
PLACE AND ROLE OF ISLAM IN REGIONS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, THE CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA

KANYBEK KUDAYAROV. SCIENTIFIC AND EDUCATIONAL
POLICY OF KAZAKHSTAN IN KYRGYZSTAN

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Abstract. In this article, the author made an attempt to consider some aspects of the scientific and educational policy of Kazakhstan in Kyrgyzstan. Despite the existence of a legal framework in the field of cooperation in the educational and scientific fields, which has existed since 2006, significant progress in the issue under study began only in 2022. As a further deepening of bilateral cooperation, the author proposes the creation of analytical centers, the research of which could be a powerful tool for the implementation of the policy of “soft power” of Kazakhstan in Kyrgyzstan and lobby Kazakhstan's interests in Kyrgyzstan and the region as a whole.

Until recently, the scientific and educational policy of Kazakhstan in Kyrgyzstan was not considered by the expert community as an important and relevant topic requiring attention. And the reason for this is the absence of any noticeable dynamics in this direction until 2022. Only since last year, there has begun an intensification of Astana's policy in the development of scientific and educational ties, primarily related to higher education. The opening of branches of leading Kazakh universities in Kyrgyzstan has become a landmark event in the history of Kazakh-Kyrgyz relations.

The Foreign Policy Concept of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2020–2030 clearly outlines the main goals and objectives of Kazakhstan in relation to the states of Central Asia. To ensure the realization of its interests, Astana is pursuing a diversified policy aimed at strengthening the positive image of Kazakhstan in the region. [1] Much attention is paid to the “soft power” of the Republic of Kazakhstan, expressed primarily in humanitarian cooperation. At the same time, as mentioned earlier, much attention is beginning to be paid to the scientific and educational components of humanitarian cooperation. As you know, Kazakhstan has been very successful in the development of the scientific and educational sector, the achievements of which are regularly recorded in international and global rankings. For example, according to the QS World University Rankings 2023, [2] 15 universities of Kazakhstan were among the best higher educational institutions in the world, and according to the Moscow International Ranking “Three Missions of a University”, 11 universities of the republic were in the Top 1800 best in the world. [3] This is the best result among the countries of Central Asia, since in other countries of the Central Asian region a total of five universities are represented – four in Kyrgyzstan and one university in Uzbekistan.

The development of scientific and educational cooperation with Kyrgyzstan is based on the “Eternal Friendship Treaty” of April 8, 1997 [4] and the “Allied Relations Treaty” of December 25, 2003. [5]

The key document in the development of scientific and educational potential is the Agreement between the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan on cooperation in the field of education dated July 4, 2006. [6] The reciprocal state visits made by the presidents of the two republics in 2021 [7] and 2022 [8] played a big role in promoting bilateral cooperation in the field of education.

Within the framework of bilateral cooperation in these areas, branches of two leading universities in Kazakhstan have been opened in Kyrgyzstan – the Kazakh National University named after Al-Farabi (KazNU – May 26, 2022) and the Eurasian National University named after L.N. Gumilyov [9] (ENU – December 6, 2022), which is located in the building of Osh State University.

It cannot be said that before the said exchange of visits there was no scientific and educational cooperation as such between the states, but it was built not only on an interstate basis, but also in private. For example, in 2002, a private Kyrgyz-Kazakh Academy of Law and Public Administration was established, which lasted until 2015. (More than 200 students studied in it, 95 per cent of them were Kazakhs). [10] And since 2012, the private Kyrgyz-Kazakh University (KKU) has been operating, training specialists mainly in the humanities.

KazNU named after Al-Farabi training is exercised under 13 educational programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels in the state (Kyrgyz), Russian and English languages. The list includes such areas as: biology and biotechnology, mechanical and mathematical specialties, geography and environmental management, oriental studies, information technology, journalism, philology, economics and business, law, chemistry and chemical technology, philosophy and political science.

In 2022, about 30 students studied at the ENU branch. The first two years they receive education in Osh, the next two years – in Kazakhstan. As part of the curriculum, Kyrgyz youth learn the Kazakh language. In the 2022/2023 academic year, the subject

“History of Kazakhstan” was introduced. Training of specialists in the branch is carried out in two areas of higher professional education: “translation studies”, “Russian language and literature”. In the future, it is planned to increase the number of educational programs in the field of natural sciences, physics and IT.

KKU trains specialists in such areas as Jurisprudence, Linguistics, Pedagogy.

As of 2019, about 1,000 students from Kyrgyzstan studied at the universities of Kazakhstan, and 2,000 Kazakh students studied at the universities of Kyrgyzstan, most of them privately. However, due to the pandemic and the restrictions imposed, the number of students has slightly decreased. [11] In the 2021/2022 academic year, the number of students from Kazakhstan has decreased significantly, amounting to only 3.4 per cent. [12] In the 2022/2023 academic year, the number of Kazakh students was 4.4 per cent or 3179 people. [13]

At the same time, Kazakhstan annually allocates about 50 state-funded places in Kazakhstani universities for citizens of Kyrgyzstan and ethnic Kazakhs who have Kyrgyz citizenship. [14] In turn, Kyrgyzstan annually allocates ten places for training citizens of Kazakhstan in Kyrgyzstan.

In addition to supporting the higher education system, in 2015–2016, Kazakhstan built two general education schools in Kyrgyzstan at its own expense, [15] the construction agreements for which were signed in 2012.

An important aspect in the development of the scientific and educational policy of Kazakhstan itself is the modernization of the economy through the creation of scientific, educational, scientific, technical and research centers that train future specialists who are recruited to work in high-tech industries created by foreign investors, which are Russia, South Korea, Japan, Germany, the US and many other states.

