

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Nazarbayev University Graduate School of Education is delighted to present the publication written by local and international contributors. The collection stems from the annual International Conference '*Eurasian Higher Education Leaders Forum*' held in June of 2013.

Nazarbayev University Graduate School of Education draws on robust research to address pressing education policy issues and provide innovative, evidence-based advice to policymakers and practitioners. Many internationally recognised higher education leaders have been invited to share expertise among leaders of academic institutions of the newly independent countries of the post-Soviet Central Asia. At the same time, university presidents, rectors and vice rectors as well as ministerial representatives of Central Asian states have been invited to share their invaluable experience of administering and leading their home institutions in challenging times after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Speakers and delegates from more than 30 countries attended the Forum in 2013. Attendees discussed the global trends in higher education and their impact on the region. The Forum has been divided into three plenary sessions: 1) University Leadership, Governance and Accountability; 2) Quality Assurance in Education & Research and Accountability and 3) Trends in Global Educational Hubs.

Key themes include:

- higher education leadership
- university autonomy and accountability
- research and development
- internationalization and academic mobility
- higher education financing

The Forum aimed at developing an international dialogue between higher education leaders, policy makers, researchers and practitioners from different parts of the world. We believe this dialogue should be at the heart of collaboration both on individual and institutional levels. The papers are based on presentation speeches and articles that offer local and global perspectives on the future of higher education, showcasing the breadth and depth of opinions.

We hope that the annual Forum and its conference proceedings will serve as a valuable resource for higher education leaders, faculty members and policy makers. We invite everyone who is interested in reflecting on the continuities and changes in education development and taking strategic actions to improve their national and local educational environments.

Information about the annual Eurasian Higher Education Leaders' Forum is available on our website at www.ehelf.nu.edu.kz.

We are indebted to our speakers and authors as well as members of the Steering Committee, for their contributions and unstinting support. This collection of papers is a project of the Nazarbayev University Graduate School of Education.

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