Dear colleagues!

Today, I would like to present the key results achieved, the initiatives launched, and the priority objectives for the coming period during the first 100 days since I assumed the position of University Rector.

The first 100 days is not a long period for implementing fundamental changes across all areas of the university's activities. However, this period allowed for a comprehensive study of the existing situation, the identification of pressing issues, the making of managerial decisions, and the initiation of concrete work.

The Head of State, Kassym-Jomart Kemelduly Tokayev, noted that “A teacher is the source of education and upbringing.” In this regard, the primary goal of the Özbekali Zhənibekov South Kazakhstan Pedagogical University is to enhance the quality of professional preparation for future educators, strengthen its scientific and pedagogical potential, and create an educational environment that meets modern standards.

To this end, within the first 100 days of taking office, the university will focus on developing its educational infrastructure and enhancing the quality of its academic and scientific activities. Priority was given to strengthening the potential of the faculty, creating a favorable environment for students, expanding international connections, and optimizing the management system.

Allow me to highlight the main results of the work performed.

I. KEY INDICATORS OF THE UNIVERSITY

Currently, at the Zhanybekov South Kazakhstan Pedagogical University offers a total of 69 educational programs. Of these, 30 are in bachelor's programs, 21 in master's programs, 15 in doctoral programs, and 3 in college-level programs. Additionally, retraining programs for specialists without a pedagogical education are implemented, and participants who complete them are awarded the appropriate certificates.

Currently, a total of 8,889 students are studying at the university. Of these, there are 7,690 undergraduate students, 567 master's students, 152 doctoral students, 418 college students, 24 in pedagogical retraining programs, and 38 in the preparatory department.
The university's faculty consists of 446 units. Of these, 24 are Doctors of Science, 168 are Candidates of Science, 44 are PhDs, 193 are masters, and 17 are specialists. The university's scientific potential is 52.9%.
These indicators characterize the university's current academic and personnel potential.

Furthermore, increasing the share of faculty with scientific degrees, attracting qualified specialists, and developing the activities of scientific schools remain one of our priority tasks.

II. DEVELOPING THE EDUCATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND STRENGTHENING THE MATERIAL AND TECHNICAL BASE

One of the key issues given special attention during the first 100 days was expanding the university's material and technical base and improving conditions for the educational process. As part of these efforts, the university's infrastructure has been expanded with two additional academic buildings. Specifically, a four-storey building located at 118 D. Kunaev Street in Shymkent was purchased for 900 million tenge. In addition, the building at 89 Zheltoksan Street has been leased until April 2027. An agreement has been reached on the possibility of the city administration subsequently purchasing the building and transferring it to the university. The two newly commissioned academic buildings have increased the university's total classroom space by 5,000 square metres. This represents an important step towards ensuring the effective organisation of classes, making more efficient use of classroom facilities, and providing a comfortable learning environment for students.

The new academic buildings have been equipped with the necessary learning conditions, and their auditoriums are furnished with modern equipment. Student cafeterias and medical clinics have been opened in all academic buildings and Student Halls.

To develop the digital infrastructure of the academic buildings, the new buildings were connected to the internet via a fiber-optic network. An internal internet network was installed in the buildings, with over 58 wired connection points and 7 high-performance wireless network access points, each capable of connecting up to 200 users.

Additionally, work is underway to install an additional 12 high-performance wireless network access points in the "C" academic building at 63 Baytursynov Street and the "B" academic building at 16 Ilyayev Street.

In preparation for the new academic year, major and minor repairs were carried out in academic buildings and dining halls with a total area of 20,000 square meters, as well as in dormitory areas covering 7,000 square meters.

The Face ID system has been implemented in all of the university's academic buildings and dormitories. This system is designed to improve building access control and effectively organize the university's internal operations.

Due to the increase in the number of dissertation committees, work is underway to equip and open a dedicated hall for dissertation defenses with audio-visual equipment.

Additionally, an agreement was made with the Sayram-Ögем National Park to utilize a camp located in the Mashat Gorge, with a total area of 2.9 hectares, for organizing educational and scientific research practice for educational programs in the natural sciences.

