

## **Dear distinguished guests and colleagues!**

I am glad to welcome you at the Eurasian conference "Risk 2020" and thank you for your interest to the topics of the program.

We live at the era of changes - the period of transition from a traditional society to a "knowledge society", an "information society" in which the intellectual potential, thanks to the wide possibility of exchanging information about advanced ideas, methods, technologies, becomes the basis for choosing the best development model as for the country as a whole, and for solving specific problems in particular.

At the same time, the modern world is shaken by natural and man-made disasters, which becoming an increasing threat to the world's population, the global economy, and sustainable development. The world community is joining efforts to build disaster resilience as an important component in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. At international conferences held under the auspices of the UN, purposeful, action-oriented "Framework Programs of Action" were adopted to reduce the negative consequences of dangerous natural and man-made phenomena. targeted, action-oriented "framework for action" to reduce the negative effects of natural hazards and man-made phenomena have been taken at the international conferences held under the auspices of the UN. Their main idea is the need to move from disaster management to risk management. The natural and man-made risk management system is a coordinated action on monitoring, forecasting, prevention and mitigation of the effects of hazardous events, awareness-raising and preparation to respond adequately in emergency situations in the interest of improving the safety of individuals, society, the environment and technosphere. But despite the widespread recognition of the importance of disaster risk reduction, it remains a global issue.

In these conditions, the role of innovations significantly increases - the realization of the achievements of science, advanced experience in the field of engineering, technology, management, providing a qualitative increase in the effectiveness of managing natural and technological risks. Innovation is necessary both in the organization of the risk management system as a whole and in solving the tasks set in each of its parts. In a comprehensive solution to the problem of reducing the risk of natural and technological disasters, both strategic and systemic and local innovations are important. Significant can be either modifying, improving, or radically changing (breakthrough) innovations. Therefore, at the conference "Risk 2020", the subject of discussion will be new ideas based on new knowledge, science-based decisions, creation, promotion and implementation of an innovative product. An expert and public discussion of reports by the international scientific and technical community will contribute to the formation of innovative potential and the replication of best practices.

I wish you success in the work of the conference and in further creative activities.

### **Academician A.R. Medeu**

Co-Chair of conference,  
Director of the Institute of Geography  
and Water Security of the Republic of Kazakhstan

