



NU GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY | DIGEST

NU GSPP MPP / MPA Graduation Class 2017



The Graduate School of Public Policy (GSPP) offers our heartiest congratulations to the graduating class of 2017! This is the first time that we have both Master in Public Policy (MPP) and Master in Public Administration (MPA) students graduating together. With the knowledge, skills and friendships that they have built up at the GSPP, we know that they will continue to improve the lives of people around them. We wish them all the success!

VALEDICTORY DINNER

The GSPP Valedictory Dinner took place on Sunday, 28 May 2017 at the Rixos Hotel. It was generously hosted by the LKY School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore. The event began with a welcome address from the GSPP Dean Weng Tat Hui followed by speeches from Shigeo Katsu, Nazarbayev University President and Kishore Mahbubani, Dean of the LKY School of Public Policy.

Our esteemed guests also included NU Provost Adesida Ilesanmi, who presented the best PAE Awards to the students, Loretta O'Donnell, Vice Provost of the Nazarbayev University, our partners from Singapore, faculty members, graduates and staff of the GSPP. Fatima Zhakypova, Rector of Academy of Public Administration presented the Kazakh translation of the book "The Great Convergence" to Kishore Mahbubani (author of the book).

Students remarked that past two years have been filled with memorable experiences including impactful lectures, irreplaceable moments with the group mates, learning lifelong lessons, skills, and insights throughout their time with the MPP and MPA programs at GSPP and at the LKY School.





DEAN KISHORE MAHBUBANI, LEE KUAN YEW SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY, VISITS ASTANA

DEAN KISHORE MAHBUBANI AND PRESIDENT SHIGEO KATSU SIGNED THE SECOND LONG TERM AGREEMENT ON 30 MAY, 2017

Since its launch in 2012, Nazarbayev University GSPP has maintained a strong strategic partnership with the LKY School of Public Policy. Together we have been working closely to establish GSPP as the public policy school of choice in Central Asia.

GSPP and LKY faculty are engaged in joint research in civil service reforms, modernization of the public service of Kazakhstan, in advocacy and consultancy to government institutions and international organisations on a wide range of public policy/administration issues.

This year, in recognition and appreciation of our productive collaboration, this partnership has been extended to further strengthen institutional development, deepen academic cooperation in providing a world-class public policy education, and enhance the research capacity and collaboration between the GSPP and LKY School.

LECTURE BY KISHORE MAHBUBANI ON "ASEAN AT 50 AND LESSONS FOR CENTRAL ASIA"

Professor Kishore Mahbubani, Dean of the LKY School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore delivered a lecture on "ASEAN at 50 and Lessons for Central Asia" at Nazarbayev University on 30 May, 2017.

In an era of growing economic pessimism, where many young people believe that their lives will get worse in coming decades, Southeast Asia bubbles with optimism. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations has been establishing itself as a platform for Asian integrations and cooperation, working with other Asian nations to promote unity, prosperity, development and sustainability of the region, as well as working on solutions to resolve disputes and problems in the region. While mainly focusing on the Asia-Pacific nations, ASEAN also established communications with other parts of the world, to better promote world peace and stability.

The ASEAN Miracle is the latest book of Kishore Mahbubani that was published by NUS Press in March 2017. More information on his writings can be found at www.mahbubani.net.

MEETINGS WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Professor Mahbubani and Dean of GSPP Prof. Weng Tat Hui met with the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Bakytzhan Sagintayev, Minister of Foreign Affairs Kairat Abdrakhmanov, Mr. Yerlan Sagadiyev, Minister of Education and Science, Agency for Civil Service and Anti-Corruption Deputy Chairman Alik Shpekbayev, and Mayor of Astana Asset Issekeshov. They discussed pertinent issues such as global governance, geopolitics and professional development of civil servants.

