



**SECRETARIAT OF THE CONFERENCE ON INTERACTION
AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES IN ASIA**

**СЕКРЕТАРИАТ СОВЕЩАНИЯ ПО ВЗАИМОДЕЙСТВИЮ
И МЕРАМ ДОВЕРИЯ В АЗИИ**

№HD/415

The Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) presents its compliments to the CICA Member States and on behalf of the CICA Chairmanship has the honour to forward a draft concept paper and road map on the establishment of the Partnership Network of Leading Universities of the CICA Member States. This initiative was announced at the Sixth CICA Summit by President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev.

*Enclosure:
as stated,
on 7 p.*

The CICA Chairmanship proposes to hold an online meeting of experts of line departments to discuss the draft concept paper and road map in the last decade of May 2023. The Secretariat will additionally inform about the exact dates of the experts meeting.

The Secretariat avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the CICA Member States the assurances of its highest consideration.

Astana, 14 April 2023



**MEMBER STATES
OF THE CONFERENCE ON INTERACTION
AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES
IN ASIA**



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СЕКРЕТАРИАТ СОВЕЩАНИЯ ПО ВЗАИМОДЕЙСТВИЮ И МЕРАМ ДОВЕРИЯ В АЗИИ

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Секретариат Совещания по взаимодействию и мерам доверия в Азии (СВМДА) свидетельствует свое уважение государствам-членам СВМДА и от имени Председательства СВМДА имеет честь направить проект концепции и дорожной карты по созданию Партнерской сети ведущих университетов государств-членов СВМДА. Данная инициатива была озвучена в ходе Шестого Саммита СВМДА Президентом Республики Казахстан К.К. Токаевым.

*Приложение:
на 7 л.*

Председательство СВМДА предлагает провести онлайн экспертную встречу с профильными ведомствами для обсуждения проектов концепции и дорожной карты в последней декаде мая 2023 года. Секретариат дополнительно проинформирует о точных датах экспертной встречи.

Секретариат пользуется случаем, чтобы возобновить государствам-членам СВМДА уверения в своем высоком уважении.

город Астана, 14 апрель 2023 года



**ГОСУДАРСТВА-ЧЛЕНЫ
СОВЕЩАНИЯ ПО ВЗАИМОДЕЙСТВИЮ И
МЕРАМ ДОВЕРИЯ В АЗИИ**

Қосымша:
аталған, 7 п.

Азиядағы өзара іс-қимыл және сенім шаралары кеңесінің (Азия Кеңесінің) Хатшылығы Азия Кеңесінің мүше мемлекеттеріне өзінің зор ілтипатын білдіреді және Азия Кеңесінің Төрағалығы атынан Азия Кеңесі мүше мемлекеттерінің Жетекші университеттерінің серіктестік желісін құру жөніндегі тұжырымдама мен жол картасының жобаларын жолдауды өзіне мәртебе санайды. Бұл бастаманы Қазақстан Республикасы Президенті Қасым-Жомарт Тоқаев Азия Кеңесінің алтыншы Саммитінде ұсынды.

Азия Кеңесі Төрағалығы 2023 жылғы мамырдың соңғы онкүндігінде тұжырымдама мен жол картасы жобаларын талқылау үшін бейінді ведомстволармен онлайн сараптамалық кездесу өткізуді ұсынады. Хатшылық сараптамалық кездесудің нақты күндері туралы қосымша хабардар етеді.

Хатшылық осы мүмкіндікті пайдалана отырып, Азия Кеңесінің мүше мемлекеттеріне өзінің зор ілтипатын тағы да растайды.

Астана қаласы, 2023 жылғы 14 сәуір

**АЗИЯДАҒЫ ӨЗАРА ІС-ҚИМЫЛ ЖӘНЕ
СЕНІМ ШАРАЛАРЫ КЕҢЕСІНІҢ МҮШЕ
МЕМЛЕКЕТТЕРІ**

CONCEPT PAPER
on the Establishment of the Partnership Network
of Leading Universities of the Member States
of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures
in Asia (CICA)

Introduction

In October 2022, Kazakhstan hosted the Sixth CICA Summit under the chairmanship of President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev.¹

In his address to the Summit, the President of Kazakhstan stressed that he considered the focus on the human dimension and the preservation and development of human resources to be an important priority.

President of Kazakhstan Tokayev noted that the *establishment of a Partnership Network of Leading Universities of the CICA Member States (hereinafter referred to as the Partnership Network)* would open great prospects. Through the Partnership Network, it would be possible to exchange developments in innovative areas, such as IT, nanotechnology and renewable energy sources.

Moreover, other areas of CICA activity do not lose their significance and relevance, especially in the context of the launched transformation of CICA into a full-fledged international regional organization. Thus, the Partnership Network can cover some important areas corresponding to the CICA dimensions, in particular sustainable development and environmental protection, dialogue among civilizations, cultures and religions, economy, global and regional processes, etc.

