



World Inclusion Congress



Ministry of Education
of the Republic of Kazakhstan



International Forums of
Inclusion Practitioners



Akimat of the city
of Almaty



Help Others Pursue
Education

World Inclusion Congress

programme

Location

Swissotel Wellness Resort Alatau Almaty

Address

Almaty, Nauryzbaysky District,
Tausamaly microdistrict, 50A

Date

15.10.2025 - 17.10.2025

2025

World Inclusion Congress programme
www.hopeworldcongress.com



Day 1

Grand Hall

10:30–11:30

15.10.2025

Registration

11:33 – 11:48

Official Opening Ceremony of the World Congress on Inclusive Education

Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan
Minister of Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan
Akim (Mayor) of Almaty
IFIP (International Forums on Inclusion Practitioners)

Grand Hall

11:48 – 12:18

15.10.2025

Panel Session:

Flagships of Global Development

Participants

Yermek Isagaliyevich Mazhitov (Moderator) – General Director of the "HOPE" Foundation

Chris Blayney – Member of the Google team for seven years, currently Channel Manager for Chrome and Google for Education

Nora Shabani – Regional Education Advisor, Geneva, UNICEF

Andrew Walktel – Director of Educational Programs at inDrive and President of inVision U

Marco Dondi – Deputy Director General of the International Baccalaureate (IB)

Dias Bakassarin – Lead representative from Acer

12:18 – 12:36

Individual Talk

Inclusion is not a strategy – it is the heart of education

Speaker:

Daniel Sobel – Founder and CEO of the International Forums of Inclusion Practitioners, promoting inclusive education in 135+ countries. Author of three best-selling books and over 100 articles, recognized expert in the field of inclusion.

12:36 – 13:00

Concert Program

Moldir Zhantore Zhasulankyzy, Dastan Turdaly, Sofia Balgazina, Alua Ulukhanova, Trio Shabyt, Ensemble Zhetygen

13:00 – 14:00

Break

14:00 – 14:55**15.10.2025****Grand Hall****Biel Hall****Zurich Hall****Keynote and Demonstration**

Innovation for Accessibility: Technology as a Driver of Inclusive Education

Speaker:

Chris Blaney – Member of the Google team for seven years, currently serving as Channel Manager for Chrome and Google for Education.

Technology demonstrations by:

Darren Raiden – Head of Education Engineering Solutions at Google.

Eric Ju Yoon Kim – Co-founder and CEO of Dot Inc., a Seoul-based startup developing advanced tactile and braille technologies for visually impaired people. Passionate about Silicon Valley culture, he studied at the University of Washington and participated in entrepreneurial programs such as Lavin and Founders Institute.

Dias Bakassarin – Commercial Lead, Acer

Panel Session:

Effective Ways to Create an Inclusive Campus Environment for Students with Intellectual Disabilities

Speaker:

Laura Askarovna Butabaeva (Moderator) – Associate Professor, PhD in Special Education, Director of the National Scientific and Practical Center for the Development of Special and Inclusive Education under the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Joseph B. Ryan – Distinguished Special Education Professor and Founder of the nationally recognized LIFE program; an expert on behavioral interventions.

Erica Walters – Award-winning Program Director of the nationally recognized ClemsonLIFE Program, leveraging extensive experience as a Special Education Teacher and advocate for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Chuck Hicks – Parent of two sons with Autism Spectrum Disorder, sharing a family perspective on navigating post-secondary education and supporting independence.

Des Aston – Outreach Officer at Trinity College Dublin's Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities, lecturer in inclusive higher education.

Meg Grigal – Meg Grigal – Director, Think College at the Institute for Community Inclusion, University of Massachusetts Boston

Clare Papay – Senior Associate, Inclusive Postsecondary Education, at Think College at the Institute for Community Inclusion, UMass

Panel Session:

Neurodiversity

Speakers:

Aidana Senbekovna Shilibekova

(Moderator) – Candidate of Pedagogical Sciences, Chair of the Board of JSC "National Center for Professional Development 'Orleu'"

Tessie Tapiador Sagadraca – Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Makati; inclusive curriculum consultant for government and private universities.

James Cavanagh – An applied neuroaffirming education and wellbeing consultant, founder of Real And Wonderful Life™ (RAWlife). With a career spanning 25 years in education, wellbeing leadership and psychology, James brings both lived and professional experience of ADHD, autism, and dyslexia into transformative frameworks that challenge performative inclusion. www.JCavanagh.com

15:00 – 15:25

15.10.2025

Grand Hall

Biel Hall

Zurich Hall

Individual Talk:

Ensuring the Absence of Isolation in Schools

Speaker:

Morten Jørgensen – is the CEO of No Isolation, an edtech company dedicated to addressing the growing challenge of school absence and social isolation among children and young people. Its attendance robot AV1 is used in more than 18 countries, with more than 4,000 deployed world-wide.

Individual Talk:

Promoting Inclusive Education at the Global Level – Challenges and Best Practices

Speaker:

Daniel Sobel – Founder and CEO of the International Forums of Inclusion Practitioners, advancing inclusive education in 135+ countries. Author of three bestsellers and over 100 articles, recognized expert in the field of inclusion

Individual Talk:

In Honor of Neurodiversity: Creating Emotionally Supportive Ecosystems in the School Environment

Speaker:

Louise Matos – School psychologist and PsicoMed founder advancing inclusive, neurodiversity-affirming support for children in Angola and beyond.

15:30 – 15:55**15.10.2025****Grand Hall****Biel Hall****Zurich Hall****Panel Session:**

Edtech

Speaker:

Morten Jørgensen – is the CEO of No Isolation, an edtech company dedicated to addressing the growing challenge of school absence and social isolation among children and young people. Its attendance robot AV1 is used in more than 18 countries, with more than 4,000 deployed world-wide.

