Kazakhstan, officially the Republic of Kazakhstan, is a transcontinental country located in Central Asia and Eastern Europe. Ranked as the ninth largest country in the world, it is also the world's largest landlocked country; its territory of 2,727,300 km² is greater than Western Europe. It is neighbored clockwise from the north by Russia, China, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and also borders on a significant part of the Caspian Sea. Vast in size, the terrain of Kazakhstan ranges from flatlands, steppes, taigas, rock-canyons, hills, deltas, and snow-capped mountains to deserts.

For most of its history, the territory of modern-day Kazakhstan has been inhabited by nomadic tribes. By the 16th century the Kazakhs emerged as a distinct group, divided into three hordes. The Russians began advancing into the Kazakh steppe in the 18th century, and by the mid-19th century all of Kazakhstan was part of the Russian Empire. Following the 1917 Russian Revolution, and subsequent civil war, the territory of Kazakhstan was reorganized several times before becoming the Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic in 1936, a part of the USSR. During the 20th century, Kazakhstan was the site of major Soviet projects, including Khrushchev's Virgin Lands campaign, the Baikonur Cosmodrome, and the Semipalatinsk Polygon, the USSR's primary nuclear weapon testing site.

Kazakhstan declared an independence on December 16, 1991 and Nursultan Nazarbayev became the country's First President. Since independence, Kazakhstan has pursued a balanced foreign policy and worked to develop its economy, especially its hydrocarbon industry. Kazakhstan is now considered to be the dominant state in Central Asia.
In 2010, Kazakhstan chaired the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and is a home of the yearly Astana Economic Forum.

Kazakhstan is ethnically and culturally diverse. Kazakhs are the largest group. Kazakhstan has 131 nationalities including Kazakhs, Russians, Uyghurs, Ukrainians, Uzbekks, Tatars, Germans etc.

Kazakhstan allows freedom of religion, and many different beliefs are represented in the country: Islam and Christianity being major ones.

The city of Almaty, formerly known as Alma-Ata is the former capital of Kazakhstan and the nation's largest city, with a population of nearly 2 million people. This represents approximately 12% of the country's population of 17 million. Despite losing its status as the capital to Astana in 1997, Almaty remains the major commercial and cultural center of Kazakhstan. The city is located in the mountainous area of southern Kazakhstan, near the border with Kyrgyzstan. Almaty Aport is the variety of apple with unique taste and aroma. One apple can reach 800 grams in weight.

1. Place and Dates of the Conference

First Euro-Asian Ski Resorts Conference “Developing New Destinations for Snow Tourism” will be held on 8 - 9 October 2013 in Almaty, Kazakhstan

InterContinental Almaty Hotel
181,Zhetoksan Street
Almaty 050020, Kazakhstan
Tel: (+7) 727 250 50 00
Fax: +7 727 258 21 00
Email: reception@interconti-almaty.kz
www.ihg.com
2. Participation

Participation at the conference is free of charge and you can register online or use the registration form which you can also find on the conference webpage.

Registration deadline for participants that require visa is 16 September 2013. For those participants that register after 10 September, please consult the respective consulate of the Republic of Kazakhstan in order to assure that visas can be provided on time).

For those that do not require visa, registration is open until 25 September 2013.

For additional information please contact:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sascha Stange</th>
<th>Talgat Dzhampeisov</th>
<th>Zhazira Algashova</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Destination Management</td>
<td>Almaty City Administration</td>
<td>EXPO EVENTS LLP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programme</td>
<td>Zhetoksan Str. 83</td>
<td>Astana, Mailin Str. 4/1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Tourism Organization</td>
<td>7th Floor</td>
<td>Office 210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(UNWTO)</td>
<td>Office 705</td>
<td>Almaty, Kazakhstan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C/ Capitán Haya 42, 28020</td>
<td>Almaty, Kazakhstan</td>
<td>Tel: 8 (727) 279-51-66</td>
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<tr>
<td>Madrid, Spain</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:uturizm@mail.ru">uturizm@mail.ru</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tel: +34 91 567 81 00</td>
<td>Tel: 8 (727) 279-51-66</td>
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<td>Fax: 91 571 37 33</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:destination@unwto.org">destination@unwto.org</a></td>
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</table>

3. Venue of the Meeting

InterContinental Almaty Hotel opened its doors in December 1996, offering the countries first real taste of five star luxury refinements, just after Kazakhstan’s independence. Today, after more than a decade of successful operation, the hotel continues to offer all modern amenities of Western rivals, yet retaining the subtle, aesthetic beauty of warm hospitality, so important in Kazakh tradition. Throughout the years, the hotel has always been refreshed and renovated, in order to offer all our clients the latest trends in comfort and design.

