

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of KazMunaiGas Exploration & Production JSC, I would like to welcome the exhibitors and visitors of the 8<sup>th</sup> North Caspian Regional Exhibition, *Atyrau Oil & Gas 2009*.

Power resources are a fundamental part of the socio-economic development of any country. The well-planned and balanced policy of Kazakhstan creates the right conditions for developing the activities of domestic and international companies in the country's oil and gas industry. Correspondingly, the role of events in this industry continues to grow.

Atyrau is the venue for one of the most significant events in the country's oil and gas sector. Every year, the number of exhibitors increases, which reflects the growing interest of international businesses in the region and the development of Kazakhstan's companies.

As an important platform for demonstrating the latest achievements in the industry, I hope that Atyrau Oil & Gas will help to strengthen economic ties and highlight the development prospects of the region to international and domestic companies, generating long-term mutually-beneficial cooperation.

I would like to wish all participants every success.

**Askar Balzhanov**  
**General Director**  
**KazMunaiGas Exploration & Production JSC**