



## Chine to help Kazakhstan in diversification of the economy



An investment conference was held in Astana December 4, Interfax agency reports. Among the guests who attended the meeting there were such investors as ArcelorMittal, Chevron, Total, ENRC and other. One of the major issues discussed was the problem of diversification of Kazakhstan's economy.

The President Nursultan Nazarbayev noted "We will work only with those investors who propose projects helping diversification of the economy," minding that foreign companies for the most part show interest to develop country's raw material segment. Foreign companies operating in Kazakhstan should participate in the implementation of agricultural projects, said the President, citing China as an example. To any unwilling to collaborate, he said: "We will look for new partners, offer them favorable conditions and resources to fulfill projects."

The proposal made by Chinese government was to allow Chinese farmers to use one million hectares of Kazakh land to cultivate crops such as soya and rape seed. This proposal aroused protests among Kazakh citizens fearing the great influx of Chinese workers and sharp growth of Chinese presence in the country.