



FIRST PERSON

Fluent International Engagement Made Possible



MP Roza Aknazarova (second from right) moderates the meeting of the General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment, February 13, 2014, Vienna, Austria. Photo: www.oscepa.org

Before my speech at the OSCE PA I asked the KPSP for help with preparation. I never had the chance to study English in school or in university; I now feel that I have made real progress, and would like to continue in order to conduct the next sessions in 100% fluent English. Thank you to the program for everything.

— Roza Aknazarova, MP

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In February 2014, Roza Aknazarova, a Member of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic (Jogorku Kenesh) and Head of the Kyrgyz Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, chaired a session of the General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment at the 13th Winter Meeting of the OSCE PA. She made a point of conducting the session in English - the first time a Kyrgyz official refused the help of a translator and facilitated an event in a foreign language. It was also a personal achievement of Ms. Aknazarova, who had started actively learning English just a few months before with a help of The English language initiative, developed and implemented by USAID through its Kyrgyzstan Parliamentary Strengthening Program (KPSP) financed in cooperation with DFID.

Roza Aknazarova was elected the Chair of the General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology, and Environment at the 2013 Annual Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE in Istanbul. She had served for one year as Deputy Chair. She is a very active Kyrgyz MP assuming the responsibilities of the Deputy Chair of the JK Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports and Deputy Leader of the “Respublika” faction. It was she who most earnestly welcomed the English language initiative in the Parliament and ever since has been its most assiduous student. The English language initiative, developed and implemented by USAID, started in summer 2013 and provided MPs and senior Jogorku Kenesh staff with the opportunity to learn and practice English in small groups in the Parliament. Three instructors were selected upon the results of an open competition and a rigorous curriculum responsive to the needs of the audience was developed.

Roza Aknazarova took advantage of the opportunity and displayed great passion for the learning process. Working in a team with one of the KPSP-contracted instructors, Aknazarova mastered her command of the language sufficiently to complete all official proceedings and obligations of an OSCE Parliamentary Assembly meeting chair. The preparations were intense and used the Communicative Methodology for maximum results. Aknazarova worked hard to meet the challenge. She significantly improved her pronunciation and presentation skills and practiced speaking to the audience working in pairs and groups. The effort paid off. The 13th Winter Meeting went smoothly and Aknazarova celebrated her personal win.

The full version of the meeting of the General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment at the 13th Winter Meeting of the OSCE PA is available at:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=piuIS7q7eaE>