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## Cooperation Review

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Since China and Kazakhstan established diplomatic relations in 1992, Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of Kazakhstan, has visited China many times. Many Chinese state leaders, such as Jiang Zemin, Li Peng, Zhu Rongji, Hu Jintao and Wen Jiabao, have also paid visits to Kazakhstan. The important documents signed by the two countries, the *Sino-Kazakh Good-Neighborly Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation*, the *Sino-Kazakh Cooperation Strategy for the 21st Century* and the *Sino-Kazakh Economic Cooperation Blueprint*, have laid a solid foundation for the two countries' economic, trade, energy, technological, cultural and educational cooperation.

In 1997, China and Kazakhstan signed an agreement on oil and gas cooperation, officially launching their energy cooperation. In addition, China National Petroleum Corporation signed the *General Agreement on Oilfield Development and Pipeline Construction* with the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources of Kazakhstan.

In May 2004, Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev paid a state visit to China, during which the governments of the two countries signed an agreement on establishing a Sino-Kazakh cooperation committee and a framework agreement on comprehensive oil and gas cooperation. CNPC also signed an agreement on the

construction of the Atasu-Alashankou crude oil pipeline section with KazMunaiGas. During his visit, President Nazarbayev also attended the launch ceremony of the Chinese version of his book *The Critical Decade*, whose publication was sponsored by CNPC.

In 2005, China and Kazakhstan established a strategic partnership, which further strengthened their bilateral ties. The two countries also cooperate in multilateral bodies such as the United Nations, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in



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Asia, and continue to expand their cooperation in sectors such as the economy, trade, energy, technology, culture and education. Above all, energy cooperation has become the key element of Sino-Kazakh economic cooperation.

On December 15, 2005, the Kazakhstan-China Oil Pipeline became operational. At the launch ceremony, the Kazakh Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources said that it was a model of cooperation between the two countries, and that the nations' energy ties would continue to benefit the peoples of the two countries. Zhang Guobao, then vice-chairman of China's National Development and Reform Commission, told the ceremony that the completion of the pipeline symbolized the determination of the two countries' leaders to promote their strategic partnership, as well as their sincere wish to be good neighbors, good friends and good partners. He also said that the pipeline showed the huge potential and bright future for Sino-Kazakh cooperation, and that, as China's first cross-border long-distance crude oil pipeline, it would bring lasting benefits to the peoples of the two countries.

In 2007, a ceremony marking the 10th anniversary of Sino-Kazakh oil cooperation was held in Aktobe, Kazakhstan, to which Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, Kasymzhomart Tokayev, Speaker of the Upper House of the Kazakh Parliament, and Karim Masimov, Prime Minister of Kazakhstan, all sent congratulatory letters. Aslan Musin, Deputy Prime Minister of Kazakhstan, attended the ceremony. In his speech, he praised CNPC for the importance it attaches to fulfilling its social responsibilities. He said that CNPC had made an immense contribution to the development of the Aktobe region, and that it was his belief that CNPC AktobeMunaiGas



would have a vital role in building Kazakhstan into one of the world's top 50 economies. In his speech at the ceremony, CNPC President said that Sino-Kazakh cooperation had expanded in depth and breadth, delivering even greater economic and social benefits. He added that oil cooperation had become an integral part of Sino-Kazakh economic cooperation, further strengthening the friendship between the peoples of the two countries.