaction, peace and friendship in Asia.





We also consider it important to note the fact that thanks to the efforts of Uzbekistan, the coordinator of the CICA human dimension, the CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures has been significantly expanded by issues of gender equality, the rights and interests of youth, women, girls, etc.

Time has proven that gender issues multiplied by the principles of trust and interaction are the necessary basis for achieving peace, prosperity and sustainable development.

I would like to conclude my speech by quoting the outstanding Margaret Thatcher: "Any woman who understands the problems of running a home will be nearer to understanding the problems of running a country", and I would add - "and the world."





Israel makes voluntary contribution to CICA

A ceremony for the transfer of Israel's voluntary contribution to the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia was held at the headquarters of the CICA Secretariat on 9 December 2022.

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Israel to the Republic of Kazakhstan Edwin Nathan Yabo Glusman presented a symbolic cheque to Secretary General of CICA Kairat Sarybay.

It should be noted that on the same day exactly one year ago, a similar ceremony was held at the CICA headquarters, where Israel also made its voluntary contribution to CICA. Therefore, this procedure has already become a tradition.

Speaking at the ceremony, CICA Secretary General Kairat Sarybay expressed deep appreciation to the Government of Israel for a voluntary contribution to the Secretariat's budget. He noted that Israel's contribution, as well as that of other CICA Member States demonstrated the relevance and prospects of the Organization's activities in addressing urgent problems and

overcoming challenges in Asia. The Secretary General emphasized that CICA had a great deal of work to do in 2023 to implement the decision of the Heads of its Member States to transform the forum into a full-fledged international organization.

Each year, a number of Member States make voluntary contributions, thereby enabling the Secretariat to enhance the effectiveness of the multilateral forum for cooperation and confidence building in Asia.

At the end of the event, the CICA Secretary General presented the CICA 30th Anniversary Medal to the Ambassador of Israel so it could be further delivered to the Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation (MASHAV) for its valuable contribution to the strengthening and development of the CICA process.

CICA Special Working Group discusses Organization's work plan for 2023

The regular meeting of the CICA Special Working Group (SWG) chaired by Kazakhstan was held online on 12 December 2022 at the headquarters of the Organization's Secretariat. As part of the meeting agenda, participants considered drafts of two concept paper on cooperation among the CICA Member States in tourism and agriculture, the annual CICA Plan of Implementation of Confidence Building Measures, the Secretariat's budget for 2023, and the Secretariat's staff matrix.





Following the discussions, the SWG agreed on the drafts of the above two concept papers and the budget for the next year for approval by the Senior Officials Committee (SOC), which will meet online on 14 December.

As proposed by the CICA Secretary General, the SWG also recommended that the SOC decide on an external audit of the Secretariat's financial activities from September 2020 to 31 December 2022.

Following the discussion of the staff matrix, it was recommended to the Senior Officials Committee that the position of Deputy Executive Director be renamed Deputy Secretary General of CICA in connection with the decision of the Sixth Summit to establish the position of CICA Secretary General.

The CICA Plan of CBMs for 2023, as well as the staff matrix were submitted for the SOC's consideration with a number of recommendations.

CICA Secretary General holds briefing for foreign media representatives

10 representatives of 11 media from 8 countries attended the CICA Secretary General's briefing on 13 December 2022 at the headquarters of the Organization's Secretariat.









Media editors-in-chief, think tank analysts, as well as heads of national news agencies in Indonesia, Jordan, Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, Tajikistan, and the UAE learned about the history of CICA, its achievements and prospects.

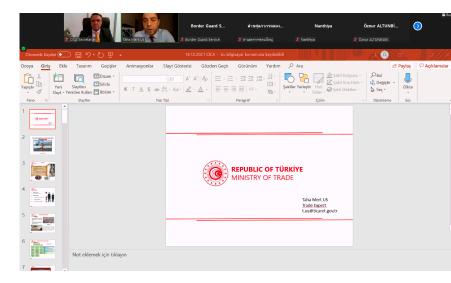
The Secretary General spoke about the 30-year process of the evolvement of CICA into an effective multilateral platform for dialogue and cooperation in Asia. Kairat Sarybay explained the strategic decisions taken by the Sixth Summit, including the launch of transformation into a full-fledged international organization, as well as the plans of the Kazakh Chairmanship for their implementation.

The briefing concluded with an exchange of views, with media representatives sharing constructive suggestions and their own vision of CICA's development, which demonstrates the media's keen interest in the Organization.

The Secretary General, in turn, thanked the briefing participants for their attention to the Organization and expressed his hope for further fruitful interaction and open dialogue.

Türkiye holds briefing for CICA states on use of scanning systems and other modern technical means of customs control

On 14 December, the Directorate General of Customs Enforcement of the Ministry of Trade of Türkiye organized an online briefing for the Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia on scanning systems, use of technical equipment and projects. This event was the last one in a series of seminars held by the Republic of Türkiye in 2022 as the coordinator in the priority area of new challenges and threats within the framework of confidence building measures of CICA.



In the course of the briefing, the Turkish side shared its experience in using technical means, including scanning systems, in order to detect smuggling of migrants, weapons, narcotic drugs, cultural property, radioactive substances, and other illegal goods through the customs posts of the Republic of Türkiye, as well as explained processing, analyzing and exchanging relevant information within the Turkish customs control system. A separate presentation was devoted to the implementation of promising projects aimed at strengthening customs checkpoints, modernizing and equipping them with advanced detection and control tools, using artificial intelligence to analyze incoming data.

The briefing was attended by representatives of more than 20 CICA Member States. After the keynote presentations, the participants were given the opportunity to discuss existing issues. The event helped to establish contacts between experts of the relevant specialized structures of the Member States.