MODERNISATION OF KAZAKHSTAN'S IDENTITY: VIEW FROM SINGAPORE

We are sharing an article written by Kishore Mahbubani, the Dean of the LKY School of Public Policy about the modernization of Kazakhstan's identity. Enjoy!
<http://astanatimes.com/2017/05/modernisation-of-kazakhstans-identity-view-from-singapore/>





WORKING WITH THE GOVERNMENT



WORKING WITH THE GOVERNMENT

Prof. Eduardo Araral, Vice Dean for Research at LKY School, and Prof. Riccardo Pelizzo, Vice-Dean for Academic Affairs/Associate Professor at GSPP were appointed as foreign experts by the Agency of Civil Service and Anti-Corruption Committee.

Also, we have GSPP professors in government working groups: Riccardo Pelizzo in Agency for Civil Service Affairs and Anti-Corruption working group on improvement of anti-corruption legislation; Saltanat Janenova in working group on cooperation with Akimat of Astana city; Aziz Burkhanov and Serik Orazgaliyev in the Ministry of National Economy working groups on "Kazakhstan-2025" Strategy.

"OPEN GOVERNMENT" TOOLS

Mr. Zhanat Myrzabekov, Deputy Chairman of the Board of JSC "National Information Technologies", delivered a lecture to GSPP students on how to effectively use Kazakhstan's "Open Government" tools. From choosing a place to live by assessing crime-prone areas to writing analytical papers with data driven research, students learned about opportunities to work with the open public data portal that provides information on various spheres of life. The audience discussed possibilities for State Revenue Committee information access, GDP calculations, and analysis of consumer demand.



EXPERT COMMENTATOR FOR ASTANA TIMES

Prof. Riccardo Pelizzo, GSPP Vice Dean for Academic Affairs and associate professor, was featured as an expert commentator for the article entitled "Kazakhstan's anti-corruption legislation may become model for post-Soviet countries, say experts" published in "Astana Times".

Prof. Pelizzo said in the publication, "Kazakhstan's commitment to fighting corruption is testified by several of the steps taken by the government of Kazakhstan in recent years. From the moment of gaining independence, Kazakhstan has purposefully and consistently attempted to adopt international standards, mechanisms and institutions to monitor, detect, sanction and deter corruption." Click here to read the full article.



"PROMOTING ETHICS AND INTEGRITY IN THE CIVIL SERVICE: INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE AND KAZAKHSTANI EXPERIENCE"

GSPP hosted an Executive Training entitled "Promoting Ethics and Integrity in the Civil Service: International Practice and Kazakhstani Experience" for Kazakhstani Ethics Commissioners. Topics explored ways to promote ethics within Kazakhstan with international lessons and ways to navigate challenges moving forward.

The purpose of GSPP Executive Education Programs is to provide policymakers with the tools and the skill sets they need to tackle complex issues in a dynamic world. By participating in GSPP programs, public sector professionals become strong leaders, effective managers and highly capable policy makers. Click here to learn about how to host and customize programing for an external organization: <http://gspp.nu.edu.kz/en/programs/executive-education/overview/>



THE DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC COUNCILS WILL HELP THE RK TO ENTER THE WORLD'S 30 MOST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Civil Society of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Graduate School of Public Policy, Nazarbayev University held a seminar on "Public Councils: International Practice and Experience of Kazakhstan" on May 30, 2017.

Prof. Colin Knox and Dr. Saltanat Janenova delivered lectures followed by presentations from the public councils and civil society. The workshop attracted around 40 participants - representatives of the public councils; civil society as well as Deputies of the Parliament and the coordinating Ministry.

The discussions held were open, critical and raised a number of challenges in promoting accountability of the government bodies, as well as the need to improve the level of competency among the public councils.



GSPP GUEST LECTURES

DRIVING AMBITIOUS PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM - EXPERIENCES FROM PRACTICE

Dr. Andreas Baumgartner, who previously worked for McKinsey & Company and the Office of Tony Blair, delivered a public talk entitled "Driving Ambitious Public Sector Reform - Experiences from Practice." Dr. Baumgartner shared best practices and methods he has employed over the years serving as an expert advisor for projects in Asia and South America, for public and private sector leaders, and for large scale, multi-team engagements in Kazakhstan. The speaker underlined the value of gathering the proper levels of expertise and of written and oral communications when undertaking major public sector reforms.

