

# 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
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 coffee time
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>Chair: <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>
12.00 PM - 1.00 PM	<p><b>Panel session 1: Entrepreneurial universities driving economic and societal transformation</b></p> <p>Chair: <i>Amir Reza</i>, Dean, Babson College (Boston, US)</p>
1.00 PM - 2.00 PM	Lunch

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Day 2   12 June 2026 Main Conference	
TIME	EVENT
2.00 PM - 3.00 PM	<p><b>Panel session 2: Universities for a sustainable future: a global dialogue of PRME Champions 2026-2027</b> (in partnership with UN Global Compact and PRME)</p> <p>Chair: <i>Dinara Seijaparova</i>, Executive Director, UN Global Compact Central Asia - <i>tbc</i></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>Chair: <i>Pavel Luksha</i>, Founder and Director, Global Education Futures (Belgrade, Serbia), Associate Researcher, Learning Planet Institute – Chief editor</p>
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>Chair: <i>Timothy O'Connor</i>, President, American University of Central Asia (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan) - <i>tbc</i></p>
5.30 PM - 6.30 PM	MOU signing / Break
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 - 10.00 AM	Registration and coffee time
10.00 AM - 11.00 PM	<p><b>Session 4: Global higher education: trends shaping impact in the next decade</b> (in partnership with QS Impact)</p> <p>Chair: <i>Zoya Zaitseva</i>, Head of Partnerships, QS Impact, Future17 SDG Challenge Global Lead, QS Quacquarelli Symonds (London, UK) - <i>tbc</i></p>

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Day 3   13 June 2026 Main Conference   Almaty Management University	
TIME	EVENT
11.00 AM - 12.00 PM	<p><b>Impact workshop: Universities as architects of tomorrow</b> (in partnership with Harvard Business Impact)</p> <p><i>Xiaobo Wu</i> Director, National Institute for Innovation Management, Qiushi Chair Professor, Zhejiang University (Hangzhou, China), member of the Board of Trustees of Almaty Management University (Almaty, Kazakhstan)</p> <p><i>Gabriela Allmi</i> Senior Director for EMEA &amp; Asia Pacific, Harvard Business Impact - <a href="#">tbc</a></p>
12.00 PM - 12.30 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)</p> <p><i>Assylbek Kozhakhmetov</i> Founder and President, Almaty Management University (Almaty, Kazakhstan), IAUP conference host</p> <p>Announcements for next IAUP event</p> <p>Group photo</p>
12.30 PM - 16.00 PM	<p><b>Lunch</b> followed by Koktobe tour (Hills of Almaty)</p>