

MEMORANDUM OF UNIVERSITIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

Taraz

22 May, 2007

PREAMBLE

Socio-economic prosperity of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the XXI century, building of an innovative society depends on the ability of the country to provide education for all members of society, so to enable every person to succeed in a rapidly changing world and requires the development and integration of all elements of the "knowledge triangle" (education - research - innovation). It determines the leading role of education.

For the time of its existence Kazakh universities prepared deserving cadres, high-level professionals in all spheres of economy and social life. However, the mission of higher education institutions is changing in the modern era of globalization. The functions of universities are global in this period: it is not just the knowledge transfer, formation of special skills but also the formation of public worldview and active life position in future professionals, as a worthy place of new Kazakhstan in the new world can ensure an educated population with a high level of scientific potential and creativity. Further promotion of reform changes in the country will depend on the level of professionally competent, physically strong, morally and spiritually rich young student youth.

Today more than ever before there is an objective necessity to improve the social role of education in our country and to formally recognize the status of universities as centers of education, culture, science and new technologies responsible for the effective development of the country, the expansion of cooperation in improving the national system of higher education.

In connection with aforementioned the rectors of Kazakhstani universities are calling for unification of all universities and determining the strategically important targets for further improvement of higher education system and effective solution of public objectives.

The undersigned rectors of Kazakhstani universities express their confidence in following:

The future of our country, approval of the status of Kazakhstan in the world community as a competitive power depends on its cultural and scientific - technological development the foundations of which are concentrated in higher education institutions;

The task of forming of high level of education of the young generation must be solved not only by the higher education institutions, but the whole society as its future requires the continuous and significant contributions to education;

Higher education institutions of RK must ensure the younger generation with qualitative education and upbringing that will allow taking a worthy place in the world community.

We, the undersigned Rectors of Kazakhstani universities, recognizing and understanding the crucial role of higher education institutions in the development of society, proclaim the basic principles which must now be used by all the universities of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

MAIN PRINCIPLES

Higher education institutions are social institutions the main mission of which is training and education of the younger generation striving for realizing their full potential for the prosperity of the independent Kazakhstan. The most important mission of the University is not only being the center for education but also science and culture, to spread culture and education through research and teaching. In accordance with the requirements of the up-to-datedness the universities must conduct research and teaching activities regardless of political ideology and economic power.

The main purpose of universities is to provide qualitative education, professional training, the necessity to increase the potential of a new generation of skilled employees, introduction of innovation in the sphere of education.

The educational process in universities must be inseparable from the research activities. The content and level of organization and management of educational process must meet the high level of the development of domestic and world science, as well as meet changing requirements of society.

The basic principle of the university activity should become the principle of academic freedom recognized as freedom for creativity in teaching, learning and scientific research. Universities must become the educational and research centers. At the same time lecturers must possess profound knowledge and possess all the modern means to transfer them to students.

The multi-nationality that distinguishes Kazakhstan from the number of other states of far and near abroad must play a positive role in the modern processes of integration and harmonization of society. Universities showing their tolerance should be the custodians of the traditions of humanism. University at the same time must help to overcome the political and national conflicts and disagreements in society, and promote interactions of different cultures for the benefit of a positive progressive advancement in an effort to constant enrichment by knowledge and its transferring to learners.

The main goal of the development of science in the university is the conquest of the leading positions in the scientific field and maintains a high level of training of scientific and technical personnel for enhancement of the economy of the country.

The integration of education, science and industry including the integration of research with the educational process, scientific organizations with educational institutions, science and education with production, the involvement of employers and other customers, experts to social partnerships and the organization of professional education with the purpose of satisfying the labor market needs is an essential function of universities.

METHODS

To achieve the goals in the field of education in accordance with the aforementioned principles following is necessary:

Modern effective university systems of education that meet the requirements of the global innovation society and that enables everyone to fully participate in it must be created;

There must be all the relevant conditions for members of the university community (professors and students);

Selection of the teaching staff of universities and determination of their status must be held in accordance with the taking into consideration the research and teaching activities;

Each university must guarantee their learners the preservation of their academic freedom in achieving their educational goals;

Universities must ensure the implementation of high standards, especially in the field of mathematics, natural science, technical applied science and foreign languages at all levels of higher education and support the engagement of highly qualified lecturers in these highly important areas;

Universities of Kazakhstan must cooperate as with each other and so with universities in other countries.

The joint cooperation of all Kazakhstani universities within the country will allow formation of common policy in the field of education, modernization of the national system of HEI and postgraduate education and guaranteeing the fulfillment of the mission entrusted them.

The undersigned Rectors of Kazakhstani universities on behalf of their universities assure that the main regulations adopted in this memorandum is the expression of the common will and desire of all universities collectives and they undertake obligations for obeying all these principles and the implementation of the tasks entrusted them by the society.