Thus, during the reporting period, concrete work was carried out to expand educational infrastructure, renovate academic buildings, and develop a practical training base.

III. INCREASING THE STUDENT POPULATION AND SOCIAL SUPPORT

One of the key priorities of the university is to build its student population, attract talented young people, and expand social support mechanisms.

In the 2026–2027 academic year, 2,912 students were admitted to the university, bringing the total enrollment to nearly 9,000.

In this regard, a number of new initiatives were implemented to motivate applicants and increase access to education. Notably, for the first time in the university's history, 100 first-year students were awarded a Rector's Grant.

Additionally, for the first time, 30 Rector's Grants were awarded to candidates with high scores entering master's and doctoral programs.

In addition, 88 grants were provided by the Shymkent City Administration to applicants who chose our university, had high academic achievements, and belonged to socially vulnerable groups.

As part of social support measures, 46 students were granted a 30% discount on tuition fees, and one student received a 50% discount. Our position is that a student's social circumstances should not be an obstacle to receiving a quality education. Therefore, in the future, efforts to support students, encourage academic achievements, and attract talented young people to the university will continue.

IV. INCREASING SCIENTIFIC POTENTIAL AND TRAINING DOCTORAL STUDENTS

Dear Colleagues!

One of the key indicators that determines a university's academic reputation and competitiveness is its scientific potential. In this regard, our President, Kassym-Jomart Kemelevich Tokayev, emphasized the importance of scientific and technological development, stating, “A technological leap is impossible without scientists, engineers, and entrepreneurs.” This approach sets the task for universities to improve the quality of scientific research, train qualified scientific personnel, and strengthen the integration of science and education.

In this regard, during the first 100 days, special attention was paid to enhancing the scientific and pedagogical human capital and developing the system for training doctoral candidates.

During the reporting period, 21 faculty members with scientific degrees were hired. As a result, the university's scientific potential increased by 4.9%.

Currently, 152 doctoral students are enrolled in the doctoral program. In the 2026–2027 academic year, 55 doctoral students were admitted to the program. This figure is 25% higher than in the previous two years.

One of the key mechanisms for training scientific personnel is the development of dissertation councils. In this area, four new dissertation councils have been established, in addition to the previously existing councils, in the fields of teacher training in Kazakh, English, and Russian languages, as well as biology.

The next task is to increase the number of dissertation councils to 10 in the current academic year and to ensure the defense of dissertations by 30 doctoral students. Implementing these tasks requires enhancing the quality of scientific guidance, boosting the research productivity of doctoral candidates, and providing systematic preparation for dissertation defenses.

V. DEVELOPING SCIENTIFIC-RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AND INCENTIVING SCIENTISTS

To develop the university's research activities, an analysis of the scientific portfolio was conducted. As a result, 55 faculty members with the potential to lead research projects were identified. Currently, individual mentoring is being provided to these faculty members to develop research projects, prepare competitive proposals, and participate in grant funding.

An agreement was reached to introduce the practices of Turkey's Gazi University's Scientific Research Support Institute at Zhanibekov University in order to implement effective practices for organizing and supporting scientific research.

Mechanisms for the material incentive of the academic staff to increase the effectiveness of scientific activity have also been considered. Under the university's internal ranking system, scientists with high scientific achievements who are among the top 10% of the faculty were awarded a stipend of up to 200,000 tenge.

Additionally, 17 scientists submitted applications for state scientific scholarships and awards in the field of science.

An incentive payment totaling 4.2 million tenge was awarded to 56 scientists for 25 scientific publications in prestigious peer-reviewed scientific journals.

The main goal of these efforts is to improve the quality of scientific research, encourage the scientific activity of the faculty, and strengthen the university's scientific potential.

VI. IMPROVING ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AND INCREASING EDUCATIONAL QUALITY

Efforts were made to strengthen the principles of academic integrity, develop educational programs, and implement modern digital technologies.

