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## **The present situation and prospects for the development of education cooperation between RK and SK: with special focus on KazNU's department of korean studies**

**Abstract.** The article is devoted to cooperation in the field of education and prospects for its development between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Republic of Korea. After the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, it is possible to track positive dynamics of cooperation in the cultural and educational area. At the moment, the system of Korean studies in Kazakhstan is still in its infancy. Of all the universities in Kazakhstan, the Department of Korean Studies of the Kazakh National University, which opened its doors in 1994, made the greatest progress. The purpose of this article is to analyze present situations of Korean studies in Kazakhstan with special focus on KazNU's department of Korean studies and to suggest prospects for the development of education cooperation between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Republic of Korea. Considerable attention is paid to projects and programs conducted by the Kazakh side to promote this specialty. Based on the study, the authors provided further guidance for the development of cooperation in the field of education between the Kazakh National University and the Republic of Korea. The results of this research can make a significant contribution to the increase in the number of students interested in learning not only the Korean language, but also history, culture, politics and economics. Earlier, this problem is not enough studied, therefore, it is expected that this article will give a breakthrough to the establishment of mutually beneficial cooperation in the field of education and positive impact on educational exchanges between Korea and Kazakhstan, as well as diplomatic relations.  
**Key words:** Korean studies, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, education cooperation, diplomatic relations.

**Аңдатпа.** Мақала Қазақстан Республикасы мен Корея Республикасы арасында білім беру саласындағы ынтымақтастық мен оның даму келешегіне арналады. Екі ел арасындағы дипломатиялық қарым-қатынастар орнатылғаннан кейін мәдени-білім беру бағытында ынтымақтастықтың оң динамикасын байқауға болады. Мақала авторлары әл-Фараби атындағы Қазақ Ұлттық Университеті мысалында корейтану мамандығының Қазақстан Республикасындағы негізгі мәртебесі мен дамуының негізгі жолдарын қарастырды. Қазіргі таңда, корейтану мамандығының жүйесі бастапқы деңгейде тұр десе болады. Қазақстандағы бүкіл университеттердің арасында 1994 жылы ашылған Қазақ Ұлттық Университетінің корейтану кафедрасы ең үлкен прогресске қол жеткізді. Мақаланың мақсаты Қазақ Ұлттық Университетінің корейтану кафедрасының мысалында жалпы Қазақстандағы корейтанудың қазіргі жағдайына талдау жасау және Қазақстан Республикасы мен Корея Республикасы арасында білім беру ынтымақтастығын дамыту үшін ұсыныстарды ұсыну болып табылады. Аталмыш мамандықтың мәртебесін жоғарылату үшін қазақстандық тараппен өткізілетін жобалар мен бағдарламаларға елеулі назар аударылады. Жүргізілген зерттеудің негізінде авторлар Қазақ Ұлттық Университеті мен Корея Республикасы арасында білім беру саласындағы ынтымақтастықты

дамыту үшін келесі нұсқауларды ұсынды. Осы зерттеудің нәтижелері корей тілін ғана емес, тарихын, мәдениетін, саясаты мен экономикасын да үйренуге қызығушылығы бар студенттердің санын көбейтуге айтарлықтай үлес қосуы мүмкін. Бұрын, осы мәселе аз зерттелген болатын, сондықтан бұл мақаладағы талдаулар білім беру саласында өзара тиімді екіжақты ынтымақтастықты орнатуға серпіліс беріп, Қазақстан мен Корея арасында білім беру саласындағы алмасуларға, сонымен қатар дипломатиялық қарым-қатынастарға да оң ықпал етеді деген үміт бар.

**Түйін сөздер:** корейтану, аль-Фараби атындағы Қазақ ұлттық университеті, білім беру, ынтымақтастығы, дипломатиялық қарым-қатынастар.