EFFECTIVE TEAM LEADERSHIP

Sam Chia, the Founder and CEO of SC Coaching Asia Pte.Ltd., with over 25 years of experience as an international business leader, coach, consultant, and facilitator delivered a public talk entitled "Effective Team Leadership." Mr. Chia shared his knowledge in public and private sector leadership development through coaching for senior leaders and executive teams. In his work, Mr. Chia applies insights using assessment technology, positive psychology, action learning, coaching, and blended learning to help leaders expand their personal performance and organizational capabilities.



ASIAN DEVELOPMENT OUTLOOK 2017

Dr. Joshua Greene, visiting GSPP professor, delivered a public talk entitled "Asian Development Outlook 2017 Results" based on the Asian Development Bank's annually published flagship report. According to Dr. Greene, Central Asia looked forward to a modest rebound in the rate of economic because of low oil prices, recession in the Russian Federation, and weakness in other trading partners. The anticipated recovery for international oil prices and growth in the Russian Federation are projected to boost economic expansion in the sub region during 2017.

REFORMING AND FINANCING THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM OF SINGAPORE

Prof. Phua Kai Hong, visiting GSPP professor on senior faculty exchange and tenured professor at the National University of Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, delivered a public talk entitled "Reforming and Financing the Health Care System of Singapore" for the the Ministry of Health, Republican Center for Healthcare Development, and other medical institutions.



Prof. Phua provided major facts from Singapore's historical background while analyzing premises for health care infrastructure development in the region. He noted that, due to the reforms introduced since 1983, Singapore manages to balance and avoid extremes while taking progressive measures. One of the features highlighted included Singapore's corporatization of hospitals and cluster based management.



CHARLES CRAWFORD CMG ON "PUBLIC SPEAKING: BASIC IDEAS"

Charles Crawford worked for 28 years in the UK Diplomatic Service including three postings as British Ambassador to Sarajevo, Belgrade and Warsaw before starting a private consulting career in communication technique. He took part in many high-level negotiations and contributed to speeches by members of the British Royal Family and successive UK Prime Ministers and Foreign Ministers.

In his presentation Charles Crawford explained how better to start and finish presentations, drew attention to accuracy, quality and structure of the presentation, and encouraged speakers to use humor, where possible, drawing on his own examples.



SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY IN KOSOVO

Kosovo faces serious energy challenges, and at the same time it is a critical test case for the future financing of new coal-fired power plants worldwide. Dr. Michael R. Waschak shared information on research that has developed an analytic platform to analyze the energy options, costs, and impacts for Kosovo, a nation at the forefront of the global debates over energy access and the role of fossil fuels versus cleaner energy options to meet growing demands for power.

He found that a range of alternatives exists to meet present supply constraints all at a lower cost than constructing a proposed 600 MW coal plant. The options included energy efficiency measures, combinations of solar PV, wind, hydropower, and biomass, and the introduction of natural gas.



ETHICS IN CIVIL SERVICE: "THE PRESUMPTION OF INNOCENCE", MENTALITY OR MISSION POSSIBLE? BY SALTANAT JANENOVA

There is a surge of attention on the ethics of civil servants in Kazakhstan. The Kazakh Government is concerned about manifestations of unethical behavior among civil servants and public outcry as a reaction to the facts of improper behavior of some officials. The New Code of Ethics for civil servants was adopted in autumn 2015, and since January 2016, ethics commissioners have been introduced to local and central government agencies for the first time. In their practice, Ethics commissioners are currently facing problems that hamper their work in promotion of ethics among civil servants.

This article discusses the top 5 reasons for the lack of effectiveness of Ethics commissioners.

