

## Internationalization of the Academy as a part of comprehensive integration into the global educational space

Alpysbayeva M.

### Аңдатпа

Мақала Қазақстан Республикасы Президентінің жанындағы Мемлекеттік басқару академиясының дүниежүзілік білім кеңістігіне жан-жақты кірігуінің бір бөлігі ретінде интернационализациялау процесінде қол жеткізген табыстарына арналған. Қазақстан Республикасының Президенті Нұрсұлтан Назарбаевтың 2011 жылдың 28 қаңтарындағы «Болашақтың іргесін бірге қалаймыз!» атты Жолдауында «Сапалы білім беру Қазақстанның индустрияландырылуының және инновациялық дамуының негізіне айналуы тиіс» деп айқындаған еді. Осыған байланысты, мақалада Президенттің тапсырмасын іске асыру барысында Академияның интернационализациясы, оның ішінде халықаралық аккредитациядан өтуі, оқытушы және студент құрамымен алмасу, дүниежүзілік рейтингтерге қатысу ретінде Академияның халықаралық білім кеңістігіне ену қабілеттілігі көрсетілген.

### Аннотация

Данная статья посвящена инновационным достижениям Академии государственного управления при Президенте Республики Казахстан в процессе интернационализации как части всесторонней интеграции в мировое образовательное пространство. В этой связи, статья демонстрирует способность Академии к реализации задач, поставленных Президентом Республики Казахстан Н. Назарбаевым в рамках ежегодного Послания народу Казахстана «Построим будущее вместе!» от 28 января 2011 года: «Качественное образование должно стать основой индустриализации и инновационного развития Казахстана», что осуществляется путем интернационализации Академии, включая международную аккредитацию, международный обмен преподавателями и студентами и участие в мировых образовательных рейтингах.

### Abstract

This article is dedicated to the achievements of the Academy of Public Administration under the President of Kazakhstan in the process of internationalization as a part of comprehensive integration into the global education space. In this regard, the article demonstrates the Academy's ability towards the implementation of Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev's task stated in his annual Address to the people of Kazakhstan "Building the future together" in January 28, 2011: "Quality education should be the foundation of Kazakhstan's industrialization and innovation development", which is carried out via internationalization, including international accreditation of the Academy, international exchange of faculty and students and participation in the world university rankings.

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century internationalization of higher education has not only become part of an increasingly globalised world, but it has become an important aspect to meet global education challenges. Hence, to be part of global education requires corresponding education system, which is able to provide world-class education and cutting-edge knowledge. In this regard, to consider internationalization as an integral part is important to foster Kazakhstani HEIs into the global education space. This is the main reason of putting internationalization as a top priority task for HEIs in Kazakhstan by the President Nursultan Nazarbayev. In order to fulfill this important mission the Academy of Public Administration under the President of Kazakhstan (the Academy) is solidly working in order to internationalize its programs through international accreditation, international exchange of faculty and students, and participation in the world university rankings.

First, the Academy has started to identify its ability towards international quality assurance in order to see its correspondence to the world standards. That is why, accreditation was the first priority to demonstrate the Academy's potential at the international level. In particular, accreditation would ensure the Academy public accountability of its institutional programs and demonstrate the outcomes for its educational process to be consistent with the world education standards.

Furthermore, the Academy has been working on international accreditation since October 2010 right after a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Academy and the Austrian Agency for Quality Assurance (AQA) to accredit three academic programs of the Academy in Law, Public and local administration and International relations. It is important to note that AQA is a full member of the European Register for Quality Assurance Agencies (EQAR) and operates in accordance with the European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ESG).

From October to December 2010 the Academy prepared self-documentations on each of the three academic programs following the guidelines provided by the AQA. Self-documentations describe study programs for compliance with 10 established criteria, including qualification objectives of the study program concept, conceptual integration of the study program into the system of studies, study program concept, academic feasibility of studies, examination system, facilities, transparency and documentation, quality assurance and development, study programs with a special profile, and diversity, gender justice and equal opportunities.

