

VOICE OF ASIA:

CICA digest

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Founder of CICA Nursultan Nazarbayev welcomes
further strengthening of the Forum

CICA Flag orbited
the Earth

CICA Alley in the capital
of Kazakhstan

First CICA Ambassadors'
Informal Club Meeting

CICA: Indivisible Security,
Increased Confidence



Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia



“Kazakhstan, in its capacity of Chairman of CICA during 2020-2022, is strongly committed to contributing to stability in the region by transforming the Forum into a full-fledged Organization for Security and Development in Asia (OSDA).”

18 December 2020

*President of the Republic of Kazakhstan
Kassym-Jomart Tokayev at the Meeting of the CIS
Heads of State Council*

The leader of Tajikistan strongly supported the priorities of Kazakhstan’s Chairmanship in the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) from 2020-2022 and expressed his commitment to contributing to the capacity building of CICA.

20 May 2021

*Joint Statement of President of the Republic of Kazakhstan
Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and
President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon*

Expressed strong commitment to contributing to the capacity building of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), including its transformation into an international organization, and agreed to develop cooperation in Human Dimension of CICA as co-coordinator states in this dimension.

2 March 2021

*Joint Statement of President of the Republic of Kazakhstan
Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and
President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Zhaparov*

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Executive Director of the CICA Secretariat K. Sarybay

Interview of CICA Executive Director to “Kazakhstanskaya Pravda” Newspaper

Over the years of independence, Kazakhstan has sponsored many initiatives and projects aimed at strengthening security, stability and sustainable development at the regional and global levels. The “peacekeeping portfolio” of our country starts, inter alia, with the proposal of Elbasy¹ Nursultan Nazarbayev to convene the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA). Almost three decades have passed since that moment. Now, once CICA started its practical work, the relevance and potential of this international structure have become evident. In an interview with the Executive Director of CICA, Ambassador Kairat Sarybay, we found out about the current state of the Conference and the development priorities during Kazakhstan’s Chairmanship in CICA.

– The idea to convene CICA was one of the first international initiatives of the independent Kazakhstan. The forum has existed for almost 20 years: what is CICA today?

– Indeed, the institutionalization of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia began 20 years ago – in fact, from its First Summit in 2002. But this First Summit was preceded by a lot of painstaking work that started on October 5, 1992, when the First President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, then a still rising politician of a newly founded post-Soviet nation, proclaimed this idea, standing behind the rostrum of the UN General Assembly for the first time. Almost 30 years have passed since that day.

I remember how at that time Nursultan Nazarbayev shared his thoughts on CICA with the world’s leading politicians and how enthusiastic they were about it. Of course, the ideas of creating a security architecture on the Asian continent had been put forward long before that, including by the former Soviet Union. But we must pay tribute to the meticulous approach and consistency

¹ Elbasy - Leader of the Nation, the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan

of Nursultan Nazarbayev that helped this forum to grow from a concept to a fully functioning platform of dialogue with great potential ahead.

One of the unique political qualities of the First President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev is the ability to envision the future. Proposing this initiative, he said that the role of Asia would increase – and he was absolutely right. Along with the role of Asia, the role of CICA has also increased.

Initially, in 1992, when the process of the Conference had just kicked off, the initiative was very much welcomed, but at the same time there was a certain degree of scepticism in some countries. The first negotiations on CICA in the '90s were attended by representatives of 12 states. By the way, the negotiation process was personally led by Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, then the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan.

Today, the Conference unites 27 Member States, including permanent members of the UN Security Council. This is a significant area of responsibility in terms of territory and population. That is to say, CICA today is a recognizable and reputable forum, whose activities arouse keen interest. Moreover, this interest is not only seen in Asia itself, but also beyond its borders.

I have met with many representatives of Europe, Latin America, and other regions and everyone asks – what's next? What will CICA be developed into?

This means CICA has taken its place in the continental and global security architecture

– You noted that the interest in CICA is growing; does it mean that we can expect an increase in the number of its members?

– This item is, of course, on the agenda. We are conducting substantive consultations, explaining what instruments a candidate country would be required to join in case of accession.

This includes, first of all, the Almaty Act – de facto the charter of the Conference, clearly stipulating the principles of CICA, as well as the Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures – a unique document, by the way. For the first time in the history

of international diplomacy, Asian countries were able to develop joint approaches on how to cooperate to build confidence.

The principle is very simple. First, you need to interact, communicate in order to establish confidence. Confidence, in turn, is the main prerequisite and foundation for establishing full-fledged cooperation. And then, this close and mutually beneficial cooperation will ensure a high level of security, which is an essential condition for further sustainable development.

CICA operates on this very principle – from simple to complex. That is why, we start with some basic, elementary steps, but which create the basis for trust. This approach appeals to many countries, and enabled CICA to gather at one table including the countries with disagreements.

The Conference became for them a multilateral platform for dialogue, which they needed to clear up their position, discuss the current situation, find solutions, and lay the foundation of trust, which is not always easy in a bilateral format.

Therefore, yes, interest in CICA is growing. It would be premature to name any specific countries that may join the Conference as full members in the near future, because consultations are still underway. But I can say that clearly these would be the Asian countries that already have an observer status in CICA and may well move to a new level.

There are other countries that are showing interest in our forum, so the ranks of observers may increase as well. Work on enlargement is a continuous process.

However, I want to emphasize that the task is not to increase the number of participants the task is to maintain the quality of interaction. While our main quality is the ability to find a consensus.

This is an extremely complex principle of multilateral diplomacy to bring the interests of all to one common denominator. The uniqueness of CICA is in the fact that so far, we have always succeeded to do so. And we will continue to work to ensure that, in the stormy sea of international relations, the Conference remains a “safe haven” where all countries can find a calm and trusting

environment for mutual understanding.

– In 2020, Kazakhstan assumed the Chairmanship in the Conference. What priorities have been defined by our country for this post?

country for this post?

– The responsible body of the Kazakh Chairmanship, which defines the priorities, is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. While the CICA Secretariat is working on specific measures to implement these priorities – the other day we signed a corresponding road map.

It identifies several main clusters and, first of all, the institutional development of CICA, which implies the implementation of a number of initiatives.

For example, there is an initiative to establish a Council of Eminent Persons, and we hope that this year we will be able to invite the Member States to approve the Statute on the Council. In addition, the Chairmanship initiated the creation of the CICA Fund to finance joint projects, including, for example, to mitigate the consequences of the pandemic.

There is another initiative that has been practically implemented, but has not yet reached its logical conclusion – creation of a permanent platform for the Forum of Think Tanks within CICA. At its meeting last December, the Senior Officials Committee had already taken this decision and the Secretariat is working to institutionalize this Forum.

There is an intention of the Chair to boost the potential of the CICA Secretariat. Today our Secretariat is an international body with diplomats seconded by Kazakhstan, China, Russia and India. The last year has seriously slowed down our work, due to the pandemic, many events had to be held online or postponed, but we intend to catch up and intensify our activity as much as possible.

The Member States agreed to implement more than 50 actions in 2021 – this is a great deal of work, that is why we are building the capacity of our Secretariat and, in close coordination with the Chairmanship, will implement the tasks set before us.

Another important priority is to revive

activity on the confidence-building measures. CICA has an agreement to work on five main clusters included into the Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures – military- political dimension, fight against new threats and challenges, as well as interaction in the economic, environmental and humanitarian dimensions. There is also an agreement on vesting coordination in some countries for specific confidence-building measures, which would develop conceptual approaches and, after their approval by the entire CICA membership, implement an appropriate action plan.

The task of the Secretariat is to systematize and assist the Member States in this work.

– The issue of CICA's institutionalization has been raised by Kazakhstan for several years now; President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev stated that work in the said direction would be prioritized during the Kazakh Chairmanship. Why is the transformation of CICA into a full- fledged organization necessary?

–In 2012, Kazakhstan initiated the anniversary meeting of the CICA Ministers of Foreign Affairs, timed to coincide with the 20th anniversary of CICA. At that meeting, the First President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, for the first time addressed the Member States with an appeal to create a full- fledged regional organization on the basis of the Conference, and this initiative was very much welcomed. So yes, the question has been raised for a long time.

At the same time, institutionalization is a process. Now, CICA has its own permanent institutions, which develop general approaches, take specific decisions and implement practical measures. Summits are convened regularly; there have already been five of them to date.

The Sixth Summit is planned to be held under the Chairmanship of the President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev in the anniversary year of 2022. Ministerial Meetings are held systematically. CICA has its own working bodies. There is a functioning Secretariat. Thus, as a result of the consistent evolutionary development,

CICA has acquired the main features of a full-fledged organization.

I would not like to foretell events, but I think that by the 30th anniversary of our forum under the Kazakh Chairmanship, the CICA Member States may come to a decision on the next important stage in the development of the Conference.

What would this bring? Of course, having a structure that enables states to interact systematically gives a much greater effect than spontaneous events that do not have any serious conceptual framework. The auspices of an international organization will provide the Member States with a more structured dialogue, a systematic and coordinated approach in the main areas of their activity. This is very important for the efficient performance, because when the approach is “tuned up”, we hear a symphony, and when it is not, it can result in a cacophony.

CICA aims to create a synergy of efforts among the countries that stretch from the Pacific to the Mediterranean, from the Urals to the Indian Ocean. This is a huge geography with colossal cultural diversity, various economic and political structures, making it a great skill to find in all this a thread that would connect us all. This is exactly what the CICA states are striving for. And I see that the interest of the Member States is increasing more and more.

– Elbasy Nursultan Nazarbayev has repeatedly raised the issue of joining the capacities of CICA and the OSCE, this idea even became an integral part of his initiative called “New Geopolitical Reality: 3D”. Is this issue still on the table?

– The CICA initiative was born, in fact, from the understanding of the need to fill a certain vacuum in Asia in the field of regional security. In Europe, this niche is occupied by the OSCE. Nursultan Nazarbayev very consistently proposes and promotes the partnership of these two structures. Besides, from the point of view of Kazakhstan, this is quite logical, given that our country is located in the heart of Eurasia, on two continents at once – in Asia

and in Europe.

Elbasy’s idea is that the synergy between the OSCE and CICA would create a powerful and wide belt of security and cooperation, covering the vast Eurasian continent, practically most of the Northern Hemisphere. It is not hard to imagine what a huge contribution this would make to strengthening the global security architecture.

It is clear that within the CICA and OSCE there are different approaches to this idea, despite all

its attractiveness – this is completely normal. Given the scope of the initiative, it will take time to implement it. But most importantly, today both structures are interacting, having a dialogue on the issues of mutual interest.

