

SDSN KAZAKHSTAN NEWS

SDSN Kazakhstan held official launch event on June 8, 2022!

SDSN Kazakhstan held its official launch event on June 8, 2022. The network was officially established in January 2022 with the appointment of Nazarbayev University as the host institution by the SDSN.

The event featured *Professors Jeffrey Sachs*, President of SDSN, and *Professor Wing Thye Woo*, Head of SDSN Asia Office; *Shigeo Katsu*, the Chair of SDSN Kazakhstan and President of Nazarbayev University; *Ruslan Sultanov*, Chairman of Economic Research Institute; *Nazarbayev University Management Board*; *SDSN Kazakhstan members*. The SDSN Kazakhstan official launch gathered world-renowned economists and global leaders in sustainable development, national experts, and scientists.



Shigeo Katsu, the chair of SDSN Kazakhstan and President of Nazarbayev University and **Professors Jeffrey Sachs**, President of SDSN, mentioned that over the past 2-3 years, due to the pandemic, the world has made almost no progress toward the SDGs.

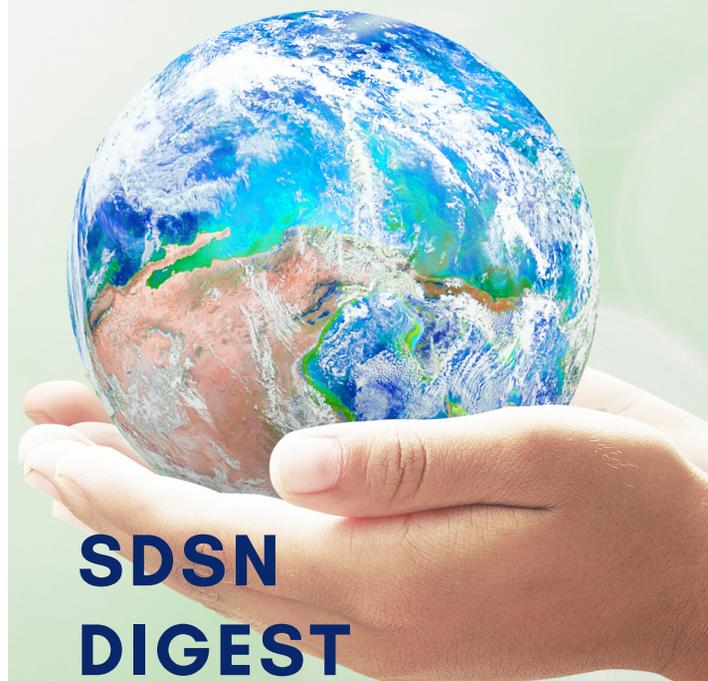
The pandemic accompanied the crisis, and this year, the war in Ukraine has led to a food and migration crisis. Kazakhstan is also no exception. The country ranked 65th out of 163 countries in terms of SDG Index ranking and score in 2022, although last year it ranked 59th, according to the **Sustainable Development Report for 2021 and 2022**.



Shigeo Katsu, the Chair of SDSN Kazakhstan and President of Nazarbayev University

Shigeo Katsu highlighted that SDSN Kazakhstan is going *"to be a very important element both in terms of analytics and recommendations and creating public awareness in educating the public. So, the role of the network that we are launching today is extremely important. [...] despite of all the challenges that we have recently had, hopefully, we'll do better, because if Kazakhstan does well, the Central Asia will do well, and if the Central Asia will do well, it means that both east and west of this mega continent will also do well."*

Professor Jeffrey Sachs drew attention to 6 Kazakhstan's major SDGs. There are Sustainable Agriculture (SDG 2), Quality Education (SDG 4), Renewable Energy (SDG 7, SDG 13), Economic Development (SDG 8), Research and Development (SDG 9), and Sustainable Land Use (SDG 15).



SDSN DIGEST

May - June, 2022

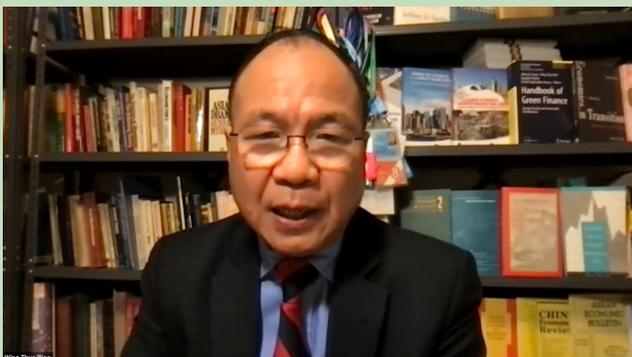
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As noted, "Kazakhstan feels the warming and has dry a steppe region, and water stress, as well as rising temperature, are very serious there. Kazakhstan, as one of the world's great grain producers, has to be very concerned about the dynamics of the climate change underway."



