

## **Conceptual Model of Almaty City and Almaty Region Joint Development**

### **1. An urgency of development of frontier territories of Kazakhstan**

The republic of Kazakhstan borders on the Russian Federation, on the states of Central Asia - Turkmenistan, Republic of Uzbekistan, the Kirghiz Republic, and on the Chinese People's Republic. General extent of frontier of Republic of Kazakhstan is about 14 thousand km from which 7591 km - border with Russia, 1782 km - with China, 1241 km - with Kyrgyzstan, 2354 km - with Uzbekistan, 426 km - with Turkmenistan and about 600 km pass across Caspian Sea. [1]

With formation of new borders of independent Kazakhstan the role of boundary areas in which precinct the basic part of the population, cities, and the large objects of a national economy are concentrated, this role becomes more and more significant in the social and economic process of development of the country.

The Development and carrying out of a state policy on strengthening economic potential of frontier areas is the one of the primary goals of the "Concept of a Regional Policy of Republic of Kazakhstan for 2002-2006". The section 1.10 of the given concept is devoted to problems of small cities, depressive rural and frontier areas. This section of concept emphasizes the importance of the issue solution of the further development of frontier areas economy which economic potential is weakened as a result of the flow-out of the population for the bounds of the country. [2]

Section 4.6 of the project "The State Program of Territorial Development of Kazakhstan Republic for the Period till 2015", it is devoted to development of the frontier territories. «The role of the advanced posts is featured to the frontier regions, as necessary link of the international economic cooperation. The purpose of economic policy concerning frontier development is transformation of frontier and coastal areas in supporting spots of the competitive strategy of the country». [3]

One of the main items of the program is «The Definition of Measures on Complex Development of Cities, Frontier Territories and Other Occupied Places». In a number of the basic directions of realizations of the Program there is a number of principles one of which is the principle of settling of the population in areas economically perspective and favorable for ability to live. The importance of the accelerated development of the main cities and frontier territories is emphasized here. [3]

### **2. The frontier territories Kazakhstan-China**

The modern standard of the social and economic development of frontier areas of Kazakhstan much more lags behind a standard of the development of regions of the adjacent states. In particular it concerns to so-called most perspective frontier territories - to the southeast areas of Kazakhstan adjoining to China.

The Chinese government actively developing the trade in Xingjian province started the investment of large projects in the western frontier regions. Urumchi is one of the active developing world trade centers, the largest trade fair on commodity circulation of China with the CIS countries and the East Europe.

The Chinese authorities have made the decision on construction of the International shopping center near to the airport of city Urumchi in Xingjian Province of Chinese People's Republic. By calculations of the Chinese experts in 5 years it will connect east seaside and central areas of China to the Central Asia and Europe. The project is authorized by Scientific Research Institute at the State Committee of Chinese People's Republic on affairs of development and reforms and the Chinese Institute of Civil Aircraft. [4]

Today frontier cooperation of Kazakhstan with China occurs according to decisions of the Shanghai Organization of Cooperation (SOC), and also with the framework of the

Commonwealths of Independent States (CIS) and the Organizations of Economic Cooperation (OEC). Territorial cooperation between frontier regions of China and Kazakhstan has huge potential, in particular for Southeast frontier region. In this connection for steady and equal in rights cooperation there is a necessity of formation of system of strong cities - the supporting centers in frontier with China territories of Kazakhstan.

### **3. The Southeast Frontier Region - the Almaty region.**

The Southeast Frontier Region is most densely populated natural economic region of Kazakhstan. Population density of Southeast Frontier Region by the beginning of 2005 to an aggregate number of the population of republic has made 44 % (6597100 people). Thus 18,5 % (2799300 people) of all population of Southeast frontier region live in Almaty region (1589800 people) and the city of Almaty (1209500 people). [1]

The most attractive place of active population migration from the boundary states is the Almaty region. For January - March, 2005 from Uzbekistan to Almaty region there have arrived 863 persons. The number of emigrants from China makes 90,4 % from total arriving of far abroad. But only two persons have left for China on a constant residence. 19,7 % of all number of the international migrants have preferred to settle in Eskeldinsk area, 18,2 % - in Zhambyl area, 9,0 % - in Enbekshikazakh area, and 8,7 % in the city of Taldykorgan. [5]

The city settlements located in transboundary activity areas take a special part in the process of steady territorial development of frontier regions. The feature of their functioning in systems of settling of transboundary regions consists in their social, economic, ethno-cultural, historical and territorial nearness in relation to the settlements of a neighbouring country.