Moreover, the OSCE is not the only partner. To date, CICA has developed a wide range of partnerships with various international organizations.

For example, CICA is an observer at the United Nations. We are invited to important fora of many large UN institutions and agencies, with many of which we have memoranda of cooperation. The Conference has established partnerships with the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, Economic Cooperation Organisation, League of Arab States; and there is an interest in establishing cooperation with the Eurasian Economic Union and Association of South East Asia Nations and other organizations.

– There are many international organizations whose areas of interest include, among other things, security and cooperation. What is unique about the Kazakh initiative to convene CICA?

– CICA is unique for its broad agenda and its own understanding of security.

Today, I think, everyone would agree that it is impossible to consider security of each specific country separately, just as it is impossible to separately consider security in each specific dimension. So, the uniqueness of CICA is that it promotes the concept of common, comprehensive, cooperative, sustainable, indivisible and

equal security.

Today, the world is highly interconnected. What happens in one country inevitably affects the whole world – this concerns both security and cooperation. This understanding, I believe, significantly distinguishes CICA from other regional structures, whose agenda is often focused on narrower areas or has a smaller geographic coverage.

But at the same time, I want to strongly emphasize that CICA does not compete with anyone in any way – this is our main message. CICA is a spacious platform; it has its own niche, and will never pretend to occupy the niche of any other organization or association. We are focused not on rivalry, but on cooperation and development of synergy

– In recent years, the world has experienced serious changes, including new challenges and threats emerging in the field of security. What place does this issue take on the CICA agenda?

– “New threats” is a term that came to CICA from international diplomacy, but most of these threats, unfortunately, are as old as the world – organized crime, terrorism, extremism, illegal migration, drug trafficking and so on. These threats were made new in terms of understanding that they have a cross-border nature, and they must be combated by making joint efforts, cooperating in an international format.

Certainly, there are some truly new challenges high on the current agenda, such as ensuring biological safety or combating climate change. Again, even here, the approaches are the same these problems simply cannot be solved in one specific country. To cope with these challenges effectively, the corresponding measures should be taken in a coordinated manner by all states. The coronavirus has very clearly demonstrated this principle: you cannot cure one country from the virus, while leaving neighbours behind. As long as there is at least one country vulnerable to the virus, the whole world is vulnerable, because sooner or later the virus will begin to spread again.

As I have already said, CICA has a

separate cluster devoted to new challenges and threats, where special attention is paid to actions and initiatives that help countries to establish productive cooperation through the exchange of information as well as to develop common understanding and joint approaches to solving problems. This is essential, since with no trust and compatibility, for example, in actions between the special services involved in countering certain threats, with no common methodology and shared vision of the situation, there will be no meaningful international cooperation. It will be the “telephone game” that will nullify the effectiveness of unilateral efforts.

Many challenges and threats are taking on new dimensions in the context of globalization, and international cooperation is necessary in order to eliminate the risks associated with the increased connectivity.

– You noted that before CICA, there were attempts to create a structure in Asia that would deal with security issues. But in practice, it was not possible up until now, until the creation of the Conference. How, in your opinion, did the fact that Kazakhstan was the author of this initiative influenced CICA's success?

– The idea of creating a security system for Asia was demanded by life itself. It was important to take that window of opportunity, offer it and consistently promote it.

The First President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, did exactly that. Besides, Kazakhstan turned out to be the country that managed to make people believe in this idea, without considering it a geopolitical trick.

Of course, this was based on a set of factors. First of all, by 1992 Kazakhstan had actually confirmed its commitment to peacebuilding, since the country closed the Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test Site and abandoned the world's fourth largest nuclear arsenal – a unique case in the human history. A security initiative from a country that has proven itself as willing to take decisive, non-military action for the sake of security has certainly attracted attention and given confidence.

An equally important factor is the personal charisma and credibility of Nursultan Nazarbayev, built and strengthened thanks to his concrete and successful peacekeeping efforts. At various times, Elbasy was involved in both the Karabakh settlement and the inter-Tajik dialogue. A very recent example is his role in de-escalation and normalization of relations between Russia and Turkey.

Earlier, Nursultan Nazarbayev made efforts to unblock the negotiations of P5+1 with Iran on the nuclear deal, without which it would hardly have been possible to reach agreements in Vienna in 2015 and adopt the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

Thus, CICA is an initiative coming from the Leader, who has shown himself to be a true peacemaker, and from the country whose main geopolitical ambition is peacebuilding. As a result, from year to year, confidence in the Conference grew and interaction within its framework developed.

Moreover, it is fair to the highest degree that the heads of the CICA Member States, in the Declaration adopted at the Fifth Summit in Dushanbe, recognized Elbasy as the founder of the Conference.

Summing up, I would like to say that the people of Kazakhstan can be proud of their country, which over the 30 years of its independence has done a lot for peace and cooperation at the international level. Believe me, these are not just words – they are reality. All the while Kazakh citizens have all the reasons to be proud of their diplomats who make their valuable contribution to the achievements and successes of Kazakhstan in general.



Executive Director of the CICA Secretariat K. Sarybay and President of the Kyrgyz Republic S. Zhaparov (left to right)

CICA Executive Director participates in the inauguration of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic

On invitation of Kyrgyz Minister of Foreign Affairs Ruslan Kazakbayev, CICA Executive Director Ambassador Kairat Sarybay took part in the inauguration ceremony of the newly elected President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Zhaparov, held on 28 January in Bishkek.

At the meeting with representatives of international organizations in Bishkek, President S. Zhaparov stated that Kyrgyzstan was committed to the goals and objectives of CICA in line with the principles of its multi-vector and pragmatic foreign policy.

In turn, K. Sarybay warmly congratulated the President of Kyrgyzstan on his landslide victory and briefed him on the current dynamics in the Forum's development.

It was noted that CICA was an effective platform for multi-vector and pragmatic international cooperation. In particular, policy on cultural revival, announced by

President Zhaparov in his inaugural speech, corresponded to the confidence building measures of CICA's human dimension.

K. Sarybay briefed the President of the Kyrgyz Republic on the activities of the Kazakh Chairmanship in preparations for the 6th CICA Summit in 2022.

As part of the visit, Executive Director Sarybay held a working meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyzstan Ruslan Kazakbayev, where they discussed a wide range of issues related to CICA, including the arrangements for the 6th Meeting of CICA Foreign Ministers scheduled for this autumn, as well as cooperation of the Member States in overcoming the consequences of the global pandemic and the priorities of Kyrgyzstan as a co-coordinator of CICA's human dimension.

K. Sarybay expressed his sincere gratitude to the host country for the invitation to such a significant event and



Meeting of President Sadyr Zhaparov with representatives of international organizations

wished the new leadership and people of Kyrgyzstan successful implementation of the plans on sustainable development, and assured that the CICA Secretariat was ready to assist in the implementation of the Kyrgyz priorities within the Forum.



Meeting of Executive Director of the CICA Secretariat K. Sarybay and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyzstan R. Kazakbayev



Aide to the President M. Nurtleu, Executive Director K. Sarybay, First Deputy Foreign Minister Sh. Nuryshev (left to right)

Distinguished guests visit CICA Headquarters

Aide to the President Murat Nurtleu and First Deputy Foreign Minister Shakhmat Nuryshev paid a visit to the headquarters of the CICA Secretariat on February 3, 2021. In the course of the visit, CICA Executive Director Kairat Sarybay presented the ongoing activities of the Secretariat, introduced the staff members of the Secretariat and informed about the implementation process for the main priorities of the Kazakh CICA Chairmanship. The participants of the meeting considered the matters of preparation to the CICA Summit in 2022 as well as the next Ministerial Meeting in 2021.

The Executive Director mentioned many important events that have taken place over the past several months:

- 1. Joint briefing of the Chairmanship and the Secretariat for the diplomatic corps of the CICA countries;**
- 2. Productive meetings of the Senior Officials Committee and the Special Working Group;**
- 3. Adoption of the new confidence building measure “Epidemiological Safety, Public Health and Pharmaceuticals” for the CICA Confidence Building Measures Catalogue;**
- 4. Approval of a new title for the professional personnel of the Secretariat in three categories, according to the UN model, which enables Member States to second diplomats with different professional experience.**



Executive Director K. Sarybay, Aide to the President M. Nurtleu, First Deputy Foreign Minister Sh. Nuryshev (left to right)

As part of the visit, the Roadmap of the CICA Secretariat to implement the priorities of the Kazakh Chairmanship Concept for 2020-2022 was approved.

The Roadmap is an action plan integrating the objectives of four documents: Chairmanship Concept, Confidence Building Measures Catalogue, Cooperative Approach for the Implementation of Confidence Building Measures, and the CICA Plan of Confidence Building Measures for 2021.

At the close of the visit, M.Nurtleu and Sh.Nuryshev commended the activities carried out by the Secretariat to expand the interaction among CICA Member States in strengthening trust and security in Asia.



Aide to the President Nurtleu, First Deputy Foreign Minister Nuryshev with the Executive Director and staff members of the CICA Secretariat

Consultations in Moscow and meetings with the Russian experts

As part of his visit to Moscow, CICA Executive Director K. Sarybay held a number of productive meetings with senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and experts of Russian think tanks.

Russia reaffirmed its interest in the incremental development of the CICA process and expressed its support for the priorities of Kazakhstan's Chairmanship, as it was expressed at the meetings in the Foreign Ministry.

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia Igor Morgulov noted that the increasing connectivity in the CICA space was consistent with the fundamental principles of inclusiveness and multipolarity, and was closely intertwined with the Greater Eurasia concept. It was emphasized that CICA needed to increase its visibility through the substantial work serving the vital interests of the Forum's Member States. Morgulov also expressed readiness of Russia to engage in international cooperation on the CICA platform to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.



The meeting with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia Mikhail Bogdanov resulted in a productive dialogue on the potential of CICA to resolve the existing conflicts across Asia. The Russian diplomat shared his views on the current situation in a number of CICA regions.

During the full-fledged consultations with the Director of the Asian and Pacific Cooperation Department of the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Alexey Ovchinnikov, K. Sarybay provided details of the Secretariat's current activities and practical implementation of the priorities of Kazakhstan's Chairmanship within the approved Roadmap.



The sides discussed a wide range of issues on interaction within CICA, including the preparations for the Ministerial Meeting, scheduled for the autumn of 2021 and the Sixth CICA Summit in 2022, as well as the updates to the CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures. The Russian side outlined its principled approaches to the activities of the Forum, as well as priorities as coordinator in the economic dimension of the Forum.

The participants of the Moscow meetings acknowledged that the idea to convene CICA, initiated by the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev did not only continue to be relevant, but was also gaining new momentum, and therefore it was important to keep building up the practical steps of the Forum by extensively collaborating with the CICA Member States.

