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**International Congress of Architects will take place in Astana**

International Congress of Architects organized by the Ministry of Culture and Sports in cooperation with Akimat of Astana and the Union of Architects of the Republic of Kazakhstan will be launched at 10 a.m. on 16 July 2018 at the Palace of Independence in Astana. The program for three days will include lectures by renowned worldwide speakers, original study presentations, debates, round tables, panel sessions, masterclasses and the competition for young architects which will be held in a format of a start-up weekend.

The International Congress of Architects will be held in conjunction with a celebration of the twentieth anniversary of Astana. Its architectural appearance incorporates global trends of contemporary architecture, thereby, creating a special and unique atmosphere of a dynamically developing city.In the context of implementing of the “Руханижаңғыру” program, which involves the modernization of Kazakhstan's society, there is a concern of further development and enhancement of the architectural and social environment of Astana, which creates a cultural image of Kazakhstan. The image of Astana will be passed down to many generations and, therefore, its development requires well-considered architectural ideas and solutions.

However, adaptation to the global architectural realities should not result in the loss of the national traditions. The Congress is held to promote the development of the contemporary architecture of Kazakhstan through the professional exchange of experience.

The Congress will be attended by architects from near and far abroad countries, local architects representing all regions of the Republic of Kazakhstan and cities of national significance (Astana, Almaty); as well as developers, technology companies, project offices; design engineers, students of architectural university courses; representatives of public authorities and local businesses; urban activists, urbanists, contemporary artists; and the media.