The basic frontier cities are the most important elements of frontier system of settling, they form the basic skeleton of transboundary cooperation. However for revealing the basic centers it is necessary to carry out the analysis of transboundary potential and problems of systematic development of settlements in the structure of Almaty region, such as Almaty, Taldykorghana, Dostyk and Horghos (Zharkent).

«The State Program of Development of the City of Almaty for 2003-2010» had been authorized with the decree of the President of Kazakhstan Republic № 1019 from February, 10, 2003. The given program has been developed with a purpose of the further development of the city of Almaty and fastening of its positions as cultural, scientific, educational and financial center of the country according to the Law of The Republic of Kazakhstan from July, 1, 1998 "About the Special Status of the City of Almaty". One of the primary goals of the given Program is formation of new shape of the city of Almaty according to its status of republican importance. [6]

The city of Almaty is former capital of Kazakhstan and the applicant for a role of the basic financial center (the Decision of the Government of Republic of Kazakhstan from July, 27, 2001 № 1014 "About Development of the City of Almaty as Regional Financial Center"). According to the data (January, 1, 2005) Almaty area is 300 sq. km, 1209,5 thousand person live in the city (population density - 4031,7 person/sq. km). Today Almaty is concerned to the steady donor of republic, its share in a total sum of withdrawals in 2003 has made 43,3 %. The total regional product, on the data for January, 2005, was equal 806,1 billion tenge. The volume of investments into a fixed capital in 2004, in comparison with 2003, has increased on 57,7 %. [7]

The city of Almaty represents the large center of development of business, over half-million person are occupied in small and average business of the city. Over 75% of commercial banks of the country which are carrying out about 80 percent of all financial operations of the country are concentrated in Almaty. In 2001 the quantity of the functioning enterprises, in comparison with 1998, has grown on 44 % and has achieved 23 thousand, and the number of occupied - on 74 % and 216,5 thousand person. [8] If the quantity of the joint and foreign enterprises of Almaty in comparison to Republic in 1996 was equated to 662 (995 all across Kazakhstan) so in 2001 this figure has already grown up to 2461 (3995 all across Kazakhstan). The basic factor determining a role and a place of the Almaty city in the

system of internal and international interaction is its function in a role of the largest transport unit of republic. The international airport, railway stations and road service stations settle down on the territory. Taldykorgan becomes more and more active central part of authority and the new centre of gravity. Taldykorgan located in the heart of the region. The city area is 0,1 thousand sq. km on which 115,5 thousand person live. Taldykorgan has been based in 1925, in 1944 it was regional center of Taldykorgan region, and in 2001 it became the center of Almaty region. [9]

In first half of 2005 the partial reconstruction of the airport has been finished. That will allow accepting passenger, heavy-cargo planes and will pull together the city of Taldykorgan with new Astana and former southern capital Almaty. Taldykorgan has a good arrangement and can become the good administrative sub-center of transboundary activity. The settlement Dostyk is located on Alakol area of Almaty region. The population of settlement Dostyk is 3000 person, the perspective number of inhabitants is equated to 10000 person. The settlement Dostyk is the important part of the international transport corridor connecting Kazakhstan to China. Station Dostyk has got the transit importance in 1990 in connection with its joining to Alashankou station of the Urumchi railway of China and opening of constant traffic of trains in 1991. [10]

It is possible to mark out, following forming settlements of East node of region: Chunzha, Zharkent, Horghos. Boundary item Horghos is located on a line of the international transit automobile corridor and borders on the Chinese city - port Horghos. The opening of borders and development of international trade of Kazakhstan with China has influenced on stirring up of commodity transport and passenger streams on Horghos district of the Kazakhstan-Chinese border.