CICA Executive Director also discussed the prospects of cooperation amongst the leading think tanks on the CICA platform at the meetings with Director of the Centre for East Asian and Shanghai Cooperation Organization Studies Alexander Lukin and Chairman of the Supervisory Board at the Dialogue of Civilizations Research Institute Vladimir Yakunin, during his working visit to Moscow on 22 and 23 February 2021.

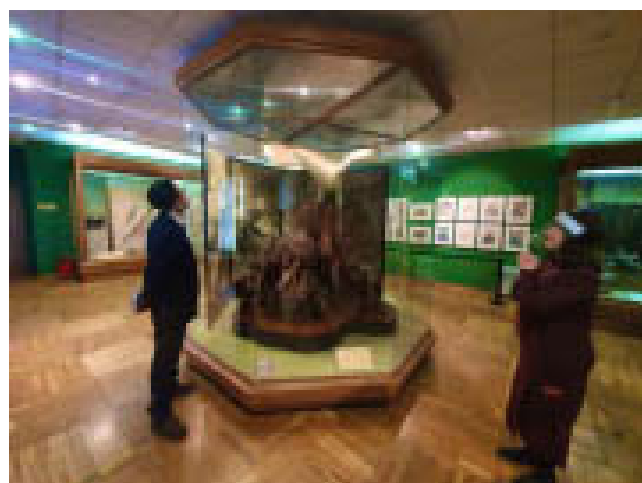
K. Sarybay informed the experts regarding the CICA Senior Officials Committee decision, initiated by Kazakhstan's Chairmanship, to transform the CICA Think Tank Forum into a permanent platform of dialogue.



A. Lukin expressed his interest in the development of Track II in the framework of CICA with respect to the new role of Asia in the global economy and politics. According to the renowned analyst, the Asian forum could significantly contribute to the development of security architecture concept, based on commitment to uphold the plurality of interests of the CICA Member States. A. Lukin shared his experience of the SCO Forum – multilateral mechanism of expertise and scientific support.

Increasing connectivity favoring the idea of partnership and security area of Greater Eurasia was the subject matter of conversation with V. Yakunin, a renowned supporter of dialogue of civilization, member of the Board of Trustees at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations and Gorchakov Fund. V. Yakunin emphasized the relevance of the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev's initiative to convene CICA, which had attained a recognized niche within the multilateral system of diplomacy for 30 years of its incremental development, since the Forum was based on the principles of equitable dialogue.

The matters pertaining to the development of intercultural dialogue and cooperation of scientific-research centers within the framework of CICA were discussed at the meeting with the Director of the State Museum of Oriental Art Alexander Sedov. The CICA Executive Director enjoyed the museum's extensive collection representing ancient and diverse cultures of Asia.



International video conference on “The Role of Youth in Countering Radicalism, Extremism and Terrorism”

The international videoconference on “The Role of Youth in Countering Radicalism, Extremism and Terrorism” was held in Tashkent on 18 February 2021. The objective of the event was to unite efforts in the common fight against radicalism, extremism and terrorism and develop specific mechanisms of international cooperation in combating the common threats.

The event was organized by the Youth Affairs Agency, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Youth Union of Uzbekistan, German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), OSCE and UNDP Project Coordinators in Uzbekistan and UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia.

The conference was attended by experts from CICA Member States, Europe, Middle East, representatives of such organizations as OSCE, GIZ, UNDP, UNOCT and UNODC, SCO, CIS, law enforcement agencies, security agencies and youth organizations, volunteers from the Youth Affairs Agency of Uzbekistan, and social scientists.

The items discussed at the conference included the political and legal framework for countering extremism, radicalism and terrorism among the youth; matters on enhancing cooperation between the state and civil society, preventing propaganda on such phenomena through the Internet and mass media.

In his remarks, CICA Executive Director Kairat Sarybay noted that our reality had proved that the destructive elements had taken advantage of the current circumstances connected with political and socio-economic processes in societies to recruit young people into their ranks through the Internet and social networks.

Therefore, the society as a whole needed to comprehensively respond to such threats and challenges.

The civil society institutions should play a key role in that respect: family, school, university, work environment. He stressed that the prevention of radicalism among young people is one of the priority tasks of the CICA Youth Council.

Deputy Head of the Federal Agency for Youth Affairs Grigory Gurov informed about activities of the Federal Agency for Youth Affairs (Rosmolodezh) and measures taken to prevent socially dangerous and destructive behavior among young people.

One of the main activities in this field is the All-Russian Youth Forum Campaign of Rosmolodezh, which provides a platform for events on “Prevention of the Terrorism Ideology” in order to form an anti-terrorist consciousness among young people.

Assistant Director of the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Republic of India Farida Jamal said that India strongly believed that addressing the menace of global terrorism should be based on a comprehensive approach, which should include, but not limited to, countering violent extremism, countering radicalization and recruitment, disrupting terrorist movements and stopping all sources of financing of terrorism. India had a dedicated Counter Terrorism and Counter Radicalization Division housed in the Ministry of Home Affairs and had consistently taken steps to intensify and strengthen international cooperation through a variety of means, including setting up of Joint Working Groups (JWGs) on counter-terrorism/security matters with key countries to facilitate information exchange and cooperation.



Head of the Department of the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Turkey Mustafa Barış Öztürk presented information about some good practice examples implemented by their Ministry to reach young people. The Ministry was able to reach a large number of young people through its youth centers, youth camps and exchange programs.

Through the Youth Projects Support Program, the Ministry supports the cultural, artistic, educational and social integration projects aiming to support personal and social development of youth and increase youth participation in every aspect of life.

Charge d'Affaires a. i. of the Embassy of Afghanistan in Kazakhstan Omar Azizullah said that Afghanistan security forces and civilians were paying the highest for peace regionally and globally. While progress had been made in implementing the youth, peace and security agenda, there was still a need to create an enabling environment for peace-building and to ensure that young people can truly play a leading role in peace and security.

General Director of Planning and Policy Making of the Higher Council of Youth and Sport of the State of Palestine Nizar Basalat noted that it was necessary to identify the main reasons that drove young people to destructive behaviors; those acquired from the environment in which they live and its direct influence on the shaping of their personalities. Unquestionable catalysts for hatred which, overtime, transformed into hostile behaviors of extremism, racism and terrorism; were injustice, violence and exclusion. He also stressed that all causes and factors require a common effort from all countries on both the individual and the collective levels. To end, he affirmed the Palestinian suggestion to host the fourth CICA Youth Conference, as well as Palestinian sustained invitation to all Muslim youth to visit Palestine; as such support empowered Palestinian fight against all forms of extremism, racism and terrorism practiced against Palestinian people.



First Deputy Foreign Minister Sh. Nuryshv and Executive Director K. Sarybay with participants of the joint meeting

Joint meeting of CICA Secretariat and Diplomatic Business Club

Cooperation of the CICA countries in the economic dimension was discussed at a joint meeting of the CICA Secretariat and the Diplomatic Business Club in Nur-Sultan on February 5, 2021.

In his welcoming remarks, CICA Executive Director K. Sarybay informed about the implementation of the 2021 CICA Plan of Confidence Building Measures and expressed hope that meetings in that configuration would become a good tradition facilitating stronger cooperation among the CICA Member States.

K. Sarybay invited the Diplomatic Business Club to be a part of the CICA events in the economic dimension with an emphasis on small and medium-sized enterprises.

The First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan Shakhmat Nuryshv, expressed hope for increased interaction between the Member States in the economic domain and noted the intention to establish a CICA Club of Ambassadors in Nur-Sultan that would enable deeper interaction among the CICA Member States.

He highlighted the new CICA Confidence Building Measure in Epidemiological Safety, Public Health and Pharmaceuticals, which provided a mechanism of practical interaction. In this regard, the First Deputy Minister expressed support for B2B ties in developing pharmaceuticals and joint ventures to produce medical and surgical tools and exchanging best practices.

Participants of the meeting have also been informed of the working plans of the Diplomatic Business Club for 2021.

In the course of the meeting, the representatives of Member States and Observers expressed their readiness to make further efforts within the CICA process, as well as to maintain close contacts as part of the Diplomatic Business Club in order to strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation.

The event was attended by Co-Chairman of the Diplomatic Business Club Islambek Salzhanov, First Deputy Chairman of the Board of the Kazakh National Chamber of Entrepreneurs "Atameken" Nariman Abilshaikov, Ambassador of Hungary to Kazakhstan Mihály Gálosfai, representatives of YPO Kazakhstan, CICA Member States and Observers.



Participants of the ceremony for the transfer of humanitarian aid as part of the CICA CBM “Epidemiological Safety, Public Health and Pharmaceuticals”

CICA Chairmanship launched the implementation of new confidence building measure “Epidemiological Safety, Public Health and Pharmaceuticals”

Kazakh Chairmanship embarked on a new CICA confidence building measure “Epidemiological Safety, Public Health and Pharmaceuticals”.

In the autumn of 2020, Member States of the Forum supported the initiative of Nursultan to use the CICA platform to exchange information on best practices, as well as to provide assistance to countries in need, with a call to reject any politicization in this matter.

On February 26, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Halyk Charity Foundation donated humanitarian aid to people living in the vast CICA area.

In his address, CICA Executive Director Ambassador Kairat Sarybay noted that Kazakhstan suited the action to the word in its desire to strengthen international cooperation in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic.

In the opinion of those present, the action once again confirmed that CICA had evolved from the idea of the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, into an international organization capable to provide an adequate and effective response to the emerging threats and challenges.

Horasis Extraordinary Virtual Meeting

CICA Executive Director Ambassador Kairat Sarybay participated in the Horasis* Extraordinary Virtual Event held on 19 March 2021.

Over 1000 senior business, government and public executives from around the globe took part in the meeting.

K.Sarybay highlighted CICA's contribution to strengthening international cooperation, including against COVID-19.

In his remarks CICA Executive Director delivered the following points:

The CICA Charter of 2002, known as the Almaty Act, reaffirms its Member States' commitment to the UN Charter and their belief that peace and security in Asia can be achieved only through dialogue and cooperation.

CICA aims at creating an an effective mechanism of multilateral cooperation, preventive diplomacy and peaceful settlement of disputes to achieve regional and global security.

The philosophy of CICA is the gradual expansion of the common ground by interacting in areas that do not raise concerns among any of the 27 Member States.

The product of collaboration is trust, which is a fundamental pillar of security, and consensus is the primary rule of decision making in CICA.

