



one of the largest international expos of the decade is coming to the capital of Kazakhstan. On Nov. 22, 2012, the 156 member nations of the International Exhibitions Bureau (BIE) met in Paris and decided by an overwhelming majority vote of 103 countries that EXPO 2017 will be held in Astana. “I want to inform you that we have just achieved another big victory for our country,” a beaming President Nursultan Nazarbayev told a special press conference in Paris when he announced the news. “This is the greatest achievement at the international level of Kazakhstan’s independence.”



EXPO 2017 is a recognized expo, also referred to as an international specialized expo, and is part of the World's Fair system. Recognized expos are smaller versions of the Universal expos commonly referred to as World's Fairs. Recognized expos center around a particular theme and are held between World's Fairs, which occur every five years. Kazakhstan has chosen the theme "Future Energy" to promote and discover sustainable, global energy solutions.



Hosting recognized expos, like hosting universal World's Fairs, World Cups or the Olympics is a major coup for any nation. The events bring hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue and immeasurable international exposure to the culture and economy of the host nation. Countries launch major multi-year lobbying efforts to convince the International Exhibitions Bureau that their nation captures the zeitgeist of the moment and is best suited to represent the world and the chosen theme. Kazakhstan launched such an effort and was eventually chosen over the Belgian city of Liege, which received 45 votes.



Benjamin Loring, deputy director of Ceres, the Center for Eurasian, Russian and East European Studies at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., sees Kazakhstan's success in winning the competition to host EXPO 2017 as the logical next step in the process of integrating that nation and the rest of Central Asia into the global community and economic market place after long eras of being cut off as part of the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union. "This region of the world has been very poorly understood outside its immediate environs in the past," Loring told EdgeKz. "However, the last 20 years have seen a gradual opening of the region to the global economy and to the world community. This will be one more step in that process."



EXPO 2017 will last three months, include representatives from approximately 100 countries and is expected to draw three to five million visitors, which would make it the largest international gathering of its kind Central Asia has seen. It will be held during Astana's 20th anniversary as the nation's capital and celebrate the emergence of independent Kazakhstan and the wider region as the energy and communications hub of Europe, Asia and the Middle East since the collapse of communism.

“Traditionally, EXPO exhibitions have been held in Northeast Asia, Europe and North America,” BIE Secretary General Vicente Gonzalez Loscertales said. “Holding an exhibition in the new (Central Asian) region, which is the bridge between East and West, in a young country, which has developed very good relations with European, Middle Eastern countries, former Soviet republics, as well as with all countries of the Central Asian region is an additional advantage, which also strengthens the position of Astana.”



The image features a blue gradient background with white circuit-like lines in the corners. These lines consist of straight paths that branch out and terminate in small circles, resembling a printed circuit board layout. The lines are located in the top-left, top-right, bottom-left, and bottom-right corners.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!!