

Jake Daggy
Chicago HS for Agricultural Sciences
Chicago, IL
Kazakhstan, Factor 2

Addressing Issues in Kazakhstan and Providing Solutions

Kazakhstan is a nation that could be among one of the greatest economical countries in Eurasia. However, one major problem that is holding Kazakhstan back is water issues. Kazakhstan contains a large amount of water that is irradiated or contaminated. Also, they have no main freshwater source to draw from. The only large water source they have at all is the Caspian Sea, which is salt water, which would have to be purified before consumption.

Kazakhstan's geography is very interesting for a few reasons. Kazakhstan is the ninth largest nation in the world and is located in Asia under Russia. It has an amazingly vast amount of natural resources including petroleum, oil, and gold. Although, because Kazakhstan is land locked, or completely surrounded by land, it has to rely on its neighboring countries to transport their goods. Its relations with surrounding countries are not the best, so being land locked causes them extra expenses and taxing on their goods. When it comes to growing produce, Kazakhstan has 8.3% of its land declared arable. Yet, only 0.05% is used for growing crops.

Some of the problems in Kazakhstan are very serious, as opposed to some minor ones. One of the most serious problems for Kazakhs is the fact that they have very little popularity with the world and more importantly their surrounding countries. Also, they are very reliant on their main product, petroleum, and do not invest enough into maximizing other resources. Besides that, Kazakhstan is not actively competitive in the world trade market so their exports are generally very low.

As for Kazakhs culture, the religion is comprised mostly of Muslims and Russian Orthodox citizens. The most commonly spoken language is Russian although 64% speak Kazakh as well. It is a very culturally diverse nation comprised of over 100 other ethnicities. In Kazakhstan, it is diverse to the point where Kazakhstanis are a minority in their own land. Some of the cultural aspects of Kazakhstan may be considered "back-landish" such as the fact that the majority of marriages are arranged.

Health concerns in Kazakhstan can range from being mild when handled correctly, to being extremely serious if ignored. One main health concern is nuclear radiation. The Russians built nuclear power plants and testing sites that were not ran or dis-assembled appropriately when they were in control of Kazakhstan. Nuclear radiation has contaminated water sources and food supplies. Also, during Soviet dominance in Kazakhstan, the Soviets chose to focus more on industrial development rather than medication and bio technology. Due to this, there are still few medical facilities in Kazakhstan, and medical procedure is lacking.

At a glance, Kazakhstani government would seem perfectly stable, consisting of a democratic republic based government. However, should you choose to look at recently passed laws and policies, you would notice a steady change in the shifting of power toward the president's favor. At the same time, looking at past presidential runs, it appears that voting processes are likely

faulty or bias. Besides these problems, there seems to be a lack of fundamental human rights, such as freedom of religion and freedom of speech.

Throughout the years, the Kazakhstan government has had many attempts to improve, although a select few succeeded, many failed. In the 1950s the government took part in the Virgin Lands program, which strove to increase the production of food grown in Kazakhstan. However, although the program led to a temporary increase in farmed land, the country quickly reverted back to its old farming habits. When Kazakhstan reverted, many farmers lost their jobs and their land. This harmed the economy and also meant that Kazakhstan was just one step further from being able to be independent in terms of food supplementation. Also, Kazakhstan is mainly reliant on oil as its main export and source of money. Kazakhstan is much too dependant on oil and the government has been trying to maximize the use of other natural resources. Yet, progress is coming very slowly to fixing this solution and it still seems that Kazakhstan will be exporting mostly oil and petroleum for some time.

It is obvious to any person used to an American lifestyle that health care in Kazakhstan is severely lacking. There are very few advanced doctors and specialized treatment facilities. The majority of women in Kazakh still do home births rather than going to hospitals to have their children. Hospitals as well as emergency stations are poorly maintained, and sometimes the ambulances don't even have enough fuel to make it to the locations where help is needed.

Although you may think that because of Kazakh's amazingly bountiful amount of natural resource it would be very wealthy, there are a few reasons why it is not at its full potential. The first and foremost reason is due to the fact that Kazakhstan is landlocked. Due to not have any access to oceans, Kazakhstan has to rely on neighbors that it is not on the best terms with to have its goods shipped and exported. These neighbors will often tax very highly on their goods thus taking some of the possible profit for Kazakh. If we look at different aspects of Kazakhstani wealth, they only have 5.8% of there population unemployed, however many jobs are underpaid.

