

KPO celebrates Nauryz in Aksai

Nauryz is one of the oldest holidays on Earth which means the "birth of spring". This holiday of spring and the renewed life of the Earth has been celebrated for over five thousand years by many cultures of the Middle and Central Asia. Nauryz has been celebrated in Kazakhstan starting before 1926, but Stalin then banned it as a religious holiday. Unfortunately, this holiday was almost forgotten and was not celebrated nationally from 1926 to 1988. In 2001 Nauryz was announced as the national holiday of Kazakhstan and since then it is extremely popular across

the country. Officially, Nauryz was recognized on 15 March 1991 by a Presidential Decree.

Historical records referring to this holiday can be found in ancient and middle age documents. In the oriental chronology, it corresponds to Navruz, the Iranian New Year. Kazakhs passed the Nauryz traditions from generation to generation. The roots of this holiday can be traced to old pagan rituals. The celebration was meant to reflect people's love to nature. People have preserved the rituals, and today the holiday has acquired new spiritual and ethical meaning.

This holiday has been celebrated on 22 March, the day of the spring equinox. That's why the Kazakhs call the month of March Nauryz. It was celebrated as the day of the renewed life which comes with the spring. People believed, the more generous the celebration of Nauryz was the happier the year would be. Therefore, there are so many rituals and festivities related to this holiday. On the eve of the holiday, people would clean their homes, pay back their debts and reconciled with their opponents because, as the old people used to say, if Nauryz entered the house, all diseases and failures would pass it by. On the night before the festival, all vessels in the house would be filled with milk, airan (plain yogurt), grain, and spring water because it meant that people would have a lot of milk, good yield and plenty of rain during the coming year.

During the day, everybody tried to be in good spirits, would give a big hug to each other and wish good fortune and happiness to others. The celebrations would begin with sunrise. There is an old ritual "If you see a spring, clean up its source". At dawn, all adults, youngsters and children would pick up spades, go to an agreed place near a spring or aryk (small water canal) and clean it. There, they would also plant trees under the supervision of respectable old people. During the process, they had to say: "Let a man leave a tree rather than a herd in the people's memory" and "If you cut one tree, you will have to plant ten!"

A great deal of food was prepared during these days. It symbolized prosperity and wealth in the coming year. Each family would lay a festive table. People would sit



down at the table at noon. Mullah would read prayers dedicated to ancestors before and after the meal. At the end of the meal, the oldest men among them would give a blessing so that prosperity would never leave the family. The Kazakhs attached special importance to the number of seven during the Nauryz celebrations because it symbolized the seven days of the week, which was considered to be a time unit of the universal eternity. Seven bowls with the Nauryz-kozhe drink (made from seven sorts of seven types of herbs) would be put in front of the respectable old people. The meals were composed of seven components, usually meat, salt, fat, onions, wheat, kurt (a type of cheese) and irimshik (a kind of cottage cheese). The celebration always included mass games, traditional horse races and other competitions.

The history of Nauryz has been complicated. The totalitarian Soviet system did not recognize the existence of any national identity and any reference to traditional heritage was considered to be an anachronism and remnants of the past.

Nowadays, Nauryz has become a truly national holiday of spring, work and unity. It is dear to all the

peoples living in the multinational Kazakhstan. The ancient holiday of Nauryz has naturally become a part of the modern life, preserving the old traditions.

Residents of the town of Aksai celebrated the holiday in a grand fashion and in a big way. The main holiday events were celebrated at the Gasmen Municipal Park. Citizens of other countries, representing KPO as well as other contractor companies involved with the Karachaganak field development, did not refrain from participation in the celebration. On this occasion, Akim of Burlin district Bolat Shakimov, KPO Deputy General Director Graham Scotton and other top managers of the company arrived at the Gasmen Park to congratulate the Aksai residents with this wonderful holiday. Graham Scotton on behalf of KPO congratulated all of the people heartily on this bright spring holiday, wishing them all of the best.

According to the established tradition, many companies conducting the project, including KPO set up yurts, where every resident of Aksai was able to enter and try holiday dishes. War and labor veterans were the honored guests at the KPO yurt on this day.



Intranet site for SAP Project renewed

SAP Change Management Team of KPO has recently announced the launch of the renewed intranet site for SAP Project.

The renewed site presents information about SAP system and an overview of the SAP Project activities in place at KPO as part of the SAP

implementation. The site also presents latest news, new organisation chart, updated project methodology, and other useful information. The site is available both in English and Russian languages.

As it is known, in September 2010 the implementation of the SAP system within KPO moved forward with the approval of the project budget and the award of the Implementation Contract to SAP Kazakhstan. SAP is an industry standard system in use by all four Partner Companies and KMG. This is a strategic project for KPO which will impact staff across the organisation.

Paul Williams, SAP Project Manager, emphasized: "Implementing SAP will bring a lot of change to KPO. We will be implementing standard business processes supported by a single integrated IT system with the capacity to support the growth of the organisation in the future.

This will bring efficiencies



SAP Change Management Team



Paul Williams, SAP Project Manager

to existing ways of working and save the costs of running and maintaining existing IT systems."

"As with any significant change it will only be successful

with the involvement and support from people across the organisation. The project has a dedicated Change Management Team whose role is to work with the organisation

to make the transition to SAP and its new ways of working as smooth as possible. This Intranet site is intended to help you understand more about the SAP Project and its progress".

Scientific conference on oil and gas held in Aktau

On 24 February, the International scientific-practical conference called "Modern problems of oil and gas complex of Kazakhstan" was held in Aktau. The conference was dedicated to the 20th anniversary of Kazakhstan independence and was initiated and organised by the Joint Stock Company "Kazakh Institute of Oil and Gas" (KING), the largest scientific research and engineering company in the Republic of

Kazakhstan. KING was founded in December 2002 and is a subsidiary company of JSC National Company KazMunaiGas.