Zhanat Karatay – Social Entrepreneur, Inclusion Expert, Founder of "Pioneer," Speaker, and Participant in World Bank Projects.

Laura Tristram – Co-Founder and Wellbeing Manager at Lumii.me, an AI-driven platform improving school mental health in the UK, UAE, and beyond.

Dr. Vasudha Neel Mani – Principal, Rockwoods International School, Inclusive Pedagogy, Special Education, Mental & Emotional Well-being, Leadership in International Schools

Elizabeth Jones – Digital learning consultant, Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert, Apple Teacher, and Fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching with 30+ years in international education.

Kate Mounce – Bett show representative

Panel Session:

Supporting the Holistic Development of Students with Complex Needs

Speaker:

Christin Topper – Head of Student Support Services and Educational Psychologist at the Western Academy of Beijing, advancing Inclusion, Multilingualism, and Wellbeing in international schools.

Donna Wright – Award-winning Australian Principal of the Year, widely respected for her inclusive leadership and impact on student success.

Abhilasha Singh – Principal of Shining Star International School, specializing in sustainability, SDG advocacy, and Model UN training with 28 years in education.

Dr. Snehal Pinto – Director, Ryan International Group K-12 Education Leadership, Inclusion & Innovation, Student-Centric Learning

Sharon Burke – Head of Inclusion at JESS Dubai, educational leader and former clinical practitioner with 16+ years' experience advancing SEND.

Panel Session:

Whose Problem Is Attendance?

Speaker:

Simone Isaacs – Director of Customer Success at No Isolation.

Sarah Johnson – Distinguished author of "All About SEMH" and "Behaving Together," and an international advisor on inclusive education.

Datuk Dr Habibah Abdul Rahim – Director at the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Secretariat, Honourary Fellow at MASA Institute, Senior Advisor of Edvolution.

Roger Mitchell – Headteacher at Ripple Primary School in Barking, an Emotionally Available School where Everyone is Welcome and Everyone Belongs.

Juliet Jerry – 11th Grade Student in the Commerce Stream at Shining Star International School, Career Prefect, Active Member of the Student Council, Passionate Speaker, and Volunteer.

Mukilamudhan Ramkumar – Delegate of the IFIP Youth Forum from India, Top Student and Peer Leader, Advocate for Inclusive Education and Sustainable Development Goals.

15:30 – 15:55

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Ms. Sapna Sukul – COO, Boarding Schools Association of India (BSAI, Inclusive & Values-Based Education, Special Needs Advocacy, Boarding School Policy

Dhruv Patel – Chief Executive and Founder of The Nisai Group, a global leader in inclusive and accessible education.

Dr Kala Parasuram – Senior Manager, International Baccalaureate Organization (IB). Leads the IB in Equity and Inclusive Education.

16:00 – 16:25

Grand Hall

Biel Hall

Zurich Hall

Individual Talk:

Modern Solutions in Education and Inclusion

Speaker:

Ankhan Muratbek – With over 12 years of business experience in education and technology projects, Ankhan has developed strong expertise in international markets. He has worked with China for 7 years, gaining deep knowledge of the market and manufacturing supply chains. His hands-on experience includes visiting more than 80 factories in China specializing in equipment and technology for educational institutions

Individual Talk:

Inclusion Begins with How We Lead

Speaker:

Ceanlia Vermeulen – Head of Inclusion at a Montessori Nursery in the UAE, Co-Director of Mindset Consultancies, and Creator of the Unveil the Path™ Framework.

Individual Talk:

Parents as Partners in Inclusive Education

Speaker:

Nicola Allen – Thrive's Licensed Trainer and Family Programme Practitioner works across the region supporting children, families and staff in their development.

16:30 – 16:55

15.10.2025

Grand Hall

Biel Hall

Zurich Hall

Individual Talk:

Life on the Margins: Creating Therapeutic Communities for the Excluded

Speaker:

Thomas Keaney – Founder of TCES (The Complete Education Solution) – Seven schools and services built on a legacy of no exclusions over 25-years. Re-imagining education through designing in inclusion and belonging into the online school for the future.

Individual Talk:

Increasing Expectations and building Capacity in Postsecondary Education

Speakers:

April Regester – Administrator, researcher, and inclusive educator; co-developer of UMSL Succeed, an inclusive postsecondary program for students with intellectual disability.

Jonathan Lidgus – Director of the UMSL Succeed Program; expert in inclusive graduate education and intellectual disabilities.

Individual Talk:

"Not Bad and Not Broken": A New Understanding of Neurodivergent Behavior Through the Lens of Brain Development

Speaker:

Brenna Weston Bell – Head of EAL with 25 years' experience, specializing in ADHD, dyslexia, and multilingual learning, committed to building inclusive, neuroaffirming schools.

17:00 – 17:25

Grand Hall

Biel Hall

Zurich Hall

Individual Talk:

Neurodiversity and the Future of Autism

Speaker:

Karen Guldborg – Head of Education and Professor of Autism Studies at University of Birmingham; developer of Autism Education Trust programme; chair of DfE Neurodivergence Task Group.

Individual Talk:

Learning Without Borders: A Case of Inclusive Practice at Trinity College Dublin

Speaker:

Des Aston – Outreach Officer at Trinity College Dublin's Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities, lecturer in inclusive higher education.

Individual Talk:

AI With a Human Heart: How Technology Can Deepen Emotional Inclusion in Schools

Speaker:

Laura Tristram – Co-Founder and Wellbeing Manager at Lumii.me, an AI-driven platform improving school mental health in the UK, UAE, and beyond.