If you were to take a close look at Kazakhs water resources, you would notice that although there is enough water, radiation and chemical problems interfere with the safety of the water. The lack of freshwater available to Kazakhstan is one of the reasons associated with slowing there development. Also, studies show that almost all underground sources of water are contaminated or in some way flawed. This can prove very unhealthy to the lower classes in Kazakhstan who cannot afford purified water.

Some companies and corporations realize that Kazakhstan is no where near its full potential. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is making banking facilities throughout Kazakhstan in hopes that this will stimulate economy and the amount of loans taken out. The programs that ADB is supporting will allow larger loans to be given on longer terms. They are also striving to increase their financial trust with other countries. Other than that, a religious corporation runs programs where they donate money to help the Muslim community of Kazakhstan attain more wealth.

When it comes down to it, Kazakhstan is no where near where it should be economically and powerfully. There is not much stopping Kazakh from reaching its full potential wealth and power. First of all, Kazakhstan has more natural resources than any other country in all of Asia.

It should utilize every single one of these as much as possible. As soon as that happens, Kazakhstan's profit will jump significantly. Kazakhstan is already a major exporter of petroleum and oil, yet because it is not on any location near the ocean it has to rely on neighbors who tax them to spread their goods worldwide. Once Kazakhstan can work out fair deals with its neighbors, this too will increase profit drastically.

Kazakhstan can help itself; all of its problems can be solved independently, for the most part. It has all of the resource it needs to flourish economically, it can increase profit by utilizing more natural resources. Yet, corporations like WHO and UNICEF could help make these changes come about more easily, especially when it comes to helping water problems there.

Kazakhstan has many water deficiencies that will soon become critical. A lot of the underground water supplies, such as wells, are contaminated or in some cases irradiated. The radiation comes from back when the Soviets were occupying Kazakh and experimenting with nuclear power, in faulty ways. Kazakh needs to do is start relying on water from the Caspian Sea, which it borders. It must make facilities along the sea and remove the salt content from the water. Then it can be shipped to all of Kazakhstan until a more permanent solution can be taken care of. Once Kazakhs economy picks up it needs to put more money into water purification.

Basically, Kazakhstan needs to accomplish a few tasks in order for it to run at maximum efficiency. To deal with the water problems, water purification plants must be put along the Caspian Sea. The then purified water can be transferred from the plants throughout Kazakh until a permanent underground piping system can be instated. As for government corruption, it must be made sure that the votes are counted accurately, as well as that Nazarbayev's power becomes more limited. To solve economic problems, Kazakhstan needs to fully use all of its available resources and negotiate better deals with neighbors. Once the economics of Kazakh improve, fixing other problems in the health department will come much easier.

If this plan is instated and all these issues are addressed, Kazakh will become the nation that it should have been. It will be a major part of global trade and provide a good ally to the United States in terms of oil production. It is believed that Kazakhstan can quickly reach the top of the world economic ratings.

Works Cited

ADB. "ADB To Help Kazakhstan's SMEs Through Local Currency Loan." *Http://beta.adb.org/news/adb-help-kazakhstans-smes-through-local-currency-loan*. 4 Oct. 2004. Web. 7 Sept. 2011.

CIA. "Kazakhstan." *CIA the World Factbook*. Web. 9 Sept. 2011.

<<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html>>.

"Kazakhstan - WATER RESOURCES." *Central & Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia Environmental Information Programme*. Web. 13 Sept. 2011.

<<http://enrin.grida.no/htmls/kazahst/soe2/soee/nav/water/water.htm>>.

N/A. "Kazakhstan - Language, Culture, Customs and Business Etiquette." *Professional Translation Services / Interpreters / Intercultural Communication & Training*. Web. 10 Sept. 2011. <<http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/resources/global-etiquette/kazakhstan.html>>.

N/A. "Kazakhstan." *U.S. Department of State*. Web. 9 Sept. 2011.

<<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5487.htm>>.

WHO. "European Observatory on Healthcare Systems." *European Observatory on Healthcare Systems*. Web. 7 Sept. 2011.

<http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/95115/E67903.pdf>.