



**USAID REGIONAL MISSION FOR CENTRAL ASIA
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OFFICE**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Patricia Buckles, Mission Director

FROM: Rabiga Baytokova, Project Management Specialist

THROUGH: Brooke Isham, Project Development Officer

DATE: October, 1996

SUBJECT: USAID/CAR's Partnerships Information in Central Asia

The purpose of this document is to provide background information on USAID/CAR's partnerships throughout Central Asia. All these partnerships are funded under cooperative agreements. Some also receive direct support from the mission.

This document will be regularly updated to reflect new information. A one-page summary listing of our partnerships is also available.

I. HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS

An alliance of major hospital associations and hospital-related organizations, the American International Health Alliance (AIHA) has been managing six medical partnerships in Central Asia since 1993. This partnership program is a voluntary effort for development assistance between a US partner and an NIS institution. The partnership program has resulted in considerable support from private donations (\$3 for each \$1 provided by USAID) by interested American partners. By collaborating with the Ministry of Health, AIHA's partners have been active in implementing health reform initiatives in Central Asia in maternal and child health, nursing, medical education, infection control, emergency medical services, hospital privatization and other clinical and health management fields. In addition, due to AIHA's unique network of health care institutions, ideas and reforms established in one partnership are passed on to other partnerships, further supporting the health reform effort in Central Asia. The specific partnerships in each country are as follows:

A. Kazakstan AIHA Partnership Program

The Kazakstan AIHA Partnership Program has established medical partnerships between the following U.S. and Kazakstani medical institutions:

- a) The Tucson/Almaty Health Care Coalition, which consists of nine institutes: Tucson Medical Center; University Medical Center; Arizona Board of Regents, the University of Arizona, Arizona Health Services Center; Carondelet Health Care; Department of Veteran Affairs - Medical Center of Tucson; El Dorado Hospital; Northwest Hospital; Tucson General Hospital, and Enviro MD. Almaty partners are the Kazak Scientific Research Institute of Pediatrics and the First Aid Hospital of Almaty.
- b) Semipalatinsk/Houston Partnership. U.S. partners are located in Houston, Texas. The Semipalatinsk Partners are: the Semipalatinsk Oblast Clinical Hospital; Semipalatinsk Oblast Children's Hospital; Semipalatinsk Central City Hospital; Semipalatinsk Oblast Oncological Dispensary, and Kurchatov Diagnostic Center.

The majority of partnership travel for the Almaty partnership has occurred between the Tucson partners and four institutions in Almaty (Institute of Pediatrics and Children's Surgery, Perinatal Center, Almaty First Aid Hospital and Almaty Medical College). Partnership training programs for Semipalatinsk have occurred between the Methodist Hospital and Baylor College of Medicine and four institutions in Semipalatinsk (Central City Hospital, Oncology Dispensary, Oblast Children's Hospital and Oblast Clinical Hospital).

The partnership program has expanded its scope of activity through various dissemination efforts to introduce management and clinical improvements beyond the initial partnership institutions, as follows:

- a) The Almaty partnership held a series of training workshops for physicians and nurses from Almaty in neonatal resuscitation.
- b) The program's collaboration with the Almaty City Health Administration and the Republic Retraining Institute for Nurses has witnessed success in the sphere of infection control.
- c) Based upon two partnership exchanges in 1994 to assist the Almaty partners in incorporating clinical practice into the curricula, the Almaty Medical College has implemented a revised and expanded curriculum for advanced practice nursing which has been adopted by twelve other nursing institutes in Kazakstan.
- d) A Poison Information Center has been established at the First Aid hospital in Almaty and the core staff of the Center has undergone training by the Arizona Poison and Drug Information Center.
- e) Five clinicians have completed training workshops at the Methodist Hospital to prepare

to teach modern clinical interventions through the Semiplatinsk partnership.

f) The Semipalatinsk partnership hosted the first Semiannual Continuing Medical Education Conference to focus on the health effect of nuclear radiation.

B. Kyrgyzstan AIHA Partnership Program

Partnerships have been established between the University of Kansas Medical Center, the University of Kansas Medical Center Research Institute, the Kyrgyzstan Institute of Oncology and Radiology, and the Kyrgyzstan Institute of Obstetrics and Pediatrics.