Diversity in the political systems, economies and cultures of the CICA Member States is the asset of the Forum. CICA builds on differences to develop new approaches to strengthen security that are acceptable for all Member States.

All Member States are equal on the CICA platform. This approach fully meets the UN norm of equality of voices of all members of the international community.

**Horasis is an independent advisory Think Tank with its headquarters in Switzerland, which focuses on addressing the most pressing issues of the international agenda by inviting experts from among members of governments, prominent scientists, political and public leaders.*

9th Ministerial Conference of the “Heart of Asia – Istanbul Process”

CICA Executive Director Kairat Sarybay visited Dushanbe from 28 - 30 March at the invitation of Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan and Afghanistan to participate in the 9th Ministerial Conference of the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process. On the sidelines of the conference, K. Sarybay held meetings with six Foreign Ministers of CICA Member States, namely Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, India, Pakistan and Uzbekistan, on 29-30 March.

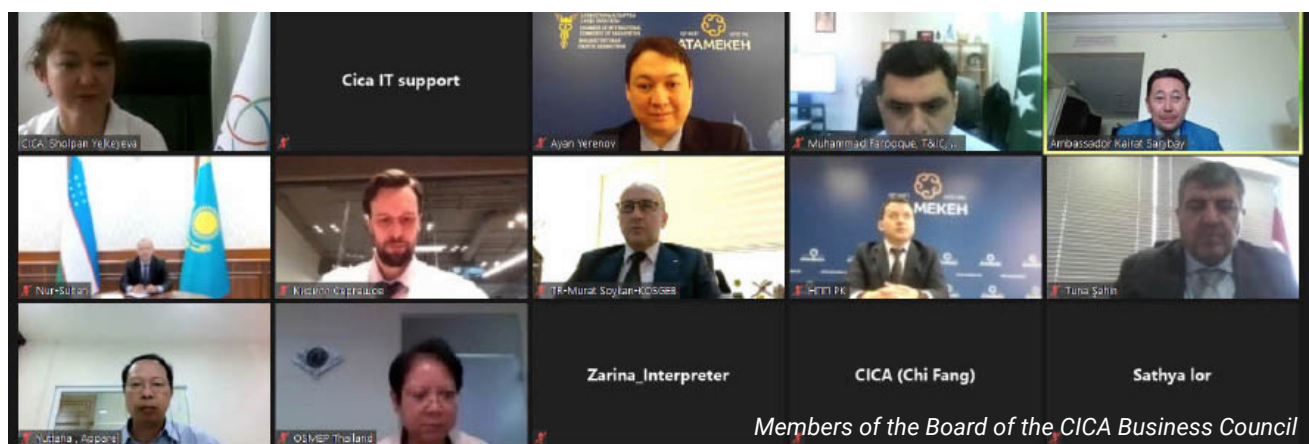
Addressing the Ministerial Conference the Executive Director emphasized the useful synergy of approaches between CICA & Istanbul Process in reaching common goals – strengthening peace and security in Afghanistan, as well as promoting regional connectivity and economic cooperation. He stressed the need for more intensive joint efforts to combat terrorism, extremism and illicit drug production and trafficking, and expressed that CICA welcomed pertinent activities of international organizations and forums to support Afghanistan and would facilitate interaction among its Member States.



K.Sarybay noted that the Istanbul Process and CICA had many common features and that 13 out of 15 participating states of the Istanbul Process were the Member States of CICA, some of them including Azerbaijan, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Russia, Turkey and United Arab Emirates are coordinating implementation of various CBMs on countering terrorism, trade, commerce

& investment opportunities, culture & education, disaster management and regional infrastructure.

During the sideline bilateral meetings with CICA Foreign Ministers, K. Sarybay briefed the ministers on the main priorities of Kazakhstan's CICA Chairmanship, recent proposals of the Chairmanship on establishing a Council of Eminent Persons and vision of transforming CICA into a full-fledged regional organization. Ministers expressed their continued support to strengthen the CICA process and gave support to transform CICA into a full-fledged international organization for regional security.



CICA Business Council Board Meeting

The Members of the Board of the CICA Business Council, who met on March 31, 2021, agreed that concerted efforts on the CICA platform could provide a strong positive synergistic impetus to small and medium-sized enterprises amid the pandemic.

The Board meeting was chaired by **Nariman Abilshaikov**, First Deputy Chairman of the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs of Kazakhstan “Atameken”, who focused the attention of the Board on the need to identify and remove the barriers that SMEs face in their efforts to create joint businesses.

N. Abilshaikov presented the activities of the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs aimed at improvement of the business climate in Kazakhstan, and the measures implemented to support the entrepreneurs of Kazakhstan in 2020 during the pandemic.

On behalf of the Republic of Kazakhstan, he proposed to hold the next CICA Business Forum and the Forum for the development of tourism at the end of the second quarter of 2021. Within the framework of the Business Forum, he also proposed to hold the 4th CICA Business Council Meeting. N. Abilshaikov suggested that the further work of the Business Council must be focused on the increase and diversification of trade and investment cooperation, opportunities for the joint manufacture, and identification and elimination of the existing obstacles for the benefit of the productive business processes among the CICA Member States.

CICA Executive Director K. Sarybay addressed the participants of the Board meeting with welcoming remarks and briefed on the implementation of confidence building measures in the economic dimension, which covers the Business Council activities.

K. Sarybay also addressed the issue of digitalization. Taking into account the effectiveness of the Russian digital platform for SMEs, he proposed to consider the tool as a basis for creating a digital platform for supporting SMEs throughout CICA. If this idea was materialized, small and medium sized enterprises could find access to comprehensive information about partners, possible barriers, prospects for creating joint activities, etc.

The Executive Director pointed out that it would be reasonable to hold the next meeting of the Business Council back-to-back with the 7th CICA Business Forum in the second quarter of the year, as stipulated by the Plan of Confidence Building Measures for 2021.

According to the Executive Director, the Secretariat carried out meticulous analysis of three existing documents on confidence building measures, namely the Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures adopted in 2004, the Cooperative Approach, adopted in 2007, and the Concept Paper for the Implementation of Confidence Building Measures in the Military-Political Dimension (2014).

The work resulted in the development of a streamlined and updated Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures. The Secretariat proposed to submit the document to the Foreign Ministers for approval.

K. Sarybay noted that the Russian Federation, as the Coordinator of Confidence Building Measures in the Development of Small and Medium sized Enterprises, was working on a Concept Paper for that area of cooperation and the accompanying Action Plan for its implementation for the period from 2021 to 2023. After approval, those documents would regulate the CICA activities in the business field for the period up to 2023.

Deputy Chairman of the Board from the Russian Federation, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Republic of Turkey also presented their vision on the development of small and medium-sized enterprises.

In particular, **Kirill Sergashov**, Deputy Director of the Department of Investment Policy and Entrepreneurship Development of the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation, presented the activities of Russia in entrepreneurship and measures taken to support businesses in the pandemic. He also informed about the creation of a Digital Platform focused on the needs of its target users – small and medium-sized enterprises. K. Sergashov expressed readiness to share experience in that area.

Yuttana Silpsarnvitch, Member of the Board of the Federation of Thai Industries, highlighted medical tourism, food processing and agricultural business as the most promising sectors for revitalizing cooperation in the pandemic. He offered two sectors for development, in particular the medical hubs for medical tourism, medical travel and health promotion and the food processing and new agricultural business.

Salih Tuna Sahin, Vice President of the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Organization of the Republic of Turkey (KOSGEB), informed about efforts to avoid disruptions in the supply chain from manufacturer to consumer and the need to maintain business culture in the pandemic through relevant training programs.

He noted that Turkey had launched a large-scale program, covering all aspects of business to recover from COVID-19 – the Economic Stability Shield Program.

Salih Tuna Sahin expressed his support to the CICA Business Council and events conducted within the framework of confidence building measures that help to develop the spirit of cooperation and collective security.

**The Business Council is an advisory body of CICA, bringing together representatives of business organizations and government bodies responsible for supporting small and medium-sized enterprises and stimulating business activity of entrepreneurs.*



International conference on “How to Build Stronger Confidence in Asia and Make CICA More Responsive to the Challenges of the 21st Century”

The role of CICA in establishing a universal and comprehensive security architecture in Asia was discussed at the international online conference on “How to Build Stronger Confidence in Asia and Make CICA More Responsive to the Challenges of the 21st Century”, organized at the UN platform by the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to the UN jointly with the CICA Secretariat on April 2, 2021.

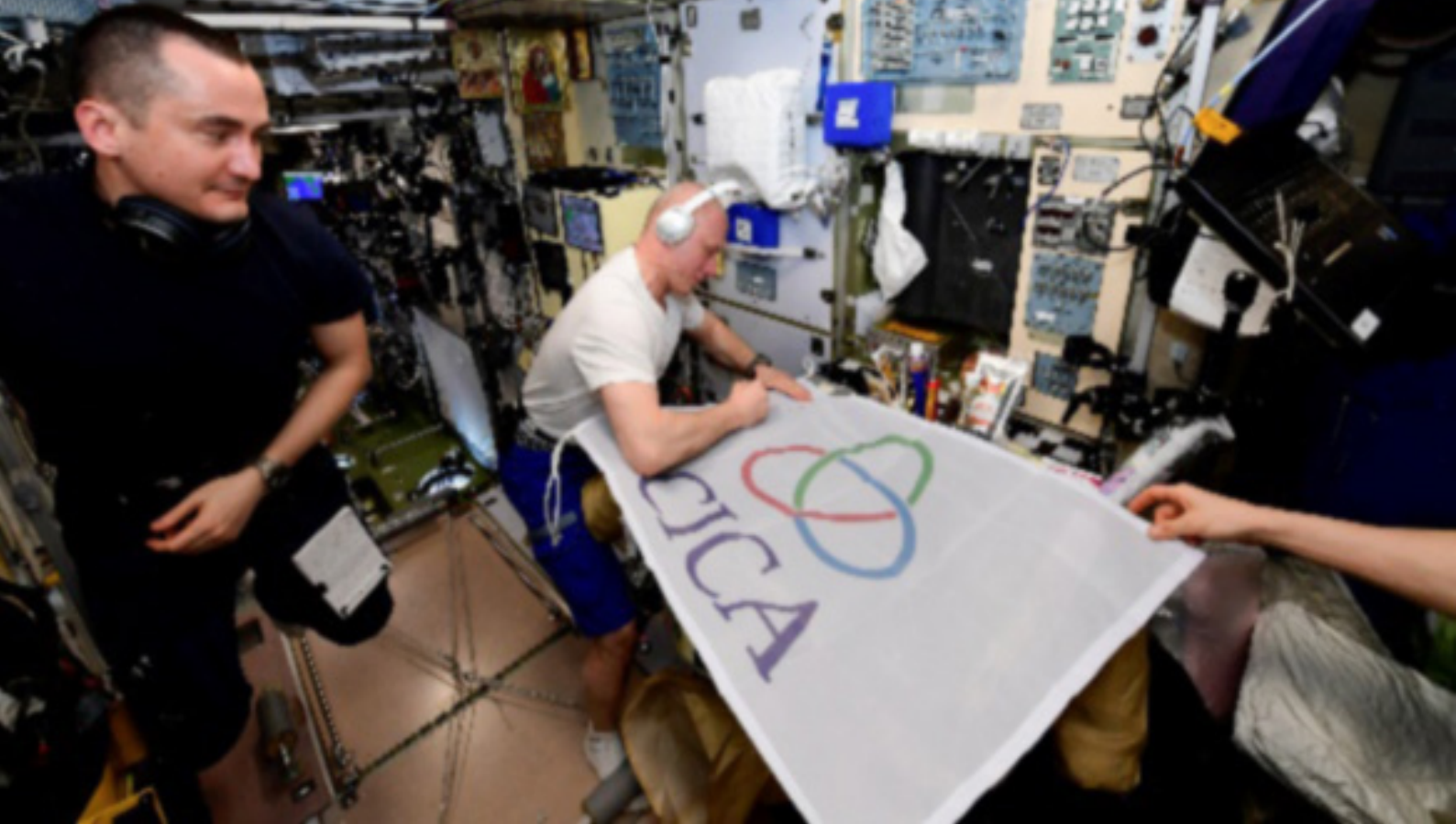
First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan Shakhrat Nuryshev provided an update on the priorities of Kazakhstan’s CICA Chairmanship in 2020-2022, and noted the need for active interaction to further strengthen the political, economic and intercultural dialogue among Asian countries.