A total of 334 joint ventures with the participation of Kazakh capital are registered in Kyrgyzstan. They are concentrated in the financial sector, mining, food production,

trade, transport and communications, construction and repair. Kazakh business, entering Kyrgyzstan, brings with it innovative solutions that it uses in doing business, but there is no information that any of their high-tech solutions are transferred to the scientific and educational sector of the Kyrgyz Republic, that is, these skills are not taught in local universities. Despite the fact that technologies come to Kazakhstan itself, for example, through scientific and technical centers created mainly by Western countries and Russia, including through the creation of new specialties at various universities, Kazakhstan does not use the gained experience in Kyrgyzstan through its transfer to citizens of the neighboring country.

For example, in Uzbekistan, there is the Uzbek-South Korean Inha University in Tashkent, established in 2014, which trains specialists involved in computer and software engineering and makes a great contribution to the digitalization of the country; Yeju Technological University and other joint scientific, educational and scientific and technological centers that successfully modernize the country's economy by introducing high-tech solutions into it through education.

Despite the growth of educational cooperation between the two countries, the transfer of technology to the Kyrgyz side from Kazakhstan has not yet been noticed, which may be explained by the latter's unwillingness to create additional competition for itself in the region. By large, technologies do not come to Kyrgyzstan from their neighbors in the region, with the exception of minor innovative solutions in mining, described in the pages of scientific journals, as well as projects related mainly to the digitalization of the economy.

As you know, the transfer of office work at enterprises to an electronic format is a necessity that facilitates production / operational control, but it does not provide economic growth by itself, this requires advanced technologies that can work on software, contributing to the automation and optimization of production processes. Kazakhstan primarily sees in Kyrgyzstan a

market for raw materials and sales of finished products, which is confirmed by the absence of joint technology parks and research centers.

The Kyrgyz-Kazakh Forum of Intelligentsia, which in January 2023 completed its seventh event, is held on an annual basis. The forum traditionally touches on the cultural and historical aspects of scientific and educational cooperation, and therefore it is difficult to consider it as a kind of “help” in the development of economy.

However, branches of Kazakh universities established in 2022 suggest that, in addition to humanitarian specialties, Kazakhstan intends to train experts in natural science specialties required in industrial agriculture and other areas. This gives reason to believe in a change in Kazakhstan’s policy in the area under study.

In addition to the traditionally conducted joint research in the field of culture and history, there are areas that need serious scientific research. These include, for example, everything related to water or water resources - groundwater and surface water, water-saving technologies for irrigation, water for energy storage instead of batteries, disaster prevention, the sharing of supercomputers and satellites [16] – which could be the subject of bilateral and multilateral research and seriously promote scientific and educational projects.

The main barriers to scientific collaboration are the low funding of science throughout the region and the established socio-cultural norms of academic communities in the countries of Central Asia. [16]

In the countries of Central Asia, funding for science is well below the global average. If in the whole world more than two per cent of GDP is spent on research and development (R&D), then the indicators of the countries of Central Asia vary within 0.1–0.22 per cent of GDP. The states of the region prefer to allocate funds for image projects rather than for science.

According to Kairat Moldashev, in order to strengthen scientific cooperation at the regional level, it is necessary, first of

all, to create a joint fund to finance projects. Accordingly, scientists from different countries of the region should be involved in order to strengthen the expert potential and give greater significance to the projects. It is very important to finance the research process itself, and not just conferences and other events where you need to present the results. Kazakhstan, in particular, in the State Center for Scientific and Technical Expertise, already has experience in successfully conducting project evaluations with the involvement of international experts, which can be used at the regional level. The next step requires regulation – decision-making based on expert opinions. An important step could be the creation of commissions of scientists from Central Asian countries with extensive research experience and ensuring transparency in decision-making.

In addition to the plan announced by Moldashev to design joint scientific projects, it is also very promising to use the base of branches of Kazakhstani universities in Kyrgyzstan to create analytical centers. As you know, Kazakhstan is the leader of the region in the analytical industry and has the largest number of “thought factories” that work in a variety of areas, from political and socio-economic issues to topics of the regional and global environmental agenda. Despite the fact that in Kazakhstan no attention is paid to the development of analytical centers at universities, their potential in this format is huge. On the one hand, this is explained by the fact that the development of “think tanks” at universities is somewhat behind the state and non-state “think tanks”, since when analyzing certain events and processes, experts must always look with caution at the reaction of the university management. In case of disagreement with the expert community of the university, the university management may stop funding them or suspend the activities of the analytical center for an indefinite period. On the other hand, universities in Kazakhstan see greater value in the development of foresight centers, which began to develop in the republic since the 2010s and are currently the only such research centers in the region. Forecasting,

derivation of the most possible scenarios for the development of certain processes in the subject under study make it possible to more accurately determine certain trends that will prevail in the medium and long term. This is a truly new type of analysis for Central Asia, which has been developed only in Kazakhstan.

“Thought factories” in universities are quite developed to date in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Their bulk was created on the basis of international universities, as well as, in fact, in Kazakhstan, where they exist on the basis of the International Kazakh-Turkish University named after. A. Yasawi and Kazakh-German University. Kazakhstan could take advantage of the already existing university infrastructure in Kyrgyzstan and create one or more think tanks that would promote the interests of Kazakhstan by lobbying specific Kazakh initiatives and defending the Kazakh point of view on certain issues. For example, the most important problem is the lack of water resources and their distribution among the states of the region; problems of religious extremism; drug trafficking, etc.

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VALERIA DYACHENKO. THE EMERGENCE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE RADICAL ISLAMIST MOVEMENT IN CENTRAL ASIA: CAUSES, INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL FACTORS OF FEEDING

Keywords: Islam; radical Islam; Central Asia; international security; terrorist threat extremism.

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