

IX NIS International Research-to-Practice Conference
Information Letter

Nazarbayev Intellectual Schools AEO (NIS) will hold the ninth NIS International Conference on **26-27 October 2017** on the theme of **‘Values, Wellbeing and Innovation for the Future of Education’**.

The NIS International Conference has become a centerpiece of the work of Nazarbayev Intellectual Schools, and acts as a platform for the exchange of experience, findings and trends on educational development in the context of a globalising world. Annually, 600-800 delegates participate in the conference, including representatives of local and international education organisations and academic institutions.

Over the past seven years, the conference has established its reputation as a forum raising some of the most critical questions in the sphere of education. This year, the conference will focus on critical areas such values and character education and student wellbeing, student character formation, and educational change and innovation.

The Nazarbayev Intellectual Schools system is undergoing continual improvement and the role of the International Conference in this process is hard to overstate. In 2016, NIS was chosen to be the national coordinator for the OECD Education 2030 project for Kazakhstan. The conference, by attracting academics and educationalists with considerable experience and groundbreaking ideas in educational reform, serves to support the further development of the educational systems of Kazakhstan and the wider region.

Among the participants in previous conferences making a valuable contribution to innovation in education are the following figures:

- *David Bridges, Colleen McLaughlin, Ros McLellan, Elaine Wilson and Liz Winter*, professors at Cambridge University who have conducted educational research on the system of secondary education in Kazakhstan, in result of which the first book on school reform in Kazakhstan was published by Cambridge University Press;
- *Peeter Mehisto* (Estonia), *Fred Genesee* (Canada) and *Hugo Baetens Beardsmore* (Belgium), experts on the implementation of multilingual

education, were involved in the development of trilingual education system at NIS;

- *John Elliott* (United Kingdom), *Marit Hoveid* (Norway), *Iveta Silova* (United States), members of the NIS Research Advisory Board;
- *Alan Ruby*, Senior Scholar on international education at Pennsylvania University, who provided assistance in development of the Graduate School of Education at Nazarbayev University, and the development of the educational policies of Nazarbayev Intellectual Schools;
- International experts from NIS's strategic partners, Center for Talented Youth at Johns Hopkins University (United States), CiTO (the Netherlands), CIE (United Kingdom), CIS (the Netherlands), HAMK and JAMK (Finland) and other world-renowned institutions;
- The authors of conceptual frameworks for the future of education, such as senior analytic, Miho Taguma, OECD, and Professor *Pavel Luksha* of the Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO (Russian Federation); and,
- Renowned international experts, such as *William Schmidt* (United States), *Gordon Stobart* (United Kingdom), *David Lambert* (United Kingdom), *Patrick Griffin* (Australia), *Tom Hsu* (United States), *Richard Phelps* (United States), *Gunter Maris* (Netherlands), *Alejandro Adler* (United States), *Toshiya Chichibu* (Japan), *Hiroyuka Kuno* (Japan) and so on.

At the previous conference, representatives from 22 countries (United States, Canada, Mexico, Jamaica, United Kingdom, Spain, France, Netherlands, Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Estonia, Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, China, Pakistan, India, Japan and Australia) of 190 local and international organisations, and likewise 20 leading international educational experts participated in the conference. During the 2016 conference, 45 breakout sessions were held, organised around the 14 NIS networks:

1. Educational Change and Innovation
2. Leadership in Education
3. Curriculum and Subject Disciplines
4. Multilingual Education
5. Early Childhood and Primary Education
6. Teaching and Learning
7. Teacher Education and Professional Development

8. Practitioner Research
9. Quality Assurance
10. Assessment, Evaluation, Testing and Measurement
11. Student Welfare and Pastoral Care
12. Educational Resources
13. Family, Communities and Society
14. Research Practice and Ethics

Over 160 presentations were given during the breakout sessions. Materials from the conference are made freely available online. (http://conferences.nis.edu.kz/?page_id=3306&lang=ru).

An exhibition of educational resources attracted educational organisations, including PASCO, CiTO and Cambridge Assessment.

In order to address the principal themes of the conference, including values education, student wellbeing and innovation, the following speakers have been invited to participate in this year's event:

- *Yuri Belfali*, Head of the Early Childhood and Schools Department of the Education Division at the OECD (France), and coordinator of PISA and TALIS large-scale assessments;
- *Tim Oates*, Group Director of Assessment Research and Development at Cambridge Assessment (United Kingdom), and an expert in the sphere of curriculum and assessment, working for many years as a consultant on educational policy for the Government of the United Kingdom;
- *Yan Wang*, Director of the International Cooperation Department of the National Institute of Educational Science (China), Editor of *Education Policy Reform Trends in G20 Members*, has conducted and led more than 30 educational research projects, including World Bank projects;
- *Phil Lambert*, Associate Professor, School of Education and Social Work, Sydney University (Australia), during whose time as Head of Sydney Department of Education, there was a significant increase in student achievement in external examinations, sport and arts; and,
- *Gordon Neufeld*, Founder of the Neufeld Institute (Canada), author of *Hold on to your Kids*, expert on developmental psychology, formerly a teacher at the University of British Columbia, who had great success with students on his courses on the theory of student personality, developmental psychology, and parent-child relationships;

- *Carolyn Adams*, Director of Strategy Development and Execution, International Baccalaureate has over 30 years experience in assessment and curriculum development; and,
- *Harry Patrinos*, a specialist in returns to investment and economic indicators in education, at the World Bank Education Division, and one of the principal authors of *Lifelong Learning in the Global Knowledge Economy* and the author of a range of publications on academic and political themes, including more than 40 articles in academic journals.

Likewise, we anticipate the participation of leading experts in the fields of education and psychology, including Oon Seng Tan, Director, National Institute of Education (Singapore); Pasi Sahlberg, Professor, Harvard University (United States); Linda Darling-Hammond, Professor, Stanford University (United States); and, Martin Seligman, Professor, University of Pennsylvania (United States).

As of last year, potential presenters have been able to submit their papers through the online submissions system (<http://conferences.nis.edu.kz>), which will be reviewed by the NIS Academic Committee. Registration of participants likewise takes place online.

We offer a variety of opportunities for participation, including keynote speeches, presentations, roundtables, panel discussions, seminars, poster sessions, and an exhibition of educational resources.

Given the role of the conference as one of the principal drivers of educational systems improvement, we invite representatives from your organisation wishing to share their experience and research findings to attend the conference as a delegate, and participate in the conference breakout sessions organised around the aforementioned networks.

For fuller information on the conference, check out our website, <http://conferences.nis.edu.kz>, or write to us at conference@nis.edu.kz. Should you have any questions about participation in the conference, please do not hesitate to contact us by email at conference@nis.edu.kz, or by telephone at +7-7172-235700 (int. 1151 or 1090).

Yours sincerely,

NIS International Conference Organising Committee