Day 2

09:00 – 09:25

16.10.2025

Grand Hall

Biel Hall

Zurich Hall

Individual Talk:

Government Policy Measures in Inclusive and Special Education

Speaker:

Laura Askarovna Butabaeva – Associate Professor, PhD in Special Education, Director of the National Scientific and Practical Center for the Development of Special and Inclusive Education under the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Individual Talk:

Attendance matters (or does it?)

Speaker:

Simone Isaacs – Director of Customer Success; Leading Expert with Over Twenty Years of Experience in Integrating Technology and Inclusive Education.

Individual Talk:

Building an Emotionally Available School

Speaker:

Roger Mitchell – Headteacher at Ripple Primary School in Barking, East London, an Emotionally Available School where Everyone is Welcome and Everyone Belongs.
<https://emotionallyavailableschool.com/>

09:30 – 09:55

16.10.2025

Grand Hall

Biel Hall

Zurich Hall

Individual Talk:

School Design as a Key to Child Development: The Fuji Kindergarten Experience

Speaker:

Takahura Tezuka – World-renowned architect, creator of Fuji Kindergarten – a school recognized as the best in the world by OECD and UNESCO, laureate of the UNESCO Global Prize, and TED speaker.

Panel session:

Global Strategies

Speaker:

Simone Isaacs – Director of Customer Success; a Leading Expert with Over Twenty Years of Experience in Integrating Technology and Inclusive Education.

Kate Pechacek – Kate Pechacek – Founder and CEO of OpendoorsEd, currently serving as a Strategic Advisor for K–12 systems to organizations enhancing educational technology, including No Isolation.

Uljalgas Medetovna Mukhametova – Project Manager at the "BI Zhuldyzay" Foundation

Ms. Nellie Ahmed – Founder, Maria's Public School, Experiential & Inclusive Education, School Leadership, Transforming Learning in Northeast India

Panel session:

Creating an Emotionally Open School

Speaker:

Aigul Amanzholovna Baytursynova (Moderator) – Candidate of Pedagogical Sciences, Associate Professor of the Department of Pedagogy and History at the A.K. Kusainov Eurasian Humanities Institute

Roger Mitchell – Director of Ripple Primary School, Barking – an emotionally accessible school open to all, where everyone feels accepted and valued.

Lodrigo Basco Jr. – Former Public School Teacher and Physical Education Exchange Instructor in the USA; Policy Staff Member in the House of Representatives.

Thomas Keaney – Founder of TCES (The Complete Education Solution) – Seven schools and services built on a legacy of no exclusions over 25-years. Re-imagining education through designing in inclusion and belonging into the online school for the future.

Paul Bray – Founder and Director of INSIGHT Training & Consultancy, Advocate for the Rights of People with Disabilities, Educator, and Author.

Ritesh Bhatia – Life & Leadership Coach, Life & Leadership Coaching, Mental Wellness, Empathetic & Purpose-Driven Leadership

10:00 – 10:25

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Zurich Hall

Individual Talk:

Thematic overview on the development of inclusive education in European and Central Asian countries

Speaker:

Nora Shabani – Regional Education Advisor

Individual Talk:

The Attendance Paradox: Solving the Problem Beyond the School Walls

Speaker:

Kate Pechacek – Founder and CEO of OpendoorsEd, currently serving as a Strategic Advisor for K–12 systems to organizations enhancing educational technology, including No Isolation.

Individual Talk:

Attendance – Global Challenges

Speaker:

Sarah Johnson – Renowned Author of "All About SEMH" and "Behaving Together," International Expert in Inclusive Education.
Simone Isaacs – Presents the talk by Sarah Johnson

10:30 – 10:55

Grand Hall

Biel Hall

Zurich Hall

Individual Talk:

University Without Borders and Innovative Approaches to Equal Access to Higher Education

Speaker:

Andrew Walktel – Director of Educational Programs at inDrive and President of inVision U.

Individual Talk:

The Inclusive Future of AI: Balancing Risks and Opportunities in the Education of People with Disabilities

Speaker:

Natalia Amelina – Head of Division, Senior National Project Manager in Education at the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education.

Individual Talk:

-

Speaker:

Kenzhegul Sosialuly Seitjan – Kazakhstani Paralympian with visual impairment, public figure, and Member of the Mazhilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Having lost 94% of his vision in childhood, he is a champion in goalball and para-cycling, bronze medalist at the 2022 Asian Para Games, and Commissioner for the Rights of Socially Vulnerable Groups.

11:00 – 11:25

16.10.2025

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Zurich Hall

Individual Talk:

A Systemic Approach to Supporting Children with Special Needs: A Strategy for Collaboration Between Government, Society, and Business

Speaker:

Dinara Gaplan – Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Bolashak Charity Public Foundation

Individual Talk:

From School to Profession: Pre-Vocational Strategies for Children with Disabilities

Speaker:

Zulfiya Akhmetvalievna Movkebaeva – Research Professor at Zhetysu University named after I. Zhansugurov, Doctor of Pedagogical Sciences.

Individual Talk:

Rooted in Belonging: A Cultural Shift Toward Inclusion and Well-Being

Speaker:

Lauren Jones – Leading International Consultant in Education and Leadership, Renowned for Developing Inclusive Policies and Programs for Neurodivergent Learners.

11:30 – 11:55

16.10.2025

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Individual Talk:

Assessing the Impact of the Reasonable Accommodation Policy for Students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities: The Case of SDU University

Speaker:

Kamila Rollan – PhD (University of Cambridge), Head of Inclusive Education Department at SDU University. She specializes in research on inclusivity, educational policy and ethics, educational design, and accessibility of socio-cultural experiences. Member of the British Educational Research Association (BERA).