CICA Executive Director K.Sarybay noted that the current demand for multilateralism and inclusiveness indicated that Asia had a new decisive role to play. According to K.Sarybay, CICA was the best platform for consolidating the collective wisdom of all Asian countries in the name of global peace, security and development.

UN Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Voronkov stressed the importance of cooperation of international organizations to seek solutions together to newly emerging and rapidly adapting security threats.

The participants noted the demand for CICA as a platform for promoting mutual trust and interaction aimed at resolving global problems. They emphasized the need for increased connectivity in Asia and united approaches of the regional states, as well as expressed support for the priorities of Kazakhstan’s Chairmanship in CICA.

The event was attended by the ambassadors and representatives of the UN Asia-Pacific Group, as well as the Member States and Observers of CICA.



CICA flag orbits the Earth

On the eve of the 60th anniversary of Yuri Gagarin's flight into space and on the eve of the 30th anniversary since the launch of the CICA initiative, the CICA flag was successfully delivered to the Earth's orbit by the crew of the Yuri Gagarin Spacecraft, which was launched from the Baikonur Cosmodrome on April 9, 2021. Thus, the ideas of peace, security and stability shared by the 27 Asian states have rocketed to cosmic heights, and the flag of our forum has now been flown to a level representing the global importance of the principles and goals of the CICA Member States.

Former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stressed that "the International Day of Human Space Flight will remind us of our common humanity and our need to work together to conquer shared challenges." Today, these words are more than ever in tune with the spirit of CICA – a multilateral forum for dialogue, a "safe haven" in the stormy sea of international relations and a "launching pad" for confidence building measures aimed at global security.

It is also symbolic that Kazakhstan, which was the site of Yuri Gagarin's space launch 60 years ago, became the country that

launched the noble initiative to create CICA from the high rostrum of the United Nations almost 30 years ago.





2021 CICA Finance Summit

The Finance Summit was initiated by the People's Republic of China to enhance cooperation among the CICA Member States in the sector of finance as part of CICA's economic dimension confidence building measures. The China Association for the Promotion of Development Financing (CAPDF) in cooperation with the Jinan Municipal Government and under the leadership of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized the above event from 17-18 April 2021.

The Summit was attended by representatives from 13 CICA Member States, including Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Laos, Mongolia, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Uzbekistan and representatives of the International Finance Centre of Abu Dhabi, Thailand Kasikorn Bank and Africa EcoBank Group in China. The official representatives and scientists from Israel, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and other CICA Member States participated in the event in an online format.

The participants discussed matters related to sustainable development, promotion of green economy, new information technologies and interaction in the sector of finance. The Jinan proposal, adopted at the end of the Summit, emphasizes the significance

of multilateralism and open economy, and encourages the Member States to cooperate in green and inclusive financing, and contribute to sustainable development and the poverty reduction process in the CICA area.

There was a round table discussion within the framework of the CICA Finance Summit "Diversified and Inclusive Region of CICA, Open and Pragmatic Cooperation", where the event participants exchanged their views on the revival of economy in the post-pandemic period.



Online consultations with the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China

The People's Republic of China confirmed its continued support and interest in active cooperation within CICA during the online consultations of CICA Executive Director K.Sarybay and Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China Le Yucheng, on April 27, 2021.

Executive Director informed the Vice Minister about the activities carried out by the Secretariat and the progress made in implementation of the priorities set by the Kazakh Chairmanship, and elaborated on the institutionalization of the Forum as well as the process of updating the Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures.

The parties discussed a wide range of issues related to cooperation within the CICA process, including preparations for the Meeting of Foreign Ministers scheduled for autumn 2021, the Sixth CICA Summit to be held in 2022, as well as the upcoming meetings of the Special Working Group and the Senior Officials Committee.



Vice Minister Le Yucheng noted the need to promote multilateralism and respect for the principles of international law within CICA in order to ensure sustainable security in the Asian region. China called on the Member States to actively cooperate in the fight against the pandemic.

In the course of consultations, the Vice Minister and the Executive Director agreed to further enhance the dialogue and ensure close interaction on implementation of CICA confidence building measures.



Founder of CICA Nursultan Nazarbayev welcomes further strengthening of the Forum

On 26 May 2021, the Founder of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) - the First President of Kazakhstan, Elbasy Nursultan Nazarbayev received CICA Executive Director Ambassador Kairat Sarybay. President Nazarbayev had been named "Founder of CICA" in the Dushanbe Declaration of the CICA Summit of 15 June 2019. The leaders of CICA Member States expressed deep appreciation to President Nazarbayev for his significant contribution to the development of CICA and welcomed his further active participation in strengthening the capacity of CICA and in comprehensive efforts to ensure peace, security and interaction in Asia.

At the meeting with Elbasy, the Executive Director briefed him on the remarkable progress achieved by CICA to date and on the CICA Secretariat's work to implement the Kazakhstan Chairmanship priorities and initiatives in the run-up to the 30th anniversary of CICA in 2022. The CICA Founder shared his views on the future of CICA and its role in strengthening cooperation in Asia and global peace and security.

K.Sarybay noted that the CICA Secretariat also focuses on supporting the initiatives of the Kazakhstan Chairmanship on further institutionalization and strengthening of CICA by the establishment of new institutions with high added value .

Elbasy Nazarbayev shared his vision on topical issues of regional and global security and cooperation in Asia and expressed satisfaction with the major progress achieved by CICA since its launch in 1992 at the UN General Assembly. Nazarbayev noted with confidence that CICA Member States will continue their interaction for strengthening peace, security and economic connectivity, taking into account the increasing role of Asia in ensuring global security.

The founder of CICA expressed full support to further development and strengthening of CICA and his readiness to remain engaged and facilitate this process. He welcomed the conceptual approaches to transformation of the forum into a full-fledged international organization for regional security and other initiatives, such as establishment of a Council of Eminent Persons, Think Tank Forum and CICA Fund, and wished success to the CICA Chairmanship and Secretariat in implementation of CICA goals.

** The idea of convening CICA was initiated by the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev, on 5 October 1992, at the 47th session of the United Nations General Assembly.*

CICA Smart Agriculture application and development Seminar

CICA Smart Agriculture Application and Development Seminar was held in the Huazhong Agricultural University from May 26 to 27. A total of 249 faculty members and researchers from higher education and research institutions participated in this two-day webinar. They represented 9 Member States of CICA, including Bangladesh, Bahrain, China Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Thailand, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam.

Professor Ping Qing, Vice-President of HZAU, delivered a speech at the opening ceremony and introduced the importance of smart agriculture development.

The lectures in the seminar were given in English. Centering on smart farms, smart farming, smart gardening, and smart

agricultural decision-making, 13 experts from the Huazhong Agricultural University, China Agricultural University, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences and other institutions of higher learning and scientific research presented the key technologies in the transformation process from traditional agriculture to smart agriculture, explored the in-depth integration of smart agriculture and enterprise, education and research, and strengthened the integration and innovation of agriculture and science and technology.

The next seminar will be held on August 18-19, 2021, and the third part will be organized at Huazhong Agricultural University on October 17-21, 2021, and last up to 10 days.





CICA Alley in the Capital of Kazakhstan

The Alley of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) was opened next to the Palace of Peace and Reconciliation in Nur-Sultan city on June 1, 2021.

30 red rowan trees were planted by representatives of CICA Member States and Observer States in the Presidential Park on the eve of the 30th anniversary of CICA, as the manifestation of peace, fertility and prosperity.

The event was attended by Chairperson of the Association of Environmental Organizations of Kazakhstan Aigul Solovieva, Heads of Diplomatic Missions of CICA Member States and Observer States in Nur-Sultan and ecoactivists of the capital city led by Chairperson of the United Children and Youth Organization “Zhas Ulan” Dinara Sadvakassova.

“Inauguration of the Alley corresponds to the main aims of CICA under environmental dimension and represents a contribution of our forum to reaching UN Sustainable Development Goals” said CICA Executive Director K. Sarybay in his address to the participants.

A. Solovieva thanked CICA for its support of the principles of green development, and D. Sadvakassova stressed the importance of nurturing environmental culture among young people.

The inauguration of the Alley organized by the CICA Secretariat in cooperation with the Sustainable Development Earth Foundation has become a humble contribution to the greening of Kazakhstan’s capital.



A background image showing a pair of hands being handcuffed, with the hands positioned palm-up and the cuffs being fastened around the wrists.

TRAINING COURSE

Organized Crime Investigations and Investigation Techniques

May 31 - June 4, 2021

Law Enforcement Training Program on “Crime Intelligence Analysis for Officers of the Criminal Police”

Turkey, as the Coordinator of the New Threats and Challenges Dimension, conducted the first part of the training course for criminal police officers on “Crime Intelligence Analysis” on May 24-28, 2021.

