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Chancellor of Abu Dhabi University, Past President of the ...
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QS Higher Ed Pre-Summit Asia Pacific 2024, Almaty, Kazakhstan:
Opening Panel - A Bridge to the World: Higher Education in
Central Asia

We just had a fantastic panel discussion at the QS Higher Ed Pre-Summit: Asia Pacific 2024 hosted by **Al-Farabi Kazakh National University** on "A Bridge to the World: Higher Education in Central Asia," where we discussed academic partnerships and transnational education, covering both challenges and opportunities.

This opening panel considered the current state of higher education in the region and explored how institutions can meet its present and future needs. How can students be upskilled to boost regional economies? What types of partnerships succeed in fostering international collaboration? What are the differences among stakeholders in the region?

The panel was moderated by my esteemed colleague **Nilly C Castaño**, Senior Consultant at QS Quacquarelli Symonds. The panelists included my esteemed colleagues **Gulnara Kurenkeyeva**, Rector of **Almaty Management University (AlmaU)**; **Ulker Sattarova**, Director of the **State Agency for Science and Higher Education**, Republic of Azerbaijan; and **Nigel Healey**, Vice President for Global and Community Engagement at the **University of Limerick**

I really enjoyed the opening ceremony of the pre-summit and the opening panel. Many thanks to **Sergei Khristoliubov** for the kind invitation. It was great to see my QS colleagues: **Jason Newman**, **Dr. Shadi Hijazi** **Shaun Pereira** **Juan Carlos Mejía Cuartas**, **Shaun Pereira**, and **Leeson Karl Mak**. It was also good to see old friends **Prof. ANAS RATIB ALSOUD**, **Kamran Robert Kardan**, and a new friend Zhuldyz Sairambaeva.

Many thanks to Al-Farabi Kazakh National University for hosting us, and to the people of Almaty and Kazakhstan for their generosity and kindness.

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