Concept Note
Side Event
Urban Green Belt for Sustainable Development

Organizers: Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Date and Time: April 23, 2025, 15:45 - 17:00 (Bangkok time)

Location: CR-3 hall, UN Convention Center, Bangkok (hybrid format: face-to-face and online)

Background:

The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan organizes a side event within the 81st session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) dedicated to the "Astana Green Belt" project. In an era marked by increasing desertification and the urgent need for climate change adaptation, the "Astana Green Belt" project stands as a beacon of hope and a testament to human ingenuity. For 27 years, Kazakhstan has been diligently transforming over 102,400 hectares of harsh, arid steppe into a thriving artificial forest. This ambitious undertaking, initiated in a region experiencing extreme temperature variations from +45°C in summer to -40°C in winter, demonstrates the potential to not only combat land degradation but also to significantly improve local environmental conditions.

Project Highlights:

The "Astana Green Belt" project has developed unique technologies for soil preparation, seedling cultivation, selection of tree and shrub species, and methods for soil moisture retention in water-scarce conditions. To date, the total area of forest stands exceeds 102.4 thousand hectares, with approximately 107.5 million trees and 62.8 million shrubs planted.

The "Astana Green Belt" is more than just a landscaping initiative; it represents a pioneering effort in ecological restoration under severe environmental constraints. The project has necessitated the development of unique, cutting-edge technologies in soil preparation, the nurturing of resilient seedlings, the careful selection of adaptable tree and shrub species, and the implementation of innovative soil moisture retention techniques crucial for survival in a water-scarce environment. The sheer scale of the project, involving the planting of over 107.5 million trees and 62.8 million shrubs, underscores its commitment to long-term environmental sustainability.

Impact:

This project has yielded significant positive environmental impacts in recent years, including:

- A one-and-a-half-fold decrease in the number of snowstorms and fog.
- An increase in the volume of annual precipitation.
- A reduction in wind loads and prolonged dry periods in the capital.

Objectives of the Side Event:

This side event offers a unique platform to delve into the intricacies of the "Astana Green Belt" project. Participants will have the invaluable opportunity to:

- **Learn First-hand:** Gain insights into the specific technologies and methodologies employed in creating and maintaining this vast green expanse.
- **Engage with Experts:** Directly interact with the project's architects and learn about the challenges overcome and the lessons learned throughout its 27-year implementation.
- **Explore Adaptability:** Discuss the potential for transferring and adapting the "Astana Green Belt" experience to other regions facing similar arid and challenging climatic conditions worldwide.
- **Foster Partnerships:** Network with international experts, policymakers, and practitioners in urbanism and environmental development to forge new collaborations and advance sustainable solutions.

Target Audience:

This event is open to participants interested in urban development, environmental sustainability, forestry, climate change adaptation, and international cooperation.

Call to Action:

We invite you to participate in this event to exchange expert opinions, establish new professional contacts, and contribute to the development of international cooperation on sustainable gardening and environmental protection.

Registration:

To participate in person, please register on the official UN platform Indico at https://indico.un.org/e/CS81. When registering, select Category 6) "Registration for

Side Events, Associated Events, Exhibitions and Volunteers" and indicate your status as "organizer" or "participant".

Contact Information:

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