<https://vlast.kz/politika/23155-etika-na-gossluzbe-prezumpcia-nevinovnosti-mentalitet-ili-missia-vypolnima.html>

DISCOVERING PUBLIC MANAGED IRRIGATION SYSTEMS - UZBEKISTAN

Dr. Kai Wegerich spoke on Discovering Public Managed Irrigation Systems in Uzbekistan. In his presentation Dr. Wegerich explained that poor performance of government-managed irrigation systems persisted globally and stated that addressing performance required not simply more investment or different policy approaches, but reform of the bureaucracies responsible for irrigation management.

EDUARDO ARARAL ON "CIVIL SERVICE REFORM IN KZ: NEXT ROUND OF REFORMS "

Prof. Eduardo Araral delivered a presentation on the next round of civil service reform in Kazakhstan. Dr. Araral pointed out that implementation of latest IT technologies including cloud computing and the development of motivation schemes (salaries, social benefits) were crucial for the civil service sector.

BEHAVIORAL APPROACHES IN PUBLIC POLICY AND MEASURE OF GOOD GOVERNANCE

Dr. Omer Baris attended Prague Conference on Behavioral Sciences 2017 (CEBEX 2017) – "Modern Policy Making" on 28 April – 1 May, 2017. Dr. Baris presented a paper on "Behavioral approaches in public policy and measure of good governance". This paper focuses on behavioral approaches in public policy and discusses how to measure good governance.

PAPER ON KAZAKHSTAN'S EDUCATION POLICY REFORMS

Dr. Aziz Burkhanov attended 22nd ASN World Annual Convention on 4 - 9 May, 2017. He presented a paper at the panel dedicated to the Kazakhstan's education policy reforms. The presentation was based on the study of Kazakhstan's school history curriculum. This project is a continuation of the Kazakhstan's history textbook review that Aziz conducted in 2015-2016, and which was later used in the parliamentary hearings on the quality of school curriculum. Dr. Burkhanov intends to submit this project for publication in the Nationalities Paper journal.

PAPER ON COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE REFORMS IN CANADA AND KAZAKHSTAN

GSPP Assistant Professor Saltanat Janenova, and Mr Iliyas Yesdauletov from the Economic Research Institute of the Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan, published a paper in the International Journal of Civil Service Reform and Practice (IJCSRP). This paper is based on a conference paper about comparative perspectives of the public service reforms in Canada and Kazakhstan that they presented in September 2016. Click here for the full paper: <https://www.astanahubjournal.org/index.php/ijcsrp/article/view/83>



GSPP WINS THE BEST PAPER AWARD

GSPP Dean Prof. Weng Tat Hui, Prof. Riccardo Pelizzo, GSPP Vice Dean for Academic Affairs, Dr. Saltanat Janenova and Prof. Colin Knox took part in the Annual Conference of the Asian Association of Public Administration (<http://aapa.asia/>) held in Astana on 13-14 April 2017.

At this conference Dr. Saltanat Janenova and Prof. Colin Knox won the Best Paper Award for their paper "Civil Service Reform in Kazakhstan: trajectory to the thirty most developed countries? This paper considers whether civil service reforms in Kazakhstan to date and those envisaged under the new plan offer a trajectory to the 2050 stated goal – to join 30 most developed countries. It finds that civil service reforms have focused on institutional, structural and legal changes without the necessary attention to how these will impact on the quality of public services provision. There is a disconnect between civil service reforms and how to achieve an outcomes based approach which has the potential to improve the everyday lives of Kazakh citizens through better public services.

The paper highlights the interdependence between civil service reforms and an outcome based approach and adapts the OECD Better Life framework for Kazakhstan as a way of making this connection.

THE DETERMINANTS OF CIVIC AND ETHNIC NATIONALISMS IN KAZAKHSTAN: EVIDENCE FROM THE GRASS-ROOTS LEVEL

Please enjoy reading Aziz Burkhanov's (GSPP Assistant Professor) co-authored article published in the Nationalism and Ethnic Politics journal.