To foster a culture of academic integrity, increase the responsibility of students and faculty, and improve mechanisms for fair and transparent assessment of learning outcomes, the university joined the Academic Integrity League. This step is aimed at ensuring transparency in the academic environment and establishing fair principles for assessing educational quality.

Today, the development of artificial intelligence and digital technologies is not just a requirement of the times, but a strategic task that will determine our country's future competitiveness. The Head of State, Kassym-Jomart Kemelevich Tokayev, noted: “Kazakhstan must become a digital power. This is the only way to remain a civilized country in the current era of new technologies.”

As a university that prepares future educators, we must view artificial intelligence not just as a technological tool, but as a key mechanism for developing the digital competencies of the new generation of teachers.

In this regard, concrete work is being carried out at the university.

To develop the professional and digital competencies of students, the capabilities of the international educational platform Coursera are being widely utilized.

Within the 300 licenses allocated to the university, 600 students have completed the course since September.

Organizational work is underway to involve 1,600 students from the university in the third phase of the AI-Sana program, which focuses on integrating artificial intelligence and digital technologies.

There are also tangible results in the introduction of artificial intelligence technologies into the educational process. To date, 594 users have registered to use the 679 ChatGPT licenses allocated to the university. The license utilization rate has increased from 50.9% at the beginning of the academic year to 87.4%. To ensure the full utilization of the allocated licenses by the end of the current month, awareness-raising activities are being conducted.

To expand the technological capabilities of classrooms, 30 new interactive panels were installed.

Lecture Hall 306 in the main building was equipped with a large LED screen.

Additionally, 7 programs in scientific fields related to pedagogical educational programs were submitted for expert review for registration, and 2 programs were submitted for licensing.

In the future, work will continue to align educational programs with the needs of the labor market, introduce innovative teaching methods, and develop digital competencies.

VII. EXPANDING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Dear Colleagues!

The university's integration into the international educational space is a key direction of our strategic development.

During the reporting period, a number of activities were carried out to expand international connections, develop joint educational programs, attract foreign scholars, and enhance academic mobility.

One of the key projects in international cooperation is the development of the branch of Gazi University of the Republic of Turkey.

In August 2026, the first 78 students were selected and admitted from among the 152 candidates who applied to the branch.

In September, the volume of state educational funding was calculated by the “Finance Center” JSC in accordance with the existing methodology and sent to the ministry.

To support the branch's operations, a seven-story building with a total area of 2,000 square meters was acquired and equipped with the necessary equipment.

Four instructors from Gazi University arrived, and the branch's academic year began on September 21, 2026.

From September 2-5, 2026, a working visit was made to Gazi University, and agreements were reached on developing the branch's activities, expanding scientific and educational cooperation, and implementing joint projects. As a result of the visit, a special roadmap for developing cooperation between the two universities was approved.

International Partnership

From September 13–16, 2026, a working visit to the Republic of Korea was made as part of the Kazakh delegation during the official visit of Head of State Kassym-Jomart Kemelduly Tokayev to the Republic of Korea and the first “Central Asia – Republic of Korea” Summit. During the visit, a number of agreements were

reached on artificial intelligence, technological cooperation, strengthening scientific ties, and the development of climate technologies in Central Asia.

In addition, memorandums of cooperation were signed with Lomonosov Moscow State University, D.I. Mendeleev Russian University of Chemical Technology, Kyrgyz-Turkish Manas University, and Atatürk University.

In the 2026–2027 academic year, visa support was provided to 54 students from Uzbekistan, the People's Republic of China, Indonesia, Egypt, Afghanistan, and Palestine in accordance with the migration legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Attracting Foreign Scientists

As part of the “Bolashaq: 500 Scientists” program, two university scientists were sent to Germany and the United Kingdom for a scientific internship.

Under the program to attract foreign scientists, scientists from Turkey, Malaysia, India, Pakistan, and Poland are scheduled to visit. Professors from Malaysia, India, Poland, and Turkey visited, lecturing to students and conducting seminars and training sessions for doctoral students and faculty. Scientists from Pakistan are expected to arrive by the end of the year.

