



Script TV-Highlight

Astana Economic Forum 2013 and World Anti-Crisis Conference

May 22nd – 24th, 2013 – Astana/Kazakhstan

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It is not an easy question, how to deal with the financial and economic crisis. Unemployment and uncertainty about the future has led to widespread anti-government protests. What do leading experts think about the economic crisis? Will it continue for many years? What needs to be done?

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On May 22 to 24th the Sixth Astana Economic Forum and the first World Anti-Crisis Conference were held in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan.

Astana is the political and administrative center in the middle of the Great Steppe and has swiftly grown into a vibrant new metropolis with world-class architectural wonders. This has all happened during the last 15 years and the city is still expanding. This is also true for the economy of Kazakhstan. However, the danger of the global financial crisis can't be underestimated.

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Since the start of the Astana Economic Forum five years ago, the number of conference participants has rapidly increased. Delegates from all over the world gathered to hear and discuss the future. The conference was held with the support of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

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Vuk Jeremic, President United Nations General Assembly*

„I expect that the Anti Crisis Conference will play a significant role in charting a course towards a more balanced world economic in the financial systems. I look forward to your deliberations and hope they will draw upon the purposes and principles of the UN Charta.“

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Wu Hongbo, United Nations Under-Secretary-General

„You meet at a time of continued global economic uncertainty, widespread unemployment, growing inequalities, banking fragility, and sovereign debt problems, threaten the modest global economic recovery. Reasoned experience underscores the continuing need for coordinated action, to reduce international financial market volatility and the risk of a future crisis.“

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The economic downturn was the main subject of the discussions at the Sixth Astana Economic Forum. 132 countries were present and listened to professionals and experts on economics to collect prospective crisis-recovery solutions.

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Robert Abdullin, President World Organisation of Creditors

"Especially in this forum, real and practical proposals will be developed for many countries. The most important thing is that the governments of these countries are willing to listen to these proposals, so that they can be realized."

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Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan

"Dear Friends, the 21 century is progressing ever rapidly compressing time and space. A new type of global economy is emerging; new principles of international relations are being established as well as new values of social life. Therefore, today it is important to find the right solution for global problems. I sincerely wish to the participants of the Forum, and the delegates to the world anti-crisis conference, productive discussions and successful development of new recommendations."

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One of the main subjects was the Euro crisis and it's negative effect on other nations. The weakness of the European economy is also considered a real danger for other flourishing nations.

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Viktor Khristenko, Chairman Eurasian Economic Community

"The Eurasian Economic project is strategically a long-term economic project. To expect immediate results is unrealistic. This is because our 3 countries are not living in a vacuum. And when our key partners, for example the EU, are in crisis, we cannot, and will not be able to remain untouched by the negative repercussions. We have already been deeply integrated into the global economy for a long time."

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An international community of thinkers, including many Nobel Prize laureates, addressed the continuing problem of the world crisis and offered solutions for the challenges facing the international community.

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Finn Kydland, Nobel Prize winner Economics 2004

"I hope people with some influence will come away with a message, to prevent things from getting worse, even better of course, would be if the environment would be such, that we resume the old time growth rates"

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Edward Prescott, Nobel Prize winner Economics 2004

"There is this famous quote: Don't waste a crisis. Use it to make good reforms, not bad ones"

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George Smoot, Nobel Prize winner Physics 2006

"It's very hard to get 250 countries to agree on doing anything, but occasionally you do. As the world becomes multipolar, it becomes harder to solve problems instead of easier, and so what's going on here, is people are trying to find mechanisms, to make it so you can solve some of these kinds of problems"

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Erwin Neher, Nobel Prize winner Physiology 1991

"As a scientist, I just know that Science can provide solutions to some of the problems, but definitely not to all problems"

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But even Nobel Prize winners are not unified about identifying solutions for the most affected Euro zone countries and promote some questionable positions.

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James Mirrless, Nobel Prize winner Economics 1996

„It was decided that the Euro would be regarded as one of the badges of an increasingly united Europe, but it was a mistake to decide that. So I am a moderately enthusiastic supporter of the European Union, but it doesn't follow that you need to have a common currency"

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Christopher Pissarides, Nobel Prize winner Economics 2010

„I am not saying that we should dismantle the Euro completely, but maybe that's going to prove to be the right policy. But what I want to see is an end to this isolated one country at the time approach".

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The debt crisis is certainly not a problem, which can be solved overnight. And international experts are not sure how long it will last.

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Robert Aumann, Nobel Prize winner Economics 2005

„I have to admit that five years ago I made a prediction which was wrong. So I look back not into the future. I predicted five years ago that the financial crisis would be a short lived thing, and that we would bounce back quickly after a year or so."

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The world is at a crossroads and it is important to reflect about mistakes of the past and face global challenges with an awareness of our differences, and diverse approaches to the crisis.

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Alexander Kwasniewski, Former President of Poland

"In my opinion, it is difficult to find one recipe to overcome the crisis. I think the different situation now is in the EU, in the US it looks better and the figures of the economy look much better than one year ago. China has different problems, Japan has different problems, so we need two levels. First we should solve the problems in the framework that we have, like the EU for example. And then we should look for some general answers, how to avoid the next crisis, using existing international institutions which are existing."

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Nikola Gruevski, Prime Minister of Macedonia

„Easier said than done, each country must shoulder it's share of the burden of adjustment and contribute to a more stable global financial system"

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Romano Prodi, Former Prime Minister of Italy

„If the policy does not change, then mistakes will be repeated. And now we have a totally different concept of how to get out of the crisis, from Germany and the other countries. If you don't find a common compromise Europe is paralyzed. You need to think to the long lasting future, not to the election or the day after"

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Stjepan Mesic, Former President of Croatia

„The world powers are solving the problems of the banks and not solving the problems of the people"

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The Sixth Astana Economic Forum did not only address the financial crisis. They encouraged a positive outlook on the future, with the sustainable development of innovative technologies and the tourism industry.

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Future Energy is also the suggested topic for the international exposition EXPO, which is scheduled to take place in Kazakhstan.

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Kairat Kelimbetov, Deputy Prime Minister Kazakhstan

„We are all, as a country preparing the upcoming EXPO 2017 which will be in Astana -it's very soon, and I think it is also part of the Kazakh global responsibility to discuss the greening of our economies and the responsibility of fighting climate change and other problems“.

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Wilhelm Molterer, Vice President European Investment Bank

„We had to take into account, the differences existing in Europe and Asia, in Latin America, in Africa, that means knowing what the others are doing is the best thing to go for, best practice, for instance here in the country of Kazakhstan the move towards green economy is absolutely impressive, maybe we can learn from each other“

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The dialogue of leaders discussed the new economic landscape, and the steps which need to be taken to ensure a balanced global economic growth. It is a public think tank, where leaders will draw from the conclusions reached in the panel sessions. During three days over 12.000 participants took part in the Forum and the World Anti-Crisis Conference in more than 80 events. These conclusions will be summarised in a declaration, and in guidelines for the world anti-crisis plan, to be submitted to the G-20 and the UN for consideration. The next World Anti-Crisis conference is already scheduled for May 2014.

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Serik Nugerbekov, Senate Deputy / Parliament of Kazakhstan

„The project we are working on, and the world anti-crisis plan which we will develop on our internet platform, with the participation of all the mentioned organizations and legal entities, will be proposed to the participants of the 2nd world anti-crisis conference.“
UN.“

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The participants of the conference had the unique experience to discuss the global crisis in an international context and listen to leading experts. They are also ambassadors of the message, that we need each others knowledge to overcome the crisis.

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