

On behalf of the Atyrau Oblast Akimat and myself, I would like to welcome all exhibitors and visitors of the 8<sup>th</sup> Regional Western Kazakhstan Exhibition, **Atyrau Oil & Gas 2009**, which has become a regular business event in Western Kazakhstan!

The rapid growth of Western Kazakhstan's economy and the interest shown by potential partners and investors in the region, are promoting the development of stronger business partnerships. As a result, the number of joint ventures, as well as new companies, technologies and services entering the market is increasing.

I am sure that **Atyrau Oil & Gas 2009** will help to generate constructive dialogue between oil and gas stakeholders, and promote the introduction of scientific achievements and new technologies, through cooperation between domestic and foreign companies.

I would like to wish all exhibitors, visitors and the organisers of the exhibition every success!

Yours faithfully,

B.S. Ryskaliyev  
Atyrau Oblast Akim