The majority of partnership activity has occurred between the Kansas University Medical Center and the two Bishkek partnership hospitals listed above. Partnership training exchanges have led to production of several key conferences and training seminars that have disseminated both management and clinical improvements beyond the two initial partnership institutions, as follows:

a) Due to the large number of outreach projects through the Kansas City-Bishkek partnership over 100 different institutions in Kyrgyzstan have received training through the partnership program, implemented new clinical and management protocols in neonatal resuscitation, nursing administration, and pediatric pulmonology.

b) To disseminate their successes in nursing administration, the Kansas and Kyrgyz partners, along with the Ministry of Health of Kyrgyzstan and AIHA, held a conference for over 120 head nurses from non-partnership institutions from all of Kyrgyzstan as well as AIHA partnership institutions from Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. As a result of the partnership's activities in nursing, a Kyrgyzstan nursing association has been established.

c) A team of family practice physicians from Kansas City helped the Center for Continuing Medical Education design a program for training family physicians in Kyrgyzstan, which is one of the priorities of the Kyrgyz Ministry of Health.

C. Uzbekistan AIHA Partnership Program

The Uzbekistan AIHA Partnership program supports medical partnerships between the University of Illinois Hospital and Clinics in Chicago and Northwest Hospital in Seattle, and the Second State Medical Institute (TASHMI II) in Tashkent.

The majority of partnership travel for the partnership has occurred between the Second Tashkent State Medical Institute (TASHMI II) and the University of Illinois in Chicago. However, the partnership program has increased the scope of activity through various dissemination efforts and workshops to expand management and clinical improvements beyond the initial partnership institutions, as follows:

- a) A continuing medical education program has been implemented by the partnership. Thirty physicians and nurses have received intensive training in Chicago in current techniques and procedures in order to return to TASHMI II as trainers for their respective departments. This core training staff plans to disseminate further partnership initiatives to additional clinicians at TASHMI II and other institutions throughout Uzbekistan.
- b) TASHMI II established the Center of Extra-Genital Pathology, a high-risk pregnancy center based upon modern perinatal models;
- c) AIHA trained 38 Uzbekistani health care professionals from 17 institutions in its introductory management, decision making and financial management workshops.

Partnership activities in management and administrative practices have led to several improvements at TASHMI II and have impacted the quality of care. In addition, the Ministry of Health is supportive of the project and considers TASHMI II to be a demonstration site for new management initiatives.

D. Tajikistan AIHA Partnership Program

The Tajikistan AIHA partnership program supports medical partnerships between Boulder Community Hospital in Boulder, Colorado, and the City Medical Center in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. Since receiving funds for this purpose on May 1, 1995, AIHA has included Dushanbe in the partnership seminar events in Central Asia. Two nurses from Dushanbe, including the Head Nursing Specialist of the Ministry of Health, participated in the Bishkek Nursing Conference May 24-25.

The Head of the Diagnostic Center and a representative of the Dushanbe city Health Administration received training in management information systems in AIHA's Informed Decision Making workshop in Tashkent. And thus far three institutions in Dushanbe have received training under the AIHA program: the Ministry of Health, the Dushanbe City Health Administration, the Republican Hospital in The Name of Dyakov and the Republican Diagnostic Center.

This partnership between Boulder Community Hospital and City Medical Center (former City Clinical Hospital 2) will be expanded to include Tajik Medical University and Medical College of Dushanbe. The partnership program will include technical assistance for organizing the Medical Information System, developing the curriculum, teaching aids, technical equipment for teaching students, training and exchange of work experiences with departments of Colorado University and departments of TSMU in the field of Cardiosurgery, Endocrinology, Cardiology and Rehabilitation in conformity with the needs of the Ministry of Health of Tajikistan, with the resource of partnership.

E. Turkmenistan AIHA Partnership Program

The Turkmenistan AIHA partnership program supports activities between the Cleveland Clinic of Cleveland, Ohio and the Medical Consultative Center in the Name of the

First President of Turkmenistan Niyazov. The majority of partnership travel has occurred between the Cleveland Clinic and the Niyazov Clinic. Specifically, a total of 35 short-term trips took place between the Cleveland Clinic and the Medical Consultive Center.

Due to limited funding, AIHA must restrict its activities to such trips. However, AIHA in Central Asia has included several other Turkmenistani institutions in AIHA's management training programs and other conferences in Central Asia.

Partnership activities in management and administrative practices have led to several improvements in the partnership hospitals that have had an impact on the level of treatment provided in the Niyazov center. These improvements provide a solid example for other Turkmen hospitals struggling in this difficult transition period.