**Аннотация.** Статья посвящена сотрудничеству в сфере образования и перспективам её развития между Республикой Казахстан и Республикой Корея. После установления дипломатических отношений между двумя странами можно проследить положительную динамику сотрудничества в культурно-образовательном направлении. На данный момент, система корееведения в Казахстане находится на начальной стадии. Из всех университетов Казахстана, наибольшего прогресса добилась кафедра корееведения Казахского Национального Университета, открывшая свои двери в 1994 году. Целью данной статьи является анализ текущего положения корееведения в Казахстане на примере кафедры корееведения в КазНУ и предложение перспектив для развития образовательного сотрудничества между Республикой Казахстан и Республикой Корея. Значительное внимание уделяется проектам и программам, проводимым казахстанской стороной для продвижения данной специальности. На основе проведенного исследования, авторами были предоставлены дальнейшие указания для развития сотрудничества в сфере образования между Казахским Национальным Университетом и Республикой Корея. Результаты данного исследования могут внести существенный вклад в увеличении числа студентов, заинтересованных не только в изучении корейского языка, но и, истории, культуры, политики и экономики. Ранее, данная проблема была мало изучена, поэтому ожидается, что анализы, данные в статье, дадут рывок установлению взаимовыгодного сотрудничества в сфере образования и окажет позитивное влияние на образовательные обмены между Казахстаном и Кореей, так же и на дипломатические отношения.

**Ключевые слова:** корееведение, Казахский национальный университет им. аль-Фараби, образовательное сотрудничество, дипломатические отношения.

## Introduction

In the context of globalization and regionalization, Kazakhstan continues its foreign policy based on the principles of pragmatism and multi-vectorism, which is the foundation of the country's foreign policy activity.

The Asian region, and in particular its eastern part, has become the most dynamic in the modern world. In these conditions, Kazakhstan's commitment as an Asian state to the concept of a multipolar world and the consolidation of bilateral relations with the countries of this region meets its national interests.

Kazakhstan clearly sees itself as an integral part of the Asian continent and is interested in economic and political cooperation with Asian countries. The Asian region, and in particular its eastern part, has become the most dynamic in the modern world. In these conditions, Kazakhstan's commitment as an Asian state to the concept of a multipolar world and the consolidation of bilateral relations with the countries of this region meets its national interests.

South Korea occupies an important place in the multi-vector foreign policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Current stage of relations between Kazakhstan and South Korea might be regarded as transformative stage between the two countries as approaching higher level: a strategic partnership.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Korea and the Republic of Kazakhstan, (Mr. Kong-romyoung, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the Russian Federation and Mr. Kanat Saudabayev, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Russian Federation, signed a diplomatic protocol in Moscow, Russia on January 28 1992) based on common values such as market economy and cultural exchange, a practical partnership has steadily developed. Kazakhstan recognizes the contributions Korean companies have made due to their active investments in Kazakhstan since its independence and considers its relation with Korea important thanks to Korean technology and expertise that spur economic development in Kazakhstan by allowing for diversification in industry.

Despite investment by Korean companies dropping sharply following the foreign exchange crisis in Korea in 1997, President Nursultan Nazarbayev's visit to Korea in November 2003 and President Roh Moo-hyun's visit to Kazakhstan in September 2004 reinvigorated economic ties between the two countries with the joint development of Caspian Sea crude oil and mineral resources serving as one such example. Kazakhstan firmly supported the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and the peaceful resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue based on its own experience of giving up nuclear weapons in 1993. Apart from this, co-operation between the two countries is expanding both politically and diplomatically in various international organizations including the United Nations (UN). Additionally, President Lee Myung-bak's visit to Kazakhstan in May 2009 raised the bilateral relationship to a strategic partnership, and the scope of bilateral and international cooperation continues to widen (Kim, 2012a, 63).

As a result, Korea and Kazakhstan are interested in developing not only political and economic exchanges, but cultural exchanges as well, such as education. As can be seen in the Korea-Kazakh Joint Statement (Sections 5 and 6) of November 13, 2003 and the Korea-Kazakh Joint Statement (Section 5) of September 20, 2004, both Korea and Kazakhstan are interested in cultural and educational exchanges in the private sector. The educational exchanges between Korea and Kazakhstan are likely to develop because of the mutual trust between the two countries and the support and interest of both countries. It is also important to consider how expanding educational exchanges could go on to become a part of public diplomacy policy (Kim, 2008: 308).

Unfortunately, Korean studies in Kazakhstan are limited to Korean language education which rarely leads to further development of the broader field of Korean studies.

(1) There is little variety in Korean studies since university classes tend to focus exclusively on the Korean language.

(2) It is difficult to train specialists in Korean studies due to a lack of diversity in Korean Studies as well as financial limitations.

(3) There is no central body that would be able to lead Korean Studies in Kazakhstan.

These problems affect not only Korean Studies programs in Kazakhstan, but throughout Central Asia as a whole. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Korea and the Republic of Kazakhstan, many Kazakhstan and Korean authors wrote articles and books about educational

relations and cooperation of Korean studies between these two countries.