Nationalism can be a driving force behind either a consolidation or disintegration of a nation. Hence, knowing what determines nationalism (whether civic or ethnic) could provide us with some important insights on how to create a consolidated and stable society and to avoid interethnic conflicts.

Here's the link (accessible for free from NU campus network): <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13537113.2017.1311143>

MPA STUDENTS PRESENTED THEIR FINAL PROJECT RESEARCH FINDINGS

GSPP Masters of Public Administration (MPA) students presented their MPA Final Project research findings and recommendations to the GSPP community as part of the graduation requirements for students graduating in May 2017.

The MPA Final Project is, in essence, the applied version of the traditionally theoretical master thesis. It includes defining and structuring a public administration problem, preferably in the Kazakhstan or Central Asian context, its analysis from a theoretical or empirical perspective, and the formulation of policy proposals with feasible program of implementation. This semester's graduates studied a range of issues and programs important to the future of Kazakhstan, including:

- "Public Policy Strategy for Cost-effective Road Traffic Safety" by Daniyar Suleimenov
- "How to Create Conditions for the Development of Mining Sector Through Administrative Reforms" by Assel Serikbayeva
- "After School Programs in Rural Kazakhstan: A Comparative Case Study" by Damir Kozhanbayev
- "Benchmarking for Success – The Case of AIFC in Comparative Perspective" by Tilek Bekbassarov
- "Islamic Work Ethics: Do Employees of 'Bank RBK' JSC Possess Values of Islamic Work Ethics" by Aidos Baigonak





GSPP REACHING OUT FOR TAJIKISTAN

GSPP Dean Weng Tat Hui had meetings with government officials and universities leadership members in Dushanbe on 19-21 April, 2017: Agency of Civil Service under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, Tajik National University, and Russian-Tajik Slavonic University.

Presentations on GSPP programs followed by Q&A were made to students and staff at all 3 institutions to increase awareness of what GSPP offers and to attract students and civil servants to apply to NU and GSPP's Master and PhD programs. These sessions were well attended with average attendance ranging from 60 to 80 representatives at each institution.

In the meeting with Mr. Director Davlatov at the Agency, discussions centered on training opportunities for Tajik civil servants, joint research on civil service reforms in Central Asia and participation of senior Tajik public servants in relevant executive education courses run by the School.

Also, the Dean Hui discussed opportunities for joint research and shared information on upcoming GSPP conference in August 2017 with universities representatives.



LECTURES FOR MPP JUNIOR COHORT IN APRIL

In April, GSPP arranged lectures for MPP junior cohort within the Public Management and Leadership module.

Students had a guest lecture for Public Management class on 13 April 2017 with Timur Toktabayev, Vice-Minister of the Ministry of Investment and Development.

Also, the Chairman of the Board JSC "Kazgeology" Galym Nurzhanov talked about public and private organizations on common and different issues.

Deputy Chairman from National Informational Technologies made a presentation on innovations in civil service.

NEW MEMBERS IN GSPP STUDENT COMMITTEE

Medet Yessimkhanov and Nargiza Chorieva, both first year Masters of Public Policy students, were elected to the GSPP Student Committee until their 2018 graduation.

The GSPP Student Committee represents the interests of the students in relation to their learning experience and student life, and encourage students to be involved in academic quality enhancement processes. Medet Yessimkhanov and Nargiza Chorieva will join five of their peers in charge of developing relations between the students, alumni, GSPP and NU administration while contributing to the realization of creative potential and professional development of GSPP students.

GSPP TAKES PART IN AUCA FAIR IN BISHKEK

GSPP took part in the education fair in Bishkek organized by American University in Central Asia (AUCA) on April 22, 2017. The annual AUCA event attracted more than 750 undergraduate and postgraduate students seeking educational and career opportunities. There were many undergraduate students who were interested to consider Nazarbayev University after their graduation.