The event was organized by the Turkish International Academy against Drugs and Organized Crime (TADOC) under the Turkish Ministry of Interior.

The online event was attended by employees of law enforcement bodies and security agencies from 11 CICA Member States, including Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Palestine, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, as well as officers of the CICA Secretariat.

In the course of the training, TADOC instructors shared the experience of Turkish law enforcement agencies on the assessment of sources of information, effective use of integrated databases, analysis of financial flows and their interrelation, aspects of personality analysis.

The last day of the training was devoted to a case study, where law enforcement officers were offered to consider and apply the knowledge gained to a particular situation from specific criminal cases.

The first meeting of the CICA Ambassador's Informal Club

The first meeting of the CICA Ambassador's Informal Club was held on June 11, 2021.

Representatives of Kazakh State authorities, Ambassadors of CICA Member States (Cambodia, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea, Russia, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Charge d'Affaires of Afghanistan), UN, EU, and Turkmenistan were hosted at Executive Director's residence.

The core idea of the Informal Club is to create a reliable informal platform for building trustful and personal relations among representatives of the host country foreign service and the diplomatic corps in Nur-Sultan.





The Fourth Meeting of the CICA Youth Council discussed strengthening of youth exchange and interaction of Asian youth organizations in an online format on June 18, 2021.

In his welcoming remarks, CICA Executive Director K. Sarybay noted that the youth was destined to be a driving force of the development and therefore it was important to step up cooperation between national youth organizations of the CICA Member States, to encourage the youth to participate in the implementation of youth policies and to develop recommendations and proposals for improvement of cooperation in the CICA area in their interests.

As a result of the meeting, the participants agreed to continue active interaction to further strengthen cooperation between the youth of the CICA Member States.

The event was attended by the members of the Youth Council, representatives of youth organizations, associations and movements from the CICA Member States.

India as Coordinator of Confidence Building Measures in the area of Energy Security held a training workshop on Renewable Energy for Energy Security for the relevant CICA Member States' experts on June 18, 2021.

The event was organized by the Minister of External Affairs and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy of the Republic of India.

vital role in ensuring global sustainable development and energy security itself. The share of the renewable sources is steadily growing globally due to the vigilance of the world community to the common need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The priority was endorsed by signing the Paris Agreement in December 2015. The cost reduction of renewable energy sources and technological progress have facilitated this process.

India ranked 4th in the world in terms of its power generation capacity, and since 2017 the annual rate of increase in renewable energy capacity has exceeded the coal-

fired power plant capacity. To accomplish its goals India has implemented several initiatives.

Over the course of the thematic sessions, the participants discussed the introduction of renewable energy sources by using solar photovoltaic systems, onshore and offshore wind power stations, biomass solutions, involving the use of liquid biofuel and power reactor waste. These sources may address both long-term and short-term energy demands.

The participants discussed the matters related to nontangency, integration of networks and balancing in the electricity

sector while expanding the use of renewable energy sources in transportation and other industries.

It was highlighted that international cooperation in such areas as hydrogen energy production and storage may significantly expand the scope of the sector and maintain a low-cost financing for renewable energy sources, especially in countries where the renewable energy opportunities are limited.

CICA seminar discusses Global Warming Issues

An online seminar on “Environmental Management of the Effects of Climate Change and Global Warming on Coastal and Marine Biodiversity” was held on June 29, 2021.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Environment of the Islamic Republic of Iran organized the event in the capacity of Coordinator of the Natural Disaster Management priority area in line with the CICA Plan on Implementation of Confidence Building Measures.

During the seminar, the scientists shared their research findings on the current state of global warming and the practical ways to conserve flora and fauna of the coastline along the Persian Gulf.

In his welcoming remarks, **Deputy Head of the Department of Environment Ahmad Reza Lahijanzadeh** briefed the participants on the causes and consequences of the climate change and the need to use the alternative sources of renewable energy.

In his turn, the **Professor from the Tarbiat Modares University Dr. Mehdi Ghodrati Shojaei** guided the seminar participants through the role of coastal ecosystems in mitigating the impacts of climate change. In particular, Dr. Shojaei stressed an important role of mangrove forests and sea vegetation in contributing to the environment protection.

Professor from the Tehran University Reza Naderloo presented the current situation of the Persian Gulf and shared the relevant statistics.

60 representatives from environment institutions and organizations of China, Kazakhstan, Thailand, as well as ecological scientists and experts of CICA Member States participated in the seminar.

In addition, the Islamic Republic of Iran plans to hold 5 events as Coordinator of the Natural Disaster Management and Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking priority areas in line with the CICA Plan on Implementation of Confidence Building Measures in 2021.



Participation in the Antalya Diplomacy Forum

At the invitation of Foreign Minister of Turkey Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu CICA Executive Director K. Sarybay attended the Antalya Diplomacy Forum on June 18-20, 2021. Heads of state, foreign ministers, politicians, opinion makers, and academics from around the world gathered in Antalya to discuss world issues, including global development and the role of Asia.

CICA Executive Director was privileged to moderate the panel discussion on the “Regional Cooperation in Asia”, where the Foreign Ministers of Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan discussed the ways of enhancing security, stability and prosperity of the Asian mega-region through regional cooperation tools.

The Executive Director held several bilateral meetings with Foreign Minister of Palestine Riad Malki, Foreign Minister of Tajikistan Sirojiddin Muhridin, Foreign Minister of Malaysia Dato’ Seri Hishammuddin bin Tun Hussein, Secretary West of Bangladesh MFA Shabbir Ahmad Chowdhury and Director General for International Security at Turkish MFA Gülin Dinç on the margins of the Forum. The parties discussed the necessity to adapt CICA to new realities, increase the international standing of CICA and strengthen its capacity for a higher degree of interaction. Ambassador Sarybay briefed them on the implementation of Kazakhstan’s CICA Chairmanship priorities and outcomes of a number of activities.

Enhancing synergy between international organizations and arrangements towards the achievement of common goals and benefits of inclusive and networked multilateralism were main points of the meetings of K. Sarybay with UN Assistant Secretary-General for Europe, Central Asia, and Americas Miroslav Jenča, Economic Cooperation Organisation Secretary General at the Hadi Soleimanpour, Secretary General of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly Mohammad Reza Majidi and Director General of the International Center for Migration Policy Development Michael Spindelegger.

**Antalya Diplomacy Forum – it is a dialogue platform where political leaders, diplomats, opinion makers, and academics discuss international and regional challenges.*





CICA Senior Officials Committee Meeting

The Senior Officials Committee reached significant achievements at its second meeting under the Chairmanship of Kazakhstan on June 23, 2021.

The SOC approved granting of the CICA Observer Status to Turkmenistan, which became another testament of CICA's growing role in strengthening security across Asia.

The SOC approved the draft of the Regulations of the CICA Council of Eminent Persons and recommended its adoption by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the CICA Member States.

The SOC adopted the decision on the List of Coordinating and Co-coordinating Countries for Implementing Confidence Building Measures under Priority Areas of CICA Dimensions. The List contains new co-coordinating countries: China and Jordan in the priority area "Epidemiological Safety, Public Health and Pharmaceuticals", China in the priority area "Development of Secure and Effective Systems of Transportation corridors", Bangladesh in the priority area "Natural Disaster Management", and China in the human dimension.

In addition, SOC adopted the General Guidelines for Conducting Events on Implementation of CICA Confidence Building Measures.

Chair of the SOC – First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan Shakhmat Nuryshev in his opening remarks underlined significant intensification of the activities within CICA. In particular, he mentioned successful meetings of the 8th CICA Think Tank Forum, Finance Summit and Agricultural Training Course organized by the People's Republic of China, Conference "The Role of Youth in Countering Radicalism, Extremism and Terrorism" by the Republic of Uzbekistan, Seminar "Promoting Cohesion: Learning from Volunteerism in Disaster Risk Management" by the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Workshop on "COVID-19 and SME's: Sharing Experience, Best Practices and Bounce Back Strategy" by the Kingdom of Thailand, a Law Enforcement Training Program on Crime Intelligence Analysis and Training Course for Criminal Police Offices "Organized Crime Investigation Techniques" by the Republic of Turkey, Workshop on "Renewable Energy for Energy Security" by the Republic of India, as well as meetings of the Board of the Business Council and the CICA Youth Council organized by Kazakhstan.

The First Deputy Minister noted with satisfaction that great work has been done to increase the visibility of CICA. In particular, he emphasized the meeting with the Founder of CICA, First President of the Republic of



Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev on May 26, 2021, who shared his vision and prospects of the CICA process and its role in strengthening cooperation and security across Asia.

This SOC meeting was also special as it featured the thematic discussion on “Growing role of Asia in international affairs and related adaptation of CICA” under a separate agenda item. Member States expressed common view on the crucial role of Asia in shaping international affairs, and confirmed that CICA is an important instrument in promoting peace, security and prosperity in Asia and continues to strengthen dialogue and confidence building measures in the CICA area.

At the meeting, a video message was delivered by the UN Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism, Head of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism, Ambassador Vladimir Voronkov, who elaborated on issues of global terrorism and expressed readiness to cooperate with CICA and its Member States in countering terrorism and violent extremism. CICA continues its work on the CICA Action Plan for the Implementation of UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy.

The SOC tasked the Special Working Group with finalizing the draft updated CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures, and with agreeing on the draft Regulations of the CICA

Think Tank Forum and amendments to the CICA Rules of Procedure in relation to the status of Observers before the next SOC meeting.

Overall, the CICA SOC meeting was held in the spirit of open dialogue and frank exchange of views, proposals and ideas.

**Senior Officials Committee (SOC) is the basic decision-taking body for the implementation of agreements and decisions of the Summit and the Ministerial Meeting. It takes decisions on key issues concerning the development of interaction within CICA, as well as administrative and financial issues of the Secretariat's activities and all issues submitted to it by the Special Working Group.*

CICA Business Council and Business Forum Meeting

The ways of establishing more rapid, cost-efficient and profitable business processes in times of the pandemic were the central theme of discussion of the CICA Business Council and Business Forum, held on June 24 and 25, 2021.

Both events were focused on the discussion of matters related to food production, interaction in the sectors of high-level processing of grain, oil crops, meat and dairy products, and the sector of construction materials.

Deputy Prime Minister - Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan Mukhtar Tileuberdi opened the meeting of the CICA Business Council and noted the opportune time and relevance for the new decisions, which will be aimed at boosting the sector of small and medium-sized enterprises. He emphasized high capabilities and the proper market size of the CICA area with its 50% share of global GDP and contribution to two thirds of the growth of the global economy. Minister Tileuberdi briefed the members of the Business Council with Kazakhstan's investment opportunities and the measures taken by the government of Kazakhstan to improve the investment climate in the country. He highlighted that CICA, which was convened almost 30 years ago, has proved its relevance as part of the regional security system in Asia.