Prepared self-reports formed the basis for an AQA external expert group's visit to the Academy in March 2011. The expert group was appointed by the AQA and included the following representatives: Ambassador Dr. Hans WINKLER, Expert Team Leader – Director, Diplomatic Academy of Vienna; Professor Paolo CALZINI – Associate Professor of the Department of European Studies, Bologna Center of Johns Hopkins University; Professor Richard CAPLAN – Director, Center for International Studies, Oxford University; Mag. Renate Deininger – Program Director, FH Campus Wien Study program “Public Management”; Dr. Theo van der KROGT – Secretary General / Treasurer of the European Association for Public Administration Accreditation (EAPAA); Mag. Christina Maria BERGER – a student-expert from the Vienna Diplomatic Academy; Mag. Dietlinde Kastelliz – Officer, AQA.

During the visit AQA conducted interviews with the various groups involved in the Academy (management, board of trustees, faculty, students, qualified staff, employers, etc.), examined the educational infrastructure and material facilities of the Academy drawing on the previously provided self-reports.

Furthermore, on June 27 this year the Academy has received official confirmation of the AQA certification signed by Dr. P. Findlay, the Chairman of the Certification and Accreditation Commission and A. Kohler, Managing Director of the AQA. This decision was made on June 21, 2011 during the final meeting of the Certification and Accreditation Commission of the Austrian Agency for Quality Assurance (AQA). The meeting was dedicated to consideration of the final AQA agency review team report on international accreditation of Master programs at the Academy of Public Administration under the President of Kazakhstan. As a result, the Academy received the international accreditation certificate of its 2-year Master programs valid for 5 years in the majors of Law, Public and Local Administration, and International Relations.

The international accreditation of the Academy does not only evidence the compliance of the Academy's academic programs to the European and international standards of quality in education, but also shows the feasibility of the task set by the Head of State for a comprehensive integration with the global academic network.

Secondly, the Academy is intensively working towards international exchange of faculty and students. International faculty does not only bring diversity and international experience to the academic process, but also facilitates the competitiveness of the university at international level. Besides, faculty is the most critical factor in the design and delivery of the programs. In this sense, international faculty is crucial to expanding the global competence and internationalization of the institute. Taking this into consideration, by the initiative of the Academy Rector A. Orsariyev, the native lecturer from France Mr. Aurélien Amigues was invited to the Academy in fall 2010 to ensure

sufficient level of Master students in French language. Mr. Aurélien Amigues has not only taught basic French for Master students of the Academy studying by the grants of French oil and gas company Total E&P Kazakhstan, but he made their language level possible to continue studying at the French National School of Administration ENA (France) upon successful application through the Presidential scholarship program of “Bolashak”.

Furthermore, in 2010–2011 academic year 3 international faculty members have lectured at the Academy, including Mr. Hubert Petit (France), Chargé d'affaires ai of the European Union in Kazakhstan – lectures on «European Diplomacy», Mr. Aurelien Amigues (France), French language instructor and Dr. Colin Knox (United Kingdom), instructor of special course on Comparative Public Administration for doctoral students of the Academy.

This year, the Academy is hiring another faculty member from Great Britain Dr. Ken Charman, who will be teaching English for the Academy fellows.

Fully understanding that the international exchange is not only to attract foreign faculty and students, the Academy is also trying to promote exchange among its faculty and students by sending them to the universities worldwide. Over the past 2 years, faculty members of the Academy such as G. Burakanova, Sh. Esimova and N. Prmanova have been undergoing under research fellowship program at the universities of the United States, Great Britain, and the Russian Federation respectively. Every year Master students of the Academy undergo executive trainings as an essential part of the academic curriculum at the world class universities. In 2010-2011 academic year 139 Master students of the Academy had professional trainings in such areas as public administration, public policy, international relations and law at the top 10 schools of the world, including University of Cambridge, University of Oxford, University of California, Berkeley, Duke University and London School of Economics and Political Science.

