

X NIS International Research-to-Practice Conference
Information Letter

Nazarbayev Intellectual Schools AEO (NIS) will hold the tenth NIS International Conference on **25-26 October 2018** on the theme of '**Next Generation Schools**' at Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan.

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. Last year, over 1400 delegates participated in the conference, including representatives of local and international education organisations and academic institutions.

Over the past eight years, the conference has established its reputation as a forum raising some of the most critical issues in the sphere of education. This year, the conference will focus on questions such as critical approaches to schooling, the demands of future generations of schoolchildren, and the uses of technologies such as artificial intelligence in educational practice.

The Nazarbayev Intellectual Schools system is undergoing continual improvement and the role of the International Conference in this process is hard to overstate. 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;
- 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;
- Senior policymakers and researchers including *Yuri Belfali* and *Miho Taguma* (OECD); *Pavel Luksha* (Moscow School of Management); and, *Carolyn Adams* (International Baccalaureate);
- Renowned international experts, such as *Tim Oates* (United Kingdom), *Pasi Sahlberg* (Finland), *William Schmidt* (United States), *Patrick Griffin* (Australia), *Richard Phelps* (United States), *Gunter Maris* (Netherlands), *Toshiya Chichibu* (Japan), *Hiroyuka Kuno* (Japan) and so on.

At the previous conference, representatives from 25 countries and over 200 local and international organisations.

This year, we anticipate that around 60 breakout sessions will be held, organised around 12 networks.

1. Philosophy and sociology of education
2. Future technology and educational resources
3. Educational leadership and management
4. Teacher learning, professional development and wellbeing
5. Curriculum and subject disciplines
6. Multilingual education
7. Assessment in school education
8. Teaching and learning methods
9. Pastoral work and teaching in preschool and primary education
10. Pastoral work, development and wellbeing
11. Educational quality assurance and school effectiveness
12. Theory, practice and ethics in educational research

Over 170 presentations were given during the breakout sessions. Materials from the conference are made freely available online.

An exhibition of educational resources in previous years has attracted educational organisations, such as PASCO, CiTO and Cambridge Assessment. Exhibiting at the NIS International Conference is an opportunity to showcase the work of your organisation or company on a global level.

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:

- *Shalva Amonashvili*, Professor, Moscow Pedagogical University, and Full Member of the Russian Academy of Education, author of the theory of *humane pedagogy*, and author of numerous books and articles;
- *Kai-ming Cheng*, Emeritus Professor and Chair Professor, University of Hong Kong Faculty of Education, Hong Kong; and,
- *Michael Young*, Emeritus Professor, Institute of Education, London, United Kingdom, author of the theory of *powerful knowledge*.

Likewise, we anticipate the participation of other leading experts in the fields of educational practice and science.

As of last year, potential presenters have been able to submit their papers through the online submissions system (<http://conferences.nis.edu.kz>), which are 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).

Sincerely,

The NIS International Conference Organising Committee