For example, in 2001 German Kim wrote an article "Korean Studies in Kazakhstan and Central Asia: the Past, the Present and the Future" (German, 2002). German Kim in co-authorship with Kim Sang Cheol analyzed when and why Russian Koreans who were forced to migrate to Central Asia in the Soviet period began to reeducate Korean language by the article "Korean Education in soviet Korean Community and its' Materials" (German, 2009).

In the book «The Republic of Kazakhstan and the Republic of Korea: Towards a strategic partnership» German Kim gave a general information about diplomatic relations between two country and the prospects of development (Kim, 2012).

Nelly Han in her research work "Process and the system of Korean Studies in Kazakhstan" gave a justified assessment to the status of Korean Studies in the Republic of Kazakhstan (Han, 2015).

The academic journal "Newsletter of Korean Studies in Kazakhstan" gave much assistance during the work. N. Ospanov (Ospanov, 2015), Cho Yn-Zhong, published about cultural and educational policy of the Republic of Korea in Central Asia (Cho, 2011). Also, South Korean politician Son Yong-ho emphasizes the issues of bilateral cultural cooperation in the context of "understanding of Korea and Kazakhstan in the cultural sphere and ways to develop cultural relations between the two sides", and emphasizes ways of further development of cultural ties (Son, 2010).

The problem is that there no information and materials about the cultural-humanitarian cooperation between Kazakhstan and Korea in the contemporary stage. Also many authors did not research Korean Studies' state of weakness in Kazakhstan.

Methods used while researching are the next: case study, event analysis and quantitative method, like interview.

As the demand for Korean and Korean studies is increasing, there is a need to find solutions to these problems. In this article, I will discuss the current situation of Korean Studies and the ongoing projects of the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, the leading Korean Studies Institute of Kazakhstan, as part of the plan to promote Korean Studies and solve the aforementioned problems.

The purpose of this article is to identify and analyze the problems of further development of Korean studies in Kazakhstan, and also to present ways for further cooperation.

### 1. Status of Korean Studies in Kazakhstan

Korean language education in Kazakhstan has been developing dramatically since official diplomatic relations were established between Korea and Kazakhstan in 1992. In the early days of Korean language education in Kazakhstan the environment was very poor due to a lack of specialized Korean teachers, and lack of textbooks written in local languages. Nonetheless, with the help of Koreans working at local educational institutions and

volunteers sent by the Korea International Cooperation Agency, Korean language education in Kazakhstan grew gradually. Since then, public investments have been made so as to promote Korean cultural centers and educational institutes (among them Kazakh universities with Korean studies programs), as well as the Korean Embassy (Kyo, 2016: 41). But, the most significant development has been the systematization of the Korean education system. Statistics regarding the proliferation of Korean language programs in Kazakhstan as of June 2014 are as follows:

	Institutes	Departments	Location	Students	Teachers	Remark
1	Kazakh National Univ.	Korean and Japanese studies	Almaty	120	22	
2	Kazakh University of International Relations & World Languages	Korean	Almaty	91	16	
		Interpretation		43		
		Oriental Studies		48		
		Sum	182			
3	Eurasian National Univ.	Korean	Astana	16	2	
		Second Language		15		
		Sum		31		
4	Zhetysu National Univ.	Foreign Language	Taldykorgan	43	2	
		Interpretation				
5	Taraz State Pedagogical Institute	English and Korean	Taraz	49	1	
6	East-Kazakhstan National Univ.	Literature-Foreign Studies(Korean)	East-Kazakh	29	1	
7	Kyzylorda National Univ.	English and Korean	Kyzylorda	9	1	
8	Taraz Innovation and Humanities University	English and Korean	Taraz	13		
9	Kazakh Economics University	Korean Language Course	Almaty	70	1	
10	Kazakh-Russian International University (Aktobe)	Extramural	Aktobe	0	1	Extramural 17
11	Management and International Service College	Finance, Marketing-Korean	Almaty	25	1	
12	International Tourism College	Tourism-Korean	Almaty	27	1	
13	Kazakhstan-Korean college «Kwang-Sung»	Korean Culture-Society Course	East-Kazakh	70	3	Extramural 15
14	Almaty College Alatau	English and Korean	Almaty	26	1	
15	Kazakh National Academy of Arts	Vocal Music	Almaty	13	1	
16	Almaty Music College named after P.I. Tchaikovsky	Extramural	Almaty	0	1	25

While universities all over Kazakhstan offer Korean language classes, only major universities, such as Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Kazakh University of International Relations & World Languages, and Eurasian National University, have well-

developed Korean Studies departments that offer specialized content courses in addition to language courses. Overall though, very few teachers have specializations in Korean studies, and as such are only able to teach the language. Even at the three large

mentioned universities there are few professors who are able to teach courses on Korean history, politics, or economics, and thus emphasis is usually only given to the language (Han, 2015: 278-279).