Individual Talk:

How the "BI Zhuldyzai" Foundation Is Changing the World of Children with Special Needs for the Better

Speaker:

Gulkhan Nurmukhamedovna Isabaeva – Director of the Corporate Charity Foundation "BI Zhuldyzay"

Individual Talk:

Building Pathways for All: Transition to Post-Secondary Education for Diverse Learners

Speaker:

Roslyn Dotterweich – Special educator and transition researcher at ICS Addis Ababa, designing life and vocational programs for students with high support needs.

12:00 – 12:25**16.10.2025****Grand Hall****Biel Hall****Zurich Hall****Individual Talk:**

Inclusion as a Systemic Process: Integrating Children with Disabilities into the Educational Process in Kazakhstan

Speaker:

Roza Aitzhanovna Suleymenova – leading scientist and organiser of special education in the Republic of Kazakhstan. R.A. Suleimenova is the author of many standard programmes for basic disciplines, a member of the Educational and Methodological Council for Defectology Education of the Ministry of Education of the USSR. She is the organiser of higher defectology education in Kazakhstan.

Panel Session:

Global Approaches to Inclusive Education: Effective Practices, Perspectives, and Systems

Speaker:

Anel Radikovna Kulakhmetova (Moderator) – Provost of InVision U (Almaty, Kazakhstan). PhD in International Development. Since 2006, she has been engaged in child rights protection and education issues

Nicola Lace – Headteacher of a top-graded alternative education school in Bristol for 14-16 year old pupils who have been excluded or are at risk of exclusion from school.

Grant Maynard – Inclusive Practice Team Leader at the Tasmanian Department of Education, Hardy Fellow, expert in student voice, AAC and evidence-based behavioural support.

Fiona Hancock – Head of Inclusive Learning at the Department of Education, Children and Youth in Tasmania, Australia.

Alexandra McMullen – Inclusive Practice Team Leader at the Tasmanian Department of Education, Children and Youth; expert in creating an inclusive school culture.

Sreepriya Bhowmik – Head of Special Educational Needs at Myanmar International School Yangon (MISY), a specialist with over 20 years' experience in India, the UK and Myanmar.

Kuderinova Aigerim Merekayevna – Director of MRC Zhuldyzai LLP, Master of Public Administration of the Academy under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Master of Inclusive Education

Panel Session:

Psychological Resilience in Teachers and Students: Resources and Strategies

Speaker:

Dinara Gaplan – Chairman of Bolashak Charity

Fredah Nabayunga – Clinical psychologist and co-founder of ZKG Therapies, specialist in wellbeing, behavioural therapy and inclusive support in schools.

Olivia Mottram – School Development and Training Manager at Aldar Training Academy, an education leader with over 17 years' experience in UK, US and IB International schools.

Ms. Anvita Gupta – Head of School – K R Mangalam Global School & Founder, GSBA Consultancy School Leadership, Diversity & Inclusion, Educator Development, Learner-Centered Leadership

Elizabeth Joy Shaffer – is an internationally recognized therapist and advocate, deeply committed to supporting and strengthening children's development.

12:30 – 12:55

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Individual Talk:

Autism Is Not a Sentence but a Challenge to Society: Reforms, Inclusion, and the Voice of Parents

Speaker:

Nuriya Baltabaikyzy – Chairperson of the National Association AUTISM KAZAKHSTAN. She is an active advocate for early diagnosis, inclusive education and legislative reforms in support of children with autism.

Individual Talk:

Strategies for Practice-Oriented Training of Special Education Teachers within the Implementation of Educational Programs

Speaker:

Gulzhan Serikovna Orazaeva – Candidate of Pedagogical Sciences, Associate Professor at the Kazakh National Women's Pedagogical University NAO.

Individual Talk:

Collaborative Methods for Supporting Students with Mental Health Challenges in School

Speaker:

Fredah Nabayunga – Clinical Psychologist and Co-Founder of ZKG Therapies, Specialist in Wellbeing, Behavioral Therapy, and Inclusive Support in Schools.

13:00 – 14:00

Break

13:30 – 13:55

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Individual Talk:

Supporting the holistic development of students with complex needs

Speaker:

Matthew Champion – Director of Warif Academy, Qatar Foundation and Ministry of Education.

Individual Talk:

Empowering Inclusive Leadership in Early Childhood Education: Strategies for Sustainable Development

Speaker:

Aysha Alnuaimi – Assistant Professor in Inclusive and Early Childhood Education, Higher Colleges of Technology – Former Cluster Manager, Ministry of Education, UAE

Individual Talk:

Individual Talk: Leaders in Inclusive Education

Speaker:

Dr. Snehal Pinto – An educator with over twenty years of experience across various areas of education, including teaching and leadership. She began her career as a primary school teacher and gradually advanced to leadership roles both within and beyond her educational organization.

14:00 – 14:25

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Individual Talk:
New Technologies

Speaker:
Kaliev Abaikhan – Expert in logistics and project management.

Individual Talk:

Speaker:
Mukhanova Ayagoz Asanbekovna – Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Associate Professor, Head of the Department of "Information Systems" of ENU named after L.N. Gumilev, head of the research project
Gulzira Bakhytbekovna Abdikerimova – PhD, Associate Professor of the "Information Systems" Department at L.N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University, and Principal Investigator of a scientific research project.
Amirbay Aizat Aitugankyzy – PhD 3rd year doctoral student of the speciality "Information Systems", researcher of the research project "Development of models and algorithms of artificial intelligence to analyse social signals in children with autism".

14:30 – 14:55

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Individual Talk:

Inclusion as an Investment in the Future:
The Socio-Economic Impact of Support
Programs for People with Autism

Speaker:

Aynur Karbozova – has many years of
experience in international relations,
diplomacy, investment promotion and
higher education. He is an active
participant in significant social projects
as part of his public activities.

