

# IAUP CENTRAL ASIA REGIONAL CONFERENCE (KAZAKHSTAN)

IMPACT-DRIVEN UNIVERSITIES: EDUCATION,  
LEADERSHIP AND SOCIETAL CHANGE



11–13 June 2026



Almaty Management University

Day 1   11 June 2026 Pre-Conference	
TIME	EVENT
4.00 PM - 6.00 PM	IAUP Executive Committee Meeting
5.00 PM - 6.00 PM	Registration
6.00 PM - 8.00 PM	Welcome reception
Day 2   12 June 2026 Main Conference	
TIME	EVENT
8.30 AM - 9.30 AM	Registration and welcome coffee
9.30 AM - 10.00 AM	<p><b>Opening ceremony and welcoming remarks</b></p> <p><i>Shawn Chen</i> IAUP President, Founder and Chairman of the Board, Sias University (Henan, China)</p> <p><i>Assylbek Kozhakhmetov</i> Founder and President, Almaty Management University (Almaty, Kazakhstan), IAUP conference host</p> <p><i>Sayasat Nurbek</i> Minister of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan</p>
10.00 AM - 10.30 AM	<p><b>Keynote address</b></p> <p>Public value and global governance: reimagining the role of modern university</p>
10.30 AM - 11.00 AM	Coffee break
11.00 AM - 12.00 PM	<p><b>Plenary session 1: Global standards and the future of impact-driven universities</b> (in partnership with British Council)</p> <p><b>Chair:</b> <i>Fernando Leon-Garcia</i>, President, CETYS University (Mexicali, Mexico), Chair of the Board, International Association of University Presidents (IAUP), Former commission member of Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)</p> <p><b>Speakers</b></p> <p><i>Sayasat Nurbek</i> Minister of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan</p>

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Day 2   12 June 2026 Main Conference	
TIME	EVENT
12.00 PM - 1.00 PM	<p><b>Panel session 1: Entrepreneurial universities driving economic and societal transformation</b></p> <p><b>Chair:</b> <i>Tatsuro Tanioka</i> Vice Chancellor, Tanioka Gakuen Education Foundation (Osaka, Japan), Secretary General, IAUP</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <p><i>Kanat Sharlapayev</i> Chairman of the Presidium of the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs of the Republic of Kazakhstan “Atameken” (Almaty, Kazakhstan)</p> <p><i>Yerkin Tatishev</i> Founder and Chairman of Kusto Group and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Almaty Management University (Almaty, Kazakhstan)</p> <p><i>Amir Reza</i>, Dean, Babson College (Boston, US)</p>
1.00 PM - 2.00 PM	<b>Lunch</b>
2.00 PM - 3.00 PM	<p><b>Panel session 2: Universities for a sustainable future: a global dialogue of PRME Champions 2026-2027 (in partnership with UN Global Compact and PRME)</b></p> <p><b>Chair:</b> <i>Dinara Seijparova</i>, Executive Director, UN Global Compact Central Asia</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <p><i>Assylbek Kozhakhmetov</i> Founder and President of Almaty Management University (Almaty, Kazakhstan), IAUP Executive Committee member, CEEMAN Vice-President for Central Asia</p>
3.00 PM - 4.00 PM	<p><b>Inaugural book launch session: Universities after AI: a blueprint for the next generation institutions of learning</b></p> <p><b>Chair:</b> <i>Pavel Luksha</i>, Founder and Director, Global Education Futures (Belgrade, Serbia), Associate Researcher, Learning Planet Institute – Chief editor</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <p><i>Shawn Chen</i> IAUP President, Founder and Chairman of the Board, Sias University (Henan, China)</p> <p><i>Sabur Khan</i> Founder and Chairman, Daffodil International University (Dhaka, Bangladesh), IAUP Treasurer Elect 2024-2027</p> <p><i>Brent White</i> President of Golden Gate University (San Francisco, USA), IAUP Treasurer</p>

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Day 2   12 June 2026 Main Conference	
TIME	EVENT
4.00 PM - 4.30 PM	Coffee break
4.30 PM - 5.30 PM	<p><b>Panel session 3: The rise of Central Asia: a new voice in global higher education</b> (in partnership with The Rectors' Club: Central Asia+)</p> <p><b>Chair:</b> <i>Kakha Shengelia</i> President, Caucasus University (Tbilisi, Georgia), Former IAUP President (2017-2021)</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <p><i>Timothy O'Connor</i>, President, American University of Central Asia (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan)</p>
5.30 PM - 6.30 PM	Walking tour across Almaty landmarks
6.30 PM - 9.00 PM	Gala dinner and cultural performance

Day 3   13 June 2026 Main Conference   Almaty Management University	
TIME	EVENT
9.00 AM - 09.30 AM	Registration and coffee time
09.30 AM - 10.30 AM	<p><b>Session 4: Global higher education: trends shaping impact in the next decade</b> (in partnership with QS Impact)</p> <p><b>Chair:</b> <i>Devorah Lieberman</i> President Emerita, University of LaVerne / ACE Senior Advisor to the President (USA), IAUP Vice-President for USA &amp; Canada</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <p><i>Cheryl Matherly</i> Vice President and Vice Provost for International Affairs, Lehigh University (Bethlehem, PA, USA); Former President of the Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA)</p> <p><i>Dara Melnik</i> Director of Global engagement, Higher Education Strategy Associates, HESA (Canada)</p>

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## Day 3 | 13 June 2026 Main Conference | Almaty Management University

TIME	EVENT
10.30 AM - 11.30 AM	<p><b>Impact workshop: Universities as architects of tomorrow</b> (in partnership with Harvard Business Impact)</p> <p><i>Gabriela Allmi</i> Senior Director for EMEA &amp; Asia Pacific, Harvard Business Impact</p>
11.30 AM - 12.00 PM	<p><b>Closing ceremony and remarks</b></p> <p><i>Shawn Chen</i> IAUP President, Founder and Chairman of the Board, Sias University (Henan, China) <i>Assylbek Kozhakhmetov</i> Founder and President, Almaty Management University (Almaty, Kazakhstan), IAUP conference host</p> <p><b>Announcements for next IAUP event</b> Group photo</p>
12.00 PM - 1.00 PM	MOU signing & AlmaU campus tour
1.00 PM - 2.00 PM	Open-air lunch
2.00 PM - 4.00 PM	Nomadic artisans' bazaar and "Uly Dala" (Great Steppe) cultural showcase

## Day 4 | 14 June 2026 Cultural Program

TIME	EVENT
All day	Cultural Program for choice (details TBC)

### SIDE EVENT *(attended and paid additionally)*

#### 13 -15 June 2026 IMPACTFUL LEADERSHIP FOR RECTORS

**Impactful Leadership for Rectors & University Executives** is a two-day high-level executive program designed for university presidents, rectors, and senior leadership teams. The program is implemented in strategic partnership with the International Association of University Presidents (IAUP), one of the leading global networks of university leaders. The program serves as an **international leadership laboratory**, combining national governance contexts with global expertise and peer exchange among university decision makers. Participants work on real strategic challenges facing their institutions and develop concrete solutions to strengthen institutional impact and competitiveness.