On March, 4, 2005 the Governments of Kazakhstan Republic has decided to confirm «The Frame Agreement between the Government of Kazakhstan Republic and the Government of the Chinese People's Republic about Creation of the International Center of Frontier Cooperation "Horghos"». The given frame agreement assumed the creation of the International Center of Frontier Cooperation (ICFC) "Horghos" in the adjacent territories distinguished by the states of Kazakhstan Republic and China. [12] On the basis of the authorized frame agreement, in August, 2005 the Government of Kazakhstan has decided the creation of joint-stock company «The International Center of Frontier Cooperation "Horghos"». [11]

The joint-stock company ICFC "Horghos" represents the Society with hundred-percent participation of the state in the authorized capital. The basic function of ICFC "Horghos" becomes the creation, development and maintenance of activity of an infrastructure of the Kazakhstan part of the ICFC "Horghos". On formation of the authorized capital of the Society from a reserve of the Government on the urgent expenses envisaged in the republican budget for 2005, it will be provided 200 million tenge. [11]

It was directed to management of Almaty region to give, on the right of onerous long-term land tenure, the ground area with the area of 120 (hundred twenty) hectares for the formation of ICFC "Horghos". [11]

On preliminary data ICFC "Horghos" will represent the modern international transport-trading unit including in the composition such zones as: dry port Horghos (trading-exhibition territory, the transport-logistical terminal, a corridor of the communication and control service); Administrative-business zone (business office buildings, administrative buildings, trading and tourist representations and cultural - historical complexes).

#### **4. Conditions and preconditions of steady development of Southeast frontier region.**

Existing tendencies of transboundary activity of some settlements of Almaty region enable to consider them in a role of forming basic units of region; however there is a number of contradictions making impossible their harmonious interaction. Administrative-town-planning concerns to the most stubborn questions.

The city of Almaty and Almaty region are separate administrative and territorial units of Kazakhstan Republic, with own authorities (akimats) and territorial-administrative borders. In this connection there are also the problems of non-coordination of programs of social and economic and territorial development of two administratively separated, but actively cooperating areas.

The sharp disproportion of development of the main center (Almaty) and an area around it (Almaty region) is observed at the present stage of functioning of settlements of Almaty region. The social and economic potential of the city of Almaty considerably surpasses the potential of settlements of Almaty region adjoining to it, first of all on a level of availability to the population of a variety of kinds of activity and service. In this connection Almaty is a magnet of intraregional migrations. Especially active reduction of agricultural population of Almaty area is observed due to its migration in the city of Almaty. These processes are resulted in short-term and constant increase in the population of Almaty, it complicates the decision of social, economic and infrastructural problems arising in a city boundaries.

Table 1.

**The General Comparative Parameters of Almaty and Almaty Region for January, 2005**

Name of index	Almaty	Almaty region	Taken together
The territory, thousand sq. km	0.3	224.0	224.3
The population, thousand person	1 209.5	1 589.8	2799.3
Population density (on the average on area on 1 sq. km of territory)	4 031.7	7.1	-
Number of urban population, thousand people	1 209.5	474.0	1683.5
Number of rural population, thousand people	-	1 115.8	1 115.8
Number of occupied in economy, thousand people	549.4	736.4	1285.8
Number of the unemployed, thousand people	52.7	62.3	115
Rate of unemployment in % to economically active population	8.8	7.8	-
Monthly average nominal wages, tenge	39 614	20 180.0	-
Total regional product, billion tenge	806.1	220.3	-
Volume of an industrial output, billion tenge	169.6	145.7	315.3
Production of an agriculture, billion tenge	1.9	95.6	97.5
Retail commodity circulation, billion tenge *	486.3	27.9	-
Investments into a fixed capital, billion tenge **	217.7	55.8	-
Commissioning of the basic means, billion tenge	98.7	25.1	-
Commissioning of the total area of habitation, thousand sq. meters	354	145	-
Financial results of the enterprises and the organizations, billion tenge	84.0	9.6	-

Table 1.

