

Kazakhstan celebrates the 550th anniversary of the Kazakh Khanate

ASTANA, September 10 – During September and October, Kazakhstan will celebrate the 550th anniversary of the formation of the Kazakh Khanate. The Khanate, which has existed from 1465 into the early 18th century, is considered to have played an important role in the emergence of a Kazakh nation. The foundation date is known from the study known as Tarikh-i-Rashidi authored by a 16th century Central Asian historian Mirza Muhammad Haidar Dughlat.

A number of events will take place in Kazakhstan during this period to mark the occasion.

- **11 September:** - Astana will host a major international conference of scholars from 20 countries whose academic works relate to the history of the Kazakh Khanate. The day will be capped by a historical re-enactment show in Astana's newly-built sports centre, the Barys Ice Palace. Delegates of the Summit of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking Nations to be hosted by Astana will join the event. Presidents of Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan are expected to take part, as well as the chairman of the Great National Assembly of Turkey.
- **11-13 September:** Cultural events including art exhibitions, theatrical performances and a gala concert will take place in Astana.
- **8-9 October:** Celebrations will take place in the city of Taraz, the capital of Zhambyl region of southern Kazakhstan – an area where the declaration of the Kazakh khanate actually happened in 1465. The festivities will include unveiling of a new monument to the founding fathers of the Kazakh Khanate – sultans Kerey and Zhanibek, and a large-scale historical re-enactment show on the vast plain near the city.

Erlan Idrissov, the Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan, said: "Celebration of the 550th anniversary of the Kazakh Khanate is one of the most important events this year. It will be an opportunity to learn about our roots, reflect on the origins of our culture and strengthen the understanding of who we are as a people."

The Ministry of Culture launched an official website dedicated to the 550th anniversary of the Kazakh Khanate: www.550kazakhan.kz. The information on the website is available in Kazakh, Russian and English.