The conference brought together more than 100 prominent scientists from Kazakhstan, Russia, Azerbaijan and Finland, as well as the heads of a number of Kazakh oil and gas companies. Akim of Mangistau region Krymbek Kuserbayev also attended the conference. Participants of the conference have discussed the most pressing problems of oil and gas sector and ways of solving them. In particular, the conference presented the technological analysis of the recent accident in the Gulf of Mexico, report on possible problems in the development of oil and gas fields of Kazakhstan's sector of the Caspian Sea. Experts from Russia and Azerbaijan briefed the audience on complicated situations during oil production in general and the prediction of possible accidents.

Along with the representatives of international and national oil companies, on behalf of KPO the conference was participated by Zhardem Kusanov, Permits and Licenses Manager, who presented the audience a scientific and technical



Zhardem Kusanov, Permits and Licenses Manager

report, called "Geological and geochemical characteristics of hydrocarbons of Paleozoic period of the northern side of the Caspian Sea basin».



During the conference



Press Release

Karachaganak Petroleum Operating B.V. (KPO) deeply regrets to inform that approximately at 23:53 on 6 March, a gas leak occurred at the Karachaganak Processing Complex at Karachaganak Field. The KPO Emergency Response Team was immediately mobilised.

As the result of the gas leak, Serik Ilyassov, 24 year-old Oil & Gas Process Utilities Operator of KPO was found dead at the scene. Serik was from Podstypnoye village near Uralsk and he leaves behind a wife Nadezhda who is expecting a child. Our thoughts and deepest sympathy go out to his wife and family.

Serik Ilyassov was buried in his home village of Podstypnoye near Uralsk. The General Director of KPO Giuseppe Pasi, HR Controller Ken Lynch and Operations Director Gram Scotton attended to offer condolences and support to the relatives and friends of Serik.

KPO is also pleased to inform that the

second operator who survived the gas release is well and was released from a hospital shortly.

Information available so far confirms that this was an isolated incident during the purging of a tank which was off-line and not linked to live processing operations. Nevertheless there was a gas release causing the alarm system to be activated.

Gas testing has confirmed that the area is safe. Gas readings were also been taken at multiple locations downwind and in surrounding areas with no hazard identified.

State Authorities, including the Police and local Emergency Services, have been notified and KPO is cooperating fully with them.

To ensure all KPO personnel learn lessons and prevent this from ever happening again, KPO has started a preliminary review, and KPO Parent Company representatives have arrived at Aksai to conduct an independent review. The Kazakh Authorities are also conducting formal investigations. While it is too early to say what the basic and root causes are, we would like to send some serious messages about safety and duty of care in our Company.

Firstly, KPO has many procedures and systems to manage work. Sometimes they are complex, but they are there for a purpose. They are the management rules

and it is a requirement that all the workforce, KPO employees and contractors follow those rules at all times and in all circumstances. To succeed in our commitment to a safe workplace for everyone, we depend on each and every individual to follow the rules, not take short cuts, and take chances, or change procedures or equipment without proper management of change. If rules are broken, then we are all exposed to unnecessary and additional risk. No management system can then save people who are affected. It is a requirement and condition of employment that all personnel follow the rules and procedures as laid down by the management.

Karachaganak contains toxic gas which is lethal at even low concentrations. Equipment is provided for personnel who are exposed to it to save their lives in an emergency. All personnel, at all times, whoever they are, wherever they are working, are expected to understand their obligations, be familiar with the equipment and actions required of them and adhere to the procedures to use the equipment as laid down in the rules. Being disrespectful of H2S, taking chances with it, belief that an accident can not happen, is not an appropriate or acceptable attitude.

Those personnel who do not work in the field and who are not exposed to the operating hazards can contribute. Your contribution makes a difference. Your lack of contribution

makes a difference too. All too often we have road accidents and see behaviours with vehicles and in offices that are unnecessary, and potentially cause accidents. Slipping on ice and office shelving falling are 2 recent examples where, with a little more diligence, care for one another, proper assessment of hazards by leadership and real teamwork, might have prevented serious injuries.

We believe KPO is a good place to work and has a bright future. We also believe there is nothing more important than safety. But every single person involved, whether an employee or contractor, in the office or the field, driving a vehicle or running the drilling rig, Kazakh or foreigner, has to make a stand for this too. Please ask yourselves today where you stand. What it means to you... anything or nothing? Ask yourself if your colleague's life and wellbeing matter to you. Or not? Only by working together with everyone, everyone, being mindful and contributing, will we make a difference.

And in the end, the result we get from the contribution everyone makes to safety really does make the difference between whether we or our colleagues live or die.



Celebrating Nauryz with Antonio

On 22 April, during the celebration of Nauryz holiday at KPO restaurant, Antonio Salvatore Fois, the head chef of KPO Czech Camp restaurant who represents MULTICATERING personally welcomed and cordially congratulated everyone with the spring holiday.

On this day, Antonio and his Kazakh colleagues cooked traditional Kazakh dishes which were amazingly delicious and tasty. All the dishes were cooked by the chefs in exactly the same way that Kazakhs would use at home. The main traditional dish of Kazakh is besbarmak. It is mostly served for the guests or during the celebrations of big holidays (bes barmak – means five fingers). It is usually cooked of fat mutton and parts of smoked horse meat. The meat is boiled and separately is boiled thin paste. Boiled parts of meat are put on the paste and spiced with a special flavouring.