

**Tutors's assessment of the diploma thesis of Anuar Kerembayev: Changing view on future population development of the Republic of Kazakhstan according to the United Nations World Population Prospects since the 1992 till the 2008 revision**

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The diploma thesis of student Anuar Kerembayev "Changing view on future population development of the Republic of Kazakhstan according to the United Nations World Population Prospects since the 1992 till the 2008 revision" consists of 150 pages including 8 pages of appendixes. The text is divided into eight parts including the introduction, conclusions, references and appendixes. In addition there are incorporated the lists of abbreviations, tables and figures.

The goal of the diploma thesis has been to overview and to evaluate the development of a view on past and future population developments of the Republic of Kazakhstan as it was displayed in the particular revisions of the World Population Prospects prepared by the UN Population Division.

The work has well bounded logical structure; approximately the first third of the text is devoted to the technical and conceptual issues, the remaining two thirds to answering the research questions. In the introductory part, A. Kerembayev is defining the problem he is going to study, presenting the goal of his work and structure the problem through the correct specification of his research objectives and questions. This part of the thesis contains also the outline of basic terminology and literature as well as an attempt for a critical discussion of the used data related questions and methodological frameworks of population forecasting and the practice of the UN in particular. The core of the thesis starts with a view on population developments through developments of particular components represented namely by the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter. Changing population size and transforming sex and age structures are subjects of the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter. Relatively brief text of the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter is devoted to examination of reliability of the UN forecasts produced after gaining the independence of the country. The results of A. Kerembayev diploma research are summarized in the Conclusion.

Anuar Kerembayev worked on his diploma theme independently with the use of relevant literature and official statistical data. The literature listed in the end of the text contains most of relevant titles and sufficiently covers the theme regarding the given theme and purpose. The text is written in very good, fully understandable English. Author's contribution to the theme would be possible to evaluate entirely positively if he would avoid at least some errors which can be found in his work. The tutor regrets are multiple since the predominant number of errors and other defects was communicated with the author and it was expected he is able to correct them.

These defects are of a different nature. There are problems with formatting text, with unified or frequently missing quotations of other authors' works, with missing description (titles) of some objects like Figures, time to time with awkward formulations or use colloquial expressions in the evaluated diploma thesis.

Regarding the content I have a problem with some terminology (the author forgot to mention that he is introducing a specific terminology used by the UN Population Division namely in reports on World population prospects). There could be discussed the way how the author tackles with interpretation of crude rates and some details of his understanding forecasting methodology. Also his way of data handling when he is chaotically moving between the orders of numbers demonstrates weak sense for reality and its real dimensions and their scales.

The observed qualitative dichotomy of the text documents rather high intellectual potential and abilities of the author to work with/to produce professional information, on one side, and euphemistically saying low concentration of mind on the problem on the other side. This later side, however, negate a principal part of the work done. Under such conditions, however, it is very complicated to evaluate comprehensively the work done.

Referring to the self-reliance of A. Kerembayev presented during his work on the theme and to the correct design of the thesis ideological base, I am recommending A. Kerembayev's diploma thesis for a critical discussion within the framework of its defense.

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tutor

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