**The Branch Structure of a Total Regional Product for 1995 and 2004  
(the data for January, 2005)**

Name of index	Almaty		Almaty region	
	1995	2004	1995	2004
Agriculture	-	0.1	31.1	27.8
The industry	16.1	11.9	19.4	29.0
Construction	5.4	3.6	3.4	6.7
The trade	15.1	29.2	17.7	7.3
Transport and communication	11.2	15.6	5.6	15.1
Other	52.2	39.6	22.8	14.1

With the assignment of the special status to settlement Horghos of Almaty region it also has been isolated from Almaty region and for today it is under direct submission of the central government of Kazakhstan. It amplifies the negative influence of differentiation of administrative structures on active disproportional development of settlements in structure of a united frontier area.

On a measure of evolutionary development under the (active/passive) influence of global processes, interdependence of cities and surrounding territories amplifies. Infrastructural, social and economic, etc. changes having a place on territories of the adjoining settlements located on freely surmountable distance from each other directly influence on the general direction and scales of development of these settlements in independence of existence of any managerial or administrative borders.

Favourable social and economic development of Almaty (the largest city of Kazakhstan) is impossible without presence of the general strategy of steady development of region as a whole, definitions of a direction and rates of development of the sub-centers that located in a zone and outside the zone of intensive influence of the center of city agglomeration.

Even at the superficial analysis of a modern situation of social and economic development of Almaty area it becomes obvious, that the further development of the city of Almaty and its agglomeration will be defined by processes of their possible social and economic integration with region as a whole, and in particular with the large central centers (administrative - Taldykorgan, frontier - Dostyk, Horghos).

Small settlements of Almaty region today can become the active sub-centers of influence on the process of harmonious development of Almaty agglomeration and region as a whole. Growth of a level of comfort of the communication and the infrastructure of the sub-centers (small settlements) will result in stabilization of demographic situation (on periphery of the central city), that will cause the increase in social and economic potential and a culture standard of region.

On account of non-uniformly scaled and an excellent standard of potential of Almaty region settlements, for balanced development of a region it is necessary to develop the step system of development of the centers and the sub-centers of the local systems of settling.

Functional orientation of settlements (reconstructed existing and projected new) should be determined by the balance of developed local and common republican needs and necessary parameters of development of social sphere, namely to welfare and social needs of the population living in the given territory.

At formation of steady system of the interconnected settlements (among themselves and with the center of agglomeration) with a various functional orientation and a regional generality of social and economic and industrial economic relations, a comfort of environment and economic potential of all region will depend on their development.

Example of attempt of the decision of a problem of active development of Almaty suburb can become the project developed by Open Company «Center of the Urban Planning

Project» under the orders of Department of architecture and town-planning of Almaty, «The Complex Scheme of Planning and Urban Planning Regulation of Almaty Suburb Area Development». However in the given project a process of its realization is not comprehended, In particular how cooperation between local authorities (akimats) will be created.

On the basis of "The Plan of Action of Kazakhstan Group» described in item 1 made during the Berlin Summer School 2005, on a necessity of «Development of Urban Planning Activity Macro-Regional, Sub-Regional and Local Systems of Settlements», the offer about the name «The New Concept of Development of Almaty Agglomeration» had been developed by the employees of Center of Urban Planning and Architecture at KazNTU together with students of Technical University of Berlin.

The given work represents some kind of concept introduction for the future development of high-grade strategy of development of Almaty agglomeration and all Almaty region. The questions of trans-boundary administrative and international cooperation, perfection of transport, engineering and common planning infrastructures, definition of the basic directions of development of Almaty agglomeration and the scheme of settling of Almaty region, formation of the concept of steady ecological tourism are described in the work.

In spite of the fact that the city of Almaty and Almaty region are separate administrative and territorial units of Kazakhstan Republic, with own executive bodies (akimats) and territorial-administrative borders, their social-territorial generality results in necessity of joint consideration of these administrative structures as uniform area. During cooperation of separate structures of authority the strategy of strengthening of networks of the interconnected settlements of a various rank can be the uniting stimulus. For example, formations of a strong network of frontier cooperation by strengthening positions of the cities of Almaty, Taldykorgan, Dostyk and new center "Horghos" can become one of the most profitable projects for all region.

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