The opponent’s review on the diploma thesis of Ismail Kurbanov “The role of migration in development of population structure in South Kazakhstan region”

The diploma thesis of Ismail Kurbanov “The role of migration in development of population structure in South Kazakhstan region” consists of 103 pages of text and 8 pages of appendices. The text is organized in twelve numerated chapters including the introduction, conclusions, and references and internet sources and the above mentioned appendices. Submitted thesis is completed by the lists of tables and figures.

The diploma thesis is thematically focused on the theme of migration and its role in population development in the South Kazakhstan region, which belongs among the regions of Kazakhstan with the most intensive demographic reproduction and significant impact of migration on the overall population development.

The work is divided into two basic parts. The first part, which could be understood as a technical one, contents problem definition, specification of research objectives, structure of the work and basic terminology as well as an attempt to set wider conceptual or theoretical frameworks necessary for successful solution of the diploma thesis tasks. In the following two chapters (the fifth and sixth ones) data availability is discussed and methodological foundation of the study is presented. The second part, the core of diploma thesis, comprises chapters 7, 8 and 9. In the first of them the South Kazakhstan region itself is introduced in wider historical, geographical and settlement context. The 8th chapter provides an overview of population development of the region as a whole, the sets of its urban and rural settlements. Presented overview creates a background for evaluation of the migration role in population developments. Migration role is examined in the terms of migration per se, international and interregional migration. Namely this part of the diploma thesis covers the author’s major findings which are summarized in the chapter devoted to the study conclusions.

The aim of the work and the related research questions are clearly set by the author in the introductory part. The proposed and followed structure of the work has its firm logical structure and is sufficiently compact. English language is on the corresponding level and formulations of the author’s ideas are clear. Facts are presented and interpreted correctly. Principal reserves are of a formal nature. The author did not pay enough attention when the text was formatted. Sudden writing capital letters, forgotten aligning, incorrect spacing, frequent repetition of particular words are only some selected types of deficiencies of the judged diploma thesis text. The author was also rather frequently forgetting to quote properly the sources.

Regardless these critical remarks, I am convinced that the thesis of Ismail Kurbanov “The role of migration in development of population structure in South Kazakhstan region” meets the basic requirements set for the diploma theses from Demography submitted at the Faculty of Science, Charles University in Prague and therefore I recommend to the Commission for MA state exams to accept this work for a defence.

Prague, September 20, 2010

RNDr. Boris Burcin, PhD.
opponent