

**Migration policy and its role in implementation population strategy
of the Republic of Kazakhstan**

presented by
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The thesis was divided in 11 chapters, which the first one is introduction and last one conclusion. In chapters 2 - 4 author discussed the pertinent literature, relevant definitions and theories, used methodology and availability and the quality of data. The chapter 5 deals with the strategy of population development in Kazakhstan. Following chapters are devoted to the core subject of the thesis – migration. They start with a historical overview of internal and external migration, continue with migration policy and end with the perspective of population development of Kazakhstan and about the role of migration policy in this process. The structure of the thesis is logical and well done.

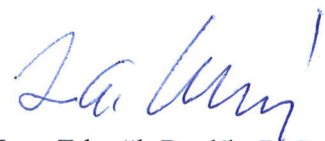
The process of migration plays a significant role in the overall development of Kazakhstan for more reasons. One of rather important is a geopolitical situation of this republic which is not easy. Kazakhstan belongs among ten territorially largest countries in the world (it is the ninth largest country) and its population density is very low (only 2 countries among the ten largest have lower density – Australia and Canada). Therefore it is understandable that the migration strategy favours immigration, especially of Kazakhs living abroad. It invented even a new word in English – oralman (English language is very flexible with new words and it probably will be accepted – up to now it is not in English dictionaries – I did not know that the origin of this word is from Kazakh language). However this source of immigration (author is aware of it) will be exhausted soon. Author distinguishes correctly among explicit and implicit population policy.

The data of international migration to and from Kazakhstan are analysing in more details in the period after 1999. Data show the year 2005 as a certain limit. The number of immigrants was the highest this year and the number of emigrants reached the stable level after the period of mass emigration of Russian people before. The author is well aware that the migration process is not important from the point of numbers only, but also from the point of quality of migrants. The situation of Kazakhstan was less favourable, especially in the first period up to 2005. Qualified people were among emigrants (people with higher education, technicians and various specialists); such a situation has gradually changed after 2005.

The strategy of population development and consequent migration policy can affect the number of immigrants. Various social measures (support of families, housing problems etc.) could affect the number of immigrants. However, the economic development will have the main effect. The offer of working places is one of the most important factor for the support of immigration policy. The author's discussion in the subchapter 9.4 (Evaluation of migration policy) is very interesting. How to measure the effectiveness of migration policy? Many examples from different authors were introduced here, but the result of this is ambiguous. This is the real situation and it is not possible to ask more from the author.

I do not have any concrete critical remarks and I consider the work of Ainur Saparbekova as valuable a useful contribution to the discussion of migration processes and migration policy in Kazakhstan. As I already mentioned in the beginning, this topic is very important for the Kazakh republic due to its geopolitical situation. I support the thesis for its presentation to further process of its defence.

Prague, 14 March 2013



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