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## **Cambridge Regional College forges landmark agreements with Kazakhstan**

**4 January 2010**

**Cambridge Regional College has set up ground-breaking educational agreements with universities and colleges in the oil-rich state of Kazakhstan.**

In a record for the UK, CRC has established links with 17 colleges in the former Soviet republic, which will see the first students coming to Cambridge in September.

The exciting new venture involves the College delivering degree courses to the Kazakhstani students, who will study for four years – spending two years at their home college and two years in Cambridge.

The College is leading the country on its links with the oil-rich state, which is keen to develop stronger ties with the UK, both educationally and commercially.

The principal of the South Kazakhstan College of Law and Branch Technologies, Dr Kanatbek Dossaliyev, recently visited the College to sign the first landmark agreement.

He was shown around the College by Principal Rick Dearing and senior staff before having lunch in the new Bistro – part of the College's £23million development.

Dr Dossaliyev said he was delighted to be part of an agreement which would help provide much-needed skills for his students.

“I am very pleased to be in this country and working with such a prestigious college as CRC,” he said. “The partnership will bring great benefit to our students.”

Rick Dearing said the partnership between the College and Kazakhstan was a ground-breaking one for both the educational establishments and their two countries.

“Kazakhstan is a new and growing market for colleges in the UK and we are delighted to be at the forefront of this educational partnership,” he said.

The College will deliver a four-year degree course in IT, taught in English and beginning in September 2010, under an agreement with Anglia Ruskin University.

The partnerships with Kazakhstan colleges were established after visits to Asia by Dr Amina Wakefield, Head of the International Office at the College, under the auspices of TVET UK, set up to help colleges look for new education markets.

The College, which already has a strong worldwide appeal, welcomes over 1,000 international students from more than 50 different countries each year. The learners come from a variety of countries in Asia, Africa, Europe, the Middle and Far East.

Matt Anderson, head of TVET UK said Cambridge Regional College was leading the country in its links with Kazakhstan, after establishing agreements with 17 colleges.

“Kazakhstan is going to be a big world power in the future because of its oil reserves and minerals. It wants to improve its education system and the agreements set up by Cambridge Regional College are hugely important for education, and, hopefully, for business in the future.”

Kazakhstan is the ninth largest country in the world, and possesses enormous fossil fuel reserves and plentiful supplies of other minerals and metals, with major deposits of petroleum, natural gas, coal, iron ore, manganese, chrome ore, nickel, cobalt, copper, molybdenum, lead, zinc, bauxite, gold and uranium.

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