Individual Talk:

Inclusive Education in the International
Baccalaureate (IB): An Evolving Journey
Toward Learning for All

Speaker:

Doctor Kala Parasuram — Senior Manager at
the International Baccalaureate (IB)
Organization. Leads the work on equity and
inclusive education at IB.

Individual Talk:

It All Starts with the Family... Inclusion Does Too

Speaker:

Svetlana Andreevna Kirichkova – PF "Кең
zhыrek", Director, Special Educator

15:00 – 15:25

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Panel Session:

Creating a Safe and Supportive Educational Environment: A Systemic Approach to Protecting Students' Rights

Speaker:

Ainur Karbozova (moderator) – She has many years of experience in international relations, diplomacy, investment promotion and higher education. She is an active participant in significant social projects as part of her community activities.

Sana Talat – Head of the Student Protection and Safety (SPS) Programme in the Beaconhouse School System.

Katie Parks – Child psychologist, mental health lead, Thrive co-ordinator and member of the leadership team of a primary school in East London.

Thomas Keane – Founder of TCES (The Complete Education Solution) – Seven schools and services built on a legacy of no exclusions over 25-years. Re-imagining education through designing in inclusion and belonging into the online school for the future.

Kystaubaeva Marzhan Serikovna – Deputy Director, Zhuldizai Rehabilitation Centre LLP

Panel Session:

Inclusive Approaches in Education

Speaker:

Butabaeva Laura Askarovna (moderator) – Associate Professor, PhD in Special Pedagogy, Director of the Russian State University "National Scientific and Practical Centre for the Development of Special and Inclusive Education".

Helen Claus-Willemsen – Independent educational consultant helping international families and schools to develop inclusive education in the Netherlands.

Mealia See – Head of Inclusion at Emirates National School, supporting inclusive education for children with special educational needs.
Fay Wilshire

Kate Mounce – Bett

Ahrun Choi – Acer

Panel Session:

An Inside Look at Post-Secondary Education Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities

Speaker:

Serikov Bauyrzhan Serikovovich (moderator) – General Director of EE "Tamos Education Physics and Mathematics School" – non-profit school

Joseph B. Ryan – World renowned professor of special education and founder of the nationally recognised LIFE programme; acknowledged expert in the field of behavioural interventions.

Erica Walters – Award winning and leader of the nationally recognised ClemsonLIFE programme, with many years' experience in special education and a deep commitment to supporting people with intellectual disabilities.

Chuck Hicks – Father of two sons with autism spectrum disorder, shares family experiences of choosing post-secondary education programmes and supporting independent living.

Des Alston – External Relations Coordinator for the Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities at Trinity College Dublin, lecturer in inclusive higher education.

Meg Grigal – Director, Think College at the Institute for Community Inclusion, University of Massachusetts Boston

15:00 – 15:25**16.10.2025****Grand Hall****Biel Hall****Zurich Hall**

Riitu Chopraa – Associate Director at AFAIRS Talent Edge and a leading Human Resource expert in the K–12 education sector, is known for her pioneering work in reforming HR policies to empower teachers, foster inclusion, and build future-ready schools—advocating for human capital strategies that transform education into a thriving, sustainable ecosystem.

Clare Papay – Senior Associate, inclusive Postsecondary Education, at Think College at the Institute for Community Inclusion, UMass

Jonathan Lidgus – Director of the UMSL Succeed programme; expert in the field of inclusive postgraduate education and intellectual disabilities.

April Regester – Administrator, researcher and expert in inclusive education; co-developer of the UMSL Succeed programme for students with intellectual disabilities.

15:30 – 15:55

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Individual Talk:

Inclusive Education of the Future: How Best Practices, Experience, and AI Technologies Are Transforming the System

Speaker:

Mikhail Kalitkin – Specialising in the field of inclusive education for children with disabilities, he founded 2 centres in Ukraine and Poland, as well as an R&D centre in the field of inclusive education, on the basis of which the MIKKO line of inclusive equipment was developed.

Individual Talk:

20 Years of Success in Advancing Inclusion

Speaker:

Kuralai Karmenova – Deputy Director of Operations at the Corporate Charity Foundation "BI Zhuldyzay".

Individual Talk:

A Time of Opportunities: Development and Prospects of the Early Intervention System in Kazakhstan

Speaker:

Maral Serikbaevna Sheshembekova – Director of the "Inclusion" Program at the Dara Charity Foundation.
Aigul Olzhabaevna Tabergenova – "DARA" Charitable Foundation, Head of the project "Time of Opportunities"

16:00 – 16:25

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Individual Talk:

BOE's Technological Innovations and Practical Solutions for Smart Education

Speaker:

Shi Mengmeng – Marketing Director, BOE's ArtCloud Campus division

Individual Talk:

The First Inclusive Online Platform in Kazakhstan for Children with Developmental Disabilities "bala-books.kz": Using IT Technologies as a Method for Diagnosing and Teaching Children with Special Educational Needs

Speaker:

Zhumalinova Zhanel Sagyndykova – information portal balatimes.kz, director of PF "BALA TIMES CLUB", special educator "bala-books.kz" – Kazakhstan's first inclusive online platform for the education of special children

Individual Talk:

Mental Health in the Digital World

Speaker:

Gulmira Topanova – PhD Associate Professor at KazNatsZhenPU (leader of the educational programme of the Department of Psychology)

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Panel Session:

Art and sport

Speaker:

Ulzhekova Nurgul Tulenovna (moderator) – NGO "Federation of Paralympic sport "Boccia"

Pamela Burnard – Internationally renowned transdisciplinary Professor of Arts, Creativity and Education at the University of Cambridge and an expert on inclusion in education and creativity.