In light of the above, a number of Kazakh universities, with the support of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan, took the initiative to form a common educational space of CICA by creating and developing the Partnership Network of Leading Universities of the CICA Member States.

Initiators: Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Goals and objectives:

¹ <https://www.akorda.kz/en/president-kassym-jomart-tokayev-took-part-in-the-vi-cica-summit-149490>

1) Enhancement of cooperation of the CICA Member States in the human dimension in the context of strengthening peace, security and stability in Asia;

2) Encouraging exchange among educational institutions, as well as the development of projects concerning, *inter alia*, scientific cooperation, academic exchange of students, faculty members and joint events.

3) Harmonization of educational systems of the CICA Member States;

4) Development of regional academic mobility of students, faculty members, scientists in the CICA area;

5) Introduction and implementation of scholarship programmes within the framework of joint educational programmes;

6) Organization and implementation of joint scientific and research activities, programmes and projects.

Areas of cooperation:

-*Sustainable development and environment protection*: environment, renewable energy sources, energy security, biomedicine, biotechnology, public health, epidemiology.

-*Dialogue among civilizations, cultures and religions*: cultural studies, oriental studies, religious studies.

-*Globalization and regional processes*: international law, international relations, regional studies, political science.

-*Economy*: world economy, tourism, international logistics.

-*IT and engineering*: digital economy, computer science and engineering, nanotechnology and nanomaterials, robotics.

- *Climate change*: promoting climate stress tolerance at the global level.

- *Water management*: water diplomacy, water security and cross-border cooperation in the field of water resources.

- *Man-made risks and disasters*: support and expansion of the use of data, information, digitalization and scientific achievements.

Structure and format of cooperation:

The establishment of the Partnership Network of Leading Universities of the CICA Member States involves cooperation in the following formats:

- short-term training (full-time training for a period from 2 weeks to 1 semester, internships, advanced training courses, guest lectures by faculty members, experts and scientists);

- long-term training (full-time master's degree training within the “1+1” scheme: 1 year/semester at local university, 1 year/semester at a partner university; joint thesis defence; issuance of two diplomas);
- joint events (conferences, scientific and research projects, symposia, workshops, etc.).
- harmonization of mechanisms for recognition and equivalence of educational documents among universities of the Partnership Network.

Progress and timing of implementation:

The establishment of the Partnership Network of Leading Universities of the CICA Member States should be carried out through a phased implementation of a number of preparatory activities with deadlines for their implementation.

In particular, it is planned to organize and hold experts meetings of line departments of the CICA Member States in the field of education in 2023 with the universities' involvement, when the main issues of creating and developing the Partnership Network of Leading Universities of the CICA Member States are discussed, the format of further preparatory work is determined. At the same time, each Member State independently determines its parent university, which will act as a coordinator for the promotion of the Partnership Network and the involvement of new universities in its country.

The result of the preparatory work of the line departments will be the signing of a Memorandum/Agreement among higher education institutions on the establishment of the Partnership Network of Leading Universities of the CICA Member States (hereinafter referred to as the Memorandum/Agreement).

Expected outcomes:

- 1) Strengthening of cooperation of the CICA Member States, including in the field of education and innovation;
- 2) Exchange of experience in the field of educational, scientific, research activities among CICA Member States;
- 3) Training of competitive and highly qualified personnel of the Asian region in innovative areas;
- 4) Promotion of the Asian model of innovative educational processes in the region and in the world;

5) Facilitation of the gradual and incremental transformation of CICA into a full-fledged regional international organization through the introduction of new forms of innovative cooperation.

ROAD MAP
on the Establishment of the Partnership Network
of Leading Universities of the Member States
of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA)

No.	Action	Form of completion	Deadlines	Responsible actors	Note
1	Development of a concept paper on the establishment of the Partnership Network of Leading Universities of the CICA Member States; circulation and coordination among the Member States	Concept paper	1st quarter of 2023	Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan CICA Secretariat	
2	Preparation and holding of experts meetings of line departments of the CICA Member States	Minutes	2nd-3rd quarter of 2023	CICA Secretariat Line departments of the CICA Member States	

				Higher education institutions of the Member States	
3	Development and signing of a memorandum among higher education institutions on the establishment of the Partnership Network of Leading Universities of the CICA Member States	Memorandum/Agreement <i>(The Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan on behalf of the Administration of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan proposes to develop a Memorandum)</i>	2nd-3rd quarter of 2024	Line departments of the CICA Member States Higher education institutions of the Member States CICA Secretariat	
4	Creation of a working group to discuss, develop and implement documents on the establishment of the Partnership Network of Leading Universities of the CICA Member States (list of universities, joint curricula, joint academic calendars, etc.)	Working group	2nd-3rd quarter of 2024	Line departments and leading universities of the CICA Member States Higher education institutions of the Member States	
5	Launch of the Partnership Network of the Leading	Partnership Network of the Leading Universities	3rd quarter of 2024	Line departments and leading universities of	

	Universities of the CICA Member States (short- and long-term training, joint events)	of the CICA Member States.		the CICA Member States Higher education institutions of the Member States	
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