Besides, this year the Academy is launching a new project with the support of the Hanns-Seidel Foundation on joint training of civil servants from Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan). Given project will enable to internationalize the student body of the Academy by bringing diverse cultural background and wide-ranging experience of civil servants from Central Asia. Moreover, the establishment and strengthening of ties between government officials of Central Asian countries will promote sustainable development and mutual understanding between Asia and Europe.

In addition, the Academy is actively seeking ways to enter the global education space through participation in the world university rankings. According to the International Observatory on Ranking and Excellency (IREG), which holds rankings producers accountable for quality, the purpose of rankings is not only to display the standing of higher education institutions, but also serve as a quality assessment tool to stimulate competition among them [1].

Therefore, being number one university in humanities and social sciences among Kazakhstani HEIs for two years in a row according to Kazakhstan's Independent Quality Assurance Agency in Education (IQAA) promotes the Academy to test its capability towards the world university rankings. Thus, having met the challenges at the local level, the Academy will try confronting the world competition [2].

Currently the Academy has applied to participate in two academic rankings as Times Higher Education (THE) – World University Rankings and QS World University Rankings. While THE rankings will be based on 12 separate performance indicators to cover all aspects of a university's mission – teaching, research and knowledge transfer, QS World University Rankings will produce the list based on 6 indicators, more concentrated on citations per faculty, academic and employer reputation. These two kinds of rankings are multi-dimensional and concentrate on large-sized universities with programs at every level, while the Academy is focused on particular subjects like public administration, public policy, international relations, and law with programs only at Master's and PhD level.

In this regard, to consider opportunities of participating in subject specific rankings oriented for specialized institutions like the Academy is very crucial at the moment. For instance, next year, the Academy will have a chance to involve in the QS World University Rankings by Subject for such areas as Politics, International relations and Law. To apply to such particular rankings, the Academy needs to keep enlarging its publication among faculty at the international level (citations per faculty), expanding internationalization and holding its high reputation among academics and employers.

Internationalization is one of the main criteria when ranking producers collect the data from universities, since it demonstrates the university's capability to function globally. This is because the more internationalized is the university, the higher the chance to enter the global rating of the universities. Thus, visibility of the Academy in the university rankings will not only keep it projected with other universities in the world, but will also add up to the internationalization process of the Academy as a part of comprehensive integration to the global academia.

In conclusion, the internationalization of the Academy of Public Administration under the President of Kazakhstan, the only educational center in country operating under the Head of State, is being realized by getting internationally accredited, promoting international exchange of faculty and students and participating in the world university rankings. Furthermore, the force to enter the global education space via internationalization is putting forward the implementation of the President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev's strategy of joining the world's 50 most competitive countries, which identified one of the main directions for further social mobilization, the development of modern education and training of highly qualified personnel [3].

Thus, the Academy's internationalization plays crucial role to meet global education challenges and is an inevitable step in fostering Kazakhstani higher education into the global space of education. Competitiveness of Kazakhstani education through a lifelong quest for knowledge, truth, and innovation is the best way to meet these challenges head-on. Taking this into consideration, to possess quality education that is able to meet world standards is essential to advance innovation and growth in the country as President N. Nazarbayev stated in his annual Address to the people of Kazakhstan "Building the future together" in January 28, 2011, "Quality education should be the foundation of Kazakhstan's industrialization and innovation development" [4].

### References

1. International Observatory on Ranking and Excellency (IREG) [Electronic resource]. – Access mode: [http://www.ireg-observatory.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=41&Itemid=48](http://www.ireg-observatory.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=41&Itemid=48)
2. The Independent Kazakhstan Quality Assurance Agency in Education (IQAA) [Electronic resource]. – Access mode: <http://nkaoko.kz/rating/ranking2011>
3. The strategy of becoming one of the 50 most competitive countries in the world: Speech by the President of Kazakhstan N. Nazarbayev at the joint session of Parliament from January 18, 2006.
4. Address of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, to the People of Kazakhstan, January 28, 2011 [Electronic resource]. – Access mode: [http://www.akorda.kz/en/speeches/addresses\\_of\\_the\\_president\\_of\\_kazakhstan/r](http://www.akorda.kz/en/speeches/addresses_of_the_president_of_kazakhstan/r)