

THE ACSH BULLETIN

Issue 2. October 2016

Insights on civil service and news of the Astana Civil Service Hub

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Conference on Partnership for Civil Service Excellence held in Astana

The ACSH held a conference on “Partnership for Civil Service Excellence” attended by the representatives of more than 30 countries.

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New Study highlights Global Trends in Civil Service

The ACSH and UNDP GCPSE have presented a large-scale study called «Global and Regional Trends in Development of the Civil Service».

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23 June - United Nations Public Service Day

The UN Public Service Day intends to celebrate the value and virtue of public service to the community; to highlight the contribution of public service in the development process; to recognize the work of public servants, and encourage young people to pursue careers in the public sector.

For more information:
<http://www.un.org/>

Conference on Partnership for Civil Service Excellence held in Astana

When: 4 April 2016

Where: Astana, Kazakhstan

During the event the participants exchanged views and experiences on civil service excellence and discussed the ways of strengthening regional partnerships and the development of an experts' network.

Heads of the authorized bodies of the ACSH state-members, in particular, Georgia, Armenia, Ukraine and a few other shared their visions on the development of partnership in the field of civil service.



The participants had an opportunity to consider innovative solutions and best practices from different countries in terms of civil service excellence, as well as share ideas for further development of the partnership in the framework of the ACSH. The Hub was recognized to have become an effective institutional platform for the incessant exchange of experience and knowledge in the field of civil service.

More information is available at <http://www.regionalhub.org/events/latest-events/366>

OECD deepens Partnership with the ACSH

When: 4 April 2016

Where: Astana, Kazakhstan

The ACSH and OECD held a joint seminar “Professional civil service for sustainable development: Promoting OECD standards and principles among the emerging economies of the ACSH participating countries.”

During the seminar, representatives of the authorized bodies of the ACSH participating countries were familiarized with the recommendations, standards and principles on civil service advocated by the OECD.



Edwin Lau, Head of the Reform of the Public Sector Division at OECD Directorate for Public Governance and Territorial Development and Daniel Gerson, Project Manager at OECD Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate presented the insights into the OECD public governance and civil service working methodology.

More information is available at <http://www.regionalhub.org/events/2833>

Advisory and Editorial Boards’ Brainstorming Sessions

When: 5 April 2016

Where: Astana, Kazakhstan

The First Advisory and Editorial Boards’ Meetings were held as side events of the Annual Conference of the ACSH. Representatives of the civil service bodies of six ACSH participating countries, international experts from OECD, UNDP, GCPSE, as well as prominent international scholars of public administration and public policy attended the Sessions.

During the brainstorming session, the proposal on the establishment of the Advisory Board was supported, and the Board’s members were identified. Mr. Rex Facer, Associate Professor of Public Finance and Management at Brigham Young University, was recommended to act as the Board’s overall coordinating focal point.

More information is available at <http://www.regionalhub.org/events/2851>

Global Conference on Professional Civil Service for the Successful Implementation of Institutional Reforms

When: 26 May, 2016

Where: Astana, Kazakhstan

The conference was held within the Astana Economic Forum and organized by the Ministry of Civil Service Affairs of Kazakhstan, Academy of Public Administration under the President of Kazakhstan, the ACSH and UNDP.



Modern trends and international best practices for improving the civil service system, issues of good public administration, development of preventive diplomacy and improvement of the public services quality, innovation in training civil servants and conducting research projects in the field of public administration, both in Kazakhstan and abroad were among the key topics of discussion at the event.

More information is available at <http://www.regionalhub.org/events/latest-events/3492>

Peer-to-Peer Learning Alliance Engagement Workshop

When: 27 May, 2016

Where: Astana, Kazakhstan

The Peer-to-Peer learning alliance workshop was an initiative of the ACSH held within the framework of the AEF 2016. The initiative was supported by the Effective Institutions Platform, Joint Secretariat in OECD in Paris and UNDP GCPSE in Singapore.

The aim of the workshop was to launch Learning Alliance as a network of peers in public services delivery that would improve the implementation of “one-stop shop” reforms and strengthen the partnership among the participating countries: Azerbaijan, Georgia and Kazakhstan.

