

# Results of the Governor's visit to the Republic of Kazakhstan

## 1. Summary and objectives

The Governor visited the Republic of Kazakhstan from July 14th to 20th, where he exchanged views with government officials and met with representatives of international organizations. He also visited the former Semipalatinsk nuclear test site and museum, and exchanged opinions with the president of Semey Medical University and nuclear survivors, deepening his understanding of the reality of radiation exposure in the country and confirming future cooperation and solidarity.

## 2. Current situation and background

More than 450 nuclear tests were conducted at the former Semipalatinsk nuclear test site in the Republic of Kazakhstan, exposing more than one million people to radiation. The country is one of the parties to the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty, and since its independence has been leading international efforts to abolish nuclear weapons, including chairing the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the NPT Review Conference (2024) and the third Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (2025).

## 3 Schedule (dates are in local time)

Date (mm/dd)	Event	Location
7/15 (Tue)	Visit to the International Science and Technology Center (ISTC) Meeting with First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Akan Rakhmetullin, Republic of Kazakhstan Meeting with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Kazakhstan	Astana
7/16 (Wed)	Meeting with Prime Minister Olzhas Bektenov of the Republic of Kazakhstan Visit to the memorial monument to deceased Japanese internees	
7/17 (Thu)	Visit to the former Semipalatinsk nuclear test site and museum Meeting with Abay Region Governor (Akim) Uali	Semey
7/18 (Fri)	Visit to Semey Medical University Interviews with nuclear survivors	

## 4 Summary

(1) Outreach to government officials of the Republic of Kazakhstan

[July 15 (Tue)–16 (Wed)]

During the period, he met individually with government officials of the Republic of Kazakhstan, explained the three-pronged approach to the abolition of nuclear weapons that the prefecture/HOPe is promoting, and discussed future forms of cooperation and solidarity.

A. Meeting with First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Akan Rakhmetullin

The three-pronged approach gained support, and views on future forms of cooperation and solidarity were exchanged. The First Deputy Minister stated that he would like to continue to cooperate with the prefecture/HOPe in the future, including by providing us with opportunities to speak at international conferences and other events.



B. Meeting with Prime Minister Olzhas Bektenov

The three-pronged approach was introduced and gained support. The Prime Minister stated that Japan and Kazakhstan have deepened cooperation through a strategic partnership and are also partners in the NPT. He also expressed his gratitude for the Japanese government's contributions to improving radiological medicine and the progress of grassroots exchanges between Hiroshima and Semey, and stated his readiness to cooperate in future events such as the NPT Review Conference. In addition, both sides confirmed further strengthening of relations between Hiroshima Prefecture and Abay Region.



(2) Approaching international organizations

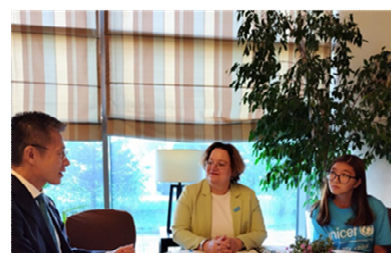
A. Meeting with the Executive Director of the International Science and Technology Center (ISTC)

He visited the ISTC, met with Executive Director Anguelieva, and explained Hiroshima's efforts. The ISTC expressed its support for the prefecture's efforts and stated that it would consider providing opportunities to present initiatives at conferences and other events.



B. Meeting with the Deputy Representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Kazakhstan and a fourth-generation nuclear survivor

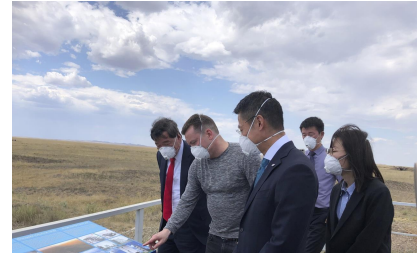
Deputy Representative Bazzi of UNICEF in Kazakhstan proposed collaboration with UNICEF's network of 10,000 volunteers working on the environment and children's rights. Additionally, Ms. Diana Murzagaliyeva, a UNICEF volunteer and fourth-generation nuclear survivor, explained her activities, including her participation and speech at the Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), and both sides exchanged opinions.



(3) Visit to the former Semipalatinsk nuclear test site and meeting with relevant parties  
[July 17 (Thu)–18 (Fri)]

A. Visit to the former Semipalatinsk nuclear test site

The test site was once the former Soviet Union's main nuclear testing site and is located 150 kilometers west of the center of the city of Semey. It covers an area of approximately 18,000 square kilometers and is still a restricted area.



In addition to visiting the National Nuclear Center headquarters, he also toured the museum and the former nuclear test site, where he saw the observation stations and equipment that were actually used for nuclear testing. He was told that the residents were not informed about the effects of radiation from the nuclear tests, and that many people had been exposed to long-term internal radiation and the environment was contaminated.

B. Visit with Abay Region Governor (Akim) Uali

He visited Governor Uali of Abay Region, where the former Semipalatinsk nuclear test site is located, and exchanged views.



Governor Uali stated that Abay Region and Hiroshima Prefecture, both regions that suffered the devastation caused by massive atomic bombs, share a common fate, and that both sides confirmed the need to share the tragedy and pain and further strengthen exchanges and cooperation between the two regions. Governor Uali also expressed his desire to consider joining GASPPA and to visit Hiroshima, the city that was bombed, in the future.

C. Visit to Semey Medical University and Hospital

The Governor met with Rector Altay Dyussupov and visited the hospital run by the university, which is conducting research into radiation exposure from nuclear testing and its subsequent effects on multiple generations, to look at medical equipment and the pediatric ward that was introduced with support from the Japanese government and others. He also met with nuclear survivors and listened to their stories of exposure.



(4) Offering flowers at the memorial monument to deceased Japanese internees

He offered flowers at the memorial monument to deceased Japanese internees\* in Astana.

\*This memorial was erected in the center of Astana by the Japanese government in memory the Japanese internees who were interned by the Soviet Union after World War II and forcibly transferred to Kazakhstan, where they died.



## 5 Results

[Strengthening cooperation with the government of the Republic of Kazakhstan]

He met with the Prime Minister and the First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, explained the prefecture/HOPe's three-pronged approach, and gained their support. In addition, the parties decided to strengthen cooperation and solidarity in various ways, including the Republic of Kazakhstan providing opportunities for the prefecture/HOPe to speak at international conferences.

[Strengthening cooperation with the Abay Regional Government]

He explained the prefecture/HOPe's three-pronged approach to the Abay Regional Government and gained their support. The Abay Regional Government and Hiroshima Prefecture/HOPe have decided to strengthen cooperation and solidarity, including considering the Abay Regional Government's participation in GASPPA.

[Enhancing outreach]

The three-pronged approach taken by the prefecture and HOPe was explained to the ISTC and UNICEF, and the parties involved agreed to consider specific measures for future collaboration and solidarity.