



NAZARBAYEV  
UNIVERSITY  
GRADUATE SCHOOL  
OF PUBLIC POLICY

# Digest November

## Alumni Dinner 2016 NUGSPP & LKYSPP

On November 20, 2016 the Graduate School of Public Policy (GSPP) organized an Alumni Dinner for all the alumni of GSPP to celebrate the launch of Alumni Chapter. Current students, Faculty, NU management and representatives of Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (Partner School) also joined to support this initiative with our Alumni community.

During the same event The Central Asia Alumni Chapter of Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy was also established. Calls for nominations have been made by both Schools.

GSPP Alumni Ms. Nurlyaiym Zhaksybayeva (MPP 2016) shared that the formation of



Alumni Chapter is the first step towards building a platform where alumni and students can network and collaborate in order to spread the message that **good governance matters**.

## Policy and Research Round Table on Sustainable Development Goals



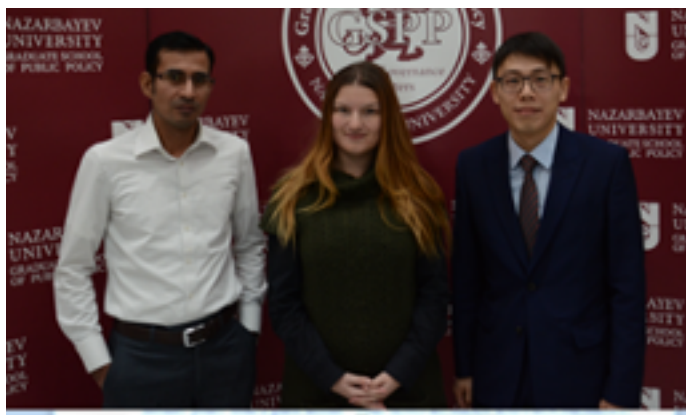
On November 21, 2016 UNDP held a round table on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in collaboration with GSPP, School of Social Sciences and Humanities (SHSS) and National Analytical Center. During the event, key representatives from NU, UNDP, Asian Development Bank, Ministries and private sector shared their views on the progress of SDGs in Kazakhstan and the world.

The main topics included sustainable development at regional, national and international levels, inequality across oblasts and country itself, support of implementation of SDGs, regulatory framework and others.

## EXPERTS DISCUSS CURRENT STATE OF PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY IN KAZAKHSTAN

On November 9, 2016 the Graduate School of Public Policy hosted a workshop on public service delivery system and its development. Experts from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Switzerland and GSPP gave presentations focusing on improvement of public service delivery, optimization of business processes and internal controls.

## Guest Lecture on energy policy



On November 22, 2016 GSPP under its research seminar series on energy security policy, organised a guest lecture on “The Sino-Russian Rapprochement: Energy Relations in a New Era” by Dr. Morena Skalamera, Director of the Applied Research Institute at “Narxoz” University and a Research Associate at Harvard's Belfer center.



Dr. Skalamera has written several articles relating to EU– Russia, Russia– Turkey and Russia–China energy security relations.

Her presentation at GSPP addressed issues on political relationship development between Russia and China in the field of energy security after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

## Indian Ambassador's visit to GSPP



His Excellency Ambassador of India to Kazakhstan Mr. Harsh Kumar Jain gave deep insights on relations between India and Kazakhstan on November 24, 2016. Ambassador Harsh Jain demonstrated a good knowledge of Kazakhstan's history who spoke on a range of international initiatives between the two countries: Kazakhstan's CICA initiative, India's permanent membership of UNSC, full membership of SCO and both countries' support of the comprehensive convention on countering international terrorism.



## GSPP OPEN HOUSE DAY

On November 23, 2016 the Graduate School of Public Policy hosted its Open House Day with participation of its strategic partner institution – the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy.

Comparing to previous similar events, this year's Open House Day had a larger attendance. Around 80 interested candidates attended the event to meet

GSPP and LKYSPP faculty, talk to students and learn more about GSPP academic programs and enrollment requirements.

The event began with opening speech by GSPP Dean Hui Weng Tat, who warmly welcomed all the participants and introduced the speakers. LKYSPP Vice Dean Eduardo Araral spoke on the successful partnership between two institutions. GSPP Vice Dean Riccardo Pelizzo presented information on the 2 master degree programs – MPP and MPA, followed by presentation by LKYSPP Associate Dean Donald Low on the Singapore component of MPP/MPA pro-



grams. Finally, GSPP professor Colin Knox presented information about the PhD program (pending) which is planned to be launched in the beginning of 2017.