II. FARM PARTNERSHIPS WITH U.S. FARM BUREAU

The Citizen's Network for Foreign Affairs (CNFA), a member of the Counterpart Consortium, has created three partnerships: the Private Farmers Association in Taldy-Korgan Kazakstan with the Indiana Farm Association; the Osh Kyrgyzstan Farmers Association with the Oregon Farm Association; and the Fergana Valley Private Farmers Association with the Kentucky Farm Bureau. Legal documents have established these partnerships. They have resulted in visits with a goal to facilitate information exchange on agricultural topics and on running a farmer's association more generally. Specific activities and interests include:

a) The Taldykorgan Private Farmers Association (PFA) and the Indiana Farm Bureau (IFB) Partnership was designed to assist Central Asians to actively participate in the political and economic life of their countries. Specific to private farmers' associations, the project aims to strengthen associations so that they may, not only provide assistance to their members, but also more effectively promote the interests of all private farmers.

b) The Fergana Farm Association has approximately 1,900 members and 5 oblast-level staff. There are offices in all 17 raions. It receives no support from the government. Potential projects for Kentucky Farm Bureau volunteers include: (1) water management and conservation methods, a top priority since private farmers depend on irrigation water controlled by state farms; (2) formation of credit unions at the raion and oblast level to encourage and support independence of private farmers; and (3) financial management and accounting training.

c) In Kyrgyzstan, an alliance has been formed between the Osh Union of PFAs, formed in December 1995, and the Oregon Farm Bureau (OFB).

A small grant was awarded in December 1995 to assist the new Union with basic infrastructure expenses in its first year. The OFB/Osh Union alliance works very closely with a TACIS project based in Osh as well as with Mercy Corps in Kyrgyzstan.

The first OFB expert, the president of the OFB, spent 4 weeks with the Osh Union introducing the policy development process. He conducted workshops in each

rayon PFA where he led farmer-members through brainstorming exercises to develop resolutions. He then formed a “resolutions committee” at the oblast-level to collect the rayon’s resolutions. His assignment ended with an oblast-level General Assembly where rayon PFA delegates voted to choose those resolutions which they wanted to turn into Osh Union policy.

The second OFB expert traveled to Osh in June 1996 to introduce committees to the Union. He visited each of the rayon PFAs, conducting workshops and assisting the rayon PFAs form committees. At the oblast-level, he worked with the Union to form committees to focus on taxes, budget, membership, women and resolutions.

Elsewhere in Central Asia, Counterpart and Citizens’ Network has provided training and grants to many other PFAs. CNFA’s effort in Central Asia follows its work in Russia and Ukraine, where 9 alliances were formed between state-level American farm Bureaus and oblast-level PFAs. Over 150 farm Bureau experts have visited their Russian and Ukrainian colleagues. And, over 50 Russians and Ukrainians have traveled to the States to undertake technical programs. The Farm Bureau experts have focused on topics such as: agricultural marketing; small business management; credit unions; radio/TV broadcasts; and, food processing.

III. GOODWILL TASHKENT AND GOODWILL INDUSTRIES INTERNATIONAL

Through a partnership between Goodwill Tashkent and Goodwill Industries International, Goodwill Industries International has provided humanitarian aid (in the form of clothing to be sold in the Tashkent retail store), training of local staff, and consulting expertise to Goodwill Tashkent. Profits from the sale of clothing are used for rehabilitation of disabled people.

IV. AID-TO-ARTISANS AND NINE NGOS

A partnership exists between the USPVO Aid-to-Artisans and nine NGOs in Uzbekistan, Kyrgystan and Kazakstan (three per country). However, there is some confusion as to the use of the word "partnership" here. Those groups with which ATA works on a continual basis are ATA "partners", but they have not necessarily received Counterpart Consortium partnership grants. However, in all cases the aim of such partnerships is to assist artisans with business planning, marketing, and distribution of products. A particular focus is women and vulnerable groups.

Due to the efforts of ATA and its Counterpart International partner, these associations have increased their capacities both as associations of artisans as well as their effectiveness and sustainability as working NGOs.

Some examples of recent successes:

- a) Samarkand Artists’ Association - Recently opened the Bukhara Artisans’ Centre, with workshop, studio, exhibition and classroom space for artists; participated in the very

successful Almaty and Tashkent craft fairs, held in October and November; hosted independent craft fairs and a regional conference of artisans.

b) Talent Support Fund, Bishkek - Shipped \$9,000 worth of orders to the New York International Craft fair, and established a working relationship with a U.S. importer, with further orders following; currently working with ATA on a new microenterprise proposal to USAID.

c) Women's League of Creative Initiative, Almaty - Thanks to contacts made while on NET training (conducted by Counterpart) in the U.S., WLCI formed contacts with Berea College of Art in Kentucky. With these contacts, as well as a Counterpart Consortium grant, WLCI will host a visit from the Almaty College of Art, helping Kazak artisans increase the marketability and profits of their work.

In conclusion, ATA is actively searching for new groups, especially in Tajikistan, in order to further extend the benefit of ATA training and expertise, thereby making Central Asia's unique folk art available to a broader market and, thus, helping to provide the artists themselves with a sustainable source of income.