CICA Executive Director K. Sarybay guided the Business Council members through the confidence building measures implemented within the Economic Dimension of CICA, and emphasized an increased level of engagement of the Member States in contributing to the implementation of this dimension, highlighting in particular the contributions of the Russian Federation, Thailand, Turkey, India and China. It was noted that nearly half of 50 activities planned under the CICA Plan on Implementation of Confidence Building Measures in 2021 are related to the Economic Dimension.

Chief Registrar of the Astana International Financial Centre **Christopher Campbell-Holt** noted a high level of protection of foreign capital entering the market of Kazakhstan for business related purposes, and briefed the audience regarding the statistics of the case review associated with the business climate in the

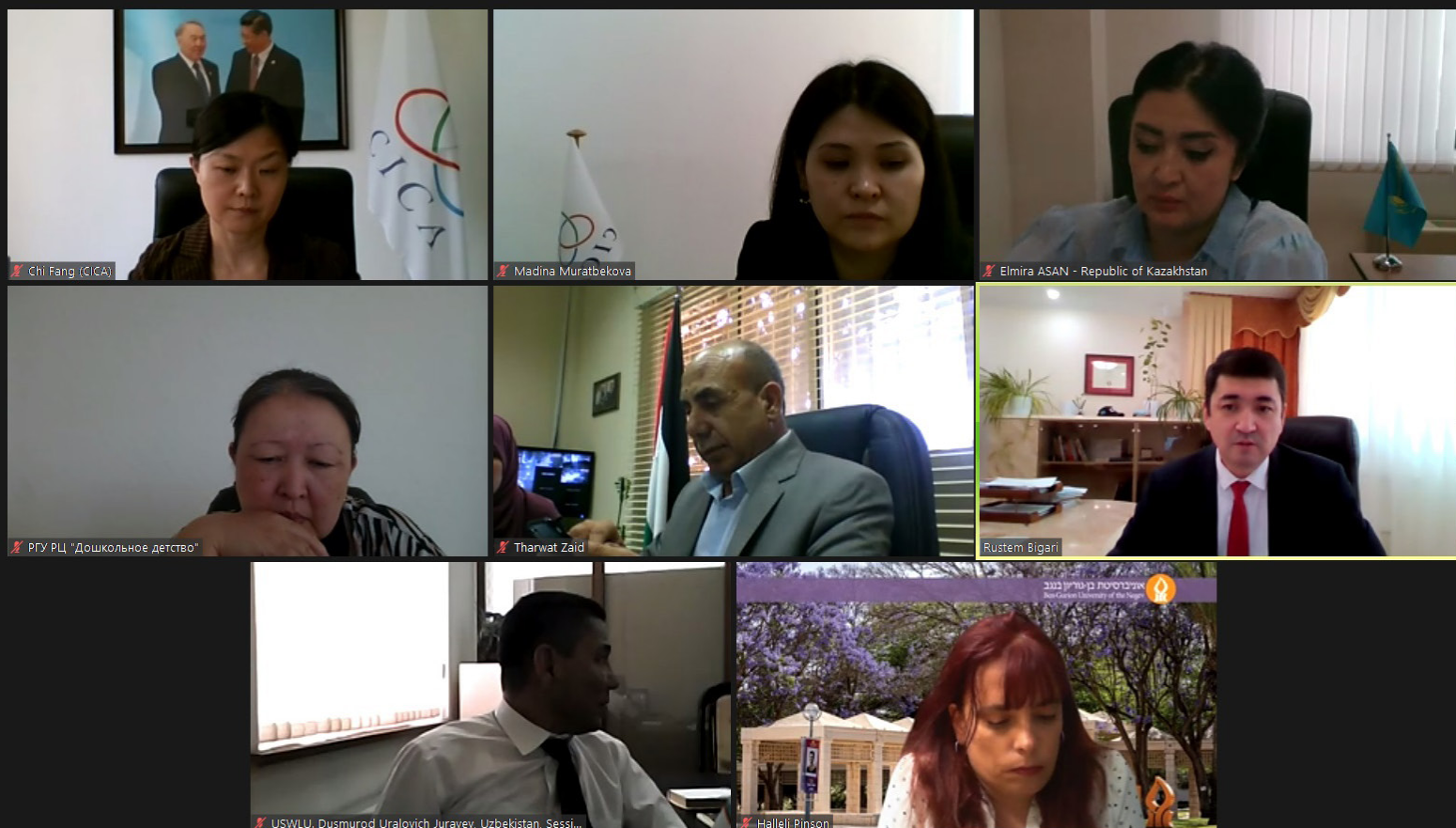
Republic of Kazakhstan.

Deputy Chairmen of the Business Council from the Russian Federation, Turkey and Thailand, as well as the Kazakh National Chamber of Entrepreneurs "Atameken" presented their proposals for deepening cooperation in the field of agricultural production. The participants noted high demand for close cooperation among food producers, taking into account that the CICA area is the most densely populated region in the world.

The presentation of "KazakhInvest", made by its **Chairman Meirzhan Yussupov** contained a step-by-step recommendation to foreign investors for effective business in the Republic of Kazakhstan. It was noted that the Government of Kazakhstan had created 13 special economic zones and 24 industrial zones in order to maximize the ease of doing business.

Members of the Business Council were also addressed by leaders of the three largest Chinese corporations – **Zhang Yujing, Chairman of the China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Machinery and Electronic Products, Liu Aimin, Chairman of the Board of the China-Egypt TEDA Suez Economic and Trade Cooperation Zone and Chen Xiaojia, Chairman of CITIC Construction Co., Ltd.**

Both forums, moderated by **Marat Birimzhan, General Director of "Samruk-Kazyna Invest"**, were attended by 116 businessmen and representatives of government agencies regulating the development of SMEs from 19 CICA Member States.



Online CICA seminar on Education

Representatives of education-related organizations and institutions from CICA Member States had a productive exchange of experience on education in the time of COVID-19 in an online format on June 28, 2021.

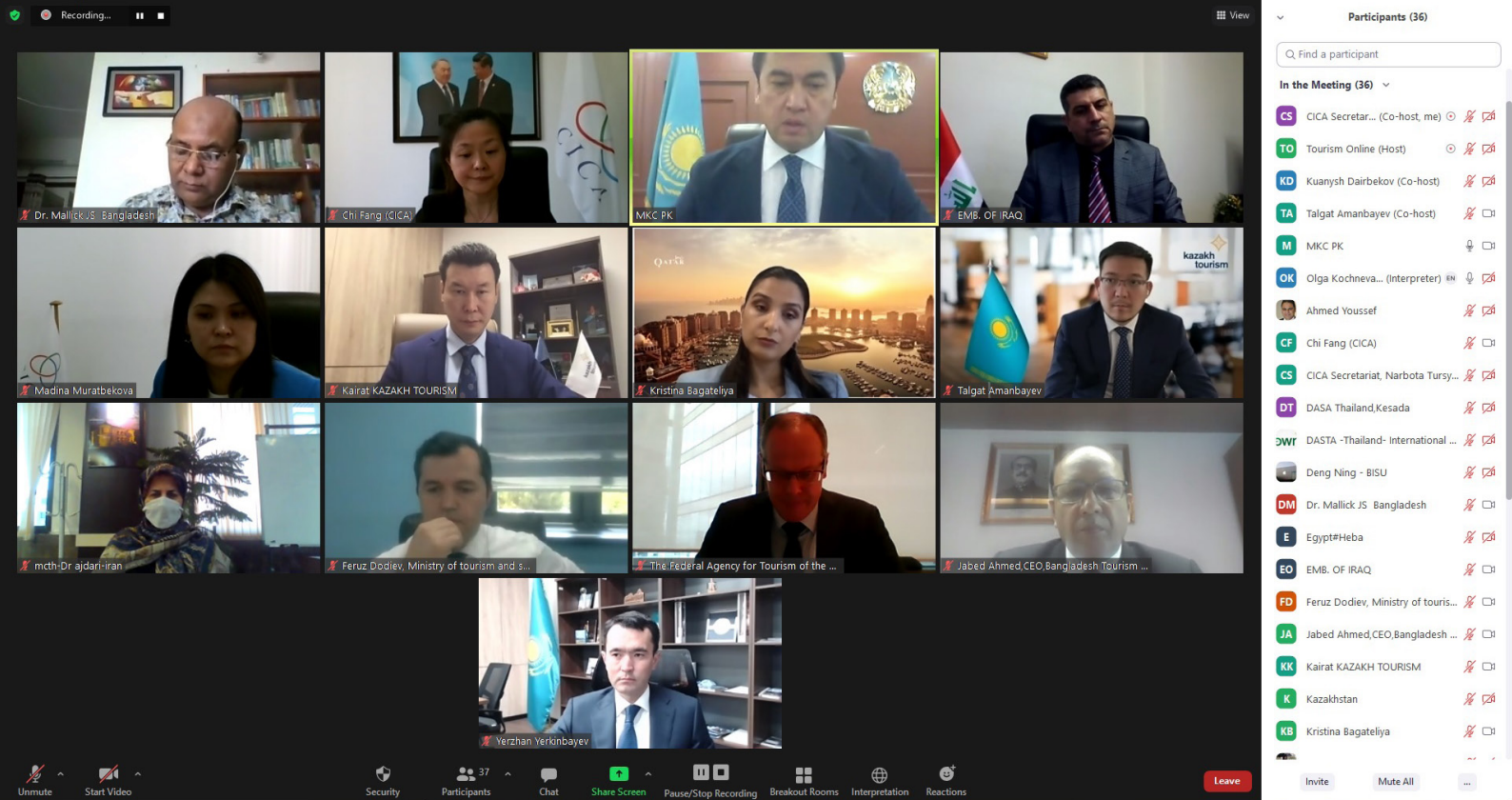
The seminar in the field of education was initiated by the Republic of Kazakhstan under CICA's human dimension and was designed to promote effective regional cooperation among the CICA Member States in the field of education, establishing contacts among educational institutions.

In her welcoming speech CICA Deputy Executive Director Chi Fang noted that it was important to make every effort to establish cooperation among Member States in order to discuss possible joint measures in the field of education and give an adequate response in the context of the pandemic.

Participants of the meeting discussed issues of further cooperation in the field of preschool and secondary, technical and vocational, as well as in the field of higher education in the time of COVID-19.

As a result, the participants agreed to actively interact and deepen cooperation among educational institutions of the CICA Member States.