## 2. Current Status and Prospects for the Development of Korean Studies in Al-Farabi Kazakh National University

As we have seen above, the professional system of Korean Studies in universities in Kazakhstan is still in its infancy, but the Korean Studies Department of Al-Farabi Kazakh National University is very interested in developing Korean language and Korean Studies programs. Among the four major departments of Oriental Studies (Chinese, Far Eastern, Turkic, and Arabic-Iranian), the activities of the Korean Studies Department in Far Eastern Studies are outstanding and the most energetic. In terms of class sizes, the department is relatively small compared to the Chinese department, but it is never far behind in its enthusiasm, activities organized by undergraduates, academic accomplishments garnered by its lecturers, and exchange and cooperation with relevant linguistic nations. Student exchange agreements have been signed with more than 30 universities in Korea. In recent years, there has been a gradual expansion of exchanges at the graduate level which has provided the framework to train future Korean Studies specialists.

Al-Farabi Kazakh National University opened its Korean department in 1994. Then, in 2011 the Department of Far Eastern Studies was created which links the Japanese and the Korean departments. (One of the main reasons for this was the lack of doctoral level of staff in the Department of Japanese Studies.) Despite being together in the Department of Far Eastern Studies both the Department of Korean Studies and the Department of Japanese Studies work independently, including: selecting and recruiting new students, developing curriculum, and managing personnel (lecturers, professors) No other university in Kazakhstan can rival the amount of lecturers and students that the Department of Korean Studies at the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University has.

### 2016-2017 Year Number of Lecturers: 23

- 11 Doctorates (6 professors, among them 1 professor from the Korean Foundation (KF))
- 12 MA students (Instructor)

### Number of Students: 109

- 100 undergraduate students (1st year – 18, 2nd year – 26, 3rd grade – 33, 4th grade – 23)

- 9 graduate students (MA- 7), (PhD- 2)

Additionally, efforts are being made to promote professional Korean studies through the following research projects:

- (1) Korean Studies Promotion Project
- (2) Korean Studies Specialist Training Program
- (3) Network formation with various institutions in Korea (Lee, 2017)

### 2.1 Korean Studies Promotion Project

In Kazakhstan, there are no regular journals or academic conferences related to Korean Studies, and consequently there is little opportunity to present research results. The professors and faculty of Korean Studies at the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University regularly organize and participate in various Korean academic conferences to further the goals and bolster interest in Korean studies. An excellent example of this is the Korean Studies Conference hosted by the Central Asia Korean Studies Professor Council which will be held in Almaty for the fourth year. The Korean Studies Conference is an international academic conference in which Korean Studies scholars from Central Asian countries such as Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan participate. Professors from the Department of Korean Studies at the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University also participate and organize to promote Korean Studies.

The Academic Center for Korean Studies, established in 2003, is the main force behind the promotion of Korean studies at the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University. Among the research staff are graduates and lecturers from the Department of Korean Studies. Young scholars from Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan also played a role in the center for Korean Studies by contributing papers to the journal, participating in seminars and conferences, and conducting surveys. The Center went on to conclude several agreements with similar research centers in Korea, USA, Russia, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan.

Holding seminars and conferences as well as publishing academic journals are two ways that would help to promote Korean studies. The Center of Korean Studies receives support from the Korea Foundation which itself has held several regional and international conferences. The largest international conference “Korean Diaspora in Retro and Perspective” held on 13-15 July 2007, was dedicated to the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Korean Residence in Kazakhstan. Additionally, another important conference “Republic of Kazakhstan and Republic of Korea: from the Establishment of

Diplomatic relations to a Strategic partnership” was held December 8 2009.

