



Kazakhstan is the ninth-largest migrant-receiving and the seventh-largest migrant-supplying country in the world, according to the recent World Bank study [Migration and Remittances: Eastern Europe and Former Soviet Union](#), which was presented in Astana and Almaty on September 24-25, 2007. The country receives most migrants from its neighbors in Central Asia. Yet, since transition, Kazakhstan has also been a major source of migrants, often to Russia.

The main objectives of the events in Almaty and Astana included the following: presentation of the main conclusions and findings of the World Bank two recent studies on migration and remittances; presentation of the relevant international practices for labor market projection, measurement of migration and attracting qualified migrants; and discussion of the applicability and effectiveness of the

analytical and policy tools for migration policy in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Among the invitees were representatives from ministries and government agencies involved in migration policy-making, parliamentarians, representatives from international development agencies, embassies, civil society organizations, research institutions, private sector, as well as the media.

[The presentation of the reports on migration and remittances](#) was made by Bryce Quillin, World Bank Economist, co-author of the reports. Annette Dixon, World Bank Regional Director for Central Asia, Sergei Shatalov, World Bank Kazakhstan Country Manager, and John Litwack, World Bank Lead Economist for Kazakhstan, welcomed the participants in the seminars.

The theme of migration is very complex and multi-faceted as it touches upon economic, social, cultural, and political aspects of the country development and individual people's lives. Presentations of



the World

Bank reports were followed by a lively discussion on topics which are especially important to Kazakhstan: labor migration, legalization of labor migrants, the so-called "brain drain", demographic situation and the need to strengthen productive labor force to support dynamic economic and industrial growth. It was concluded that this topic needs a very balanced approach, because migration, if properly regulated, can benefit all the sides: receiving countries, supplying countries, and migrants themselves.