More information is available at <http://www.regionalhub.org/news/3488>

Strengthening Bilateral and Multilateral Diplomacy in the Context of Sustainable Development Goals

When: 7-8 June, 2016

Where: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

The ACSH in cooperation with the Foreign Ministry of Kazakhstan and UNDP organized the first workshop for the representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and African civil servants to exchange experience and knowledge in the field of diplomacy and international civil service, contributing to the social and economic transformation and human development in Africa.



The workshop brought together high-ranking diplomats from 35 African countries, representatives of the African Union and UNDP's Global Centre for Public Service Excellence.

More information is available at <http://www.regionalhub.org/events/3545>

National Conference: Women say “NO” to Corruption

When: 17 June 2016

Where: Taraz, Kazakhstan

The National Conference ‘Women Say ‘NO’ to Corruption’ was organized to increase the level of legal and anti-corruption culture of Kazakhstani society and the development of recommendations for the implementation of effective mechanisms and measures to combat corruption. The experts shared the best international practices and experiences to counter and prevent corruption.

More information is available at <http://www.regionalhub.org/news/3589>

The President of Kazakhstan met with the Chairman of the Steering Committee of the ACSH

President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev held a meeting with Chairman of the ACSH Alikhan Baimenov to discuss the provisional results of the ACSH, as well as plans for the upcoming period.



More information is available at http://www.akorda.kz/ru/events/akorda_news/meetings_and_receptions/page_214738

Memorandum of Cooperation Signed between the ACSH and Kazakhstan Ministry of Investment and Development

The ACSH and Kazakhstan Ministry of Investment and Development signed the memorandum of understanding. It is planned, that the signed document will enhance the cooperation in terms of educational and research activities in the field of project management, public services quality improvement, human resources management and other activities.

More information is available at <http://www.regionalhub.org/news/3793>

19-th Session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation of the UN General Assembly

At the 19th session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation of the UN General Assembly ACSH has been praised as an effective international cooperation platform and a good practice case that actively supports civil service development in the countries of the region.



The session was opened by Mr. Jorge Chediek, Envoy of the Secretary General on South-South Cooperation and Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. The session was also attended by the permanent representatives of the UN member states, observer states, and Heads of UN agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

More information is available at <http://www.regionalhub.org/news/3305>

The ACSH expands its Composition

The Republic of Estonia joined the ACSH as a participating country, the number of ACSH participants having grown to 35. The cooperation with the ACSH anticipates the participation in different activities on knowledge exchange, promotion of the best international practices, and widening of experts' network in the sphere of civil service.

More information is available at <http://www.regionalhub.org/news/3883>

Representatives of the ACSH participated in the Global Public HRD Conference

During the conference the participants discussed the role of educational institutions for civil servants to promote innovations in public institutions. Also during the event, representatives of different countries shared their experience and knowledge in the field of civil servants' training. The Global Conference is held annually since 2013 by the Korean National Human Resource Development Institute.

More information is available at <http://www.regionalhub.org/news/3845>

Global and Regional Trends in Civil Service Development

The ACSH and UNDP Global Centre for Public Service Excellence in Singapore have presented a large-scale study called «Global and Regional Trends in Civil Service Development». The results of the collaborative work have been publicized by Mr. Alikhan Baimenov, Chairman of the Hub Steering Committee, and Mr. Max Everest-Phillips, the Global Center Director.

The study is a unique summary review, combining theoretical framework and applied expertise of the leading international scholars and practitioners in the field of public administration. Experts note that this review is the first of its kind; such large-scale studies on the global trends in civil service development have not been previously conducted anywhere in the world.



The study was made possible thanks to the extensive institutional and expert network of the Hub, which brings together practitioners and researchers from different regions of the world. The study covers the basic development and reforming trends in civil service over the past twenty years in the countries of North America, Europe, Southeast Asia, the Caucasus and the CIS countries.

According to the speakers, the presented research work will serve as a useful and unique resource for practitioners involved in the reform of the public service, as well as for scientists and experts in this field in Kazakhstan and in countries participating in the Hub and beyond. In a broader sense, the study is intended to contribute to the efficiency of public service by supporting the efforts of the governments of the region in capacity building for reforms. Citizens of countries in the region will be provided with answers to questions about the current demand and what to expect from the development of public service in their countries.