4. Working Languages

Working languages of the conference are: Kazakh, Russian, English and French. Simultaneous translation will be provided.
5. How to Get to Almaty

The City of Almaty is well connected through air, railways and motorways. Almaty International Airport is located 25 km from the venue of the conference. A taxi into the city centre is the quickest option with the fare approximately 3000 KZT to 4000 KZT (15 – 20 Euros).

6. Entry formalities and Visa

Conference participants should apply for business visa type D. All conference participants are being exempted from any costs charged by the Kazakhstan authorities. In the case that the participant will need an invitation letter, this letter will be provided by our host the Municipality of Almaty once the participant is registered. For further information on visa please refer to:

http://www.mfa.kz/en/#!/consular_issues/obtaining_kazakhstan_visa/

7. Air Transport

Air Astana is the official airline of the conference and offers a discount of 20% on a selection of international flights to Almaty operated by Air Astana. For information on routes and dates please refer to our Air Astana Special Rates Table.

For booking Air Astana’s selected discount flights, please refer to our Corporate Booking Instructions.

8. Accommodation

Participants are requested to make their reservations as soon as possible by 25 September 2013 with one of the recommended hotels in Almaty indicated in the list of partner hotels. These hotels have to be booked via our partner Expo Events to get the special rates indicated: Zhazira.algashova@expoevents.kz. Please check with the hotels special procedures for early check-in or late check-out, cancelations fees or changes. UNWTO Secretariat will not be in charge of the participants’ hotel booking.

9. Medical advice

There is no need for specific vaccination to travel to Kazakhstan. Conference participants are advised to take out overseas medial insurance.
10. **Transportation**

The Municipality of Almaty will provide transportation in the city for conference participants from/to the airport and conference venue.

11. **Social Programme**

Please check [conference website](#) for social events and the post conference tour on 10 October 2013.

12. **Practical Information**

**Currency**

The local currency is Kazakhstan tenge (KZT). The exchange rate changes daily. Foreign currency can be exchanged at the airport, banks, hotels and exchange offices. International Credit and Debit cards are widely accepted. Banknotes have denominations of 200, 500, 1000, 2000, 5000 and 10 000 KZT.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Currency</th>
<th>Exchange Rate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GBP / KZT TOD</td>
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<tr>
<td>USD / KZT TOD</td>
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<td>EUR / KZT TOD</td>
<td>197.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUB / KZT TOD</td>
<td>4.63</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Time Zone**

GMT plus 6 hours

**Climate**

The climate in Almaty is harsh continental. The temperatures in the month of October in Almaty vary from 3 C° to 19 C° with rain showers. It is advisable to bring rain coats or jackets. It might snow in Almaty in October.

**Postal Services**

Hotels often provide basic postal services. Post offices are open daily except Saturday, Sunday and public holidays.
Electricity

General household electric power is 220 Volts. Type of plug is: Europlug, Schuko

Insurance

The organizers can accept no responsibility for accidents or damage to the private property of participants. Please make your own arrangements for the insurance.

Languages

Official language in Kazakhstan is Kazakh. Russian language is widely spoken. Increasing number of people can understand and speak English.

Dress code

For men – official with ties.
For woman – regular official clothing.

Business hours

Most businesses are open from Monday to Friday from 9 am to 6 pm. Some businesses are open on Saturdays.

Shopping

Most shops are open from 9 am to 6 pm Monday to Saturday. National souvenirs can be bought in Voshod (Kunayev str. corner Kurnangazy), Ramstor (Furnamov str. confer Zholtasbekov) or Zelenyi Bazar.

Taxi

Local people use unofficial taxi drivers by flagging them down on the streets. However, it is advisable to use official taxis such as:

Econom Taxi  http://www.economtaxi.kz/
Leader Taxi  http://taxi-leader.kz/index.html
Almaty Taxi  http://almatytaxi.kz/ru/index.php

Safety and Security

Almaty is a rather safe city, however, caution for foreign guests is advised during night times and while visiting crowded places such as bazars, shopping centers etc.