

THE ASTANA TIMES

Nazarbayev Center, Liechtenstein Foundation Enter into Strategic Partnership

By George D. Gleboff

VADUZ, LIECHTENSTEIN, Dec. 7 – In a sign of growing international reach and maturity of Kazakhstan, the country’s presidential center entered into a strategic partnership with the Liechtenstein state foundation yesterday which provides for the long term cooperation on exchange of know-how and expertise in the best practices of state management.

Kanat Saudabayev, director of the Nazarbayev Center, met the Reigning Prince Hans-Adam II and Hereditary Prince Alois in the picturesque Vaduz Castle in the snowy capital of Liechtenstein on December 6. The three persons then signed a memorandum of understanding and cooperation between the Nazarbayev Center and the Liechtenstein Foundation for State Governance.



The document provides for joint activities to promote and implement research and analysis in the areas of peace and regional security, socio-economic, cultural, humanitarian and democratic development. The document also envisages exchange of scientific researches and the organization of joint symposia, seminars, conferences and other forms of cooperation.

The main purpose of this cooperation, however, is the exchange of experience in the study and implementation of large-scale modular Platform, which includes such programmes as education of the general population via all media resources, increase of competence of experts and political leaders and the development of the public infrastructure. The Liechtenstein Foundation has developed this Platform as a vehicle to assist sustainable international development through locally adapted reforms.

Commenting on the development, Prince Hans-Adam II said “this cooperation between the Liechtenstein Foundation for State Governance and the Nazarbayev Center signals the beginning of a strategic alliance between two institutions that are truly committed to making a meaningful and tangible contribution to intelligent and sustainable development and knowledge transfer.”

In turn, Kanat Saudabayev said “the Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation signed today between the Nazarbayev Center and the Liechtenstein Foundation for State Governance is further evidence of the successful implementation of the strategy of President Nursultan Nazarbayev on building of a new independent state which today has reached a mutually beneficial partnership with Liechtenstein, a country with the highest living standards in the world, great investment opportunities and progressive banking and financial system.”

“We appreciate the fact that our country has become the first among the post-Soviet states which have established such cooperation with the Liechtenstein Foundation,” Kanat Saudabayev added.

Daniel Levin, member of the Board of the Liechtenstein Foundation who was also present at the meeting, noted that the type of strategic partnership now established between the Foundation and the Nazarbayev Center is unprecedented for the Foundation in general and reflects the confluence of visions of the two heads of state on the role of a state in the modern world.

According to officials present at the meeting, such a commonality of visions of President Nazarbayev and Prince Hans-Adam II was often invoked in a conversation between officials which lasted longer than the protocol allowed time.

In 2009, Prince Hans-Adam II penned a seminal book, *The State in the Third Millennium*, in which he outlined his understanding of how to make the traditional democratic constitutional state both more democratic and more efficient.

As one reviewer commented, “Prince Hans-Adam of Liechtenstein is able to look at the modern nation-state from many different angles: as a head of state; as a politician, who had to win popular votes in a direct democracy; as a businessman active in different continents; and as an historian who has studied the influence of military technology, transportation and the economy on the workings of the state.”

In that book, the ruler of Liechtenstein, a highly successful and prosperous state, analyzed the forces that have shaped human history in the past and are likely to do so for the foreseeable future, such as religions, ideologies, military technology and economics. He also discussed strategies on how to realise worldwide the modern democratic constitutional state in the third millennium. And he observed that citizens should no longer be viewed as servants of the state, but rather that states be converted into benevolent service companies which serve the people as their customers.

Similarly, the president of Kazakhstan has authored several books and articles which explain his vision of solutions that can be applied to improve the statecraft against the face of modern challenges. These include books such as *The Critical Decade* and *The Kazakhstan Way* and articles such as *The Keys to the Crisis* and the most recent one, *Twenty Steps towards a Society of Universal Labour*. He has also called for a more fair and inclusive decision-making process on the future of the global development through the so-called G-Global platform.

Saudabayev and Hans-Adam II also recognized the differences between the historical and current experiences of Kazakhstan and Liechtenstein with one being the world’s ninth largest country in terms of landmass with the population of 16.5 million, and the other being “a large village, or rather 11 villages with the population of 35,000,” as Prince Hans-Adam II put it jokingly. Joking aside, Liechtenstein is one of the world’s wealthiest countries with GDP per capita reaching 118,000 dollars while in Kazakhstan it stands at 11,500 dollars.

During the meeting in Vaduz, Kanat Saudabayev also presented to the Reigning Prince of Liechtenstein a letter from President Nazarbayev, which, in part, said: “Kazakhstan attaches great importance to the cooperation with the Principality, including with the Liechtenstein Foundation for State Governance... I am confident that the establishment of a partnership between our two institutions will allow for deeper and stronger mutual cooperation between Kazakhstan and Liechtenstein, and will make a significant contribution to the stable development of the entire Central Asian region.”

During the conversation, Prince Hans-Adam II praised “the dynamic development of Kazakhstan during the years of independence under the firm leadership of President Nazarbayev.” Speaking of the proposed G-Global platform, Saudabayev and Hans-Adam II noted the importance of drawing all the states into defining the architectonics of the global financial and economic system.

Commenting on changes that took place in Kazakhstan over the past 20 years, Prince Hans-Adam II noted especially its success in preserving peace and harmony in a multi-ethnic and multi-religious society. He stressed that the country has become an example of the effective turning of potential problems in the sensitive domain of inter-ethnic relations into an advantage.

In his letter, President Nazarbayev also presented an invitation to Prince Hans-Adam II to visit Kazakhstan at any convenient time, which he accepted.

Source: <http://astanatimes.kz/index.php?uin=1290951446&pg=1354872550#>