Ben Gudgeon – Cultural consultant and former head of an internationally renowned classical music school promoting the key role of the arts in inclusive creative practice.

Nurgul Tulenovna Ulzhekova – about the national children's inclusive sports festival "Equal Opportunities".

Salimbaeva Almagul Amanzholovna – BI Zhuldzyzai Foundation Project Manager

Panel Session:

System for Assessing Special Educational Needs in Kazakhstan

Speaker:

Ersarina Aliya Kasymkhanovna – Candidate of Pedagogical Sciences, Chief Researcher of the National Scientific and Practical Centre for the Development of Special and Inclusive Education of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Shotybaeva Laura Abylkasymkizi – Master of Pedagogical Sciences, doctoral student of Kazakh National Pedagogical University named after Abay, pre-teacher, special educator.

Erzholova Zhanar Askerbekovna – Head of Karaganda Regional Psychological-Medical-Pedagogical Counselling Centre of Karaganda Oblast Department of Education

Dr. Heidi Cavanagh – Internationally recognized expert in education, promoting inclusive and equitable school reform.

Panel Session:

Education of the Future: Personalized Educational Pathways for Children

Speaker:

Umirbekova Akkerke Nurlanbekovna – Associate Professor, PhD, Head of the Research Centre of the International University of Tourism and Hospitality Speaker:

17:00 – 17:25

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Biel Hall

Zurich Hall

Individual Talk:

Your Advantage: Quality, Speed, and Flexibility

Speaker:

Harry Liu – founded the Shenzhen-based company in 1998, leveraging early experience in the distribution of Intel's boxed processors to build strong partnerships in the industry.

Individual Talk:

Synergy of Science and Practice in the Development of Inclusive Education

Speaker:

Svetlana Alexandrovna Stelmakh – Professor of the Department of Psychology and Correctional Pedagogy at S. Amanzholov East Kazakhstan University

Individual Talk:

Quality of Education Through the Lens of Pedagogical Innovations and Research Practices

Speaker:

Clea Fernandez Uzan – Independent educational consultant, PhD in Educational Psychology, leading education expert at the OECD.

17:30 – 17:55

Grand Hall

Biel Hall

Zurich Hall

Individual Talk:

Digital Educational Platforms and AI-Based Learning Tools

Speaker:

Liu Ying – Deputy General Director for Overseas Sales at Madiji

Individual Talk:

Promoting Self-Advocacy through Assistive Technologies

Speaker:

Tatyana Aderikhina – UNICEF Programme Manager in Kazakhstan

Individual Talk:

Speaker:

Narbekova Banu Mukhatayevna – Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs of Abay Kazakh National Pedagogical University

Day 3

09:00 – 09:25

17.10.2025

Grand Hall

Biel Hall

Zurich Hall

Individual Talk:

The Role of Higher Pedagogical Institutions
 in the Development of Inclusive Education

Speaker:

Tlep Bolat Anapievich – Rector of KazNPU

Individual Talk:

Youth Leading Inclusion

Speaker:

Jasmane Frans – South African and British
 educator, advocate of inclusive education,
 leader in transforming schools, fostering
 global collaboration and empowering
 communities.

Individual Talk:

Beyond the Page: Empowering All Learners
 to Show What They Know

Speaker:

David Huntingford – Headteacher at
 William Ford CoE Junior School in East
 London, championing inclusive, creative,
 dyslexia-friendly career-focused education
 that raises aspirations and transforms
 futures.

09:30 – 09:55

17.10.2025

Grand Hall

Biel Hall

Zurich Hall

Individual Talk:

Education of the Future: Personalised Learning Trajectories for Children

Speaker:

Jayne Nadarajoo – eminent educator and founder of The GUILD International College and Melbourne Specialist International School in Singapore.

Panel Session:

Reimagining Inclusion in Developing Countries using Nigeria as a case study

Speaker:

Angelina Ikeako – International education consultant and inclusion leader promoting school transformation and intercultural learning in the UK and Africa.

Doris Chinedu – Head of a public school in Enugu, Eastern Nigeria; consultant and mentor to school leaders in the community.

Lai Koiki – Founder and CEO of a network of 4 schools in Nigeria, including a school for children with special needs; 40 years of inclusive leadership, ex-chairman of the Association of Private Educators.

Roger Mitchell – Headteacher at Ripple Primary School in Barking, an Emotionally Available School where Everyone is Welcome and Everyone Belongs.

Panel Session:

Breaking Barriers Together – How to Combine Knowledge and Heart in Supporting Neurodiverse Families

Speaker:

Ayubaeva Nazipa Altynbekovna (Moderator) – President of the Y. Altynsarin NAO. Altynsarin, PhD in Education

Ayyapparaj Mani – Head at Sri Sessaas International Public School, an educational innovator, psychologist, inclusion practitioner, British Council Ambassador, curriculum and learning development expert, inclusive school leader.

Gulbanu Sapargalievna – Behavioural analyst with over 10 years of experience and founder of Tamshilar Habilitation Centre.

Viv Trask-Hall – Helping children develop resilient social and emotional skills to overcome life's challenges, and inspiring professionals to create an environment where every child can truly thrive.

Shakibayeva Aigul Shakibayeva – lawyer of BI Zhuldyzai Foundation, member of the Council on Inclusion of the Senate of the Parliament of the RK Theme

10:00 – 10:25

17.10.2025

Grand Hall

Biel Hall

Zurich Hall

Individual Talk:

The Well-being of Mothers of Children with Special Needs as a Path to an Inclusive Society

Speaker:

Elena Vladimirovna Kim – Director of the "Mama Pro" Branch in Almaty

Individual Talk:

A journey of resilience, music and the fight for recognition

Speaker:

Christine Cunniffe – Principal of LVS Ascot School with over 30 years' experience in education, known for her innovative approach to music teaching and the 'everyone can' principle.