V. VOCA

VOCA and the Green Salvation Ecological Society (GSES) propose to jointly enter the Counterpart Consortium's partnership grant program. VOCA and the GSES have successfully worked together to support the development of the Zailisky Alatau National Park for over two years. The purpose of the project will be to carry out an ecological examination, which would provide the information necessary to form the recommendations for putting the National Park on the World Heritage List.

VI. ENERGY PARTNERSHIPS

In 1992, USAID requested the participation of the United States Energy Association (USEA) in a series of definitional missions to determine the scope of the U.S. Government assistance effort in the energy sector of the NIS of the Former Soviet Union. To administer this task, USEA and USAID jointly developed the Energy Industry Partnership Program (EIPP) for the NIS. The objective of the EIPP is to establish long-term cooperative partnerships between U.S. and NIS energy enterprises. Through these partnerships, the U.S. energy industry can transfer its experience in market-based energy production, transmission, and distribution to its counterparts in the NIS. Presently, the EIPP has established fifteen U.S./NIS industry partnerships in seven of the eleven NIS republics. Details by country follow:

A. EIPP in Kyrgyzstan

In February 1995, Washington Water Power (WWP), the Kyrgyz National Energy Holding Company (KNEHC), and the United States Energy Association established an utility partnership. Since the signing of the partnership agreement, representatives from WWP have traveled to the

Kyrgyz Republic and participants from KNEHC have journeyed to the United States to take part in a series of exchanges, seminars, and conferences designed to assist in the privatization and development of the Kyrgyz electric sector. Under this partnership a series of executive exchanges and seminars have occurred. These include:

- a) Electricity Rates and Tariffs - The first of two planned seminars has been conducted in Bishkek. WWP executives and technical experts attended both seminars which focused on proper cost accounting methods as the basis for calculating rate and tariff levels for electricity.
- b) Customer Relations and Metering - The first of two planned seminars by USEA in Bishkek. WWP provided executives and other technical expertise to the seminar to design, funding and implementation of customer service and metering programs.
- c) Investment Project Planning - The first of two seminars on this topic with KNEHC and WWP officials occurred in Spokane, Washington. In the seminar, the Cincinnati Gas and Electric (CG&E) project management model for planning new energy projects, was presented and discussed in depth with Kyrgyz energy o (CG&E) and Kazakhstan's Alaugaz Joint-Stock Company. The second officials.

B. EIPP in Kazakhstan

The Republic of Kazakhstan is one of the leading nations of the Newly Independent States of the Former Soviet Union in making the transition from a command to a market economy. Three energy partnerships have been established to date in Kazakhstan. The first is between Cincinnati Gas & Electric (CG&E) and Kazakhstan's Alaugaz Joint-Stock Company. The second was established between the New York State Electric & Gas Corporation and, again, Kazakhstan's Alaugaz. The third is between CG&E and Kazakhstanenergo, Kazakhstan's energy company. Under these partnerships series of executive exchanges and seminars have occurred. The more notable ones include:

- 1) Natural Gas Rates and Tariffs - Two of three planned seminars have been organized by USEA on this topic, one in Cincinnati and one in Almaty. CG&E executives and technical experts attended both seminars which focused on proper cost accounting methods as the basis for calculating rate and tariff levels for natural gas.
- 2) Customer Service and Metering - Two of three planned seminar have been conducted by USEA on this topic.
- 3) Project Management - The first of a series of seminars on this topic with Kazakhstanenergo and CG&E officials occurred in Cincinnati.
- 4) Power Sales - The first of three seminars on this topic occurred in Cincinnati and provided Kazakhstanenergo executives with specific model contracts for power sales.

5) Energy Savings Workshop - USEA also sponsored a regional Energy Savings Workshop in Kyrgyzstan which senior level energy officials from all five Central Asian republics (CAR) attended. The purpose of this workshop was to share the results and recommendations of USAID financed energy initiatives in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakstan, Ukraine and Russia on promoting energy savings.

6) Development of Work Plan - In June 1996, during the partnership meeting held in Almaty, Kazakstan, USEA, NYSE&G, and Alaugaz developed a work plan for the remainder of this year and the following fiscal year. The first activity will focus on business planning. USEA and NYSE&G will conduct a workshop in which NYSE&G's own business plan will be offered as an example for the Kazakstanis to review.

VII. EURASIA FOUNDATION

The Eurasia Foundation has also funded some larger partnership programs with US/NIS University pairs that help to build self-sustaining local institutions to better instructional quality and new curricula. Successful examples of such programs include a modest grant to Termez State University to purchase and ship modern training material on banking reform for use in a local bank training program, which is also supported by Eurasia. The business curriculum development program with the partnership of San Francisco State University and the International University of Kyrgystan also represents a successful partnership program. Thanks to this project, IUK is developing a regionally recognized undergraduate program in Business and Economics.

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