For 2023, the authorities of the Republic of Türkiye have proposed holding a number of workshops, webinars, briefings and training courses aimed at strengthening confidence building measures in the area of new challenges and threats among the CICA Member States.



CICA Senior Officials Committee takes stock of the year and approves the Organization's action plan and budget for 2023

The Senior Officials Committee of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia held its regular meeting on 14 December 2022 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the format of a videoconference.

The SOC took stock of the results of the year and made important decisions concerning the practical implementation of the Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures in 2023, budget planning and personnel issues.

SOC Chair - Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan Adil Tursunov highlighted the outcomes of the two-year chairmanship and plans for the next term of office until 2024.

CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay presented the report of the CICA Secretariat for 2022, as well as proposals for increased activity next year.

The presented achievements and prospects of the Organization were commended by all participants of the meeting.

As a result of vigorous discussions, the Member States reached consensus on all the documents submitted for consideration:

- Concept papers of cooperation among the Member States in the areas of tourism and agriculture;
- CICA Plan of Confidence Building Measures and Provisional Calendar of CICA Bodies for 2023:
- The Secretariat's budget for the coming year and decision on external financial audit for the period 2020-2022;
- Introduction of the position of CICA Deputy Secretary General and updated staff matrix of the Secretariat.

In the course of the meeting, a number of Member States proposed to introduce the Arabic language as a CICA working language in addition to English and Russian and requested the Secretariat to look into the legal, financial and other aspects of the initiative.

Moreover, the SOC was presented information about the CICA Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Secretariat.

The Chairmanship and the Secretary General also shared their vision of further activities to operationalize the CICA Fund established by the Sixth Summit of the Organization in October 2022. The Fund is designed to ensure practical implementation of the CICA goals through voluntary financing of project activity.







In conclusion of the meeting, CICA Member States expressed gratitude to the Kazakh Chairmanship, the Secretary General and the staff members of the Secretariat for the hard work done in 2022 and contribution to the significant achievements of the Organization.





CICA and UNESCO discuss prospects of cooperation

CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay visited the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris and met with UNESCO Assistant Director-General Gabriela Ramos.

CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay visited the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris and met with UNESCO Assistant Director-General Gabriela Ramos.

In the course of the meeting, the sides discussed prospects of cooperation between the two organizations, including joint activities on youth policy development within the framework of the CICA Youth Council. Moreover, they also explore avenues of interaction in the area of gender policy, science, ethics of artificial intelligence and intercultural dialogue.

As part of the visit, Ambassador Sarybay took part in the international forum "The Turkic Civilization in the World Culture: Elterish Qutlug Qaghan's Inscription" that brought together representatives of governments and academia from the Turkic Academy states, international organizations and the diplomatic corps, as well as widely-known turkologists from all over the world.

The conference participants welcomed the success of the scientific archaeological expedition that discovered the unique inscription dedicated to Elterish Qutlug Qaghan – the oldest written monument of the Turkic era with the earliest known ethnopolitonym "Turk".



In his speech, the CICA Secretary General noted the contribution of the Turkic peoples to the development of global civilization, as well as the influence of the Asian continent on the rest of the world. "The region that has historically been the cradle of the world's greatest civilizations nurturing rich cultural and spiritual heritage, traditions and worldviews, has every chance of becoming a global centre of attraction, primarily of human resources, in the very near future", stressed Kairat Sarybay, noting in that sense the role of CICA in establishing and developing the dialogue among civilizations, cultures and religions in Asia.

CICA Secretary General participates in first Central Asian Media Forum



CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay took part in the first Central Asian Media Forum in Astana on 20-21 December 2022.

The first Central Asian Media Forum was organized by the Ministry of Information and Social Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan with the aim to provide a unique platform for collaboration of the countries of Central Asia and create a common media environment.

The event was attended by over 100 invited speakers, including world-famous Pulitzer Prize winners, global policymakers, international and local journalists, influencers, heads of international organizations and reputable media experts.

In his speech, the CICA Secretary General noted the role of the Organization for the Central Asian region, which, in his opinion, is, first of all, a platform for building interaction with other parts of the Asian continent, including the nearest neighbouring subregions of Asia. "It is important to consider not only security issues, but also to look at the potential of CICA as a multifaceted association, whose portfolio includes various dimensions of interaction," he added.



Kairat Sarybay also drew the attention of participants to the geographical location of Central Asia, which is surrounded exclusively by CICA Member States. He also noted that of the five Central Asian states, four are members of CICA, and one - Turkmenistan - has observer status. Given the facts, he concluded that it is clear that CICA has a special role to play for Central Asia and vice versa – the states of the region are interested in the success of CICA.

The Forum was also addressed by the 11th President of Türkiye Abdullah Gül, the 3rd President of Mongolia Nambaryn Enkhbayar, State Secretary of the Kyrgyz Republic Suyunbek Kasmambetov, heads of leading international organizations (OTS, OIC, CICA, TÜRKSOY, TurkPA, UN, etc.) and mass media leaders of Central Asia.



CICA Secretariat was invited to observe Kazakhstan Presidential elections on November 2022.

CICA Secretariat's Deputy Head Ms.Chi Fang addressed participants of Turekulov Conference at the Eurasian National University



Ms. Chi Fang, Deputy Executive Director of CICA Secretariat, delivered a speech on the "Achievements of CICA within 30 Years of Evolution" at the round table "Diplomatic Service of Kazakhstan: Historical Legacy and Modernity".







CICA Secretariat participates at the **Christmas Charity** Bazaar traditionally organised by the **Ambassadors Spouses** Association





Football mini-tournament on occasion of CICA 30th Anniversary









