

AUA Youth Forum 2020 (IN PERSON)

Building a Meta Silk Road: integration of Asian cultures in the real and virtual universe

Host: Nazarbayev University (Kazakhstan, Nur-Sultan city)

Theme: Building a Meta Silk Road: integration of Asian cultures in the real and virtual universe

Date: October 24-28, 2022

Activities: expert talks, workshops, cultural activities, trips

Concept note

COVID-19 disruption opened new and creative ways of communication throughout the world.

During the lockdown, it was especially important to be able to engage with other people, not on a "physical" level, which was understandably inaccessible. Not everyone was satisfied with negotiations and meetings on Zoom or Skype. As one example, virtual games were used for team meetings, creating opportunities for new social interactions.

The Metaverse essentially needs to exist not in parallel with the real one, but within it to be fully integrated into everyday life. To become a single, complementary and compatible digital space. The gradual transition of the Metaverse into reality has been made possible by the development of modern technology, including blockchain and Virtual Reality. Still, it will take several more years for the full-fledged launch of the Metaverse.

The AUA Youth Forum's theme is dedicated to the main AUA 2020-2023 themes: AI and Data Science; Asian Civilizations; Public Health; and Future Habitat.

The Silk Road was a vast trade network connecting Eurasia and North Africa via land and sea routes. Nowadays, where everyone can connect virtually anywhere in the world, identifying our unique cultural contribution within a diverse community is complex. The Meta Silk Road can be a platform which contributes Asian philosophy, culture and wisdom to the development of global higher education while showcasing new forms of cultural identity. Of course, it is impossible without Artificial Intelligence, Data Science and Engineering. What we learned from the pandemic is that online study cannot replace the building of community and the knitting of social networks. In this regard, the development of people-to-people sharing experience and knowledge is still essential and long-lasting objective. The Meta Silk Road can potentially provide a virtual community to share ideas and experiences and

simulations as diverse as public health scenarios and futuristic sustainable architecture and habitats within Asian context.

Expected outcomes:

1. To create a platform for participants in order to exchange experience, knowledge, new ideas and viewpoints on the importance of Asian civilization, identity, culture, philosophy, languages, and history.
2. To strengthen interactions between Asian cultures and highlights the Asian identity by modernizing the Silk Road concept.
3. To learn more about the Metaverse world and the opportunity to make an impact on it.
4. To enhance cross-disciplinary studies and strengthen “T-shaped” approach with a strong impact on hard skills and wide development of soft skills.
5. To find and discuss new challenges for Asian civilization and its diversity, to consider future prospects.

Registration:

1. Each AUA member institutions to nominate **3 students** (undergraduate and/or postgraduate). Each member university is also welcome to nominate up to one student on the waiting list. In the event that there are unused quotas from other universities, the students on the waiting list have a chance to get admitted to the AUAYF.
2. Nominated students will receive an email to complete the **application form** and the completed form should be sent to damira.manakbay@nu.edu.kz **no later than September 19, 2022 (Monday)**. We kindly ask nominated students to attach in emails a scanned copy of their passports and passport-sized photo for visa support.
3. For any further information regarding the program, the institutions or nominees may reach the organizers via email at ruslan.kiikov@nu.edu.kz and damira.manakbay@nu.edu.kz
Contact person: Mr. Ruslan Kiikov, Senior Manager of the Office of the President and Ms. Damira Manakbay, Manager of the Office of the President.

Tentative Program

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Arrival to Kazakhstan, Nur-Sultan city	
DAY 1 - October 24, 2022 (Monday)	
9.30 AM	Pre-Forum Networking Coffee-Break
10.00 AM	Opening Ceremony
10.10 AM	Opening Remarks by President of NU Shigeo Katsu
10.40 AM	Welcome Speech by Provost of NU Ilesanmi Adesida
11.00 AM	Introduction to the Program
11.15 AM	Coffee Break
11.30 AM	Keynote Speech Topic: Internationalization
12.00 PM	Keynote Speech Topic: Heritage and Silk Road
12.30 PM	Lunch
2.00 PM	Workshop from School of Sciences and Humanities Topic: on Eurasian Studies and Silk Road Q&A session
4.00 PM	Nazarbayev University Campus tour
6.00 PM	Networking Dinner

	End of Day 1
DAY 2 - October 25, 2022 (Tuesday)	
9.30 AM	Pre-Forum Networking Coffee-Break
10.00 AM	Workshop from School of Engineering and Digital Sciences Topic: on research in AI, AR/XR/VR, data science, and computer graphics Lectures with demos
1.10 PM	Lunch
02.30 PM	Workshop from School of Medicine Topic: AI in Environmental Health Lecture, Group discussion, Group presentations
4.45 PM	Cultural Activity Master Class for Kazakh Art from Cultural Center Rukhani Zhangyru
6.00 PM	Networking Dinner End of Day 2
DAY 3 - October 26, 2022 (Wednesday)	
All day	Trip to Burabay National Park (New Museum, National Park, Burabay Lake)
DAY 4 - October 27, 2022 (Thursday)	
9.30 AM	Pre-Forum Networking Coffee-Break
10.00 AM	Workshop from Graduate School of Business Topic: Cyber Security and Blockchain
11.30 AM	Coffee break
11.40 AM	Workshop from Graduate School of Business Topic: Emerging Economies with a focus on Asia
12.40 PM	Lunch
2.00 PM	Nur-Sultan city tour - visiting EXPO center, museums, and landmarks

6.00 PM	Networking Dinner End of Day 4
DAY 5 - October 28, 2022 (Friday)	
9.30 AM	Pre-Forum Networking Coffee-Break
10.00 AM	Closing Ceremony
10.15 AM	Closing Remarks by President of NU Shigeo Katsu
11.00 AM	Keynote Speeches
11.45 AM	Certificate Awarding
12.20 PM	Group Photo
12.30 PM	Lunch
2.00 PM	Cultural Activities and performances NU Orchestra NU Choir Performances from NU Students Clubs
6.00 PM	Networking Dinner End of Program
Departure from Kazakhstan, Nur-Sultan city	