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## CENTRAL ASIA: CHINA EXPANDS IMAGE-CRAFTING INITIATIVE

- 16.10.2023

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Eurasianet (13 October 2023)

China is expanding its media footprint in Kazakhstan, as Beijing strives to ensure favorable coverage of its regional economic and diplomatic activities. The Kazakh media holding company Atameken Business recently announced the signing of an information-sharing memorandum with the China Media Group (CMG), a state-controlled entity also known as the VoiceofChina. According to the document, Atameken Business channels will air news, programming and documentaries about China provided by CMG, or produced in cooperation with it. Now Kazakhstanis will be able to learn better about their eastern neighbor, an article published by an Atameken Business affiliate stated. Atameken Business already broadcasts China-provided programming; the memo outlines plans for a significant expansion of such content. The financial details of the media arrangement were not immediately disclosed.

Kazakhstan and China are close to finalizing an agreement that will enable both states to keep closer tabs on citizens cross-border movements. The Kazakh Senate ratified a bilateral pact providing for information exchanges concerning citizens of both countries, including dual nationals, the Zakon.kz outlet reported. [...]

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