Then, in 1996 the Center of Korean Studies began to annually publish the academic journal «*Newsletter of Korean Studies in Kazakhstan*» (In 2004 the title was changed to «The Newsletter of Korean Studies in Central Asia»). The journal contains scientific articles on history, culture, economics, literature, Korean language studies, as well as insights into the Kazakhstan-Korean relationship. It also focuses on the history and present state of Koreans in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Russia and elsewhere.

The Al-Farabi Kazakh National University hosts and participates in the Kazakhstan Academic Olympiad organized by the Kazakhstan government every February or March. In 2011, with the establishment of the Korean Studies section under Oriental Studies in the Kazakhstan Academic Olympiad the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University began to organize and compete in this field.

In Kazakhstan, Korean language courses are available at 20 universities in 10 cities, but academic exchanges between universities are rare since no university is willing to play a leading role, and distance between cities are too great. In the past Korean studies events were held in each region or university, but never on a nationwide scale. However, since 2013, the Kazakhstan Academic Olympiad further subdivided the field and actively encouraged participation of non-professionals, as well as other cities. As a result, the competition is subdivided into three sections: Korean Studies (History), Korean language and literature, and Interpretation. It is now possible to hold Olympiads on a national scale with various cities such as Almaty, Astana, Taraz and Shymkent. Through this, opportunities were provided for students from various regions and universities in Kazakhstan to compete on Korean studies and language knowledge. In the future this continued exchange and competition will lead to the further development of Korean language education and Korean studies in Kazakhstan.

## 2.2 Korean Studies specialist training program

As I noted earlier, it is hard to find and train qualified specialists due to problems such as lack of diversity in Korean studies and insufficient funds. To solve this problem, the Kazakh National University is carrying out various professional training programs.

One such example is the Korea Foundation's (KF) guest professor program. Through this program, we invite professors from Korea who have specialized knowledge in the fields of history,

politics, economics, etc. . In Kazakhstan such experts are in short supply, so thanks to this program students are able to receive more professional knowledge from these experts.

Over the past 20 years, an average of 25-30 students have graduated from the Department of Korean Studies at the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University. Many of them want to acquire additional expertise in Korea apart from Korean language courses offered through their master's and doctoral programs. However, given the local economic situation, Korean tuition and living expenses are a luxury that few could afford which means that many are unable to study abroad in Korea. To solve these problems, the Korean Studies Department of the Kazakh National University, in cooperation with the Korea Foundation (KF), has created a scholarship program for graduate students. Since January 2016 the 'Graduate Studies Fellowship Program', has awarded tuition subsidies to one PhD and four MA students. Additionally, MA students now have the opportunity to spend one year of their program studying in Korea, deepening their knowledge and expertise in Korean studies, thanks to a dual degree program concluded between Al-Farabi Kazakh National University and the Hankuk University of Foreign Studies. Beginning this April, a dual degree program will open between the Department of Korean Studies at the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University and the Pusan University of Foreign Studies in Korea (Lee, 2017).

## 2.3 Broad network formation with various institutions in Korea

Over the last 23 years, the Department of Korean Studies at the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University has achieved formidable results in education and research through exchange and cooperation with Korean scholars from various countries including Korea. In 2001, it concluded an academic cooperation agreement with Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, and since then it has established research and educational agreements with more than 30 Korean universities. In recent years, it also formed a broader network by engaging in exchanges not only with universities, but with various Korean companies as well. For example, POSCO, Shinhan Bank and Kazakhstan Small and Medium Enterprises Association are organizing periodic scholarship programs to help students to improve their understanding of Korea. In this way, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University is establishing a broad network between various universities, institutions, and companies in Korea to encourage

interest amongst students in Korean studies, which would lead to a greater understanding of Korea itself.

In addition, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University and the Gangnam Severance Hospital have concluded an agreement which provides a place for Korean doctors to volunteer for free services within the university. Free medical benefits are offered not only to Kazakhstan National University students but also to all Kazakhstani citizens. This not only gives the students who are studying Korea, but also the ordinary people of Kazakhstan, a good awareness of Korea.

The formation of this broad network of Korean universities, companies, and even medical institutions by Al-Farabi Kazakh National University will lead to a better understanding of Korean Studies, and will positively impact the relationship between Kazakhstan and Korea (Kim, 2012a:185 ).

### **3. Problems and Directions of the Department of Korean Studies at the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University**

Despite the efforts made by the Department of Korean Studies at the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University to develop Korean studies, there are still problems to be solved. I will briefly touch on the problems and discuss the future plans for the department of Korean Studies.