More information is available at <http://www.regionalhub.org/news/3857>

The 6th Issue of the International Journal of Civil Service Reform and Practice

The Hub is delighted to present the sixth issue of the International Journal of Civil Service Reform and Practice published by the Regional Hub of Civil Service in Astana.

This edition opens with the article on how the “market model” of governance has failed to meet its objectives and produce the desired results, using the case of Greece as an example.

It also contains articles dedicated to the “return on investment” technique used to evaluate the mid- and long-term benefits of capacity development programmes, the importance of regulatory policy improvement comprehensive analysis, and evolution and implementation of the concept of professionalism in the public human resources management in Russia.

To read articles in full please visit <http://astanahubjournal.org>



The International Journal of Civil Service Reform and Practice is a practitioner-oriented, peer-reviewed biannual publication, the purpose of which is to provide access to best practices and knowledge on civil service reform to its participating countries. To make it easily accessible to a wider audience, the ACSH has launched the publication of the Journal in electronic format.

To read the Journal online please follow the link: www.astanahubjournal.org

Twinning Project on Civil Service Modernization Implemented in Moldova



The State Chancellery of the Republic of Moldova, the EU Delegation and the Office of Government of Lithuania in March 2015 launched the Twinning project “Support to the civil service modernization in the Republic of Moldova in line with the best EU practices”.

The project purpose is to strengthen the institutional and functional capacities of civil servants at central and local levels in the Republic of Moldova.

The four basic components of the project aim at aligning the regulatory framework with EU best practices, planning and implementing the national program for training of civil servants, creating a network of experts in the field of human resources and developing capacities of all state secretaries within ministries.

More information is available at <http://cancelaria.gov.md/>

Educational Grants Provided for the Training of Civil Servants of Mongolia



In the 2016-2017 academic year, with the request from Civil Service Council of Mongolia, two educational grants were provided for the training and education of the civil servants of Mongolia within the Project to train civil servants from the participant countries of the Regional Hub of Civil Service in Astana.

CSC of Mongolia extends its greatest gratitude to Government of Kazakhstan, the Regional Hub of Civil Service in Astana, and the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan for their contribution to the capacity building of Mongolian civil servants.

More information is available at <http://csc.gov.mn/home>

Calendar of Forthcoming Events

Dates	Organizer	Meeting	Venue
November 1-4, 2016	UN Office for South-South Cooperation	Global South-South Development Expo 2016 (ACSH to contribute to the opening and to be featured as a good practice case of promoting South-South Cooperation)	Dubai, U.A.E.
November 3-4, 2016	Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Civil Service Agency, ACSH	Workshop: "Improving the Recruitment and Selection in the Civil Service: Human Resources Management Informatization System"	Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
November 17-18, 2016	Global Centre for Public Service Excellence, ACSH	Launch of the Global and Regional Trends in Civil Service Development Study	Singapore
April 13-14, 2017	Asian Association for Public Administration (AAPA), ACSH, Academy of Public Administration under the President of Kazakhstan	The 2017 AAPA Annual Conference	Astana, Kazakhstan

Our Story

The Regional Hub of Civil Service in Astana (ACSH), an initiative of the Government of Kazakhstan and the United Nations Development Programme, was established in March 2013 by 25 countries and 5 international organisations. It receives financial and institutional support from the Government of Kazakhstan and it relishes the backing of UNDP as the key implementing partner. The ACSH is a multilateral institutional platform for the continuous exchange of knowledge and experience in the field of civil service development, aiming at supporting governments in the region through fostering partnerships, capacity building and peer-to-peer learning development activities; and evidence-based solutions, informed by a comprehensive research agenda. The geographical range of participants – currently encompassing 35 countries – stretches from the Americas and Europe, through the CIS, the Caucasus and Central Asia to ASEAN countries, demonstrating that partnership for civil service excellence is a constant and universal need for all nations.

«Kazakhstan is interested in active study of the best international practices and is ready to share its own experience in development of a model of the civil service which was highly appraised by experts»

- Nursultan Nazarbayev

Welcome Letter for the Founding Conference participants

«We are delighted to be working closely with Kazakhstan on civil service excellence. Kazakhstan's strong commitment in this area makes it a logical host of the Regional Hub of Civil Service in Astana, in which UNDP is proud to be a partner»

- Helen Clark,

Speech on Modernizing Civil Services for the New Sustainable Development Agenda at the Astana Economic Forum

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