

# NEWSLETTER

## ASSOCIATION OF INTERNATIONAL BUSINESSMEN



### KAZAKHSTAN'S TECH SUCCESS SHOWS WAY OUT OF RAW RESOURCES ADDICTION

Alaqan, an IT company based in Kazakhstan's capital, Astana, is imagining a whole new way to pay for goods and services.

No more cards or smartphones, company founder Berik Nurymbetov told Eurasianet.

Alaqan's brainchild is a piece of tech that will be able to recognize the pattern of veins in the palms of payers' hands. By passing their hands over a special sensor, users of the system will be able to gain access to buildings or pay for goods in stores.

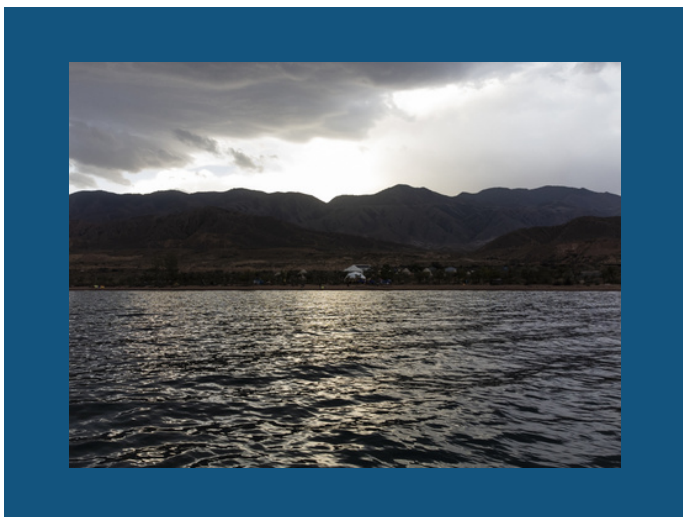
"This could be the future universal form of biometric identification," Nurymbetov said.



### SANCTIONS BIND, TOURISM TENSIONS, AND NAMING STRUGGLES

The West's campaign of trade sanctions against Russia has put Kyrgyzstan in a bind. Last week, the U.S. Treasury announced it had slapped sanctions on four companies in the country for enabling the circumvention of export bans of dual-use material to Russia.

As Alisher Khamidov, a Eurasianet contributor based in Bishkek, notes in the latest edition of our EurasiaChat podcast, this may be the price for Kyrgyz officials failing to properly take heed of months of warnings from their Western partners.



## CHINA EXPLORING BIOTECH, SCIENTIFIC AND MANUFACTURING POSSIBILITIES IN CENTRAL ASIA



Kazakhstan and China are looking to boost joint scientific research. Kazakhstan's science and higher education minister, Sayasat Nurbek, met with top officials of the China-based Center for Technology Transfer of the SCO Member States (SCO CTTC), the ministry's press service reported July 24. The parties discussed potential partnerships "in the fields of science and higher education," including "creating joint laboratories, scientific and technological projects and educational programs." The meeting did not produce any concrete agreements. SCO CTTC representatives also held talks with leaders of the Kazakh Science Foundation. Those talks focused on the development of technologies and pharmaceuticals that can "commercialized," including vaccines against brucellosis in farm animals, unmanned aerial systems, charging stations for electric vehicles, anti-corrosion phosphate materials for oilfield equipment, and fermented milk products for children. SCO CTTC representatives additionally signed a memorandum of understanding with officials at Kazakhstan's Satbayev University to explore "mutually beneficial opportunities ... in the technological, educational and industrial fields."

## INDIA LIMITS IMPORTS OF LAPTOPS AND COMPUTERS IN BID TO PUSH LOCAL MANUFACTURING

India has restricted imports of laptops, tablets and personal computers with immediate effect, a government notice said on Thursday.

The move is a bid to push local manufacturing.

"Their import would be allowed against a valid licence for restricted imports," the notice said.

Between April and June, electronics imports, including laptops, tablets and personal computers, was \$19.7 billion, up 6.25 per cent year-on-year.

