



Script 14 minutes TV-Documentary

THE ATOM PROJECT launches in support of the
UN International Day Against Nuclear Testing
August 27th – 30th, 2012– Astana / Semey / Kazakhstan
www.theatomproject.org
www.rocketmedia.at

00:06:00 - 00:49:00

Ground Zero near Kurtschatow in East Kazakhstan. The first Soviet nuclear weapon test was carried out on this vast and featureless steppe just 100 miles from Semipalatinsk on August 29, 1949.

It remained an epicenter of the cold war for the former Soviet Union and 456 nuclear weapons were detonated at the testing site until 1989.

The destructive power of the blasts left a dark legacy for the local people including cancer and birth defects. The residents of the region continue to suffer until today.

00:58:00 - 01:01:00

Even before Kazakhstan achieved independence in 1991 President Nursultan Nazarbayev ordered the nuclear test site in Semipalatinsk to be shut down on August 29, 1991.

01:01:00 - 01:51:00 Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of Kazakhstan 28.08.2012

„Tomorrow is the 21st anniversary since the closure of the most powerful nuclear test site, after Nevada, in our territory at Semipalatinsk. Under the Soviet rule 500 nuclear devices were detonated at this test site, with a cumulative power 2500 times greater than the nuclear charge which exploded in Nagasaki and Hiroshima. Approximately 1,5 million people have suffered in this densely populated surrounding area.“

01:51:00 - 02:05:00

Kanat Saudabayev, a nearly lifelong associate and advisor to the national leader of Kazakhstan remembers that it wasn't an easy task for President Nazarbayev to close the infamous test site.

02:05:00 bis 02:35:00 Kanat Saudabayev, Director, The Nazarbayev Center

„It is very important to have such leaders. Kazakhstan is and will be an example, a bright guiding star for those leaders, governments, parliaments, who really want to make our world free from a sword of Damocles, the nuclear threat.“

02:35:00 - 03:10:00

Today President Nazarbayev is applauded by leaders around the world for his decision to close *the* test site and banish all nuclear weapons on the territory. The 2010 Nuclear Security Summit in Washington and the 2012 summit in Seoul were milestones towards the achievement of global nuclear safety. Kazakhstan's example has inspired world leaders and the vision of nuclear safety across the globe is moving closer to becoming a reality.

03:12:00 - 03:37:00

Just five months later representatives from parliaments and governments from 75 countries and more than 20 international organizations met at the conference „From a Nuclear Test Ban to a Nuclear-Weapons-Free-World“ in Astana. It was scheduled for 29 during the UN International Day against Nuclear Testing. This day was declared unanimously by the UN General Assembly to be annually held because it marks the closing of the world's second largest nuclear test site in Semipalatinsk.

03:38:00 - 04:04:00

The conference started on August 28 with a trip for delegates and international media to East Kazakhstan. They visited the institute of Radiation Safety to learn about the results of scientific research and the Nuclear Technology Park, which utilizes innovative manufacturing techniques. A smaller group travelled to the center of the 80 mile wide test site at Ground Zero. Visiting this area is a sobering experience.



04:18:00 - 04:32:00

The landscape is flat with dry scrub as far as the eye can see. The site has a ring of abandoned buildings. Cameras and recording equipment were attached to the watchtowers.

04:37:00 - 04:46:00

The concrete bunkers look like shark fins in an atomic desert. They were designed to measure the intensity of nuclear radiation.

04:50:00 - 05:03:00

There was an eerie silence in this setting until the former Australian foreign minister addressed the group with his emotional speech about this sad chapter of human history.

05:03:00 - 05:18:00 Gareth Evans, President of the International Crisis Group

*„Not one of those weapons tested saved the world from nuclear catastrophe, rather every one of them bringing us ever closer to that end *So long as any states has nuclear weapons, others will want them.“*

05:20:00 - 05:34:00

The delegates and media left and traveled to Semipalatinsk, now called Semey City to mark the 21st anniversary of the closing of the nuclear test site. The residents celebrated with the delegates.

05:47:00 - 06:07:00

A groundbreaking ceremony for a new Museum of Peace in honor of nuclear testing victims was held. Vlodzimezh Chimoshevich, the former prime minister of Poland spoke to the delegates and the people of Semey. He was joined by Politicians from Canada, Japan and Kazakhstan to promote global nuclear peace.

06:09:00 - 06:29:00

This was also the theme of the following conference in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan. 200 participants traveled to the political and administrative center in the middle of the great steppe. Since 1998 the city has swiftly grown into a vibrant new metropolis with world-class architectural wonders.

06:32:00 – 06:54:00

President Nazarbayev opened the conference „From a Nuclear Test Ban to a Nuclear-Weapons-Free- World“ in Astana with his speech to international leaders, parliamentarians, representatives from the United Nations, disarmament experts and key non-governmental organizations. He also introduced a new global project.

06:56:00 – 07:35:00 Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of Kazakhstan

„Today Kazakhstan launches the international "ATOM Project". Under this project, any person in this world, who opposes nuclear weapons, can sign an online petition to the governments of the world, calling on them to renounce nuclear testing and to achieve the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty. I encourage the participants and all the people of good will in the world to support "The ATOM Project" and to make a world without nuclear weapons our most important goal.“

07:36:00 – 07:53:00

This message needs to be received and to be put into action, because the future is still unwritten and the danger is present. The participants were encouraged to multiply this urgent message. Many of them have joined the Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament.