Professors Jeffrey Sachs, President of SDSN

Professor Wing Thye Woo, noted that SDG 17 (Partnerships) is critical to achieving the other 16 SDG goals. It was mentioned that "Kazakhstan and united Central Asia can combine the assistance packages from competing rivals to accelerate the progress in the SDGs."



Professor Wing Thye Woo, Head of SDSN Asia Office

Ruslan Sultanov, Chairman of the Economic Research Institute, emphasized that "to enter the trajectory of economic growth, we need intensive regional international cooperation with the participation of all stakeholders who must mobilize all their resources, financial experience, technology, knowledge to achieve all the set SDGs jointly." Economic Research Institute is the leading agency for the SDG Monitoring Committee under the Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan, which includes all state bodies.



Ruslan Sultanov, Chairman of Economic Research Institute

Professor Weng Tat Hui, Dean of Graduate School of Public Policy (GSPP), Nazarbayev University, noted that "... the GSPP, is able to contribute to the SDSN development in Kazakhstan, and we (GSPP) will continue to establish educational and research priorities which are in line with the SDGs in Kazakhstan and beyond in Central Asia."

In the afternoon, a **Panel Session** was held with members of SDSN Kazakhstan on three priorities:

- Education (SDG 4) and Partnerships (SDG 17);
- Land (SDG 15), Water (SDG 6), and Communities (SDG 11);
- Energy (SDG 7) and Climate (SDG 13).



Professor Weng Tat Hui, Dean of Graduate School of Public Policy, Nazarbayev University

The panel moderator **Dr Brendan Duprey**, Director of Sustainable Kazakhstan Research Institute at Narxoz University, summarized the *key points of the discussion*, which are the idea of building a culture of sustainable development and that universities should work in synergy and close collaboration with the government, private sector, and non-governmental organizations helping to conduct research on SDGs and sustainability challenges in Kazakhstan.



GRANT-MAKING AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

New Seeding the Future Global Food System Challenge

The Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) is inviting application for the Seeding the Future Global Food System Challenge. The goal of the Challenge is to inspire and support passionate, diverse, and multidisciplinary teams to create game-changing innovations that will help transform the food system to be more sustainable, make healthier diets more accessible, and empower consumers to make choices benefitting both personal and planetary health. Funding information: USD 100,000 to USD 500,000
Deadline: Aug 1, 2022

New Small Research Grants Program on Education

The Spencer Foundation is inviting applications for Small Research Grant on Education that supports education research projects that will contribute to the improvement of education, broadly conceived, with budgets up to \$50,000 for projects ranging from one to five years. Funding information: USD 10,000 to USD 100,000
Deadline: Aug 9, 2022

2022 Research Grants Program, Merck

The aim is to create new sustainable partnerships with leading global science and technology players to work on breakthrough science and to generate valuable seeds for future business. Funding information: grants of up to EUR 500,000 per year for up to 3 years.
Deadline: Aug 31, 2022.

Youth Green Skills Accelerator Challenge Call, Islamic Development Bank

(IsDB) and the International Labor Organization (ILO) invites youth-led organizations, networks or coalitions to propose new and innovative ideas and solutions to support a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all. Funding information: the top three ideas will be awarded USD 50,000; USD 30,000; and USD 20,000 respectively, to implement the proposed solution
Deadline: Aug 12, 2022.

Scientific Product Grant Program, Wildlife Acoustics

To support the advancement of animal biology research, habitat monitoring, and environmental conservation that provides scientists with resources to help further their research into the study of bats, birds, frogs, and other vocal wildlife. Funding information: up to USD 12,000 worth of eligible products to recipients worldwide per quarter. Applicants may each request up to USD 4,000 worth of products and software licenses.
Deadline: Aug 15, 2022.

Call for Applications, Grants Program, National Geographic Society

Provides seed funding and support to early career individuals, as well as those more advanced in their careers, who are working to address critical challenges, advance new solutions, and inspire positive transformation across all seven continents. Funding information: level one grants – up to USD 20,000; level two grants – up to 100,000.
Deadline: Oct 12, 2022.

EVENT

Apply for Free Leadership Coaching for the SDGs



WYSE International is seeking applications for the Global Change Makers: Leadership Coaching for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), an exciting and unique opportunity to enhance your leadership skills in service of your community.

Successful applicants will participate in a free, bespoke, year-long coaching programme with a world-class leadership professional. Your leadership coach will support you as you lead a project which positively benefits your community.

How do I apply?

Applications are now open for Global Change Makers, closing on the **22nd July 2022**.

[Click Here to Start your Application](#)
[Full information online!](#)