Individual Talk:

Health and Education in a Digital World and Attendance

Speaker:

Thomas Keane – Founder of TCES (The Complete Education Solution) – Seven schools and services built on a legacy of no exclusions over 25-years. Re-imagining education through designing in inclusion and belonging into the online school for the future.

10:30 – 10:55

Grand Hall

Biel Hall

Zurich Hall

Individual Talk:

EDTECH and AI

Speaker:

Karatay Amanali – Founder and Director of the startup Pulsar AI, which developed an AI chatbot that helps children with autism and their parents receive online consultations and emotional support.n with disabilities).

Individual Talk:

From Safe Spaces to Systemic Gaps: What Resource Rooms Reveal About Inclusion in Kazakhstan

Speaker:

Aruzhan Zhambyl – A research-practitioner in inclusive education from Kazakhstan (NU) and SEND coordinator at ISSA NIS, specialising in support and strategies to accompany learners with SEND.

Individual Talk:

Action Research as a Bridge: Engagement Uniting Teacher, Student, and Family

Speaker:

Tatiana Gennadyevna Voronko – Master Teacher, Master of Special Pedagogy, Social and Daily Living Skills Teacher at a Special School for Children with Intellectual Disabilities

Aizhan Akramovna Segizbayeva – Researcher Teacher, Master of Special Pedagogy, Defectologist

Tatiana Anatolyevna Petrova – Master Teacher, Technology Teacher

11:00 – 11:25

17.10.2025

Grand Hall

Biel Hall

Zurich Hall

Individual Talk:

Are we preparing our teachers for inclusion or exclusion?

Speaker:

Umesh Sharma – Vice-Chancellor of Human Resources and Culture at the University of Nottingham in Ningbo, China, and Visiting Professor at Monash University.

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Individual Talk:

Ideas of professional development of teachers in inclusive education and their implementation

Speaker:

Kulzhanova Saltanat Mukataevna – Candidate of Geographical Sciences, Senior Manager of the Centre for Pedagogical Excellence of Nazarbayev Intellectual Schools JSC
Gulnara Makhazhanova – Senior Manager of the Centre for Pedagogical Excellence of Nazarbayev Intellectual Schools JSC

11:30 – 11:55

Grand Hall

Biel Hall

Zurich Hall

Individual Talk:

F.O.S.T.E.R. Student Success for All – An inclusive Model Supporting Skill Development for All Learners, Both Inside and Outside the Classroom.

Speaker:

Elizabeth Joy Shaffer – Internationally renowned therapist and advocate driven by a deep passion for empowering and enhancing children's development.

Individual Talk:

Methodological support for inclusive education in Kazakhstan

Speaker:

Ismagulova Svetlana Kuzhakovna – Head of the Centre for Development of Inclusive Education of the National Academy of Education named after I. Altynsarin. I. Altynsarin
Olga Kim – Speech Therapist at the Psychological and Pedagogical Correction Office in Karaganda. Expert in working with children who require special support for speech development and communication skills.

Individual Talk:

Creating an Inclusive Future: Education and Society Beyond Cultural and Social Prejudices

Speaker:

Franck Coido – Headteacher at Hopewell Independent SEMH School in East London, with 30 years' experience, specializing in teaching and learning, SEN, identity, belonging, and inclusive education.

12:00 – 12:25

17.10.2025

Grand Hall

Biel Hall

Zurich Hall

Individual Talk:

From Isolation to Participation: How Parent Communities Transform the System and Create an Inclusive Society

Speaker:

Sagadieva Rauan Bakhtybekkyzy – Master of Pedagogy and Psychology, practicing psychologist, art-therapist, Chairperson of the Board of the Republican Public Association "Union of Parents of Special Children".

Individual Talk:**Speaker:**

Temanova Saule Ermukhanovna – Director of School No. 96 in Astana. She works in the field of development of inclusive education in Kazakhstan

Sholpan Ayangaliyevna Nurakhmetova – Master of Pedagogical Sciences, Speech Therapist at Psychological and Pedagogical Correction Office No. 2 in Astana, specializing in applied research on technologies for developing motor and psychomotor skills in children with special needs.

Gulzhanar Nurlanovna Akhaeva – Master's degree in Special Education, Head of Psychological and Pedagogical Support Office No. 5, specializing in comprehensive rehabilitation of children with psychomotor developmental delays using sensory integration methods.

Individual Talk:

Whose Voice are we Listening to?

Speaker:

Caroline Hill – Consultant and special educational needs specialist with 28 years experience in UK mainstream and alternative education.

12:30 – 12:55

17.10.2025

Grand Hall

Biel Hall

Zurich Hall

Individual Talk:

'The Thinking School' - Developing a Dynamic Learning Community

Speaker:

Dr Kulvarn Atwal - Principal Learning Leader at The Thinking Schools Federation with extensive experience in inclusive education and international school support.

Individual Talk:

Building Belonging : Developing inclusive cultures through coaching and connection

Speaker:

Fiona Hancock - Manager of Inclusive Learning Department for Education Children Young People Tasmania, Australia.

Individual Talk:

First Aid for Parents of Children with ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder)

Speaker:

Karatay Amanali - Director of the UMSL Succeeding Program; expert in inclusive graduate education and intellectual disabilities.

13:00 – 13:25

Break

13:30 – 13:55

17.10.2025

Grand Hall

Biel Hall

Zurich Hall

Individual Talk:

Bala Dala Resource Centre to support children with ASD, ADHD, ZPD and their parents.