Dual Degree Education Programs

Currently, dual degree education programs are being implemented in collaboration with international partners.

A dual-degree program was opened in collaboration with Xi'an International Education University of the People's Republic of China, under the educational program “6B01303 – Philology: English and Chinese Languages.” Twenty students are enrolled.

Dual-degree training is being implemented at the branch of Gazi University for the educational program “6B01710 – English Language Teacher.” The number of students is 76.

A dual-degree program is being implemented in partnership with the Northern (Arctic) Federal University under the educational program “7M01702 – Teacher of Russian Language and Literature.” One student is enrolled in this program.

These efforts are aimed at expanding the scope of international educational programs and enhancing students' academic opportunities.

VIII. DEVELOPMENT OF ACADEMIC MOBILITY

During the reporting period, substantial efforts were made to promote the academic mobility of students and faculty members.

As part of the external academic mobility program, 86 students were sent for a semester of study to partner higher education institutions in the Czech Republic, Poland, Malaysia, Turkey, Azerbaijan, and Uzbekistan.

Under the internal academic mobility program, 12 students were sent to higher education institutions in Kazakhstan.

Additionally, 10 students from partner higher education institutions came to our university to study under the academic mobility program.

Nine faculty members were sent to partner higher education institutions abroad for exchange programs and to conduct seminars and training sessions.

Ten faculty members were sent to exchange experiences with higher education institutions in Kazakhstan, and three lecturers from domestic partner institutions came to our university to give lectures.

In addition, with the support of the Consulate General of the Republic of Türkiye in Almaty, a free Turkish language course was organised for faculty members, staff, and students. The course will be taught by Muhterem Saygın, a Turkish citizen and PhD holder.

These activities are aimed at strengthening the university's international academic ties and the professional development of the faculty.

IX. OPTIMIZING THE UNIVERSITY'S GOVERNANCE SYSTEM

To ensure the university's sustainable development, the efficiency of the governance system and the optimal use of human resources are of particular importance. In this regard, within the first 100 days, an analysis of the university's organizational structure was conducted, and decisions were made to optimize it.

As a result of the analysis of work efficiency, the administrative and academic -29 full-time equivalent positions were eliminated from administrative and support staff, and as a result, an additional 38 full-time equivalent positions were allocated to the faculty and colleges to improve the quality of education and develop priority areas.

These measures have allowed for the reallocation of personnel resources to the university's core academic functions. Additionally, as a result of a competitive selection process, 5 faculty deans, 10 department heads, and 35 faculty members were appointed to their respective positions.

To strengthen the university's financial stability, increase its academic autonomy, and expand its long-term development opportunities, the establishment of an endowment fund was initiated. In this regard, a meeting was held with a group of deputies from the VIII convocation of the Mazhilis of the Parliament of the

Republic of Kazakhstan, where the legal foundations and implementation mechanisms for establishing the endowment fund were discussed. The matter was submitted to the University's Board of Directors, and a relevant decision was made. Currently, the necessary organizational and legal work related to the establishment of the endowment fund is underway.

X. EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES, SPIRITUAL VALUES, AND SOCIAL ACTIVISM

The university's primary mission is not limited to simply preparing professionally qualified specialists.

Our main goal is to cultivate an educated, responsible individual who respects national values and can contribute to the development of society.

In this regard, during the reporting period, a number of events were organized aimed at the students' spiritual and moral upbringing, legal literacy, social adaptation, and public activism.

On September 1, 2026, a festive event dedicated to Teacher's Day was held at the “Tulip” Palace with the participation of 2,060 people.

Meetings were organized in dormitories to acclimate first-year students to the new academic environment.

The first meeting of the Academic Council, in partnership with the Shymkent City Veterans' Organization, was held.

Additionally, an analytical-practical seminar on the topic “Are You Ready to Start a Family?” was organized.

A meeting was held with law enforcement and migration specialists to explain the principles of “Law and Order” and enhance students’ legal awareness. A total of 165 international students attended the meeting.