After all presentations all participants were invited to network at a reception, where the participants mixed and talked to one another in an informal environment.

**NB: GSPP is accepting applications for MPP and MPA programs starting from November 15, 2016 until April 30, 2016.** For more information about our programs please visit our webpage: <http://gspp.nu.edu.kz>

## MPA Project Presentations

The MPA Project Presentations of GSPP (first MPA cohort) took place on 25 November, 2016. This is the last step towards graduation. There were six presentations on different thought-provoking topics.

- "External Debt Management Policy in Kazakhstan" (by Assel Tlegenova and Aziza Yeshmagambetova) ;

- "Health Financing Reform in Transitional Kazakhstan: Estonian and Russian

Experience on implementation of mandatory social health insurance system" (by Alibek Urazov);

- "The Impact of the Islamic Work Ethics on the Work Outcomes – Case Study of Kazakhstan Innovational Commercial Bank JSC" (by Aidos Baigonak);

- "Policy Implications for Single Parent Families in Economic and Social Status Perspectives in Kazakhstan" (by Ainara Okanova);

- "Should Kazakhstan Join a Monetary Union?" (by Ilyas Zhukenov);

- "Benchmarking for Success – the Case of AIFC in Comparative Perspective" (by Tilek Bekbassarov).

These presentations were open to all students of GSPP. The program started at 13:00 and ended at 17:15 with buffet dinner.

## RECRUITMENT campaign

On November 24, 2016, as part of the recruitment campaign the representatives of the GSPP visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of RK, Ministry of Information and Communication of RK and Public Corporation "Government for Citizens".

During the visit, LKYSPP Vice Dean Eduardo Araral and LKYSPP Associate Dean Donald Low and GSPP Vice Dean Riccardo Pelizzo gave a lecture. Also, the participants were informed about GSPP programs and admissions requirements.



## Mayor's talk at GSPP

On October 27, 2016, Mayor of Astana city Mr. Asset Issekeshev gave a public talk at the Graduate School of Public Policy. Mayor Issekeshev has shared with NU management, students, faculty and staff his career growth story and how he progressed from a junior civil servant to Minister and later Mayor of the capital.

Mr. Issekeshev has also discussed plans and challenges regarding management of Astana city. NU students and staff asked questions about different policies and initiatives of the government. Some even suggested recommendations about improvement of those policies. Both Mayor and NU community were very engaged in the informal conversation that was organized by GSPP.



## GSPP Faculty Seminar Series

On October 28, 2016 a research presentation was delivered by Dr. Omer F. Baris, Assistant Professor of GSPP (Ph.D in Economics). This presentation gave a start to the seminar series of GSPP Faculty. Dr. Omer F. Baris presented his research on 'Price Dispersion and Optimal Price Categories with Limited Memory Consumers' in collaboration with Dr. Levent Kutlu from Department of Economics, Georgia Institute of Technology, USA. Examining the effects of limited consumer memory on the pricing strategies of competing firms, it was shown that the observed price dispersion may be due to the consumers' inability to allocate their memory optimally. Optimal allocation of consumers' memory for more than two price categories reduces the likelihood of price dispersion and a single market price prevails.



## Executive Education Program for the State Security Service



On October 31, 2016 the Graduate School of Public Policy held an Executive Education program for the State Security Service of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The program aimed at strengthening forecasting and analysis component of the Service. The course consists of a series of lectures, briefings and panel discussions on geopolitical and geo-economic processes around Central Asia, issues of global and regional security such as migration processes, Caspian energy politics, ISIL, etc. Professors of Nazarbayev University from Kazakhstan and the USA were the speakers of this program.



## Participation in Workshop

On November 23–25 2016 GSPP Vice Dean for Academic Affairs Dr. Riccardo Pelizzo and Assistant Professor Dr. Saltanat Janenova participated in a workshop "Formation of State Apparatus: current status and prospects" organized by the Institute for Civil

Servants Professional Development of the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Dr. Riccardo Pelizzo delivered lecture on "Formation of State Apparatus: comparative perspective".