Speaker:

Musakhanova Akmaral Kalmakhanbetovna Musakhanova – Candidate of Medical Sciences, Associate Professor, Director
Marina Vladimirovna Vikhnovskaya – Head of the Child and Adolescent Department at the Republican State Enterprise on the Right of Economic Management (RGP on PHV) "Republican Scientific and Practical Center for Mental Health" of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Individual Talk:

AI for All: Ensuring Inclusive Education in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

Speaker:

Asem Tazhiyeva – Founder of Ozim Platform and Ozim Academy, Co-founder of the Association for the Development of an Inclusive Society, Expert at the Senate of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Individual Talk:

New Horizons for Human Capital Development with Inclusion as the Norm

Speaker:

Saltanat Murzalinova-Yakovleva – President of the Public Foundation "Centre for Social Inclusive Programmes", graduate of the GSMP international programme, Master of Pedagogy

14:00 – 14:25

17.10.2025

Grand Hall

Biel Hall

Zurich Hall

Individual Talk:

From exceptional to inclusive – removing barriers to success in IB schools in Central Europe

Speaker:

Brett Gray – Director of TOIS and Chair of ACES, committed to promoting inclusivity in IB schools across Central Europe.

Individual Talk:

Education without Borders: Technologies that open new opportunities for persons with disabilities and their educators

Speaker:

Bekgozhaev Dauren Zharkynbekuly – PF ITeachMe competence development centre

Individual Talk:

Inclusive Education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing: Implementation Experience, Barriers and Ways of Overcoming Them

Speaker:

Sailagul Alumetovna Omarkhanova – President of the Public Association "Society of the Deaf of Kazakhstan"

14:25 – 14:55

17.10.2025

Grand Hall

Biel Hall

Zurich Hall

Individual Talk:

Supporting Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder: Integration of Medical, Educational, and Social Services

Speaker:

Lyazzat Kosherbayeva – Professor, PhD, Head of the Department of Health Policy and Management at Kazakh National Medical University

Panel Session:

Inclusive Pedagogy

Speaker:

Aynagul Rymbekovna Rymkhanova (moderator) – Associate Professor, PhD, Head of the Department of Special and Inclusive Education, E. A. Buketov Karaganda University

Joy Elizabeth Buckner – Speaker, Consultant, and Neurodiversity Advocate – Founder of Buckner Education and Host of The Joy of Neurodiversity podcast. Inclusive education and promoting neurodiversity.

Tristan Middleton – Senior Lecturer in Education at the University of Gloucestershire, an expert in inclusive education and special educational needs.

Jonathan Reid – Senior Lecturer in Child Development and Inclusion, Vice Chair of the Institute of Child Trauma Recovery and Director of the National Recovery Centre.

Tom Preston – Director of Thrive, a leading provider of programs and resources in the UK focused on developing social, emotional, and mental skills in schools. The organization's work aims to improve attendance and behavior, reduce exclusions, and enhance the well-being of both students and educators.

Marwa Hashem – Educational Psychologist and Inclusion Consultant, certified coach and professional trainer (TOT) with over 16 years of experience in inclusive education.

Panel Session:

Integration of psychological support and educational practices: the path to effective learning and well-being

Speaker:

Aigul Amanzholovna Baitursynova (moderator) – Candidate of Pedagogical Sciences, Associate Professor of the Department of Pedagogy and History, A.K.Kusainov Eurasian Institute of Humanities

Surabhi Shastri – Consultant Psychologist at Choithram School in Indore, India; passionate advocate for mental health and inclusive education.

Akmaral Kulmagambetovna Satova – Doctor of Psychology, Professor at Abay KazNPU,

Louise Matos – School psychologist and founder of PsicoMed, promoting inclusive and respectful neurodiversity support for children in Angola and beyond.

Grand Hall

15:00 – 15:25

17.10.2025

Panel Session: Final Panel Session

The role of leaders in shaping an inclusive learning environment

Speaker:

Professor Richard Wells – Deputy Vice-Chancellor for International Activities and is responsible for the strategic direction of the group's global activities, including student recruitment, academic partnerships and the network of international hubs

Ben Gudgeon – Cultural consultant and former head of an internationally renowned classical music school promoting the key role of the arts in inclusive creative practice

Sharon White – Award-winning strategist with over 20 years of experience supporting children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and learners in alternative education settings. Sharon is the CEO at Educating Horizons and believes in 'changing systems to change lives'.[®]

15:30 – 15:55

Panel Session: Final Panel Session

The Future of Inclusive Education: From Policy to Practice, From Participation to Belonging

Speaker:

Paul Bray – Founder and Director of INSIGHT Training & Consultancy, Advocate for the Rights of People with Disabilities, Educator, and Author.

Elizabeth Joy Shaffer – Internationally renowned therapist and advocate driven by a deep passion for empowering and enhancing children's development.

Umesh Sharma – Vice-Chancellor of Human Resources and Culture at the University of Nottingham in Ningbo, China, and Visiting Professor at Monash University.

Grand Hall

16:00 – 16:55

17.10.2025

Panel Session: Final Panel Session with all our partner CEOs

Speakers:

Yermek Isagalievich Mazhitov – General Director of the "HOPE" Foundation

Daniel Sobel – Founder and CEO of the International Forums of Inclusion Practitioners, promoting inclusive education in 135+ countries. Author of three best-selling books and over 100 articles, recognized expert in the field of inclusion.

Chris Blayney – Member of the Google team for seven years, currently Channel Manager for Chrome and Google for Education

Nora Shabani – Regional Education Advisor, Geneva, UNICEF

Andrew Walktel – Director of Educational Programs at inDrive and President of inVision U

Marco Dondi – Deputy Director General of the International Baccalaureate (IB)

Dias Bakassarin – Lead representative from Acer

17:00 – 18:00

Official closing ceremony of the Congress