



News  
from the

# Kazakhstan Ergotherapy Association

October 2021

Volume 5, issue 3



ASSOCIATE MEMBER

World Federation of  
Occupational Therapists

Kazakhstan Ergotherapy Association

## Word from the President

Since the founding of KEA in October 2015, we have seen many changes in Kazakhstan. Occupational Therapy is becoming a well-known and much-needed profession in rehabilitation and medical/social education. We have met many passionate and skilled professionals over the years, who are advocating for the rights of those who have no voice to speak out.

As Occupational Therapists, we long to see every person in Kazakhstan – with or without disability – living life to the full by developing their talents and skills, as well as being able to perform their everyday activities like working, cooking, getting dressed and eating in an environment where they feel accepted and honored for who they are.

The world is ever-changing, and we can't ignore the current impact of Covid-19 on our daily lives and health care system. There are challenges ahead, but we have seen the resilience and determination of many health care workers in Kazakhstan. With ongoing training opportunities in Occupational Therapy, we as KEA are here to support and develop more skilled health care workers in the area of Occupational Therapy. Would you like to know more or stay connected with us? Please do not hesitate to contact us via email, Facebook, or Instagram.

Changes are also happening within KEA. After five years of being involved in KEA, it is an honor for me to introduce our new president to you: Petra Magerl. Originally from Australia, Petra has been living in Kazakhstan for many years and brings a lot of Occupational Therapy experience with her. We also welcome back to the KEA board Nathan Visser from the Netherlands who was one of the founders of KEA in 2015 and is highly involved in different OT trainings in Kazakhstan.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate all the Occupational Therapists in Kazakhstan on World Occupational Therapy Day on the 27th of October! Wishing you all the best for the years to come. Keep doing great work!

Gerdine (B.G.) Lok  
KEA President

*Belong. Be You.*



World Occupational  
Therapy Day  
27th October 2021

## Occupational Therapy course

From 21<sup>st</sup> June – 3<sup>rd</sup> July, a Cerebral Palsy Rehabilitation Training Course was run in Almaty. The course was organised by a private group of people with an interest in developing the skill level of Kazakhstan's health professionals. It was delivered by Nathan Visser, an occupational therapist (OT) and one of our Kazakhstan Ergotherapy Association (KEA) founders, who lived and worked in Kazakhstan for 10yrs. Participant professions included EFK, neurologists, pedagogy professionals, and rehab workers. Participants were mostly from Almaty, although a number came from Nursultan and Shymkent. The course covered the basics in current globally accepted healthcare models and approaches, client interactions, assessment, goal setting and interventions. Participants worked with families to help consolidate what they had learned, under the supervision of a qualified OT.

Outside of the course over lunch and evening tea, there were multiple discussions with various industry leaders/pioneers. They perceived the presenter (and KEA more generally) as something of a guide for change in their healthcare system. They spoke of their dreams for Kazakhstan's approach to healthcare and the people that need it.

This course was an excellent opportunity for us at KEA to participate, build significant relationships and dream alongside other health professionals of the future of Occupational Therapy in Kazakhstan.



Contact us:

Email: [info@ergotherapy.kz](mailto:info@ergotherapy.kz)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/kazergo>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/kazakhstan.ergotherapy/>

Website: <http://ergotherapy.kz/>

Edited by Bouwine van Eeden Petersman

This newsletter will be distributed every three months. Do you have any questions or recommendations? Or do you want to unsubscribe from the newsletter? Please contact [info@ergotherapy.kz](mailto:info@ergotherapy.kz)