First, the quantitative and qualitative aspects of academic conferences for the promotion of Korean Studies are still lacking. There are no academic conferences or journals that help to establish a professional system except for the Korean Studies Conference hosted by the Central Asia Korean Studies Professor Council. In order to solve this problem, future scholars from Kazakhstan must create academic institutions on their own initiative. Furthermore, academic conferences must be organized and journals published in order to promote Korean Studies.

Secondly, the number of specialists in Korean studies is far from ideal. At Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, there are at least 2 to 4 graduate students each year, many of whom work as teachers in the department. Due to local conditions, more professors tend to have only an MA degree, as opposed to a PhD, and their knowledge tends to be limited to the Korean language. Many would like to put their language knowledge to use and study Korean history, politics, economics, culture, etc., but, due to economic reasons, very few of these talented candidates are able to.

While the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University

has put together a variety of programs to increase the number of Korean studies experts, there is still much more work to be done. A typical example is a double degree program in which a dual degree can be obtained in Korea while attending the Master's degree program at Al-Farabi Kazakh National University. In the case of the double master's degree program at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, the student must pay the full tuition. As of April of this year, the dual master's degree program between the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University and Pusan University of Foreign Studies will only pay for half of the tuition fee. Consequently, it is difficult for Kazakh students to study in Korea which only exacerbates the problem of a lack of doctoral students in Korean studies.

In order to raise the level and quality of Korean Studies, education qualifications for Masters-level staff must be steadily and consistently improved. Furthermore, there is a need for a program that addresses the financial hardships faced by Kazakh students which ultimately prevent them from entering a doctoral program.

Third, it is necessary to form a bilateral network between Kazakhstan and Korea, as opposed to a one-sided one. Like most Korean and Korean studies institutions in Kazakhstan, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University is a one-sided beneficiary in its relationship with Korea. In order for long-term and genuine academic exchanges to flourish, networks need to be formed in both directions. Therefore, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University also needs to consider how it can have a positive impact on Korea.

### **Conclusion**

There is always demand for Korean language and Korean studies in Kazakhstan. More than 1,000 students study at the Almaty Korea Institute of Education, a situation that has led to Korean interest in the university. However, while the demand for Korean and Korean studies in Kazakhstan is increasing, the expertise and diversity of Korean studies in Kazakhstan is still lacking. If the culture, economy, politics, culture, and history are not supported by the development of Korean Studies, the growth of Korean language education will soon reach its limit. To solve these problems, the Department of Korean Studies at the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University is making efforts to promote Korean Studies at its center. The Department of Korean Studies at the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University has been leading the development of Korean studies in Kazakhstan since its establishment in 1994,

pursuing various projects to promote Korean Studies. The following table summarizes the current projects

undertaken by the Department of Korean Studies at the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University.

Type of project	Concrete Programs
<b>Korean Studies Promotion Projects</b>	- Organize and participate in Korean Studies conferences with Central Asian institutions and universities -Activities organized by the Academic Center of Korean Studies -Organize and participate in the Korean Studies section of the Kazakhstan Academic Olympiad with Kazakh Government
<b>Korean Studies Specialist Training Programs</b>	-Korea Foundation's (KF) guest professor program -Graduate studies fellowship and scholarship programs -Dual degree programs with Korean universities
<b>Expanding the exchange network with various institutions in Korea</b>	-Research and educational agreements with more than 30 Korean universities -Scholarship programs with various Korean companies and organizations

It would not be an exaggeration to say that the Department of Korean Studies at the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University is a unique Korean education and research institute in Kazakhstan. Currently, there are more than 30 universities that have formal agreements with South Korea. Many of these graduates work in Korean organizations, such as Korean companies and embassies. However, the Department of Korean Studies at Al-Farabi Kazakh National University suffers from a lack of academic conferences promoting Korean Studies, a lack of programs that would increase the number of specialized Korean researchers, and a lack of complementary networks with Korean universities and institutions. In order to solve these problems, scholars in Kazakhstan must

first focus on researching Korean studies by attending academic conferences and publishing journals. Second, a financial aid program must be created that would help young people study for their master's or doctorate degree in Korea. In doing so, we must increase the number of Korean studies specialists affiliated with the university. Third, for the sustainable development of Korea and the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University should also work to establish a mutual network that can positively affect Korea. We must pay attention to the positive impact that the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University will have on educational exchanges between Korea and Kazakhstan, as well as diplomatic relations.

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