07:53:00 – 08:21:00 Alyn Ware, PNND Global Coordinator

„Parliamentarians have been pushing this idea in parliaments, at parliamentary hearings, we got resolutions adopted in a number of parliaments, we did present this to Ban Ki-Moon, the UN Secretary General, he saw that there was enough support for this idea to come out with a five point plan, and that´s one of the reasons we are here in Kazakhstan to get more experience and information to parliamentarians to go back to their parliaments to move for ratification of the test ban.“

08:21:00 – 08:46:00

The example of Kazakhstan is a clear message to the world. Political leaders like German foreign minister Guido Westerwelle met in Astana in an atmosphere of peace to discuss the way to build global security without nuclear weapons and to achieve the global abolition in the future.



08:46:00 – 09:27:00 Guido Westerwelle, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Germany

„We have to join forces to put an end to nuclear explosions, and Mr. President I welcome your proposal to launch the Internet platform in this context and I would like to finish with my personal expression of gratitude especially to the government, to you Mr. President, and the people of Kazakhstan for this initiative, for this leadership and also for your personal hospitality, We are for a nuclear free world. Germany will support this direction.“

09:32:00 – 09:43:00

The conference concluded with an appeal to parliaments and governments to stop any further nuclear weapons production and reduce the role of nuclear weapons. The resolution was unanimously approved.

09:44:00 – 09:54:00 Aaron Tovish, Director „Vision for 2020“

„I think the declaration is strong, because a lot of people had input into it and everyone was working to make it as good as possible, so it’s gonna be a very useful document as we go ahead with our work.“

09:54:00 – 10:02:00 Tarja Cronberg, MEP Finland

„The declaration is very good and it provides for us, who want to work for the nuclear weapon free world really a fundamental sort of document.“

10:02:00 – 10:11:00 Thomas Graham, Ambassador Lightbridge Corporation

“I found it very satisfactory, covered a lot of important subjects and I think it will be a contribution to going forward.“

10:11:00 – 10:22:00 Daniel Ben-Simon, Member of Knesset, Israel

„I share the values of nuclear disarmament, and I hope that one day my country too will join. As you will know it is not an simple issue.“

10:22:00 – 10:40:00 Ward Wilson, Author, Rethinking Nuclear Weapons

„I am hopeful. I think that the desire to keep nuclear weapons comes from fear and the desire to abolish nuclear weapons comes from courage. And as I look around I see there are examples of courage.“

10:40:00 – 11:02:00 Gareth Evans, Former Australian Foreign Minister

„I thought it was a very comprehensive and compelling document and reflected very good the atmosphere of this conference very constructive, very thoughtful and also reflects a lot of appreciation of the role of Kazakhstan and the president and the initiative he has taken. I think all around it was a very successful event. Very good for Kazakhstan - very good for the world.“

11:03:00 – 11:26:00

The declaration was also highly appreciated by Karipbek Kuyukov, the honorary ambassador of the Atom project. He was born without arms and experienced many nuclear tests as a child in East Kazakhstan. At the conference journalists were standing in line for an interview to hear his story.

11:26:00 – 11:50:00 Karipbek Kuyukov, Honorary Ambassador of the Atom Project

„We lived in a small house and in the morning I was often awakened by the trembling of the furniture and the rattling of the dishes. It was another nuclear test. It did feel like an earthquake. My mother died of stomach cancer. She was severely disabled. We realized the reason much later, because my mother had two children before me, who did not live up to one year, dying one after the other.“

11:50:00 – 12:03:00

The forty-four-year-old is an active supporter of the international anti-nuclear-weapons movement. The motivation for his engagement is not his own handicap but the suffering of others.

12:03:00 – 12:28:00 Karipbek Kuyukov, Honorary Ambassador of the Atom Project

„Surely, this project wants to open the eyes of the world, to the results of these tests. I have seen a lot of sick children who were born with abnormalities. And parents tried to hide them in their houses, not even letting them out, because they were ashamed. I want to help these children very much.“*



12:28:00 – 13:05:00

Karipbek Kuyukov has embraced life without arms and become a renowned artist, painting with his legs and mouth. People in his hometown watched as the sky lit up. The residents have suffered the terrible effects of nuclear radiation as a result. The damage caused by radioactive fallout is not limited to one generation but is passed on. Today the Atom project tells their stories with the faces, bodies and lives of the victims.

13:05:00 – 13:36:00

Supporters can sign the petition at [atomproject dot org](http://atomproject.org) to demand an end to nuclear weapons testing. This message of concerned people from all over the world will be brought to the attention of governments and the world's nuclear leaders who have not yet signed or ratified the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. Your participation is needed for an influential campaign to secure the future of coming generations. Act now.

13:36:00 – 13:56:00

Semipalatinsk has become a powerful symbol of hope and a leading example. The initiative is sponsored by The Nazarbayev Center as an expression of a dream that has eluded mankind for nearly 70 years — a world free of nuclear weapons.

14:10:00

The End