A week of meetings entitled “Legal Literacy and Tolerance: A Shared Responsibility” was held from 21 to 25 September 2026, attracting 1,800 students. 200 students participated in the “Back to Study: Safe & Ready” event organized by UNICEF Kazakhstan South Hub. Significant work has also been carried out to promote the spiritual legacy of the distinguished statesman and public figure Özbekali Jenibekov, after whom our university is named. On August 28, 2026, a scientific seminar entitled “Özbekali Jenibekov – a Figure Who Revitalized National Spirituality” was held to mark his 95th anniversary.

On 4 September, an international scientific and theoretical conference entitled “Spirituality and Language: The Legacy of Uzbekali Zhanibekov and Omirzak Aitbayev” was organised jointly with the Otyrar District Administration. In

September and October, the Özbekali Žanibekov Center is collecting memories of the person's life and work, preparing video materials, and publishing them on social media.

In October, “Zhanibekovology” events are being organized, involving approximately 1,500 first-year students.

Additionally, cultural and educational events were held on the themes “The Fate of the Language is the Fate of the Nation,” “Teacher – a Beacon of Life,” and “60 Years of Nostalgia for the Golden Nest.”

A fair of student organizations and creative circles was organized to develop students' creative activity.

A team of 154 people from the university participated in the traditional Shymkent Marathon.

To commemorate the 95th anniversary of Özbekali Žanibekov and the 70th anniversary of the city of Arkalık, the university community and students were treated to a performance of the Arkalık Kazakh Youth Theatre's play, “The White Dawn of Arkalık.”

These activities contribute to the students' all-around development and the preservation of the university's corporate culture.

In addition, a number of working meetings were held with university rectors to enhance the quality and effectiveness of the university's scientific research activities, support inventive and innovative work, and research the region's natural and biological resources, a series of working meetings were held with university rectors.

XI. PRIORITIES FOR THE UPCOMING PERIOD

The work carried out during the first 100 days has made it possible to clarify the university's development directions. However, there are still many tasks ahead of us that await resolution.

In the upcoming period, priority will be given to the following areas.

First – improving the quality of education. The work of updating the content of educational programs, aligning them with the demands of the labor market, and implementing modern pedagogical technologies will continue.

Second – strengthening scientific potential. The goal is to increase the share of faculty with scientific degrees, enhance participation in scientific projects, and ensure the effectiveness of scientific research.

Third – developing doctoral studies.

In the current academic year, the plan is to increase the number of dissertation committees to 10 and ensure the defense of dissertations for 30 doctoral students.

Fourth – expanding international cooperation.

Work will continue to develop the Gaziantep University branch, increase dual-degree education programs, expand international academic mobility, and attract foreign scholars.

Fifth – advancing digital transformation.

Introducing artificial intelligence technologies into the educational process, enhancing the digital competencies of the faculty, and effectively utilizing digital educational resources remain key objectives.

Sixth – improving the university's infrastructure. The work to modernize academic buildings, strengthen the laboratory base, and create comfortable social and living conditions for students will continue.

Seventh – to increase management efficiency and financial stability.

Systematic work is planned to improve the university's organizational structure, use resources efficiently, and establish an endowment fund.

Reflecting on the work accomplished during the first 100 days, I would like to highlight one important point. The university's development is not the work of a single person or an individual structural unit. It is the result of the systematic efforts of the entire community, united by a common goal.

Our primary task is to develop the Zhani Bekov South Kazakhstan Pedagogical University into a higher education institution that provides quality pedagogical education, has advanced scientific research, expanded international connections, and effectively utilizes modern educational technologies.

To do this, we must first prioritize the quality of education, scientific productivity, academic integrity, professional responsibility, and management efficiency.

In this regard, I would like to express my gratitude to the faculty and staff, heads of structural units, employees, and students for their active participation in the work performed and their contribution to the university's development.

I am confident that we will continue to work together to further enhance our university's educational and scientific potential.

Thank you for your attention!