The event was attended by speakers from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, India, Israel, Korea, Palestine, Russia, as well as representatives of education-related organizations and institutions from CICA Member States.



Online CICA seminar on Tourism

Prospects for development of tourism in the post-pandemic period were discussed by representatives of agencies and departments of CICA Member States in an online session on 30 June 2021. The Forum on the Development of Tourism under the CICA economic dimension was initiated by the Republic of Kazakhstan in order to restore tourism activity and further develop the industry in the region in the post-coronavirus period.

Deputy Executive Director of the CICA Secretariat Chi Fang presented the message of Executive Director Kairat Sarybay to the participants of the Forum, where he noted that measures to contain COVID-19 required not only active engagement at the national level, but also decisive and coordinated efforts of the international community. As he further noted, the approach was consonant with the priority tasks of CICA in the context of discussions on tourism recovery and development prospects in the Asian region in the post-coronavirus period, including through the use of innovation, digitalization, as well as by ensuring sustainability and building partnerships.

Participants of the Forum discussed modern methods of crisis management and the role of information technology in tourism.

As a result of the Forum, the participants agreed to further exchange experience and best practices in the field of tourism recovery. The event was attended by speakers from Azerbaijan, China, Iran, Palestine, Qatar, Russia, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, as well as representatives of tourism institutions and organizations of CICA Member States.



Consultations in Cairo and Round Table “Priorities of Kazakhstan’s Chairmanship in CICA in 2021-2022: Implementation of Confidence Building Measures in Five Dimensions”

CICA Executive Director K. Sarybay, conducted a visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt for bilateral discussions and engagements with the country’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs and diplomatic community.

On June 29, K. Sarybay was officially received by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Ambassador Sameh Shoukry. K.Sarybay informed Minister Shoukry of the priorities of the Republic of Kazakhstan’s Chairmanship in CICA and delivered to him the official invitation to the 2021 CICA Ministerial Meeting, on behalf of Deputy Prime Minister-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan Mukhtar Tileuberdi.

The previous day, K. Sarybay met with Assistant Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, Dr. Khalid Al-Habbas, at the League’s Cairo headquarters. The two discussed the prospects of further interaction and coordination between CICA and the Arab League, which is an observer organization of CICA. Dr. Al-Habbas likewise received an official invitation to the CICA Ministerial Meeting for the Secretary-General of the League.



K. Sarybay also delivered the keynote speech at the round table event on the topic “Priorities of Kazakhstan’s Chairmanship of CICA 2020-2022: Implementation of Confidence Building Measures in Five Dimensions by the CICA Member States,” organized by the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Arab Republic of Egypt. In his remarks, K. Sarybay outlined the cluster of priorities set forth by the Kazakh Chairmanship, including the institutionalization of the CICA platform and the establishment of new advisory bodies such as the Council of Eminent Persons and the CICA Think Tank Forum.

Finally, the Executive Director gained the opportunity to provide an interview for the leading Arabic-language Egyptian newspaper “Al-Ahram”, and the TV channel “Nile TV”.

Interview of CICA Executive Director to “Al-Ahram” newspaper

- Egypt is a unique Afro-Asian country
- The President Al-Sisi plays a special role in solving regional problems in the Middle East and North Africa
- Kazakhstan seeks to create a fund to finance joint projects and support confidence-building measures

Interviewer – Tarek El Sonoty

The CICA Executive Director said that Egypt could become an effective bridge of connectivity between Asia and Africa, amid growing global interest in Africa and its growing economy. Cairo is a unique Afro-Asian state that plays a key role in important international events, including the UN General Assembly, the China-Africa Forum, Russia-Africa and Japan-Africa summits. Egypt's successful presidency of the African Union, which ended in February 2020, has strengthened the country's international profile.

The President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi has a special role to play in fostering collective work to address the regional challenges of the Middle East and North Africa today.

Security and stability

1. The Forum will celebrate its 30th anniversary in 2022. What is CICA like today? Do you think that the conference has achieved its goals?

The initiative to convene the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) was put forward by the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev at the 47th session of the UN General Assembly on October 5, 1992. On the one hand, this initiative was based on a thorough analysis of a number of effective multilateral security systems' development in various parts of the world. On the other hand, it was a reflection of foresight of global growth of Asia's role in the 21st century.

The need to coordinate efforts on security and stability of the Asian mega-region and profound confidence in President Nursultan Nazarbayev on the part of political leaders and statesmen

made it possible for the Asian countries to support the establishment of the Forum. The Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations between the CICA Member States was adopted in 1999, whereas the Almaty Act, which serves as the Statute of the Forum was adopted at the First CICA Summit in 2002. It is no coincidence that the Declaration of the Fifth CICA Summit in Dushanbe expresses deep appreciation to the First President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev for his significant contribution to the CICA process as its Founder.

Today, the Forum brings together 27 Asian states that cover more than 90 percent of the continent, from the Pacific to the Mediterranean Sea and from the Urals to the Indian Ocean, home to more than half of the world's population. The CICA Member States account for over 50% of world GDP and generate two-thirds of global economic growth.

The CICA has come a long way from a concept to an effective Forum for implementation of confidence building measures and cooperation towards a common and indivisible security area in Asia.

Strengthening security

2. There are number of international organizations on the continent that focus on security and cooperation issues. What is unique about CICA? What are the most important features of this interest and what distinguishes CICA from other international organizations in Asia?

The uniqueness of CICA is in the promotion of common, comprehensive, cooperative, sustainable, indivisible, and equal security. Today it is obvious that we cannot talk about the security of each specific country separately; it is also impossible to separate security issues in each specific dimension. In this regard, adherence to the norms of international law, primarily the UN Charter, the principles of multilateralism and inclusiveness is in demand as never before.

The CICA philosophy is to incrementally

expand the areas of interaction, which 27 Member States define by consensus and all the activities within the Forum have a voluntary nature. I believe that this concept significantly distinguishes CICA from other regional structures, where the decisions are mandatory and agenda is often focused on a narrower matters or has a smaller geographical coverage.

The Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures, which plays an instrumental role in fulfilling the potential of CICA, identifies areas and specific measures in five dimensions: military-political, economic, environmental, human dimension and new challenges and threats. Through interaction on confidence building measures, the Member States establish cooperation that leads to an increased security levels - the most important condition for development.

In the context of globalization, a well-coordinated system of international structures dealing with various tasks at the subregional, regional, and global levels is of key importance. CICA does not compete with anyone under any circumstances - we stand for enhancing synergy between organizations towards achievement of common goals of ensuring security.

7 Arab states

3. Naturally, the Forum covers 90% of the Asian continent, it has a huge diversity of nations, religions, and cultures. What is the role of the Arab world in CICA process?

The diversity of political systems, economies, and cultures of the CICA Member States is an important asset of the Forum. We rely on creativity and innovation to develop new approaches to enhance pan-Asian security that is acceptable to all Member States.

Today, the Forum includes 7 Arabic-speaking Member States, including Egypt, which participates in the CICA process from the very beginning in the 90s. Undoubtedly, the representatives of the Arab world significantly enrich the agenda of the Forum - thanks to their support and active participation, CICA strengthens the ties of the Arab world with other sub-regions of Asia.

CICA meets the demand for connectivity in a broad sense. Where else can Cambodia and Bahrain or Jordan and Sri Lanka exchange development experience or interact to fight against the threats?! For Kazakhstan as well as for Russia, it is very important to develop the concept of Greater Eurasia within the CICA framework. The Chinese Chairmanship in 2014-2018 held several CICA events related to the Belt and Road megaproject.

Establishing teamwork

4. How do you assess the role of Egypt and the President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi in supporting the work of the CICA?

I believe that Egypt could become an effective connectivity bridge between Asia and Africa due to the increased global interest in Africa and its growing economy. Cairo is a unique Afro-Asian state that plays a key role in important international events, including the UN General Assembly, the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, the Russia-Africa Summit, and the Tokyo International Conference for African Development. Egypt was a successful Chair of the African Union until February 2020, which strengthened the country's international profile.

President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi plays a special role in organizing collective work and addressing the regional challenges of the Middle East and North Africa today.

It is also important to note Egypt's contribution to the development of interaction between the CICA Member States. For example, Egypt successfully held meetings of the Special Working Group and Senior Officials Committee in sunny Sharm El Sheikh in March 2016. We hope that Cairo will further participate in the development of the CICA process and look forward to the constructive approach of the Egyptian side in preparations to the CICA Ministerial Meeting that is scheduled for autumn 2021 and the Sixth Summit in 2022.

Chairmanship of Kazakhstan

5. The Chairmanship of the Forum was transferred to Kazakhstan in 2020. What are the priorities of Kazakhstan at this post?

The Chairmanship of Kazakhstan has proposed a rich agenda of its priorities in CICA. Several main clusters have been identified, and first of all, it concerns further institutional development of the Forum.

Thus, the Member States welcomed the initiative to establish the Council of Eminent Persons. We hope that the Regulations of the Council will be approved at the 6th Ministerial Meeting this autumn.

Another initiative of the Chairmanship of Kazakhstan – the creation of a permanent platform for the CICA Think Tanks Forum – has been practically implemented, but it requires a logical conclusion. At a meeting in December last year, the Senior Officials Committee has already decided to run this important platform on regular basis – CICA Track II, and the Special Working Group is working to agree on the relevant draft Regulations.

In addition, Kazakhstan as the Chair initiated the establishment of the CICA Fund to finance joint projects, including the official development assistance or the fight against pandemic consequences.

The Member States supported the very important priority of the Chairmanship - update of the CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures. There is a high probability that the work on this important document will be completed very shortly. We can already say that many new global phenomena will be reflected in the updated Catalogue, including countering threats in the field of information and communication technologies, cooperation in the field of epidemiological safety, gender aspects in the human dimension.

6. What is your vision of CICA in the future?

Today, CICA is a recognizable and reputable forum, an effective platform for strengthening the pan-Asian security architecture, and its activities are of keen interest in Asia and beyond.

The time has come to launch a gradual transformation of CICA into a full-fledged international organization for regional security. All the necessary conditions have been created for this step, a legal framework has been developed, and its permanent structures are in place.

The growing role of Asian states in the global economy and international affairs makes it necessary to adapt our Forum to new realities, increase the international standing of CICA and strengthen its capacity for a higher degree of interaction to ensure security and development on a continental and global scale.

The Chairmanship of Kazakhstan intends to hold structural discussions at all levels among the Member States on the goals and methods of transformation in order to preserve the unique experience accumulated over 30 years of our development, on the one hand, and to determine the prospects of the pan-Asian security, on the other.

*Interview of CICA Executive Director to “Al-Ahram” newspaper
June 27, 2021*



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